

# 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 DECEMBER 2024**

#### **HARDING TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

##### **TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING – NOVEMBER 2024**

New police officer sworn in is – Cody Eldridge. Eldridge is on the force as of November 18 and will graduate from the police academy on December 5. Like all new hires, he will serve a one-year probationary period at a salary of \$49,428. This brings the Harding force to 14 officers but it is expected that will decrease by one officer soon. There is a minimum of two officers on patrol at all times.

Annual “Best Practices” review was presented. Harding scored well again – 43.5 out of possible 46.5. If a municipality fails the BP Review, it risks losing state aid. Harding receives no state aid.

A positive of the drought was that a crack in the dam was exposed and repaired in the Bayne Park. And the tennis court was painted.

Glen Alpin News: No formal update was presented. There are three developer candidates that remain as one developer either failed to qualify or dropped out.

An ordinance (26-2024) was adopted to clarify the Township's obligation to provide services to "qualified streets" within a "Qualified Private Community." This applies to several private roads where it has been unclear what the Township's obligations are for snow & ice removal and lighting. This ordinance clears up the historical confusion.

Ordinance 23-2024 that sets the salaries of municipal employees was passed.

Lastly, ordinance 27-2024 was introduced. It makes many significant changes to what can be built in the Affordable Housing Overlay Zone 2. Zone 2 is the area at the southern end of Route 202 where Harding borders Bernardsville. Public comment will be taken at the December TC meeting.

#### AFFORDABLE HOUSING OBLIGATION – 84 UNITS FOR ROUND FOUR

Harding's Round Four (2025-2035) affordable housing obligation is 84 units. The Fair Housing law forces all municipalities to build or allow to be built (i.e. relax zoning rules) a required number of low-income housing units.

In the first round, HT satisfied its obligation by making a payment to another municipality. These so-called Regional Contribution Agreements are not permitted anymore. Now each town has to accommodate the housing in its borders.

For Round Two, Harding built The Farm, the small apartment complex at Kitchell Road and Woodland Avenue. This was sold a few years ago so that HT could exit the apartment rental business and all its attendant costs and issues.

Harding's Round three obligation was a whopping 300 units and a town-wide overlay, meaning unbridled development any and everywhere. This was negotiated down to 176 and an overlay at the southern end of Rt 202. This was satisfied with the overlay on Rt 202, Hurstmont development (underway slowly), KRE development behind old AT&T Long Lines building on Rt202, and several other smaller items.

Obviously, it gets more difficult to satisfy the Fair Housing Round steamroller. Harding recently joined the Highlands District (which restricts development in that area), so this may help protect the township from forced development. But make no mistake, the push by Trenton, at the demands of activists and developers, to build housing in NJ will not stop until there is significant change in NJ politics.

## **CLOTHING & SHOE DRIVE BY HARDING REPUBLICAN CLUB AND MARKET STREET MISSION**

Harding families are encouraged to donate new and gently used clothing and shoes to the Market Street Mission Thrift Store. Many members of our community rely on the Thrift Store for affordable everyday clothing for themselves and their families. **The Thrift Store is especially in need of men's clothing.** If you have items to donate, please bring them to the annual Trunk Exchange coordinated by the Harding Republican Club.

If you don't have clothing but would like to make a donation to the Market Street Mission, the funds will be used to buy essential items like socks and underwear.

Look for us and the Market Street Mission truck:

When: Saturday December 7, 2024

Time: 10am -- 1pm

Where: Bayne Park

For more than 125 years, the Market Street Mission has been providing meals, shelter and hope to those in need. Learn more at [marketstreetmission.org](http://marketstreetmission.org).

## **PLANNING BOARD:**

Meeting October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024

In a relatively brief meeting, the Board approved a second extension for PB #01-21, the S/K project at Mt. Kemble. Approvals from Morris County and the DEP are still pending. At the meeting on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, there was a protracted discussion regarding the approvals required for the lot line adjustment requested by the Lukacs at 2 Lake Trail West and between the Lakeshore Company. The Board's attorney explained that the presence of a conservation easement involved in the transaction required approval by all homeowners in the association. Lakeshore also needs to correct its approval with legal representation. The Board approved the written resolution for Peter Beaumont's application for improvements on Young's Road. The Board then adjourned into executive session to consider the performance of the Board's professionals.

## **HARDING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY:**

HTHS would like to thank all of our supporters for their generosity in 2024 and wish everyone a wonderful holiday season. Please visit our website [WWW.HTHS.ORG](http://WWW.HTHS.ORG) or the Kemmerer Library to view our recent collaborative video "Memories of Harding". Keep your eyes on the Thumbnail for our upcoming events in 2025.

