

March 2002

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Harding Township Civic Association presented proposed amendments to the Bylaws at its Annual Meeting, on March 4. If you missed the meeting, the text of the amendments to the bylaws can be found on the website, <http://www.hardingcivic.org>. Please attend the meeting on **April 1, 7:30 pm**, Kirby Hall, to vote on the proposed changes. conduct a vote to amend its bylaws. All members of the Harding Township Civic Association are permitted to vote; if you have paid dues to the civic association, you are a member.

Education Foundation Invites Community to New Science Lab Open House

The Harding Township Education Foundation will host a community open house for the Harding School's newly renovated Jim Stamey Memorial Science Laboratory. The Foundation invites all members of the community to tour the science classroom and laboratory and to meet the middle school's science teacher, Ms. Tracy Longo. Please join the board of the Education Foundation for the dedication ceremony on **Wednesday, April 17 from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.** in the Jim Stamey Memorial Science Laboratory at the Harding School. The Harding Township Educational Foundation thanks the many generous contributors to this \$125,000 science laboratory renovation project. The laboratory is currently in use and receiving rave reviews from students. Please contact Ellen Wraith, HTEF president, at 973 425-1004 with questions.

Harding Township Historical Society

A live performance of popular music from the colonial era by the Golden Age Retrievers takes place at the Tunis-Ellicks Open House on **Sunday, April 7 from 1 to 4 p.m.** You'll hear lullabies and love songs, dirges and dances, music to make war by and music to liven the heart – all wonderfully rendered by the professional duo of Nancy Shill on the fiddle and autoharp accompanied by Pete Peterson on the banjo and guitar. Visitors are invited to enjoy a selection of hearty recipes prepared on the open hearth and the new Mt. Kemble exhibit on the second floor. For additional information, please call (973) 292 – 0161.

THE LIBRARY

Evening at the Library returns on **Friday, March 22 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Court Room of the Municipal Building. Plan to join us for a fascinating lecture/slide presentation, *Ansel Adams: A Man, A Monument, A Memory*. Nancy J. Ori, well-known New Jersey photographer and former student and colleague of Ansel Adams, will unfold

the story of a man and his life of dedication, adventure, achievement, and concern for nature. "His was a world of mountains and woodlands and the vast, timeless reach of the western landscape. If a country as limitless as this can be said to have posed for its portrait, certainly the photographer behind the camera was Ansel Adams."

The Library is the grateful recipient of a beautiful new book for children, *Canyon*, donated by its author, Harding resident Eileen Cameron. She has signed this copy to "The Children of Harding Township." With photographer Michael Collier, Eileen vividly depicts the formation of a canyon over countless years. Look for this handsome gift among the new children's books.

Storytime Schedule: March 5 & 8, *Hats for Sale* and other hat stories; March 12 & 15, St. Patrick's Day; March 19 & 22, Welcome Spring!; and March 26 & 29: Easter, Bunnies, and Eggs. Preschoolers meet on Tuesdays at 1 p.m.; toddlers meet on Fridays at 9:30 a.m. Updated schedules are available at the Library.

When calling the Library to renew materials, please have your card at hand (as well as the authors and titles of the books). Remember that the old Harding card number no longer applies; we will need to know your 13-digit barcode number. Harding Library books and videos may be renewed if they are not on Reserve. *We cannot renew materials from other libraries.*

HTRA DAY CAMP NEWS

HTRA Day Camp is looking forward to another summer of fun. The camp will be held for four weeks, July 1-25. Previous years' campers were sent registration materials in mid-February, and brochures can be picked up in the Harding School offices. If you are not on the mailing list, and would like to receive a brochure, please call the Day Camp Office at 908 626 0070, and leave your name and address, or write to Ms. LuAnn Romano, PO Box 753, New Vernon NJ 07976.

A limited number of openings for counselors and counselors-in-training are available. Student interested in these positions, including those who have worked previously, should contact the Day Camp, above.

