

April 2001

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Harding Twp School District News

Don't forget to vote in the upcoming **school board election on April 17.**

MEET THE CANDIDATES! Candidates Paula Dugan and Robert Mathews, both running for the unexpired, one-year term of Candace Weeks, will answer questions posed by the League of Women's Voters one week prior to Election Day, in the **Harding Township School gymnasium on April 10th at 7:00 p.m.** Questions from the public will follow the scheduled debate.

Last Minute Reminder: 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!

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.

The **Police Department** and the Morris County Prosecutor's Office will present an **Internet Safety and Fraud Seminar on April 26 at 11 AM** at the meeting of the Harding Seniors, New Vernon Presbyterian Church, Lee's Hill Rd.

CORRECTION The Deadline for the Harding Township Civic Association Essay Contest 2001, is FRIDAY May 4 2001 (not May 14 as originally published)

The theme for this year's contest: ***Memorial Day honors brave soldiers who have given 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 4, 2001.*

Harding Land Trust Annual Meeting

All residents are invited to attend the annual meeting of the Harding Land Trust on Wednesday, May 9, at 8 p.m. in Kirby Hall.

Guest of honor, **Betty Waterman**, will be on hand to help celebrate the recent conservation of her 18-acre meadow on Loantaka Lane North.

Guest speaker, **Richard Kane**, will present a short talk on "Grassland Birds of Harding Township." Mr. Kane is Vice President of Conservation and Stewardship of the New Jersey Audubon Society. Co-author of the Birds of New Jersey (1999), he is a noted birder, lecturer and field trip leader. He is director of the Scherman-Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary where he resides with his wife, Patricia Kane, who is education Vice President of NJAS.

Harding Township Historical Society's final event of the spring/ summer season is the Memorial Day Open House on **Monday, May 28 following the town parade** and commemoration. The Tunis-Ellicks House, adjacent to the ceremony grounds, is open for lemonade and cookies.

The New Vernon Garden Club has presented a copy of the Garden Conservancy's Open Days Directory to the Harding Township Library. The directory list private gardens throughout the country which are opened to the public on specific days in May, June, and September. Admission to each garden is generally \$5.

School Board News

March 19, 2001 Harding Township Board Of Education Meeting

In Attendance: Joel Harris, Angelo Santoro, Helen Duffy, Richard Teig, Dr. Pallozzi, Mary Jane Canose

A presentation was delivered by Judy Thornton, Professional Development Institute, Seattle, WA on work that has been ongoing at the school on the Literacy First Program. She was assisted by a three teacher committee which has been working with her to establish the program which will start in September in grades K-2. K-8 will begin in September 2002. This committee was established by the Board to improve the reading curriculum.

The effort is to create a skills based curriculum to ensure reading development by measuring the competency of the student, breaking the classes into small similar groups and continually measuring the process of the student and providing the necessary materials and help to stimulate growth. This program creates a profile for the students that will travel with them throughout their stay at Harding. A major benefit of this is to the new teacher the next year. The profile will be looked at and thus the new teacher can view where the student is at that time and where they came from and what areas need strengthening. The student profiles would be recorded on profile sheets. Richard Teig suggested that they should be computerized for space saving and easy retrieval. The skills based curriculum was described by several of the teachers as "wonderful!" The onus is on the teacher but it's structured and the parents can be told where their child is having problems, what is being done to improve and what they can do to help.

The diagnostic tools that come with this program identify and show route to recovery. Many of the required texts have already been purchased through the "Literacy First Program". Additional reading texts will be selected within the next several weeks. Examples of the texts were on display and were very professionally done. Helen Duffy commented the committee on the work that they had accomplished since the fall. It was suggested that this method would work very well with the math program.

Basically, reports were made by the various Board areas, resolutions approved and the meeting adjourned at 9:45. An issue occurred late last week where a limo-driver stopped and exposed himself to a Madison High School female student awaiting a bus. Authorities were contacted and today, 3/20 a letter is going out from the Superintendents office advising parents of the issue and the do's and don'ts for their children when awaiting or leaving the bus.

In an effort to move the construction along, crews are now working on Saturday. Items such as the new elevator have been received.

Harding Township Board of Education Meeting March 26, 2001

Attendees: Board of Education - Joel Harris, Angelo Santoro, Peter Muratore, Richard Teig, Administration Dennis Pallozzi, Mary Jane Canose and Sal Azzarello.

The audience was comprised of two teachers and 4 community members.

The primary purpose of the meeting was the Public Hearing of the proposed 2001-2002 budget. The following is a summary of a presentation put on by the Board.

