

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

“Keeping Harding Informed Since 1949”

www.HardingCivic.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

June 2018

EMERGENCY AT THE FIRST AID SQUAD

Glen Fleisher, head of the New Vernon First Aid Squad, made a strong pitch for volunteers at the May Township Committee Meeting. The NVFAS, which is 100% volunteer staffed and citizen funded, is down to only 23 people from 32 three years ago. With 10 crews per week and 3 EMT's per crew, that requires 30 people!

In line with the aging demographics of the township, the median age of the team is 65. To compound the recruiting challenge the squad loses 2-3 members per year due to “life changes” and moving away.

The NVFAS asked the 5 members of the TC to identify two citizens each (10 total) who could get trained and serve. As well the TC has already committed to engaging the community in CPR Training in the near future.

Citizens interested in learning more should contact the NVFAS at joinus@nvvfd.org.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Bamboo Invasion

At the May Township Committee meeting, Ms. Jean Sher (32 Kitchell Road), a citizen and taxpayer requested that the TC pass an ordinance banning running bamboo, a very fast growing and highly invasive species. Ms. Sher's property straddles Madison and Harding (pays property taxes to both) and she reports that Madison has already banned this pesky plant and that Connecticut bans it statewide.

She presented photographs and described how her neighbor's bamboo, planted around the border of the property in 2009, requires annual backhoe work on the Sher property to stop the roots which shoot underground 10 feet per week. To date the neighbor, who is not occupying the home year round has not helped. The plants grow 7-10 feet high and

with snow bend and damage fencing.

The TC, though sympathetic, did not say that they would consider an ordinance. Township attorney Roselli, said that of course a homeowner can cut down vegetation which encroaches ones property and that perhaps this could be looked at as a health issue. Township Administrator, Robert Falzarano, was assigned to look into this issue with the homeowner.

Pot Deferred - discussion on a marijuana ordinance was deferred again until June.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Highlights - Harding Board of Education Meeting - 7:00pm, Monday April 16, 2018

School Budget 2018-2019: The public hearing on the school budget was the primary topic at the Board meeting. Two members of the public (including the Thumbnail Reporter) were in attendance, plus two faculty. The details for the budget as presented by Superintendent Matt Spelker are posted on the school website (hardingtwp.org). The Pre-K to 8 Harding school district currently enrolls 304 students. Harding students attending Madison High School number approximately 102. Special education students currently: In district = 42; Placed out of district elementary = 6; Placed out of district high school = 6

Tuition-paying students currently in Harding: Pre-K = 10; K to 8 = 6

Budget Expenses including details provided by Superintendent Spelker:

Madison tuition:	\$1,600,000
Special education:	2,091,006
Bus routes HTS students & MHS students from Harding:	399,663
Non-public transportation:	176,000
Transportation special education out of district:	251,707
Employee benefits:	1,348,021
<u>Other operating elements:</u>	<u>5,244,882</u>
Total:	\$11,111,279

Revenue

Local tax levy:	\$10,304,571
Local tax levy debt service:	426,226
State aid:	295,207
<u>All other revenue:</u>	<u>809,324</u>
Total:	\$11,835,328

Expenses 2017-2018: \$10,711,960

Revenue 2017-2018: \$11,565,765

Local Tax Levy increase 2017-2018 to 2018-2019: 2.51%

The school levy increase is 2%, plus 0.51% due to the use of \$51,000 that the school had available from the State allocating the District \$275,000 as an “Enrollment Adjustment”. In addition, the school has approximately \$51,000 available for use in the next several years as “Banked Cap” from underrunning (at 1.48%) the 2% cap in the 2017-2018 school year.

The largest single line item amount increase from 2017-2018 to 2018-2019 is \$283,213 for Special Education (71% of the total budget increase of \$399,319 year-to-year). State Aid revenue remains low for Harding.

Superintendent Report. Mr. Spelker reported that the most recent monthly articulation meeting between the Harding and Madison districts was held on 14 April. Emphasis was on science and social studies. Harding Middle School science instructor Dr. Michael Gervis participated. The next articulation meeting is scheduled for 24 May.

