

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

“Keeping Harding Informed Since 1949”

www.HardingCivic.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2018

MORRIS COUNTY 2018 BUDGET REVEALED - SLIGHT INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES

Morris County (MC) is a \$306 million operation. County taxes account for about a quarter of your property tax bill.

Yet many/most folks are not clear about what counties in NJ do and who these “freeholders” are. “Why don’t we just eliminate that layer?” is a comment heard from time to time.

Freeholders are the elected officials who oversee county government. Aside: Only in NJ are these county officials called “freeholders” -- technically the Board of Chosen Freeholders. The original 1776 NJ constitution said that only those who own (aka hold) property debt free could vote. So the county government was chosen by and from those freeholders. It’s an anachronism, but one that, perhaps surprisingly, survives.

- What does a quarter of your taxes and taxes from the other 39 other MC towns help buy for \$306mm? Here ‘s a high level breakdown:
- \$56.5mm Public Safety (Sheriff, Prosecutor, Jail and Youth Center)
- \$50.5mm Insurance (liability, workers comp, health)
- \$41.4mm Debt Service (Morris County is AAA rated)
- \$32.6mm Health and Human Services
- \$23.6mm Education - County college (\$11.8mm) and technical school (\$6.2mm)
- \$23.5mm Statutory Expenses (various items)
- \$22.1mm “General Government” (???)
- \$20.2mm Public Works (road maintenance)
- \$13.7mm Parks & Rec (not the sitcom)
- \$ 8.9mm “Public and Private Programs offset by revenues (???)

- \$ 5.7mm Utilities
- \$ 3.5mm Other Common Operating Functions
- \$ 3.6mm Capital
- \$ 1.1mm Code Enforcement

As in most government entities, the vast bulk of the expenditures (75% is a rough rule of thumb) are for compensation - salaries, benefits and post retirement benefits. The 2018 budget includes 2% aggregate salary adjustment.

Revenue is generated mostly from property taxes (77.6%) but also a many other sources:

- \$237.3mm Taxes
- \$25.4mm Surplus from prior year
- \$19.8mm Local revenues
- \$12.6mm State Aid
- \$4.6mm “Other”
- \$5.6mm “Special Items”

The tax levy increase is 1.79% budget, less than the 2% cap from Trenton. Because the stock of taxable properties (the “ratable base”) increase from \$93.5 billion to \$94.4 billion, the tax rate need to raise the revenue increased only slightly. So the tax on the AVERAGE Morris County property (\$41.K) will increase just \$1.67.

The budget presentation highlighted:

- A plan to self-insure employee and retiree prescription drug benefit. So in 2018, funds will be set aside to fund the insurance reserve, for \$3.9mm of “run off expenses”. This is expected to save money long-term.
- Leasing of Morris View nursing home. This will “conservatively” reduce the 2018 budget by \$31.1mm and taxes by \$3.2mm. Future savings will be greater still.
- Ballistics Laboratory within Sherriff’s office
- Creating Forensic Drug Laboratory.
- Absorbing all cost increases associated with providing emergency dispatch for 23 county municipalities and adding dispatch services for Parsippany Fire and EMS.

Only a handful of citizens attended this meeting.

The entire 33 slide presentation deck and the detailed 45 page budget is available on the MC website; www.morriscountynj.gov

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Highlights - Board of Education Meeting - 7:00 pm, Monday, February 26, 2018,

The main focus of this evening's meeting was the visit by Mr. Mark Schwarz, Superintendent of the Madison School District. Naturally his remarks centered on Madison High School, the recipients of our Harding graduates.

First he talked about initiatives to enhance the competitiveness of Madison High for students applying to upper level colleges, as well as for graduates going directly into business or industry. He has fostered relationships with Drew University and local businesses to that end. Further, not only does Madison offer diverse course offerings, but additional learning opportunities are available through the use of the "virtual classroom" with online courses.

He then discussed the transition of our students to Madison High School which has been a focus of our Board for some time. It is now felt that students from Harding are both academically and socially fully integrated into student life - indistinguishable from those coming from the Madison schools.