## **GREEN VILLAGE MAN PROPOSED THANKSGIVING DAY IN 1789**

Perhaps on your way to the ShopRite in Chatham, you have seen the historical plaque on Green Village Road marking the Elias Boudinot House. The plaque makes no mention that Boudinot, a New Jersey representative to the inaugural Congress, proposed that the Congress recommend to President Washington a “day of public thanksgiving and prayer.” He suggested that the day would allow Americans to express gratitude to God for the “opportunity peaceable to establish a Constitution of government for their safety and happiness.”

There was “vigorous debate” about the resolution. To find out why and to get a quick walk through the four centuries of Thanksgiving history we encourage readers to visit <https://imprimis.hillsdale.edu/thanksgiving-and-america/>. Your drive to ShopRite will be a little more meaningful.

## **NEW VERNON FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

Santa Claus is coming to our town aboard a New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department fire truck. Yes, on the nights of **Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup>**, between 5:00 and 8:00 PM, we will be making the rounds with Santa to visit your children. In the event of an **extremely** bad rain or snowstorm on either or both evenings we will plan to have Santa meet children at the firehouse on the following weekend.

**In a modern twist on holiday traditions, Santa Claus has finally embraced the digital age!** You can visit our website at [www.nvvfd.com/santa](http://www.nvvfd.com/santa) to schedule Santa Claus to stop. Postcards will no longer be mailed; the website will be the only way to sign up for a Santa stop.

If you have any questions, *please email Assistant Fire Chief Peter Finkle, nvvfdchief@gmail.com.*

We are again this year we are proud to be a collection for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program for less fortunate children. Toys for Tots accepts only new, unwrapped toys. Toys can be given to Santa's helpers at the time of Santa's visit.

### **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW VERNON:**

The Morristown Chapter of +More Perfect Union (a non-partisan, non-religious non-profit run by Veterans to strengthen the bonds of community and encourage service) and the First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon are sponsoring a blood drive on Monday, December 2 from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Church's Fellowship Hall (2 Lee's Hill Road). Appointments are necessary and can be scheduled by calling The Red Cross (1-800-733-2767) or going online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and entering MPU. All donations are welcome, but especially if you have blood types O, B- or A-.

### **NEW VERNON GARDEN CLUB**

Sally Quinn for the New Vernon Garden Club

This past year, the New Vernon Garden Club undertook a reevaluation and revamping of the Triangle Garden, one of four it maintains (at the corner of Glen Alpin and Lees Hill Rds.). It is the only garden where there is never any watering other than rain. Two summers ago, it was very dry and some of the plantings had a really hard time so it was decided to add more xeriscape plants for water-wise gardens. Unfortunately, most of us didn't do that in our own yards and the mettle of our choices was severely tested this year. We have had two days of a bit of drizzle in almost three months, as I write this. It is the driest late summer recorded here in over 120 years.

Fall is the time of year when most gardeners take stock of their gardens, their successes and failures, and plan for the year to come. It would be wise to think of some drought - friendly (if there's such a thing!) additions, as this new weather is probably not going anywhere soon! Some possibilities for research might be yarrow, grasses, sages, coneflowers, Black-eyed Susans, lavender and sedums (now hylotelephium, if you've been following me!) Except for the lavender, they are all really easy to incorporate. Juniper, boxwoods and mugo pines are shrubs that prefer it a bit dry, as well, so take a walk around, look at what's sad and imagine some changes!

If you might be interested in joining the New Vernon Garden Club, please contact Shelly Lasky at [shellyjcarey@yahoo.com](mailto:shellyjcarey@yahoo.com).

## **KEMMERER LIBRARY**

### **Children's Programs - register at [hardinglibrary.org](http://hardinglibrary.org)**

Registration is required for all programs except the Toddler Dance Party and Stay and Play. For children's programs, please register each child separately. **Parents and/or caregivers are responsible for supervising their children at all times. Space can be limited for some programs - please let us know if your plans have changed to accommodate children from waiting lists.**

**Toddler Dance Party** - Every Tuesday at 10:15 a.m.

**Stay & Play/Storytime with Grandpa Ralph & Miss Kathy** - Thursdays at 10:15 a.m.

**Santa Visit and Sugar Cookie Workshop** - Sunday, December 1st at 4:00 p.m. Please join us for a visit from Santa and cookie decoration after the holiday concert.

**Read to an Animal with Creature Comfort** - Monday, December 2nd

Appointments at 4:00, 4:15, 4:30 and 4:45 p.m.

Your child may read to an animal individually or you may participate as a family.

