

# Harding Township Civic Association

## THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

“Keeping Harding Informed Since 1949”

[www.HardingCivic.org](http://www.HardingCivic.org)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

June 2020

#### TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

At the May 11, 2020 Township Committee meeting (by conference call), the plan for re-development of the site of the former Hurstmont mansion (Rt 202 just north of Tempe Wick Road) was approved by a vote of 3-2. Committee persons Yates, Jones, Platt voted “For” while Modi and DiTosto were opposed.

The final details of the deal with the developer appear to have been hammered out in executive session (non-public) just prior to the public session. The signed and approved deal had to be submitted to state fair housing authority just 3 days after this TC meeting. This tight schedule probably explains why details of the deal were not available to the public at the time of the TC meeting. This lack of documentation frustrated interested members of the public on the call.

The TC members were asked to explain their votes on the ordinances.

Mayor Yates described this at the latest stop on a 4 year journal to satisfy State mandated affordable housing demands that included the negotiation with a Kushner organization for development of the property behind the old AT&T Long lines site on Rt 202 and the development overlay at the south end of Rt 202. He said that the entire plan was unanimously approved last year by the TC. He emphasized that the Hurstmont redevelopment plan is attractive to Harding “in the context of having to do something we don’t want.” So he was for the plan and said that if the plan was rejected it would throw out our COAH (Counsel on Affordable Housing) plan. This risks the ire of COAH and it could increase the number of affordable units demanded of Harding.

Mr. Jones agreed with Mayor Yates and added that 12 years ago the Township denied a developer who wanted to build townhouses on the site and 4 years ago denied another developer to build homes on the site.

Mr. Platt, who voted for the plan, said that he believes that some portion of the aging population of Harding would like to sell their homes but remain in town, and this development could satisfy their desire. He said the Township had a good team to help the Township navigate COAH rules and assisted living regulations. Platt is a “believer in cluster zoning” and that the Township got “extraordinary concessions from the developer.”

Mr. Modi, who has said he would not run again for TC this year, was brief and said that “without being specific,” the final version of the deal “did not go far enough to protect the Master Plan.” He voted against the ordinances.

Lastly, Ms. DiTosto also said that the plan “could have been stronger” to protect the Master Plan. She further said that the TC members had been advised by Township legal counsel that they “can’t talk about the process.” Ms. DiTosto also voted against the ordinances.

A key feature of the deal is a reduction in property taxes. Rather than paying regular property taxes, the properties will make “payments in lieu of taxes” (PILOT). The PILOT’s are negotiated. The Township believes that the developer would not proceed with redevelopment without a PILOT that reduced the tax payments.

During the question and answer forum, the public was told that the Township is expected to reap \$19.5m MORE in revenue from this property (over 30 years) than if the regular tax rates were applied.

So how can Harding get more in revenue if the developer pays less? Well, recall that your property taxes go approximately 50% to the Harding schools, 25% to Morris County and 25% to Harding municipal government. Since the Hurstmont development will be only for seniors, there will be no school age children in residence. So it appears that little or no of the PILOT money will go to the Harding schools. So the developer can pay less while Harding municipal government (police, DPW, Health dept, etc) gets more.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**May 30th: Free Trees to Good Homes.** The Trees are back! After a delay, the New Jersey Forest Service is releasing trees at the end of May. The Environmental Commission and Harding Land Trust are teaming up again this year to give trees away.

On Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00 am, we will give away tree seedlings, from a distance, in front of Harding Town Hall. Because the trees are available later than usual, we encourage you to get them into the ground as soon as possible.

## **HARDING LAND TRUST**

With the Summer coming, Harding Land Trust wishes everyone a safe and healthy season.

**Free Trees:** HLT is pleased to announce that we will be co-hosting the annual tree giveaway with the Environmental Commission on Saturday May 30th at 9am at Town Hall. We look forward to seeing you there. For more information please email [contactus@hardinglandtrust.org](mailto:contactus@hardinglandtrust.org)

**Hiking Trails:** HLT would like to remind you that our trails at Primrose Farm (accessible from Barrett Field parking lot) and the Gatehouse (Harter Road and James St) are open for you to visit and enjoy. This past month saw the installation of a new 200-foot section of boardwalk at Primrose Farm. Out for a hike? Let us know what you see!

New in town? For more information about HLT or to receive our mailings, invitations to upcoming events, and/or eblasts, please call 973-267-2515, email at [contactus@hardinglandtrust.org](mailto:contactus@hardinglandtrust.org), and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

## **HARDING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Historical Society is trying to develop a project to help chronicle the COVID 19 pandemic in our town and how it affected our residents. We are in the planning stages, and have not decided how we will compile the information yet. However, as you go about your summer, please give some thought as to how the pandemic affected you and your family, events in your life, events in town, who helped you out and what you are thankful for. We would also love photos of events during this time. We may do some kind of an exhibit etc... Besides, our residents, we will be reaching out to various groups in our community for their take on how the pandemic affected them.