After these very informative remarks, Mr. Schwarz answered questions by our Board and the public which centered on safety of the students in light of the recent school shootings. This gave him the opportunity to address this situation in Madison, bringing the following to light:

- The Madison Police Department supports armed School Resource Officers. We have one such officer at the High School to provide assistance and guidance for situations as they arise.
- Students know who among them might pose a risk - those who feel excluded are most likely to pose a threat to themselves and others - so inclusivity is key.

The task to provide a safe school has two aspects:

- Provide a culture of cohesiveness among students and trust/confidence in their teachers so that someone acting strangely can be brought forward.
- Teachers and staff proactive in reacting to someone identified as "needing help" so that an adverse situation can be prevented.

After thanking Mr. Schwarz for his comments, the Board continued the meeting as scheduled.

The Superintendent reported that:

Our middle school students continue to practice for our play *Bye- Bye Birdie*- Performance dates are March 16th, 17th, and 18th

Our HTS Science Fair was a huge success with a record number of participants. Thank you to Dr. Gervis, Mrs. Caproni, and Ms. Hartline. Over 150 students participated in the Science Fair this year (more than half the student body).

Our Future Cities Competition competed in Washington, DC over the President's Day weekend and won recognition for the Most Sustainable Food Source. We will be honoring the Future Cities

Team and Dr. Gervis at our March 19th BOE meeting.

The first meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee was extremely successful with 34 participants working together to plan for HTS' future. It was very gratifying to gain the insight and support of the Town Council members, students, parents, and the public at large who were in attendance. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday March 5th at 7 pm.

The PTO Father/Daughter Dance had a fantastic turnout with over 170 students and dads in attendance. Thank you to Cathleen Lazor and her team.

The Tentative Budget will be presented by the Superintendent at the 3/19/18 BOE meeting.

The Business Administrator discussed the revised Board meeting schedule, adjusted so that our Board members could attend the Madison District's board meeting. The revised schedule is posted on the website.

The calendar for the upcoming school year was voted upon and approved. It will also be posted on the website.

Concluding comments by the Board President emphasized that school personnel must take action when words like "kill", "drugs", "weapon" and such are overheard.

The Board then adjourned to executive session to further discuss school safety.

(Note: the purpose of this brief report is to help Harding residents connect with the School by highlighting significant items addressed by the Board and are not "meeting minutes". Those are filed by the Board Secretary and placed on the Harding School website for all to view, generally about a month after the meeting date.)

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

At its meeting on March 12, the Township Committee appointed Erik Heller as the Township's new Chief of Police. In addition, the Committee promoted two patrolmen, Stephen DeVries and Michael Gromek, to the rank of Sergeant.

The Committee postponed the adoption of the municipal budget and capital budget because the State has not certified its Municipal State Aid. Therefore those discussion were adjourned to a meeting to be held on April 9.

During the public comment, various members of the public expressed their frustration at the delays in restoring power after this month's winter storms. The Township Committee praised DPW, HTPD and Administrator Bob Falzarano for their dedicated tireless services during the storm. The NJ Board of Public Utilities has announced that it will conduct an inquiry into the response of the various utilities to the storm and the Committee indicated that it would be providing its report for this inquiry. The Township Committee also indicated that it would also reflect upon lessons learned and areas of possible improvement for future weather events.

Finally, the Committee authorized the issuance of \$1.3 million of Bond Anticipation Notes, a short term financing vehicle to purchase Open Space adjacent to Margetts Field, pursuant to requirements of the potential Glen Alpin Diversion.

FISHING DERBY

Annual Harding Township Fishing Derby, Bayne Park, Saturday, April 7, 8:00-10:00 AM

The fishing season opens on Saturday, April 7th and the Citizen's Park Advisory Committee is sponsoring the Annual Harding Township Fishing Derby at Bayne Park. Everyone is invited to come out and join in the opening of the Fishing Season in Harding. There will be prizes for children 16 years old and younger, including first fish, largest fish and most fish caught. Bring your fishing gear and join your friends and neighbors, swap fish stories and let's see who can catch the biggest fish.

BRIDLE PATH ASSOCIATION

Well March has certainly come in like a lion, so let's hope that it will keep its promise to go out like a lamb and we can all get back out on the trails soon!

