

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

March 2021

### PRELIMINARY MUNICIPAL BUDGET

#### **Preliminary Budget 2021 Introduced - Taxes Up 1.6%**

The Township Committee (TC) gave the public the first look at the budget for 2021 at their February 2, meeting. Spending is set to increase 3.8% while tax revenue is to increase only 1.6%, primarily because HT will dip into its surplus.

First, it's important to put this report in context: this is only about the fiscal affairs of the Township. Your property taxes also go the Harding School and Morris County. The TC has virtually nothing to do with those entities, their budgets and their tax levy. Here's the breakdown of where your property taxes went in 2020, which will be very similar to 2021 when all the numbers are collected:

46% - Harding School -- \$10.6mm - controlled by the Harding Twp Board of Ed

25% - Harding Municipal - \$5.8mm - controlled by the Township Committee

4% - Harding Open Space Trust - \$0.8mm - controlled by the Township Committee

24% - Morris County \$5.7mm - controlled by the County Commissioners

1% - County Open Space - \$0.2mm - controlled by the County Commissioners

To be clear, this report will cover only the 29% of your property tax bill set by the TC.

HT will spend over \$9.6mm in 2021 a 3.8% increase over 2020. About 60% of the spending is for employ compensation and benefits. Though headcount remained the same, this part of the budget rose almost 5% due to:

- Contracted increase in salaries - PBA (police) contract still to be determined;
- Increase in health insurance - 2% premium increase and a number of

- employees who were not covered in prior years have opted into the plan;
- Pension contribution increase - +22% for Police plan and 10.3% increase for other plan.

The 40% of the expenditures that are non-employee related are up 2.3% driven by a \$78K increase (78%) increase in HT share of the joint court - the court that we share with a few other towns. Our share is popping because our usage remained largely the same, while the other towns with which we share the court decreased. This arrangement is under scrutiny by the TC. Capital budget remained about flat.

Debt service is budgeted to decrease about \$10.9K as the TC pays down its remaining \$3.75mm in AAA rated debt. Projections show that HT will be debt free in 2029 unless more borrowing is incurred.

Municipalities must have a balanced budget. The budget calls for \$3.7mm from “general revenues” (surplus, various fees, fines) and property taxes (62% of total revs). The budget shows two main sources of incremental revenue:

Surplus (\$300,000): (“Surplus” is the excess of revenue over expenses in prior years - similar to retained earnings in a business.) The TC made the case for dipping into the surplus because its reason for being is to smooth tax increases. Without using \$300K of surplus to balance the budget, your HT property tax bill would increase over 6%. Even with the drawdown, the surplus will be \$4.18mm at the end of 2021, higher than in 2017, 2018 and 2019 when surplus was building. But this is a fund that should be watched in the 2022 budget.

Property Taxes (\$99K): Property tax increase of 1.7% will raise the rest of the revenue needed to balance the budget.

The higher tax rate works out to an increase of \$47 on the average property in HT which is valued at \$1,091,116, down about \$5.8K from 2020. This is just the increase for the quarter of your taxes from HT.

The total assessed value of all of the 1931 properties in HT declined \$11.3mm from \$2.118B down to \$2.107B. This is the result of the township wide reassessment.

The Open Space tax is expected to remain at 4 cents per \$100 of assessed value. The OS tax will raise about \$843K in 2021 and will be added to the \$2.35mm fund at

12/31/20. As the name implies, this fund is targeted for Open Space purchases and maintenance of the properties purchased in years prior.

The TC also presented the 6 year capital plan. In 2021, the total capital expenditures are estimated at \$587K:

- DPW - \$300K equipment - excavator, chipper, hot box, air compressor, UV...
- Road Improvements - \$145K
- Police Equipment and Vehicle - \$84.6K
- MIS - \$30K
- Township Facilities - \$27.5K

### **PRELIMINARY SCHOOL BUDGET CALLS FOR TAX LEVY INCREASE OF 3.52%**

On Feb 8, the Board of Education presented its preliminary budget for the 2021-2022 school year (7-1-21 to 6-30-22). The proposed budget calls for an increase in school related property taxes of 3.52%. The budget was significantly impacted by costs associated with the pandemic - ventilation units, HEPA filters, PPE and school-wide desk dividers. This enabled "in-school" instruction the entire school year to date.

