

May 2001

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Memorial Day Parade, May 28, 9:30 AM The Township's Annual Celebration

The Civic Association, together with the community and government of Harding Township invites any interested Township group or organization to participate in this year's Harding Township Memorial Day Parade. The parade assembles and takes off from the Harding School at 9 AM, and ends at the square in front of the New Vernon Firehouse. For more information contact the parade Coordinator, Jane Steinmentz, 973 301 0810.

If you can't be in the parade, please join in as a spectator at the Parade! Come to the square in front of the New Vernon Firehouse at 9:30 AM, for this unique community-wide opportunity to gather together. The ceremonial tribute to remember those who have served their country also includes the announcements of "Citizen of the Year", and the winners of the essay contest.

HARDING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY holds its annual community Memorial Day Open House on **Monday, May 28 following the Town parade** and commemoration, between 10am and noon. The Tunis-Ellicks House, adjacent to the ceremony grounds, is open for the traditional fare of lemonade and cookies. There will be a special exhibit in conjunction with the Harding Township School in commemoration of its 75th anniversary.

The Tunis-Ellicks House closes for the summer after Memorial Day, but can be opened for summer visitors. Just call the Historical Society number (973-292-0161) or the office number (973-292-3661) to make arrangements. The Tunis-Ellicks parlor garden remains open during the summer, as it is maintained as a community project by the New Vernon Garden Club to give pleasure to the entire community.

GARDEN EDUCATION CENTER

The New Vernon Garden Club (NVGC) has established a Garden Education center in memory of its founder, Pauline Berry. Mrs. Berry, a native of Massachusetts, lived in New Vernon for over twenty years. She was known throughout the state for her creative flower designs and for her efforts in gardening education.

The concept of such a project is being promoted by the Garden Clubs of NJ. The NVGC is using the four gardens and parks it maintains: the Tunis Ellicks Parlour Garden, the Sarah Ortman Pocket Park, The George Washington Triangle, and Bayne Park, to exhibit good landscaping practices and the use of native NJ species as plant material. On Memorial Day, members of the club will be available in all four

parks to answer residents' questions and to point out plants which are both drought and deer resistant, and which tolerate NJ growing conditions.

Jane Riley is chair of the event. Helping her are Mary Becht, Chair Tunis Ellicks parlour Garden; Barbara Wilkerson, Chair, Sarah Ortman Pocket Park; Eileen Cameron, Chair, George Washington Triangle; and Ruth Waddington, Chair, Bayne Park

The 6th Annual Harding Township **Fat Tree Contest** is accepting entries. Rules are: 1. Find the fattest shade tree on your property. 2. Measure up the trunk 3 feet. 3. Measure the circumference of your tree at that point. 4. Send the measurement, and the type (species) of tree together with your name, address, and telephone, to the Harding Twp. Shade Tree Committee, Box 666, New Vernon NJ 07976, **no later than May 25, 2001**. Winners will be chosen from four different species of trees and will receive \$25 Gift Certificates from the Country Mile Garden or the Garden Cottage. Winners will be announced at the May 28 2001 and in the June Thumbnail. Previous winners and Historic Designated trees, not eligible. Harding Twp. Shade Tree Committee and the Harding Twp Friends of Trees wish to thank Country Mile Garden and the Garden Cottage for their generous support.

THE LIBRARY

Election Day Book Sale, Tuesday, June 5th...the perfect opportunity to get your books for summer reading. It's the best bargain in town! (Please remember the Library when spring cleaning and bring us your gently used paperbacks and hard covers to help stock the sale tables.)

Storytime News...Many thanks to the Rev. David and Kerri Fox for inviting Storytime to meet at the Green Village United Methodist Church. Storytime hosts two weekly sessions—Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. for preschoolers, and Fridays at 9:30 a.m. for toddlers —where we have lots of fun with puppets, props, and songs. Thanks also to Rebecca Dioda for bringing in her angora rabbit, "Magic." The children enjoyed learning about spinning wool from rabbit hair.

