

February 2001

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION** invites you to attend its **Annual Meeting, on Monday March 5, 7:30 PM, in the Kirby Building courtroom.** Subject: Putting the HTCA "on-line": pros and cons. Creation of a HTCA website would allow more timely dissemination of civic news. There will be a speaker from a firm in the business of setting up and hosting civic websites; refreshments will be served.

**NEW VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**Soup contest - It's time once again for the Auxiliary - sponsored "Home-made Soup Contest"**

Date: Sunday, March 11  
Time: 5:00 to 6:00 PM  
Place: Fire House, Village Road  
Cost: \$5.00 for soup, bread, coffee

Home-made desserts and soda will be available for sale. Come early!! Vote for your favorite soup. Prizes will be awarded. If you would like to enter a soup in the contest, please contact Pat O'Reilly 301-2151 or Connie Cherrillo 539-9383.

**Harding Township Historical Society's Open House Dates**

The Harding Township Historical Society hosts its second Open House of the year at the Tunis-Ellicks House on **Sunday, March 4 from 1 to 4 p.m.** The highlight of the afternoon is a performance by the Golden Age Retrievers, a singing duo from Montclair who recreate the sound of popular music from colonial days. Nancy Shill will play the fiddle and autoharp and Pete Peterson the banjo and guitar. There will be open hearth cooking as well as an exhibit about historic Harding Township barns and artifacts.

The next Open House takes place on **Sunday, April 1** when activity moves out of doors to the annual encampment by the Morgan Rifle Corps. Clothed in period dress and bearing arms of the colonial era, the Corps will drill behind the Tunis -Ellicks House from 1 to 4 p.m.

**THE LIBRARY** *What a good idea!* Just before Christmas a father came into the Library to apply for cards for his two school-aged children as an under-the-tree surprise. Lynn Hughes prepared the cards but asked that he bring the children to

sign their registrations after the holiday. The gift was a big success, the children duly signed the forms, and they expressed delight at having their very own Library cards. What a happy idea for a gift!

Please note the schedule for the Library's **two** Story Times:

<b>Toddler Time</b>	<b>Fridays 9:30-10:30</b>	<b>Preschooler Time</b>	<b>Tuesdays 1:30-2:30</b>
February 9:	<i>Valentine Mice</i>	February 13:	<i>Gingerbread Man</i>
March 9:	<i>Sleepy Bears</i>		

Chase away the winter blues with a cozy read. New books regularly appear on the shelves. You can check the bulletin board to find out what's on order. It is possible to renew a book over the telephone if it is not on reserve for another borrower. Please have the book handy when you call so that you can give the Librarian the name of the author and the bar-code on the book.

***Correction: It was reported in last month's Thumbnail that the Library will move into The Academy on Village Road. The Library has not yet found its new home.***

Art in Bloom seeks a source for panels for the May 11-12 art show: 4-sided, hinged panels size 4x8 feet, If anyone has information to share, please call Lynn Hughes at the Library: 267-8000, Many thanks!

### **HARDING TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

The Health Department is still in the process of scheduling the health clinics for 2001. The **female cancer detection** program will be held in March; the **male cancer detection** program will be held in April. The exact dates are yet to be determined, depending upon the availability of the doctors. The **adult health early-detection** program will be in April with registration opening in late March. When the exact dates and times are determined, posters will be placed on the bulletin boards on the first floor of the Municipal Building, on the public notice board on Village Road, in the Post Office, and at other sites around town.

**Blood pressure screening** is performed twice a month, on the second and fourth Thursday of the month, before the Harding Seniors' meeting at the Presbyterian Christian Education Building. The screening is open to all; you do not have to be a senior or a member of the group to have your blood pressure taken. Questions can be directed to the Health Department at 455-7296.

**The HTRA** (Harding Twp Recreation Association) announces that its **Spring sign-ups for Baseball and Softball, are already taking place**, due to an enhanced program this year. Applications are available at the Harding School offices, as well as the Post Office. The enhanced program will include

professional coaches' clinics, professional player clinics, and umpire clinics. This program is for all boys, ages 6-12 and girls, ages 6-13, as of 7/31/01, whether attending Harding School or independent schools. It's a good way to help a child going out-of-town to school to make friends and connect with other kids in town! Please call Paul Bodnar, 973 267 5881, or Ralph Ercole, 973 455 0455, if there are any questions.

