

January 2003: Happy New Year!

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPORTANT PUBLIC MEETING, January 13, 2003 at 8:00 pm

A public hearing regarding **the proposed redevelopment area in the New Vernon village** to be held at a special **Planning Board meeting** on January 13, 2003 at 8:00 pm at the municipal building. A map and information about the proposed redevelopment was available in the December Thumbnail, or see the Civic Association web site, <http://www/hardingcivic.org/>. The information is also available in the office of the Town Clerk prior to the hearing.

Harding Township Historical Society

"New Jersey in the Civil War" a talk by William Chemerka takes place at the **annual meeting of the Harding Twp Historical Society on Thursday evening, January 16 at the New Vernon Firehouse.** Mr. Chemerka will assume the role of a soldier of the 33rd New Jersey Infantry. Dressed in uniform with full equipment, Chemerka draws upon his theatrical talents as well an extensive knowledge of history for a lively, informative presentation. He is vice president of the North Jersey Civil War Round Table and recently authored "Marching Through Georgia: The Fighting New Jersey Regiment," published in New Jersey Heritage Magazine. Refreshments will be served at **7:30 p.m.**, followed by a brief business meeting and Chemerka's talk at 8 p.m. Seating is strictly limited to 100 people and reservations can be made by calling (973) 984-1872. Admission is free for members and \$5.00 per person for non-members.

BLOOD DRIVE

Please mark your calendars **on Saturday, January 25 for Harding Township's Annual Blood Drive.** It will be held at the First Presbyterian 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 Sue Sameth at 973 267 0552 or Barbara Gill at 973 538 8944 to schedule an appointment for January 25th and/or to volunteer your time to help with this worthy cause.

THE LIBRARY

Full of information...Do take a moment to read the postings on our new bulletin board outside the Library door. For January, there is information about book clubs, both local and statewide. The numerous pink slips, placed there by readers, offer mini-reviews. If you feel strongly about a Library book you have recently enjoyed (or disliked!), fill out a slip with your comments. We hope this board will become a favorite haunt of book lovers looking for suggestions.

Did you know you can return books and videos to our library when we aren't open? Inside the Municipal Building and to the left of the Library door is a gray bin with a small "Book Return" placard that many patrons fail to notice. You are welcome to return

Harding and other Morris County library materials to this book drop, but please do NOT leave books sitting unsecured on the floor. Thank you.

Heading to the ski slopes? Driving to warmer climes? The Library has a large collection of books on tape to entertain you during the trip and keep you alert at the wheel. Come and see!

H (Hemingway) **A** (Atwood) **P** (Pound) **P** (Pepys) **Y** (Yeats) **N** (Norris) **E** (Emerson)
W (Whitman) **Y** (Young) **E** (Eliot) **A** (Austen) **R** (Richardson)
2003!

There's something for everyone at the Harding Township Library!

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. Driveway snow piles left on Township roads present serious traffic hazards.

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 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 2003.

TOWNSHIP NEWS

Township Committee and Planning Board: the Redevelopment Zone in New Vernon village. An account of the meeting on January 13 will be reported in the next Thumbnail. See note above and the Civic Association website from the December 2002 report for details, <http://www/hardingcivic.org/>.

School Board, December 9 and 16, 2002

School officials voted to appropriate nearly \$26,000 for emergency asbestos abatement and monitoring at the school building on Lee's Hill Rd at the Dec 16 meeting. Insulation, which had been wrapped around a pipe in a mechanical pit beneath a hall in the middle school, was discovered to have fallen off a pipe. The work was done during Christmas break.

2003-2004 Budget – Fixed Costs

Board Member Robert Mathews reported that each Board committee reviewed the fixed costs in their areas and he provided a summary. The fixed costs for personnel include salaries, increased by 4.5% as per the negotiated contract, and benefits. The Board was able to control the increases in benefits by increasing the prescription drug co-payment, capping the dental contribution, and establishing the PPO as the base plan. Tuition costs include special education placements as well as Madison High School students. Transportation costs include the seven elementary and two high school public routes, private school routes, special education routes and aid-in-lieu payments. Buildings and grounds fixed costs include maintenance agreements for various systems, such as fire alarm, HVAC controls, phone equipment, copier machines, elevator and lifts, etc. Mr. Mathews reported that fixed costs for the 2003-2004 school year are projected to be approximately \$5.8 million of an approximately \$7 million budget.

The Board appointed the following community members to the 2003-2004 Budget Advisory Committee: Sally Dudley, Epsy Farrell, Jim Mueller, and Candace Weeks.

Board of Adjustment, No report this month

Historic Preservation Commission, No report this month

Shade Tree Committee, No report this month

Environmental Commission, December meeting reported last month

Civic Association asks *please send your update the Harding Township Directory for 2003*. If you have responsibility for a listed service or organization, and haven't done so yet, please take a moment ASAP to review and update your listing.

The deadlines for the next 2 issues of the Thumbnail are January 30, 2003 and February 27, 2003. 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.* Current and past issues of Thumbnail, as well as the Directory are posted on our Website- check it out: <http://www.hardingcivic.org>.

RECYCLING: Commingled recycling of plastics, aluminum and tin cans, glass bottles and jars, mixed paper, corrugated cardboard and household batteries at Municipal Garage every Wednesday, 7AM-Noon, (7AM to 9AM self service); and 1st and 3rd Saturdays 1/18, 2/1, 2/15, 3/1, 3/15 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.

Municipal Court (1 st and 3 rd Tuesday)	6 PM	
Environmental Commission (1 st Tuesday)	7:30 PM	1/7
Seniors (2 nd and 4 th Thursday)	11 AM.....	
Planning Board (4 th Monday)	8 PM.....	1/13 , 1/27
Hist Preservation Comm (1stThursday)	8 PM	2/6, 3/6
Board of Health (2 nd Thursday)	8 PM.....	1/9, 2/13
Board of Education (2 nd and 4 th Monday)	7:30 PM....	
Board of Adjustment (3 rd Thursday)	7:30 PM....	1/16, 2/20
Township Committee (1 st and 3rd Wed)	8 PM.....	1/8, 1/15
Shade Tree (2 nd Monday) 3 PM		1/13, 2/10
Harding Twp Civic Association	7:30 PM	2/3, 3/3 (Annl Mtg)