May 4	The Three Little Pigs
May 8	<i>The Fat Cat</i> and other cat stories
May 11	<i>Millions of Cats</i> and other cat stories
May 15	Cheese, Peas and Chocolate Pudding
May 18	The Big, Wide-Mouthed Frog
May 22	Peter and the Wolf
May 25	<i>Magic Wings</i> and other stories

No Storytime on May 1st or May 28th.

Children are invited to come into the Library to register for their own library cards and to have their pictures taken for our bulletin board display of new card holders. As soon as they are able to write their first and last name, in print or in script, children may apply for a library card.

NEW VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Annual Steak and Lobster Dinner

Date: Friday June 8
Time: 6:PM to 10PM Doors open at 5:30for orders and seating only; In view of the popularity of this event, the NVVFD would appreciate if dinner guests would give up their seats after coffee and dessert to make room for others.
Place: Fire House, Village Road
Cost: \$18.00 for lobster; \$16 for steak; \$12 for chicken

Dinner selection includes salad bar, bread, French fries, beer, wine, soda, coffee and delicious home made dessert. Steamed clams and corn on the cob, as well as hamburgers for the kids are also available. (Please no strollers in building).Come join your family, friends and neighbors for a great meal and a fun time at a terrific community event. All proceeds go to the New Vernon Volunteer Fire Company and First Aid Squad.

Residents for A Rural Harding (RRH) Annual Picnic, Sunday, June 10, 2001, 3-6

PM. This annual event will be held on the Dog Show Grounds at Hartley Farms, on Blue Mill Rd. This year's picnic will be better than ever with pony rides, hay rides, clowns and a wonderful petting zoo from Pennsylvania. In addition, there will be a great collection of antique and classic cars. Music, good food, good company and a silent auction promise a great time. This is a community event and all are welcome! You can bring a picnic or purchase hamburgers, hot dogs and sodas.

CHURCH WEBSITE The **Church of Christ the King** on Blue Mill Road in New Vernon would like to inform the residents of Harding Township that information on the Parish Plan of Renewal is available to all on our WEB SITE:

www.churchofchristtheking.org. identified as Forward in Faith. Updated information may be found in the Parish this Week section of the web site.

HTRA PICNIC At SOMERSET PATRIOTS BALLPARK, Bridgewater, NJ

Somerset Patriots vs. Bridgewater Bluefish

Saturday June 16th at 5:30PM, come for 1 ½ hour all-you-can-eat barbecue buffet before the game (including hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, chips, soda, cookies, etc.)

Suggested ticket price \$35.00; Make Checks payable to HTRA; Send checks to:

Mike Cherrillo, C/o HTRA, 95AA Lindsey Road, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920;

We will send you a confirmation and tickets will be waiting for you at the picnic gate.

7:05PM, Game Time (picnic area over-looks the playing field)

Early Bird Parking!, 25 Minutes Away!! Raffle winners will be drawn at the game!

For more information, call Mike or Connie Cherrillo at 539-9383

Come and Have fun and support a worthy cause!!!!

HARDING TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Health Department sponsors **blood pressure screening** twice a month just before the Harding Senior's meeting. The meetings are generally held on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at the Presbyterian Church Christian Education Building. The blood pressure screening starts at 10:30 AM. You do not have to be a member of the Senior's group or stay for the meeting to have your blood pressure checked. For more information call the Health Department at (973) 455-7296.

There will be a free **Stroke Risk Assessment** program presented by the American Heart Association, Atlantic Health Systems - Morristown Memorial Hospital and the Harding Township Health Department. Registration is open to all adult residents of Harding. The program will be held on Saturday, May 12, 2001 from 9:00 AM till Noon at the Hanover Township Recreation Center in Whippany. Registration is free but space is limited. Please call (973) 428-2484 or (973) 455-7296 for more information or to register.