### **HTRA DAY CAMP NEWS**

HTRA Day Camp is looking forward to another summer of fun. The camp will be held for four weeks July 2<sup>nd</sup>-July 27<sup>th</sup>. Previous years' campers will be sent registration materials in mid-February, and brochures can be picked up in the Harding School offices. If you are not on the mailing list, and would like to receive a brochure, please call the Day Camp Office at 908 626 0070, and leave your name and address.

A limited number of openings for counselors and counselors-in-training are available. Student interested in these positions, including those who have worked previously, should send a letter of intent to Ms Dee Klikier, 329 Potomac Drive, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920-3114.

The camp is looking for a swimming pool to use for the summer camp session between July 2- July 27. Mary and Pete Johnson have graciously shared their pool for the past 5 years, and HTRA extends special thanks to the Johnson family for their generosity, but it's time for a change. If you have a pool which would be available for the camp weeks 7/2-7/27, please call Dee Klikier at 908 626 0070 as soon as possible.

**The Police Department** would like to thank all who donated coats for the coat drive for Jersey Cares. The drive started November 1, and ended December 31. Approximately 228 coats were donated, which have been distributed to those in need in the area.

**BLOOD DRIVE** "Thank you" to all participants in Harding Township's Annual Blood Drive. The drive yielded 67 pints of blood from 74 donors, up from last year's results, which were 57 donors and 48 pints.

### **Thank you letter from Dakota Koop and family**

Thumbnail is happy to publish the following note from Gregg Koop, Dakota's dad, which was sent to the Civic Association together with a photo of Kathy and Dakota Koop enjoying an outing at the New England Aquarium during Dakota's treatment.

*“A deeply heart-felt thank you to the entire Harding community for your kindness and support during our daughter Dakota's illness. You have given a very sick three year old child much happiness and comfort during her battle with brain cancer. As a result of your financial contributions and emotional support, a tremendous amount of stress has been lifted from our family during this very difficult time.*

*“We returned from Boston in mid-December after Dakota's radiation treatments at the Harvard Cyclotron. The proton beam therapy she received there greatly decreased the amount of healthy brain tissue affected by her treatments, while also decreasing the chance for a later reoccurrence of the tumor.*

*“We will never forget the kindness bestowed upon our family during our time of need. Dakota, her sisters Hailey and Summer, and our entire family had a wonderful Christmas, mainly due to your gifts and caring.*

*“We wish all of you happiness and good health in 2001 and beyond.  
“The Koop Family”*

#### **Harding Township School Celebrates its 75th Anniversary!**

The Harding Township School is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. The committee is planning a series of events and are searching for pictures, memorabilia, etc. that could be used for displays and the celebration. We are also searching for names and addresses of former students so that we can include them in the celebration. If you have any information for the committee or would like to join the committee, please call Dee Klikier at 267--6398 ext. 140 or e-mail Dr. Dennis Pallozzi, Superintendent at [dpallozzi@hardingtp.k12.nj.us](mailto:dpallozzi@hardingtp.k12.nj.us). Watch for upcoming events in future issues of the Thumbnail!

#### **Harding Township Alliance for a Drug-Safe Community**

The Harding Alliance for a Drug Safe Community is an organization created under NJ state law, and funded through a combination of County funds collected for drug offenses and Harding Township municipal funds. The goal of the Alliance is to acknowledge concerns about drug and alcohol abuse, not to deny them, and to deal with them in a responsible and productive manner. This group **meets TUESDAY mornings, between 8:45 - 10:15 am, at the Harding Township School Cafeteria, on the following dates: February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8, and June 12.**

The group, which includes representatives from the Harding School, the Police, the PTA, and the Township Committee, meets to assess the Township needs, using police statistics, in the area of alcohol and drug abuse, and to plan projects dealing with the needs, including group discussion/education meetings for parents, with follow up to parents, seeking to know how parental supervision practices change. Sue Nobleman is the Alliance Chair, contact her at willowsue@postoffice.att.net, or 973 301 1784 for more information.

### **School Board News**

The school board continues to be concerned with the delays impeding progress of the \$6.7 million construction project for additions and improvements to Harding School. The progress of the project was the subject of a presentation by Scott Ayres, construction official to the Board at its meeting on January 22.

Chances for a timely completion by the start of the Fall 2001 term have not been helped by the winter weather. The project had already been behind by six weeks because of late issuance of permits, and the unanticipated need for asbestos removal.