When spring does finally arrive the BPA will start off the season with Crewe Hill hosting an equine dental clinic and Megan Finkle giving a mounted clinic at the Spring Valley show grounds. Dates for these and other upcoming events will be posted on www.bridlepath.org soon. Additionally, the 2018 Membership Drive will begin soon. So please stay tuned; and check your email and mailboxes for the Membership Drive Registration Letter and Form.

2018 also brings a new Trail Maintenance Committee. The 2018 Trail Maintenance Committee includes:

- Sean Calquhoun
- Kathleen Young
- Ron Young

We will be announcing the first spring trail cleanup soon and will need as many helping hands that we can get. Our area trees were hit particularly hard by the last few storms and there are many trees and branches that will need to be cleared to make our trails safe.

Enjoy your horse and the outdoors this spring!

Don't forget - See Something/Do Something: if you're riding and see "something;" do something. Don't leave a hole, broken glass, fallen branches, etc. that could cause harm to you or your horse, or make the trails impassable, go without action. If you personally cannot correct the situation, please email dorothymccann.dm@gmail.com and the Trail Maintenance committee will be notified.

Social Media: Please visit our Facebook Page at Harding Township Green Village Bridle Path Assoc; and, when visiting our Facebook Page, don't forget to "Like" our Page! Happy Trails.

As always, remember no motor vehicles of any type are permitted on the HT/GV Bridle Path Trails!

GREEN VILLAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Community Shred Fundraiser

Saturday, April 7, 2018 at 9 a.m. 12:00 p.m. hosted by the Green Village Fire Department Auxiliary

All are welcome to bring their personal and business documents for shredding to the Green Village Fire Department located at 529 Green Village Road in Green Village. Sensitive information will be destroyed on-site by a truck-mounted shredder provided by Absolute Shredding, LLC of Hackettstown. Not only will this fund-raiser protect privacy and help avoid identity theft, it will also help to protect the environment as all the shredded paper will be recycled into other paper products. The cost will be \$5 per file box/brown paper grocery bag. Larger containers will be priced accordingly. No newspapers, magazines, books or binders please. All proceeds from this fund-raiser will benefit the Auxiliary for fire scene relief, training and community outreach. This event will be held rain or shine. Please visit our Events Page on our website at www.greenvillagefire.com for more information.

Indoor Flea Market

Saturday, April 21, 2018 at 9 a.m. -3:00 p.m. hosted by the Green Village Fire Department Auxiliary

On Saturday, April 21, the Auxiliary of the Green Village Fire Department is hosting an indoor Flea Market with 20+ vendors at the firehouse located at 529 Green Village Road in Green Village. A wide range of items will be available - children's toys, housewares, books, clothing and much, much more. Home baked goods will be available as well. The sale will be held rain or shine from 9 am until 3 pm. Parking is free. For questions, please contact Janet Doherty at 973-377-4071. If you are interested in renting table space, please use the 'Tickets Available' link or go to the "Events" page on our website at www.greenvillagefire.com to download a form. Table space is limited and will be rented on a "first come, first serve" basis.

Pajama Collection for Jersey Battered Women's Shelter (JBWS)

Ongoing now until Saturday, April 21, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. hosted by the Green Village Fire Department Auxiliary

The Auxiliary of the Green Village Fire Department is collecting new women's pajamas and sleep socks for the Jersey Battered Women's Shelter. We are looking for a range of women's sizes from small to XX-Large and items must be new. If you would like to donate, there will be a collection box at our Community Shred Fundraiser on Saturday, April 7 from 9 am until noon, and again at our Indoor Flea Market held on Saturday, April 21 from 9 am until 3 pm. Additionally, you can contact Kathi Matrale at katlamb6@aol.com to arrange a drop off of your items.

E-Mail

You can stay informed of the Green Village Fire Department's upcoming events by visiting our website at www.greenvillagefire.com and subscribing to our email list using the "subscribe to email" button. There you can also choose your email preferences.

