

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

“Keeping Harding Informed Since 1949”

www.HardingCivic.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

January 2020

BOARD OF EDUCATION

January 6th Harding Board of Education Meeting

Among the other business, the Board will recognize the 8th grade winners of the patriotic essay contest sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Mr. Richard Olsen, Senior Vice Commander of the local VFW Post will present the awards which will include a \$50 check to the 1st Place winner. Also to be recognized by the VFW will be the Morris County Teacher of the Year for promoting patriotism in grades 6 - 8. Come to the meeting at 7pm and find out who these outstanding Harding School people are.

PLANNING BOARD

Planning Board Notes for December 16, 2019

The Board considered only its second application of the year for extensive improvements at 33 Long Hill Road. The application is before the Board because a proposed secondary residence on the property requires Board review. The applicants sought completeness waivers for septic approval and the NJ DEP LOI. Applications have been made for each and approvals are expected, and the waivers were approved by the Board. Testimony was then given by one of the property owners, the project engineer and the architect. One large, single-family dwelling is proposed with two residence units to support a multigenerational family which, for example, gives grandparents the ability to entertain guests

without disturbing the rest of the family. There was considerable discussion about whether this was, in fact, a two-family dwelling which would not be a permitted use. A consensus seemed to form that it was a single-family dwelling and that additional steps could be taken to discourage a future conversion to a two-family dwelling such as a deed restriction. The architect also explained the conversion of a barn on the property to a secondary accessory residence and how it would meet requirements of same. While the first floor would contain a library, access to an apartment on the second floor would be gained by a separate stairway. Finally, there is the issue of lot coverage. Currently, coverage exceeds the permitted 10%, and the applicant proposes to increase coverage to 12.5%. There was discussion about how the proposed coverage could be decreased, such as narrowing the planned driveway. The architect agreed to consider alternatives to decreasing coverage, and a site visit was scheduled. On other matters, Mr. Clew reported that the Master Plan Update was on schedule, and that input had been solicited from other Township Boards. A redline update to the plan will be provided to the Board in January.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Township Committee Meeting-December 9

The December 9th meeting of the Township Committee was bookended by long executive sessions on personnel, contract, and litigation issues. The public meeting had four major resolutions: to hire a new patrolman, to honor Sergeant Selecky and Patrolman Pirrello for saving a life, and to fix salary ranges of Township employees for 2020, all of which passed with little discussion.

Of more interest was a resolution to sell the Farm, Harding's affordable housing development, to L&T Affordable Housing Urban Renewal Corporation. The economic basis for the sale was discussed in depth at the November meeting (that presentation is available on the Harding Township website). Mayor Chris Yates and Committeepeople Nicolas Platt and Tim Jones voted for the resolution, while Committeepeople Dev Modi and Nanette DiTosto voted against. The major point of debate is whether the Farm could be sold for a higher price to another buyer; it is unclear whether this is merely speculative. There is major agreement that the town is not suited to managing the Farm, and that L&T will do a better job. They will be building four more affordable units and will be required to keep the Farm's appearance in line with its current appearance.

In addition to the resolutions, three items were discussed:

Revaluation of Properties. The Harding Assessor and Tax Attorney reported on the status of the reevaluation. The State requires a reassessment when the average deviation of the assessed value from market sales exceed on average 15% (either above or below) the assessed value. Current deviations are above 30%. The reassessment process is nearing completion. Within the next 2-3 weeks residents will receive a notice showing their new assessment along with a calculation using the 2019 tax rate (the 2020 rate has not yet been determined) to see the effect of the reassessment. Residents will then have a short period to seek an informal meeting with the reassessment company before the new assessments become final. And there is still time to let the assessors into your home to make sure the assessment is accurate.

