

June 2001

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

HTRA fall soccer registration for boys and girls in grades K-6 will be on **Saturday, June 16th from 9 to 11 AM** at Harding Township School. For additional information visit <http://www.hardingsoccer.com> or contact Bill Wraith (973-425-1015, bwraith@wraiths.com).

HARDING TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Health Department will present a program on **West Nile Virus**, on **Wednesday June 27, 2001 at 7:00 PM** at the Municipal Building main meeting room. The educational presentation will cover the causes and symptoms of the disease, the mode of transmission and methods of protection and mosquito control. A representative from the Morris County Mosquito Control Commission will be present to answer questions concerning mosquito breeding and the use of pesticides. The program will also cover **Lyme disease** and the public health issues related to **wildlife control**. For more information call the Health Department at (973) 455-7296. See also the Wildlife Management report, in this issue.

The winners of the Harding Township Civic Association Essay Contest 2001, in which the theme was "***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?***" were announced at the Memorial Day Celebration. They are Grades 1& 2 : 2d Grader **Alexis Richards**; Grades 3&4 : 4th Grader **Katie d'Esterhazy**; Grades 5&6 : 6th Grader **Camilla Somers**; Grades 7&8 : 8th Grader **Kristie Norris**. The winners read their essays from the podium and will each receive a \$100 savings bond prize. Congratulations to the winners, and a big Thank You to all of the contestants, the Town is very appreciative of your contributions to our community!

At the Township Memorial Day Parade and Celebration on May 28, **Jim Williams of the Harding Twp Civic Association announced "Citizen of the Year"**, this year a collective tribute to "the good men and women who work late into the night to make our community a better place in which to live; who are never too busy to vote, never too tired to stand up and be counted, never too

cynical to fulfill civic responsibilities". Williams commented further, "Each time you vote, you honor those who gave their lives; each time you volunteer in your community you honor them, each time you attend a Township Committee, Planning Board, or Board of Education meeting you honor them. Each time you stand up and your voice is heard, you honor them. You are the ones who will let none of us here today ever forget what Memorial Day is about."

Shade Tree Commission announced the winners of the Annual Harding Township **Fat Tree Contest** were Barbara Wilkerson and Erin Clifford, who each received gift certificates from the Country Mile Gardens and the Garden Cottage.

New Vernon Volunteer First Aid Squad

DEFIBRILLATOR PROGRAM A SUCCESS

Last December the new Vernon First Aid Squad asked for help in purchasing life-saving defibrillators. Squad members John Thomas and Bill Dudley organized the program for placing the state-of-the-art devices as well as training. Thanks to the generosity of many Harding residents, 26 donations were received.

Defibrillators are now installed at the Harding Township School, First Presbyterian Church, Christ the King Church, Methodist Church, Municipal Building, Village Road firehouse, four police cars and two ambulances. Previously, two police cars and two ambulances carried the older type defibrillators.

Bill Dudley, with John Thomas' help, has recently trained 61 people in adult cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's) Additional people will be trained if there is enough interest. Call Bill Dudley, 267-6340 for more information.

THE LIBRARY

Correction: Election Day Book Sale will be held on Tuesday, June 26th...

The **Art in Bloom** Committee extends warm thanks to the many friends who thoughtfully prepared hors d'oeuvres for the Preview Party. We are still hearing raves about the delectable array of food on offer. Our **Angels, Benefactors,** and **Patrons** merit renewed thanks for their generous support of the Library.

Storytime News...Storytime season finishes in June and resumes in September. Don't miss our final week, when we focus on **dinosaurs** with projects and games.

<u>Preschooler Time</u>	<u>Toddler Time</u>
June 12: <i>Out of the Ocean</i>	June 15: <i>Baby Beluga</i>
June 19: <i>Dinosaurs!</i>	June 22: <i>Dinosaurs!</i>

Did you know that you can request library books from the Harding Township Library on the Internet? As a member of the Morris Automated Information Network (M.A.I.N.), the countywide system of libraries that share titles through an interlibrary loan network, HTL will be happy to process your requests or forward them to the appropriate library. With your current HTL card, you can go online at www.web2.morris.org to locate the title you want. We can usually fill your request within a week if it is not a best seller. See Lynn Hughes or Anne Thomas with questions or pick up an information flyer at the Library. We wish you a happy and healthy summer filled with books—Happy Reading!