Personnel and Management. The Board approved the assignments and salaries for 32 tenured certified faculty. The total salary amount approved (contained in the above budget numbers) is \$2,276,512 (which includes \$16,042 for longevity pay for 10 faculty as per the union contract).

Madison Board of Education. Abi Singh, Harding representative on the Madison Board reported that the Madison budget hearing was held earlier in the month. The Madison budget is about \$51.7M. The Madison Board elected a new President. Harding Board President Davor Gjivoje thanked Mr. Singh for his continuing service on the Madison Board, which involves more preparation times and meetings.

(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”. Minutes are filed by the Board Secretary and are placed on the Harding School website, generally about a month after the meeting date.)

PLANNING BOARD

Planning Board Meeting April 23, 2018

Roll Call: Messrs. Clew and Schliefer absent.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting on March 26, 2018 were approved with no objection.

Resolutions

The Board approved resolutions 04-2018 and 05-2018, appointing a new town planner and associated budget.

New Applications

PB 01-10, David and Lisa Welsh, 10 Griffin lane, Block 7, Lot 1.02, RR Zone, Conditional

Use for an Accessory Structure. Applicants want to add a kitchen and bath to music room on second floor; first floor is used for storage. Several items were waived for completion of application including Board of Health approval, DEP LOI, and landscape plan.

Resolution approved.

Administrative Reports

The Board discussed a revision to the ordinance defining a half story and reviewed a memo from Mr. Fox and a mark-up of the ordinance. There is a common definition that is typically used, but when the ordinance was written, the language was garbled.

Amended language in the ordinance was approved.

The Board then discussed the exemption from zoning permit requirements. Currently, when construction affects zoning requirements, a permit is required. The proposal is to take the exemption out so every project needs to get approval. Approval is required in ten days so the requirement won't be a burden. The Board agreed to follow Mr. Fox's recommendations and proposed ordinance.

It was reported that the Board of Adjustment deliberated on the Post House Road town house proposal, took a straw poll, and it was not approved. The Board will continue to deliberate.

The Environmental Commission held its annual clean-up day, and the Land Trust gave away 500 trees.

Old Business

PB 02-17/4-10, GHK Realty II and GHK Realty III, LLC, 655 and 665 Spring Valley Road, Block 4, Lots 21 and 21.01. No action, incomplete. LOI has expired and the Board will wait for a new one. Still pending.

Other Business/Ordinance Review

The Board discussed the issue of setbacks for items such as playsets and sheds. The planner indicated that some towns have a lesser setback for these items (e.g., one half the normal setback) and square footage requirements zone by zone. But there was some sentiment that zoning changes might encourage some behavior which is not desirable.

The Board discussed 225-156, setbacks at Harding Green. Setbacks are required, but there is no room for setbacks for items such as decks. The ordinance pre-dated the project, so did the Board approve a plan that included decks? The engineer and planner will review the case and come up with a plan

Ms. Taglairino researched the history of 225-122, which gives the Board of Adjustment some leeway on lot coverage requirements for buildings that add "rural character." A historical requirement could be added, but historical does not necessarily equal rural character. It was agreed that the issue would continue to be studied in subcommittee. With respect to amendments to open space tables, Ms. Taglairino will get the planner up to speed and they will be considered at the May meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

HARDING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Harding Township Historical Society:

We would like to remind you to save the dates for two important events this Fall. The Tunis Ellicks house will be on the "Pathways to History Tour" the weekend of September 22nd and 23rd. The house and gardens will be open to the public. There will be other historic points of interest in Morris County open that weekend as well. You can purchase a ticket at the TE House and be on your way for the tour. It is a most interesting way to find out more about Morris County history.

Also, please save the date for the HTHS Annual Antique Show and Sale. The preview party will be on November 2nd and the Antique Show, November 3rd and 4th.

The Harding Township Historical Society has recently joined the League of Historical Societies of NJ.

