

**March 2004**

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Don't forget, the New Vernon Volunteer Fire Dept **soup contest** will be held **Sunday, March 28, 5-6 PM at the Fire House, Village Rd**, admission \$5. 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.

**FIRST ANNUAL COMPUTER RECYCLING DRIVE, Saturday, April 10, 2004, 9 AM-1PM.** Offered by **the Harding Twp Boy Scouts**, who thank Harding Township and the Department of Public Works for making it possible.

Location: Harding Department of Public Works, Millbrook Road, New Vernon

Items accepted for recycling:

**Computers, printers, fax machines:** Charge\*: 10c per lb. Scale to be used at DPW.

**Monitors.** Charge\*: \$10. each

**TVs** also accepted. Charge\*: \$10. 19" or smaller; \$15. larger than 19"

Open to Harding residents only. No business equipment can be accepted.

\* Charge covers recycling costs to Boy Scouts

**THE LIBRARY**

***Evening at the Library...Ladies' Night Out!*** Wednesday, **March 24 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Court Room of the Municipal Building. Our speaker, Jane Sarkin O'Connor, Features Editor at *Vanity Fair* magazine, will be sure to dazzle with her inside look at style, fashion, and celebrities. Refreshments will be served. Of course, gentlemen are also invited!

**Programs for Children...**for ages 5 and younger (registration not required): *St. Patrick's Day Storytime*, Tuesday, March 16 at 10:30 a.m. Come dressed in green. Stories, songs, and a craft will be offered. *Spring Storytime* on Tuesday, March 30 at 10:30 a.m. Celebrate the arrival of spring with stories, songs, and springtime movies.

***Talk It Up! Book Club*** for children in grades 3-5 on Thursday, March 25 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. to discuss *Stormbreaker*, the first book in the Alex Rider Adventure Series, by Anthony Horowitz. Join us for a book talk, computer and hands-on activities. Copies of the book are available at the Library to borrow.

All programs meet in the Kirby Municipal Building.

Going on vacation? Need something to read en route? Before take-off, be sure to visit the Library's well-stocked Book Sale cart, where bargains abound! Also popular for car travel is the Library's large collection of books-on-tape, which will help to make the miles pass pleasantly. For more information about Library activities, call (973) 267-8000, ext. 32.

**Public Hearing on the Harding Township School Budget** will be at the **March 29th** BOE meeting, 7:30 pm. Note: this is not the regular scheduled meeting of March 22 which has been canceled. See articles below on School Board for more information.

The **Harding Township School will present "The Music Man, Jr." on April 2 at 7:30 PM and April 3, 2004, at 2PM and 7:30 PM**, donation \$5, reserved seats in the gymnasium. Please call the school, 973 267 6398, Mrs. Galdieri, for tickets or more information.

**Annual School Election will be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2004** from 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at the Harding Township Municipal Building,

#### **HARDING TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

The **adult health early-detection** program will be held on **Thursday, April 22 from 8:30 AM to noon** at the Municipal Building. This program will include blood pressure; fasting blood chemistries - including cholesterol typing; and information on nutrition and other health programs. There is no cost for the program, and all Harding residents over the age of 18 are welcome. You can register in person at the Health Department offices on the second floor of the Municipal Building or by calling (973) 455-7296 ext. 25 between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM. Please be sure to have your doctor's name, address and phone number ready when making your appointment.

**Harding Land Trust** The annual meeting of the Harding Land Trust will take place on Wednesday, **April 28, at 8 p.m.** at Kirby Hall, New Vernon. Following a brief business meeting, there will be a special program on "Easing Into Conservation: Protecting Your Land". Three panelists, Michael Catania, President of Conservation Resources Inc., Frank Pinto, director of the Morris County Agriculture Development Board, and James Wyse, of Herold & Haines, will highlight actions that residents, the Land Trust and the Township can take to preserve the remaining open space in Harding Township.

Michael Catania has been extensively involved with conservation, environmental and land use policy issues in new Jersey for the last 30 years, including as deputy commissioner of the DEP and executive director of the Nature Conservancy. Frank Pinto has been responsible for administering the Morris County Farmland Preservation Program by coordinating the acquisition of development easements on farmland properties for the past ten years. He now also serves as administrator to the Morris County Preservation Trust Fund, which provides grants to municipalities and non-profit land trusts for the acquisition of open space and historic preservation projects. Jim Wyse, attorney for the Harding Land Trust, practices in the areas of conservation law, real estate, trusts and estates, and public finance and is a recognized expert in open space and farmland preservation. All residents are invited for a very informative evening. Bring your questions and your neighbors!

