

February 2003

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION invites you to attend its **Annual Meeting, on Monday March 3, 7:30 PM, in the Kirby Building courtroom.**

Subject: "WATER: Update on its use in Harding" Gary Annibel from the Board of Health will speak about septic systems and their maintenance; Chris Allyn of the Environmental Commission will speak to wells, and Ward Connon of the NVVFD will address the issue of fire fighting. Each speaker will speak briefly, leaving ample time for questions.

NEW VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Soup contest - It's time once again for the Auxiliary - sponsored "Home-made Soup Contest"

Date: **Sunday, March 9**
Time: 5:00 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, entry is free, please contact Pat O'Reilly 973 301-2151 or Connie Cherrillo 973 539-9383.

Harding Township Historical Society

The Morgan Rifle Corps holds its annual Encampment on the grounds of the Tunis-Ellicks House on **Sunday, March 2 between 1 and 4 p.m.** Experience the sights, sounds and smells of a Revolutionary War campsite. Dressed in colonial costume, the soldiers perform drills, fire their cannon, and offer camp life demonstrations out of doors. Indoors, other members of the Corps explain how sharpshooters and backwoodsmen in the Corps were dressed, how they were armed, and what equipment was necessary for wilderness survival. There will be no open hearth cooking, but warm cider and cookies will be served in the T-E kitchen.

The HTHS notes with sadness, the passing of Trustee Cris Rooke. New members of the Board include Chris Allyn, Susan Joseph, Marianne Morris, and Mary Van Kirk. Continuing in their terms are Joan Humphrey, Bruce Wild, Jane MacDougall, Nancy Sugahara, Pamela Sharples, Chris O'Donnell, Nancy Gockley, Epsy Farrell, Marion Filler, and Jon Miller.

Friends of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge will host an afternoon of

reminiscing about Great Swamp, especially about people and happenings before it was dedicated as a Refuge, on **Sunday March 16, 11:30-2:30**; light brunch will be provided. (Snow day is Sunday 3/23.) Some former residents will be there, to talk about the people, the homesteads, the sawmills and farms. If you'd like to share your experiences, maybe about fishing, trapping, collecting arrowheads, or just listen, please come to the Friends Office/Bookstore, 152 Pleasant Plains Rd, off White Bridge Road, ½ mile past Refuge Headquarters. Questions? Call Kathy Woodward, 973 635 1083 or Judy Schmidt, 908 647 2508, or see web site www.friendsofgreatswamp.org.

The Harding Township PTO is pleased to announce the 2003 Fashion Show and Gift Auction Luncheon "Travel InStyle". This year's PTO fundraiser will be held at the Morris County Golf Club on **April 5, 2003**. Monies previously raised enabled the PTO to fund the purchase and installation of a new playground for the school and its students. All funds raised this year will allow the PTO to continue to enrich and enhance the Harding Township School, its staff, and students. They are currently seeking sponsorships to help underwrite the expenses of the Fashion Show and Luncheon. Those residents with a corporate connection or business affiliation are asked to assist us with acquiring sponsorship donations. Please call Kim Maccaulay at (973) 656-9391.

THE LIBRARY

Evening at the Library returns on **Wednesday, March 26 at 7:30 p.m.** in the courtroom of the Municipal Building. The program, *Trash, Treasures, or Trends*, will delight all fans of the PBS "Antiques Roadshow" and is sure to win new followers. Harding resident Carolyn Remmey, an antique and fine art consultant, is frequently to be seen on air as a participating appraiser. You won't want to miss this educational and entertaining evening.

Storytime registration for the spring session will be held from **Monday, February 10 through Friday, February 14**. Parents may register their toddlers and preschoolers via e-mail [hardinglibrary@netscape.net], telephone (973-267-8000), or fax (973-267-6221). The Library will open a "wait list" when the 12 available slots are filled. **Note:** a change of venue is scheduled starting Thursday, March 6, when Storytime moves to the basement (Parish Hall) of the Church of Christ the King. The Library extends hearty thanks to the Green Village United Methodist Church for its years of support and to Christ the King for Storytime's new home.

Giving Tree books and videos have been processed and are already enjoying a wide circulation. We warmly thank those of you who responded so generously to the Library's "Wish List" with your donations over the holidays. If you would like to honor

your special Valentine in similar fashion, ask at the Library desk for titles. Information forms (author, title, price) are available for your convenience.

No Web2 Interlibrary Loan requests will be processed during the week of February 17. Please hold all requests until Monday, February 24, keeping in mind the 8 per week limit.