NVVFD AUXILIARY FUNDRAISER: SOMERSET PATRIOTS VOUCHER PROGRAM

How would you like to take your family to an affordable, family-friendly, close-to-home baseball game while at the same time supporting your New Vernon Volunteer Fire Dept.? The NVVFD Auxiliary is selling fundraising vouchers to the Somerset Patriots Minor League baseball games in Bridgewater. The vouchers are \$10.00 each, and can be redeemed for an upper box seat for any 2018 home game of your choice. (Just bring the voucher to the ticket window when you want to go see a game.) Tickets will be for sale at the Auxiliary Bake Sale on election day, June 5th at town hall, along with a few select Spring Saturdays outside the New Vernon Post Office. Or just contact any NVVFD Aux. member. For more information, please call Connie or Nick Cherrillo @ 973-539-9383.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

April is National Move More Month and the perfect time to get moving with the spring season just beginning. Physical activity helps improve your overall health and fitness and reduces your risk for many chronic diseases. The recommended physical activity for adults is at least 2 hours and 30 minutes (150 minutes) of moderate-intensity aerobic activity every week and muscle strengthening activities on 2 or more days a week that work all major groups (legs, hips, back, abdomen, chest, shoulders, and arms).

Aerobic activity gets you breathing harder and your heart beating faster. All types of activity count such as taking a dance class, biking to the store, or pushing a lawn mower, as long as you're doing the activity at a moderate or vigorous level for at least 10 minutes at a time.

Loantaka Brook Reservation of Morris County has a variety of trails perfect for walking, bicycling, hiking, and much more. Enjoy the beautiful natural scenery while working out and being physically active. Loantaka Brook Reservation is located in 468 South Street, Morris Township NJ 07960.

For more information visit Morris County Office of Health Management Healthy You at <https://health.morriscountynj.gov/public/healthy-you/>

NEW VERNON FIRE DEPARTMENT / FIRST AID SQUAD

With 2 major winter storms over a 7-day period the New Vernon Fire Department responded to 49 calls for aid. The First Aid Squad responded to 7 calls during the same period. Although a majority of calls were due to down wires and power outages we did have 2 serious CO emergencies and a rescue that needed to be performed by snowmobile as a result of down trees and live wires blocking a dead-end street. We thank Harding Township Police and DPW for providing invaluable assistance during these emergencies.

Please remember that any downed or broken wire should be treated as a live wire, barricades are road closures are set up for your protection, please follow detours and closures.

We are an all-volunteer organization, completely dependent on donations and fund raisers. Unlike many Fire and First Aid organizations, we receive no funding from the municipal tax base and we

never charge for our services. All donations are greatly appreciated and put to use providing emergency care for the people of New Vernon -- those who live here, those who work here and those passing through.

Touch a Truck Event

Monday, May 28th (weather permitting)/Time TBA, New Vernon Firehouse, 22 Village Road

Come join the fun at Firehouse this Memorial Day!

The New Vernon Volunteer Fire Company and First Aid Squad will be sponsoring a unique family event. Touch-A-Truck provides children, and their families, the opportunity to sit-in and explore heavy machinery plus a variety of emergency response vehicles. For children who love trucks, this gives them a hands-on experience and a chance to meet the Firemen, EMTs, and people who operate these vehicles. Cost: Free

KEMMERER LIBRARY

Operating Hours: Monday-Friday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday: 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Sunday: Closed.

Unless otherwise noted, we ask that you register for our programs in advance. Please visit our website at www.hardinglibrary.org or call us at 973-267-2665.

If you would like to add your email address to the Library notifications of programs, please send an email to desk@hardinglibrary.org.

Children's Programs:

Toddler Story Time, Tuesdays, 10:15 a.m. Wendy Marchev and Miss Kryssi welcome toddlers and pre-schoolers to join them for stories, songs, movement, and a simple craft.

Playgroup for under-5s, Wednesdays, 1:30-3:00 p.m. Parents and caregivers with babies and toddlers can meet for tea, coffee and a chat whilst children play and meet new friends, downstairs in the Library. Registration not required, drop-in when you can!

NEW! Saturday Stories, 10:30-11:30 a.m. On Saturday mornings, children in kindergarten and 1st grade are invited to immerse themselves in the wonderful world of story as our reader brings some popular stories to life. A different theme each week; please check our website for details. No registration required, just drop-in!

Junior Garden Club, Thursday, April 19, 3:45-4:45 pm. Arbor Day Children in grades K to 7 will learn how to grow healthy trees and how to identify different kinds of trees from roots to branches. Sponsored and run by the New Vernon Garden Club, 'Enhancing the beauty of our town with Nature'.