The Superintendent and the Board of Ed wants to make clear that the tax levy increase shown in this preliminary budget is tentative and subject to finalization of the amount of aid from the State of NJ. The State aid figure is expected to be released at the end of February. For the purpose of this preliminary budget, the planners used the same figure (\$462,201) as in the prior year. The actual number could vary from a high of nearly \$500K to a low of perhaps \$225K. As a rule-of-thumb, each \$100K of incremental revenue or expense can drive 1% in the tax levy.

In the years 1997-2011, the school tax increased an average of 6.01% annually. Since 2012, the levy increased between a low of 1.48% (2017-2018) and a high of 3.32% (2015-2016). The decrease in the rate of increases was the result of the July 2010 State law (passed at the beginning of the Christie administration) that capped property tax increases at 2% per year. There are exemptions from the 2% cap (example: health benefits) that allow tax levy to increase more than 2%. But as can be seen by the sharp drop in tax levy increases starting in 2012, the cap law had a dramatic impact on NJ's rapidly increasing property taxes.

This preliminary budget includes line items that increase faster than 2% like Salary Expense -- budgeted to rise 3.2%. Salary expense is by far the largest portion of a

school budget and set by contract negotiations with the teachers' union. The presentation cited health benefits, extraordinary Covid related expenses (\$74K) and special education as expense lines that are also forecast to increase more than 2%. Therefore other line items had to be cut entirely or increased less than 2% to stay under the 2% cap.

On March 8, a "tentative budget" will be presented to the Board of Ed. On May 3<sup>rd</sup> there will be a public hearing on the budget. The new fiscal year begins July 1.

## **HARDING TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

### **Spring Clean-Up**

The Harding Township Environmental Commission invites volunteers to help with our spring cleaning. On Saturday April 24th we are planning a community wide effort to beautify the roads in our community. Our plan is for residents, volunteers and community groups to take the time to pick up any roadside litter that may have accumulated over the winter. Beginning from Kirby Town Hall at 9:00AM interested groups and individuals will be directed to a road or public area targeted for clean-up. The township will be providing gloves, trash bags and safety vests for volunteers. Harding Land Trust will be joining us for their annual tree give away from 9:00 AM until Noon. Over 800 rooted saplings of various species will be available free to residents for planting. The saplings were provided by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection.

This event qualifies for community extracurricular volunteer service hours under programs recognized by the local school communities.

If you have questions regarding this community effort please contact  
d1\_zn1rmtemp1@att.net

## **PLANNING BOARD**

### **Planning Board Notes for January 25, 2021**

Gary Hall opened the 2021 reorganization meeting and announced the Board members that had been appointed by the Township Committee: Nicolas Platt, Christopher Yates, and Gwen Claytor (1-year terms); Tracey Walters (2-year term); and Robert Edgar, Alf Newlin and Nikolai Bjorkedal (4-year terms). Richard Clew and David Chipperson were then elected Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. Three resolutions were passed covering appointment of Board professionals, 2021 meeting dates, and budget limits for professional services. Moving to the regular meeting, several members paid tribute to former Board member, David Dietz who died on Christmas Day. David was a dedicated member for many years who was always well

prepared and committed to maintaining Harding's rural nature. The Board approved a suggestion to dedicate the review of the Harding Open Space Recreation Plan to David. Peter Saulnier bid adieu to the Board following his decision to move to Vermont.

Mr. Clew then led a discussion of Board goals and objectives for 2021. Potential items include a replacement dwelling ordinance (to allow construction of a new while living in the old without a variance); bulk of houses in the R3 zone; outdoor dining; wireless service; and size of generators. The Board then discussed if a storm water ordinance update introduced by the Township Committee was consistent with the Master Plan. Mr. Fox explained that Harding generally has higher standards than those required by the DEP, and advised approval of the ordinance with the higher Harding standards. The Board agreed that the ordinance was consistent with the Master Plan and will send its advice to the Township Committee. The Board then held the Open Space Element Hearing which commenced with a recreation plan presentation conducted by a member of the Town's planning firm. Harding has preserved 47.1% or approximately 6200 acres of its area. The Board approved the Open Space Element with the dedication to David Dietz.