Dorothy Zufall, Ed.D., health educator for Harding Township, will present a seminar: "**Anger - Don't let it break your heart**" on Tuesday, May 15, 2001 at 7:00 PM. The program will be held in the Hanover Township Public Meeting Room. Registration is free, but reservations are required. Please call (973) 428-2484 or (973) 455-7296.

A health education program on **Arthritis** will be given on Wednesday, May 23, 2001 starting at 10:00 AM. Presented by Kathleen Hodapp, manager of the North Jersey Regional Arthritis Center in Morristown Memorial Hospital, the seminar will discuss causes, diagnosis and the latest treatments available. Please call (973) 428-2484 or (973) 455-7296 to register.

Harding Township Board Of Education 75th Reunion and Anniversary

To celebrate the opening of the renovated Harding Township School, there will be a dedication ceremony in the fall. The 75th Anniversary Committee would like to invite all former attendees to the dedication and a get together afterwards. Please send the name and address of former students to fwinow@hardingtwp.k12.nj.us.com. We have many names but are especially lacking on the female list because of name changes due to marriage. We are looking for volunteers to help with the celebration.

BOY SCOUT NEWS

Four Township Boy Scouts received the highest award in Boy Scouting, the Eagle Scout badge, in a recent ceremony at the New Vernon Presbyterian Church, the sponsor of the local troop. These young men, all graduates of Harding School and now seniors graduating from Madison High School in June 2001, are Charles Becht, Christopher Chaney, Jude Coulter-Pultz, and Michael Keon. The Township is very proud of these fine young people, and wishes them the best in their future endeavors.

REQUEST From the Civic Association:

We're all glad that nice spring weather is here again. If you enjoy a walk or horse or bike ride, and notice any trash on the roadside, please take the time and effort to pick it up and take it home to dispose of properly. This is especially true for public land, but stop to help private owners as well- even homeowners can't police their frontages every minute, and appreciate a helping hand. Litterbugs are more self conscious when their surroundings are pristine, so we all benefit. The Civic Association thanks you for your vigilance in helping keep the town beautiful.

The Harding Twp Civic Assn. has a new WEB SITE. We are posting Thumbnail, the Township Directory, and late breaking news on this site. The proposed TREE CONSERVATION ORDINANCE 11-01 TEXT is posted, <http://www/hardingcivic.org>.

Please, we need additional members to participate in our association, as officers and reporters. Won't you consider joining us? Call or write, our addresses are posted at the end of Thumbnail. Thank you for your continued support!

Township Committee April 3, 2000

The Township appropriated \$140,000 for the real property reevaluation to be conducted during May- November this year. This will be the first reevaluation in 16 years. Harding's ratio of assessed to true market value has dropped to 54%, so Morris County had requested Township action. A letter from the Township officials will be coming to each homeowner explaining the process, including the procedures for challenge of the reevaluation.

Proposed Tree Conservation Ordinance Proposed Ord. 11-01

The following is a statement prepared by Susan Kimball, Township Planner, for Thumbnail at the request of the Township Committee, regarding the proposed ordinance, scheduled for public discussion at the Twp Comm meeting Wednesday May 16, 2001:

“Harding Township’s Master Plan goals and objectives emphasize the protection and preservation of the township’s rural character. The conservation of healthy mature trees and hedgerows is of prime importance in retaining the rural character of the township. Additionally, indiscriminate clear-cutting of undeveloped acreage contributes to soil erosion, the loss of wildlife habitat, and the degradation of air and water quality.

“The proposed Tree Conservation Ordinance is intended to prevent clear-cutting of undeveloped land and to enhance privacy for homeowners in developed residential areas. In the R-1 Zone, the establishment of a tree conservation area will encourage the preservation of large healthy trees along property lines, while allowing homeowners to continue to undertake routine pruning and the usual maintenance (including the removal of dead or diseased trees) in these areas. The conservation area is within the already regulated 100-foot setback where no buildings or structures are permitted.”

The proposed ordinance 11-01 text is posted on the Civic Association web site, <http://www/hardingcivic.org>. (See next item as well.)

