

**January 2001: Happy New Year!**

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Snow Advisory from the Harding Township Committee**

The Harding Township Department of Public Works (DPW) does an excellent job each winter season to maintain Township roads safe for travel. The DPW works long hours to plow and sand the roads during each snow and ice storm. The large snowfall on December 30 provides an occasion to remind residents that they should avoid parking cars on Township roads during snow and ice storms. Any such parked cars impede the efficient clearing of roads and provide a serious hazard for the DPW as well as for other motorists. In addition, residents should advise those private contractors who may plow their driveways not to dump snow from the driveways into the Township roads. The plowed snow should be pushed completely to the shoulders of the roads. Driveway snow piles left in Township roads can be serious traffic hazards.

**The Library**

The Harding Township Library is happy to announce a new "Preschooler Time" Story Time for 3- to 5-year-olds to be held on scheduled Tuesdays beginning January 16<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-2:30 p.m. The Library will also continue its popular "Toddler Time" Story Time on scheduled Fridays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. All Story Times are held in the Courtroom of the Municipal Building. The schedule for January and February is:

<b><i>Toddler Time</i></b>	<b><i>Fridays 9:30-10:30</i></b>	<b><i>Preschooler Time</i></b>	<b><i>Tuesdays 1:30-2:30</i></b>
January 12:	<i>Snow Dance</i>	January 16:	<i>Snow Inside the House</i>
January 26:	<i>Missing Mittens</i>	January 30:	<i>Mysterious Missing Mitten</i>
February 9:	<i>Valentine Mice</i>	February 13:	<i>Gingerbread Man</i>
February 16:	<i>Gingerbread Man</i>		

We have been asked why the Library contains no travel books. The answer is simple: there is *no* room! To create an effective travel collection requires a variety of volumes that are regularly updated. We regret that, in our present quarters, such a collection is not possible. However, we will always be happy to try to fill your travel reading needs through Interlibrary Loan.

***A New Year's Resolution...visit the Library often. Happy Reading in 2001!***

**BLOOD DRIVE**

Please mark your calendars on **Saturday, January 20** for Harding Township's Annual Blood Drive. It will be held at the First Presbyterian Church on Lee's Hill Rd.

**from 8:30 AM till 2:00 PM.** The American Red Cross needs your blood to provide a safe and adequate supply of blood to local hospitals. We need your support to meet the challenge of saving lives. Please call Mary Van Kirk at (973) 425-0114 or Ken Eastman (973) 538-8272 to schedule an appointment for January 20<sup>th</sup> and/or to volunteer your time to help with this worthy cause.

#### **Harding Township Historical Society**

The annual meeting is **Thursday, January 25, at 7:30 PM**, at the **New Vernon Firehouse**. A brief business meeting will be followed at 8 PM by historical interpreter William Chemerka who tells the exciting story of "Daniel Morgan: Unsung Hero of the American Revolution". Chemerka teaches American history and economics at Madison High School, is a member of the Morgan Rifle Corps which holds encampments each spring at the Tunis-Ellicks House, and is a multiple year honoree in "Who's Who Among American Teachers". He is the kind of teacher we all wish we had. For one special evening, you are invited to experience his inimitable style, humor, and abundant knowledge when he appears as Daniel Morgan, clothed and armed as a rifleman of the Continental Army, and brings the American Revolution to life. Refreshments are served. The public is invited, non-members are asked for a \$5 donation. Please call Nancy Priscu (973 425 2949) for advance reservations.

**The Township reminds residents that all dog licenses** are subject to renewal during January. In accordance with state law, no license will be issued without written proof of rabies vaccination. Fee is \$9.70, \$3 additional for unspayed/unneutered. A late fee after March 1 is an additional \$5. Funds from the dog licensing program are used to finance the Township's annual rabies vaccination clinic, held in the fall each year. A dog census will be conducted in spring/summer 2001.

#### **Wildlife Management Committee Activities**

Hunting Season The hunting season is proceeding reasonably well. During the four extra days of hunting in conjunction with the Great Swamp Hunt, eighteen deer were harvested by hunters in Harding Township. The Great Swamp's deer harvest increased from 197 deer last year to 215 deer this year. While the increased harvest of thirty-six deer is insufficient to cope with the magnitude of the excessive deer population, this could be considered a good start, possible due to the coordination of the hunt in the Great Swamp and in Harding.

The dates for the remainder of the hunting season are as follows:

Permit Muzzleloader:	Jan. 1 - 5
Permit Shotgun:	Jan. 6 - 27
Winter Bow:	Jan. 1 - 31.

There is still a need to get the cooperation from more property owners to permit either hunting on their properties or deer drives through their properties. Private Property owners interested in cooperating in the effort are asked to call the Harding Township Police Department at (973) 455 0500.