Teen Program:

'Chat n' Chew', Middle School Book Club meet on the first Sunday of every month, 3-4 p.m. in the Adult Reading Room. On April 1, they will be discussing 'Eleanor and Park' by Rainbow Rowell. Sign-up online if you'd like to join them!

Adult Programs:

‘What’s In Your Water?’, Friday, March 30, 11 a.m. Sandra LaVigne from the Great Swamp Watershed Association will discuss water quality and the importance of private water testing. Water test kits are available at the Library from March 19 through April 9, for a \$10 deposit and should be returned on April 10 for testing.

‘Understanding the new Tax Laws’, Tuesday, April 3, 7 pm. Experts from Regent Atlantic will be on-hand to help you negotiate recent tax reforms. Please see our website for details and registration.

Book Group, Tuesday, April 17, 1:30 p.m. Join our lively book group to discuss ‘Manhattan Beach’ by Jennifer Egan. The Book Group meets on the third Tuesday of each month.

‘Saving the Great Swamp: Battle to Defeat the Jetport’, Thursday, April 19, 7-8:30 p.m. A must see-documentary for all local residents! Join us to watch the award winning film that documents the fight against the Port of New York Authority which led to the creation of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Registration requested please.

‘Choosing the Right College’, Monday, April 23, 7 pm. A presentation by Collegewise of Millburn, for high school students and their guardians, explaining how to be savvy college shoppers. Registration requested please.

Weekly Activities:

Gentle Yoga, Mondays 10:30 a.m. MJ Turnbull’s outstanding and hugely popular classes continue. \$10 suggested donation per class, please.

Mah Jongg Club, Thursdays, 12-2 p.m. Social play. All levels are welcome.

Card Club, Wednesdays, 3-5 p.m. Social play. All levels are welcome.

Card Club, Fridays, 10:00 a.m.-12 noon. Canasta, Shanghai Rummy, and more! Social play. All levels are welcome.

FRIENDS OF THE KEMMERER LIBRARY

SPRING GARDEN TALK AND PLANT SALE

Saturday, April 21, 10-11:30 a.m.

Jerry Fritz will be at the Library to talk about ‘Exciting new perennials and small shrubs for your garden’. Both annuals and perennials will be available for sale.

Tickets: \$25 per person, available at the Library or by mail as below.

Fabulous Hands-on COOKING CLASS and BUFFET DINNER

Friday, April 27, 7-9:00 p.m., HEALTHY ITALIA - LA BUONA CUCINA 55 Main Street Madison

Limited to 40 Participants - Bring your spouse or friends

PREPAID REGISTRATION \$75.00 per person by April 23

Make checks to Friends of Kemmerer Library

Mail to Friends of Kemmerer Library PO Box 517, New Vernon, NJ 07976

The Friends of the Library welcomes YOU! Residents are invited to participate in the Friends group by attending our monthly meetings where we develop ideas for fundraising events in support of the Library, and/or by serving as a volunteer on an event committee.

The next meeting of the Friends will be on April 5, 2018, at 10:15 a.m. in the Library.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The First Presbyterian Church

Easter Celebration Schedule April 1: Community Sunrise Service in Bayne Park at 6:30 am; Morning Worship in the sanctuary at 9:00 am; Easter Breakfast in Fellowship Hall and Children's Egg Hunt (bring a basket!) at 10:00 am; Morning Worship at 11:15 am. You will be warmly welcomed to celebrate with us.

The Sunday Speaker Series continues on April 22 at 11:15 am in Fellowship Hall with "The Heroin and Opiate Epidemic in Morris County." Morris County Chief Assistant Prosecutor Brad Seabury brings 12 years of experience in the Special Operations Division to share information about the epidemic in Morris County and what is being done to help. He will instruct how addiction can start and ways to combat it. Representatives from the Center for Addiction Recovery Education & Success (CARES) will be on hand to provide advice to those who have been touched by addiction.

Ongoing: Toddler Time, Wednesdays 1:30-3:00 pm...in partnership with the Kemmerer Library, a play group for children under 5. A time for supervised toddler free play while adults can socialize. Plan to join the fun at the Library, lower level. Healthful snacks provided.

