

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

“Keeping Harding Informed Since 1949”

www.HardingCivic.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING Events

January 2026

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Township Committee Meeting Monday December 8, 2025, 7pm

Mayor Tim Jones and other Township Committee members spoke about the retirement of The Kemmerer Library Executive Director Marjie Ticknor. The TC expressed heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for her contribution throughout her four years at the library. In 2026 Amanda Richardson will take over as the new Library Director.

During the open meeting section, a resident representing Neighbors for Tomorrow in Harding, asked about the status of Round 4 Affordable Housing. Township Attorney Mike Edwards replied that Harding’s plan is supported by Fair Share housing, however, there is objection from one developer. A court hearing is scheduled on December 19, 2025, with a ruling expected by year end 2025.

Mayor Jones spoke about Hurstmont’s fire and Glen Alpin’s wastewater systems both still incomplete. Completion is needed to initiate an agreement with a “Conditional” Redeveloper, Landmark and then an eventual Redeveloper. There was discussion of a public meeting prior to the final decision of a Glen Alpin Redeveloper.

The November 2025 minutes were tabled by Mayor Tim Jones.

Ordinances for Second Reading:

Ordinance 10-2025

“An ordinance fixing the 2026 Salary ranges of certain employees of the Township of Harding in the county of Morris and state of New Jersey” – This ordinance was adopted with no public comment.

Consent Agenda – The following items were considered routine by The Harding Township Committee and were enacted in one motion:

TC 25-188 Resolution to award professional services to Associated Appraisal Group, Inc. for a real estate appraisal report

TC 25-189 – Bill List vouchers for payment were submitted to the TC by various municipal departments

TC 25-190 Resolution to authorize the 2026 employee salaries – it was further resolved that salaries shall not exceed the amount set forth in the Township of Harding Minium/Maximum Ordinance #10-2025 adopted December 8, 2025.

A list of salaries was provided at the meeting

TC 25-191 Resolution to rescind TC 25-182 Local Budget and Fiscal Affairs law – Special Items of Revenue and Appropriation

Miscellaneous:

Resolution TC 25-192 Resolution to Amend the Personnel Manual of the Township of Harding

This is a review and update of policies to meet the requirements of the Township’s Joint Insurance Fund and Municipal Excess Liability Insurance to ensure employees and perspective employees are treated consistent with current laws and regulations. Resolution TC 25-193 Resolution authorizing the Township of Harding to Enter into Municipal Reimbursement Agreements with Certain Qualified Private Communities. A Municipal Services Act N.J.S.A 40:67-231 requires municipalities to reimburse “qualified private communities” for road maintenance. The Township has worked with private communities to determine eligibility and will execute the Municipal Reimbursement Agreements with 16 qualified private communities.

New Ordinances discussed were tree contractor licenses and outdoor lighting, both will be addressed in the first quarter of 2026.

GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Great Swamp Watershed Association January 2026 Programs & Events

Registration: Unless otherwise noted, registration is required. Visit GreatSwamp.org/events to register.

Nature Detectives Hike

Sunday, January 11, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Great Swamp Watershed Association's HQ, Morristown, NJ

What's hiding on the forest floor? What's going on in the trees? Let's do some detective work and make some discoveries together!

The Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is the perfect place to learn how to identify animals from their tracks, scats (yes, poop) and other clues. Spy on secret hideouts used by birds, insects, and other woodland creatures. Discover the dining preferences of deer, raccoons, and even coyotes by putting a magnifying glass to some scat. All this detective work is easier than you think. And let's face it, its fun being outdoors in the summer!

Recommended for all, but especially children 5 to 12 years old accompanied by an adult. We will meet at the head of the Orange Trail at the end of Meyersville Rd., Green Village. The lot is small, so please consider carpooling and be mindful when parking.

This event is free for our GSWA members. For non-members, a suggested \$10 donation for adults and \$5 for children 6-17 is appreciated.

More to be announced! Check back at GreatSwamp.org/events to find more.

HARDING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We are planning some exciting programs for the winter months and to kick off the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence! Our annual meeting on February 9th, will be at the library at 7PM. Our speaker is Joel Farkas, a noted area historian. He will speak to us about “Geroge Washington, New Jersey and the Revolutionary War”. We also hope to unveil our new web-based system that will allow everyone to explore the Harding Archives online.

Please stop by the library this month and next, we have an exhibit of winter photos from our archives depicting Harding in winter, along with a few hand-crafted toys and replicas of early sleighs and wagons that were used for winter activities. Fun to look at!

NEW VERNON GARDEN CLUB

Holy Holly Berries!

