

**October 2004**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

**HARDING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

HTHS opens its fall season with an encampment at the T-E House by the Morgan Rifle Corps on **Sunday, October 17 from 1 to 4 p.m.** This time, we hope for a lovely autumn afternoon instead of the wintry weather experienced by the Corps during their last few appearances in New Vernon. Whatever the weather, Captain Morgan's band of sharpshooters accompanied by Lamb's Artillery never fail to excite an audience. Colonial uniforms, long rifles and booming cannon are just part of the show. Indoors, visitors are encouraged to get an even closer look at history. Corps members display clothing and antique weapons of the period, allowing visitors to actually hold and inspect several of the articles and describe the use of each one in fascinating detail. Admission is free.

**HTHS 21st Annual Antiques Show & Sale takes place on November 12, 13, and 14** beginning with a preview party at the T-E House on Friday evening, November 12 from 6 to 9 p.m. It is arguably the best bargain in town, featuring a hearty buffet including wine and beer, first look at the antiques and first chance to buy from the Country Store's selection of home made soups and crafts. HTHS members will receive preview party invitations with which to make reservations and non-members without reservations will be asked to pay \$15.00 per person at the door. Admission on Saturday, November 13 and Sunday, November 14, is \$3.50 or \$3.00 with show cards and/or coupons that can be found at local merchants and in newspapers. We urgently need community donations to sustain our weekend-long bake sale. Please call us at (973) 292-3661, leave your name and telephone number, and let us know what you can contribute - cookies, small cakes, breads, muffins and other goodies will be much appreciated.

**THE LIBRARY**

**Friends of the Harding Township Library Coin Drive** The coin drive to help build the children's book collection is in full swing. There will be two "weigh-in" days in October when children (and adults) are encouraged to bring their containers of coins to be weighed. The first day is Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Harding Township School (HTS) cafeteria during lunch period. The second is Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. Coins can be brought in any time that day from 10:00 to 6:00. Our goal is to collect \$1,500 in coins. The children who bring in the three heaviest containers will win a prize. Also, every participant's name will be entered into a raffle. Later this fall, we will draw names for the raffle and have a coin-collection party. We are looking for anyone who has some interesting coins or a coin collection and would be willing to share them during the party. Please contact the library or Stephanie Cotton, Email at: njcottons@msn.com

**Art in Bloom '05** Coming this spring: Art in Bloom. Committees are forming and volunteers are welcome! Please call the library if you are interested in helping.

**Reminder: New Vernon Volunteer Fire Department Soup Contest** will be on **Sunday, October 17**, 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the Fire House, Village Road; Cost: \$5.00

**The Annual Children's Halloween Parade** will be held **Saturday, October 30, at 5 PM**, also at the Fire House, Village Road.

**Harding Township Recreation Association**

The HTRA community would like to extend their gratitude to JJ Pierson, President and

Ken Lynch, Treasurer for their many years of service and devotion to our recreational programs. They did an outstanding job in leading the HTRA to where we are today. We would like to introduce President, Jerry O'Loughlin Treasurer, Les Evans and Donna O'Connor as Secretary. They will lead this great organization, which is rich in history of service to the community. There will be an HTRA open meeting **October 21, 7PM** in the Harding School Library. All are welcome. Please check the Thumbnail for future HTRA communications.

#### **New Vernon Garden Club**

On **October 21, 2004, 10 AM**, Mr. Gray Russell will present a program on "Composting" at the New Vernon Garden Club meeting in the Christ the King Church, New Vernon. Mr. Russell's lecture will answer the questions of how, why and what to compost as well as discuss the uses for compost and mulch. The beginner as well as the experienced gardener will gain valuable information. Mr. Russell is a composting instructor the New York Botanical Garden and has appeared on the Martha Stewart and Regis television programs. All interested residents are invited to attend. There is no admission fee, however, since space is limited, please call Nancy McClelland at 973-285-1790 for a reservation.