## **HARDING LAND TRUST**

### **Winter Sports at Harding Land Trust**

Harding Land Trust would like to wish a happy winter to the Harding community! With what seems like an endless supply of snow on the ground, we want to let you know that Primrose Farm and the Gatehouse properties are open for snowshoe and x-country skiing! Strap on your gear and make trails through the woodlands. Share your photos with us on Instagram!

### **Harding Land Trust's Annual Meeting**

Harding Land Trust is excited to announce that we will be holding our Annual Meeting on April 17th. All are welcome! At our meeting we will share our recent stewardship projects and other exciting news! Zoom link to follow next month. To ensure you do not miss your invitation please RSVP to [jordan@hardinglandtrust.org](mailto:jordan@hardinglandtrust.org), or sign up for our mailing list at [hardinglandtrust.org](http://hardinglandtrust.org)

### **New in town?**

For more information about HLT or to receive our mailings, invites, and/or eblasts, please call 973.267.2515 or email us at [contactus@hardinglandtrust.org](mailto:contactus@hardinglandtrust.org) and follow us on Facebook and Instagram

## **NEW VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

NVVFD Auxiliary Fundraiser is excited to announce we have partnered with Pamela Cassidy Designs to create a whimsical, colorful map of Downtown New Vernon. Featured items for sale are a 100% Cotton canvas Tote Bag for \$16, a decorative 100% cotton Flour Sack Kitchen Towel for \$12 and a package of 8 linen paper Notecards and envelopes for \$10. This promotion will end on March 20, so make sure to order by then!

To view these unique items for purchase go to <https://nvvfd-map-of-new-vernon.myshopify.com/> or Call Hope Hazen 973-886-9734

NVVFD is a non-profit organization. We are completely independent and raise all of our funds without any tax support.

## **GLEN ALPIN- A RESOLUTION IS AT HAND**

At a special meeting of the Township Committee on January 28, a plan to dispose of the Glen Alpin property (685 Mt Kemble Avenue - aka Rt 202) was presented. The plan is complex and involves five transactions. But it creates a path for the property with the buildings to be sold to a new owner that will be responsible to preserve it and put it to good use.

Public reaction to the plan was almost uniformly positive, including from people with a strong interest in preservation.

The five parts of the plan are:

1. Disposal of 3.52 acres and diversion of 0.63 acres by HT. The buildings on the site are located on these two parcels;
2. Transfer of Harding Land Trust's 14% interest in GA to HT;
3. Transfer of HT's 50% interest in the Gate House (corner of Harter Rd and James St) to the Harding Land Trust;
4. Conveyance of HT's public access and trail easement on Glen Alpin to Morris County Park Commission;
5. Transfer of NJ Dept of Environmental Protection's conservation easement granted by the Harding Land Trust from Glen Alpin to the Gatehouse property.

Glen Alpin (GA) was purchased in early 2000's with input and financing by HT, Morris County and State of NJ (Green Acres). HT put up only about \$250K for the purchase of the 9+acre property - thought to be a good deal to preserve so much acreage and prevent a cloverleaf off I-287 from being constructed. However, shortly after the purchase, the cost to restore and preserve the structure was determined to be a budget breaker for HT. For example, the roof was replaced at a cost over \$800K.

HT did not have sole control of the property because the property was purchased with other entities. So even if HT wanted to, it couldn't be demolished. Nor could it simply be sold due to the legal/ownership entanglements.

For the last few years, Township Committee men Dev Modi and Tim Jones have spearheaded the effort to relieve HT taxpayers of the long-term responsibility for GA as well as find a solution to preserving the historic building. The process, called diversion, is complex and appears to never have been attempted for a property with an historic structure. The diversion requires that HT buy a compensating property 4 times larger without using State, County, or Open Space funds.

The result of that multi-year effort is the transactions outlined above. After those transactions are finalized, HT can get on with disposal of the property. It is hoped that an entrepreneur/developer will be interested in purchasing GA. Allowed uses are restaurant, catering business, office building, residence, group home and there is a restriction that the public be allowed to visit the property, including inside the building, once per month.