We hope this will be a project that is of interest to our residents. We are hoping that it will be an interesting chronicle for generations to come.

We will keep you posted once we decide how we are going to collect this information, most likely electronically and perhaps regular mail. We will let you know once we have set it up. The pandemic has affected our programs as well. We are working on ways to get programs of interest to you, safely. We were preparing to once again be on the Pathways of History Tour this October. We are currently working on changes to bring this to you in one way or another. We will keep you posted.

Hope you all have a wonderful summer, and although the TE House is closed, the property and gardens are there for you to enjoy. Take a stroll.

## **NEW VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **STEAK AND LOBSTER DINNER CURBSIDE PICK UP NEW VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRE**

**DEPARTMENT AND FIRST AID SQUAD:** The Annual Steak and Lobster Dinner will be held SATURDAY, June 13, 2020 from 5pm to 9pm or when the food runs out!!! Your favorite dinner selections will include Steak, Lobster, Chicken and Hamburgers. All dinners include Salad, Bread, and French fries. Steamed Clams, Corn on the Cob and Dessert selections are also

available. Please go to [SAL.NVVFD.org](http://SAL.NVVFD.org) for pre-ordering, pick up time slots, and for more information. All Proceeds go to the New Vernon Fire Company and First Aid Squad. The Volunteer Fire Department is completely independent and raises all its own funds without taxpayer support.

### **HARDING TOWNSHIP PTO AND EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

The Harding Township Educational foundation (HTEF) and the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) have postponed the Harding Huskers Corn Hole Tournament/ Spring Fundraiser due to the Corona virus. Our new date will be Saturday, October 3rd, 2020. We look forward to seeing you for a great night of fun in the fall!

### **HARDING TOWNSHIP RECREATION ASSOCIATION**

All Spring sports have been cancelled as well as summer camp. Refunds have been posted to the original form of payment. If you do not see your refund posted to your credit card, please contact Nicole Lacz at [nlaczmd@aol.com](mailto:nlaczmd@aol.com)

We hope all our HTRA family are doing well and staying safe and we look forward to our robust sports schedule once it is safe to resume.

### **CENTER OF MUSICAL EXCELLENCE**

Save the Date: On October 10, CME will be celebrating its 10th anniversary on the 10th day of the 10th month. Virus permitting, we will gather at a scenic Bedminster estate to enjoy Mozart on the Meadow, a Fall Festival of Music, Art, and Delicious Food, partnering with Music in the Somerset Hills, also celebrating its 10th anniversary. Stay tuned to [cmemusic.org](http://cmemusic.org) as plans progress.

We cordially invite you to join, the CME Classical Music Society. A newly formed fellowship of music lovers and supporters, this intimate and exclusive program will celebrate our artists' excellence and their inspiring music and stories. Membership includes a monthly musical salon, invitation to additional private coaching sessions or rehearsals with CME Young Artists and Min Kwon, a regular newsletter, and CME CD. Individual: \$250/year; dual \$400/year.

CME is always looking for volunteers to help with events, mailings, posters—you name it, and we are sure to find an interesting spot for you to cover. Please let us hear from you through our web site, as above.

### **BRIDLE PATH ASSOCIATION**

Together we are facing a truly unprecedented situation that is affecting all of our families, our communities, and our way of life. Although the trails are open to members to use, please be sure to follow state and local guidelines and stay at least 6 ft from others and do not form groups of more than 10 riders. With many people trying to exercise and enjoy the outdoors there has been quite a surge in riders encountering non riders on the trails. If as a member

you come upon someone using the trails inappropriately, please politely inform them that the trails are for members and horses only and not for pedestrians, bikers, or motorized vehicles of any kind. Please be healthy, happy, and safe on the trails this summer!

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](mailto: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. 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!

### **KEMMERER LIBRARY**

As New Jersey begins moving through the phases to reopen, the Library is also preparing for a cautious and gradual return to regular services. As a first step, we are hopeful that curbside pick-up of library materials may be possible very soon. For hours of operation and details of arrangements, please check [www.hardinglibrary.org](http://www.hardinglibrary.org) or email us at [desk@hardinglibrary.org](mailto:desk@hardinglibrary.org). Please also request to have your name added to our newsletter list if you would like to stay up-to-date with re-opening developments.