Money has been spent on:

- New Social Studies Curriculum and support materials
- New Science Curriculum and resources
- New Middle School Health Curriculum
- Extensive Language Arts Curriculum development along with staff development
- Extensive Mathematics Curriculum Development
- Updates in technology to support learning (PC's etc.)

What's new for 2001-2002?

• **Curriculum**

- Implement K-2 Reading Curriculum
- Continued Language Arts Curriculum development
- Implement Math Curriculum for grades 3-8
- Art, Music & Speech Curriculum development
- Continued implementation of technology plan
- Implementation of professional development plan

• **Buildings and Grounds**

- Opening of new facilities
- Improvements in athletic fields (drainage)
- Third floor renovation
- Science lab
- Long range facilities plan (5 year horizon/continuous update) One item is old gym becomes new media center

• **Personnel and Management**

- Maintain existing staff patterns
- Maintain reasonable class size
- Add one new custodian (new addition)
- Retain cafeteria and bus aides
- Control employee benefits costs

• **Finance**

- Budget includes all curriculum, facilities and personnel needs
- Tax burden minimized with \$225,000 interest (construction delay)
- Tax rate increase of less than one penny per \$100
- Budget is under spending cap by \$7,503
- On-going analysis of fixed costs (study of electric heating system)

Anticipated Revenues

- State and federal aid \$ 488,599
- Miscellaneous \$ 130,740
- Local tax levy \$5,350,907
- Budgeted fund balance \$ 225,000
- Debt service \$ 537,873
- TOTAL \$6,733,119 VS \$6,579,871 (2000-2001) Up2.3%

Increasing Expenses

- Special education tuition

- Transportation costs
- Negotiated salaries (by contract)
- Employee health benefits
- Energy costs (40-50%)
- Tuition (to pay Madison \$12,500 per child)

Tax Impact

Operating Budget:

Tax levy	Tax rate	Difference from 2000-01
\$5,350,907	.669	.0098
Debt Service:		
\$ 537,873	<u>.067</u>	<u>.0185</u>
	.736	.0283
Impact on home assessed at:	\$200,000	\$500,000
Operating budget	19.60	49.00
Debt service (previously approved referenda)	<u>37.00</u>	<u>92.50</u>
	\$56.60	\$141.50

Little discussion followed especially when community members were assured that no present services were dropped.

Various resolutions were passed. One of which was the approval of the 2001-2002 school year to end on 6/14. To do this, the February vacation has been shortened to mirror Madison's schedule.

HARDING TOWNSHIP HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING,

March 8, 2001 **Old business:**

The HTHPC seeks to gain more community support through education of their function. They will be distributing an informative brochure to all Harding residents in the next few months. This brochure will be included in packets to all new residents.

Members discussed a Community Design Element (CDE). The CDE would become part of the township Master Plan and would contain an assessment of design aspects of Harding are coming before the Township Boards and would provide Township neighborhoods.

NJ Historic Preservation Week is May 13-16. Drew University is offering an all-day course Saturday, March 31st entitled "Applying Preservation at a Local Level." Four members of the Commission attended this course last year and highly recommend it. Monmouth University is offering a course entitled "Open Spaces & Historic Places" if anyone is interested.

The HTHPC will summarize and send a report to the Board of Adjustment regarding Christ the King's application and upcoming site inspection (as yet unscheduled).

New business:

Application for Steve and Mayling Chiu on Young's Road was reviewed without comment from HTHPC; application from Peter & Ellen Eppie on Tempe Wick Road was reviewed without comment from HTHPC.

Application from Mitchell & Patricia Nini on Millbrook Road was reviewed. HTHPC found these plans were incompatible with streetscape and would be out of keeping with nearby homes. Applicant's plans also did not include list of materials used. This information will be given to the Board of Adjustment.

HARDING TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING, March 7, 2001

Ordinance No. 5-01, authorizing the acquisition of a portion of Block 36, Lot 1, was adopted. \$25,977 was appropriated from the Harding Township reserve for open space preservation account to purchase a 1.14 acres parcel which abuts the Primrose Brook off of Bailey's Mill Road and is currently owned by the Lakeshore Company.

Also adopted was Ordinance No. 6-01, which authorized the purchase of services and equipment. The \$300,000 was appropriated from the capital improvement and capital surplus fund.

The third ordinance adopted was No. 7-01, a renewal of the ongoing \$1 per year lease between Harding Township and the Harding Township Historical Society for the Tunis-Ellicks House and adjoining property.

Richard Cassie presented an updated report of the Historical Properties Committee. At issue is the preservation of historic structures, a need for detailed surveys of historic properties & the updating of the Historical Element of the Township's Master Plan.

