

January 2002: Happy New Year!

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Harding Township Historical Society

"Dr. Franklin, I Presume" a talk by Dean Bennett of the American Historical Theatre takes place at the **annual meeting of the Harding Twp Historical Society on Thursday evening, January 24 at the New Vernon Firehouse. Refreshments will be served at 7:30 p.m.**, followed by a brief business meeting and Mr. Bennett's historical interpretation at 8 p.m. Clothed in period dress, complete with long flowing hair and round spectacles, Bennett will recreate the warmth and wit of one of America's best loved statesmen. Our very special evening is made possible in cooperation with the N.J. Council for the Humanities. Reservations (no charge to members, \$5.00 for non-members) can be made by calling (973) 292-3661.

BLOOD DRIVE

Please mark your calendars **on Saturday, January 26 for Harding Township's Annual Blood Drive.** It will be held at Christ the King Church on Lee's Hill Rd. from **8:30 AM till 2:00 PM.** The American Red Cross needs your blood to provide a safe and adequate supply of blood to local hospitals. We need your support to meet the challenge of saving lives. Please call Mary Van Kirk at (973) 425-0114 to schedule an appointment for January 26th and/or to volunteer your time to help with this worthy cause.

Save the Date! The Harding Township Civic Association ANNUAL MEETING will be held on **Monday March 4, 7:30 Pm, Kirby Hall.** The topic will be: "Harding Township's Preparedness for a Large Scale Emergency." Representatives of the Harding Township Police Dept., the New Vernon Volunteer Fire Dept and the Basking Ridge Fire Dept. will discuss various aspects of policy, training and organizational structure of a large scale event. The Township responsibility as first responders to Route 287 will be covered, and there will be a question and answer period after the presentations.

Snow Advisory from the Harding Township Committee

The Harding Township Department of Public Works (DPW) does an excellent job each winter season to maintain Township roads safe for travel. The DPW works long hours to plow and sand the roads during each snow and ice storm. Residents are reminded that they should avoid parking cars on Township roads during snow and ice storms. Any such parked cars impede the efficient clearing of roads and provide a serious hazard for the DPW as well as for other motorists. In addition, residents should advise those private contractors who may plow their driveways not

to dump snow from the driveways into the Township roads. The plowed snow should be pushed completely to the shoulders of the roads.

The Harding Twp Police Department, Chief Kevin J. Gaffney, offers the following tips on Weathering A Winter Storm: Store drinking water, a first aid kit, canned/no-cook food, a non-electric can opener, radio, flashlight and extra batteries where you can get them easily, especially in the dark. Keep cars and other vehicles fueled and in good repair, with a winter emergency kit in each. Winterize your house, barn, shed or any other structure that may provide shelter for your family, neighbors, animals, or equipment.

THE LIBRARY

The Harding Township Library has a new four-page website... thanks to Ann Campbell of the Harding Township Civic Association, who posted the Library's website as a hyperlink to the Civic Association's "General Info" page. Find out more about Library services, Storytime, and Book Clubs at www.hardingcivic.org ("General Info"). We are grateful to the HTCA for this beneficial service.

Children's Book Clubs are off to a strong start with a filled-to-capacity 3rd and 4th Grade Book Club that discussed Jon Scieszka's *Your Mother was a Neanderthal*. The 5th and 6th Grade Book Club enjoyed talking about Lemony Snicket's *The Bad Beginning* and composed letters to the author.

Although the 3rd and 4th Grade Book Club is filled, we still have spaces available in the 5th and 6th Grade Book Club. Registration is REQUIRED with the Harding Township Library at 267-8000. Upcoming titles are:

3rd & 4th graders

Feb 14, 2002: *Aquamarine* by Alice Hoffman.

Mar 14, 2002: *Nose Pickers from Outer Space* by Gordon Korman.

5th & 6th graders

Feb 28, 2002: *Skellig* by David Almond.

Mar 21, 2002: *Standing Up to Mr. O* by Claudia Mills.

