

October 2002

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

The Harding Land Trust Waterman Meadow Dedication.

The Harding Land Trust invites the community to celebrate the dedication of the Waterman Meadow on **Wednesday, October 23, at 3 p.m.** There will be an unveiling of a roadside marker, some historic reminiscing, fiddle music, short speeches and refreshments. Waterman Meadow is located on Loantaka Lane North, just off Spring Valley Road. Park along the lane.

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 20**
Time: 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Place: Fire House, Village Road
Cost: \$5.00 for soup, bread, coffee

Homemade 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: **Wednesday, 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 CLINIC DATES

The influenza immunization clinics will be held **Thursday October 24** and **Thursday October 31**, 2002 from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM at the Harding Township Municipal Building. The flu shots are available free of charge to Harding Residents who are at least 65 years old. Also, residents at high risk for flu due to chronic disease or those who are sole caregivers to the elderly or high-risk individuals may get a flu shot. High-risk residents must provide a note from their doctor, authorizing the vaccine, before the Health Department can administer the shot. If you have any questions, please call the Health Department at (973) 455-7296.

FREE RABIES CLINIC, SATURDAY, November 2, 2002

The Harding Township Department of Health, in cooperation with the NJ Department of Health, will again offer a free Rabies Vaccine Inoculation for cats and dogs at the New Vernon Volunteer Firehouse, at the corner of Village Road and Millbrook Road.

CATS: 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. DOGS: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Dogs whose rabies vaccination expires before October 31, 2003 must be vaccinated before a license can be issued for 2003.

Civic Association Call for New Members!

Please consider 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. You can call Lonn Murov, 973 326 9394 or 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.

Harding Township Historical Society, Antiques Show, November 8, 9 and 10

The 19th annual antiques show, one of New Vernon's favorite traditions, takes place on November 8, 9 and 10. There is a preview party from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday evening. A larger tent, double the size of last year's, will accommodate more dealers on opening night and throughout the weekend. HTHS members will receive preview party invitations at a charge of \$10 per person for Friends and \$25 for Patrons. Those without reservations will be charged \$15 at the door. Admission on Saturday and Sunday is \$3.50 (\$3.00 with show card.) Among the exhibitors are Doris Dinsmore, David Cowell, Meredith Limmer, Susan Connell, Jean Torrie, Kathy Ruck, Lois Cummings, Peter Cummings, Lucky Petrella, Ro and Charlie Gates, Lorraine Abell and Mary Dick, Lucinda Miller and Cathy Cowden, Brian Ruck, Metin Merzan, Griff and Jeanne Jones, Marie Auermuller and Linda Cowan with several others to be announced. They are joined by Lea Wait who, in addition to her collection of antique prints, will autograph copies of "Shadows at the Fair," her most recent novel, a mystery recently reviewed by the NY Times. This year's Country Store also has a new look. In addition to the popular selection of homemade soups and baked goods, there will be emphasis on handcrafted ornaments and decorative objects for the home, many of which are made by members of the HTHS and local artisans.

The New Vernon Volunteer Fire Dept. held the 50th annual Country Auction on Sept 28. After days of rain, the weather turned beautiful for this annual day of bargains galore. Over 850 items were auctioned over the block in 8 hours. Thousands of other items were sold in the 'White Elephant', clothing department, sporting goods, books and other sale sections of the grounds.

The Fire Dept. would like to thank all those who volunteered countless hours to make this event a success. Thanks as well to all those who donated and purchased items to support your Fire Department and First Aid Squad.

Please keep in mind that we are a totally volunteer organization, and we always welcome new members. 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.

The New Vernon Volunteer First Aid Squad is proud to be part of the New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department's website. The site is www.nvvfd.org and has information about the Fire Company, the First Aid Squad and the Auxiliary. Chris Cameron and Linda Vola spent many hours developing the site. EMT Kate Crowley will be the webmistress who will update the site for the First Aid Squad when new information is available. Since the site is new, just the basics are available.

However, keep checking back for event information, articles and pictures from the Department's activities.

Safety Tip From the Squad: In the event of an electrical storm:

- Get inside a house, large building or automobile.
- Don't stand near a single, tall tree or the tallest tree in a group.
- Get out of and away from water.

As the **drought continues**, the New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department (NVVFD) would like to stress the need for fire prevention. For the last few years, from July thru September, there has been a critical water shortage for fire protection. The majority of the water that the department has available for firefighting purposes is surface water. Most of the ponds and drafting points are very low and due to the lack of rainfall many are unusable. The township's main water source, the pond at Bayne Park, is very low.