The Center for Musical Excellence

CME and the First Presbyterian Church will present the second of their four-concert series, *Music Made Here*, on Sunday afternoon, **April 8, at 3 o'clock** in the sanctuary. Entitled *Quartet Plus*, the program features the exciting Harlem Quartet, a Grammy-winning ensemble, joined by Steinway Artist, award-winning pianist and CME founder and director Min Kwon, as they perform Robert Schumann's glorious *Piano Quintet in E-flat major, Opus 44*. Also appearing are Lucy Lee on viola and Patrick Hopkins on cello playing Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir de Florence*. The concert will be followed by an informal reception to meet the artists in Fellowship Hall.

The series continues on October 14 with *Opera Extravaganza* and December 9, *Winter Celebration*. For tickets and further information, kindly consult: cmemusic.org. Tickets also available at the door: \$30 for adults, under 18 free.

HARDING TOWNSHIP RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Harding Summer Camp Registration is Now Open!

Registration for the Harding Township Day Camp is now open and is your place for summer fun! We provide campers with a positive summer camping experience with a variety of activities that emphasize fun, relaxation and exploration! For more information and to register online, please see the Summer Camp page at www.HTRA.info.

Harding T-Ball Registration is Now Open!

Registration for the Harding Township T-Ball is now open. It's still cold outside but Spring is around the corner! Season runs from April 20-May 25, with optional mid-week practices and games every Friday from 6-7pm. For more information and to register online, please see the T-Ball page www.HTRA.info.

Harding Women's Softball Registration is Now Open!

Registration for the Harding Township Women's Softball is now open. There may be snow on the ground but softball is ready to go! Please see www.HTRA.info for more information.

2018 Spring Tennis Clinic:

* \$120/ child

* 1 - 2 PM, ages 5-7 (beginners)

* 2:15 - 3:15 PM, ages 8 & up (beginners +)

* The clinics will cover tennis basics: Forehand, backhand, volley, overhead, serve. Understanding of court lines and scorekeeping.

Sundays: April 22, April 29, May 6, May 13, May 20, June 3, June 10 is the makeup class

Find more info on all HTRA sports at www.HTRA.info

GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Discounted Private Water Testing Program

March 19 - April 10, 2018, Kemmerer Library, 19 Blue Mill Road, Harding Township

What's in your water? GSWA is here to help you find out with our popular private water testing program. Pick up a water sampling kit at the Kemmerer Library between March 19-April 9 (a \$10 deposit is required at that time.) Drop off your water sample at the same location on April 10, between 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Participants MUST be able to adhere to this drop-off date and timeframe. The basic package measures several water quality parameters including total coliform + E.coli, nitrates, manganese, iron, arsenic, and lead. The discounted rate is \$125 (this would normally cost over \$300). Test add-ons are offered for an additional charge.

For more information, email Sandra LaVigne at slavigne@greatswamp.org or call 973-538-3500.

Registration is required. Register online at GreatSwamp.org or call 973-538-3500.

April Showers Bring Rain Barrels - Workshop: Make Your Own Rain Barrel

Wednesday, April 5, 2018, 5:30-7:30 PM, Great Swamp Watershed Association (GSWA) Headquarters - 568 Tempe Wick Road, Morristown, NJ

Capture the rainwater that runs through your home's downspout and you'll always have 55 gallons of free water available for things like watering your garden and washing your car. When the power goes out, it's an excellent backup water source for flushing. Using a recycled, food-grade barrel and a spigot adapter kit, GSWA and Green Mojo Eco Consulting help you construct your very own rain barrel. Pricing: \$90 to assemble, \$110 to purchase outright, free to observe the workshop. You will take your new rain barrel home with you, and it'll be ready for hookup to your home's downspout immediately! Remember, when it pours, it stores. Registration is required. Register online at GreatSwamp.org or call 973-538-3500.

Stream Assessment Training

Saturday, April 14, 2018, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Summit Public Library, 75 Maple Street, Summit, NJ

Interested in becoming a stream monitoring volunteer or just learning more about stream health? This is the training for you! An indoor classroom session teaches you how to conduct visual and biological stream assessments, identify macroinvertebrates, and recognize environmental factors that may impact stream health. An outdoor session lets you practice your new-found skills at a local stream site. By afternoon, you will be a fully trained visual-stream assessment volunteer and ready to conduct an assessment!