### **FALDUTO'S RECOGNIZED BY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

Gwenn Claytor of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) presented their annual recognition award to the Falduto's, owners of 210 Lee's Hill Road. In her citation, Ms Claytor said that the Falduto's came to the HPC prior to purchase. They had intended to move the house further back on the property but it turned out that the building had to remain in the original location. So the Falduto's lifted the building and build a new foundation. She further said that the "renovation maintained the modest integrity of the house, garages and small barn on the property. The use of period correct details and properly scaled materials in the addition are such a complement to the original farmhouse." She continued, "the obvious sensitivity to all of the design decisions allows this home to remain a meaningful contribution to our rural streetscape."

## **HESNA PFEIFFER AWARD FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TO HELP FOR HARDING**

Each year the Civic Association gives the Hesna Pfeiffer Award for Civic Engagement to an individual or group that demonstrated significant contributions of civic engagement and volunteerism. Named after the long time editor of the Thumbnail, Hesna was a key person not only for the Civic Association and all those who read the Thumbnail but Hesna always made time for the entire community.

At the February township committee meeting, the 2020 award was presented to Help for Harding. Help for Harding is a volunteer group started by Elizabeth Sovolos at the onset of the pandemic to organize efforts to help our neighbors who could not run errands or fill medications and food orders.

Ms. Sovolos's proactive efforts have been so well received that there are now over 75 volunteers staffing Help for Harding. Ms. Sovolos accepted the award for the entire organization with her husband and small children looking on.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT AND FIRST AID SQUAD**

On a cold night late in January, members of the New Vernon Fire Dept. and the New Vernon First Aid Squad held a joint exercise intended to teach and sharpen the skills of both squads in responding to motor vehicle accidents. Using a scenario from a recent accident involving two vehicles, a pickup truck and an SUV, members of the squads were called to the site of the simulated accident, finding the a pickup truck on its sides with a downed electrical wire near the scene and the SUV up against the undercarriage of the overturned truck.

Fire Dept. members quickly determined the downed electrical wire was not energized, but hazards still remained. The truck on its side presented a number of challenges to the Fire Dept. and First Aid Squad members. First the truck had to be stabilized so that it did not roll further onto its top and secondly the victim, in this case a mannequin which was used because of the potential danger, had to be extricated quickly and treated for life threatening injuries. The Fire Dept. stabilized the pickup and cut the top off the cab of the pickup truck. The patient was removed from behind the wheel and placed on an ambulance stretcher for assessment and treatment by the First Aid Squad.

Meanwhile other Fire Dept. and First Aid Squad members had to free and treat two severely injured patients in the SUV. Since the SUV was stable, rather than mannequins, squad members portrayed the injured patients in the SUV to better



simulate reality. First Aid Squad members climbed through the back window of SUV to assess the patients and provide a protective covering over the patients while Fire Department personnel took the doors off the vehicle to provide quick access to the patients. Once the doors were removed the members of both squads moved quickly to remove the patients on long boards to protect the patients from further neck and back injury. The patients were moved to the ambulance and had it been a real accident would have been quickly transported to the hospital for treatment.

Once the drill was completed members of both squads returned to the Fire Department to review the drill and go over any items that could be improved on in real life accidents. Before the review was finished, both Squads were toned out for a motor vehicle accident on I-287. A car traveling on I-287 had run into the back of a semi-tractor trailer parked on the side of the road. The car hit the back of the trailer directly and buried the hood of the car under the trailer bed. The Fire Department personnel used the skills they had just practiced to extricate the driver from vehicle quickly and safely. Based on the training they had just been through, the two squads were able to travel to the scene, extricate the driver of the car and package the patient for transport within 21 minutes of dispatch. Indeed a very good time! Residents should be proud of the men and women of the Fire Department and First Aid Squad. They do what they do for all of our safety and protection. WE ARE NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS.