Master Plan Re-Write. The TC intends to advise the Planning Board to consider the following issues in its reexamination of the Master Plan:

1. Zoning in the B-2 District along Rte 202 - aka Country Mile
2. Nic asked that “Dark Sky” be made a core value which would require a supermajority of the TC to overturn.
3. Affordable housing

Open Space Property Management. The Dear property will now have a mowed path. Committee person Nicolas Platt will be examining whether there are grants available to put bluebird boxes on all properties.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

The December 4th, 2019 Environmental Commission focused on the Master Plan Review and a discussion with respect to that matter.

Land Preservation

A proposal was made that acquisition of open space should be grounded in more than what makes the land look pretty. It was proposed that the land should be used in a manner people in the community think it should be used for. Proximity of the preserved land and residents’ access are important factors in this analysis. Engaging organizations and people to participate in open space maintenance is also important.

Additional Considerations

Some voiced concerns as to access for recreational needs and restoring native landscapes.

There was also discussion of methods to reduce the deer herd however others mentioned that wildlife areas should be preserved.

There was discussion of limiting the use of pesticides and herbicides.

Protecting the Night Sky

Protecting the atmosphere from noise and light pollution

Protect wild life corridors and habitat protection for animals and birds

Saturday April 25th will be Roadside Cleanup

Identifying major easements

HARDING LAND TRUST

Harding Land Trust (HLT) is kicking off the new year with appreciation and respect for Harding Township. Thanks to our donors, friends, and members HLT celebrated an inspiring 2019. In the past year, we have welcomed record numbers of visitors to our trails at the Gatehouse and Primrose Farm. With boardwalks in place, and additional boardwalks planned, our trails are accessible year round. Development of our Primrose Farm Wildflower Meadow continues, and we anticipate more varied species and colors in 2020. Celebrate the new year by going outdoors and enjoying what Harding's luscious, rural landscape has to offer!

Thank you again to all who support HLT. Your gift of conservation helps us preserve the natural beauty of Harding we all love and appreciate!

New in town? For more information about HLT or to receive our mailings, invitations to upcoming events, and/or e-blasts, please call 973.267.2515 or email us at contactus@hardinglandtrust.org.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Annual Meeting of the Harding Township Historical Society will be held on Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 7:30PM at the Church of Christ the King.

Patricia Santfner, curator of the Schuyler-Hamilton House for the Morristown Chapter of the DAR is schedule to present:

"Romance of the Revolution". The story of the courtship of Alexander Hamilton and Elizabeth Schuyler.

The lecture is free for members and a donation of \$5 is requested from non-members. Come out and hear yet another Chapter of our local history during the American Revolution.

BRIDLE PATH ASSOCIATION

Happy New Year members! Our Bridle Path holiday party was so much fun and a chance to put names with faces, catch up with members and their riding escapades, and an opportunity to vote in our new board members. You'll receive an email soon introducing our new board and giving a date for our 1st quarterly meeting of 2020. Stay warm and hope for an early 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!

THE RAPTOR TRUST

Trivia Nights at The Raptor Trust

Saturdays January 25th, February 15th, and March 21st at 2pm.

Test your bird knowledge in this new avian trivia series at The Raptor Trust. This quiz-style competition will include two rounds of questions and the opportunity to meet one of our education birds. January's theme is "Curious Corvids", February is "Avian Love Languages", and in March we gear up for migration with "Sensational Songbirds." Ages 14 and up. \$10 per person. Please visit Theraptortrust.org to register.

Great Horned Owls in Love!
Saturday February 8th at 2:00

Join us in our on-site classroom for an hour-long educational program focusing on an amazing North American Apex Predator, the Great Horned Owl! Discover how these ferocious flufsters begin preparing for spring during snowy winters and how to help ensure the continued success of these majestic creatures which are so important to our state. We will also discover some migrating owls who visit NJ during the winters before introducing one of our permanent residents. Geared toward age 8 to adult. \$10 per person. Please visit Theraportrust.org to register.

Frosty Feathers

Sunday February 23rd at 11:00am and 1:00pm.