This group helps to publicize many historic events throughout the state. They now have a Facebook page where you can access their calendar of events. The link is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/338042729711243>. Their page will provide you with descriptions and dates of events throughout the state. It may be a wonderful idea for a family trip or something to do over the summer months. There is lots of history in the Garden State!

HARDING TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Harding Township Police Department currently uses the Morris County Emergency Alert Notification System. Recently, Morris County switched vendors to Smart911. Smart911 provides emergency personnel with emergency information of the resident which could be helpful in emergencies (medications, special needs, pets, etc.). Any resident who was registered with the previous vendor, Everbridge, has had their basic information migrated over into Smart911. However, all residents are asked to re-register with Smart911 in order to update their profiles with all important information. If you never signed up for Everbridge, please sign up with Smart911 as soon as possible. This vendor switch is effective immediately. The Harding Township Police will communicate road closures, special events, storm information, emergencies, etc. via Smart911. Although much of this information is also provided through Harding Police Department social media accounts, ALL information will be provided through Smart911 notifications. Not all information may be provided through social media.

KEMMERER LIBRARY

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

LIBRARIES ROCK!! JOIN OUR SUMMER READING PROGRAM, JUNE 16 TO AUGUST 23

Sign-up begins on **Saturday, June 16**, when we will also be hosting a **family drum circle**, at 11 a.m. (see below).

Throughout the summer, students entering grades K-5 can participate in weekly activities and prize-winning opportunities. Students entering grades 6 to 12 can enter our summer reading raffle by filling-out a raffle ticket for each book they read - with a chance to win a \$100 Amazon gift card! Drop in to the Library to find out more.

Children's Programs:

Toddler Story Hour, Tuesdays, 10:15 a.m., through June 19. Wendy Marchev and Miss Kryssi welcome toddlers and pre-schoolers to join them for stories, songs, movement, and a simple craft.

Toddler Time, the playgroup for under-5s, is taking a break for summer and will return in the Fall.

Father's Day Crafternoon, Friday, June 8, 3:45-4:45 p.m. Kids in grades K-8 are invited to come and make a special gift for Dad. Please see our website for details and registration.

Teen Program:

Chat 'n' Chew Middle School Book Club end of year picnic, Sunday, June 3, 3:00-4:00 p.m. The group will be discussing 'The Selection' by Kiera Cass; the first in a romance series set in a dystopian, fairytale world where war has given rise to a kingdom where society is divided into castes. It's not too late to join the club! Please sign-up online.

Family Event:

Drum Circle, Saturday, June 16, 11 am. Join us for our first ever Family Drum Circle! A great way to celebrate Father's Day - and to kick start the Libraries Rock summer theme! All ages welcome. Come and play, or just listen; no experience or talent required. Registration requested, please.

Adult Programs:

Five Virtues of a Wise Investor, Wednesday, June 13, 1:00 p.m. Presented by Chris Cordaro and Abby Rosen of RegentAtlantic. Faced with dramatic financial headlines, tax law changes and volatility that hasn't been seen since early 2016, many investors need the safety, sanity and serenity of a wise investor. Join us as we discuss the 5 virtues of a wise investor and how you can attain them. Registration requested, please.

Book Group Extravaganza, Tuesday, June 19, 1:30 p.m. Join our lively book group to discuss this month's double-bill: 'White Houses' by Amy Bloom and 'Snow Flower and the Secret Fan' by Lisa See. Both books are available in print and on kindles from the Library.

Author Visit, Tuesday, June 19, 3 p.m. Julie Maloney, local author, artist and writing workshop leader joins us to talk about her debut novel, 'A Matter of Chance' (www.juliemaloney.net), including details of her research in Germany and her conversations with a Brooklyn undercover DEA agent. Refreshments provided. 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 LIBRARY

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 June 8, at 10:15 a.m. in the Library.