Donated books in good condition will be gratefully accepted *during Library hours*. Please do not leave donations in the hall or outside the building. If you are uncertain what to bring, we have a handout that explains all. With another book sale pending in June on Election Day, your saleable donations will be welcome. Thank you! Going on a trip? Need a paperback to read on the plane? Check the book cart in the hall for gently read bargains. Paperbacks @ 50¢ or 3/\$1; hard covers @ \$1.50 or 3/\$4. Access the Library website with ease at www.hardingcivic.org/library.

The **New Vernon Garden Club** presents Spring Floral Accents “**Decorating and Entertaining with Flowers**”, **Friday April 11 and Saturday April 12**, at the Tunis-Ellicks House and Gardens at Village Rd, New Vernon. See 15 inside and outside vignettes and demonstrations on how to use flowers to enhance your home, table, entertaining, and gardens. Vignettes include A Spring Tailgate Party, An Easter Dinner, An Elegant Tent Wedding, An Intimate Garden Dinner, A Country Kitchen, and many others. Other local garden clubs will participate. This event is open to the public both days from 10 AM to 4 PM. Lunch and tea will be served by Laurence Craig Distinctive Catering. For more information or to participate please call Patty Nini at 973 377 5377 or Joan D’Alessandro at 973 377 4396.

HARDING TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Health Department has scheduled health clinics for 2003.

The **female cancer detection** program, for female residents who are at least 18 years old, will be held on Thursday, March 20 and Thursday, March 27 from 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM at the Municipal Building. Registration will begin on March 3 at 9:00 AM.

The **adult health early-detection** program will be on Thursday, April 3 from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM. This will be the only adult health screening held this year. This program will include blood tests, blood pressure and eye exams. Registration will be open on March 13, 2003 at 9:00 AM and close on March 20 at 3:00 PM.

The date for the **male cancer detection** program is tentatively scheduled for late March or early April. The exact date and time is yet to be determined, depending upon the availability of the doctors. You can call the Health Department at (973) 455-7296 after March 3 to register and for more details.

Notices for all clinics will also appear in the *Observer-Tribune*, the *Daily Record* and on the bulletin boards on the first floor of the Municipal Building, on the public notice board on Village Road, in the Post Office, and at other sites around town. Space at all clinics is limited. You may register in person at the Health Department on the second floor of the Municipal Building on Blue Mill Road or by phone (973) 455-7296. Registration hours are 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Blood pressure screening is performed twice a month, on the second and fourth Thursday of the month, before the Harding Seniors' meeting at the Presbyterian Christian Education Building. The screening is open to all; you do not have to be a senior or a member of the group to have your blood pressure taken. Blood pressures are taken from 10:30 AM to 11:00 AM. Questions can be directed to the Health Department at (973) 455-7296.

News of the **Harding Township Municipal Alliance** Next meeting on **March 19, 2003 at 8:45am** in the Harding Township School Guidance Office. If you can't attend, please go to www.HardingAlliance.com for access to the agenda and minutes. Other meetings will be 4/16, 5/28, 6/11, 9/17, 10/15, 11/19, 12/17, all at 8.45 a.m. in the school Guidance Office.

Do You Wish Your Child Came With A Manual?

The Municipal Alliance invites all Harding Township residents to attend a FREE **"Positive Parenting Program", 6 classes to be held on consecutive Mondays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and April 7, 2003, 7:00 - 8:30 PM.** The subjects include: Teaching Your Values; Improve Your Child's Self-Esteem; Stop Yelling and Gain Cooperation; Changing Bad Behaviors For Good Ones; Teaching Children To Make Good Decisions; and Build Strong Relationships with your Child. Each class will cover one complete subject. Residents can register for one or all six classes. For more information, please go to <http://www.HardingAlliance.com> contact Maria Sherow at info@hardingalliance.com. The registration deadline is **February 28.**

Harding Township/Green Village Bridle Path Association

It's time to renew your 2003 Bridle Path Association Membership!

With spring just around the corner and excellent riding weather approaching, we need to continue our momentum as an Association and encourage all members to *renew their Memberships for 2003.* We will be issuing our Annual Membership Renewal Letter shortly, so please look for it in your mail. Please note, we'll be attaching a couple of additional Membership Forms to our renewal letter; therefore, enabling our Members to not only renew their Membership, but also to recruit new members!

Let's make 2003 the most successful year ever! So that we can maintain and

exceed the excellent support and accomplishments as achieved in 2002, such as: well attended quarterly meetings, successful Fund Raising and Charity Shows, excellent trail maintenance and more!!

