

**October 2001**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

*The Civic Association mourns the death of its President, John Bocchi, on September 11. John encouraged progress into the digital age, and was the primary force to establish the Civic Ass'n web site last year. He was an indefatigable EM communicator, and many action notes of ideas, meetings and agendas were sent while multitasking from his "@cantor.com" address high in the WTC. He could also communicate in more traditional ways, donning a patriotic blazer and tie to chair the Memorial Day Parade last May. He will be sorely missed and long remembered by his friends and family.*

*A fund has been established to assist his wife Michele and his 4 sons, Matthew 9, Nicholas, 7, Michael, 3 and Paul, 3 months. Donations may be made to the Bocchi Boys Fund, Box 63, New Vernon NJ 07976.*

**Civic Association Call for New Members!**

Are you a resident who is looking for some new interests? Perhaps you are thinking about getting more involved in something? Maybe you still haven't gotten to do as many things in town as you thought you wanted to when you first moved here? Are you looking for a focus for your new urge to get connected with others? Have you considered participation in the Civic Association?- we welcome new members to the executive committee, which covers and reports on civic affairs. We meet monthly, and also make a commitment to cover a Township meeting, sometimes as infrequently as bimonthly, sometimes semi-monthly, take notes on the proceedings, then send in a write up to the Thumbnail. By covering and disseminating information on the workings of the Township government, you serve others who cannot attend meetings, but who are vitally interested. It is also a way to observe and understand the way our local government defines and shapes its goals and achievements. Don't just say to yourself, "that's the way 'they' do things here"- get involved- you'll be surprised how interesting the process of government can be. You can call the treasurer/president pro-tem, Jim Williams, 973 377 0351 or the Thumbnail editor Hesna Pfeiffer, 973 540 8911, or write The Harding Township Civic Association, PO Box 72, New Vernon, NJ 07976. You can also come to one of our meetings, usually the first Monday of the month, at 7:30 PM in Town Hall. Think about it- you'll be glad you did.

**NEW VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT Soup Contest**

The frost is on the pumpkin and it's great weather for soup. It's time once again for the Auxiliary-sponsored "Home-made Soup Contest"

Date: **Sunday, October 21**  
Time: 5:00 PM 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 call Pat O'Reilly (301-2151) or Connie Cherrillo (539-9383).

### **Annual Children's Halloween Parade**

Date: **Tuesday, October 30**  
Time: **7 PM**  
Place: Fire House, Village Road

All town residents are invited, there will be refreshments and fun for everyone. Prizes will be awarded!

### **BOARD OF HEALTH FLU VACCINE CLINICS SCHEDULED**

The Health Department will offer influenza vaccination to eligible residents. All Harding residents 65 years old and older, and those individuals at high risk from certain chronic diseases, are eligible. The flu shots will be offered at the Municipal Building on Thursday October 18, 2001 and Friday, October 26, 2001 starting at 8:00 AM. There is no charge for the flu shots but please bring your Medicare or insurance ID number. Homebound citizens can arrange for a home visit. For more information call the Health Department at 455-7296.

### **FREE RABIES VACCINE**

The Health Department will be offering a free rabies vaccination clinic for dogs and cats on **Saturday, November 3, 2001** at the New Vernon Volunteer Firehouse on Village Road in New Vernon. Cats will be vaccinated between 9:00AM and 10:00AM and dogs between 10:00AM and 11AM. All dogs must be on a leash and cats must be on a leash or in a carrier. All dogs whose rabies vaccination expires before the end of October 2002 must be revaccinated before a license can be issued in January, 2002. Questions should be directed to the Health Department at 455-7296.

### **Harding Township Historical Society, Antiques Show, November 9-11**

In the 18 years since its inception, the Annual Antiques Show & Sale at the Tunis-Ellicks House has become a favorite event in town. This year's show continues the tradition in great spirit and opens with a preview party on the evening of Friday, November 9 from 6 to 9 p.m. For a charge of \$10.00 per

person, visitors can enjoy a cocktail buffet and first look at the wares of 17 dealers who transform the house with the glow of candlelight and wonderful antiques. The show continues on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission on both days is \$3.50 or \$3.00 with newspaper or show card distributed at local merchants throughout the area. For information, call (973) 292-0161.

### **Eagle Scout Projects Needed**

Harding Township Boy Scout Troop 43 has 6 Scouts who need projects to manage to achieve their Eagle Scout rank. The project must be a service project helpful to any religious institution, school, or community organization. This project cannot be routine labor, nor can it be a fund-raiser. Although the Scout must provide the leadership for the project, it can involve the participation of both scouts and non-scouts, adults, and any other volunteers. Please call Susan Godfrey (425-6491) if you have any ideas.