The Bridle Path, Inc. announces The Harding Township/Green Village **Bridle Path Association's Second Annual Family Fun Show will be held at the Horse Show Grounds on Sand Spring Lane on Saturday July 21** with a rain date of July 22. Riders of all ages are welcome. All classes and games can be ridden either English or Western. Protective headgear must be worn and a negative coggins must accompany entry. Show clothes are "optional". Dress comfortably and have fun!

Classes will be held in the morning beginning at 9:00 am and Horse Games will take place after the lunch break. We hope to repeat everyone's favorite Costume Class again this year! More information will be available at local businesses and posted on our web site www.bridlepath.org or you can contact Dee Cameron at 732-382-3578.

Past proceeds for our shows have benefited various charities such as the Hooved Animal Humane Society, The Equine Science Center Of Excellence. We have also improved the Dressage Ring footing and plan to replace the gates on

the two Show Rings at the Horse Show Grounds. Come by to participate in the show or watch the fun!

On another note, we have encountered some recent difficulties with landscapers dumping yard waste on various sections of Bridle Trails. If a trail goes through or is adjacent to your property, please make sure that debris is kept off of the trails. If there are downed trees or other maintenance is required on trails, please let us know so we can have our volunteers assist in the clean-up. If you have any questions about location of trails or have any trail maintenance concerns, please contact Linda Halsey at 425-2299.

Thanks to all of our residents that continue to support the Bridle Path Association and the network of trails in town. We continue to maintain and enjoy the trails that add to the rural ambiance that is so important to Harding Township.

The Harding Township Police ask that residents make bicycle helmets a regular part of the family bicycling experience. A bike helmet is the single most effective safety device for reducing head injury and death from biking accidents. "Bumps and bruises heal, but a head injury can be forever". Make sure it fits properly, snugly so it doesn't slide, front to back, or side to side. The Police have "Helmet Rewards Program" in effect, in the form of a "summons", entitling a wearer of a helmet while biking, scootering etc, to a free double scoop ice cream cone at the Minuteman Restaurant. The program is co-sponsored by the Harding Twp Police PBA Local 340 and the Minuteman Restaurant.

And on the topic of safety for summer, when you take a hike and you're on the road, please, keep left! Walk and jog facing the oncoming traffic.

Harding Township Educational Foundation - Save The Dates:

First Annual Tennis Tournament and Luncheon

Wednesday, September 26, 2001

9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Morristown Field Club

Fourth Annual Golf Tournament and Dinner

Monday, October 22, 2001

Somerset Hills Country Club (new location)

Please call Ellen Wraith at 425-1004 if you have any questions or would like to volunteer on an organizing committee.

TOWNSHIP NEWS

Township Committee

At the MAY 16TH meeting, the Township Committee **adopted the “Tree Protection Ordinance”, No. 11-01**, which amends Chapters 29 (Shade Tree Advisory Committee), 105 (Land Use & Development), and 172 (Tree Removal). **The complete ordinance 11-01 text is posted on the Civic Association web site, <http://www/hardingcivic.org>**. The ordinance creates a tree conservation area on any lot 3+ acres, where no tree 8 or more inches in diameter at a height of 4 ½ feet, could be cut down without a permit. This zone is at least 25 feet along the perimeter of the property, increasing to 50 feet at the road frontage. The ordinance was publicly discussed before adoption, and William Becker, Jr. of Young’s Road voiced an objection that this ordinance is an intrusion of constitutional rights, and that it does not prevent clear-cutting as intended. This position was disputed by Roger Clapp, Township attorney, who explained that this ordinance is meant to guide, not restrict. Also voicing objection was Hal Scaff, who felt this ordinance is an intrusion on personal property rights. Mr. Lanzerotti elaborated his feeling that this amended ordinance addressed the balance of individual property rights, the conservation of our aquifers, and the needs of the town. A related **Ordinance 13-01**, established the role of the Shade Tree Advisory Committee in the duties and responsibilities of the Tree Conservation Officer, including the grant of permits under the Tree Protection ordinance.

A public hearing and possible amendment of **Ordinance No. 8-01** amending Chapter 105 (Land Use & Development) was postponed to the June 6th meeting. The Committee suggested it be sent back to the Planning Board for review of changes to assure that the amendments are consistent with the Master Plan. This ordinance relates to the rules pertaining to Houses of Worship, including its accessory buildings, parking lot set backs, and nursery/day care uses.