If you have preschoolers or toddlers at home, don't forget to bring them to Harding Township Library's **Storytime**. Storyteller Jill Fitzpatrick and the Storytime Mice will treat your children to stories, songs, and themed crafts. It's an hour not to be missed! **Storytime** meets at the Green Village United Methodist Church on Spring Valley Road. **Preschoolers** gather on **Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m**, Toddlers on **Fridays at 9:30 a.m.**

January 15 & 18

Feelings

January 22 & 25

Snow Stories

January 29 & Feb 1

Tall Tales

Feb 5 & 8

Valentine's Day!

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|----------------|--------------------|
| Feb 12 & 15 | Chinese Folk Tales |
| Feb 19 & 22 | Cat Stories |
| Feb 26 & Mar 1 | Creepy Crawlies! |

The Township reminds residents that all dog licenses are subject to renewal during January. In accordance with state law, no license will be issued without written proof of rabies vaccination. Fee is \$9.70, \$3 additional for unspayed/unneutered. A late fee after March 1 is an additional \$5. Funds from the dog licensing program are used to finance the Township's annual rabies vaccination clinic, held in the fall each year. A dog census will be conducted in spring/summer 2002.

TOWNSHIP NEWS

Township Committee: Mayor Don Dinsmore was sworn in for his fourth three-year term and second time as mayor at the meeting of the Township Committee January 2. Other appointments and assignments for the coming year are: Farrell and Prendergast, Chair and vice-chair, Planning, Zoning and Legal Committee; Prendergast, and Farrell, Chair and vice-chair, Finance and Insurance Committee; Dinsmore and Murray, Chair and vice-chair, Public Safety Committee; Lanzerotti and Dinsmore, Chair and vice-chair, Public Works Committee; Murray and Farrell, Chair and vice-chair, Personnel and Recreation Committee; Dinsmore and Lanzerotti, Chair and vice-chair, Freeholder Liaison.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Deer/Motor Vehicle Accidents

Another deer/motor vehicle accident took place on December 5 in the early evening hours. A car driving eastbound on Blue Mill Road struck a deer, which had entered the road from the right side. After being struck, the deer became airborne and struck the windshield of a vehicle traveling on the westbound lane. The windshield of that car was broken and there was extensive damage to both vehicles. There were no injuries. This was the 45th deer/motor vehicle accident reported in 2001.

Note of Caution: The Police Department advises drivers to observe the following precautions upon encounters with deer on the roadway:

- When you see a deer entering the roadway, do not watch where the deer is going but rather where it is coming from. More likely than not there are others following and they might enter the roadway too.
- Try not to swerve upon encountering a deer. You might hit a fixed object such as a telephone pole or a tree and serious injuries might be the consequence.
- Travel slowly in the evening hours when vision is limited.
- When a car in front of you brakes or slows down, do the same. It is possible that the driver has encountered a deer about to enter the roadway.

Hunters available

The Police Department reports that it has registered 38 hunters with assigned properties in the township. Another 20 hunters have registered but have not yet found properties where they could hunt. In this context, the Wildlife Management Committee has approached several property owners to permit hunters to access their properties either for hunting or for moving the animals through to properties where they can be hunted. The effort has met with some success but more must be done, if we are to get control of the excess deer population in the township. The Committee will continue its efforts and hopes for collaboration from all residents.

The dates for the remainder of the hunting season are as follows:

Permit Muzzleloader: Jan. 1 - 31, 2002 & Feb. 1 - 16, 2002

Permit Shotgun: Jan. 5 - 31, 2002 & Feb. 1 - 16, 2002

Winter Bow: Jan. 1 - 31, 2002 & Feb. 1 - 16, 2002.

Residents interested in opening their properties to hunters, should call the Harding Township Police Department at 973 455 0500.

Things to do if involved in an accident with a deer

The Police Department has provided the following guidelines:

1. Make sure the accident scene is safe for you and others involved. If possible, leave vehicles at their final stopping place. If not possible due to an unsafe situation, vehicles can be moved off to the side of the road. Stay with your vehicle until the police arrive.
2. Call the police as soon as possible. Advise the police of your location, how many vehicles are involved, and if anyone is injured. This helps the police to know what is needed at the scene, such as an ambulance, fire apparatus or paramedics.
3. Once the police arrive, they will investigate the accident and complete a New Jersey Police Accident Report. The police will help make arrangements to have the vehicles involved towed away, if they are inoperable.
4. If the accident involves a deer, which is injured, the police will have to destroy the deer. The police will then notify an animal recovery service to remove the deer from the road.
5. Drivers, who are involved in an accident with a deer, can ask the investigating police officer for a permit to possess. This allows the driver to take the deer for his or her own consumption.