**Things to do if involved in an accident with a deer**

**The Police Department has provided the following guidelines:**

1. Make sure the accident scene is safe for you and others involved. If possible, leave vehicles at their final stopping place. If not possible due to an unsafe situation, vehicles can be moved off to the side of the road. Stay with your vehicle until the police arrive.
2. Call the police as soon as possible. Advise the police of your location, how many vehicles are involved, and if anyone is injured. This helps the police to know what is needed at the scene, such as an ambulance, fire apparatus or paramedics.
3. Once the police arrive, they will investigate the accident and complete a New Jersey Police Accident Report. The police will help make arrangements to have the vehicles involved towed away, if they are inoperable.
4. If the accident involves a deer, which is injured, the police will have to destroy the deer. The police will then notify an animal recovery service to remove the deer from the road.
5. Drivers, who are involved in an accident with a deer, can ask the investigating police officer for a permit to possess. This allows the driver to take the deer for his or her own consumption.

**THE HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

The goals of the Association are to foster public interest in government, and to assist in achieving and maintaining good mutual understanding between citizens and public officials, to promote knowledge and appreciation of public problems through non-partisan publicity and to inform, arouse and lead public

opinion toward the solution of public problems. Please help us achieve these goals by joining as a dues-paying member.

The following are the Year 2001 assignments/reporters: Lon Murov, Environmental Commission; John Bocchi and Lyndia Hartman, Township Committee; Kevin Sullivan and Jeanette Kaminaris, Bd. of Ed; Hesna Pfeiffer, Planning Bd.; Ellen England, Historic Preservation; Margo Brundage, Bd. of Adjustment. Lisa Holck is HTRA Liaison. Phil Rosenbach is in charge of the Memorial Day essay contest; Jane Steinmetz is Parade Chair. John Bocchi is President and will coordinate the Annual Meeting. Debbie Williams is Vice-President, Jim Williams is Treasurer, Wendy Miller is Secretary, and Hesna Pfeiffer is Editor, Directory of Services and Thumbnail.

The Civic Association sponsors the Memorial Day parade and ceremony, a unique community-wide opportunity to gather together. Whether you are a relative newcomer, or used to go when your kids were in the band, but haven't attended recently, please set aside the morning of **May 28**, to come to the square in front of the New Vernon Firehouse, and get that warm patriotic feeling. One notable event of the day is announcement of **the Memorial Day essay contest** winners. All resident school age children, grades 1-8, are eligible to enter, not only those attending Harding School. The subject of the essay varies each year, but always relates to a topic relevant to the Memorial Day holiday. The winners are selected from among three elementary and middle school age groups. Please look for the announcement of the contest in a spring issue of Thumbnail. If you have suggestions for a topic, please send it to us!

**THE PLANNING BOARD meeting on December 18** discussed the language of the resolution relating to the previous month's grant of the Ploetner subdivision application (Block 26, lot 11, formerly Michalczak), but had to continue the matter to the next meeting due to confusion regarding the conditions to be imposed on the subdivided properties. One issue was whether the substandard (2.4 acre) property having the house and 3 structures could have the bathroom facilities in a cottage hooked up to the new septic system. Although there had been testimony during the application process regarding abandonment of the cottage as a separate dwelling, there was a dispute as to whether the cottage bathroom could continue in existence, or whether it had to be removed. The Board requested that past minutes be reviewed to determine the facts. In addition, the appearance of the main house structure was to be in conformance with an exhibit in the record from the last meeting, but the exhibit could not be located. Kimball (Twp planner) added the condition that the renovation be required to comply with

the Morris Co. solid waste recycling plan for cardboard recycling. The Board also requested a plan be developed and made a part of the resolution, to memorialize the agreement for tree preservation between the house and Glen Alpin Rd.

The Board announced the resignations of O'Connor and Dudley. Roy Christensen was introduced as a new member.

The Board briefly discussed changes to **Conditional Use Ordinances**, relating to schools and houses of worship. A draft of the measure relating to houses of worship will be discussed at the next meeting, on January 22.

#### **Board of Adjustment, and School Board.**

No reports this month

#### **Historic Preservation Commission meeting, December 14, 2000**

##### **Old business:**

The Ploetner subdivision application has been approved by the Planning Board, with revision.

Richard Cassie (Chairman, HTHPC) will be meeting to finalize the extent of the town survey, and select a professional consultant.

The HTHPC inspected the Academy, a property under consideration for relocation of the township library. They found the structure to be sound, and will now have an architect go through and do a site survey. Relocation to the Academy will enable the Library to be open in the historic district of town.

The AT&T Wireless application for installation of whip antennae on top of the firehouse was discussed. HTHPC recommended that the galvanized saddle anchors, which hold the antennae to the roof, should be primed and painted to match the roof shingles.

The Pruzick application (Lee's Hill Rd) was reviewed by HTHPC. The plans received were favorable.

##### **New business:**

New members of the Harding Township Preservation Commission include: Marianne Hanley, Penny Hinkel, and Bruce Wild. Maureen Soter becomes an associate member.