Ordinance No. 12-01 was introduced. This ordinance establishes a Recreation Advisory Committee, and supplements the ordinance code with a new Chapter 30, and advisory committee whose representatives will assist the Harding Twp Recreation Assn (HTRA) to obtain insurance coverage. J.J. Pierson of the HTRA, had addressed the Committee, discussing the need to set up a responsible insurance contract prior to the start of the HTRA’s summer recreation program.

A resolution was unanimously approved which deleted taxes on Block 2, Lot 18. This parcel was purchased by the Land Trust from the Waterman family and is located on Spring Valley Road.

MAY 2ND, 2001

Robert Schaul was appointed to his 3rd term as Municipal Court Judge. This term will run for 3 years, until May 31st, 2004.

A resolution approving the hiring of Pat Acetos's daughter as an independent contractor was passed. She will be paid \$1.50 per house for photographs as part of the Certified Valuations project.

Also approved was a recycling agreement with the Morris County MUA allowing Harding Township to participate in the county's program.

A resolution authorizing assessment settlements was also unanimously approved. These included the Healy subdivision in Block 15; and the Kirkinis subdivision on Lee's Hill Road, BI 47, Lot 4. Part of this latter lot was deeded to Morris Co. to create a right of way along Lee's Hill Road, connected with the preservation of the 18th century house on the property.

It has recently been announced that **Wightman Farms**, on Route 202, will be included in the County Farmland Preservation Program. The development rights to the 41 acre farm will be purchased from the Wightman family by the Morris County Agricultural Development Board using the Morris County Open Space and Farmland Fund, as well as NJ State farmland preservation funds, for a total of \$3.3 million. This is the first Township farm purchased under this program, and the most expensive in the state. The Wightman Farm, owned and operated by the Wightmans since 1926, produces apples, peaches, strawberries and pumpkins and many other fruits and vegetables, and has been termed one of the true landmark farms in Morris County. No Harding funds will be used in the purchase; no municipal cost sharing is required for the preservation program. Township resident Loren Pfeiffer is a member of the MCADB which approved the purchase; he helped coordinate Township efforts to pass a municipal "Right to Farm" ordinance earlier this year as one of the requirements by which Wightman Farm qualified for preservation in the County program.

The New Vernon Garden Club was well represented at the recent annual meeting of the Garden Club of New Jersey. David Mitchell of Still life/Fresh Flowers was the guest speaker. Louise Thorp was one of eight members from the State invited to submit a floral design. Presidential Citations were presented to Justine Kovacs for Excellence in Landscape Design School, and to Caron Menger for the GCNJ Flower and Garden Show exhibit. The NVGC received a silver trophy for its "Washington Triangle" project, as well as the Special Award to Civic Beautification for the club's Bayne Park project.

Report on the Planning Board Meeting, May 21, 2001:

A resolution permitting Hartley Farms #7-88 to amend its major subdivision was approved. This granted permission changing the access of Lot 46 directly to Spring Valley Rd, from its present position onto Hartley Farms Rd, and permitted the relocation of a historic shed on Lot 46. In addition, the amendments provided reconciliation of the Township bulk requirements with Hartley Farms private covenants, which have been grandfathered until 2006. The Planning Board also discussed the House of Worship Ordinance #8-01 (see Township Committee report for more information).

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Public Meeting on June 27

A public meeting will be held on June 27, 2001 at 7PM in the Municipal Building. The meeting will be held in collaboration with the township Health Department and discuss the following subjects: West Nile Virus and Lyme disease; Deer Management; and Canada Geese. See Health dept announcement, above.

West Nile Virus and Lyme disease

A state program is being implemented to control West Nile Virus. It involves mosquito control through water management and pesticide application and surveillance of mosquito breeding and crow deaths. This will be supplemented through public education.

Deer Management - Results of 2000/2001 Deer Harvest

The results of the 2000/2001 deer Harvest in Harding, according to NJ Fish and Game, was 630 versus 569 in the prior year. The number includes 135 deer taken in the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The season again was concluded without any adverse incidents.