Additionally, please mark your calendars for **March 27, 2003, at 7:30 p.m.** for our first quarterly 2003 meeting, to be held in the Municipal Building. Future meetings are June 26 and Sept 25. Tally Ho! Questions, call Dorothy M. McCann, Secretary, 973-443-0622

HTRA DAY CAMP NEWS

HTRA will again be offering a summer program for 3 and 4 year olds as well as elementary students entering K- 6. Camp will be held for four weeks, week 1 begins on June 30th. The last day of camp is July 25th. Field hockey camp will run for 2 weeks starting July 28th and a new session on August 4th. Field hockey camp will be for students entering grade 4, 5, 6, and 7. We are looking to offer a soccer camp. Please call the Day Camp Office if there is any interest. Camp brochures will be mailed out on or before February 21st, and given out at the Harding Township School. Dee Klikier will remain as executive director and Lu Ann and Pat Romano will be the on-site co-directors. Lu Ann will again coordinate camper registration. Students that worked previously as a CIT or counselor will receive an application. If you have not been previously employed at the camp, send a letter of interest to: HTRA Day Camp, 329 Potomac Drive, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920. Questions - please call 908-626-0070.

The HTRA (Harding Twp Recreation Association) announces its **Spring sign-ups for Baseball and Softball** are underway, Applications are available at the Harding School offices, as well as the Post Office; applications can be mailed to HTRA Baseball/Softball, Box HTRA, New Vernon NJ 07976. The season will run from mid-April to mid-June. Questions? Call Ralph Ercole, 973 455 7855.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Deer Check Station at New Vernon Coach & Motor Works The Wildlife Management Committee is pleased to announce that New Vernon Coach & Motor Works has been added to the Division of Fish and Wildlife deer Check Station Program. Hunters are obligated to present their deer at the nearest open station to the harvest location. They report the time and place of the harvest and are given a metal possession seal which must be affixed to the carcass. The establishment of a deer check station in or near Harding Township was one of the goals of the committee for the 2002/2003 hunting season. It represents a significant facilitation for our hunters in that they no longer have to drive long distances to check the deer they hunted. It should therefore increase the harvest.

New Vernon Coach & Motor Works is located at 960 Mt. Kemble Avenue (Rt. 202) at the intersection with Bailey's Mill Road. Their hours are 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Mondays through Friday's and 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturdays. We welcome Steve Schade and his company to our efforts to control the excessive deer population in Harding Township.

The Police Department would like to thank all who donated coats for the coat drive for Jersey Cares. The drive started November 1, and ended December 31. The donated coats have been distributed to those in need in the area.

BLOOD DRIVE Thanks to all the donors and volunteers (including the First Aid Squad) who participated in the Harding Blood Drive on January 25th at The New Vernon Presbyterian Church. We had 81 registered donors and 70 pints were donated. This was very much appreciated by the American Red Cross and by the recipients.

TOWNSHIP NEWS

Township Committee

At the January 2nd meeting of the Harding Township Committee, the oath of office was administered to John Murray as Chairman and to Lou Lanzerotti as Vice Chairman. The new Mayor, with the advice and consent of the Committee, then appointed the following:

<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>CHAIRMAN</u>	<u>VICE CHAIRMAN</u>
Planning, Zoning & Legal	E.C. Farrell	M.A. Prendergast
Finance & Insurance	J.R. Murray	L.J. Lanzerotti
Public Safety	D.C. Dinsmore	J.R. Murray
Public Works & Building	L.J. Lanzerotti	D.C. Dinsmore
Personnel & Recreation	J.R. Murray	E.C. Farrell
Freeholder Liaison	D.C. Dinsmore	M.A. Prendergast

REDEVELOPMENT NEWS: Planning Board and Township Committee

The public meeting at the Planning Board on January 13 was well attended by over 100 residents, who heard many citizens comment about the proposed redevelopment of the New Vernon village area.

Among concerns voiced by the public was whether redevelopment was necessary to the whole or part of the zone, which is the B-1 business zone. A question about how long the process would take was answered by Prendergast, who said a checkpoint provision would be in three years. Other questions were raised about the impact on taxes, and how much revitalization would cost the town. The positive aspects of redevelopment stressed by the Planning Board, was that the

process allows the Township a greater say in the future plans for the zone, rather than simply reacting to whatever action is proposed to the Board. For instance, parking regulation would be changed in the district to allow septic system improvements, rather than with ordinances. There could be rules for the redevelopment zone which would not serve as precedent to other lots in the Township. Individual incentives could be offered on a case-by-case basis.