Shade Tree Commission

Tree Conservation Ordinance Overview Submitted by the Harding Township Shade Tree Committee, April 4,2001

Highlights of rewritten ordinance:

Renamed to **reflect** Conservation

No reference to historic trees inside building setbacks

No fee for developed R- I zone

Fines up to \$1000 per offense. No jail term.

Tree Conservation area will be in R- I zone developed property.

Applies to:

25 feet along most property lines

50 feet from portions of lot bordering roads.

Tree is 8" diameter, measured 4 1/2 feet above ground.

Exemptions remain the same:

Trees with a forest or agricultural plan
Federal, state, county property
Public Utilities, waste disposal, or private wells
Driveway or site plans
Commercial orchards or nurseries
Diseased or hazardous trees

There is a Tree Protection Officer, a member of Shade Tree, with the Township Administrator, Rich Wiedmann, as the alternate, to facilitate issuance of the permit.

Report on the PLANNING BOARD MEETING, April 23, 2001:

The application of **Hartley Farms** (#7-88), granted permission changing the access of Lot 46 directly to Spring Valley Rd, from its present position onto Hartley Farms Rd. In addition, permission to relocate a historic shed on Lot 46 was granted. but the relocation site of which was not indicated on the evening's plans. Discussion continued regarding the reconciliation of the Township bulk requirements with Hartley Farms private covenants, which have been grandfathered until 2006.

The Board approved the text and purpose of the Tree Preservation Ordinance referred to it from the Township Committee meeting.

HARDING OF TOWNSHIP BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT MEETINGS

On April 19, 2001 The discussion centered on one new application, #5-01 - Peter and Ellen Eppie, Tempe Wick Road, Block 34 Lot 8, as well as the

Pending Application #27-00 - Church of Christ the King, Blue Mill Road, Block 16 Lot 27. The latter is to construct a new parish life center building, to be located in a location toward the side, near the dwelling unit already on the property. The new Center building would provide rooms for religious education , a library and resource center, and offices. The church is also seeking to upgrade the parish hall located in the basement under the church by putting in new lighting, air-conditioning, and a elevator for handicap access. The Church itself would be upgraded by refinishing the pews and floor and repainting the structure.

The Harding Twp Hist Pres Comm report regarding its negative opinion of the new structure which also raised concerns about the proposed outdoor lighting, was presented.

Testimony disagreeing with the HTHPC finding was presented by the architect, Patrick Burke. He said the size of the building was in proportion to other buildings in the area, including the Township Hall across Blue Mill Road. The building would be set back 294 feet from Blue Mill Rd, 25 feet behind the church. The proposed parish center would be 33 feet tall, compared to the existing rectory which is 31 feet tall, and the church, 40 feet high, not including the spire. Burke noted that

the municipal building is 40 feet in height. The proposed parish hall would be bigger than the municipal building, at 5,382 sq. ft; the municipal building is 4,681 sq. ft. Impervious coverage would meet Twp guidelines, coming in at 14%, compared to allowed coverage of 25%. It would also comply with the 50' stream setback ordinance. Parking spaces would be increased from 148 to 158 spaces. The parish is currently in the midst of a \$3.5 million fund drive, with \$2.8 million designated for the new parish center and renovations. The additional money is for the Paterson Diocese campaign. Any extra funds will help fund maintenance of the parish structures.

At a special meeting on April 26, other applications were discussed:
Application #8-01 - Steve and Mayling Chu, Youngs Road, Block 48 Lot 10
Application #7-01 - Byron Sugahara Blue Mill Road, Block 4 Lot 5, for swimming pool variance
Application #6-01 - John Mitchell Nini and Patricia Nini Millbrook Road, Block 17 Lot 7
Application #9-01 - BRB Management Corp. Glen Alpin Road, Block 21 Lot 10.
Application #3-00 - Staloff, Miriam and Arthur 12 Lake Trail West, Block 41 Lot 6;
Request for Extension and Amendment -

Another special meeting was held on April 30, at which time discussion and testimony regarding **Morris Animal Inn** was heard. No decision was reached, and the application will be continued.