**To prepare for circulation of items again, we are requesting that all MAIN library materials (including Kindles) now be returned to our book drop, at the front of the library building, by Monday, June 15.**

Our plans for curbside pick-up include many measures to help protect staff and patrons, including a quarantine period and sanitizing step for returned items.

As we have since our temporary shutdown, **the library continues to offer virtual services including:**

eLibrary materials - eBooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines

Zoom Programs for Children and Adults

Zoom Meeting Space for Harding-based Organizations

A summer reading program for children will also be offered virtually. Please check our website for details.

### **eLibraries**

If you have a library card, the Library offers eBooks and eAudiobooks for borrowing via Libby (our exclusive collection for Harding cardholders) and Cloud (shared with other Morris County libraries). These books can be downloaded for reading on your tablet, iPad, phone, computer or Kindle Fire. Libby eBooks can also be downloaded to regular Kindles. We continue to significantly expand our Libby collection. Please check out the Tumblebook Library for children. Newly added eResources which do not require a library card include, TumbleMath, TeenCloud, and an extra AudiobookCloud; there is something for everyone.

**Visit [www.hardinglibrary.org](http://www.hardinglibrary.org) and click E-LIBRARY to get started!**

If your library card is misplaced, or has expired, you've forgotten your PIN, or are not sure how to download digital content then please email [desk@hardinglibrary.org](mailto:desk@hardinglibrary.org) and we will assist you. We can also offer instruction by phone or videoconference if you need it.

If you do not have a library card and would like one, please email [desk@hardinglibrary.org](mailto:desk@hardinglibrary.org) and we will make arrangements to set up an account for you. There is no charge for having a library card at the Kemmerer Library.

### **Virtual Library Programs**

Virtual library programs use Zoom. You can participate via phone or video. Please see [www.hardinglibrary.org](http://www.hardinglibrary.org) for the latest information and easy to use links.

#### **Mindful Meditation, Mondays at 1:30 pm**

Join experienced teacher John Madden for an hour of mindful stress-relief, for beginners.

#### **Toddler Storytime with Miss Casey, Tuesdays at 10:15 am**

Stories, songs and a craft idea for pre-schoolers and their caregivers.

#### **Get Together for Games, Wednesdays at Noon, Fridays at 10:30 am**

Are you missing social contact? Looking for some light-hearted relief? Join us for conversation and a variety of fun games.

#### **Adult Book Group, Tuesdays, June 2 and 16, 1:30 pm**

Our lively book club is now meeting every 2 weeks. Join us to discuss 'The Glass Hotel' by Emily St. John Mandel (June 2) and 'Before We Were Yours' by Lisa Wingate (June 16). All are welcome! Copies of both titles are available on the eLibrary and on pre-loaded library Kindles by request to [desk@hardinglibrary.org](mailto:desk@hardinglibrary.org).

#### **Bookworms (Book Club for 10-12 year olds), Wednesdays, June 3 and 17, 3:00 pm (subject to change)**

We are now reading Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets and are enjoying some themed activities via Zoom. Contact [desk@hardinglibrary.org](mailto:desk@hardinglibrary.org) if you'd like to join our wizarding world.

If you have an idea for a program that you would like to see being offered, or that you can offer, then please get in touch.

### **Virtual Meeting Space**

The Library is offering use of a Zoom account if you have a Harding club or resident group that needs a virtual meeting space. Please email [desk@hardinglibrary.org](mailto:desk@hardinglibrary.org) if interested.

If you need instruction on using our eLibrary or accessing our Zoom programs, please email [desk@hardinglibrary.org](mailto:desk@hardinglibrary.org) and we will be happy to assist you.

## **HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION:**

Thumbnail & Website News and Announcements

If you have a submission for the **September 2020 Thumbnail** please email to: [htca@mail.com](mailto:htca@mail.com) by **Friday August 21<sup>st</sup>, 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](http://www.HardingCivic.org). Send questions or comments about *Thumbnail* to editor to: [HTCA@mail.com](mailto:HTCA@mail.com) or PO Box 72 New Vernon, NJ 07976

## **HARDING TOWNSHIP RECYCLING**

During the ongoing State of Emergency declared by Governor Murphy, operations at the DPW have curtailed.

### **Hours of Operation:**

**Mondays & Wednesdays:** 7 am - Noon

From 7am to 8am is senior (residents 60+) recycling only. Full assistance will be provided to seniors during this period.

From 8 am until noon, recycling for all residents. No assistance will be provided during these hours.

**Social distancing must be observed at all times.**

**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**

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday  
4<sup>th</sup> Monday  
1<sup>st</sup> Thursday  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday  
1st & 3rd Monday  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

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

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Chester, NJ  
Permit No. 60