Interested in joining either the Fire Department or First Aid Squad, contact us at [JoinUs@NVVFD.org](mailto:JoinUs@NVVFD.org)

If you would like more information on the First Aid Squad call

- Kevin Murphy 973-570-7032
- Larry Wepler 917-838-3332
- George Barry 646-361-5528

## **GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**

**Trivia Pub Quiz on Zoom - FREE!**

Sat, March 6, 1-2 PM

Get ready to challenge yourself and others in a fast-paced thinking game. Play alone or work together as a household team to answer to these multiple-choice questions on your phone, iPad, etc. Play for prizes and bragging rights! Then start brushing up on your water quality and enviro facts. Sign up today to play along, have some fun, and compete for some cool prizes! Register at [GreatSwamp.org](http://GreatSwamp.org) or call 973-538-3500. Zoom link will be shared prior to the event.

### **Become a FrogWatcher - Free Citizen Science Training on Zoom - FREE!**

Friday March 19, 7-8 PM

Like frogs? Hop onto our "citizen science" Zoom training session to learn more about our amphibian friends including how to distinguish between a spring peeper and a wood frog, and how to identify many other local frogs and toads. Feeling inspired to do more? Become an official FrogWatch volunteer. Eric Jackson, Environmental Educator at Hartshorn Arboretum, will train you how to properly log and report your sightings in a nationwide database. It's fun for the whole family and it's free! This training program is held in association with Cora Hartshorn Arboretum. Register at [GreatSwamp.org](http://GreatSwamp.org) or call 973-538-3500. Zoom link will be shared prior to the event.

### **Water Quality Report Card on Zoom - FREE!**

Friday, March 19, 3-4 PM

Human beings can survive 3 weeks without food, but only 3 days without water. How important is it to you that your water is clean? Join GSWA Water Quality Director, Sandra LaVigne, for an in-depth review of the water quality in the Great Swamp watershed and in the Passaic River region. This brief presentation will highlight the results of the sampling and testing we performed on our local streams throughout 2020. Sandra will also provide an overview of our recently added testing protocol for PFAS (Perfluoroalkyl) manmade chemicals, an emerging threat to the health of our water. A Q&A session will follow at the end. Register at [GreatSwamp.org](http://GreatSwamp.org) or call 973-538-3500. Zoom link will be shared prior to the event.

### **Cook with GSWA on Zoom - Plant-based Recipe - FREE!**

Tuesday, March 23, 5-6 PM Our "Cook with GSWA" series has a guest chef this month! Cook along with Chef Dianne Wenz or simply relax with your favorite beverage and enjoy the show. Author of three plant-based cookbooks and an established cooking instructor, Chef Wenz invites us (virtually) into her kitchen to prepare a tantalizing vegan meal of Cauliflower Piccata and Greek Salad that is sure to amuse everyone's taste buds. Register at [GreatSwamp.org](http://GreatSwamp.org) or call 973-538-3500. Recipes and Zoom link will be shared prior to the event.

### **Intro to Rain Gardens on Zoom - FREE!**

Thursday, March 25, 7-8 PM

Thinking of adding a rain garden to your yard? Smart choice! A rain garden is a beautiful addition to your landscape that also reduces and sometimes even prevents flooding and keeps stormwater run-off from carrying pollution to our drinking water sources. Join us for an in-depth review of the benefits of installing a rain garden at

your home and get some basic how-to suggestions. At the end of this program, Summit area residents can also register for a free, 30-minute consultation scheduled for April 8, 5-8 PM. Engineers and landscape architects will work with you to plan and lay out a rain garden specific to your yard. You will leave with a design plan and a list of recommended native and pollinator plants. You **MUST** attend this program to qualify for the April 8 design session. No exceptions. This free program is sponsored by The Stackhouse Foundation with the purpose of improving water quality in the Summit area, one yard at a time. Register at [GreatSwamp.org](http://GreatSwamp.org) or call 973-538-3500. Zoom link will be shared prior to the event.

### **Vernal Pool Exploration Hike**

Friday, March 26, 7-9 PM

GSWA's Conservation Management Area (CMA), 91 Tiger Lily Lane, Harding Township, NJ 07960

With temperatures rising, the forest floor will be hopping with new life as frogs and other amphibians crowd into shallow puddles of water to breed and lay their eggs. These puddles, called vernal pools, provide a perfect opportunity to learn more about Mother Nature here in New Jersey - and they disappear quickly. This nighttime exploration provides a fun, outdoor learning experience for kids and adults alike. Discover the differences between a spring peeper, a chorus frog, and a wood frog. Find out how far an endangered spotted salamander will walk to find a mating pool. And learn how much everything we have come to appreciate about the springtime depends upon a few unassuming puddles of water on the forest floor. Warm clothing and waterproof footwear, especially hiking boots, are strongly recommended. Registration is required. Space is limited so register today at [GreatSwamp.org](http://GreatSwamp.org).