Sally Quinn for the New Vernon Garden Club

This year, the garden club tried something new: we named a “manager” for each of the four gardens that we maintain. The most labor intensive is the Tunis Ellicks Parlor Garden, and its manager is Jane Riley. She initiated a great plan: divide the garden into zones and have people sign up to maintain “their” zone, only, which helped to focus and familiarize the gardeners with a smaller space, which was more manageable than looking out at the whole garden and wondering where to start! It was a huge success. TE has never looked so good! Jane also asked people to log their hours on a sign-in sheet. We logged over 80 hours of labor this year, on that garden, alone, to help keep our town beautiful! Woo Hoo!! Another new thing initiated this year was a mentoring program. Members could offer to mentor anyone who signed up, on a skill they were offering to teach. Barbara Wilkerson was the first mentor to hold a class: Flower Arranging 101. There, I discovered Mahonia, which I'd seen in print but never in person. A big branch of it was the centerpiece of my creation!

Mahonia looks like holly gone awry - holly-like leaves, but with great clusters of yellow flowers and blue-black berries (probably the reason for its street name: Oregon Grape). This stunning plant, reclassified under the genus Berberis (Barberry) is generally considered low maintenance and deer hate it so it might be something you'd like to take a look at next year, especially if you'd like to try some jazzy flower arranging! And if you'd like to join our amazing group, please contact Shelly Lasky at shellyjcarey@yahoo.com.

KEMMERER LIBRARY HARDING TOWNSHIP

Kemmerer Library Harding Township - register at hardinglibrary.org.

Registration **is required** for all programs except for Stay and Play/Storytime.

Stay & Play/Storytime with Miss Kathy - Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

Caregivers/Parents can socialize young children through play in our Children's Room. Grandpa Ralph will be away for the month of January so Miss Kathy will sing and read a story at 11:00 a.m. this month.

Page Turners - Friday, January 2nd at 4:00 p.m.

Children (ages 7-12) will learn how to mentor and help younger children (ages 3-6) develop reading skills during this fun program devised by Miss Samantha Innella, as she works on her Gold Award for the Northern New Jersey Council of Girl Scouts. This month's theme is nutrition.

Read to a Dog - Monday, January 5th, Appointments beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Trained dogs will be on hand to help foster reading.

Poke'mon Club - Monday, January 12th at 4:00 p.m.

Please join us to learn about Poke'mon with the chance to trade extra cards.

Who Would Win? Meet Children's Author Jerry Pallotta - Wed, January 21st, 4p.m.

Jerry Pallotta specializes in non-fictional texts including the popular Who Would Win? Series. His fact-filled stories challenge our knowledge about history, science, mathematics and the world around us in ways that are humorous and informative.

Do You Want to Build a Snowman? - Monday, January 26th at 4:00 p.m.
Please join us to build an air-dry clay snowman.

Snow globe Craft - Wednesday, January 28th at 3:00 - 4:45 p.m.
Children will explore a snow globe craft.

Adult Programs - register at hardinglibrary.org

Yoga - Mondays only at 10:15a.m. Suggested donation \$10.

Book Club - Open to all, meets in the Adult Reading Room (in person)
January 13th at 1:30p.m. - *Broken Country* by Claire Leslie Hall
January 27th at 1:30p.m. - *The River is Waiting* by Wally Lamb

Adult Candle Painting Class - Tuesday, January 20th at 2:00 p.m.
Please join us to paint a decorative candle.

Friluftsliv: Finding Joy in All Seasons - Wednesday, January 7th at 7:00p.m. (on zoom)

Pronounced “free-loofts-liv, this Scandinavian ethos is the antidote to winter blues and the weekly grind. Spending time in nature is beneficial, come share ideas and tips for simple ways to embrace the outdoors, from activities, to recipes, crafts, and gatherings.

Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. - Tuesday, January 13th at 7:00 p.m.(on zoom)

Journey through history as we explore Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's life and legacy, beyond his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech. Learn about his childhood, education, mentors and influences, as well as the most important events of his career in activism.

Claude Monet and Venice: Part 1 - Wednesday, January 21st at 7:00p.m. (on zoom)

Claude Monet is one of the most recognizable and celebrated figures in art history. Part 1 of this talk will depict Monet's journey from a rejected outsider to a ground-breaking icon of Modernism.

Claude Monet and Venice: Part 2 - Wednesday, January 28th at 7:00p.m. (on zoom)

In part 2 of this talk, we will not only be dazzled by Monet's Venetian masterpieces but will see centuries of art works by a variety of painters who were inspired to capture the city of Venice, creating images of the water, light, architecture, and coastal landscapes.

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

The Creative and Compassionate Art of Seeing Others Deeply w/ David Brooks
Tuesday, January 13th, 2:00p.m.

Nature, Art and Service as Medicine w/ Journalist Julia Holtz
Tuesday, January 20th, 2:00p.m.