At the meeting on January 27, by a 8-1 vote, the Planning Board decided that the 13-lot area in "downtown" New Vernon did meet the criteria of the state statute regarding redevelopment. The matter now passes to the Township Committee who can accept the whole zone or scale it back. In either event, the Township Committee has to formulate a redevelopment plan and have public meetings. Rybka, the sole negative vote, did so because he thought the zone was bigger and included individual lots which separately did not meet the criteria of the State act. In this connection, Morristown, currently in redevelopment in the Speedwell Ave area, recently was cautioned by a consultant that the focus of the effort in Morristown was too broad, and that not all the properties were unoccupied, underutilized or in poor shape. Morristown is accordingly considering reducing the area for redevelopment by 40%.

PLANNING BOARD, January 27

A new ordinance was proposed by the Advisory Review Committee of the Planning Board (Dietz introduced the ordinance) and passed by the Board to be sent to the Township Committee. The proposed ordinance **REQUIRES** that a conservation easement be granted by the property owner to the Township, when a major site plan or subdivision is sought and when the following areas are identified on the plan: Freshwater wetlands and transition areas; lands within 50' of the top of the channel bank of any state open water; stream encroachment areas; and unique environmentally -sensitive areas, such as mature forests, unique vegetation, extraordinary steep slopes and "scenic views" (sic). The ordinance also proposes that the borders of the conservation easements be marked with permanent boundary markers or posts. A proposed "Deed of Conservation Easement" was provided as a companion to the proposed ordinance, which would run between the Grantor and the Township. The latter would have the right of entry to inspect that the easement adequately protected the land in question, in perpetuity. The Grantor would retain the responsibility for maintenance, expenses and upkeep including taxes on the property included within the easement. This ordinance now passes to the Township Committee for discussion.

School Board News

The N.J. Dept. of Education has re-instituted the monitoring of local school districts, Harding School is scheduled to be monitored in the fall of 2003. The

monitoring elements include a written curricula (B.O.E. approved) for all pupils, a five year adopted curriculum evaluation schedule, and that all approved curricula be implemented. Dr. Pallozzi reported that he has been reviewing these with the Board and that our district is in compliance with these regulations.

The 2003- 2004 Budget: Dr. Pallozzi reviewed with the Board the budget requests which included Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, and Health and Physical Education. Requests consisted of textbooks, workbooks, resources, ESPA and GEPA materials, manipulatives, equipment, and consumable supplies.

Resolutions: Patrick Fitzsimmons was approved as the baseball coach for the 2002-2003 school year, spring season.

Public participation: One parent in the audience raised concern about the "Magic Tree House" series of books that the first graders are reading, the concern is regarding the grammar in those books. Also raised was a security concern being there are so many doors in the buildings. Another concern was regarding BUS 4 and the consistent late arrival of that bus. Also suggested was to paint a mural outside the front entrance to the elementary building. Two parents volunteered to investigate the possibility of creating a Theatrical Program (perhaps before/after school) for the students. The Board reached a consensus for the elimination of the five minute earlier start time of the school day, for the remainder of the year.

The Budget Advisory Committee to the Harding Township Board of Education reviewed preliminary budget figures at its meeting on Thursday, January 30. Members present included Sally Dudley, Epsey Farrell, Bob Mathews, Peter Muratore, Candace Weeks, Rich Wiedmann, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Dennis Pallozzi and School Business Administrator Mary Jane Canose.

Mrs. Canose presented an assessment of the Middle School roofs, which detailed the condition of each roof and whether repairs or replacement were needed. The Board plans to address the most serious section, which is the science wing, this summer. It is still considering the financial viability of rehabilitating other sections. This project will cost approximately \$100,000 and will be included in the capital outlay budget for 2003-2004. The roof replacement will be eligible for 40% funding from the state through the School Facilities and Financing Act.

The Committee discussed some of the larger fixed costs and how they were determined. The increase in tuition paid to the Madison Board of Education as stated in the contract is based on the December CPI (Consumer Product Index), which this year is 3.1. There will also be an increase in enrollment next year because the Class of '03 is larger than in past years, resulting in an 11% tuition increase, from \$1,132,883 to \$1,259,254.

Another significant area of the budget is employee benefits. The increases assessed for the 03-04 school year are 30% for medical, 35% for prescription, and

10% for dental. To help contain these ever-increasing costs, the Board and staff agreed in their new contract to raise the prescription co-payments and switch to a PPO plan, resulting in an overall increase of 26%, with rates that are still below those of the state benefits plan.

Dr. Pallozzi reported that there are no changes in the number of instructional staff for next year. The only change in the administrative and support staff over the past five years has been the reduction from full-time to part-time for a clerical aide and the addition of one custodian because of the added building space.