**Gingerbread House Fun** - December 3rd & December 18th, drop in 3-4:45 p.m.

**Registration is Required** - please register **each** child **separately**. Each child may attend only one session.

**Decorate a Holiday Gnome or Tree** - Monday, December 9th at 4:00 p.m.

**ModPodge a Holiday Gift Box** - Wednesday, December 11th at 4:00 p.m.

**Family Fun Night! - Pizza and Gingerbread** - Friday, Dec 13th starting at 5:30 p.m.

Enjoy a pizza dinner at Pizza Veloce at Jolie (the library earns 20% of proceeds) then come to the library for a free Gingerbread House Decorating Party!

**Tween & Teen Gingerbread House** - Saturday, December 14th at 1:30 p.m.

**Registration is Required** - each participant may only attend one session.

**Pokemon Card Trading/Lego Building** - Monday, December 16th at 4:00 p.m.

**Polar Express Holiday Party** - Tuesday, December 17th at 4:00 p.m.

**Holiday Bath Bomb Gift** - Monday, December 23rd at 1:00 p.m.



**Adult Programs - register at [hardinglibrary.org](http://hardinglibrary.org)**

Note: Programs are not recorded unless specified.

**Annual Holiday Concert with the NJ Symphony** - Sunday, December 1st at 3:00p.m. Join us, in person, at *Kirby Municipal Bldg.* for this family friendly celebratory program. After the concert, visit the library for some refreshments and a visit with Santa.

**Yoga** - Mondays and Thursdays at 10:15a.m. Suggested donation \$10.

**Book Club** - Open to all at 1:30p.m. (in person)  
Tuesday, December 10th: “The Lion Women of Tehran” by Marian Kamali  
**and** “The Bookshop” by Evan Friss

**Beaded Bracelets** - Monday, Dec. 2nd, 1:00p.m. - 3:00p.m. (in person)  
Choose from colorful beads to create a beautiful bracelet with an antique button closure.

**Mickalene Thomas - Subverting the Familiar** - Mon., Dec. 2nd at 7:00p.m. (on zoom)  
Janet Mandel presents the vivid and multifaceted artworks of Mickalene Thomas.

**The Concentration Camp Diary of Odd Nansen** - Tues., Dec. 3rd at 7:00p.m. (zoom)  
Hear about this incredibly moving tale as Tim Boyce shares the story of Odd Nansen.

**Holiday Ornaments Workshop** -Wed., Dec. 4th at 1:00p.m. (in person)  
Create 2 fun ornaments: a beautiful oyster shell with a chinoiserie image & a cute Santa made out of a paint brush. Priority will be given to Harding residents.

**Elf on a Shelf (actually in a Santa hat) Craft Project** - (in person)

Tuesday, December 10th, 1:00-2:00p.m.

Create a festive, happy decoration for your door. The elf is upside down in a Santa hat!

**Lanzerotti Lecture featuring Sarit Catz** - Tues, December 10th at 7:00p.m. (in person)

The Lanzerotti Lecture was instituted in 2016 and recognizes Sarit Catz, a Harding Township resident, who has excelled in her profession. Ms. Catz is an SVP at ATHOS Media Strategies. She is also Director of the Media Response Team at the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting & Analysis (CAMERA), a media watchdog, where she monitors media bias against Israel. *To be held at Kirby Municipal Building*

**Holiday Cookie Exchange** - Wednesday, December 11th at 1:00p.m. (in person)

Join us in December for a cookie exchange! Please see our website for more information.

**Holidays in NYC** - Wednesday, December 11th at 7:00p.m. (on zoom)

Rockefeller Center is the epicenter for Holiday Magic in New York City but there are many wonderful places for everyone to explore to find inspiration during the season!

**Paper Necklace** - Fridays, December 13th AND 20th, 11:00a.m.-1:00p.m. (in person)

Create a one-of-a-kind collaged necklace made from simple brown paper bags, metallic paint and handmade decorative artisan paper. You must be able to attend both sessions.

**Virtual Visit to Tuscany** - Saturday, December 14th at 12:30p.m. (on zoom)

Join us for a virtual history and cooking lesson in Italy with fan favorite Elaine Trigiani. Learn more about Leonardo da Vinci, his fascination with water and acqua pazza recipe.

**Holiday Concert featuring Bway Star Bonnie Rapp** - Tuesday, Dec. 17th at 11:00a.m. Celebrate the holiday season with Bonnie as she takes you on a joyful ride through the songs of the winter holiday season! Hear and sing along with music you know and love!

*In person at Christ the King Church*

**Virtual Author Visits** - archived recordings are available on the library website

***Unearthed: Exploring the Smithsonian National Gem Collection with Dr. Jeffrey Post***

Wednesday, December 4th at 2:00p.m.

***On Pulse-Pounding, Family Driven Mysteries: A Conversation with Laura Dave***

Wednesday, December 11th at 2:00p.m.