Secrets and Second Chances w/ Liz Moore
Wednesday, January 28th, 7:00p.m.

NEIGHBORS FOR TOMORROW IN HARDING (NFTH)

Neighbors for Tomorrow in Harding (NFTH)--- It is important for residents to stay informed about Housing Development projects underway in Harding Township and the implications for our community way of life. The goal of NFTH is to communicate with residents and to advocate for transparency from our Township Committee as options are evaluated for development in our town.

At Monday night's Township Committee meeting, Township Attorney Mike Edwards confirmed that Harding's Round 4 Affordable Housing plan is still fully supported by Fair Share Housing. That includes the recent changes to the overlay zone, the agreements with developers like Toll Brothers, and the proposed 54-unit affordable-housing-only project on Kitchell Road. There is still one developer challenging the plan—widely assumed to be GHK Realty—with a court hearing scheduled for December 19. A decision could come as late as December 31. While the Township is confident in its position, there's no final certainty until the judge rules. Even then, an appeal could follow in 2026.

On Glen Alpin, Mayor Jones said there has been no real change yet in the efforts to resolve the fire suppression and water availability issues that must be settled before a redeveloper can be formally appointed. For now, Landmark remains only the "conditional" redeveloper. If those technical issues are resolved, the Township would then be in a position to move forward with a final selection.

During public comment, residents pressed for assurance that there would be another public meeting before any final decision on a Glen Alpin redeveloper is made. The Mayor said the Township would "make every effort" to hold such a meeting and did not see any current obstacles to doing so. This is especially important given that at the only prior public meeting back on May 13, residents raised major unanswered questions about event size, frequency, parking, and the financial arrangement with the Township—topics that have not been publicly discussed since. NFTH encourages everyone to please plan to express your interest at any future Public Meeting prior to the selection of the GA Redeveloper. Residents can also send an email addressed to

the TC via Harding Municipal Clerk Lisa Sharp (lsharp@hardingnj.org) expressing your expectation of a Public Meeting regarding the GA Redeveloper prior to any selection.

As for Hurstmont, the Mayor reported that the developer continues to work on a required fire suppression system. The overall plan remains unchanged: the first phase on the northern portion would allow up to 222 residential units, including a minimum of 68 assisted-living or dementia-care units, along with 12 stacked townhouses. Of those 222 units, 40 would be set aside for affordable housing. A second phase on the southern portion would allow up to 28 additional townhouses.

The next Township Committee meeting will be held on January 5 at 7 PM. That meeting will be the Township's annual reorganization, when the Mayor is selected and committee appointments are made.

Interested Harding Township residents are invited to join Neighbors for Tomorrow in Harding to stay abreast of development in our town.

Contact: neighbors4harding@gmail.com

HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Thumbnail & Website News and Announcements

If you have a submission for the **February 2026** Thumbnail, please send it via email to the editor: hardingcivicassociation@gmail.com by Friday, January 23rd, 2026. 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

For decades, the HTCA has been dedicated to preserving the quality of life in Harding. We work to protect our town's pastoral beauty, provide non-partisan information on local issues, and bring neighbors together.

Your \$35 annual dues make it possible for the Civic Association continue to keep Harding informed, engaged, and connected. With your support, we can continue to offer the events, resources and communications that bring our community together, including this Thumbnail of Civic Affairs, the Memorial Day Parade, and Meet the Mayor / Township Committee / Candidates Nights.

Thank you sincerely for your continued civic-minded support. Additional donations are greatly appreciated.

Read the **THUMBNAIL** to stay engaged!

Ways to give:

Click donate at hardingcivic.org

Mail a check to PO Box 72, New Vernon, NJ 07976

Use the Venmo or PayPal QR codes below



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CREDIT CARD

HARDING TOWNSHIP RECYCLING

2026 Recycling Schedule:
TBD

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. Tracy Toribio is no longer with HT. No replacement yet. Recycling Questions: Please contact Harding Department of Public Works at 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.

DATES TO REMEMBER

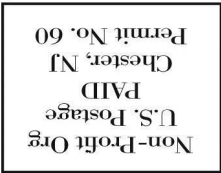
Environmental Commission
Seniors: Christ the King Church
Planning Board
Historical Preservation Committee
Board of Health
Board of Education
Board of Adjustment
Township Committee
Harding Open Space
Harding TWP Civic Association

Meetings as noted

1st Wednesday
2nd & 4th Thursday
4th Monday
1st Thursday
2nd Thursday
1st & 3rd Monday
3rd Thursday
2nd Monday
2nd Wednesday
2nd Tuesday

Time

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



DATED MATERIAL

Harding Township Civic Association
P.O. Box 72, New Vernon, NJ 07976
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