The Committee will meet again in February to review the completed budget and make recommendations. In March, they will meet jointly with the Vision Advisory Council for a final review before the budget is submitted to the County Department of Education and then presented to the public at the budget hearing in March..

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT, January 16

New Application #27-02, James and Mary Land, Lindsley Rd, BI 50 Lot R1. Requesting "C" variance in increase impervious coverage and variance for setback. Existing coverage is 5.5% to be increased by addition of pool and patio to 6/4%. Building envelope would extend into setback by 6' . Application was approved.

Pending Appln #23-02, First Presbyterian Church, Lees Hill Rd, BI 50 lot 1. Roy Christensen, member of the church for 24 years and 12 years on its governing body, spoke on behalf of the applicant. There is need for increased parking and extensions to Education Building, for safety and for adequate space for many community and church functions. Discussion continued to next meeting.

On Feb 20 , the following applications are scheduled to be heard.

Sabol, 2 Primrose Tr, BI 36, lot 2, seeking variances to rear yard setback, building area, and alteration of non-conforming structure. Asking to be permitted to add a new second floor and a small first floor addition.

Slutsky, Fox Hunt Rd, BI 51.01, lot 2, seeking approval to allow alterations to non-conforming structure 98.5' from property line, together with confirmation of existing non-conformities, specifically: existing frame garage is 49.5' from right of way when 100' now required; existing frame shed 87' from line when 100' required ;existing pool house is 74.3' from line and pool decking 73' from line, 100' setback required. If granted, the approvals will permit applicants to reconfigure and reconstruct a deck and related walkways and construct dormers on existing roof of property.

Cotton, Millbrook Rd, BI 17, lot 4, seeking variances to alter a non-conforming structure and exceeding the total building area for the R-4 portion of the lot. Applicants seek to construct a covered porch and stairs on the front of the house leading to the front door and additions to the side and back of the house.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION, FEB. 4, 2003

- NRI – The work on Harding’s Natural Resource Inventory (also known as the Environmental Resource Inventory) is continuing. This is an important part of the Master Plan. The NRI is focusing on water issues. Maps are the key to gathering data and the new GIS program on the township’s computer is being used to compile baseline data on factors such as geology, topography and habitat.
- Other NRI issues include the Buried Valley Aquifer. Harding is a sub-surface recharge area for this vital water source. The aquifer has a federal designation, so no federal money can go towards any projects that threaten the aquifer.
- The Environmental Commission will be applying for a grant to study New Vernon streams. The focus of the study will be the presence of nutrients and algae growth.
- The Planning Board representative to the Environmental Commission presented information on a Conservation Easement Ordinance that the Board passed and sent to the Township Committee. The ordinance will include a sample (model) easement document. While Conservation Easements are often in wetlands and buffers, the Planning Board would like to see more conservation of lands with exceptional value. Such lands would include steep slopes, certain vegetation certain trees, wildlife habitats, etc.
- The Morris Municipal Authority will be doing a thermometer exchange program. It will involve dropping off a mercury (body) temperature thermometer and receiving in exchange a thermometer that does not contain this potentially dangerous element.
- The Environmental Commission will be involved in an information-sharing program. The Environmental Commissions of both Bernards and Long Hill Townships will be sharing their meeting minutes with Harding and we will share ours with them.

Pending applications discussed:

The Presbyterian Church; Lyall – Sand Spring Road; Laird – Lindsley Road; Gellert – Village Road;

New applications discussed: Cotton – Milbrook Road; Sabol – Primrose Brook; Slutsky – Fox Hunt Road; and Swanson – Kitchell Road

HARDING TWP HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION No report this month
SHADE TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE No report this 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 February 27, 2003 and March 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 3/1, 3/15, 4/5, 4/26 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	3/4, 4/1
Seniors (2 nd and 4 th Thursday at Pres Church)	11 AM	
Planning Board (4 th Monday)	8 PM	2/24,3/24
Hist Preservation Comm (1stThursday)	8 PM	3/6, 4/3, 5/1
Board of Health (2 nd Thursday)	8 PM	3/13, 4/10, 5/1
Board of Education (2 nd and 4 th Monday)	7:30 PM ...	2/24, 3/10, 3/24
Board of Adjustment (3 rd Thursday)	7:30 PM ...	2/20, 3/20
Township Committee (1 st and 3rd Wed)	8 PM	2/19,3/5, 3/19,4/2
Shade Tree (2 nd Monday)	3 PM	3/10, 4/14, 5/12
Municipal Alliance (3 rd Wed at Harding Schl)	8:45 AM	3/19, 4/16, 5/28
Harding Twp Civic Association	7:30 PM	3/3 (Annl Mtg), 4/7