Morris Land Conservancy announces **Photography Contest & Show**

Morris Land Conservancy is sponsoring its 2nd annual amateur photography contest and show titled "Natural Treasures of Morris County". The show will run from April 5th through May 3rd, 2002 at the Morris County Library. The contest is open to the public and spotlights Morris County. Entries will focus on three categories: Flora and Fauna, Natural and Scenic Vistas, and Historic Landscapes. There are three classes of entrants: Youth (12 years and younger), Young Adult (13 – 18 years of age) and Adult (over 18 years of age).

Ribbons will be awarded for the best in each category in each class.

The deadline for pre-registration is **March 29th**. Entry fees are \$5 per photograph for Conservancy members, \$10 per photograph for non-members, and \$1 per photograph for Children. Please call the Morris Land Conservancy at (973) 541-1010 for pre-registration forms, complete rules and a schedule of events.

HARDING TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT

There is still time to register for Health Department clinics. The **female cancer detection** program, for female residents who are at least 18 years old, will be held on **Thursday, March 21 and Thursday, March 28** from 8:30 AM to 12:00 Noon at the Municipal Building. Registration will be from February 28 to March 15. The **adult health early-detection** program will be on **Thursday, April 18** from 8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. This will be the only adult health screening held this year, so even if you attended the screening in October 2001 you are eligible to attend. Registration will be open from March 14 to April 10. The **male cancer detection** program is scheduled for **Tuesday March 26** with registration open between February 28 and March 22.

The Health Department is sponsoring a **stroke clinic** presented by the Atlantic Neuroscience Institute and the Health Care Foundation of NJ on Saturday, May 18 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. Tests will include blood pressure and carotid artery pressure testing. Counselors will be available to discuss the various risk factors for strokes. All persons older than 18 years are eligible to attend. Registration is from April 24 to May 10. For registration for all clinics call the Health Department at (973) 455-7296.

The Health Department is urging all residents to conserve water. The entire area is suffering from **drought conditions**. There was a precipitation deficit of more than 15 inches in Harding during the last 13 months and the threat of reduced water supply is real. In order to conserve the water supply, residents are asked to :

1. repair leaky toilets, pipes and faucets. A slow steady drip can waste between 200 and 350 gallons a month.
2. turn off faucets when not in use. Do not let the water run when you are shaving or brushing your teeth.
3. defrost frozen foods in the refrigerator or in the microwave, not under running water.
4. install water conserving faucet aerators, showerheads and flow restrictors
5. place a weighted plastic bottle in the storage tank of toilets if you do not have a low flow model already installed.
6. run dishwashers and washing machines only when full and on the proper load size selection.
7. use a broom to clean walks and patios rather than hosing them down.

Finally, residents should consider putting off landscaping or planting new lawns. Impending water restrictions, which may soon be in place, may prohibit or severely limit the manual or automatic watering of plantings including grass and shrubbery. If you would like the latest drought information and more water saving tips, check out the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection web site at www.state.nj.us/dep/drought or call their drought hot line at 1-800-448-7379.

NEW VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRST AID SQUAD

In addition to providing service to our own community, did you know that the New Vernon First Aid Squad accommodated a request from the state to send an ambulance and crew to Liberty State Park triage area on September 11th? Those squad members who responded included Sue Sameth, Leslie Thebault, Tom Capito, Joan Hegge, Charlie Sharp, Hess Allocco, Colleen Mastrangelo, and Ann O'Connell. Members of the squad were also sent to Ground Zero the following week. Responding to the need that day were John Barba and Ellie Smith. Another squad member Bill Dudley was at Ground Zero with the Federal Disaster Medical Assistance Team from September 11-21. While those individuals were helping in New York and Liberty State Park, the rest of the squad members juggled schedules to cover our own town as well as backing up Morristown as needed.

We need you!!! The squad is looking for new members to fill the gaps created when people retire from the squad or move from the area. Free training is provided for newcomers to the field. If you have the time and a compassionate heart you can help your neighbors. Please give our membership chair Geoff Dobson a call at 973-326-1996 or email him at gmdobson@aol.com.