Bring a pair of boots and clean shoes to change into. There will be a short walk to reach the stream. Tools and supplies are provided. Preferred volunteers are 15 or older. Includes indoor & outdoor sessions. This training will be conducted in conjunction with the AmeriCorps New Jersey Watershed Ambassador Program. Registration is required. Register online at GreatSwamp.org or call 973-538-3500.

Evening Briefing - Economic and Social Vulnerability to Climate Change

Tuesday, April 17, 7:00 - 9:00 PM, Great Swamp Watershed Association (GSWA) Headquarters
568 Tempe Wick Road, Morristown, NJ

Award winning author, Dr. Robin Leichenko, examines the economic and social impacts of climate change in coastal New Jersey. We will learn about how climate change is affecting economic assets, activities, and vulnerable communities and populations. Dr. Leichenko will also describe the on-going efforts at Rutgers University to help make the region more climate resilient. Come out and get the facts on this much-discussed topic. Registration is required. Register online at GreatSwamp.org or call 973-538-3500.

Invasive Species Identification Hike

Thursday, April 26, 2018, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Great Swamp Watershed Association Conservation Management Area, 1 Tiger Lily Lane, Harding Township, NJ

What makes a weed a weed? How can you tell your oriental bittersweet from your Japanese barberry and why should you care that you can? Invasive plants are spreading in our forests and open spaces, and are harmful to the environment as they reduce biodiversity and resources for native wildlife. New Jersey spends millions in labor and resources to remove invasives each year. Join us on a hike through the CMA as we learn to identify New Jersey's top ten least wanted, as well as the native species we hope to see! By the end of our hike, you will be able to identify all of the bad guys- and hopefully understand why honeysuckle isn't so sweet and how multiflora rose can be such a thorn in the side... literally!

This program is being run in conjunction with Morris County Park System's Great Swamp outdoor Education Center and the Americorps Watershed Ambassador. Registration is required. Register online at GreatSwamp.org or call 973-538-3500.

Paper-Making Basics with Non-Native Plants

Tuesday May 1, 2018, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Great Swamp Watershed Association (GSWA) Headquarters, 568 Tempe Wick Road, Morristown, NJ

Let's make paper together! Traditional paper comes at the cost of felling millions of trees each year, and hardly any of this paper is recycled for reuse. Want to try an alternative solution? Join us for this engaging, hands-on workshop where we will teach you how to make basic paper out of plant pulp sourced from common backyard invasive plants. If you happen to have some extra garlic mustard or phragmites growing in the backyard, now you'll know how to repurpose these invasives into decorative paper, and let the trees breathe a sigh of relief! Registration is required. Register online at GreatSwamp.org or call (973) 538-3500.

Great Swamp Watershed Association's Inaugural Live Music Festival

Great Swamp, Great Music!

Sunday, June 10, 2018, 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Hartley Farms Polo Field, Harding Township

Get ready to clap your hands and tap your feet! This family-friendly event is fun for all ages. Bring your lawn chairs or spread out a blanket, and spend the afternoon grooving to the sounds of four great local bands. Grab a bite to eat from a variety of food vendors, and browse the grounds and check out the unique and interesting merchandise for sale. **Save the date** - more information will be available soon so stay tuned!

Questions? Contact Val Thorpe: vthorpe@greatswamp.org or 973-538-3500.

HARDING TOWNSHIP SENIORS

April 22. Mental Health Players, Program Sponsored by Harding Township, Board of Health

April 26. Bell Ringers

Senior Breakfast at Harding School on April 4 at 8:45 am all seniors welcome. Please call 973-984-3963 if you plan to attend.

HARDING LAND TRUST

Free Trees From the Harding Land Trust--

In connection with the Environmental Commission's *Street Cleanup Day*, The Harding Land Trust is pleased to offer Harding Residents the opportunity to adopt free 2-4' high bare Harding Township Municipal Building, 21 Blue Mill Road. If interested please call the Harding Land Trust at 973-267-2515. Come and help clean our streets and plant trees to make our Harding beautiful!

Harding Land Trust Annual Meeting--

Please join the Harding Land Trust for their Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 26th at the New Vernon Fire House. Dr. Andrea Gaito, renowned rheumatologist specializing in Lyme disease, will be the guest speaker. Dr. Gaito has been involved with Lyme disease- patient education, treatment, medical research for almost 30 years. Her talk will touch on important topics to our community such as testing, treatment, prevention, and new research.