Karl Meister, Chairman of the Wildlife Management Committee provided an update of the Committee's activities including the result of the Township's deer harvesting.

John Murray announced that in 2001 there will be a Township revaluation, effective in 2002. The Township Committee and the Tax Assessor will soon be reviewing competitive proposals from appraisal firms and plan to award a contract for revaluation services in April.

Mr. Lanzerotti announced that the most recent snow storm cost the Township \$1500, primarily for maintenance of DPW equipment. He also reviewed the proposed Public Work's Capital Budget for this year, noting that, in order to keep expenditures at a minimum, the planned reconstruction of the Municipal Building tennis courts would be postponed along with some road sealcoating projects.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING, MARCH 13, 2001

The Model EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) was discussed again. The Commission was considering utilizing existing examples to see what is necessary to have on such a model and what is not. The Commission is going to contact the Chairmen of the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment for input.

Penny Hinkle will present the Environmental Commission's findings on the Morris Animal Inn's proposed expansion to the Board of Adjustment

A subcommittee is to be formed to discuss the proposal of the Darcy School

The following applications were also discussed:

- Wightman's Farm has applied for an extension of their grass parking lot.
- The Eppie application for a pool and garage on Tempe Wick Road
- The Nini application for an expansion to an existing house on Millbrook Road.

Shade Tree Commission

The shade tree commission is scheduled to appear before the Township Committee at its April 4 meeting, to present its request for a tree ordinance. More details will be reported in May Thumbnail.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT MEETING – March 15, 2001

Approved Resolutions: App.#26-00 La Russo Fawn Hill Dr., Block 48 Lot 8.10

App.#1-01 Spatz Peachcroft Rd., Block 32 Lot1.20

App.#2-01 Collier Bailey's Mill Rd., Block 37 Lot1

App.#3-01 Grano Glen Alpin Rd., Block 26 Lot16

Pending Applications: App # 27-00 Church of Christ the King; There will be a site inspection at 6:30 pm before the regularly scheduled Board of Adjustment Meeting on **April 19.**

Additionally, there will be two special meetings held in April. On **April 26 the Board will hear new applications not heard on March 15, and on April 30 discussion of the Morris Animal Inn proposed expansion will continue.**

#3-99 Morris Animal Inn, Sand Spring Road, Block23 Lots 8 and 12

Bart A. Sheehan Jr. counsel to the MAI cross examined Paul Phillips the planner for the objectors. Phillips reiterated that any increase in traffic on Sand Spring Road would be contrary to recent zoning actions taken by the Township Committee, and should not be permitted. He cited his calculations of 100 additional trips a day from the proposed expansion. He stated that the expansion would not be consistent with Harding's Master Plan. He made a distinction between a pre-existing non-conforming and a non-conforming use sanctioned by a variance. The Morris Animal Inn rebuttal was that the proposed expansion did not pose a conflict with the Master Plan due to the fact that the existing facility is located on a "uniquely circumstance" site. The planner witness for MAI testified that there would not be detrimental impact to the surrounding and adjacent properties.

Clarification: It has been noted by Peter Deeks, Sand Spring Rd, that the February Thumbnail failed to state that the proposed expansion of the Morris Animal Inn is an increase in size from its existing 8155 ft² to 14622 ft² despite reduction in the proposed expansion, to 6467 ft² from the original are of 8500 ft² .

Planning Board, March 26, 2001

The application of **Hartley Farms** (#7-88), on the agenda for the purpose of changing the access of Lot 46 directly to Spring Valley Rd, from its present position onto Hartley Farms Rd was heard. However, the main issue yielded to discussion of other matters relating to the subdivision. One new issue on the agenda was the relocation of a shed on Lot 46 which is historic, but the relocation site of which was not indicated on the evening's plans. In addition, the Board took advantage of Applicant's appearance to point out various matters of non-compliance still open from the last time this application was amended in May 1998. Applicant was criticized by Twp engineer Fox in a letter dated the day before the night's hearing, for non-compliance with issues such as storm drain location and grading matters. Another issue was the need to reconcile Applicant's bulk limitations imposed privately by the subdivision covenant on all lots in the subdivision, with subsequent changes made to the Township bulk and set-back ordinances. Applicant had sought "grandfather" protection in 1998 from the ordinances, and was granted relief, (the exemptions expire in 2006), and the evening's discussion touched on the necessary amendments to Applicant's covenants and conditions, and "missing" papers which should have filed after the 1998 decision. All these issues presented obstacles and complicated the matter of access to Lot 46. Applicant's requested a statement of intent of the Board regarding the access road change, in order to deal with a pending sales contract, which was conditionally granted, the condition being that the other matters be resolved at the next meeting April 23.