Safety tip from the Squad: Buckle up, driver and passengers, young and old. The correct use of seatbelts/shoulder harnesses does make a difference!!!

Save the Date: On Tuesday May 14, The New Vernon Garden Club will hold a **Standard Flower Show** from 11AM to 4 PM at Christ the King Church, in celebration of its 20th anniversary.

TOWNSHIP NEWS **TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

In January, a proposed ordinance 1-02 was introduced by a 4-1 vote. It is intended to place new limits on the maximum building areas in the R3 and R4 zones. For R4 the max bldg area would be 2100ft², with a 15% limit. Currently the limit is 20%. For R3, the max is 15% and 1,500 on lots less than 15,000ft²; for lots between 15,000 and 37,500 ft², the max would be 10% and 2,250 ft²; lots of 37,501 ft²- 87,120 ft² (up to 2 acres) would be limited to 6%, and 2,500 ft². Lots between 2-3 acres

would be 3% and 3000 ft². Above 3 acres, there would be compliance with the R1 zone. John Murray voted against introduction of the ordinance. Murray, a resident of Mt Kemble Lake, voiced concern with the formula. Other residents living in the Mt Kemble Lake section voiced objections to the limits as applied to the Mt Kemble Lake development. Officials are considering a separate, new zoning district for the Mt Lake section, currently in the R4 zone. Other residential areas included in R4 are parts of Millbrook Rd, and the more densely built areas along Village and Dickson's Mill Rd. The Township planner, Susan Kimball, testified that lowering the building area limits in the R4 zone would make 37 of 173 lots non-conforming, compared to 12 presently. The R3 zone includes several areas in New Vernon and Green Village, as well as part of Sand Spring Rd and the Jenks Rd neighborhood. Out of the 144 lots in this district, 53 would be non-conforming, compared to the current 15.

The ordinance is intended to limit the number of excessively large homes on unacceptably small lots. This is partly in response to the trend toward larger houses, but especially those on small lots. Some people attending the meeting were especially concerned about a recent application on Millbrook Rd to build a house that neighbors feel is out of character and scale with the surrounding historical area. At least 30 residents have written to Council about the proposal, which would have small setbacks and a large building footprint.

Ordinance 2-02 was passed at the Feb 20 meeting, relating to Road Names, generally requiring no near-duplication. Road names and changes require the approval of the Township Committee.

For **December** meetings of the Township committee, a supplemental report follows:

Sand Spring Road residents Gordon Gannon and Philip Rosenbach noted the withdrawal of the Darcy School application which had been before the Board of Adjustment. They acknowledged the work of the Township Committee and the Planning Board in what they viewed as a comprehensive amending of the conditional use regulations as they applied to schools.

Representatives of the Harding Township library executive board and its long-range planning committee discussed the future of the library. Board president Anita Cole indicated that the board was willing to attempt to raise funds for the construction; however, they would need help in securing a site. She suggested that a location on the Municipal Building site would be suitable. The Township Committee agreed that the library had outgrown its facility, and agreed to help the library board explore possible sites. Committee members Lanzerotti and Prendergast will represent the Township Committee in this effort.

Tax Assessor Pat Aceto discussed the summary of preliminary findings of the revaluation. Committeeman Murray developed a letter providing information on the

average increases throughout the community, addressing the expected affects on property taxes. The revaluation firm mailed the letter to the approximately 465 property owners who had appeared at the revaluation hearings.

The Township Committee discussed the concept of the proposed R-3, R-4 building area ordinance. David Dietz of the Planning Board's Advisory Review Committee had reviewed the proposed ordinance with the Mt. Kemble Lake Board. Responding to Committeeman Lanzerotti's suggestion, Committeeman Murray said he would ask Mr. Dietz to attend the meeting at which the ordinance will be introduced. Committeeman Lanzerotti also suggested that the Committee defer action on the proposed ordinance governing accessory structures until they completed action upon the R-3, R-4 Ordinance.