#### **PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND HOLIDAY BAZAAR**

At The Harding Township School, Save the date: **Saturday, December 4** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. You can shop 'til you drop at our Holiday Bazaar. That's after you fill your tummy with a hearty breakfast served from 9 a.m. until 10:30 p.m. This is one of our most popular events. Our breakfast/bazaar is always a huge success! Please contact Paula Cecere (973 898 1197) or (Paulina711@verizonmail.com) for Pancake Breakfast.

**Calling all vendors!** Sign up now for your table at the Harding Township Schools' Holiday Bazaar: Saturday December 4 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. We always fill up our space quickly so its time to gear up for our sale. Tables will be provided or you may bring you own. You will need to supply your own table covers. There will be a \$50.00 fee per table. Don't miss out! Contact Lotte Newlin (973.538.4839) or e-mail newlins@verizon.net to reserve your space today!

#### **CUB SCOUTS!**

What a great turn out for our 1st Pack meeting on September 27. We have over 50 Cub Scouts in our Fishawack Pack. This month our Cub Scouts are going to Jockey Hollow Park for a cool hike combined with a scavenger hunt along the way. Scouts completing this program will earn a badge. All members of our Pack can join us on **October 16 at 1:30 p.m.** We will meet in the main parking lot located off of Tempewick Road. Scouts are free, adults are \$4.00. Rain date is Sunday, October 17. If you're not a Cub Scout and you want to be, just call Jane Williams at 973.644.2445.

**Sunday, October 10** is "Scout Sunday" at the First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon. All Harding Scouts are invited to attend. All scouts will be in full uniform and will participate in our special recognition service beginning at 10 a.m. Please call Jane Williams if you would like to be part of this special day.

#### **BOARD OF HEALTH Reminder!**

**FLU VACCINE CLINIC DATES.** The influenza immunization clinics will be held:

**Tuesday October 12, 2004 and Tuesday October 26, 2004 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 care-givers 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. The Health Department cannot give flu vaccine to persons under 18 years of age. Parents who wish to have their children vaccinated should contact their pediatrician now. Residents, 65 years and older, who wish a pneumonia vaccine must call the Health Department at (973) 267-8000, extension 25 to make an appointment.

**FREE RABIES CLINIC, SATURDAY, November 6, 2004**

The Harding Township Department of Health, in cooperation with the New Jersey State 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 Rd and Millbrook Road.

**CATS and DOGS: 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.** Dogs whose rabies vaccination expires before October 31, 2005 must be vaccinated before a license can be issued for 2005.

**Thermometer Exchange Program**

The Mercury Fever Thermometer Exchange Program sponsored by the Morris County MUA will be ending shortly. Residents may still bring mercury containing fever thermometers to the Health Department on the second floor of the Municipal Building on Blue Mill Road between 9:00 AM and 3:30 PM and receive a free non-mercury fever thermometer in exchange. When safely encased in glass thermometers, elemental mercury is not a threat. However, when mishandled broken glass thermometers can become an important source of toxic mercury in the home. To avoid possible exposures consider replacing mercury containing fever thermometers now. For more information contact the Health Department at 973 455-7296, extension 24.

**The New Vernon Volunteer Fire Dept.** held its annual Country Auction on Sept 25.

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.

**TOWNSHIP NEWS**

**Township Committee**

At the Sept 7 meeting, Mrs. Prendergast reported the formation of a new nonprofit group called The Glen Alpin Conservancy. The group will be dedicated to the rehabilitation, preservation and public enjoyment of the historic house and grounds at Glen Alpin.

Discussion took place regarding Patriot Media cable provider. Mr. Murray indicated that he had met with representatives of Patriot Media in Sept and announced that a draft Ordinance was in the Township Committee members' packets. The Committee members shared the following concerns regarding the draft Ordinance:

- gaining permission to cut trees and tree limbs should be made clearer
- a letter from Judith Lieberman should be responded to indicating that there is no other company from which the Township can seek competitive quotes
- a 10 year contract should be negotiated

-request that the Ordinance stipulate that a change in ownership of the company would necessitate renegotiation

-the offer by Patriot Media to pay for the first \$1000 of hook-up costs for new subscribers should be written in the Ordinance along with a commitment as to how long this offer will be valid.

At the August meeting, the following discussions took place.