The committee decided to repeat the 2000 program in 2001. Private property owners will again be encouraged to grant access to their properties either for hunting or at least for drives, and the Police Department will again serve as a clearing house for hunters wishing to hunt in Harding and property owners looking for hunters. To implement the program, the committee will organize a public meeting in mid September to report to the community on its plans and to solicit suggestions for the 2001/2002 program. A first update on the deer management situation will be given at the June 27 public meeting

Canada Geese

Reports are increasing, calling for action to control the excessive number of Canada Geese. This will be an agenda item for the public meeting on June 27, and community input will be very much appreciated.

Board of Adjustment

May 17, 2001

Resolutions Approved:

#5-01 Peter and Ellen Eppie, Tempe Wick Rd. Block 34 Lot 8

#8-01 Steve and Mayling Chu, Youngs Rd. Block 48 lot 10

#7-01 Byron Sugahara Blue Mill Rd. Block 4 Lot 5

#3-00 Miriam and Arthur Staloff, 12 Lake Trail West Block41 Lot 6

#28-00 Andrew and Kathleen Pruzick, Lees Hill Rd. Block49 Lot 5

New Applications:

#4-01 Leslie and Brent Wentz, Miller Rd. Block13 Lot 5; this is a request to build on undersized lot. Demolish existing home and turn new structure to face road. Increase in house size from 2600 ft. to 3500 sq. ft. Neighbors requested that attention be paid to drainage of property and placement of driveway. Site inspection planned for May 21.

#24-00 Ravi and Pratiba Reddy, 1 Sutton Dr. Block15 Lot1; Review of lighting plan for the exterior living spaces, i.e. pool, tennis court.

There was also discussion of the Annual Report that goes to the Township Committee and Planning Board; this is also available to the public.

May 24, 2001

The Morris Animal Inn was granted approval for its application to expand the animal boarding facility by a 5-2 vote, the Board majority reasoning that the approval would not be detrimental to the public good or the township's zoning or master plans. Keefauver, O'Laughlin, Holdsworth, Scalera, and Vola voted for the expansion; Cassie and Cameron opposed the variance. The approval was conditioned upon Applicant also receiving favorable rulings from two administrative appeals taken at the NJ State DEP against the Animal Inn by the Great Swamp Watershed Association (GSWA), following the NJ State DEP's decision last fall granting the stream encroachment and wetlands permits sought by the applicant for the expansion. The appeal taken by GSWA at the DEP seeks to reverse the state finding that the wetlands are not "sensitive" enough to warrant the 150' setback requested by GSWA, and that the setback of 50' was sufficient to protect the wetlands. This issue is at the state level, as wetlands designation is controlled by the state. The Township ordinance which relates to the stream corridor setback of 25' has been met by Applicant, so there is no Township issue on the matter.

Further to the report about last month's meeting, regarding Christ the King Church and its application for the proposed parish life center, speakers at that meeting included individuals within the congregation who are opposed to the

project, including members of a "Committee to Save Christ the King Church". Some of the objectors have noted that the existing buildings on the site could be refurbished and more effectively managed to serve the church and the community, without the extensive project proposed for which variances have been sought. Specific suggestions for improvements to the property have been advanced, and which, it is contended, will better fit in the rural atmosphere of the community as well as adequately serving the congregation needs.

BOARD OF EDUCATION **MINUTES OF 5/14 MEETING**

Work has been submitted to the Dept. of Education to apply for a partial recovery of funds expended for renovation work. Approximately 40% may be eligible. Our Long Range Facility Plan is currently being reviewed.

Personnel matters: Gina Vitalore, Phys Ed teacher, submitted her resignation and it was accepted by the Board. The following tenured teachers have been re-appointed for 2001-2002: Donna Auriemma, Arlene Block, Rosemary Bowden, Tish Cassa, Lisbeth DeCotiis, Susan Ingal, John Keating, Barbara Killeen, Dee Klikier, Kathy Koop, Margaret Lamb, Joanne MacLennan, Ruth McDowell, Tom Offerjost, Janet Owen, Diane Pivarnik, Debbie Poetsch, Eileen Scally, and Lyn Snyder. The following non-tenured teachers have been re-appointed: ^Patti Alexander, Lauren Buyyounousaki, Jennifer Conroy-Bray, Jaime DeMartino, Ellen Fortune, Donna Lewis, ^Colleen McNamee, Jennifer Moretti, Amy Norris, Jennifer Prosperi, ^Mary Ann Rick, ^Gary Suda; (^ These teachers will receive tenure this fall.)