Have you ever wondered how the birds stay warm during winter? Huddle into our heated classroom for a warm cup of cider and a fun filled program about the fashionable fluff birds use to keep out the cold. We will also explore some techniques other animals use to stay warm before bringing out a live bird. Approximately 30-40 minutes. Families welcome. \$5 per person (children and adults.) Please visit Theraportrust.org to register.

NEW VERNON FIRST AID SQUAD

With colder weather coming there is a greater risk of hypothermia. The risk is greatest in small children, older adults and those exposed to the cold for long periods of time. When the body loses heat faster than it can produce it the body's core temperature begins to fall. Hypothermia occurs when the body temperature drops below 95 degrees.

As the body's temperature begins to drop, shivering begins to occur. Shivering is the body's first mechanism to produce additional heat. As the body's temperature continues to drop the body shifts blood flow to the core to protect itself. As blood flow to the brain is reduced a feeling of drowsiness, confusion, memory loss, slurred speech, and lack of coordination can occur, all of which can result in further risk of hypothermia.

Hypothermia can be caused by staying out in the cold too long, being in wet clothing or inadequate clothing for the weather.

Heat loss primarily occurs from radiation off of exposed skin areas, the head the face and neck. Heat loss also occurs from contact with either the cold ground or

cold water. Wind dissipates the thin warm layer of air surrounding your body. Wind chill can be a major factor in the loss of body heat. Being out in wet, wind driven snow, when not properly dressed for the conditions, can result in significant loss of body heat. Parents with children should be especially mindful of this.

If you suspect either you or someone else is suffering from hypothermia, call 9-1-1. Gently move the person out of the cold to a warm dry location, if possible. Insulate the person's body from the cold ground. Remove wet clothing and, cover the person with layers of blankets or coats. Use warm compresses, if available, to the neck, chest and groin area.

If traveling in a car, in addition to carrying the equipment necessary to keep you moving on the road during winter conditions, carry extra blankets or a large garbage bag (cut a hole in the top for your head and place the garbage bag over you) to trap body heat. STAY WARM, avoid hypothermia.

The LearnCPR courses held in October and November received overwhelming support from the community. Additional classes are being scheduled for Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 7 PM and Saturday, February 1, 2020 at 10:30 AM. The classes will be conducted at the New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department, 22 Village Road, New Vernon, NJ. Please sign up for the class of your choice at LearnCPR@nvvfd.org

The First Aid Squad continues to need volunteers to provide the 24/7 coverage that Harding residents have enjoyed. Please consider volunteering now, or to learn more about the First Aid Squad, contact:

- Lotte Newlin - 862-812-9997
- Steve Fullenkamp - 973-714-1739
- Larry Wepler - 917-838-3332

Or email us at this address: JoinUs@NVVFD.org
We are "Neighbors helping neighbors."

CENTER OF MUSICAL EXCELLENCE

CME is pleased to announce its *Music Made Here!* series of concerts for 2020. Performances are Saturdays at 5 pm at the Presbyterian Church on the Green in

Morristown: **February 8**, *Tango*: Latin Love; **April 18**, *Waltz*: Viennese Romance; **June 13**, *Jazz*: New York, New York!; **October 3**, *Gala*: Celebrating CME's 10th anniversary; **December 12**, *Holiday*: Winter Concert. For information and tickets, see cmemusic.org. It promises to be a varied and toe-tapping season!

An exciting new project, the **CME Classical Music Society**, a fellowship of music lovers and supporters, has recently been launched. Membership includes monthly CME Salons; a complimentary CD; invitation to private coaching sessions or rehearsals with CME Young Artists and Min Kwon; a newsletter; and a subscription to the *Music Made Here!* series. Individual membership is \$250/year, \$400 for two people. Enroll with a check to PO Box 596, New Vernon, NJ 07976.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

On **January 19 at 11:15 a.m.** the *Sunday Speaker Series* will feature Dr. Doug Simon, professor emeritus of Drew, speaking on "Climate Change and National Security," a vital issue not only for the U.S. but worldwide. He will discuss the issue from two perspectives: how the U.S. military is engaged in significant planning for the impact of climate change, and a more global focus on climate "epicenters." Please join us as we discuss this important topic. All are welcome in Fellowship Hall library.