### **Stream Assessment Training on Zoom - FREE!**

Friday, April 2, 2021, 1-2 PM

Interested in the health of your local stream? Concerned about clean water? Perhaps you've even considered becoming a stream monitoring volunteer. If any this makes you raise an eyebrow, this free virtual training session is for you! Sandra LaVigne, GSWA Director of Water Quality Programs, will teach you how to conduct visual and biological stream assessments, identify macroinvertebrates, and recognize environmental factors that may impact stream health. By the end of the hour, you will have the skills you need to conduct your own assessments for fun or as a visual stream assessment volunteer! (Preferred volunteers are 15 or older.) Register at [GreatSwamp.org](http://GreatSwamp.org) or call 973-538-3500. Zoom link will be shared prior to the event.

## **NATIONAL POLITICAL CONTROVERSY ARRIVES IN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING**

The regular TC meeting on January 18 covered the mundane topic of modifications to Stormwater Management Ordinance. And TC person Rita Chipperson announced that she would spearhead organizing Harding Townships Centennial Celebration. Citizens with ideas or who are interested in volunteering should contact Ms Chipperson at [rchipperson@hardingnj.org](mailto:rchipperson@hardingnj.org).

During the part of the meeting when the public can ask questions, Wendy Miller posed the following:

“President Trump has repeatedly claimed that the 2020 presidential election was conducted fraudulently. He has made these assertions before and after the election. And he had persisted in these claims despite the following facts:

One--absolutely no evidence of fraud has emerged;

Two--judges in over 60 lawsuits have rejected these claims;

Three--Chris Krebs, the director of the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency, repeatedly rejected all claims of fraud.

Your voice as Republican elected officials is very important in this matter.

I respectfully request that each member of the Township Committee acknowledge that the 2020 election results reflect the will of the American people and that Joe Biden is the legitimate President-elect.”

An uncomfortable silence ensued that was only broken when TC member Nic Plat said he had no issue with the proposition.

Rita Chipperson responded by pointing out that historically the TC has chosen not to make political comments from the dais and that the TC is here to represent all citizens regardless of party.

Elaine McHale asked if there were any sign of civil unrest locally. The question was tossed to Police Chief Heller who said there were “no threats or concerns.”

The other three TC members did not comment.

## **GREEN VILLAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Community Shred Fundraiser**

Saturday, April 17, 2021 at 9:00am until 12:00 noon

Hosted by the Green Village Fire Department Auxiliary

On Saturday, April 17, the Auxiliary of the Green Village Fire Department is hosting a community shred from 9 am until noon. All are welcome to bring their personal and

business documents for shredding. 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 take place at the Green Village Fire House, located at 529 Green Village Road in Green Village 07935 and will be held rain or shine from 12 noon until 3 p.m. or until the truck reaches capacity - whichever comes sooner.

### **Flag Display**

Deadline May 1, 2021

Hosted by the Green Village Fire Department

The Green Village Fire Department would like to honor those who have served their country or community. A 3' x 5' flag will be erected on the green in Green Village on both Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. The honoree's information will be placed at the base of the flag. The cost for the first year is \$50 and \$25 for subsequent years. Please visit [www.greenvillagefire.com](http://www.greenvillagefire.com) to download a form. Forms must be received no later than May 1st.

### **THE RAPTOR TRUST**

The Raptor Trust is a 501c 3 non-profit organization located in Millington, NJ that provides free medical care to thousands of injured and orphaned wild birds each year. In addition, the Raptor Trust provides educational programs to individuals, clubs, and schools about New Jersey's native raptors. The Raptor Trust is offering the following virtual program options this spring:

#### **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. Program topics vary.

### **Large Group Adult Program**

\$80 for up to 50 participants. 40-45 minute program led by one of the TRT educators and an ambassador bird. Program topics vary.