Boy Scout Troop 43 meets twice per month and holds camping trips, hikes, and other activities through-out the year. The troop has had an excellent record of supporting its members to achieve Eagle Scout rank, with more than 15 boys becoming Eagle Scouts within the past 10 years. Any boy interested in joining Boy Scout Troop 43 should contact Scout Leader, Charles Beck at 425-0036.

**THE LIBRARY Evening at the Library: Wednesday, October 24 at 7:30 PM** in the Township Court Room will feature a slide program on the fabulous Imperial Easter Eggs of Tsarist Russia. Robyn Tromeur, former curator of Faberge for the Forbes Museum, NY, and co-author with Christopher Forbes of Faberge: The Forbes Collection, will speak. Come and be dazzled!

Early Closing, on Wednesday October 10, at noon. The library will honor its valuable volunteer librarians at a luncheon.

Storytime themes for October include Explorers, Fire Safety (meet at the New Vernon Fire House for the Oct 16 and 19 sessions. And Halloween!. Preschooler Time: Tuesdays at 1:30 PM, ages 3-5. Toddler Time, Fridays at 9:30 AM, ages 18 months up to 3 years.

The Morning and Afternoon Book Clubs: The Morning Book Club meets the first Monday of the month. The Afternoon Club will meet on October 15 to discuss Waiting by Ha Jin

The annual **Pumpkin Painting Party** on Sunday afternoon, **October 28 from 1 to 2 p.m.** Bring a pumpkin to decorate. Refreshments. No rain date.

The **Auxiliary to the NVVFD** is sponsoring a **Bake Sale at the Nov. 6** election and would be happy to accept baked goods as donations. Baked goods may be dropped off at the Municipal building as early as 7am. The proceeds from this sale benefits Operation Santa.

The **New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department** thanks all who helped make the Annual Auction on September 29 a success.

The attack on the WTC/ Pentagon has brought out many new volunteers. An opportunity for you to volunteer on a continuing basis is available by joining the New Vernon Volunteer First Aid Squad. If you would like to learn more about the NVVFAS, please call 973 538 7168 to leave a message. One of the members will call you and answer your questions.

**Harding Twp. Municipal Alliance for a Drug Safe Community** reminds you that Oct. 23rd - Oct. 31st is National Red Ribbon Week, symbolizing commitment to a drug free community. The Harding Twp. Municipal Alliance Committee is a community based organization of volunteers dedicated to providing a drug safe community.

## **TOWNSHIP NEWS**

### **TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

At the regular meeting on Sept 19, the Twp Comm voted to issue bonds totaling \$1,725,000 earmarked for the purchase and settlement, which is in negotiation, for the potential acquisition of property on Long Hill Road, Block 51, lot 34. Although no purchase has yet been consummated, the negotiation underway has as its goal the removal of the Township from any liability from the asbestos dump on the site many years ago. The Committee also authorized an emergency appropriation for the down payment of \$82,500 on the property.

A Professional Legal Services agreement with John Lore, Dunellen, NJ, as special counsel to the Board of Adjustment was awarded.

On Wednesday, October 31, 9 am, the Twp Comm will hear an appeal from the Board of Adjustment which granted the Morris Animal Inn on San Spring Rd a variance to increase its size.. Twenty-two residents filed the variance appeal to the Township Committee in July 2001, alleging violation of the Township Master Plan for the reason of increased traffic volume on Sand Spring Rd. The residents also allege that the expansion will lower property values and set a precedent for future commercial development of the neighborhood.

The improvement project to Bayne Park is continuing. The Twp Comm awarded a \$96,725 contract to reconstruct the concrete dam wall, expected to be finished in November. In 1999, the township had had a contractor dredge the pond at an estimated cost of \$55,000. The Township has also spent monies for the engineering studies, NJ EPA permit cost, stream bank improvements, repairs to the footbridges, and new plantings in the park over the past two years.

**PLANNING BOARD**, Sept 24, 2001.

The DeCarlo application #5-01, corner Tempe Wicke Rd and Rt 202, was postponed. The Board spent most of the meeting discussing the application of John Barba for subdivision of Block 21, lots 10, 10.01 and 10.02, Glen Alpin Rd, for multiple variance relief, primarily for building coverage and impervious site coverage relief. At issue is the desire of the Applicant to preserve the older house on the front of the lot, while maximizing development potential of the property. The Board debated the necessity for inspection of the property to ensure the historic structures and "look" of the property would be preserved in accordance for the relief sought by applicant should the variance be granted. Both Susan Deeks of the environmental commission and Richard Cassie of the Historic Preservation Commission spoke in favor of Applicant's proposal as worthy of the grant of the variances.