While we have all seen the devastating wildfires out west, there is a similar danger here in Harding Township. There is a high likelihood of brush and wildfires as well as a danger from mulch. Mulch is a highly flammable (more so in a drought) material that many people use in landscaping. When one has a highly flammable material lying next to a structure (house, garage or barn) you have a dangerous mix.

It is also important to remember that Fire Trucks carry approximately 750 gallons of water. That can be gone in just a matter of minutes. A fully involved structure fire can require 20 to 40 thousand gallons of water.

We are fortunate in Harding Township to have an ordinance requiring any new developments &/or subdivisions to have a cistern installed for firefighting purposes. The NVVFD would like to suggest to any neighborhood groups (e.g. – shared driveway with 2-4 houses at the end) to get together and purchase a cistern and place it at a 'central' location. The water available in such a system could make the difference between a small problem and a disaster.

The Community Soup Kitchen will hold its sixth annual Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 20 at 1:00 p.m. This is a three-mile walk through the streets of Morristown. In 2001, 477 walkers raised \$51,000. This year's goal is 500 participants and \$55,000. There is no registration fee for the Hunger Walk; walkers may sponsor themselves, ask family and friends for a donation, or just show up to support the Soup Kitchen. For more information call 973/267-0709 or stop by their office at 36 South Street, Morristown. More than 150 men, women, and children eat lunch at the Community Soup Kitchen of Morristown every day. Nearly a third of them are homeless; others are between jobs or disabled; still others work full or part-time but don't earn enough to pay for housing, food and other necessities.

TOWNSHIP NEWS
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

At September 18, meeting, there was discussion of Ordinance #13-02, relating to amendments to the SIGNAGE requirements of the town. Changes proposed include, restrictions as to placement. Signs are not to be placed on trees, benches, utility poles, etc. Main change is to sign area: no sign is to exceed 2 ft² (288 sq inches), and the maximum height above ground is not to exceed 4 feet. No sign closer than 8' from roadway pavement. A permit from Township Construction Official is to be obtained prior to installation of any construction sign. Realtor signs are not impacted by this ordinance. The ordinance was passed and sent to the Planning Board for comment, which approved it and returned the ordinance to the Township Committee for hearing on October 16.

Ordinance 12-02 passed, which raised the fees for any land use and development applications within the Township. Ordinance 14-02, setting salaries for Township employees, also passed.

PLANNING BOARD, September 23, 2002

There was discussion regarding the recommendation of the Planning Board "Advisory Review Committee" as to Conservation Easement Policy. The ARC has recommended that the Township provide Permanent Staff to register monitor and enforce the various easements. There is also a recommendation that the Township be named beneficiary of any easements, and that an ordinance be adopted to ensure proper marking of the easements so that when properties are transferred the buyers be put on notice. There have been 80 lots with conservation easements since 1977 that name the Township as beneficiary. Obviously this recommendation has financial implications for the Township Committee, where it will be discussed in the future.

The South East Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority (SMCMUA) presented for information only its plans for improvements to its pumping station on Sand Spring Rd. This facility, about 11 acres, is near the Rt 287 overpass, across from Morris Animal Inn. Water is pumped from this site and stored in a central location in the County, then distributed to customers. Some Harding residents in the Jenks/ Sand Spring/ Rt 202 area receive water from SMCMUA. The Authority is exempt from Township ordinances due to its status as a public utility, but it appeared as a courtesy so the Planning Board could understand what is happening. The Authority will demolish the existing building, construct a new building of concrete block, and install a new piping and UV disinfectant system, in order to reduce chlorine usage. Fencing will be replaces along the side vehicle gate at entrance. They have applied to the State DEP for a transition area waiver, in order to be permitted to construct along the stream that runs under Sand Spring Rd north to the

Great Swamp. They will also have the necessary soil erosion and sediment control permit. The project will begin about October 17, so that the well, which will be out of service until the work is completed, will be back in service by Spring 2003. The SMCMA officials commented that this well has no water problems with volume, being in the bedrock.

The Planning Board also discussed the issue raised as to the Mt Kemble Lake area should be a unique zoning district, but concluded that the R-4 district status remains appropriate. The Board commented that they are currently reviewing the issue of "split zones", i.e., lots that are partially in one or more zones. On a related issue, there was resolution that the Township Committee adopts a new zoning map for Harding Township. The new map is a benefit from the recent Morris County "GIS" mapping project. This is a computerized mapping system, which was created from high definition aerial mapping. It will be much easier for residents and Town officials to determine exactly what district each lot is in, as the new map is color coded, rather than defined in words. There will be clarifications of some anomalies, such as on Orchard Dr, and Dogwood Dr when the map is discussed at the Township Committee, probably in January 2003. The Township according to legal requirements will notify residents impacted by any changes in the new map.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT, September 19, 2002

Resolutions. #18-02, Eichler and Mcfadyen, Blue Mill Rd, BI 9, lot 9 (formerly Goetz), Slight change to show increase in width of driveway to match width of garage.