The Committee discussed the earlier request from representatives from the Bin Juh Center in Randolph to adopt a resolution condemning China's persecution of Falun Gong practitioners. It was agreed that it would not be appropriate for them as a local governing body to take a stance on such an issue. It was noted that individual members could certainly take whatever action they personally felt was appropriate.

PLANNING BOARD, February 25

#1-02, Healey, Bl 5, lot 4, Van Buren Rd (Crestley), for 4-lot subdivision. This had been approved in 1998, #2-97, but expired before final approval. This application is a substantial duplicate of that of 1997. Now additional variances are needed, as the proposal needs to meet any ordinances passed since 1998, including bulk and set back limitations. A site inspection was set, in view of the new board members since 1998. One of the proposed lots is 55 acres, including wetlands, and the applicant represents that he is going to deed it over to the NJ Conservation Foundation, and that it will not be built on. Two of the other lots have buildings, and a 4th lot of 3.5 acres would be the only building lot.

Hartley Farms, a development on Spring Valley Rd approved at least 10 years ago, returned seeking clarification of a resolution dated May 2001, which confirmed that the development was grandfathered from some of the intervening bulk zoning Township ordinances, passed during the life of the initial approval. The present question involves the need to reword conditions relating to garages and accessory structures. Applicant was asked to come back in April with proposed language.

The Planning Board passed back to the Township Committee, as consistent with the Master Plan, the proposed Shade Tree Ordinance for R3 and R4 zones. These zones contain lots smaller than 3 acres, and there was discussion whether the "tree protection zones" are relatively large in proportion to the lot size. Rybka voted against the measure, commenting that he had serious reservations about the wisdom

of such a restriction applying to the smaller lots.

There was discussion concerning whether Mt Kemble Lake Subdivision, which has an internal homeowners' association, should be made the subject of its own zone, but no decision was reached.

School Board News

An update on the **February 11th** B.O.E. meeting:

The meeting began in the new Auditorium / Gym in the Harding School, with an outstanding performance by the Fifth Grade students of "Let's hear it for America," which consisted of Broadway-like solo and group songs. It was orchestrated by the music teacher Diane Pivarnik, and assisted by the fifth grade teachers Kathy Galderi and Lisbeth DeCotiis.

The meeting then moved in the cafeteria and Dr. Pallozzi, the Superintendent, began by reporting on the Principal Search. He stated that he formed a Principal Search Committee, which consists of five school staff members and three community members (parents). The position is advertised and the closing date was February 19, 2002. The Principal Search Committee members consists of five staff members and three community parent members. Dr. Pallozzi has also asked for assistance from two community parents having experience as executive search consultants, who will be working with the committee developing a consensus on the desired qualities and skills of a Principal.

Some of the teachers spoke about how they are very disappointed regarding the negative comments that they are hearing and reading, and feel extremely offended by them. They spoke of their longevity at this school, and how they do not feel that the parents realize how dedicated and how hard they have been working to give the children an excellent education. Some of the parents then spoke and explained that they would truly appreciate the teacher's input as far as the Principal Search and the curriculum are concerned, and that they do value and respect the teachers. One parent explained that their concerns are regarding the curriculum and the longevity and quality of the Principal, not the quality of the teachers. Another parent commented that she felt they have come a long way in a very positive direction with the communications between the parents and the Administration, (with the many meetings that Dr. Pallozzi has put together with the parents in getting their feedback and being responsive to the many suggestions). She also stated that she felt the previous Board of Education meetings also have been constructive and heading in a positive direction. A teacher and a parent also remarked that they had spoken to many parents that wanted the teacher's to know that they support the teachers. Another parent remarked that they would like to see the teacher moral increased, and does not want to lose any of the good staff members that are

presently in the Harding School, and would like to see the teachers and parents get together and find solutions together.

One parent spoke for a group of parents that he met with regarding issues that they would like to address, such as bringing ability grouping back into the classroom, and once again encouraging the board to consider all of the positive reasons to consider Dee Klikier (a current second grade teacher who is certified to be a Principal), for the next Principal position amongst other suggestions to better the school. He also said that just because people have concerns does not mean that the parent's don't think this is a great school, they believe that everyone should work together constructively, since we all have the same goals. He stated that he would put a report together from the parent meeting, for the Superintendent.

