

March 2001

Last Minute 2nd Notice: NV FIRE DEPARTMENT 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.

THE LIBRARY

A Springtime *Evening at the Library* is planned for **Wednesday, March 28 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Municipal Building Courtroom with guest speaker, Barbara J. Mitnick, adjunct professor of American Art at Drew and chair of the State's Historic Trust. Dr. Mitnick will share vignettes from her recent book, *Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge*, commissioned by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. Using extensive archival sources, research, interviews, and diaries, Mitnick paints a vivid portrait of an outstanding woman of our place and time.

Wanted: recent paperback books in good condition for the Library's Book Sale Cart. We will be happy to provide a thank-you-for-your-donation card for tax purposes.

StoryTime will meet throughout March. **Preschool--**Tuesdays at 1:30: March 6, 13, 20, and 27; **Toddler--**Fridays at 9:30: March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30. Please pick up a schedule at the Library that lists dates, times, and venues. (Note: the Courtroom is not available this month, so alternate arrangements have been made.)

Thanks to an exceedingly generous donation from the Harvin/Anderson family, the children's collection has expanded to include a quantity of fine new books. We are most grateful for this thoughtful gift. Come and enjoy the bounty!

The **Harding Township Police Dept.** and the Morris Co. Prosecutor's Office will be presenting an adult Internet Safety Seminar, on **March 15, 2001 at 7:30 PM**, Harding Twp School, Lee's Hill Rd. The Police encourage all Township residents with school age children to attend.

HARDING TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Health Department has announced its **schedule of clinics** for the first part of 2001. The **female cancer detection** program will be held on **Thursday, March 22** and again on **Thursday, March 29**, from 8:00 AM to noon at the Municipal Building. The **male cancer detection** program will be held from 3:00 to 5:00 PM on **Tuesday, April 10**. The programs include testing, examination and education. Registration for the screening programs is open to Harding Township residents only and there is no fee. You can register in person at the Health Department offices on the second floor of the Municipal Building or by calling (973) 455-7296 between 8:30 AM and 4:00 PM

The **adult health early-detection** program will be held on **Thursday, April 5** from 8:00 AM to noon at the Municipal Building. This program will include blood pressure; fasting blood chemistries - including cholesterol typing; and information on nutrition and other health programs. There is no cost for the program, and all Harding residents over the age of 18 are welcome. You can register in person at the Health Department offices on the second floor of the Municipal Building or by calling (973) 455-7296 between 8:30 AM and 4:00 PM

The Health Department will be observing Nutrition Month by participating in a health education seminar: **"You Are What You Eat"**. The program will be held on Tuesday, March 20, at 7:00 PM. The program will be held at the Hanover Township Municipal Building on Route 10 in Whippany. The program is free of charge and is open to all residents of Harding. Phone registration is required; please call the Health Department at (973) 455-7296.

Harding Township Historical Society's Open House on Sunday, April 1, 2001

On Sunday, April 1 the 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 final event of the spring/ summer season is the Memorial Day Open House on May 28, more details in a later edition of the Thumbnail.

Harding Twp School District News

SPRING IS IN THE AIR AT THE HARDING BOOK FAIR!

Harding Twp school is having its annual Book Fair on **Tuesday April 10 9AM- 7:30 PM, and Wednesday April 11 9AM- 5PM**. Books for all ages will be offered, Best Sellers for Adults and Children, Cookbooks, Books on Tape and more.

For every book purchased, you will receive a chance to win a beautiful basket filled with lots of wonderful items. Look for a surprise visitor, a beloved cartoon character to entertain your youngster, bring your camera!

School Board News

The proposed 2001-2002 school budget reflects an increase in taxes primarily due to debt service on the school construction referendums. A total budget of \$6,731,119 results in an increase of 2.83 cents per \$100 assessed valuation. Peter Muratore, member of the Finance Committee presented the budget, stating that the operating costs rose 3% over 2000-01, causing a school tax increase of 1 cent per \$100 assessed valuation, but that debt service results in an increase of nearly 2 cents per \$100 assessed valuation. The proposed budget is being sent to the County for review, and will be made public upon approval. The Board is scheduled to unveil specific line items in the budget in its meeting on Monday March 19, 7:30 PM. Public discussion on the budget is scheduled for Monday March 26, 7:30 PM, Middle School cafeteria.

