

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**

**October 2020**

#### **MEET THE CANDIDATES**

The annual **HTCA Meet the Candidates Night** will be Monday, Oct. 5, 2020, starting promptly at 7:30 PM. Because of the rules governing large groups, this year’s Meet the Candidates Night will be conducted as a Zoom Webinar hosted by the Kemmerer Library and conducted by the Harding Township Civic Association. This year 4 residents are running for election to the Township Committee to fill two vacancies. Chris Yates and Rita Chipperson are the Republican candidates and Amanda Richardson and Kate Barry are the Democratic candidates.

**To Join the Meet the Candidates by Zoom Video**, on the night of the Webinar insert this link into your browser and hit Enter:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84321005860>

If you wish to join with **AUDIO ONLY** dial: (646) 876 9923.

When prompted, enter the webinar ID #: 843 2100 5860

The link will open shortly before 7:30 PM.

To pose a question to the Candidates send your questions before the event to [htca@mail.com](mailto:htca@mail.com) with the subject matter **DEBATE**. It is important that we receive your input/questions before the event so that we can cover as many of the issues as residents wish to hear about.

## **SPECIAL VOTER ALERT:**

The election will be conducted primarily via the mail per Governor Murphy's executive order. You will not be permitted to vote on a machine on Election Day.\*

You will receive a ballot in the mail. This is NOT sample ballot! It is your ballot. Follow the instructions for filling it out.

You can return your ballot in three different ways:

1) PLACE your ballot in one of several secure drop boxes that will be located throughout the county. There is a drop box behind the public safety building in Madison at 62 Kings Road and another at the Morris County Admin and Records Building, 10 Court St in Morristown.

2) HAND DELIVER your mail-in ballot to the Harding municipal building on Election Day or to your County Board of Elections in Morristown prior to Election Day.

3) RETURN your mail-in ballot via regular mail through the US Postal Service. Your return envelope will be postage paid. Mail your ballot early.

Finally you may CAST your vote in-person via paper provisional ballot at the municipal building where you normally vote on Election Day. You will vote on a provisional ballot, not on a machine.\*

To track your ballot and ensure it was received, please visit: <https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/auth/sign-in>

\* Only voters who are sight-disabled can vote on a machine.

## **HELP FOR HARDING**

Attention Senior Citizens - Help for Harding Is Here For You!

Help for Harding started in March 2020 in the midst of the COVID pandemic to assist senior citizens and those with underlying health conditions with errands and check-ins. Our volunteers are excited to keep our services going! Please contact Elizabeth Sovolos at [helpforharding@gmail.com](mailto:helpforharding@gmail.com) or 862-246-7648 if you need help with:

- Local errands (grocery, pharmacy, hardware store, post office)
- Welfare check-ins
- Driving to/from medical appointments
- Online shopping or appointments
- Questions about things going on in town (e.g. Steak & Lobster dinner, upcoming election procedures)
- Small favors around the house

Our team of nearly 100 volunteers and counting is eager to help - we look forward to hearing from you!

## **TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

**First Female Police Officer:** On September 16, Rachael Kunz, Harding's first female police officer, will begin service at a salary of \$45,219. She is a graduate of Cape May County police academy.

**“Good Audit Report:”** Harding's auditor reported to the township committee that controls are in place and the financial statements accurately portray the state of Harding's financial conditions. The auditor said that the financial staff does a “great job.” Further debt capacity was pegged at \$78mm against just \$5mm outstanding.

**Lots of Unsafe Residential Generators?** Because of the frequent power outages caused by the storms taking down trees, many residents have their own generators. It is suspected that many were installed without permits and inspections. These could be unsafe due to “backflow” of power from a home to the grid or even to neighboring homes caused by improper transfer switches. The idea was floated that HT has a correction period to get generators inspected. Under this proposal, no fine will be assessed but after correction period a “hefty fine” would be levied. Publicity will be needed to inform homeowners. This program is still being crafted.