(1) Acquisition of property on Tempe Wick Road (Anderson property)

Mrs. Dudley, Open Space Trust Committee Chair, said that the Open Space Trust Committee supported this acquisition at their meeting on August 10, 2004. Mrs. Hinkle, Harding Land Trust President, reviewed the particulars of this acquisition. Her position paper and a copy of the grant application dated August 4, 2004 are on file in the Clerk's office. Edgar and Joyce Anderson have owned the property for 53 years and will retain the right to reside there during their lifetimes. Mr. Eric Stiles, V.P. of Conservation and Stewardship for the Audubon Society, gave a brief history of his organization, since the Audubon Society is planning to assume responsibility for the structures, including maintenance, when the Andersons are no longer able to do so. After the Committee members spoke in favor of this acquisition, Mr. Lanzerotti made a motion and Mrs. Farrell seconded the motion to support in concept the acquisition of the Anderson property on Tempe Wick Road and to contribute \$100,000 from the Harding Township Open Space Trust fund toward the acquisition of the Anderson property. Vote: All Ayes

The Committee publicly thanked the Andersons for their most generous gift and all in attendance gave them a standing ovation for their remarkable support of open space and environmental preservation. (The Andersons are selling the property below market value).

(2) Increase in Open Space Tax – for 2005 budget year

Mrs. Dudley reviewed her memorandum dated August 4, 2004 which is on file in the Clerk's office. Her request on behalf of the Open Space Trust Committee is to increase the Open Space tax by \$.02 per \$100 of assessed valuation to \$.04 per \$100 assessed valuation starting in 2005. (*Ed note: see Open Space Trust Committee Report below*)

#### **Harding Open Space Trust Committee**

In July, the Harding Open Space Trust Committee (HOST) reviewed our present financial situation given the growing demand for open space acquisition and the recognized multiple benefits to all Harding residents of additional land preservation.

#### **Status of Harding's Open Space Trust Fund**

In 1996 voters overwhelmingly supported a referendum, authorizing up to 5 cents per \$100 assessed valuation for the Open Space Trust Fund. In 1997, the Township Committee established an Open Space Tax of 2 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

Given current obligations, Harding's 2 cents Open Space Tax produces only \$100,000 annually for new projects. This severely limits our ability to save important land since most available properties cost several times that per acre.

Over the last two years, in partnership with the Harding Land Trust, the Open Space and Farmland Preservation elements of the Morris County Preservation Trust, Morris County Park Commission, NJ Green Acres, and the Trust for Public Land, the township has helped preserve nearly 60 acres on James Street, Sand Spring Road, Tempe Wick Road and Cherry Lane. And we have agreed to contribute to the preservation of another 15 acres on Tempe Wick Road in the coming year

#### **Benefits of Open Space**

All of these projects offer multiple long term benefits for Harding residents. They protect important resources like the quality of our drinking water, our air, and our natural world. They preserve the landscapes that brought many of us here in the first place – meadows, forested areas, vistas and horse trails. Equally important, open space preservation is financially beneficial. Ultimately, it saves taxes and increases the property values of private property. And by reducing development, there's less need to spend tax dollars on expenses like road repairs, other municipal services or pollution cleanup. A number of studies show residential development costs municipalities between \$1.04 and \$1.67 for every \$1 of property tax collected. Land preservation is a real capital investment that will last forever.

#### **Next Steps**

In August, recognizing the multiple benefits of open space preservation – and the fact that once land is built on, its character changes forever – the HOST Committee appeared before the Township Committee to request that the Open Space Tax be raised to 4 cents per \$100 assessed valuation in 2005. Available funds will triple, enabling the township to move forward more actively to purchase important properties. And given our tax rate (one of the state's lowest), and existing high property values, the increase should not be difficult for most property owners to absorb. For example properties assessed at \$300,000 will pay just \$60 more each year for this Open Space Tax increase.

Mayor John Murray supported the HOST Committee's proposal, noting that Harding residents are currently paying more cents to the Morris County Preservation Trust than to our municipal fund and that a number of other municipalities, including Mendham Township currently have a 4 cent open space tax rate. Township Committee members agreed to consider the Committee's proposal.