THE RAPTOR TRUST

"Tour Talks" will be held on these Saturdays: May 26 (Memorial Day weekend), June 30 and September 1. Join us for a guided tour to learn about the Trust and hear some of the fascinating stories of our fifty resident hawks and owls. Meet at the Gift Shop. Tours at both 11am and 1 pm. Adults \$10, children (12 yrs and under) \$5. Registration is required. To Register please call (908) 647-1091, For more information see www.theRaptortrust.org 1390 White Bridge Road, Millington, NJ 07946

HARDING TOWNSHIP SENIORS

June 8- Cruise up The Hudson River with Long Travel.

June 14- Luncheon, last meeting until September

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Public Input on Hunting Policy

At the June 6th meeting, the Environmental Commission will be seeking feedback from hunters and town residents on the Township Hunting Policy. The policy was previously adopted by the Township Committee and the Environmental Commission has been asked to consider whether changes should be prior to the start of hunting season in September. The following matters were discussed at the May 2nd Meeting of the Environmental

Commission:

Bat Boxes: Mosquito season is coming soon. If you are interested in hosting a bat box on your property, please contact the Environmental Commission.

There was a good turnout for the April 21st Roadside Cleanup. The tree giveaway was also successful. People had the option to bring their bags in or leave them by the side of the road for the DPW. The DPW did a fantastic job.

It was agreed the Commission would have a table at the Memorial Day Parade.

The liaison reports from the Board of Adjustment, the Planning Board, the Shade Tree Commission and Township Committee were presented.

HARDING TOWNSHIP/GREEN VILLAGE BRIDLE PATH ASSOCIATION (HT/GV BPA)

June, 2018 Issue Hopefully June will have a few more sunny days than May has had and we will have more opportunities to get our horses out on the trails before the heat of summer sets in! A big thank you to everyone who came out to help the trail committee on the trails and the showgrounds for the first trail cleanup day. After the severe weather this past winter and spring it is an ongoing effort to clear the trails and make them safe for our members and their horses. The BPA would like to welcome and introduce our new Vice President Gus Martinez. We are pleased to have him as a member of our executive committee and look forward to his input for this coming year. The annual BPA summer picnic will be on June 24th so mark the date in your calendar and keep your eye on your mailbox for your invite coming soon. 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!

GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Music Festival

Great Swamp, Great Music!

Sunday, June 10, 2018

1:00 - 5:00 PM

Hartley Farms Polo Field

9 Hartley Farms Road, Morristown, NJ

Bring your lawn chairs or spread out a blanket and spend the afternoon grooving to the sounds of four great local bands: Not Enough Jeffs, Hub Hollow, The Gammon Brothers, and Stomp Box. Grab a bite to eat from a variety of family-friendly food vendors and be

sure to leave some room for ice cream, served from a 1950's custom truck. Browse the historic grounds and check out the unique and interesting items for sale by our merchandise vendors. Beer and wine will be available for purchase with proper ID and there will be plenty of free parking. Get your tickets today! \$20 advanced purchase for adults \$25 at the gate, \$10 for students. Children 13 and under are free. Purchase online at GreatSwamp.org or call (973) 538-3500.

Craft your Own Walking Stick

Thursday, June 28, 2018

6:00 - 8:30 PM

GSWA Conservation Management Area

1 Tiger Lily Lane, Harding Twp.

Join Great Swamp Watershed Association (GSWA) and retired Science teacher turned walking-stick-guru Brad Koller for a fun-filled DIY workshop at GSWA's office. Learn how to make your very own walking stick to hit the trails with. You'll be able to choose from a variety of rough sticks, including red cedar, maple, beech, and iron wood, and walk away with a finished product and the knowledge of how to create one on your own! All tools and safety equipment will be provided. This program is for ages 12 and older. \$30 for members and non-members. Refreshments will be served. Registration required. Space is extremely limited. Register online at www.greatswamp.org, or call 973-538-3500.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The HPC of Harding Township would like to recognize a residential dwelling that adds aesthetic value and interest to the community. We are proud of the homes that contribute to the historical character of the township.

Historic districts recognize architectural importance of commercial buildings and residences all across the nation and preserve the character and identity of the town in which they are located.