THE PLANNING BOARD, December 17

#5-01, DeCarlo, Tempe Wicke and Rt 202, Bl 34, lots 1 and 1.01, for adjustment of a lot line, was heard. No decision, carried to the January 28 meeting. Board members were unhappy to vote with outstanding issues unresolved, including Bd of Health approval and neighbor's approval. (Applicants had requested that the pool and garden area currently owned by lot 1.01 be attached to the main house lot

1. This adjustment produced set back deficiencies, for instance the pool, now within the 100' setback of lot 1.01, would be 10' off the lot line after this adjustment is made.)

The newly formed **New Vernon Historic District Committee**, members, Bartlett, Christensen, and Prendergast discussed the nature of the intent of this committee, which is looking at locations for the library and the Post Office. It was believed that the New Vernon Historic District presented difficulties due to lack of space for septic, well and parking. Discussion ensued regarding number of demolitions being considered in the area prompted the Board to request that the **Advisory Review Committee** look into the possibility of modifying setback requirements particularly in the R-3 and R-4 zones. The Twp planner, Ms. Kimball told the Board that this could be done by one of three ways: amending the Master Plan, amending the pertinent ordinances, or the creation of a redevelopment plan.

Board of Adjustment, December 20

Approved, Application #26-01, Terry and James Dwyer, 56 Lake Trail W, BI 42, Lot 1, Variances granted for altering and enlarging non-conforming residence; # 20-01, Frederick and Janice Ganning, Tall Pine Rd, BI 26, lot 6.02, approved for 3 variances on non-conforming improvements.

#27-01, David Weil, Pleasantville Rd, Block 15, lot 20, Request for variances to reconstruct historic barn on property. Front set back to 40' and increase lot coverage to 12.1%. Prior approval had expired due to non-responses from contractors. Approved again. Penny Hinckle of the Historic Commission requested to be consulted if any questions arise concerning the renovation of the historic barn.

#22-01, Jacobson, Millbrook Rd, BI 12, lot 12. Request of an addition for variances to build to 11.7% impervious coverage over the allowed 10%. Also variance need for side yard set back of 20' from 100' allowed. Plans are to add front porch and move house forward to save maple tree at rear of property. Application denied, due to size of building proposed, not in proportion to other Millbrook Rd houses considering the variances needed.

#27-00, Church of Christ the King, Blue Mill Rd, BI 16, lot 27, continuation of discussion with the engineer and architect as to the design of the proposed Parish Life Center and parking areas. Complete revision of original plans. Parish Life Center will be built where existing garage is located. Parking, sidewalks, lighting, retaining wall at rear, stream encroachment all within permitted parameters. Father Paddy testified of need for Center based on number of families in parish. The Objector group (Save the Church) presented expert traffic testimony that site plan proposed violates township ordinances with regard to parking and traffic circulation. Ordinance cited is Article 16, Section 150, 105-97. The testimony stated that there was insufficient width for driveway for 2-way traffic and insufficient width on sidewalk to

handle pedestrian traffic. Special Board of Adjustment meeting for this case on January 31 at 7:30 PM to continue this application.

School Board, December 10 and 17, 2001

Turner Construction Company Reports

Mike Noble of Turner Construction gave the Board a progress update on our building projects. Mr. Noble noted the following:

- The drainage, grading, and sodding of the athletic fields are complete, except for the perimeter of this area and the baseball and softball fields.
- Masonry work continues on the ramps and the permanent railings for these entrances are being fabricated.
- The septic system installation is complete. The system will be programmed and tested this week and the tie-in to the system will be made this weekend.
- The fire water tank is installed but details regarding the fittings need to be resolved before final connections can be made.
- Flooring continues to be installed in the hallways of both schools.
- Roadway paving is complete in the middle school lot and will continue along the roadway to the circle this weekend.
- A meeting to get a temporary certificate of occupancy for the gym is scheduled for December 12th.
- Work continues in the media center. Carpentry is finished, the HVAC system is complete and the ceiling is installed. Finished electrical (lights, etc.) is underway.