HOST Committee meetings are open to the public, good opportunities to gain additional information. The next meetings are scheduled for **Monday, October 18 and Tuesday November 9 at 9 am** at Harding Township Hall.

*Please feel free to call Harding Open Space Trust Committee chair Sally Dudley at 973-698-6990 with any comments or questions.*

#### **Planning Board, Sept 27 2004**

(This report thanks to Liz Hamlin, Staff Writer, Observer-Tribune)

The Planning Board voted on September 27 to recommend that building lots be no smaller than five acres. Their stated goal was to protect the environment and the town's rural character, although some members of the public disagreed with the Board's conclusions. The board voted unanimously to recommend five-acre zoning on 3,900 acres in the township. Some residents said they were concerned the new zoning would cut values for lots with the new size restrictions. The areas slated for rezoning are currently in the Residential-1 (R1) zones, with lot-size minimums of three acres.

The new zones are termed Rural Residential (RR). There are five areas affected by proposed new zoning. Four of the areas border Route 287 and range in size from 85 to 1,010 acres. A fifth and largest area, named the "rural heartlands" in the master plan, covers 2,409 acres in the northeastern section of the township. The recommended zoning changes are in the form of revisions to the conservation plan and land use plan elements of the township's master plan. The board is forwarding its recommendations to the Township Committee, with the suggestion that the committee move as quickly as possible to approve ordinances that will formalize the new zoning.

Planning consultant Susan Kimball, of Kimball and Kimball of Morristown, wrote the

master plan revisions after being charged by the board with the task of refocusing the plan. "For 30-plus years, the goals of the Harding Master Plan have been to protect the environment and to preserve the rural character of the town," Kimball said. The increased residential lot sizes will better meet both goals, according to Kimball. "This plan is for sustainable development," she said. About 25 residents attended Monday's meeting, which the board devoted entirely to consideration of the master plan changes.

After the board voted to adopt the changes, Mayor John Murray addressed the importance of the recommendations. "There is no more important process in Harding Township than the review of the master plan. I applaud you and our citizens. We came together as a community to accomplish a goal," Murray said. The mayor said the Township Committee would move rapidly to consider the zoning changes.

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Report from September 27 meeting: The main agenda item was a presentation given by Ms. Tish Cassa on the newly revised and expanded study skills curriculum, which is now being taught in 6th, 7th and 8th grades. The course outline includes 7 sections: 1) Strategies for remembering information, 2) Note taking skills, 3) Time management, 4) Test preparation 5) Research preparation, 6) Word study and 7) Metacognition –(reviewing past performance on tests and assignments to better understand your strengths and weaknesses). This more formalized curriculum has been designed to teach students how to study, and in doing so, to better prepare them for entering high school.

Other items: A resolution to repeal the state amendment S-1701 was voted on and passed. In short, S-1701 could have the ultimate effect of Harding eventually losing its own school district. The resolution is considered by the BOE to represent 1) the Governor's failure to fund public education, 2) the Governor's enforced regionalization of school districts, and 3) the Governor's focus on fiscally irresponsible, but politically expedient tactics to provide short term local tax "relief". There was public discussion of this resolution during which Mr. Santoro mentioned that interested parties could access the New Jersey School Board Association web site at [www.NJSBA.org](http://www.NJSBA.org) to learn more about S-1701. The site includes necessary email addresses and form letters that help individuals contact their state legislators to provide comment on this resolution. The BOE emphasized that they feel a grassroots effort is needed by the Harding community and could really make a big difference in their efforts to get S-1701 repealed.

### **BOE Notes September 13, 2004**

A presentation on the Metropolitan Achievement Test Results (known as MAT8) in Language Arts and Math scores for grades 2, 5, 6 and 7 was made by teachers Patti Alexander, Jamie McDonald, Carol Cochran and Jennifer Conroy-Bray. The analysis report identifies areas of strengths and weaknesses by grade and subject. This helps teachers evaluate their course content and teaching methods. Copies of these reports are distributed to the staff.