## **Dickson's Mill Road Bridge Replacement - Controversy**

The design of proposed replacement bridge has heated up again. In 1980, the current 20ft wide bridge was installed. The county has determined that the bridge needs replacement, but they use a one-size-fits-all 26 ft. wide design. Area residents and others are concerned that Dickson's Mill Road will be straightened and eventually widened creating more and speedier traffic. Approximately 10 residents voiced strong opposition to the County's design. In contrast to a few months ago, it now appears that all TC members are against the 26 ft. wide bridge. The struggle to have a

narrower bridge will continue. Nic Platt and Tim Jones, of the HT infrastructure sub-committee will work with the County to come to a resolution. Interestingly, testimony presented regarding new regulations from the State, the ultimate source of funding, relaxed the rules about bridge width. The hope is when the County is made aware of these new standards, it will agree to design a 20ft wide structure. With the mayor and full TC behind the 20ft width, Harding should get what the bridge residents want.

**New Open Space Purchase - 163 Lees Hill Road:** A plan to purchase the 5 acre property adjacent to the Great Swamp was introduced. The property would be purchased with money from the Harding Open Space Trust (aka HOST). HOST is funded with a direct tax on property in Harding. This proposed acquisition will be discussed at the October TC meeting.

**No Left Turn onto Blue Mill from Dicksons Mill Road:** At the very end of the meeting, Mayor Yates asked the township administrator to investigate the ramifications of preventing a left turn onto Blue Mill Road from Dicksons Mill Road. He cited safety reasons.

## **PLANNING BOARD**

### **Planning Board Notes for August 24, 2020**

The Planning Board continued to discuss Application PB# 02-20 which was for a three-lot subdivision with variances for front setbacks and accessory structures at 579 Van Beuren Road. The Applicant presented a revised plan. In the original plan the three lots were divided by straight lines, which produced aesthetically shaped lots but also generated the non-conforming issues for Lot 5 in the back. In the revised plan, the lot line between Lots 5 and 5.01 was redrawn so that Lot 5 now has a more of a hexagonal shape than a square. The result, however, produces a plan that is totally conforming and requires no variances or changes to access. The Board adopted a resolution approving the application.

The Chairman reminded the members of several issues that the Board could work on. These included the use of setbacks rather than floor area ratio to control bulk, the Harding Green deck repair issue, whether ordinances support working from home, placement of swing sets and play sets, and whether the B2 zone needed to be reworked. He also called the Board's attention to its recently released budget for 2021, which in its current state resembles the 2020 budget.

## **THE RAPTOR TRUST**

The Raptor Trust is a 501© 3 organization that provides free medical care to thousands of injured and orphaned wild birds each year while providing education to individuals, clubs, and schools on New Jersey's native Raptors. Located at 1390 White Bridge Road, Millington, NJ, the Raptor Trust is offering the following virtual program options this Fall. Please visit our website at [Theraportrust.org](http://Theraportrust.org)

### **Raptor Conference Call**

\$30 for two screens/households. 20 minutes with a TRT educator and one of our ambassador birds.

### **Small Group Program**

\$60 for up to 12 participants. 35-40 minute program led by one of the TRT educators and an ambassador bird.

### **Teacher-Moderated Classroom Programs**

\$80 for 45 minute program. Maximum 35 students & 2 teachers. Choose from a variety of lesson plans that can be integrated into your existing curriculum.

## **HARDING LAND TRUST**

### **5th ANNUAL CELEBRATE HARDING PHOTO CONTEST**

Harding residents in grades K-12 are invited to submit photos of landscapes, flora, or fauna. Photos may be submitted now through November 1st to [photos@hardinglandtrust.org](mailto:photos@hardinglandtrust.org). All photos must be taken in Harding. No photos of pets please.

The Grand Prize Winner will receive a \$100 gift card, and the first-place winner in each age group will receive a \$50 gift card. Winners will be announced at a Reception on November 15th in partnership with Kemmerer Library; location TBD.