Four candidates have filed petitions for three seats on the Board for the Tuesday April 17 election. Two incumbents, Angelo Santoro, Meyersville Rd and Joel Harris, Bailey's Mill Rd, will each run unopposed for 2 three-year terms. Harris is Board president. Two other candidates, Paula Dugan, Shalebrook Dr and Robert Mathews, Peachcroft Rd, have filed for the unexpired 1-year term of incumbent Richard Teig, who was appointed Fall 2000 to complete former Board member Candace Weeks' term. Teig has decided not to run for another term.

Vision Advisory Council Update!

Voter Registration Drive: The Harding Township School District's Vision Advisory Council has established a 2001 goal to increase voter registration and participation in school elections. You must be registered to vote in school and other municipal, state, and federal elections. If you are not a registered voter, the Vision Advisory Council encourages you to do so by completing a postage-paid voter registration form and returning it to the Morris County Commissioner of Registration. The forms are available by calling the Superintendent of School's office at 973-267-6398, extension 101.

The next school election is scheduled for **April 17, 2001**. To be able to vote in that election you must be registered on/before March 19, 2001.

Correction: Dr. Dennis Pallozzi e-mail is **dppallozzi@hardingtwp.k12.nj.us**. Please get in touch with him or call Dee Klikier at 267-6398 ext. 140, if you have any information for the Anniversary Committee or would like to join the committee to help Harding School celebrate 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. They are also searching for names and addresses of former students so that we can include them in the celebration.

HTRA DAY CAMP NEWS

Brochures for this summer's season, July 2nd-July 27th, were mailed out 2/24, and also sent home with students in the Township school on 2/26. Brochures can be picked up in the Harding School offices or in the Municipal Bdg. Questions? call Dee Klikier at 908 626 0070 as soon as possible.

Due to construction, the Camp program will be held at the Presbyterian Church Nursery School for the three- and four- year old program. The K-6 program will be at Christ the King Church. Thank you to both churches for their quick and enthusiastic response to our call for help and their support of the program!

Harding Township Civic Association Essay Contest 2001, deadline May 14 2001

The theme for this year's contest: ***Memorial Day honors brave soldiers who have given up their lives to protect our country and make this a better world. What is the best way to honor these soldiers?***

All resident school age children are eligible to enter, not only those attending Harding School. The essay which can be 1-3 pages, should be sent to the Civic Association, Box 72, New Vernon NJ 07976. The winners are selected from among four elementary and middle school age groups: Grades 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, and 7-8. Each winner will receive a US Savings Bond, and will be asked to read his/her winning essay at the Memorial Day Ceremony. *The Civic Association must receive entries by May 14, 2001*

Annual Easter Sunrise Service at the Pond in **Bayne Park on April 15th at 6:15AM.**

The pastors of the First Presbyterian Church and The Church of Christ the King will lead this annual sunrise service. Everyone is welcome.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT MEETING – February 15, 2001

#26-00 Michael and MaryEllen LaRusso, Fawn Hill Drive, Block 48, Lot 8.10

The applicants sought a variance to add a solarium and to build a garage on applicants' property. The application for the solarium was approved in January. . Applicants returned seeking a bulk variance to build a detached 2 car garage and allow existing garden shed to remain in the yard. The extent of the variance was a side setback of 50 ' to allow the accessory structure to be constructed in front of the residence.

#3-99 Morris Animal Inn, Sand Spring Road

Hearing continued for the expansion of this property, the Applicant stated that footprint coverage for the expansion will meet the 3% standard for residential development, and offered approximately 10 acres of the 12- acre parcel to be deed-restricted for conservation. The Applicant further stated that DEP permits are being

issued for the expansion, despite challenge by the Great Swamp Watershed Association.

The application for the **Darcy School** is pending before the Board of Adjustment, a site plan having been filed in September 2000. The application is not officially for public discussion. The Board of Adjustment expects to officially accept the site plan for review soon. The current plan proposes to preserve stables and homes along the entry roads to the tract, a 20 acre property now occupied by Ravenswood Farm and Hilltop Stable. (See Historic Preservation Commission report, below). In May 2000, the Township committee had changed the conditional zoning ordinance to bar school construction along Sand Spring Road. The vote came after a recommendation by the Planning Board and the Township engineer citing increased traffic beyond capacity of Township roads. In August, Darcy School sued the Township in Superior Court, seeking to block the zoning ordinance change, but asking the judge to withhold the ruling unless the Township Board of Adjustment rejects the site plan.

Planning Board, February 26, 2001

Township Committee and Planning Board member Epsey Farrell made a presentation as to the status of the Township review of land use policies relating to **preservation and restriction of historic properties**. This review has been pending since July 1999. She stated that the original list of homes compiled by the sub-Committee was "too small to achieve the results desired". Further, she said that a detailed list of historic properties needs to be compiled, and that a professional consultant should be hired to inventory all structures prior to 1915. This survey would take place in two phases, the first in 2001, in all seven Township "historic districts", the remainder of the Township in 2002. The costs would be \$17,000 for phase 1, and an additional \$14,000 for phase 2. This request will be presented at the Township Committee for authorization to spend the money on the consultant contract and survey.