More recent problems have caused the loss of another three weeks from the completion deadlines. Problems with a steel contractor have also contributed to the problems. The contract with the structural steel supplier has been terminated, and the matter is in litigation. The Board is seeking a new contractor to finish the balance of the steel work for the gymnasium addition.

A \$93,000 change order has been approved with another construction company to provide tarps and heating, so that electricians and plumbers can continue work in the otherwise open structure. The completion dates for the gymnasium addition and the elevator tower have been delayed, the latter due to a need for redesign of the structural supports inside the stairwell. Both are now scheduled for late May, rather than April and February, respectively. A new construction schedule has recently been approved by the contractors, and Ayres said that there would be weekly progress meetings to improve control over the project by the Board.

### **BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT MEETING – JANUARY 18, 2001**

The meeting was opened by the Chairman who announced the re-appointments of existing members to the Board and noted that the unexpired term of Mrs. McChesney would be filled by Wendy L. Montgomery. The Chairman stated that Mrs. McChesney was moving out of the area and he praised her past contributions to the Board.

Mr. William L. Keefauver was re-elected to the office of Chairman and Mr. Gerald E. O'Loughlin was re-elected as Vice Chairman of the Board.

PENDING APPLICATIONS:

#25-00 Janice B. Johnston, Glen Alpin Road

Variance required for placement of a shed on the property. A site inspection was held, several alternatives were discussed and it was determined that the placement of the shed as originally submitted was best. The variance was approved.

#26-00 Michael and MaryEllen LaRusso, Fawn Hill Drive

The original application sought variance to add a solarium and to build a garage on applicants' property. Because there were issues with building the garage, the applicants asked the Board to bifurcate the application and to rule on the solarium only. The Board agreed to the request and approved the application for the solarium. The applicants may return to the Board to seek a variance for the garage at a later date.

#3-99 Morris Animal Inn, Sand Spring Road

It was noted that because this application was originally filed in February of 1999 and the subject has not been before the board since November of 1999, the Board would require transcripts of prior meetings in order to go forward with the applications. Transcripts are being prepared and will be available prior to the February Board meeting. Mr. Keefauver then recapped prior testimony on this matter and stated that the application was to expand a non-conforming use in and R1 zone.

The applicants' attorney stated that the application has been amended since originally submitted. The building size has been reduced and the detached garage has been eliminated. Additionally, alternatives for water handling are being proposed. Reducing the size of the building has eliminated the variance required for lot coverage and the setback variance from 287 is also less (down to 10.5 feet).

Mr. Morris, president and co-owner of the Morris Animal Inn, testified and summarized the history of the operation and the application. He noted that the proposed footprint of the structure has gone from 8,500 square feet to 6,500 square feet. He also stated that the "fill in the floodway" issue is being resolved as he is removing the fill as the DEP has requested. He then spoke of his offer to grant a conservation easement for all the undeveloped land on the property via a deed restriction—this would cover ten of the twelve acres owned. Mr. Morris stated that the reduction in size of the building and the reduced number of animals which could be housed would reduce the anticipated traffic.

Mr. Morris addressed the issue of fill on the site and stated that he became aware of the situation in the early 90's and it was suggested that he acquire more land which would bring the fill issue back into balance. He then added 3.5 acres to his existing lot and merged the properties at the suggestion of the Board.

The Board Engineer verified that the "fill in the floodway" was still an issue and that the DEP had cited the Morris Animal Inn for this condition. The DEP wants it removed and the Morrises are willing to do so.

Mr. Morris' architect and engineer then walked the Board through the revised building and site plans showing the proposed modifications to the original application.

There was further discussion regarding stream encroachment, the rumored sighting of a wood turtle not too far from the property, wetlands and the issue of utility lines (special activities). The filings before the DEP were discussed and it was stated that the DEP should be ruling on the stream encroachment issue by the end of the following week.

The attorney for those opposing the expansion of the Morris Animal Inn raised a number of points which will be further explored. These issues included the "fill in the floodway" which is still present, the request for an administrative hearing by the Great Swamp Organization to appeal decisions by the DEP, the issue of storm water management, the adequacy of the parking spaces as designed.

#### NEW APPLICATIONS:

#29-00 Frederic and Deborah Marcus, Colgate Terrace.