Dr. Pallozzi mentioned that the new Commissioner of Education appointed by Governor McGreevey, has proposed that the ESPA results not be published for fourth grade in the future, so that the teacher's can grade the ESPA's themselves and see where the weaknesses and strengths are, so that they may learn from them. Currently the results are confidential. He is also questioning their validity and this newly proposed process would also save the State millions.

Dr. Pallozzi stated that the ESPA practice materials have arrived including practice books for Grade 2 in Reading and for grade 3 in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. Teachers will begin timed activities in the classroom to prepare children for the ESPA's. Parents will also be receiving tips and packets at home containing tasks for children to work on at home with their parents. Middle School teachers also received copies of the GEPA 2001 scoring guides which were just received from the Department of Education. Students will receive copies of the student preparation booklet which the staff will review with the students.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT, February and January

Application #27-00, **The Christ the King Church** received approval for a new parish life center. The board approved a variance allowing for a small addition to the church along with two setback variances from the rear property line for a new driveway and the new parish life center. Nearly 100 people crowded the hearing room of the municipal building for the public hearing.

Church representatives had submitted an application for expansion to the Board of Adjustment last spring. In October, the church presented the board with scaled back plans, trimming the proposed parish life center to 7,460 square-feet from 9,800 square-feet under the original plans.

The parish life center is to provide rooms for religious education and meetings, a parish library and resource center, and parish offices. It would be located behind the front line of the church on space where the church garage now stands.

The center would be set back 380 from Blue Mill Road, pushing it back another 80 feet from the original proposal.

The church also plans on improving its parish hall located in the basement underneath the church by putting in new lighting and air- conditioning and installing an elevator for people with physical handicaps. The church itself will also be upgraded with the structure repainted and its pews and floors refinished.

The Board rejected arguments by opponents that the parish life center would ruin the rural character of the area and would be out of scale with the other buildings on the property.

New Application: **Apruzzese, Spring Valley Rd, Block 2, lot 13.01** for variance relating to maximum building area and setbacks. Applicants wish to construct a two-story addition resulting in a building area of 3.57% (5299 ft²) of lot area, where 2.98% (4425 ft²) exists and a maximum of 3% (4452 ft²) is allowed. Applicants also requested a front yard setback of 108.5', where a minimum of 150' is required.

In January, the following applications were heard.

Hanley, #30-96, Young's Rd, need an additional 1-foot setback (approved) to provide for walkway. Applicants had run into unforeseen environmental issues, thought they had 750 ft² more than they did, so they are not building a 3- car garage.

Greenbaum Interiors, #25-01, route 202, Lot 18, Block 33.03. Request to demolish portion of existing building and add new addition that would change shape of building. Existing gravel drive to be improved. Variance needed because floor area ratio would be 12% rather than the 8% permitted. Total lot coverage would be 28.1%, 30% is allowed. Historic commission had requested that the barn structure be retained to use as a dumpster area, with 2 parking spaces less than required by Twp ordinances. Historical commission concerned about the design at the north elevation, they also want the property re-landscaped. Application to be revised and continued.

Doggett, Glen Alpine Rd, BI 26, lot 12. House predates zoning and setback laws. Building addition to be done outside of building envelope, but additional footage will be up, not out, for new master suite above family room, also new porch area for back entrance, application for 74' north side setback, approved.

Press, #31-01, Lees Hill Rd, BI 17, lot 49. House located in R2 zone, requested setback variances for pool, 65' and 35'. Approved, proved plans revised to calculate footprint area to show as % of total lot coverage.

North, Lees Hill Rd, BI 49, lot 2 Variance requested to erect fence on front of property to border street, within 25' setback, need 5' setback variance. The property is next door to the Presbyterian Church, and the Historic Commission requested that any fencing be same distance for both properties, should church erect fence in future. Continued.