A draft Ordinance for **Impervious Coverage Limitations** in the R1 zone was discussed and passed 7-1, to the Township Committee. 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. Rybka voted against the proposed ordinance, commenting that its impact is too intrusive for such a minimal increase in the public good, as it would create additional non-conforming properties.

The application of **Hartley Farms** (#7-88) to amend its subdivision approval to permit Lot 46 to have direct access to Spring Valley Rd, and not via Hartley Farms Rd was continued to March 26 for further hearing and discussion; the applicant was requested to make personal appearance at that meeting, rather than by letter only, so that any questions could be addressed at the March meeting.

Discussion continued on the **Buckley** application, #3-00, for minor subdivision and variance relating to Block 32, lot 6, 166 Hardscrabble Rd. The 27 acre property is located astride the Passaic River, in both Bernards and Harding Townships, extending across the river to Shalebrook Drive. Originally, Applicant had sought the subdivision of two lots, both with access from Shalebrook via a new road. Approval had been granted, and one "front" lot sold, but a condition of the earlier approval was that agreement for road maintenance be reached between the lot owners on the new road. Such agreement was not concluded within the deadline required by the original approval; consequently, this application returned to the Planning Board in 2001.

Meanwhile, as the Township ordinances have changed, Applicant either needs a “steep slope variance” or a “side yard set back variance”, depending on the location of the building envelope on the “back” lot. The Environmental Commission testified that it favored the side yard set back variance solution, but another neighbor, Mrs. Moriarity, made an appearance; as she is concerned that a side yard variance might put the new building too close to her building. At the site inspection, some Board members concluded that the building envelope which might be esthetically preferable is located on the greater gradient slope. There was testimony that all slopes on the property were created artificially some years ago. The Board requested that discussion between the Applicant and the neighbor be conducted, taking into account environmental considerations and impact on the neighbor, and that a definitive proposal be presented at the next meeting.

HARDING TOWNSHIP HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING,

February 8, 2001

Old business:

The contract to conduct a survey of the town is being reviewed by the Planning Board and Township Committee for approval/recommendation.

The Church of Christ the King will be sending their plans to the Board of Adjustment as originally submitted, with no revisions. The Board of Adjustment will review the church plans at a meeting in the near future.

New business:

Josh Mackoff, a member of The Darcy School Board of Trustees, revisited the HTHPC to discuss the historic nature of the proposed Darcy School site on Sand Spring Road. Mr. Mackoff researched the background of the property and reported that it appears the farm house dates back to the early 1900's. The Darcy School, in an attempt to preserve the streetscape, would now preserve the farm house and several wooden outbuildings. The house could be rented out to a faculty member or a caretaker. Mr. Mackoff showed he latest version of The Darcy School site plans. The school building would be 35 feet at its highest point. Plans show parking spaces for 50 cars plus overflow parking on the lawn beside the driveway, for approximately 150 cars. A question was raised whether the historic building in front of the proposed Darcy school would be considered an accessory structure and what would be required for it to remain. The Board of Adjustment will review the Darcy School plans at a meeting in the near future.

The HTHPC reviewed the application from Joseph and Kathleen Grano for new construction on Glen Alpin Road and found no action necessary.

The HTHPC reviewed the application for Paul Spatz on Peachcroft Road and had no comment.

The HTHPC reviewed the application from Steve and Barbara Collier for a porch enclosure on Bailey's Mill Road at Primrose Trail. A recommendation will be made to the Board of Adjustment that any new materials match the existing materials and windows on the home.

Negotiations for the New Vernon Post Office are still underway between the Postal Dept. and the Mondellos.

HARDING TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING, January 17, 2001

Ordinance No. 1-01 was introduced and unanimously accepted. This ordinance amends Chapter 105 (Land Use and Development) as it relates to conditional uses governing public and private schools.

Ordinance No. 2-01 was introduced & unanimously accepted.

This ordinance amends Chapter 71 (Fees), which enables the Township to hire an in-house electrical inspector.

Ordinance No. 3-01 was introduced and unanimously accepted.

This ordinance fixes the salary of the Township's Electrical Subcode Official at a salary rate of \$30 an hour for the calendar year 2001.