The applicants are seeking an exception to the lot coverage maximum and a set back variance in order to expand their home. They were represented by their attorney and their architect. They desire to build a 606 square foot addition to their home, the footprint of which is now 6,640 square feet. The addition is to contain an informal eating area plus a family area to watch TV and spend time together. The Board asked for a layout of the inside of the house and asked that the tennis court be shown on the site plan. The setbacks approved in 1988 should also be shown on the plan. A site inspection was scheduled for Saturday, the 27 of January at 9:00am.

#27-00 Church of Christ the King, Blue Mill Road

The Board Chairman stated that board members who are active parishioners of a church are disqualified to hear an application from that church.

Thus Board members Cameron, O'Loughlin, Cassie and Vola stepped down for this case.

The chairman that stated that the Board was not now looking at all the merits of the application but that the attorney for the church was seeking procedural waivers which would allow the application to go ahead even though there were several DEP issues which had not yet been resolved. The church's plans could then be modified depending on the DEP response. The rulings from the DEP deal with the issues of averaging the wetlands buffer zone dimensions and the relationship of the parking lot to the stream encroachment line (the 100 Year Flood Plane). The response from the DEP will take several months. The Chairman recommended that procedural waivers be granted and the board so approved them.

**December 21, 2000 meeting** of the Board of Adjustment approved the use variance of ATT to allow three rooftop antennas with a height of 12' above the roof peak on the Harding Township Firehouse, at the corner of Village and Millbrook Roads, Block 15, lot 24.

The variance application of the Reddys, Sutton Drive, Block 8, Lots 19 and 20 was approved, to permit construction of a tennis court, swimming pool, and pool house/studio on the portion of the combined parcel between the principal residence and Featherbed Lane.

Approval was also granted to Tungare, Block 8, lot 24, Sutton Drive, to allow enlargement of applicants' non-conforming residence by construction of new covered entryways on the front and side of the residence and additions to the rear to expand the kitchen and to add an elevated terrace. Variances granted permitted construction of additions that will result in a building area ratio of not more than 4.01 and a total building area of not more than 6262 ft<sup>2</sup>, notwithstanding the absence of a 150' front setback.

#### **Planning Board, January 22, 2001**

The regular session of the Planning Board voted in a new Chair, Marshall Bartlett, and saw the appointment of two new members, Carol Conger and Roy Christensen.

Old business: the Board approved a resolution in principal relating to the grant of the Ploetner subdivision application (Block 26, lot 11, formerly Michalczak). Epsy Farrell had listened to all the taped proceedings of previous meetings which related to this application, and reported on and summarized those, for the benefit of the Board. Using this information, the Board had



refreshed knowledge of what had been agreed to by the Applicants at those meetings. The Board permitted a sink and toilet in the cottage to be hooked up to the new septic system, but a full bath and kitchen were to be removed. There will be an inspection of the cottage in perpetuity to ensure it will not be used as a separate dwelling. Also, the exhibit of the house facade is to be cross-referenced in the approval to ensure compliance of the new construction to the assurances given by the Applicants about the relatively modest appearance of the modified main dwelling.

The Buckley application, #3-00, for minor subdivision and variance relating to Block 32, lot 6, 166 Hardscrabble Rd, was granted waivers for incompleteness, and allowed to proceed. The 27 acre property is located astride the Passaic River, in both Bernards and Harding Townships, extending across the river to Shalebrook Drive. Applicant is seeking to subdivide out two lots, both with access from Shalebrook via a new road. A site inspection date was set.

The Board moved to approve for referral to the Township Committee the draft ordinance relating to Houses of Worship, which provides a 50' setback for such conditional uses in the R3 zone, while increasing the setback to 150' in the R1 zone, as consistent with the development pattern in Harding between the more dense "village" pattern in the New Vernon historic district, and the less dense "rural" surroundings.

Consideration was given to a draft Ordinance for Impervious Coverage Limitations in the R1 zone. The proposed language limits maximum lot impervious coverage to 10%, with the building coverage limited to 3% and 4%, at setbacks of 100' and 150' respectively. O'Loughlin reported that building permit applications in recent years have averaged 7.2% lot coverage, with the two largest being 11% and 13.2%. By comparison, both Chester and Bernards Twp have a maximum lot limitation of 15%. Rybka questioned whether this change was needed, as it would render many existing properties non-conforming, and require additional variances for relatively minor improvements, with consequent erosion of private property freedom. He stated that the Board should think hard about the proposed ordinance. Olcott stated that she thought the proposal good, as it would force residents to accept that Harding is a sensitive watershed area. Christensen asked whether a study could be made regarding recent property permits which would not have been approved if this proposed ordinance had been on the books. Engineer Fox agreed to present such information at the next meeting, on Feb 26.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING**