### **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.

For more information and to book a program please visit [theraptortrust.org/education/programs](http://theraptortrust.org/education/programs)

### **HARDING TOWNSHIP RECREATION ASSOCIATION**

#### **Harding Summer Camp Registration is Open!**

Registration for the Harding Township Day Camp is open.

This year will be better than ever! We provide campers with a positive summer camping experience with a variety of activities that emphasize fun, relaxation and exploration! Activities provided by teachers include sports, arts & crafts, computers, enrichment, camp crafts and gym time! Fridays are always a treat with a bouncy house or water slide!

For more information and to register online, please see the Summer Camp page [www.HTRA.info](http://www.HTRA.info)

#### **Girls Team Lacrosse Grades 3-8**

Registration is now open! The season runs from March 22 - May 20, 2021. Players will need girls lacrosse stick, mouth guard, goggles, cleats and water bottle. Practices take place at the Harding Twp Elementary School Fields. Registration Fee is \$150.

#### **Schedule:**

3/4 TEAM: Practices will be Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:00-7:15pm and Saturdays 9:00-10:00am. Games will Start at 6:00pm on various days of the week and 1:00pm on Saturdays.

5/6 TEAM: Practices will be Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:00-7:15pm and Saturdays 9:00-10:00am. Games will Start at 6:00 or 7:00pm on various days of the week and 1:00pm on Saturdays.

7/8 TEAM: Practices will be Mondays and Wednesdays 6:00-7:15pm and Saturdays 9:00-10:00am. Games will Start at 6:00 or 7:00pm on various days of the week and 1:00pm on Saturdays.

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

Direct link for registration can also be found at <https://go.teamsnap.com/forms/253652>

### **Minilaxers Grades K-2**

Registration is now open! Minilaxers is for boys and girls in grades K thru 2nd grade. Players need lacrosse stick (no fiddle stix), sneakers or cleats, and water bottle. Boys do not need pads or helmets. Mouth guards and goggles are optional. We use soft balls at this level. Cost is \$75.

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

Direct link for registration can also be found at <https://go.teamsnap.com/forms/254564>

### **TBall**

Welcome to TBall 2021! We look forward to a great season! Opening day will be on April 23.

Practices/games are held on Fridays at 5:45pm to 7:00pm at the Harding Township School athletic fields. Players will need a mitt, sneakers (cleats optional), TBall helmet. Bats are provided, however, players may bring their own. Bats will be wiped down between players.

TBall is for players in grades pre-K 4 through 1st grade. We will provide Team t-shirt, Team hat, Team uniform pants and Team socks.

A Parent/Guardian is expected to stay at the fields during practice and game. Cost is \$50.

Schedule:

April 23 - Opening Day! Please arrive at 5:30pm. Uniform Distribution, Team and Individual Photos, Rules Review. No game or practice.

April 30, May 7, 14, 21 - Practice and Game

May 28 - Practice and Game and Trophy Day!

June 4 - Rain makeup date (to be confirmed)

Our HTRA TBall program is run entirely by volunteers. In the past, we have had 2 parent coaches per team and 4 teams (subject to change based on number of players registered). The quality of the experience is greatly improved when we have enough volunteers. Please consider volunteering!

For more information and registration, please see the HTRA TBall page at

www.HTRA.info

Direct link for registration can also be found at  
<https://go.teamsnap.com/forms/254523>

### **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

The *March 7 Sunday Speaker Series* will focus on New Jersey State Parks, of which there are 28, guided by Kevin Woyce—author, lecturer, photographer—who specializes in NJ/NY regional history. The wide-open spaces of our public parks are especially appealing at this time of pandemic restrictions! Come and learn some of the history of these important sites, who called them home, and what happened in and around them. Please join us for this stimulating talk either on the Church website, [pcnv.org](http://pcnv.org), or Facebook, accessible on both.

### **CENTER FOR MUSICAL EXCELLENCE**

CME cordially invites its Classical Music Society members to a **March 18 musical evening at 8 pm** introducing a new CME Young Artist, violist Bethany Hargreaves. You can look forward to inspiring music and lively conversation. When you join our Classical Music Society, you are not only investing in the future of classical music, but also in the cultural environment of our country. So many young artists, both American and international, come here to make their musical dream a reality. We can be more than just spectators! Visit [cmemusic.org](http://cmemusic.org) for details.