Dr. Palozzi discussed the piloting of a new school-to-home communication system, Honeywell Instant Alert. This system is a web-based service that will allow the school to reach parents instantly with important school information. There were no committee reports at this meeting. See also the web site, [www.hardingtwp.k12.nj.us](http://www.hardingtwp.k12.nj.us).

### **BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT, September 23**

Previously Approved Application:

Application #23-02 - First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon; 4 Lee's Hill Road, Request for amended approval to allow phased construction.

This application was approved 2 years ago, but because of financial reasons, the two additions to the Christian Education building cannot be built. The Church would like to bifurcate and extend the original application. Phase I: 1. A fire ladder in the back of the building that extends from the 2nd floor would be removed and stairs would be built. 2. A handicap ramp would be built from the 2nd floor out 3. A canopy would be built over the door from the basement. 4. Interior renovations such as the electrical service, air conditioning, fire alarm and sprinkler system, would all be added now in anticipation of Phase II. A new Phase I site plan would have to be prepared. Current ordinances allow 3 one year extensions. After that, the application would have to be re-approved. The Board can extend this application to April 2006, and then the Church could get 3 one-year extensions. (The current application expires April 2005).

Application #8-04 - Charles W. and Shirley M. Roy, 67 Youngs Road, Block 47, Lot 14.02, Zone R-1 "C" Variance - Request for 1 month adjournment.

New Application:

Application #13-04 - Michael and Nancy McManus - 197 Village Road, Block 10, Lot 16, Zone R-1; "C" Variance. Applicant is requesting a variance for the rear set-back and impervious coverage. This house was built in the 1920's. It currently has a long driveway, deck, small shed and pool with decking. Building area is 3.2% with 16 foot set-back from the front of the house and 19 feet on the side. The house conforms to height restrictions. Applicant would like to add a rustic country barn, bedroom, 3 car garage, deck and family room. Driveway will be relocated and the pool and pool decking will be removed. Building coverage after construction will be 5% (where 3% is allowed) and impervious coverage will be 10.93% (where 10% is allowed). (Currently there is no garage.) In 1998 a variance was granted for additions that are similar to the current application. There were no objections by neighbors to this application. A site inspection is set for Saturday, October 2nd at 9:00 A.M. Applicant is to mark the corners of the new wing and the driveway where it will intersect with Village Road.

*(Editor's note: The following report on Bd of Adjustment meetings in May and June; the July meeting was canceled and August reported in September Thumbnail)*

**Board of Adjustment**, June 17

New Application: #8-04 - Charles W. and Shirley M. Roy, 67 Youngs Road, Block 47, Lot 14.02, Zone R-1 "C" variance.

Property was purchased in 1989 for the purpose of building a residence. In February, 1999, applicant received approval to build a pool. The question is whether the pool apron is in accordance with local laws. The Apron is made of concrete and is flush with the ground. A final C.O. was never issued on the house. When an "as built" was requested, it was discovered that the pool apron did not meet the set-back requirements. One corner of the pool is 82.7 feet from the property line. This house is currently for sale, so the owners want to get everything approved so they can get a final C.O. Owners obtained a variance when they purchased the property. The variance was needed so that the existing house could remain standing while the new one was being built. When the old house was torn down, the owners would be eligible for a C.O. A site inspection will be necessary. To receive a final C.O., the property will also need a variance for lot coverage.

Comments from the public:

Suzanne Strassenborg requested that the Board view the Roy's property from her property

when they do their site inspection. There is a wall that is taller than 5 feet and a generator that is on quite often and is very noisy. The Board of Adjustment wants the details on the generator and how often it runs, for the next meeting. Jane Riley, neighbor from across the street, also voiced objections. A site inspection was scheduled for June 23rd at 6:00 P.M. Applicant should have changes in the pool decking staked out. Applicant is also requested to find a way to buffer the noise from the generator.

Application #10-04 - Jeffrey M. and Gertrude Kadish; 83 Lee's Hill Road, Block 47, Lot 4, Zone R-1, "C" Variance. Applicant is requesting an Historic Preservation easement for a barn. The issues are set-back and coverage. The violation is on the north side of the property, by about 27 feet. As a result of sub-division, the owner is left with a very small piece of land. The building is not on a foundation. The application was approved with the condition that the barn could only be used for horses.