Ehinger, Hartley farms Rd, Bl 46, lot 12.01 to permit a barn, swimming pool and spa at locations in front of residence, Approved.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION, February 5, 2002

Well Survey - An intern will be sought to assist Chris Allyn with collecting and entering data into the system.

Planning Board - Tree Ordinance is working well in the R1 zone. A draft ordinance will be presented at the Feb. 25th Planning Board meeting to include all zones in the ordinance.

Subcommittee on Fencing Issues- a volunteer has offered to take photos of fencing in the township. Connector roads will be the first to be surveyed.

Woodmont/Wildlife Preserve- Contract has been signed by the Township to purchase the property with contingencies

Grass Roots- Periodic publication to resume in the early spring.

A committee recently met with Jeff Hoffman, State Geologist for the DEP, to discuss the environmental issues in the Village district of New Vernon. Questions were raised as to whether the area will support additional building or expansion of the current buildings. Well and septic issues were discussed.

Historic Preservation Commission Meeting February 7, 2002

Old business

Block 13, Lot 9, Pleasantville Road, Pleasantville Historic District. The commission members continued their review and discussion with the owner, Mr. Hewit, regarding the impact of the proposed new home on the existing streetscape. A number of suggestions were offered to modify the length of the front of the building, all of which Mr. Hewit volunteered to discuss with his architect. Driveway construction and window styles in keeping with the period of the house and the neighborhood were also raised for consideration, and Mr. Hewit was invited to return for further discussions.

New business

Weichert Realtors is renovating the **Carl Mondello property on Village Road** (formerly, the New Vernon Post Office). Mr. Bill Patton presented plans for the sign to be placed out front, and the Commission members responded with several suggestions concerning color and materials to make the sign blend into the overall appearance of the Village District.

SHADE TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE At the February 11, 2002 meeting of the Shade Tree Commission the proposed amendment to the Tree Conservation Area Ordinance was discussed. The Committee unanimously supported the proposal to extend the tree conservation area to lots of less than three acres in the R-2, R-3 and

R-4 zones. On February 25th, the Planning Board approved the proposed amendment, and recommended that it be introduced at the Township Committee Meeting on March 6, 2002.

The Apruzzes requested permission to remove 20 trees from their property on Spring Valley Road. An inspector will examine the site and a decision will be made on this matter.

The Commission took note of the fact that the Pond in Bayne Park is filling slowly.

Greenbaum's on Route 202 has saved their evergreens, while redoing their parking lot.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Controlling Damage by Canada Geese-Protecting the Safety Of Drinking Water

Committee members again attended the annual Morris County Goose Damage Management Workshop on Feb. 15, 2002. The workshop, which was attended by some 100 people, dealt with methods to control the large number of Canada geese that currently reside in the county, fouling waterways, parks and other lands. A 2001 sanitary survey in the Whippany River watershed indicated that the unacceptably high level of fecal pollution in the river - which is part of the public water supplies of 1.2 million citizens - is coming mainly from Canada geese and pet waste.

The workshop included a presentation on measures to control Canada goose damage and an exchange of experiences on measures used in neighboring communities. Three measures appeared to be most useful for the environment of Harding Township:

1. DO NOT FEED THE GEESE

A strong suggestion was made to enact and enforce no feeding ordinances in the various communities. While there are no plans to request such an ordinance in Harding Township at this time, signs will be placed in key locations in the township, asking residents to refrain from feeding the geese.

2. INSTALL BARRIERS

Perimeter fencing or similar obstacles around ponds, lakes, playgrounds, picnic areas and other sensitive sites could help in excluding the geese. Harding Township is collaborating with an initiative of the Ten Towns Great Swamp Watershed Management Committee to install vegetative buffers along the Bayne Park pond. This will be in addition to the efforts already undertaken at the park by the New Vernon Garden Club.