Pianist Min Kwon has announced *America/Beautiful*, a unique project in which more than 70 composers have written individual variations for solo piano on the theme of *America The Beautiful*. Each interpretation offers a different vision of America during this critical moment. The works will be premiered over the course of six days beginning July 4 with a series of free streamed video performances by Kwon, followed by Q&A sessions with the composers. Two evenings of live performances will follow in Brooklyn on July 8 and 9. Watch for details as we approach July.

### **KEMMERER LIBRARY**

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

The Library continues to be open to visitors but please be aware of some restrictions:

- you are required to wear a face mask and to sanitize your hands on entering
- restrooms are not available for 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 do appreciate your cooperation and look forward to welcoming you soon!

Curbside pickup of library materials remains available if you prefer. Item requests can be made directly on the MAIN catalog on our website ([www.hardinglibrary.org](http://www.hardinglibrary.org)) or you may contact us with requests by phone (973 267 2665) or email to [desk@hardinglibrary.org](mailto:desk@hardinglibrary.org). We are also happy to make selections for you!

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

Our eLibrary is always open! Please visit [www.hardinglibrary.org](http://www.hardinglibrary.org) and click E-LIBRARY to get started. You can access eBooks and eAudiobooks on cloudLibrary (shared between the MAIN libraries) as well as Libby (our Harding-exclusive collection).

The Library offers use of a Zoom account to Harding clubs and groups that need a virtual meeting space. Please contact us if interested.

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

## **LIBRARY PROGRAMS (all on Zoom)**

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

For little ones age 1-4 and their caregivers. Come meet our wonderful new librarian, Miss Debbie, for songs, stories and a craft on Zoom. Stop-by the library the day before to pick-up a craft kit, then join the program via the link on our website ([www.hardinglibrary.org](http://www.hardinglibrary.org)).

### **Junior Garden Club, 'Spring Birdhouses', Thursday, March 11, 3:00 pm**

Children in grades K through 8 are invited to celebrate spring with volunteers from the New Vernon Garden Club. Learn about bird migration and decorate birdhouses for the birds return to the north. Please register at [www.hardinglibrary.org](http://www.hardinglibrary.org) by March 9 to receive the Zoom link, and pick-up a materials kit from the Library on March 10. Places limited! Sponsored by the New Vernon Garden Club, 'Enhancing the Beauty of

our Town through Nature’.

**Adult Book Group, Tuesdays, March 9 and 23, 1:30 pm**

All are welcome to join our lively book group to discuss ‘Nobody Will Tell You This but Me’ by Bess Kalb (March 9) and ‘The Paris Library’ by Janet Skeslien Charles (March 23). Please send a request for the Zoom link to [desk@hardinglibrary.org](mailto:desk@hardinglibrary.org). Chosen titles are always available from the Library - either in print, or as an eBook on Libby or on pre-loaded library Kindles.

Remote programming is giving us the opportunity to participate in a variety of programs and events being offered by our partner MAIN libraries. If you’re not already on our email list and would like to be kept up-to-date with what’s available, please send a request to add your contact email to [desk@hardinglibrary.org](mailto:desk@hardinglibrary.org). Please also check our website, [www.hardinglibrary.org](http://www.hardinglibrary.org), for details of other programs that may be added in March.

**Kemmerer Library Used Book Sale and continued Book Drive**

There will be a sale of used books on the lower level of the Library on the last Friday and Saturday of each month, during regular library opening hours. For March this will be Friday, March 26, 10am-2pm and Saturday, March 27, 10am-12pm. Paperbacks are 50c and hardcovers \$1-2!!

All good quality book donations continue to be gratefully received. We are sorry but we cannot accept books in poor condition, reference books or encyclopedias.

**HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION:**

Thumbnail & Website News and Announcements

If you have a submission for the **April 2021 Thumbnail** please email to: [htca@mail.com](mailto:htca@mail.com) by **Friday, March 26, 2021**. 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**

### **2021 Recycling Schedule:**

March 13, 27

April 10, 24

May 8, 22

June 5, 19

### **Hours of Operation:**

**Wednesday:** 7 am- Noon

**Saturdays:** 9 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*

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