At evening's end, the Limmer application, Block 49, lots 6 and 7, Lees Hill Road, for side line and rear line variances to construct an enlarged garage, was granted, subject to Applicants submission of a revised plan in accordance with the approval.

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

On **Sept 12**, a special meeting regarding Darcy School, whose traffic expert testified about electronic and manual data during peak traffic hours on Sand Spring Rd. At issue is whether the Road could comfortably and safely handle the increased traffic flow. The traffic engineer for the school, Gary Dean, stated that there are currently 270 vehicles in both directions during peak morning hours of 7:45-8:45 AM and that the school would create an additional 130 vehicles. He also testified that despite this increase, Sand Spring Road has the capacity to handle the increase in traffic. Dean also said that the daily total of vehicle traffic currently is 2100 vehicles, and that the extra traffic generated by Darcy School would still be under the 3500 vehicles a day guideline for collector roads under the state standards. He also testified that the nature of the roadway would not be changes, as it was not proposed to widen the road or take down

any trees. He was questioned on many of his conclusions by members of the Board and the Board Attorney. No decision was taken, the matter was continued to October 18 at 7:30 PM.

**Darcy School** is seeking a conditional use variance to build a K-6 school on a 20 acre tract off Sand Spring Rd now occupied by Ravenswood Farm and Hilltop Stable, to serve a maximum of 192 students. In May 2000, the Township committee had changed the conditional zoning ordinance to bar school construction along Sand Spring Road. This change followed the recommendation by the Planning Board and the Township engineer citing increased traffic beyond capacity of Township roads should the school be built. In August, 2000, 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.

The Sept 20 regular meeting carried over a number of applicants,

Final decisions were rendered in #12-01 BI 17, lot 45. Arnie Harris, Long Hill Road; Proposal to replace barn/shed with new structure. Size is significantly reduced from original proposal. Same footprint as old structure. Height would be increased to max allowed. Variance requested to build on 5.2% of building area. Plan approved for resolution.

#18-01 Belle, 2 Pumhouse Lane, BI 47, lot 12.03. Variance requested to allow enlargement of present non-conforming residence to result in a building area of 7725ft<sup>2</sup>, notwithstanding the absence of a 150' front set back, granted

#21-01 Klaus Jepson / McChesney, Bailey's Mill Rd, BI 46. Lot 12.01 Request for variance on non-conforming structure for a 3 car garage. Granted.

New Applications: #24-01, Schliefer, Millbrook Rd, BI 17, lot 9, request for variance to increase total lot coverage from 10% allowable to 16.26%. Options to reduce coverage were discussed. Site inspection scheduled.

Many applications were carried over to the October 18 meeting, #4-01, Wentz, Miller Rd, #10-01, Woodmont Properties, Long Hill Rd; #11-01, Sarkin/O'Connor, Blue Mill Rd, for a non-conforming addition; #20-01, Ganning, Tall Pines Rd; #23-01, and Travers, 5 Douglas Rd. The application of Christ the King Church, #27-00, for additional building was also carried forward to October. Luciano, #16-00, Millbrook Rd was granted an extension of time.

### **HARDING TOWNSHIP HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

**August 9**, A new member, Roy Christiansen, also a member on the planning board. Discussion regarding Woodmont properties, Long Hill Road, BI

51, lot 34. 65 acres off Long Hill where there is a vacant lot that is for sale, it is believed that some of the property was declared 'Wildlife' by Howard Bayne and can't be built on. Was given tax relief for many years, the purchaser should pay back taxes. Could the property be transferred to the "Swamp" to sell rather than a gift, also could a possible purchaser could be the town for the "open space trust." Will be before the Board of Adjustment.

The Limmer property on Lees Hill Rd: Site inspection was favorable, sympathetic to two historic homes.

The Sarkin/O'Connor addition, Blue Mill Road, BI 9, received a letter of opposition from a neighbor regarding the large addition to a single family home. The neighbor feels they will lose their privacy and that the addition is too large. The HP does not believe the addition is too large. The developer is planning to go around the house not up, the HP feels it will add historic character to the home, they like the dormers and they do not believe it will destroy the streetscape. As far as the privacy issue, the Board of Adj. must address that.