If you have any questions please contact us at [contactus@hardinglandtrust.org](mailto:contactus@hardinglandtrust.org)

## **FIRST AID SQUAD**

During these unprecedented times, the First Aid Squad continues to need volunteers to be able to provide 24/7 First Aid service to Harding. We have seen many expressions of support from the Community, including the generous sharing with us of your personal protective equipment which we needed to perform our job. In addition, we have received cards and letters expressing gratitude to the First Aid

Squad, but this letter particularly touched our hearts.

“Dear First Aid Squad,

My husband, I and our two daughters want to express our sincere gratitude for the outstanding service that your team provided on the morning of June 25, 2020.

The night before my husband developed symptoms of a kidney stone that was large enough to block the flow from one of his kidneys. A few hours later I sensed that he was becoming delirious and confused. I called your organization for assistance in transporting him to the Morristown Memorial ER. Your response was excellent and your team's diagnosis helped us understand the seriousness of his condition.

The stone blockage started an infection that progressed to Sepsis. The situation was so serious that the ER doctors told me to prepare for the worst. After three days on a ventilator (and lots of prayers) my husband made a remarkable recovery. As you well know, a rapid response and mitigation is what saves lives. And that is exactly what your team did – saving my husband's life!

We are eternally grateful to the professionalism of your organization. And, as longtime supporters of NVVFAS, we would like to express our heartfelt appreciation.”

The First Aid Squad hopes you never need to call 911 for any emergency including a medical emergency, but please know that if you do we will be there for you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Please consider volunteering as a driver or EMT. We are Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

## **HARDING TOWNSHIP RECREATION ASSOCIATION**

### **Lacrosse Registration Is Now Open!**

We will meet on Thursdays during the month of October. Our focus will be on skills, drills and scrimmaging. Registration will be live on Tuesday morning 9/29 and our first clinic day will be Thursday 10/1, so please bear with us and register ASAP. Girls in grades 4th through 8th are eligible.

For more information, please see the HTRA Lacrosse page at [www.HTRA.info](http://www.HTRA.info)

### **Harding Basketball**

Our Winter basketball teams and clinics are currently on ‘hold’ until the schools determine the use of indoor facilities. Please check the HTRA website regularly for

updates on basketball. As we receive information, we will update the website.

### **Harding Ski Club**

We plan to offer our Winter Ski Club again this year. Please check the HTRA website for registration. We will open registration once we have confirmation from Shawnee Ski Mountain. Please check the website!

### **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Drive-Through *Blessing of the Animals* on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-11:00 a.m. Bring your furry, or feathered, four-legged friends, small and large, to the Church for a special blessing as we celebrate God's gift of pets, and all of creation. All are welcome! Guests will remain in their cars for the event.

The *Sunday Speaker Series* is pleased to present Matt Myers on "A Lively Hobby: The Art and Pleasures of Beekeeping" on **October 11**. Bees and their declining numbers worldwide have been very much in the news. This introduction to beekeeping covers the essentials of the lively hobby that has kept Matt fascinated for many years. When not tending to the hives, he has practiced as a criminal defense attorney for 30 years. A link to view Matt's presentation will be available on the Church website and Facebook page on October 11 and may be viewed at any time after that date.

### **CENTER FOR MUSICAL EXCELLENCE**

Celebrate with *CME* and *Music in the Somerset Hills* as they mark their respective 10<sup>th</sup> anniversaries. ***Mozart on the Meadow*** on **October 17** (rain date 10/18) will be held at one of the most beautiful private estates in the Bedminster section of the Somerset Hills. Grounds open at 4 p.m. with an all-Mozart program, featuring Min Kwon on piano and CME soloists on bass clarinet and violin, at 5 p.m. A country music band and other toe-tapping music will also entertain. Food, wine, and sodas will be available to buy. It promises to be a lively afternoon recognizing two musical treasures! Prior purchase of tickets is required; see [www101020gala.com](http://www101020gala.com) for details.