Sam Sammans from Turner Construction gave an update of the scheduled tasks to be accomplished over the holiday break and they include the following:

- Continuing the lighting and electrical work in the media center.
- Continuing the carpentry and painting in the media center.
- Making the final well and septic connections.
- Continuing the flooring in the middle school.
- Installing the parking lot lights.

Business Administrator's Report, Wholesale Lighting Services was awarded the bid to retrofit the lights in the elementary school to make them more energy efficient, and will begin their work over the holiday recess.

On December 17, The Middle School Chorus under the direction of Mrs. Diane Pivarnik performed a selection of holiday carols.

HARDING TWP HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION, December 13

NEW BUSINESS:

Greenbaum Interiors, Block 33.03 Lot 18, Mt. Kemble Avenue:

Jim & Susan Greenbaum and Steve Fioravanti of Greenbaum Interiors were present to review their renovation plans with the Commission. Proposed changes to the north and south facings were detailed. The Greenbaums' plan to keep the driveway and parking lot gravel, and will consider keeping the outbuilding (barn) but possibly shift its location. The Commission suggests leaving as much original vegetation and trees as possible.

Stan and Nicky Doggett, Block 26, Lot 12, Glen Alpin Road:

Mark Stefanelli, Hoffmann Architects, presented plans for renovations to this 1901 home. Changes are all within the building footprint, and include a small covered porch in rear of property and upgrades to the master bath. The HTHPC noted many different shapes/sizes in the new windows planned, and the homeowner agreed to work on the window issue. HTHPC also requests that all new building materials match the existing.

Stephen North, Block 49, Lot 2, Blue Mill Road:

Mr. North is requesting a variance to install fencing 20' from the front of his home, due to the slope of the property. The fence will be 3.5' tall, wood with a stone base. HTHPC reviewed these plans without comment.

Dr. & Mrs. Lombardi, Block 17, Lot 14, Millbrook Road:

Dr. & Mrs. Lombardi are requesting the demolition of an existing home and new construction on this lot. The Lombardi's lawyer and their construction supervisor presented information on the poor condition of the existing home (dry rot in beams, partial collapse in basement, etc.). New construction of a 4 bedroom Georgian colonial was reviewed by the HTHPC. The Commission gave the homeowners their suggestions regarding streetscape.

Richard and Candace Weeks, Block 42, Lot 9.02, Lee's Hill Road:

Mr. Weeks presented plans to renovate a storage area on the second floor. There is no change to the building envelope, and HTHPC reviewed these plans without comment.

Delcoro, Block 56, Lot 10, Meyersville Road:

Plans for a 3-car garage addition to this late 1700's home were reviewed. HTHPC would prefer the structure be angled away from the street. New Vernon zoning officer and construction official will be invited to the January meeting to discuss further.

Harding Township Municipal Alliance for a Drug Safe Community

New chair needed, outgoing Chair Sue Nobelman willing to train. See meeting schedule below.

Environmental Commission, January 8, 2002

In the annual organization meeting, the Environmental Commission welcomed a new member, Bonnie Gannon and elected Chris Allyn Vice- Chairman. Roger Greenway was appointed by the Mayor to Chair the commission again this year.

Recycling – the annual recycling notice has been sent out to residents. The Environmental Commission has concerns about some of the issues of recycling. First of all, there have been changes as to what can and cannot be recycled (No household chemical bottles i.e. Clorox, ammonia). Next, that residents note the pourable bottles symbols listed on the notice. Finally, it appears that very few batteries are being recycled. As batteries can be very toxic to the environment, the commission is urging residents to recycle them, including rechargeable batteries.