Historic House of the Year will be a chance for us to highlight a property that enhances the historical character in the township. We would also like to show how this home adds to the rural streetscape.

Specific Requirements:

*The home we wish to highlight should be viewed from the road and enhance streetscape.

*Display proper use of materials including but not limited to: exterior sheathing, trim, windows, roof style, and colors.

*Architectural style that complements the rural character of the Township.

*Landscaping and lighting that are indigenous to the geographical area.

If you would like to be considered, please submit a summary as to how your residence meets the specific requirements; please email Lori Taglairino at ltaglairino@hardingnj.org

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Wednesday, May 23 will be the last *Toddler Time* until September. This play group for children under 5 and their parents/grandparents/caregivers/friends meets at the Kemmerer Library from 1:30-3:00 pm.

The *Sunday Speaker Series* will resume in September.

The Center for Musical Excellence

CME, a nonprofit dedicated to providing financial and professional assistance to gifted young musicians, is currently accepting applications for its 2018 International Performing Arts Grant of up to \$10,000 to fund a dream music project. Previous winners have been sponsored in Carnegie Hall debuts, CD recordings, tours of lecture recital series, and scholarships to major summer festivals and intensive programs. Open to musicians ages 18-32, of all nationalities. All instruments considered. Deadline is June 15, 2018. For more information: www.cmemusic.org/grant

The Center for Musical Excellence presents The Wundertrio in concert on Sunday, July 1 at 3:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church. The trio, comprised of international musicians Cory Blais, cello (Texas), Patrice Calixte, violin (Canada), and Francesco Barfoed, piano (Denmark), will stop in New Vernon on their summer tour, performing works by Ravel, Kapustin, Shostakovich, and more. Admission is free.

HARDING LAND TRUST

Harding Land Trust 'Cocktails and Magic':

Harding Land Trust will host a cocktail party commemorating over 27 years of land conservation in the town of Harding. The evening will include music, magic and the opportunity to connect with old and new friends and will be held at the home of a Harding Township resident. In conjunction with HLT's annual cocktail party, there will be special opportunities to purchase commemorative items such as benches and picnic tables to benefit HLT's conserved land. These donations will be placed at Primrose Farm for Harding residents to enjoy. Please contact HLT at (973) 267-2515 for more information.

Camping at Primrose Farm:

The Harding Land Trust welcomes you to CAMP OUT on Saturday, June 2nd, 2018. We welcome all Harding children from the ages of 6 to 10 years old and a parent to camp out with us at Primrose Farm, 15 Brook Drive South in Harding. Follow the trail to meet under the big tree. Leave your phone, boom box, electric toothbrush and large screen TV at home. On this camp out, we will listen to the music of the insects, taste a fire pit meal and watch a cosmic light show. The camp out will take place between Saturday, June 4th at 4 p.m. to breakfast on Sunday June 3rd. Activities will include a scavenger hunt, wiffle ball, s'more roasting, flashlight tag, story time and more. Please bring a tent, sleeping bag, change of clothes, flashlight, one gallon of water per person, mud boots and insect

repellent. The land trust will provide dinner, breakfast and entertainment. The fee is \$10 per child, \$15 per adult. Please RSVP to jordan@hardinglandtrust.org. Space is limited. In the event of rain, the event will be cancelled and fees refunded.

HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION:

Thumbnail & Website News and Announcements

This is our last thumbnail before the summer! Next issue will be September's, have a great summer!

If you have a submission for **September 2018 Thumbnail** please email to:

HTCA@mail.com by **Friday, August 17, 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

2018 Recycling Schedule

June 2, 16, 30th July 14th, 28th August 11th, 25th

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 7:30 PM
2nd & 4th Thursday 11:00AM
4th Monday 7:30 PM
1st Thursday 7:30 PM
2nd Thursday 7:30 PM
1st & 3rd Monday 7:00 PM
3rd Thursday 7:30 PM
2nd Monday 7:30 PM
2nd Monday 7:30 PM
2nd Wednesday 7:30 PM
2nd Tuesday 7:30 PM

Time

DATED MATERIAL

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