Pearson's property: They will continue to stay on their same schedule. On site meeting planned for Monday night. The HP needs to review the plans for the easement that will definitely be required. Also they would like to see footprints of showing floor plan with pictures. Owner is concerned about how long this is going to take and time is of the essence. They have been following all that has been asked and new issues keep arising while more payments are being made on the property every day that goes by. Identical roof is being put on to the existing home, adding a porch. Will write a letter with pictures and floor plans so they can move ahead. Easement also needs to be finalized.

Jepson/McChesney property, Baileys Mill Rd, BI 46, lot 12.01 Pat Burke is the Architect and spoke. Home is under contract. The new owners want to bring back the old windows and roof from before it was renovated. There was some concern regarding the garage and the design. Property is not flat and that is the only place the garage can go. HP will write a letter of approval to the B of A.

Discussion regarding the sale of the properties where the town deli and PO are for sale as far as who will be coming in their and will they keep the quaint look of the center of town.

Ranger House, Spring Valley Rd, discussion regarding the approved addition that seems as if the owners did not follow the recommendations of the associations and committees in town.

Re the Waterman property, Spring Valley Rd, the Pump House will be preserved.

### **September 13, 2001**

Old business: The O'Connor application (Block 9, Lot 10) for an addition has been temporarily withdrawn for revision, following discussions with neighbors.

New business:

The Harding Township Historic Preservation brochure is being mailed to all township residents. All Harding's historic districts are listed, with examples of period architecture. There are seven locally designated districts, of which four are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The jurisdiction of the Historic Preservation Commission was established in 1994 to assist applicants having house located in these districts on ways of enhancing and perpetuating the historic character and significance of such districts. The Districts are: 1. Tempe Wick, a 4.5 mile linear rural road landscape district. 2. Logansville, located between Pleasant Plains Rd and the Great Swamp, near Lees Hill Rd and Bailey's Mill Rd. 3. New Vernon Village, along Lee's Hill Rd, Village Rd, Blue Mill Rd, Millbrook Rd, a mix of residential, public and commercial uses. 4. Hartley Farms, once a single family owned estate, now being developed into residential housing. 5. Silver Lake District, over 1000 acres extending from James St to Green Village, and along Blue Mill, Van Buren, Dickson Mill, Red Gate Roads; this area is defined by traditional landscaping devices, such as rail fences and hedgerows. 6. Pleasantville, centered along Pleasantville Rd, bordering the Great Swamp. 7. Green Village, partially also located in Chatham Twp, the village is laid out around the triangular green, and has at least 25 buildings identified as originating prior to 1915.

Chairman Cassie will meet with Janet Foster, a preservation consultant, to review a memo from the Township Committee regarding the future of the registered New Vernon historic district.

John Barba met with the HTHPC to review possible historic easement on his Glen Alpin property (Lots 10 and 10.01, Block 21). Mr. Barba presented plans for an addition to the existing historic home on this site. Historic easement and what this assignation entails was discussed at length. Some items reviewed were: should all outbuildings remain to maintain and enhance the rural character of the property; the big oak tree in front will be saved; matching slate, clapboard and windows were recommended by HTHPC.

Ann Billings met with the HTHPC to review renovations to her home on Meyersville Road (Block 12, Lot 14), a Greek revival home circa 1842. She brought several photos of this historic home for reference. HTHPC recommended use of matching materials on the home.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**, no report  
**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**, no report  
**SHADE TREE COMMITTEE**, no report

**EDITOR'S NOTE: The deadline for the next issue of the thumbnail is October 29.** You should EM (or fax, typewritten preferred) to the editor, Hesna Pfeiffer, **email hesnaj@aol.com, fax, 973 605 1127**. 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays, 9-12 AM; Nov 3 and 17, Dec 1 and 15. 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 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday)	6 PM	
Environmental Commission (1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday)	7:30 PM	11/6, 12/4, 1/8
Seniors (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday)	11 AM .....	10/11, 10/25
Planning Board (4 <sup>th</sup> Monday)	8 PM .....	10/22, 11/26, 12/17
Hist Preservation Comm (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday)	8 PM	11/8, 12/13
Board of Health (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday)	8 PM	11/8, 12/13
Board of Education (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday)	7:30 PM ..	10/22
Board of Adjustment (3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday)	7:30 PM ..	10/18, 11/15/ 12/13
Township Committee (1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed)	8 PM .....	10/17, 11/7, 11/28
Shade Tree (2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday)	3 PM	10/8, 11/12
Civic Association	7:30 PM	10/8, 11/5