The following Represented Secretaries/Clerks were re-appointed: Eithne Howard, Barbara Zailo-Morgan, Jean Wojtal.

The **MAY 21, 2001** meeting included a presentation by Arlene Davis, McGraw-Hill and Debbie Poetsch on the new Math Curriculum materials. These were approved and will be used starting in September. They included: McGraw-Hill, K-5 Math Program; Glencoe/McGraw Hill, Course 1 Math, Course 2 Math, Pre-Algebra; and Prentice-Hall, Pre-Algebra, Algebra.

The Board attended a delightful Second Grade Musical Play "Best Friends" in the auditorium. Approximately 50 parents came to listen and take pictures. All enjoyed soft drinks and cookies afterwards.

Salvatore Azzarello, School Principal (\$82,400) and Carolyn Swartz, Supervisor of Student Services (\$78,500) were re-appointed for the 2001-2002 school year. Dr. Palozzi was granted an additional merit stipend of \$5,000 under his present contract.

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.

Historic Preservation Commission, May 10, 2001

Old business:

Mitchell and Patricia Nini have withdrawn the application for their new home on Millbrook Road. The owners will be reviewing their plans.

The Christ the King application has been removed from the May Board of Adjustment meeting agenda and is tentatively set for discussion at the June meeting.

New business: Builder John Barba brought proposed plans to the Historic Preservation Commission meeting for Lots 10 and 10.01, Block 21, Glen Alpin Road. The plans call for a new 8400 sq. foot home on one of the two lots. The existing Victorian home and barns would remain in place on this site. Mr. Barba will review his plans and bring to the Board of Adjustment as necessary.

Wightman's Farms has submitted an application for a new parking lot on their site. The HTHPC found the proposed lot in keeping with the look and feel of the existing lot, and will send a letter to the Planning Board with their comments.

The application from Mr. & Mrs. Reddy on Sutton Drive was accepted without comment.

The Harding Township School is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. The HTHPC will be putting Historic Preservation posters in the school, and is drafting a historic proclamation.

STATEMENT OF THUMBNAIL EDITORIAL POLICY

The Thumbnail Editorial Policy is that objective, non-selective and unbiased reporting is the fundamental principle of Thumbnail accounts. Thumbnail reporters serve the interests of all Harding residents and recognize the essential contribution diversity of thought makes to the vitality of our community. Should you find that we have erred in some factual matter, or we have failed to attribute an idea to its source, or that the reporting implies an inappropriate value judgment, please let us know, and we will correct our oversight in our next edition. Please send your written corrections to The Harding Township Civic Association, PO Box 72, New Vernon, NJ 07976.

We also invite your participation in the Civic Association- we welcome new members to the executive committee, which covers and reports on civic affairs. None of us are "professional" reporters, just citizens doing a service for all of us who cannot attend meetings due to other commitments. Thumbnail was started over 50 years ago, in response to the lack of civic news coverage in the "regular" press, and the problem still exists. If you are interested in participating, please get in touch with the Association at the above address. We also thank you for your support of the Civic Association, in both your interest and comments, and with your financial contributions through dues. Don't forget, the Harding Twp Civic Assn. has a WEB SITE, on which Thumbnail and the Township Directory are posted, <http://www/hardingcivic.org>.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The deadline for the next issue of the thumbnail is August 30. 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 6/23, 7/14, 8/4, 8/18, 9/8, and 9/22, 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	
Environmental Commission (1 st Tuesday)	7:30 PM	7/10, 8/7, 9/11
Seniors (2 nd and 4 th Thursday)	11 AM	6/14,28, 7/26, 8/9,23
Planning Board (4 th Monday)	8 PM	6/25, 7/23, 8/27
Hist Preservation Comm (2 nd Thursday)	8 PM	7/12, 8/9, 9/13
Board of Health (2 nd Thursday)	8 PM	7/12, 8/9, 9/13
Board of Education (2 nd and 4 th Monday)	7:30 PM ..	6/11, 6/25, 8/20, 9/5
Board of Adjustment (3 rd Thursday)	7:30 PM ..	6/21,7/19, 8/16
Township Committee (1 st and 3rd Wed)	8 PM	6/20, 7/11, 8/8, 9/5
Shade Tree (2 nd Monday)	3 PM	7/9, 8/13, 9/10