### **FRIENDS OF THE KEMMERER LIBRARY**

**Back by popular demand!** The **Shredding Event**, held earlier this summer, was so well received that the Friends are now pleased to announce a second **Shredding Event** on Saturday, October 10th, 9 - 11 a.m. Bring all those documents you painstakingly cleaned from your closets and drawers during the pandemic and have them **SAFELY SHREDDED**. There will also be someone on hand to destroy the hard drives from your old computers!

The cost: \$5.00 per grocery bag, \$10.00 per banker box (10"x12"x15"); larger items will be negotiated. The cost for hard drive destruction is \$18.00. We truly appreciate your participation during this difficult time! We are sadly unable to hold our normal fundraising events to help the Kemmerer Library this year.

Masks will be worn, and safe distancing observed.

### **KEMMERER LIBRARY**

New Operating Hours:           Monday - Friday, 10am - 2pm  
  Thursday, 10am - 5pm  
  Saturday, 10am -12pm

The Library is open to visitors! Since capacity is limited, we ask that you call ahead (973 267 2665) to let us know that you're coming, and that you limit your time inside the library as needed. You are required to wear a face covering, to sanitize your hands on entering, and to keep your distance from staff. We do appreciate your cooperation.

Delivery service between MAIN libraries is also back which means that requests can now be placed with any of our member libraries. Please place holds directly on the MAIN catalog on our website ([www.hardinglibrary.org](http://www.hardinglibrary.org)). You may also contact us with requests by phone or email to [desk@hardinglibrary.org](mailto:desk@hardinglibrary.org). We are also happy to make selections for you!

Curbside pickup of library materials remains available if you prefer. Once you receive notification that items are ready, call us to let us know when you can come by and the items will be ready for pickup from the front of the library building.

We continue to accept returns of all materials to the outside book drop. All items are quarantined and sanitized before coming back into circulation.

If you choose to visit us in person, please be aware of some restrictions:

- Restrooms are not available for public use
- Meeting rooms are not available
- Working, studying and tutoring are not permitted
- Computers are not available
- Seating and coffee service are not available
- Children must be accompanied by an adult



We look forward to welcoming you soon!

To keep informed about what's new on our shelves and to receive program announcements, please ask to have your name added to our email list.

Our eLibrary (for eBooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines), is always open! Please 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, 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.

### **Library Programs**

Virtual library programs use Zoom with easy to use links on our website ([www.hardinglibrary.org](http://www.hardinglibrary.org)). Please also see the website for updates as programs may be available in-person.

### **Outdoor Gentle Yoga, Mondays (weather permitting) at 10 am**

Gentle yoga with MJ on the Library lawn. Please bring your own mat and block. You will be asked to sign a new waiver before participating and, please, keep your distance.

### **Storytime, Tuesdays at 10:15 am**

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

**Junior Garden Club on Zoom! Thursday, October 15, 3:00 pm.** Join volunteers from the New Vernon Garden Club to make a variety of fun art projects using nature. Register at [www.hardinglibrary.org](http://www.hardinglibrary.org) by **October 8** and pick up kits-to-go from the Library between **October 12 and 15**.

### **Adult Book Group, Tuesdays, October 6 and 20, 1:30 pm**

Our lively book club is now meeting every 2 weeks. Join us on October 6 to discuss 'The Lions of Fifth Avenue' by Fiona Davis, and October 22 for 'Crossing to Safety' by Wallace Stegner. All are welcome! Copies of these titles are available from the Library in a number of formats.

## Virtual Meeting Space

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

## HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION:

Thumbnail & Website News and Announcements

If you have a submission for the **November 2020 Thumbnail** please email to: [htca@mail.com](mailto:htca@mail.com) by **Friday, October 23<sup>rd</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  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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