Application #11--04, Andrew T and Joann M. Lee, 34 Kitchell Road, Block 47, Lot 4, Zone R-1; Applicant wants to increase size of house to accommodate relatives when they visit. A new garage is also proposed. Options for the layout of the house were considered. Applicant will re-work the plans and mark the property lines and foot print for the addition before the site inspection.

**May 20th, 2004 meeting:**

Application #27-03 - Michelle Bocchi; Applicant has requested a variance to build a garage to house antique cars. One tree will have to be taken down to allow 30 feet to back a car out of the garage. There will be some pavement in front of the 2 car garage doors. The ordinance states that the garage should not be placed in front of the facade of the house, nor should it be perceived to be in front of the house. Trees and shrubs will be planted to screen the building. Building height will be 19 feet with a 4 foot cupola. The cupola will not be lit. Application approved.

Application #22-03 -and 23-03, Premier International Corporation, 12 Brook Drive North, Block 35, Lot 16.01 and Lot 16.03. Applicant requested a variance from Section 105-137(F) of the Land Use and Development Ordinance, which requires 100' setbacks in the R-1 Zone, to permit construction of new residences on two adjacent lots. A site inspection was completed. History of application: Property is part of a subdivision that was approved in 1972. The approval was amended in 2002 due to wetlands constraints. The amended approval conditions have not yet been met and must occur prior to issuance of permits for construction of residences on any of the lots. Lot 16.02, which cannot be developed due to the presence of freshwater wetlands will be conveyed to the Harding Township Land Trust. Access to the lots will be provided by a shared driveway. The conservation easement for lot 16.03 would be on lot 16.04 (adjoining lot), to screen one lot from the other. A conservation easement is necessary because the set-backs on lots 16.03 and 16.01 are less than 100 feet. All future owners of these properties will be held to this easement and the land will have to stay in its natural state. Because there were many restrictions due to the DEP and wet lands and Route 287, the Board allowed deviance from the ordinance so that the driveway could be constructed. The wording for this easement will be worked out by Gary Hall, Esq. Application approved.

Application #5-04 (Part 2) - Russell and Nan Hewit, 144 Lee's Hill Road - Block 47, Lot 9.04; Bob and Carolyn Raziano (Owners). Applicant requested a variance from Section 105-137 (F) for 100' set-backs and Section 105-137 (H) for lot coverage, to permit a residence addition, to authorize the setback for an existing pool house on a flag lot and to request a variance from the conditional use regulation which requires a minimum lot size of 6 acres for a lot containing an accessory residence. History of application: In 1985 the applicant submitted plans to build a bedroom, kitchen, etc. (apartment unit) onto the garage. A C.O. was obtained at that time. There should have been 6



acres for this to be approved. ( lot size is nearly 5 acres). The problem arose because of the separate entrance for the apartment unit. The Board approved this application with the condition that the apartment could only be used for short term visitors.

Application #4-04 - Peter Dorne (applicant) Lee's Hill Road LLC (owner), 106 Lee's Hill Road, Block 47, Lot 10.01, R-1; "C" and "D" variances. Because of wet-lands restrictions, placement of the buildings are not in compliance with current set-back rules. There are currently 2 buildings on this property. In order to have two homes, there would need to be 6 acres. Applicant will revise plans and re-submit for variance.

Application #6-04 - Denise King/ Robert DeMatteo, Applicant is expanding 2nd floor by 1/2. Set backs are O.K. Application was approved subject to the applicant consulting with the Board prior to construction.

Application #7-04 - John J. and Danielle Hall, Lake Trail West, R-4 Zone; Applicants want to add to existing structure. Improvements now are: ranch style home with a cinder block wall. Increase will be 500 square feet. A deck would be added off of the kitchen. Application approved

Application #9-04 - Richard and Kelly Swift; Applicant would like to add on to a non-conforming structure. They will keep the existing house, but move the garage back so it is useable. They will remove the barn, so that one non-conforming structure will be eliminated. The driveway would also be moved and the existing field would be kept. Application approved.