A State mandated temporary budget was introduced and unanimously adopted. The State of NJ mandates that the Township operate under a temporary budget until the regular budget is adopted in early spring.

A resolution authorizing participation in the Morris County Adaptive Recreation Program (MCARP) was unanimously adopted. Harding Twp. Joined MCARP in 1995. The current year's annual allotment will be \$690, an increase of \$20 over last year.

Other business coming before the Committee was the introduction of Mr. Rodney Pierson, a representative of The New Jersey American Water Company. Mr. Pierson discussed the company's presence in Harding Twp.. The Township Committee questioned New Jersey American's intent regarding Osborne Pond. The Committee expressed a concern that the land below should be preserved in its natural state.

Mr. Lanzerotti announced that there will be a meeting with representatives of the New Vernon Presbyterian Church in February to discuss the results of the monitoring of traffic by the police department.

Mrs. Farrell announced that the Historical Society has requested an extension of the Tunis Ellicks property lease . She also advised the Committee that the new president of the Civic Association will attend the February 7th meeting.

Mr. Murray advised the Committee that the Open Space Trust Committee is working to develop an agenda to more actively seek new opportunities to purchase available land.

February 7, 2001

Patrolman Eric J. Heller was sworn in by Richard Wiedmann. As of February 16th, Officer Heller, formerly with the Netcong Police Department, will be replacing retired patrolman Bob Fidler.

Ordinance No. 4-01 -

"An Ordinance Approving the Acquisition of Certain Real Property Consisting of a Parcel Identified as Block 2, Lot 18" was introduced. The Committee unanimously approved the acquisition of 19 acres of the Waterman property on Loantaka Lane North. The \$500,000 purchase price will be broken down as follows: \$100,000 from the Township's Open Space Preservation Fund, \$250,000 from The Township's State Green Acres Matching Grant Allotment and \$150,000 from the Morris County Open Space and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund.

Ordinance No. 5-01 -

"An Ordinance Approving the Acquisition of a Portion of Certain Real Property Consisting of a Parcel Identified as Block 36, Lot 1" was introduced and unanimously passed. The property belongs to the Lakeshore Company property. The purchase, at a cost of \$25,977, is part of an effort to protect the Primrose Brook, and will come from the Township's Open Space Trust Fund.

The Committee unanimously approved the introduction of Ordinance No. 6-01 -

"An Ordinance Appropriation Authorizing the Purchase of Services and Equipment and Appropriating \$300,000 therefore from the Capital Improvement Fund and Capital Surplus", which approves capital budget items including a computer network system for records retention and retrieval.

A resolution authorizing the operation of Harding Private Livery Service was approved. This is a renewal of permission granted in 2000 & is an annual authorization.

A resolution authorizing Participation in Regional Efficiency Development Incentive (REDI) Program was approved. Under the State administered REDI program the Township will be able to recoup some of the cost of its tax collection computer system.

A Resolution Appointing Risk Management Consultant was approved, which authorizes Harding Township to hire the firms of O'Gorman & Young, Inc. Payment for services will come from collected fund premiums.

A Resolution Authorizing a Waiver of Drywell Requirements for Block 18, Lot 8 owned by Mr. And Mrs. John Luciano was granted by the Township Committee based on the fact that the roof drain system would infringe upon adjoining septic and well setbacks.

John Bocchi, President of the Harding Twp. Civic Assn., discussed the implementation of a new website as an information source and as an archive for the "Thumbnail".

Shade Tree Commission

The members of the Commission continue their efforts toward a homeowner shade tree control ordinance. Carol Menger and Justine Kovacs discussed the pros and cons of tree-removal ordinances in Harding and neighboring towns. Menger voiced her continuing concern for the need for a tree protection ordinance, saying "the Township has no control over developed land. A resident can take down every tree on their property and no one can stop them." (Observer Tribune, 1/25/00). Anne Thomas, Orchard Dr, and Nancy Paris, Linsley Rd, were also quoted and cited incidents of tree-cutting on adjacent properties and their consequent loss of privacy due to the absence of the screening effect of the trees, saying they would have to purchase replacement trees for their own properties to restore the character of their properties.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Controlling Damage by Canada Geese

A committee member attended a Morris County Goose Damage Management Workshop on Feb. 2, 2001. The workshop was led by the State Director of the USDA Wildlife Services. It focused on the damage done by the geese to the environment due to the accumulation of feces and the related potential to pose serious health threats due to the presence of disease causing organisms.

The workshop also included a presentation on measures to control Canada goose damage and an exchange of experiences on measures used in neighboring communities. Three measures appeared to be most useful for the environment of Harding Township:

1. NOT FEED THE GEESE

A strong suggestion was made to enact and enforce no feeding ordinances in the various communities.