Coverage still complies. Approved and memorialized. Request for variance to renovate existing house and add family room and kitchen to rear. Variance required because existing house is outside building envelope and street frontage is less than 300'. Proposed building would be in building envelope.

#19-01 Request for amended variance approval, Tawnya Kabnick, Beach trail, BI 38, lot 7. The original variance had granted a 15' setback for patio. Amendment requested for deck that covers patio and which is raised to height of kitchen floor. Variance approved.

#25-01, Greenbaum, Harding Realty, Request for amended Final Site Plan. BI 18, Lot 33.03. Modification of originally approved plan. Represents 10% reduction in building size, from 2-story to 1-story addition in back of building. Preserving historic section of bldg. Scaled back parking, saved trees, approved.

#17-02 Joseph Forgione, Long Hill Rd, BI 50, Lot 8.01 Revised plans to reflect 9% coverage, down from 14.7% Eliminated tennis courts, pool apron, decking. No lot coverage variance needed. Only variance to one for owner to live in existing house while new one is being built.

#21-02, Joseph and Chris O'Donnell, Van Buren Rd, BI 50, lot 8.01. House had been destroyed in fire. Reduction in lot coverage from 13.72% to 13.44%. Adding 455 ft²

to original building. Variance for impervious coverage not building area. Approved. #19-02 Nolte and St John, Pleasantville Rd, Bl 14, lot 3. Built in 1810, house sits 74' from road. Variance requested for small addition for master bedroom on 1st floor and new garage.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Ed has withdrawn its threat to send its high school students to a district other than Madison. A special closed meeting resulted in a joint statement from Angelo Santoro, VP, Harding Bd of Ed, and Dorothy Meany, President, Madison School Board, which stated that it was in both districts best interests as well as the students' interest, for the Boards to continue to work together. Harding pays tuition to Madison at \$12,604 per student; this year, there are 85 Harding students at Madison HS, for a total tuition bill to the Township of slightly more than \$1 million. The present contract expires in 2 years.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OCT 2, 2002

Well Survey – with approximately one third of the data compiled, some of the preliminary findings are:

- There are approximately 600-700 wells in Harding Township
- Wells are much deeper than they were in the past, much of this may be attributed to new, larger equipment.
- Well yield is similar regardless of the depth

Natural Resource Inventory – Chris Allyn has ascertained from meeting with various township officials and residents that water issues are a major concern in regards to Harding's natural resources. Issues such as wells, well placement and potable water were discussed. (In a related story, please note the New Vernon Fire Departments article on water sources for firefighting).

Southeast Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority's pump building on Sand Spring Road is scheduled to be demolished and replaced with a larger building that will house an ultra-violet radiation water purification system. As a utility, they are not subject to the same variances as residents and businesses. They presented the plans for the site as a courtesy to the town.

While no formal application has been submitted the Environmental Commission did discuss plans from the Presbyterian Church for an expansion to their parking lot. They have extensive landscaping features to make the proposal more aesthetically pleasing. They also have a series of drywells to catch runoff from the paved parking areas. It is anticipated that the Environmental Commission will be discussing (among others) the storm water/groundwater issues associated with this project.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Karl Meister, chair of the Wildlife Committee, presented the following annual report to the Township Committee October 2.

DEER MANAGEMENT :The results of the 2001/2002 deer harvest in Harding, according to NJ Fish and Wildlife, was 472 versus 630 in the prior season. The number includes 103 deer taken in the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The season was again concluded without any adverse incidents. The harvest was significantly lower everywhere in the state, and there are several explanations. One is the unusually mild winter, which kept the animals in hiding where they had an adequate food supply, thereby inhibiting hunting, The other is that the intensified hunting efforts are showing results and that the deer population is decreasing. Fish and Wildlife hopes that this is the case, but they are not prepared to say so until the have seen data for several years.

The deer harvest in Harding was again among the highest in Morris County, third to Washington Twp. with 838 and Chester Twp with 617. Thus, the harvest data would indicate that the density of deer per square mile in Harding Twp. is still relatively high. This would appear to be confirmed by the number of Deer/Motor Vehicle accidents, which were as follows:

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
<u>Deer/ Vehicle Accidents</u>	44	40	36	47
<u>Deer Pickups</u>	83	90	80	85

Fenced in properties increased from 174 in 2001 to 183 in August 2002. The comparable number in 2000 was 164.