#### **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

A Note of Caution regarding Deer/Motor Vehicle Accidents

The Police Department advises drivers to observe the following upon encounters with deer on the roadway:

##### **Precautions:**

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, and they might enter the roadway too.

Try not to swerve upon encountering a deer! You might hit a fixed object such as a telephone pole or a tree and serious injuries might be the consequence.

Travel slowly in the evening hours when vision is limited. When a car in front of you brakes or slows down, do the same. It is possible that the driver has spotted a deer about to enter the roadway.

Accidents: If you have a collision with a deer, pull the vehicle off the road with 4-way flashers on. If in Harding Twp. call the Harding Twp. Police at (973) 455 0500, or 911 if you are elsewhere. Wait for the police to arrive. They will take a report and provide other assistance, as appropriate.

##### **Efforts to manage excessive deer population**

In view of the increased number of deer/motor vehicle collisions during 2003 (see September issue of Thumbnail), the Wildlife Management Committee is concerned about last season's decline in the deer harvest and is pursuing the following options to increase the deer harvest in the upcoming season:

Increase the number of hunters active in Harding. To this end, the Harding Police Department will continue to maintain a list matching qualified hunters with property owners wishing to admit hunters to their property. Interested hunters and property owners are urged to avail themselves of this service by calling the Police Department at 973-455-0500.

Make a renewed effort to increase the area available for hunting or at least for the driving of deer. To this end, property owners not now admitting hunters to their properties will be approached about aiding the community effort to curb the damages caused by the excessive deer population.

Black Bear Nuisance and Damage Prevention

Bears have been sighted in Jockey Hollow Park and West of Route 202. No adverse incidents have been reported so far. Prevention is the best method for controlling black bear damage. Store garbage in airtight containers, in a secure area. Do not store garbage cans against the doors of the garage, basement or in a wood shed.

Feeding of Domestic Animals: The outside feeding of dogs and cats should be done during the daylight hours, and all uneaten food and scraps, as well as the food bowls, should be removed after feeding.

Feeding of Birds and other Wildlife: Bears are highly attracted to suet and seed bird feeders. Birdfeeders should be suspended from a free hanging wire so that the bottom of the feeder is at least 8' off the ground. Feeders should be hung in daylight hours only. The feeding of other wildlife is inadvisable. Black bears should never be fed or approached.

Reporting: Bears should be reported to the Harding Twp. Police at (973) 455 0500. Bear sightings should be reported to the Fish, Game and Wildlife Division's Wildlife Research Unit at (908) 735 7040.

Harding Twp Historic Preservation Commission

Environmental Commission.

Harding Tree Conservation Commission, No reports this issue

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 Hesna Pfeiffer, 973 538 0020, or write The Harding Township Civic Association, PO Box 72, New Vernon, NJ 07976. You can also come to one of our meetings, the next one is November 1, at 7:30 PM in Town Hall.

**EDITOR'S NOTE: THE DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT THREE ISSUES OF THE THUMBNAIL ARE** October 29, November 30 and December 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, 973 540 8911**. You can send items early! Call the editor if you have any transmission questions, **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 10/9, 10/23, 11/6, 11/20, 12/4, 12/18 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 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday)	6 PM	
Environmental Commission (1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday)	7:30 PM	11/2, 12/7
Seniors (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday at Pres Church)	11 AM.....	
Planning Board (4 <sup>th</sup> Monday) 7:30 PM	.....	10/25, 11/22, 12/20
Hist Preservation Comm (1st Thursday)	8 PM	11/4, 12/2
Board of Health (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday)	8 PM	10/14, 11/11, 12/9
Board of Education (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday)	7:30 PM.....	
Board of Adjustment (3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday)	7:30 PM.....	10/21, 11/18, 12/16
Township Committee (1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed)	8 PM.....	10/20, 11/3, 11/17
Shade Tree (2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday)	3 PM	10/12, 11/9
Harding Twp Civic Association	7:30 PM	11/1, 12/6