### **WOMEN'S SOFTBALL**

Need something to do this summer? Anyone interested in playing women's softball, please call Colleen Ercole at 973-455-0455, or email her at [@delmom06@aol.com](mailto:@delmom06@aol.com). We are looking for committed players who are available on Tuesday nights, for the months of June thru August, from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. All games will be played within a 10-mile radius. We will accommodate all summer vacation schedules. We will supply uniforms, instruction and rules for the league. **Deadline for sign-ups will be April 15th, 2004.** Come and enjoy. Open to all. Please pass the word to those who do not live in New Vernon.

### **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Controlling the Canada Goose population - Help needed from residents to locate goose nests! In its efforts to control the Canada Goose population in Harding Township, the committee is again organizing a major effort to treat the eggs of the geese, rendering them infertile. A federal permit has been obtained to treat the eggs in up to 25 nests and volunteers are being organized to implement this. ***The immediate challenge is to locate up to 25 nests of Canada Geese and to gain access to the properties where they are located.*** Residents are asked to help in this endeavor! The geese usually build their nests in the same locations year after year. Thus, their proximity is indicated by the presence of goslings. Residents who have sighted goslings in prior years may therefore wish to get in touch with the Committee at [khmeister3@aol.com](mailto:khmeister3@aol.com) or by phone: (973) 605 8274 with that information. Additional volunteers are also welcome!

The project to treat the eggs of the geese is part of an integrated approach to cope with the excessive Canada Goose population in the township. The program focuses on Bayne Park and includes an admonishment not to feed the geese and barriers to access water through the planting of shrubs and high grass around the pond and the creek flowing from the pond. The plantings have been done by the Garden Club in the context of a Ten Towns project to improve the water quality of the streams leading to the Great Swamp.

Geese begin nesting in March and most goose eggs hatch by May 30. The incubation period for goose eggs is 28 days. The goose starts incubating after it has laid a number of eggs. The eggs have to be treated early in the incubation period. Therefore, it is anticipated that the program to treat the eggs will start in the last week of March and extend through April.

### **Deer/Motor Vehicle Advice**

The Police Department advises drivers to observe the following precautions upon encounters with deer on the roadway: When you see a deer entering the roadway, do not watch where the deer is going but rather where it is coming from. More likely than not, there are others following who will also enter the roadway. Try not to swerve upon encountering a deer, you might hit a fixed object such as a telephone pole or a tree. Be

more vigilant in the evening hours when vision is limited, or when a car in front of you brakes or slows down; It is possible that the driver has spotted a deer about to enter the roadway.

**Correction:** The HTRA (Harding Twp Recreation Association) informs Thumbnail that the contact (via E-mail) for the Harding/Madison spring baseball is Frank Wolf, MPD83@aol.com. For T-ball please write Colleen Ercole, at delmom06@aol.com or Jeanie McCabe, at jdmccaabe@aol.com; Please note: when responding by email, the subject must say t-ball or baseball, or it will be deleted.

**Harding Land Trust Update: Current Projects on Two Land Trust Properties.**

HLT owns two properties on James Street, one at the corner of Wexford Lane and the other across the street, adjacent to Silver Brook. On the latter, a wetlands restoration project was started two years ago, under the supervision of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, which HLT continues to monitor. The open field next to Wexford Lane was seeded with native warm season grasses to encourage the return of threatened and endangered ground-nesting birds. Both areas are protected by Green Acres conservation restrictions. Green Acres specifically forbids the use of off road motorized vehicles (ORVs) on these properties. Residents are requested not to use ORVs on this land, in any season. If such activity is observed, please contact the Land Trust, pennyhinkle@mac.com (Penny Hinkle).

**TOWNSHIP NEWS**

**Township Committee, Feb 18**

Based on the recommendations of an ad hoc advisory group, the Township Committee voted unanimously at its Wednesday, Feb. 18, meeting to leave the public works building where it is, off Village Road, for the time being, rather than move it to make way for the new library. The vote followed a report by the public works relocation study group, which was chaired by Township Committeeman Lou Lanzerotti. The group, which included four residents and several officials, recommended against moving the public works operation at this time. In considering a new site for the public works facility, the group looked at all township-owned properties as well as several sites that the group thought it might be feasible to buy, Lanzerotti said. They also analyzed public works operations and considered the financial implications of a move. "The bottom line was that, in our best judgment, the current site is adequate and operationally appropriate for the present and foreseeable future," he said. He said the group could find no township-owned land that was suitable for a public works site, largely due to environmental issues, such as wetlands or proximity to a category 1 stream. Some sites were too small and others were already being used for another function, such as the town's memorial park or a Sand Spring Lane tract used for horseback riding. Lanzerotti said moving the public works operations to township property would cost \$1 million to 2 million, but purchasing a

new piece of land could easily drive up the relocation cost to as much as \$3 million, according to Mayor John Murray.