2. INSTALL BARRIERS

Perimeter fencing around ponds, lakes, playgrounds, picnic areas and other sensitive sites could help in excluding the geese, especially during May- mid July, when the geese are molting and cannot fly. Fences should be sturdy, firmly affixed to the ground and completely encircle the protected area. They can be constructed of chicken wire, snow fencing, dense hedges or other vegetation. Fence height need not exceed three feet. Fences should be installed during February - March, to deter the geese from the area prior to nesting and molting.

3. ELIMINATE REPRODUCTION

These activities require a Federal/State permit. Application forms are available in the downstairs lobby of the Municipal Building. Depending on the exact problem situation, goose nests are destroyed and eggs are either removed and destroyed (buried) or treated and returned to the nest. Treating the eggs and returning them to the nest is preferable as otherwise the geese will build new nests and/or lay new eggs. A preferred method is spraying the eggs all around with vegetable oil, which seals the pores in the egg surface that allow for oxygen flow.

Deer Management

The hunting season concluded January 31, 2001. Preliminary results are very encouraging. Final results will be available in April. In preparation for the next season, the Committee is prepared to meet with civic groups, such as the Garden Club, to discuss wildlife management efforts and receive community feedback. Topics will include deer, geese and West Nile Virus. Groups interested in meeting with the Committee should contact Rich Wiedmann at (973) 267 8000.

Additional Methods to Control Deer Damage Repellents:

There are two basic kinds of repellents, contact and area. Contact repellents are applied directly to plants and repel by taste. They are most effective when plants are dormant. Generally contact repellents must not be used on plant parts which are used for human consumption.

Deer are less apt to browse on plants that have been treated with a repellent. However, a lack of normal food may cause deer damage even though a repellent has been applied. Weather conditions affect the length of time a repellent remains effective. During seasons of high precipitation, the effectiveness of a repellent will be short lived because of erosion and dilution. Also, the degree of thoroughness used when applying repellents will determine the amount of protection they afford.

Repellents are made from specialized chemicals or natural materials and can be homemade or purchased commercially. Best results are being achieved by engaging a reputable company specializing in the field to do monthly spraying of ornamental bushes and in the summer supplementing this by weekly or more frequent spraying of flowers with a commercial repellent. Names of the companies can be obtained from the Yellow Pages under Pest Control.

West Nile Virus Update

The Wildlife Management Committee together with the Health Department will present an information program this spring on the West Nile Virus. The day and time are yet to be determined. Details will be announced in a future edition of the Thumbnail and on posters around town. In the meantime, the latest information is available in a brochure prepared by the NJ Department of Health. Copies of the brochure are available in the downstairs lobby of the Municipal Building or from the Health Department.

RECYCLING: Commingled recycling of plastics, aluminum and tin cans, glass bottles and jars, mixed paper at Municipal Garage every Wed, 7AM-Noon; and 1st and 3rd Saturdays 3/17,4/7, 4/21 5/5, 5/19, 9-12 AM. Residents are requested NOT to leave recyclable materials if the center is closed.

The Thumbnail is copyrighted and published by the Harding Township Civic Association, and is mailed to every home in Harding Township.

EDITOR'S NOTE: THE DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT TWO ISSUES OF THE

THUMBNAIL ARE March 29 and April 25, 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.

The Harding Twp Civic Assn. has a new WEB SITE. We are posting Thumbnail, the Township Directory, and late breaking news on this site. Check it out and tell us what you think! <http://www/hardincivic.org/>

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

italic

Municipal Court (1 st and 3 rd Tuesday)	6 PM	3/6, 3/20, 4/3, 4/17
Environmental Commission (1 st Tuesday)	7:30 PM	3/6, 4/3, 5/1
Seniors (2 nd and 4 th Thursday)	11 AM	3/8, 3/22, 4/12, 4/26
Planning Board (4 th Monday)	8 PM	3/26, 4/23, 5/21
Hist Preservation Comm (2 nd Thursday)	8 PM	3/8, 4/12, 5/10
Board of Health (2 nd Thursday)	8 PM	3/8, 4/12, 5/3
Board of Education (2 nd and 4 th Monday)	7:30 PM ..	3/12, 3/26, 4/9, 4/23
Board of Adjustment (3 rd Thursday)	7:30 PM ..	3/15, 4/19, 5/17
Township Committee (1 st and 3 rd Wed)	8 PM	3/7, 3/21, 4/4, 4/18
Shade Tree (2 nd Monday)	3 PM	3/12, 4/9