Applications:

Christ the King – At the November 2001 Board of Adjustment meeting, Chris Allyn gave comments on behalf of the Environmental Commission concerning various points of the application. The issues were the 100-year flood plane, stormwater runoff from the roof of the new structures, the existing sewer system and how the expansion would affect water runoff to the stream in front of the property. Karl Meister and Rusty Schommer met with the Commission to discuss these issues. The flood plane was discussed; the water runoff from all the new roofs and part of the existing roofs would be directed to a series of dry wells and a ‘grease trap’ would be installed, as well as vegetation, to help to improve the water quality. The commission requested more information about the ‘grease trap’ and was concerned with the maintenance of the dry wells. The commission stated that the revised application did address many of their concerns.

Other application discussed were: Press, Ehinger, North and Nini. The Commission received a letter about the latter application from a number of Millbrook Road residents who were concerned about the environmental, and other, impacts of the proposal.

The Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) is having a dinner honoring Harding Township resident Sally Dudley, as she is retiring as Executive Director of ANJEC.

Civic Association News

Thank you for your contributions. You help us achieve our goals by joining as a dues-paying member. The goals of the Association are to foster public interest in government, and to assist in achieving and maintaining good mutual understanding between citizens and public officials, to promote knowledge and appreciation of public problems through non-partisan publicity and to inform, arouse

and lead public opinion toward the solution of public problems.

We continue to improve the Harding Twp Civic Assn WEB SITE, check it out at <http://www/hardingcivic.org/>

The following are the Year 2002 assignments/reporters: Lon Murov, Environmental Commission; Lyndia Hartman, Township Committee; John Palazzetti and Lisa Holck, Bd. of Ed; Hesna Pfeiffer, Planning Bd.; Ellen England, Historic Preservation; Margo Brundage, Bd. of Adjustment; Christie Nightingale, Municipal Alliance; Ellie Weiner, Shade Tree. Lisa Holck is HTRA Liaison. Phil Rosenbach is in charge of the Memorial Day essay contest; Lynn Hughes is Parade Chair. Ruth and Fred Palace will be at-large reporters, covering for members as necessary. Debbie Williams is President, Jim Williams is Treasurer, Wendy Miller is Secretary, Hesna Pfeiffer is Editor, Directory of Services and Thumbnail; and Ann Campbell is Administrator, Website.

Have you sent in your update the Harding Township Directory?

If you have responsibility for a listed service or organization, and haven't done so yet, please take a moment to review and update your listing. Mail to postal address -[**PO Box 72, New Vernon, 07976**]. Or fax to Thumbnail editor at **973-605-1127**

The deadlines for the next 2 issues of the Thumbnail are January 30, 2002 and February 27, 2002. You should EM or fax articles (typewritten preferred, please) to the Editor, Hesna Pfeiffer, **973 605 1127**, email **hesnaj@aol.com**. Call the editor if necessary, 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 1/19, 2/2, 2/16, 3/2, 3/16 from 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

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| Municipal Court (1 st and 3 rd Tuesday) | 6 PM | 1/18, 2/5, 2/19, 3/5 |
| Environmental Commission (1 st Tuesday) | 7:30 PM | 2/5, 3/5 |
| Seniors (2 nd and 4 th Thursday) | 11 AM | 1/24, 2/14, 2/28 |
| Planning Board (4 th Monday) | 8 PM | 1/28, 2/25 |
| Hist Preservation Comm (2 nd Thursday) | 8 PM | 2/14, 3/14 |
| Board of Health (2 nd Thursday) | 8 PM | 2/14, 3/14 |
| Board of Education (2 nd and 4 th Monday) | 7:30 PM ... | 1/29, 2/11, 2/25 |
| Board of Adjustment (3 rd Thursday) | 7:30 PM ... | 1/17, 1/31 |
| Township Committee (1 st and 3 rd Wed) | 8 PM | 2/6, 2/20, 3/6, 3/20 |
| Shade Tree (2 nd Monday) | 3 PM | 1/14, 2/11 |
| Harding Municipal Alliance | 8:45AM | 2/12, 3/12 |
| Harding Twp Civic Association | 7:30 PM | 2/4, 3/4 (Annl Mtg) |