Last year the committee offered the use of a site between the Tunis-Ellicks House and the public works site off Village Road where the library would be part of the redeveloped village center area of New Vernon. But, at the urging of residents, the committee also agreed to consider a location adjacent to the municipal building on Blue Mill Road.

In other activity, the Township Committee voted not to follow up on a "lighting ordinance". Mary Prendergast had proposed such an ordinance, and the Planning Board had been working out possible language, including regulations governing illumination levels, use of floodlights, and various high intensity light sources. Murray stated there was no evidence of any problems other than those that could be worked out between neighbors, and Lanzerotti agreed that the concept was too invasive of private activity.

#### **PLANNING BOARD, February 23**

The Board set the site inspection date for the McShane/Lancor development subdivision, Dickson Mill and Cherry Lane, for March 20, 9 am, Block 8, lots 2, 5, 5.02 and 5.03. There are about 40 acres with one house presently on this land, and Applicants propose 5 lots, one of which would retain the house; the lots would be 4, 6, 6, 7, and 8 acres each; the road way (currently lot 5.03) and other improvements would take up the rest of the land. There was another subdivision of the property in 1993 into the existing 4 lots, and the Township also vacated part of an old right of way from the top of Cherry Lane to Blue Mill Rd. Cherry Lane is a 25' wide gravel road presently. The Applicants raised the issue of whether any "new road" should be private, in which case the Township would vacate jurisdiction, or remain a township road, even though in very primitive condition. The main discussion of the subdivision will be heard at the next meeting on March 22, 7:30 PM.

The Board also discussed the "Historic Properties" issue, whether to make any recommendations for zoning changes for "historic properties", and whether accessory residences on 6 or more acres would be exempt from the requirement that only family members or domestic employees reside in the accessory structure. The Board debated the issue of whether in the case of partial destruction the accessory must be rebuilt exactly, or whether it could be expanded, whether it could still be rented out, etc. Jim Rybka raised the issue that the debate exemplified the difficulty of drafting an "exemption" from the zoning ordinances, rather than making it easier to proceed with changes to an historic property. The Board eventually decided against any specific zoning recommendation, and will bring the matter back for more discussion at the 3/22 meeting.

#### **School Board News,**

#### **Board of Education Meeting, February 9, 2004**

For the detailed records of the school board meetings, Superintendent and Business Administrator reports on district, facility and resolution updates, please refer to the school's official website: [www.hardingtwp.k12.nj.us](http://www.hardingtwp.k12.nj.us).

The Board reviewed the proposed 2004-2005 school calendar and will be voted on for adoption at the Feb. 23rd meeting. The calendar follows the same schedule as in recent years and matches with the Madison school calendar.

The following was discussed concerning the 2004-2005 School Budget: The Finance Committee is currently reviewing all expenditures in order to be at or below the 3% cap allowed by the Department of Education; the district expects the State Department to freeze or reduce state aid to Harding Twp. for next year making it the 3rd consecutive year that this will happen – aid figures expected to be announced by the Dept. of Ed. on Feb. 25th; the preliminary budget will be submitted to the County Superintendent of Schools on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Public Hearing on the budget will be at the March 29th BOE meeting

Chairperson for Curriculum and Instruction, Evelyn Douglas, reported that the committee had previewed the new Social Studies textbook being recommended for adoption for Grade 8. They also reviewed suggested revisions to the Social Studies curriculum such as: additional emphasis on Holocaust and African-American History; the addition of the study of economics to be aligned with the new Core Curriculum Content Standards; and expansion of geography themes and concepts. Suggested deletions were: Grade 4 "Northeastern Environment" section and Grade 7 "Revolutions Change the World" section.

At the last Madison BOE meeting, Angelo Santoro (Harding BOE President) reported that Dr. Travlos, Madison Superintendent of Schools would be retiring. The Madison High School Education Foundation has completed its first project – converting a science lab into a studio theater. They are now looking into funding a language lab for world language instruction.