The **Buckley** application, #3-00, was granted minor subdivision and variance relating to Block 32, lot 6, 166 Hardscrabble Rd. Applicant agreed to grant a 25' conservation easement forbidding any disturbance to vegetation along the property front line, with no fencing being permitting in this zone, in return for the approval of the building box with a setback variance to the side of the property. The Board was satisfied that the resulting lot would permit a reasonably sized building , having about a 3500ft² footprint. The access road is already in place, and any dispute regarding maintenance between the owner of the newly subdivided lot and the existing building on the access road was decided not to be within the Board's jurisdiction. For background, 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. The complications to this subdivision had resulted from the fact that about 3 years ago, approval to subdivide 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 for either "steep slope variance" or a "side yard set back variance", depending on the location of the building envelope on the "back" lot. The resolution of the matter with the night's decision was an acceptable one to another adjoining neighbor.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Plant Material not Favored by Deer

The following list was prepared in collaboration with members of the New Vernon Garden Club and reflects the experience of gardening in Harding. Residents might find it helpful in planning their spring plantings.

Deer in our area rarely damage the plants listed. Nevertheless, they will browse at any plant, if no alternative food is available. In addition, each deer herd is different. The young deer eat what their mothers eat, and eating habits may vary from herd to herd. Deer will usually not eat any leaf which is gray and/or furry. Many herbs fall in this category.

Trees

Cedar
 Fir
 Maples,
 including ornamentals
 Spruce
 Dogwood
 American Holly

Perennials

Daffodil, Jonquil
 Foxglove
 Hellebore
 Lavender
 Iris
 Ferns
 Bleeding Heart
 Cimicifuga, Fairy Candle
 Lilly of the Valley

Shrubs

Andromeda
 Boxwood
 Cotoneaster
 Skimmia
 Juniper
 Leucothoe

Groundcover

Pachysandra
 Lamium
 Ornamental Grasses
 Ajuga

West Nile Virus Update

Harding Township is gearing up for another season tracking and controlling the spread of West Nile Virus, also called WNV. The primary tool to track the spread of the disease is monitoring certain dead birds. Crows especially, but also hawks and falcons are very susceptible to the disease. Other birds such as poultry, songbirds and waterfowl do not seem to be affected as much. Like last year, residents are asked to report any dead or ill crows, hawks or falcons. During normal business hours, 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM, please call the Health Department at 455-7296. After hours or on weekends call the Police Department at 455-0500. Depending upon instructions from the state laboratory, the bird may or may not be collected for testing.

To protect themselves from the disease, residents should protect themselves from biting mosquitoes. You should wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts when outside, particularly near dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active. Use an insect repellent when outdoors; those with DEET seem to be most effective, but be sure to use them according to the label. Keep screens on windows and doors in good repair. Eliminate standing water from around your property. Remove old tires, cans and buckets, clean roof gutters and properly maintain swimming pools. Keep birdbaths clean and change the water at least once a week. Concerns over high mosquito populations should be reported to the Health Department. Horse owners should check with the state's Department of Agriculture web site for more information on protection of horses from WNV, or you can contact the Health Department for more information.

The township Wildlife Management Committee and the Health Department will be presenting informational meetings on West Nile Virus and Lyme disease later this spring. The dates, times and locations will be announced in future editions of the Thumbnail and posted around town.

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 4/21 5/5, 5/19, 6/9, 6/23; 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 April 25 and May 30, 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/hardingcivic.org/>

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

Municipal Court (1 st and 3 rd Tuesday)	6 PM	4/17, 5/1, 5/15
Environmental Commission (1 st Tuesday)	7:30 PM	5/1, 6/5, 7/10, 8/7
Seniors (2 nd and 4 th Thursday)	11 AM	4/12, 4/26
Planning Board (4 th Monday)	8 PM	4/23, 5/21, 6/25
Hist Preservation Comm (2 nd Thursday)	8 PM	4/12, 5/10, 6/14
Board of Health (2 nd Thursday)	8 PM	4/12, 5/3*, 6/14
Board of Education (2 nd and 4 th Monday)	7:30 PM ..	4/9, 4/23
<i>School Board Elections</i>	4/17
Board of Adjustment (3 rd Thursday)	7:30 PM ..	4/19, 5/17
<i>Special Board of Adjustment</i>	7:30 PM ..	4/26, 4/30
Township Committee (1 st and 3 rd Wed)	8 PM	4/4, 4/18, 5/2, 5/16
Shade Tree (2 nd Monday)	3 PM	4/9, 5/14
Harding Alliance for Drug-Safe Comm	8:45AM	4/10, 5/8, 6/12