Kristin Mullen and Josh Mackoff (from The Darcy School) presented a new set of proposed school plans to the HTHPC. Ms. Mullen thought the Hilltop Stable site may have historical significance and they are now investigating that possibility. The latest revised Darcy School building plans show a more rural character, with clapboard, shingles and a silo, which holds the elevator shaft. Ms. Mullen was encouraged to investigate the background of the property.

Depending on the outcome of their search, The Darcy School may be willing to leave the one house intact, with possible use as a caretaker's cottage. The Darcy School will revisit the Commission after further site research.

The application from Frederic and Deborah Marcus (Featherbed Lane) was discussed. The HTHPC will send a letter to the Board of Adjustment that any decision made on this application must consider that the property is visible from Blue Mill Road and would therefore have bearing on the streetscape of the area.

Application from Janice Johnston (Glen Alpin Rd.) for a storage shed was reviewed. The proposed shed will affect the streetscape and an alternate location should be considered.

Plans for the proposed addition at Christ the King were briefly reviewed. HTHPC members will review this application in greater detail at the January 11, meeting.

The new HTHPC brochure mock-up is ready for member review. This brochure will provide the essence of historic Harding and will be distributed to all residents and area realtors. It will serve as a resource for homeowners.

A note of thanks goes from the Chairman of the HTHPC to the Environmental Commission to thank Chris Allen. Through Chris's continued cooperation and hard work, 460 historic Harding sites and structures have been placed in the GIS (Geological Information System) database.

Proposed signage for Harding historic districts were considered. The HTHPC would like to post simple, single post signs similar to those in Bayne Park.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

One of the focal points of the December meeting concerned Conservation Easements. These are portions of one's property that cannot be developed and must be maintained in their native state. Although he is not a member of the Environmental Commission, Michael Keon of Anthony Wayne Road has spent a considerable amount of time and energy collecting baseline data of some of the Conservation Easements in town. Michael did this work as part of an Eagle Scout project. He offered the Commission both the key points that he learned while studying these easements, and monitoring tips for future easement study. There are currently 30-50 conservation easements in Harding Township. *Important footnote – Michael has since earned the rank of Eagle Scout – congratulations Michael!*

Maureen Soter will not be returning to the Commission for the 2001 year. Her hard work and dedication was noted by the members.

There was discussion of the possible environmental ramifications of four proposed building projects that will be on the agenda for either the Board of Adjustment or the Planning Board.

1. The Morris Animal Inn
2. The Belle property on Pumphouse Lane.
3. The Buckley property on Hardscrabble Road/Shalebrook Road (Bernards Township/Harding Township border). (This is on the agenda of the 1/22 Planning Bd). One of the issues here concerns the Steep Slope Ordinance.
4. Christ the King Church

RECYCLING: Commingled recycling of plastics, aluminum and tin cans, glass bottles and jars, mixed paper at Municipal Garage every Wednesday, 7AM-Noon; and Saturdays 1/6, 1/20, 2/3, and 2/17, 9-12 AM. Residents are requested NOT to leave recyclable materials if the center is closed.

**Reminder, If you haven't sent in your organization's listing update to** the Civic Association, either at the postal address -[**PO Box 72, New Vernon, 07976**], or **faxed to** Thumbnail editor at **973-605-1127**, or e-mailed to **hesnaj@aol.com**, there's still time. Remember, it is your responsibility to ensure that your organization's listing is correct. The Directory will be released shortly and mailed directly to your house.

*The Thumbnail is copyrighted and published by the Harding Township Civic Association, and is mailed to every home in Harding Township. If you read and appreciate Thumbnail, please consider sending in your contribution. Thank You!*

**DATES TO REMEMBER, meetings at 8PM, unless as noted**

Civic Association (1 <sup>st</sup> Mon)	7:30 PM	1/8, 2/5
Municipal Court (1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday)	6:00 PM	1/2, 1/16, 2/6, 2/20
Environmental Commission (1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday)	7:30 PM	1/9, 2/6
Seniors (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday)	11:00 AM	1/11, 1/25, 2/8, 2/22
Planning Board (4 <sup>th</sup> Monday)	8PM .....	1/22, 2/26
Historical Preservation Comm (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursdy)	8PM	1/11, 2/8
Board of Health (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday)	8PM .....	1/11, 2/8
Board of Education (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday)	7:30 PM ..	1/8, 1/22, 2/12, 2/26
Board of Adjustment (3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday)	7:30 PM ..	1/18, 2/15
Township Committee (1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday)	8PM .....	1/8, 1/22, 2/5, 2/19
Shade Tree (2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday)	3PM	1/15, 2/12

**EDITOR'S NOTE: THE DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT TWO ISSUES OF THE THUMBNAIL ARE January 24, and February 28, respectively.** If you have any information to be included, please fax (typewritten preferred, please) or EM it to Hesna Pfeiffer, **973 605 1127**, email [hesnaj@aol.com](mailto:hesnaj@aol.com). You can send items early! Call the Editor if you have any transmission questions, 973 540 8911.