**Board of Education, 2/23/04.**

Finance: The Board approved the 2004-2005 school budget of \$6,861,007 for submission to the county superintendent. Note that the BOE meeting of March 22, 2004 has been rescheduled for March 29, 2004 to provide for the Public Hearing on the 2004-2005 School Budget.

Tuition rates for the 2004-2005 school year were approved as follows: Grades K-5 \$6,500; Grades 6-8 \$6,800. The Board also approved the following courtesy bus fees for the 2004-2005 school year: One child \$260; Two children \$360; Three children \$460; Four children \$500.

***The following article was received from Mary Jane Canose, School Board Secretary regarding the School Budget Update.***

At its February 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, the Harding Township Board of Education approved the tentative 2004-2005 school budget for submission to the County Superintendent.

Members of the Budget Advisory Committee, a subcommittee of the district's Vision Council, whose members include Epsey Farrell, Lyn Evers, Robert Mathews, Regina Egea, Candace Weeks, Kim Caldwell, Ellen Wraith, Dan Gallagher, Dennis Pallozzi and Mary Jane Canose, reviewed the budget earlier in the day. On Wednesday, February 25, Mrs. Canose and the Budget Advisory Committee members presented the proposed budget to the full membership of the Vision Council.

The new budget is the result of the District's on-going practice of "zero-based" budgeting, i.e. each individual expense requires justification and is not included merely because it has been approved in the past. The district was able to develop a budget within the stated mandated 3% cap. At the same time, the proposed budget provides for services and programs that enable the district to maintain its standards of excellence in education for all of our children. The overall increase in the 2004-05 proposed operating budget is \$188,101 or 2.7%, compared to last year's increase of 4.8%. The actual tax impact has not yet been calculated because of state delays in the calculation of aid allocation.

Factors contributing positively to this reduction are a new contract with Madison High School, which is based on a flat rate rather than constantly changing enrollment numbers, and the elimination of 1.5 teaching positions. Notably, these staff realignments are the result of enrollment and scheduling adjustments and will not impact the programs offered to students.

A public hearing on the budget is scheduled for **Monday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Middle School Band Room. A copy of the budget will be published in the *Observer Tribune* as soon as approval is received from the County Superintendent's office. Additional information on the budget will also be posted on the district's website at [www.hardingtwp.k12.nj.us](http://www.hardingtwp.k12.nj.us) and a budget issue of *Connections* will be mailed to all township residents. Questions on the budget can be e-mailed to [budget@hardingtwp.k12.nj.us](mailto:budget@hardingtwp.k12.nj.us) or directed to School Business Administrator Mary Jane Canose at 973-267-6398 x 114, or Superintendent of Schools Dr. Dennis Pallozzi at x 101.

Important Dates: **March 22:** The last day to register to vote in the School Board Election;

**April 13:** Last day for mail-in absentee ballot applications to be received by the county clerk. Applications can be picked up in the Harding Township School Business Office or downloaded from [www.absenteeballot.net](http://www.absenteeballot.net) or [www.morriscountyclerk.com](http://www.morriscountyclerk.com);

**April 20:** School Board Election in the Municipal Building from 2 to 9 p.m.

#### **BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

#### **HARDING TWP HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

#### **SHADE TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

No separate reports this month.

The deadlines for the next 2 issues of the Thumbnail are March 30 and April 29. You should EM or fax articles (typewritten preferred, please) to the Editor, Hesna Pfeiffer, 973 540 8911, email hesnaj@aol.com. Call the editor if necessary, 973 538 0020. *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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays 3/6, 3/20, 4/3, 4/17 from 9-12 AM. Residents are requested NOT to leave recyclable materials if the center is closed.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**, please take note of the times.

Municipal Court (1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday)	6 PM	
Environmental Commission (1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday)	7:30 PM	4/6
Seniors (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs at Pres Church)	11 AM.....	3/11
Planning Board (4 <sup>th</sup> Monday)	7:30 PM....	3/22, 4/26, 5/24
Hist Preservation Comm (1stThursday)	7:30 PM	3/4, 4/1, 5/6
Board of Health (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday)	8 PM	
Board of Education (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday)	7:30 PM....	3/8, 3/29
Board of Adjustment (3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday)	7:30 PM....	3/18, 4/15
Township Committee (1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed)	8 PM.....	
Shade Tree (2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday)	3 PM	
Municipal Alliance (3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed at Hardng Schl)	8:45 AM	
Harding Twp Civic Association	7:30 PM	3/8,4/5