Hunter Survey

The Committee conducted a survey of the hunters who have registered with the Harding Twp. Police Department. The objective was to obtain feedback about the effectiveness of the existing program in the township and to obtain information on how the program could be improved. The survey consisted of one page and was sent to the 62 hunters registered with the Police Department. 23 replies were received. A copy of the survey is attached.

A high degree of satisfaction was expressed with the manner the program is being coordinated by the Harding Twp. Police Department. Also, the hunters indicated that they would hunt in Harding during the hunting days in the Great Swamp (12/4 – 12/7/2002), if we were again given permission to hunt in Harding during that time. A corresponding request is being made to the NJ Fish and Game Council.

The most frequently made suggestions for improvement were to obtain access to additional properties for hunting or at least driving of the deer and to open a deer check station in or close to Harding. Additional properties have been identified in the meantime and the owners, including the Township, are being contacted for

permission to enter. A potential deer check station has been identified in Harding, and Fish and Wildlife is working with us to get the necessary paperwork done to activate it.

Public Meeting and Hunter Safety Session

A public meeting was held on August 22, 2002 in the Municipal Building in collaboration with the Twp. Health Department. It was intended to serve a dual purpose, to update the community on Deer Management, Canada Geese, West Nile Virus and Lyme Disease and to brief the hunters on hunting regulations for the 2002/2003 season. About 40 hunters attended the meeting. There were very few attendants of the general public. The briefing on hunting regulations was conducted by the Township Police Department, assisted by a game warden of Fish and Wildlife and a representative of the Morristown National Historical Park.

Plans for 2002/2003: The committee decided to concentrate on follow-through on the hunter survey. 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. Efforts will be made to establish a deer check station in or near Harding Township and a request will again be filed with Fish and Wildlife to authorize hunting in Harding Township during the Great Swamp hunt from 12/4 through 12/7/2002.

CANADA GEESE Measures to control the excessive number of Canada Geese are recommended to concentrate mainly on the following: 1. Not to feed the geese; 2. Installation of barriers to access water; 3. Impede reproduction.

A sign not to feed the geese was installed at Bayne Park pond. The plantings around the pond were installed on the initiative of the Garden Club. They will serve as barriers. A federal permit was obtained to render eggs infertile in up to 50 nests and a training session to do this was organized with the Great Swamp biologist. Unfortunately, not enough volunteers could be found to deal with the nests and the eggs. We are applying for a renewal of the egg treatment permit and have established a contact with the boy scouts to organize a program at the end of March and the beginning of April, when the geese are breeding.

THE GARDEN CLUB On **Sunday October 6**, the Garden Club offered a "Garden Education" demonstration on how to put a garden to bed for the winter. Mary Sambrook, well-known horticulturalist and member of the club, used the town's Sarah Ortman Park as an example of good fall gardening practice. This park is located next to the Tunis-Ellicks House. The event was in conjunction with the Harding Twp Historical Society monthly open house.

SHADE TREE COMMITTEE

No report this month.

HARDING TOWNSHIP HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

No report this month.

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 from 9-12 AM, Oct 19, Nov 28 & 16 and Dec 7 & 28. 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 October 30 and November 29 respectively. If you have any information to be included, please send to the editor, Hesna Pfeiffer. Most preferred format is by E-mail, **email hesnaj@aol.com**, as we don't have to re-type, but fax is also acceptable, to the editor's fax, 973 605 1127. You can send items early! Call the editor if you have any transmission questions, 973 540 8911. Don't forget the new addition to **Thumbnail, the "Letters to the Editor"**. This section is intended to provide a public forum for thoughtful citizens to reflect and respond to current civic issues.

DATES TO REMEMBER, meetings at 8PM, unless as noted.

Municipal Court (1 st and 3 rd Tuesday)	6 PM	
Environmental Commission (1 st Tuesday)	7:30 PM	11/5, 12/3
Seniors (2 nd and 4 th Thursday)	11 AM	
Planning Board (4 th Monday)	8 PM	11/25, 12/16
Hist Preservation Comm (1 st Thursday)	8 PM	11/7, 12/5
Board of Health (2 nd Thursday)	8 PM	10/10, 11/14
Board of Education (2 nd and 4 th Monday)	7:30 PM ...	
Board of Adjustment (3 rd Thursday)	7:30 PM ...	11/21, 12/19, 1/16
Township Committee (1 st and 3 rd Wed)	8 PM	10/16,11/6,11/20,
Shade Tree (2 nd Monday) 3 PM	10/14, 11/11	