

# Harding Academy is Moving Forward!



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## Application Review Process Begun with City of Lakeland

We are pleased to announce that after many years of diligent work and planning on the part of Harding Academy and the City of Lakeland, Harding Academy has completed the final design plans for our new campus in Lakeland and has successfully entered the city's approval process by submitting our formal application for approval of our Lakeland campus plans to Lakeland City Hall. This planning process included the completion of multiple traffic studies, ecological surveys, many hours of meetings with Harding faculty and staff to identify the educational and extra-curricular requirements needed to refine architectural renderings, and continued financial feasibility studies.

Our application was submitted on Monday, September 22, 2008, and marks an especially exciting time as this submission begins the city's official review process for our new campus. Though we expect some modifications to the plans as we proceed, this marks the beginning of the formal application process required by the city of Lakeland.

The City's approval process will take several months and includes a number of meetings open to the public. The city staff will have 30 days to review the documents contained in the application before it goes to the Municipal Planning Commission. The MPC will review the application for a 30-day period, and we have asked to be placed on the agenda for the MPC meeting on November 17. This meeting, which is open to the public, will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Lakeland City Hall located on Hwy. 70. This meeting provides an opportunity for the Municipal Planning Commission members to discuss our application and to ask questions. The MPC might ask for additional information for their review or for changes in the plan. Rarely are applications approved at the first meeting; however, we are prayerful that our plans will be approved as quickly as possible. The approval process entails a series of both preliminary and secondary development plan reviews by the Municipal Planning Commission and the Board of Commissioners. There will be public meetings for the preliminary and secondary reviews by both of these Commission Boards. After receiving approval from these two Commissions, the Design Review Commission will give the third and

final approval from the City of Lakeland. After receiving approval from the City of Lakeland, our plans will be submitted to the Tennessee State Fire Marshal for review and approval. After receiving the TSFM approval, we will be able to break ground on our new Lakeland campus. For updates and additional information about the approval process, go to [www.hardinglions.org](http://www.hardinglions.org) and click on the link for the Lakeland Campus.

Simultaneous with the application review process by the City of Lakeland, our architects and engineers will continue working on the final construction documents and specifications for the new Lakeland campus. Our architects are preparing sketches of the building elevations that will be displayed soon in the lobbies of all Harding Academy campuses and on the Harding Academy website.

## Downs Property is Acquired

For many years, Harding has had an interest in the Downs property located east of Harding Academy's Cordova Elementary campus. The school discussed purchase options with Mrs. Downs (before her passing) and the Downs family. The Downs property is 6.355 acres with a 1,435 sq. ft house built in 1958. The school considers this acquisition part of the strategic plan for the future of the Cordova campus. With the eventual completion of Cordova Road, Harding will lose the ball field on the north end of our Cordova campus. The Downs property is the only property adjacent to the campus that has not been developed. There is not an immediate plan to develop the property; however, this purchase will allow the elementary campus the flexibility to expand, if needed, in the future. It will also serve to protect the Cordova campus from the unwanted development of the property by a third party. The acquisition of the Downs property increases the Cordova campus from 13.412 acres to 19.767 acres.

Thank you for your loving support of the children at Harding Academy. Please continue to pray for the school as we move forward. Updates on the Lakeland Campus approval process will be posted at [www.hardinglions.org](http://www.hardinglions.org).

If you have questions, please call Pamela Womack at (901)767-4998 or email [womack.pamela@hardinglions.org](mailto:womack.pamela@hardinglions.org).