## **FRIENDS OF KEMMERER LIBRARY**

SAVE THE DATES! 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Tree Pickup Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Please remove all decorations, and leave tree at the curb. \$35 for trees up to 8 feet, additional \$15 for trees over 8 feet. Register at [Hardinglibrary.org](http://Hardinglibrary.org)

4th Annual Mini-Golf Event featuring a new course! January 31<sup>st</sup>, 7pm -10pm with wine & Hors d'oeuvre, \$40 per person, February 1<sup>st</sup>, Family Day 10am - 2pm, \$10 per person or \$40 per family with goody bags for children. Go to [hardinglibrary.org](http://hardinglibrary.org) for tickets.

## **NEIGHBORS FOR HARDING TOMMORROW**

Our mission is to keep residents informed about Housing and other Development projects underway in Harding Township.

While **Glen Alpin** was not on the TC (Township Committee) Agenda on November 17<sup>th</sup>, in response to our question, Mayor Jones indicated they are still working with the Developers on their submissions. He indicated that three of the proposals are stronger than one that may have more questionable viability. There was no indication of when more substantial progress will be disclosed so we will report again after the next TC meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

As to the continuing obligations being mandated by the state for new **Affordable Housing** construction in our township, a revision to an Ordinance was on the 11/17 agenda.

**Background.** Harding Township is revising its 2019 ordinance that established the AHO-2 Affordable Housing Overlay Zone (AHO-2) consisting of 14 properties along the southern part of Route 202, beginning at our border with Bernards Township just above the Passaic River and continuing northward for over half a mile. The overlay permits a maximum density of 8 units per acre on most of the properties, and 10 units per acre on the large lots currently occupied by office buildings. This totals a potential up to 500 housing units over 56 acres with approximately 15%-20% of the new units designated as Affordable. None of the properties in the overlay zone is currently under contract with a Developer. Along with the new 200+-unit Hurstmont and Kuser 96-unit projects, this overlay is part of the Township's Round 3 affordable housing plan approved by the court in 2020. Today there are 1,500 households in Harding Township.

The revisions to this ordinance appear to facilitate the development of properties in the AHO-2 zone by permitting exclusively residential projects (currently these are business and office building zones). The updated ordinance also introduces multi-family residential development standards for aspects such as lighting, decks/patios, generators, and notably, subsurface wastewater treatment systems. The absence of an

adequate sewer system in this area has been a significant barrier to higher density development, making adequate wastewater treatment a critical consideration.

**Process:** This revised Ordinance (27-2024) was introduced for a “First Reading” on 11/17 although questions from the public were not taken. The ordinance is scheduled to be reviewed by the Harding Planning Board on Monday, November 25, for consistency with Harding’s Master Plan. At the next TC meeting on December 9th (Monday), the Second Reading will be accompanied by a presentation on the revisions being proposed and questions from the public will be permitted. Final approval of this Ordinance is expected to be voted on that evening (12/9) as well.

Most of Harding’s current development is NJ state-mandated because we are obliged to allow development to meet the state-determined goals for Affordable Housing in Harding. The projects referenced above retire some of Harding’s current housing obligation, but not all. The state of NJ has already announced *additional* housing mandates for all municipalities. Harding TC is reviewing those calculations and are working with the state on finalizing the *additional housing units* we will be obligated to construct.

Interested Harding residents are invited to join Neighbors for Tomorrow in Harding to stay abreast of development in our township. Contact:  
neighbors4harding@gmail.com

# **HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

Thumbnail & Website News and Announcements

If you have a submission for the **January 2025** Thumbnail, please send it via email to the editor: [hardingcivicassociation@gmail.com](mailto:hardingcivicassociation@gmail.com) by Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024. MS Word is the preferred format, Times New Roman size 13, 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). **“Please consider supporting the Harding Township Civic Association with a gift via this QR Code.”**



Harding Township Civic A...  
@Hardingcivic



## **HARDING TOWNSHIP RECYCLING**

2024 Recycling Schedule:

DEC 14<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>

Hours of Operation:

Wednesday: 7am-Noon, Saturdays: 9am-Noon

Every Wednesday, seniors (residents 60+) will have full assistance available to them from 7am-9am. All residents are welcome for all hours that Recycling is open. Social distancing must be always observed. Recycling Questions: Please contact Tracy Toribio at Harding Department: 973-267-2448, Mon-Fri 8am-3pm.

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 bottles to conserve space. Please remember no plastic or paper bags.

Commingled Mixed Fiber: 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: Computers, monitors, laptops, and televisions cannot be put in 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 8am-3p]

**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  
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> Wednesday  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday

**Time**

7:30 PM  
11:00AM  
7:00 PM  
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7:30 PM  
7:30 PM

Non-Profit Org  
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Permit No. 60

**DATED MATERIAL**

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