In the January meeting, the Environmental Commission discussed the grants that were active for the year. They include the conservation easement survey and inventory, the stream corridor protection plan, the well survey, stormwater, the Model EIS and the GIS Database. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a required document when one is making a proposal in front of the Board of Adjustment and/or the Planning Board. The Commission is drafting a model document so that there is a standard format. The Geographic Information System (GIS) is a computerized map of Harding Township that can be very helpful in many different ways. The Township Committee can use it when discussing geographically important issues. The Historic Preservation Commission formally thanked the Environmental Commission for including Historic Preservation sites in the GIS Database. The Bridle Path Association is also planning on adding their paths to the GIS. There are many more applications of this program that the Environmental Commission and others will find to be very useful.

One subject of concern, as well as being a grant program is recycling. There have been problems with residents bring non-recyclable (plastic shopping bags) to the recycling center. The Commission is urging residents to closely check the recycling calendar for what is recyclable and what is not.

Also discussed at the meeting was the application of Christ the King Church. Karl Meister and Father O'Donovan were accompanied by their engineer, Rusty Schommer, to discuss the expansion/construction application that will be on the agenda of the January 18 Board of Adjustment meeting. Concerns of the Environmental Commission including the stream, the pond, stormwater runoff and driveway paving were discussed.

**Township Committee, January 3 meeting.** Starting the new year, the Township Committee held its annual reorganization meeting. Meeting dates for 2001 have been changed to the first and third Wednesdays, at 8 PM. Officials and volunteers named to many posts included Donald Dinsmore Mayor and L. J. Lanzerotti, Vice- Mayor. Dinsmore is also Chair of the Township Committee and Richard Wiedmann, Vice-Chair. The following are committee heads of Standing Committees: E. C. Farrell, Planning, Zoning and Legal; Mary Prendergast, Finance and Insurance; Donald Dinsmore, Public Safety; L. J. Lanzerotti, Public Works and Buildings, J. R. Murray, Personnel and Recreation; and Dinsmore and Lanzerotti, Freeholder Liaison. Wiedmann and Marilyn Reilly were re-appointed

Township Clerk and Deputy Township Clerk, respectively.

Ordinance 1-01 was passed, which provided amendments to the Township ordinance relating to Conditional Uses for Public and Private Schools.

### **The Garden Club**

The New Vernon Garden Club participated in the holiday decoration of Drumthwacket, the official residence of New Jersey's Governor. and was ably represented by Justine Kovacs and Suzy Moran. For its efforts in recreating 19<sup>th</sup> century Victorian decorations in the library in the mansion, the New Vernon Garden Club received the first ever People's Choice Award.

RECYCLING: Commingled recycling of plastics, aluminum and tin cans, glass bottles and jars, mixed paper at Municipal Garage every Wed, 7AM-Noon; and 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays 2/17, 3/3, 3/17 and 4/7, 4/21 9-12 AM. Residents are requested NOT to leave recyclable materials if the center is closed.

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**EDITOR'S NOTE: THE DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT TWO ISSUES OF THE THUMBNAIL ARE** February 29 and March 29, 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**. You can send items early! Call the editor if you have any transmission questions, 973 540 8911.

DATES TO REMEMBER, meetings at 8PM, unless as noted; special events in italic

<b><i>Civic Assn Annual Mtg (Kirby Hall)</i></b>	7:30 PM	<i>Monday March 5</i>
Municipal Court (1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday)	6 PM	2/6, 2/20, 3/6, 3/20
Environmental Commission (1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday)	7:30 PM	3/5, 4/2
Seniors (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday)	11 AM .....	2/8, 2/22, 3/8, 3/22
Planning Board (4 <sup>th</sup> Monday)	8 PM .....	2/26, 3/26
Hist Preservation Comm (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday)	8 PM	2/8, 3/8, 4/12
Board of Health (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday)	8 PM .....	2/8, 3/8, 4/12
Board of Education (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday)	7:30 PM ..	2/12, 2/26; 3/12, 3/26
Board of Adjustment (3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday)	7:30 PM ..	2/15, 3/15, 4/19
Township Committee (1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed)	8 PM .....	2/7, 2/21, 3/7, 3/21
Shade Tree (2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday)	3 PM	2/12, 3/12