Harding Township Historic Preservation Commission April 12, 2001

Old business:

Mitchell and Patricia Nini and their architect Peter Dorne attended the HTHPC meeting to review the plans for their new home on Millbrook Road. Mr. Dorne's drawings for the Nini home were inspired by a historic Greek Revival home in Mendham, the Aaron Hudson house. It was stated that the dynamic of the Millbrook Road neighborhood is changing. Applicants said they wish to be respectful of the historic background of the town and to build something in keeping with the neighborhood. The HTHPC discussed this application at length. HTHPC believes this design is not relative to the overall period of other homes on the street. Homes that set the historic tone in this district are not 19th century Greek Revival. The HTHPC believes the two-story vertical mass would negatively impact neighbors and streetscape and the design of the home should be specific to the lot dimensions. HTHPC will draft a letter to the Board of Adjustment with their findings.

The HTHPC asked Janet Foster, a third party historic preservation consultant, to review the application for the Christ the King proposed Parish Center. Ms. Foster's findings were forwarded to Fr. O'Donovan and were sent to the Board of Adjustment prior to the site inspection on April 19. Ms. Foster's report was very similar to that of

the HTHPC. The HTHPC report stated that the center would have a negative effect on the streetscape and would become the dominant structure on the property. The HTHPC brochure will be sent to the printers for typesetting on April 18. Copies will hopefully be available for Historic Preservation Week May 13-18.

New business:

Application for Michael McDonald and Eileen Urban on Crane Road was reviewed without comment from HTHPC.

Janet Foster, Secretary for the Hartley Farms Architect Review Committee, forwarded an application to the HTHPC for owner of lot #44 to move a shed closer to Spring Valley Road. HTHPC reviewed the application and supported it, maintaining the rural streetscape.

HTHPC received a communication from Tetra Tech Inc. of Rockaway, NJ, regarding communication towers. Tetra Tech is searching for an historic/archaeological expert to assist them.

Application from Mr. & Mrs. Sugahara, Block 4, Lot 5 on Blue Mill Road was reviewed. Applicants wish to install a pool on easterly side and a 650' patio on westerly side of property. HTHPC found the plans did not list elevations or materials to be used. This information will be given to the Board of Adjustment. Commission's concerns included the size of the patio, and what disturbance to the property the construction will cause. Members also suggested that fieldstones be used to build patio and pool deck, to be compatible with existing walls on this property and the neighboring properties.

Environmental Commission, May 15 2001

The Tree Ordinance,, as amended, was endorsed by the Environmental Commission.

The Lot Coverage Limit Proposed Ordinance is not endorsed by the Environmental Commission due to the ordinance omitting flag lots.

The Model EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) was drafted. An EIS is required whenever an applicant has one of the following planned: a major site plan, a major subdivision, a multifamily dwelling, or a commercial site. The Model EIS has four major sections: 1. Plan & Description of Project; 2. Inventory of Existing Environmental Conditions; 3. Assessment & Mitigation of Environmental Impacts of Project; 4. Alternatives.

The following applications were discussed:

The Morris Animal Inn - The Environmental Commission is concerned about how the possible traffic increase would affect the surrounding area.

Christ The King - The Environmental Commission is seeking further information about the water treatment systems of the proposed expansion. Specifically, the stream encroachment, storm-water management and the flood plane. They also

expressed concern about the streetscape and aesthetics of the proposal.
The Nini Application (Millbrook Road) -Applicant asked for a postponement.
The Pearson Application (Glen Alpine Road) -concerns a second house on the tract.

Harding Township Board Of Education News

Robert Matthews, Peachcroft Rd was elected to a one-year term in the April 17 election. Two incumbents, Angelo Santoro of Meyersville Rd and Joel Harris of Bailey's Mill Rd, also won new terms on the Board. Voters also approved the 2000-2001 \$6.7 million budget, which will result in an increase of 2.83 cents per \$100 assessed value. The new school tax rate will be 73.8 cents per \$100 assessed value.