HARDING TOWNSHIP SENIORS

JANUARY 9: Atlantic Heath System Educator Jessica Mulcahy CHES will speak on symptoms of the Flu & how deal with the Flu, and how to minimize the chances of getting the Flu.

JANUARY 23; Sister Joan will Speak on "Human Trafficking"

THE KEMMERER LIBRARY

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

Please note that the Library will be closed on December 31, January 1 and January 20.

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

Unless otherwise noted, we ask that you register for our programs in advance. Sign-up, on our website (www.hardinglibrary.org) or at the library desk, in person, or by phone 973-267-2665.

Children's Programs:

Toddler Story Hour, Tuesdays, 10:15 a.m. (*not* Tuesday, December 31)
Pre-school age kids and their caregivers are invited to drop in each week for stories, songs, movement, and a simple craft with Miss Kryssi and Miss Casey.

Kid's Holiday Movie, 'Abominable', Monday, December 30, 1:00 p.m.
Looking for something fun to do during the holidays? All kids are welcome to a special showing of the latest Dreamworks Animation movie, 'Abominable', downstairs in the Library. Bring your own bean bag, cushion or soft chair. Hot cocoa and popcorn available! Registration not required.

Holiday Crafternoon 'Snowflake Art', Monday, January 13, 3:45 p.m.
Learn how to make salt painted snowflakes with Mrs Maxwell. For kids age 5 and above, or younger with caregivers help. Registration requested, please.

Teen Scene, Friday, January 24, 5:00 p.m. Interested in hanging out in the library after closing time? Teenagers are invited to join our new, monthly group to take part in community service projects, crafts, movies, or just to have pizza and hang out! New ideas welcome. Please email alison.maxwell@hardinglibrary.org if interested.

Adult Programs:

American Red Cross Blood Drive, Tuesday, December 31, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Be the lifeline patients need this holiday season: please give blood with the Red Cross. As a special thank you, donors will get a gift while supplies last! To schedule an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter hardingtowship.

Monthly Movie Matinee, 'Downton Abbey', Wednesday, January 8, 2:00 p.m.
Join us to see the motion picture of the worldwide phenomenon 'Downton Abbey'. The beloved Crawleys and their intrepid staff prepare for the most important moment of their lives; a royal visit from the King and Queen of

England! Movie snacks available. Registration not required.

Monthly Blood Pressure Clinic, Thursday, January 9, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Drop-in to have your blood pressure checked by Public Health Nurse, Kathy Basile.
No need to register.

Adult Book Group, Tuesday, January 21, 1:30 p.m.
Drop in to join the book group's discussion of 'Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland' by Patrick Radden Keefe. All welcome!

Memoir Writing Workshop, Wednesday, January 22, 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Want to write a memoir yet you feel stuck? Don't know where to start? Writing takes time and focus. Why not start the New Year by taking the leap? Join memoir writers Mary Kenny and Kristin Elliott for insights about how to get going and keep moving forward. All you need is a pen, pad and a few memories. Registration requested, please.

Weekly Activities:

Gentle Yoga, Mondays (with M.J.) and Thursdays (with Susan), both at 10:30 a.m.
Our very popular classes continue. \$10 suggested donation per class, please.

Mah Jongg Club, Thursdays, 12:00 p.m.
Social play. All levels welcome.

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

HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION:

Thumbnail & Website News and Announcements

If you have a submission for the **February 2020 Thumbnail** please email to: htca@mail.com by **Friday, January 18th, 2020**. 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

January 4th, 18th

March 14th, 28th

February 1st, 15th, 29th

April 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
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
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7:30 PM

DATED MATERIAL

Harding Township Civic Association
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