In addition, Andrew Korzon, of Larry Weaner Landscape Associates, will present the design plan and installation approach for the conversion of a 13 acre field at Harding Land Trust's Primrose Farm property into a native wildflower and grass meadow.

Dessert and wine will be served at 6:30 followed by the business meeting and guest speaker at 7:00 p.m. Please R.S.V.P. by calling 973-267-2515.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

The Harding Township Environmental Commission is pleased to sponsor several new educational events this Spring:

Annual Roadside Cleanup and Tree Give-Away. On Saturday, April 21st beginning at 9am, the Environmental Commission will host its annual Roadside Cleanup. The EC will once again partner with the Harding Land Trust to give away young trees for Spring planting at Town Hall. Volunteers would be greatly appreciated to remove this winter's accumulation of roadside refuse.

All about Bats and Bat Box Build Workshop. Kathleen Kerwin from the Rutgers Wildlife Conservation and Management Program led a very informative discussion on bats, their habitats and the impact of white-nose syndrome on the local population of bats. Due to recent storms the presentation was rescheduled to March 10th and combined as a double-header with the Bat Box Building Workshop. Bat Boxes will be put up this Spring. If you are interested in hosting a bat box on your property, please reach out to the Environmental Commission.

Harding's Ecological Healthcheck, originally scheduled for March 28th will be rescheduled for a later date. This event will present results of a plant stewardship inventory on our preserved lands that will help the town to understand the relative health of Harding's flora.

HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION:

Thumbnail & Website News and Announcements

If you have a submission for **May 2018 Thumbnail** please email to: HTCA@mail.com by **Friday, April 20, 2018**.

MS Word is the preferred format, thank you!

Current and past issues of the Thumbnail, as well as the Directory are available on our Website: www.HardingCivic.org. Send questions or comments about *Thumbnail* to editor to: HTCA@mail.com or PO Box 72 New Vernon, NJ 07976

HARDING TOWNSHIP RECYCLING

Upcoming 2018 Recycling Schedule:

APRIL 7, 21

MAY 5, 19

Hours of Operation:

Wednesdays: 7 am. - Noon (7- 9am self service)

Every other Saturday: 9 am - noon (see schedule dates)

Commingled Recyclables: Consists of all aluminum and tin cans, glass bottles, all plastic bottles and containers with the Recycling symbol, and #1, 2, 4, 5 & 7. Try to crush plastic bottle to conserve space. Please remember no plastic or paper bags.

Commingled Mixed Fiber: Recycling: consists of all paper, cardboard, newspaper, office paper, magazines, and books. Please put loose or shredded paper in paper bag. Please flatten all boxes or fill with other paper products.

Other Accepted Items: Batteries; automotive (car) and household (rechargeable accepted); Automotive and light truck tires, (on or off rim), Propane tanks (BBQ size only) and fluorescent bulbs (tube and compact).

E-Waste items accepted: Computers, monitors, laptops and televisions cannot be put into household trash. However, all E-waste items including printers, copiers, fax machines and all computer peripherals can be brought to the Harding DPW recycling center at the regular hours of operation.

Recycling Questions: Please contact Tracy Toribio at Harding Department: 973 267 2448, Mon- Fri 8:30 am to 3 pm.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Environmental Commission
Seniors: Christ the King Church
Planning Board
Historical Preservation Committee
Board of Health
Board of Education
Board of Adjustment
Township Committee Executive
Township Committee Public
Harding Open Space
Harding TWP Civic Association

Meetings as noted

1st Wednesday
2nd & 4th Thursday
4th Monday
1st Thursday
2nd Thursday
1st & 3rd Monday
3rd Thursday
2nd Monday
2nd Monday
2nd Wednesday
2nd Tuesday

Time

7:30 PM
11:00AM
7:30 PM
7:30 PM
7:30 PM
7:00 PM
7:30 PM
7:30 PM
7:30 PM
7:30 PM
7:30 PM

DATED MATERIAL

Harding Township Civic Association
P.O. Box 72, New Vernon, NJ 07976
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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U.S. Postage
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Chester, NJ
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