Minutes 4/9/01

Meeting called to order at 7:30 in the school library. Present were Joel Harris, Peter Muratore, Helen Duffy and Richard Teig of the Board and Dennis Pallozzi and Mary Jane Canose from Administration.

Discussion was held on new K-8 mathematics curriculum. Debbie Poetsch, Lyn Snyder and Colleen McNamee, the teachers responsible for the review of the present curriculum and recommendations for improvement discussed their methodology and status.

Using standards from NCTM a national organization of math teachers to promote better learning of math in grade schools, an analysis was made of the present curriculum. The guidelines were in line with our state and other math course consultants. A Harding math teacher survey was conducted and a round table discussion was held on present status and directions to improve the program by grade level.

As with the new Reading curriculum changes, present status, text books, different learning levels and styles, measurement and continuity were reviewed. New text books are still being reviewed and the Board must still approve the changes. It has been resolved that K-2 will not be implemented until 2002 because of the new Reading curriculum that those teachers and students will start next year. It was stressed that text books for grades 3-8 will have to be ordered soon to be in for September. Teachers will have to be trained, lesson plans created etc.

A resolution was approved to reject the bid received for natural gas services from Amerada Hess Corporation.

Two parents requested that more time be given after report cards are sent out so that the appropriate teacher conference may be arranged. They said that the system in place now can result in a meaningless meeting with a teacher not involved in the area needing discussion. Dr. Pallozzi said that an effort could be made to accommodate this criticism.

4/30/01 Meeting: The newly elected members were sworn in, and new officers elected, Joel Harris is the President, and Angelo Santoro, Vice President. The budget was adopted for 2001-2002 school year. Kathy Galderi was appointed 1st grade teacher for the current school year. Various construction changes were approved, most for additional costs. A new health insurance plan was adopted.

EDITOR'S NOTE: THE DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT TWO ISSUES OF THE THUMBNAIL ARE June 1 and August 30, respectively. *The June issue will be out by mid- June, and then the next issue will be sent in early September.* If you have events or announcements for the summer, please send them in for inclusion in the June Thumbnail. Reportorial coverage of Town meetings continues throughout the summer, and you can continue to send in articles or announcements for publication in September. You should EM or fax (typewritten preferred, please) to the editor, Hesna Pfeiffer, **973 605 1127, email hesnaj@aol.com.** Call the editor if you have any transmission questions or ideas for articles, 973 540 8911. *The Thumbnail is copyrighted and published by the Harding Township Civic Association, and is mailed to every home in Harding Township.*

RECYCLING: Commingled recycling of plastics, aluminum and tin cans, glass bottles and jars, mixed paper at Municipal Garage every Wednesday, 7AM-Noon; and 1st and 3rd Saturdays 5/19, 6/ 9 and 6/23, 9-12 AM. Residents are requested NOT to leave recyclable materials if the center is closed.

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

Municipal Court (1 st and 3 rd Tuesday)	6 PM	5/15
Environmental Commission (1 st Tuesday)	7:30 PM	6/5, 7/10, 8/7
Seniors (2 nd and 4 th Thursday)	11 AM	5/24, 6/14, 6/28
Planning Board (4 th Monday)	8 PM	5/21,6/25
Hist Preservation Comm (2 nd Thursday)	8 PM	6/14,7/12
Board of Health (2 nd Thursday)	8 PM	6/14,7/12
Board of Education (2 nd and 4 th Monday)	7:30 PM ...	5/21,6/11, 6/25
Board of Adjustment (3 rd Thursday)	7:30 PM ...	5/17, 6/21
Township Committee (1 st and 3 rd Wed)	8 PM	5/16, 6/6, 6/20
Shade Tree (2 nd Monday)	3 PM	5/14
Harding Alliance for Drug-Safe Comm	8:45AM	6/12