3. ELIMINATE REPRODUCTION

The township obtained a necessary Federal permit to render eggs infertile in up to 50 nests or to remove and destroy these nests and any eggs contained therein. Rendering the eggs infertile and returning them to the nest is preferable as otherwise

the geese will build new nests and/or lay new eggs. Preferred methods are spraying the eggs all around with vegetable oil, which seals the pores in the egg surface that allow for oxygen flow, or to puncture them. The geese usually nest around the middle of April but might begin sooner this year due to the mild winter. Residents who detect nests should call the Township Administrator, Rich Wiedmann at 973 267 8000. He will give advice on the steps to be taken.

Deer Management

The hunting season closed on February 15, 2002. Official results are not yet available, but initial indications are that the harvest this season was not as large as in the 2000/2001 season. Final results will be available in April.

Additional Methods to Control Deer Damage: Repellents

There are two basic kinds of repellents, contact and area. Contact repellents are applied directly to plants and repel by taste. They are most effective when plants are dormant. Generally contact repellents must not be used on plant parts that are used for human consumption.

Deer are less apt to browse on plants that have been treated with a repellent. However, a lack of normal food may cause deer damage even though a repellent has been applied. Weather conditions affect the length of time a repellent remains effective. During seasons of high precipitation, the effectiveness of a repellent will be short lived because of erosion and dilution. Also, the degree of thoroughness used when applying repellents will determine the amount of protection they afford.

Repellents are made from specialized chemicals or natural materials and can be homemade or purchased commercially. Best results are being achieved by engaging a reputable company specializing in the field to do monthly spraying of ornamental bushes and in the summer supplementing this by weekly or more frequent spraying of flowers with a commercial repellent. Names of the companies can be obtained from the Yellow Pages under PEST CONTROL.

The Garden Club

The Garden Club is celebrating its 20th anniversary in March 2002. The purpose of the club is to promote learning in all areas of horticulture and to encourage practices that add to the beautification of our environment and its preservation for future generations. It holds monthly meetings from September through June at the First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon, for more information call 973 539 5807. (Look for more information about the many current continuing projects in the next issue of Thumbnail)

RECYCLING: Commingled recycling of plastics, aluminum and tin cans, glass bottles and jars, mixed paper, corrugated cardboard and household batteries at Municipal Garage every Wed, AM-Noon; and 1st and 3rd Saturdays 3/16, 4/6, 4/20, 5/4, 5/18

from 9-12 AM. Residents are requested NOT to leave recyclable materials if the center is closed.

The Thumbnail is copyrighted and published by the Harding Township Civic Association, and is mailed to every home in Harding Township. Current and past issues of Thumbnail, as well as the Directory are posted on our Website- check it out: <http://www.hardingcivic.org>

EDITOR'S NOTE: THE DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT TWO ISSUES OF THE THUMBNAIL ARE March 28 and April 29, respectively. If you have any information to be included, please fax (typewritten preferred, please) or EM it to Hesna Pfeiffer, **973 605 1127**, email **hesnaj@aol.com**. You can send items early! Call the editor if you have any transmission questions, 973 540 8911.

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

in italic

<i>Civic Assn vote on Bylaws (Kirby Hall)</i>	7:30 PM	<i>Monday April 1</i>
Municipal Court (1 st and 3 rd Tuesday)	6 PM	3/19, 4/2, 4/16
Environmental Commission (1 st Tuesday)	7:30 PM	4/2, 5/7
Seniors (2 nd and 4 th Thursday)	11 AM	3/22, 4/11, 4/25
Planning Board (4 th Monday)	8 PM	3/25, 4/22, 5/20
Hist Preservation Comm (1 st Thursday)	8 PM	4/4, 5/2, 6/6
Board of Health (2 nd Thursday)	8 PM	3/14, 4/11, 5/9
Board of Education (2 nd and 4 th Monday)	7:30 PM ...	3/12, 3/26
Board of Adjustment (3 rd Thursday)	7:30 PM ...	3/21, 4/18, 5/16
Township Committee (1 st and 3 rd Wed)	8 PM	3/20, 4/3, 4/17, 5/15
Shade Tree (2 nd Monday) 3 PM	3/11, 4/8, 5/13	