

February 2005

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Don't forget! The **Civic Association Annual Meeting on Monday February 7, at 7:30 PM**, in the Township Hall. Mayor John Murray will address the community on the "State of the Township".

THE LIBRARY

Children's Storytime: *Hugs and Kisses*: Tuesday, February 8 and Wednesday, February 16. Programs are at 10:30 a.m. in the Kirby Municipal Building. Geared to preschoolers, Storytime features stories, crafts, and songs.

Adult Evening Book Discussion Group...will meet on Wednesday, February 16 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss Dutch author Multatuli's classic, *Max Havelaar*, about a young official seeking to fight the corruption and injustices of the colonial regime in 19th century Indonesia. More information about the Book Group and copies of the novel can be obtained at the Library: 973-267-8000, ext. 132.

Coming in March...Evening at the Library...Watch for details in this space re date, time, and the identity of our guest speaker. We guarantee you won't want to miss it!

Science fiction and fantasy are popular genres among teens. If you are interested in joining a **Science Fiction Book Group** for grades 6-7, please contact the Library.

The Library offers extended hours on Wednesdays and Thursdays until 6 p.m. Going away? Visit the Book Cart for your car/train/plane/and boat reading!

Harding Township Historical Society

Historical interpreter Stacy Roth of the Distaff Muse makes her first appearance at HTHS on **Sunday, February 13 from 1 to 4 p.m.** with a program of stories and sentiments relating to Colonial American women through songs, quotations, poetry and prose. Her unique repertoire includes Betsy Griscom Ross, Jemima Condict a farm woman of West Orange, Esther Edwards Burr wife of Aaron Burr (president of the College of NJ now Princeton), Elizabeth Dunlap of Salem who ran away from an abusive husband, Mary Hays who helped her husband's artillery company at the battle of Monmouth and others. With special

emphasis on the women of NJ, she describes the wise wits, humble heroines, brave Amazons, and bold actresses who were the backbones of Colonial society. Plan to spend a very interesting afternoon at the Tunis-Ellicks House, Village Rd, with Ms. Roth whose presentation will be accompanied by open hearth cooking. Admission is free of charge. For information call (973) 292-3661

Harding Township Seniors group meets regularly on the 2nd and 4th Thursday at 11:00 am, in the Church of Christ the King. The township nurse checks blood pressures before the meeting, all seniors are welcome. They are always interested in suggestions or participation in program topics of general interest, such as hobbies, travel, etc.

The **Harding Township Seniors** are sponsoring a St. Patrick's Day Trip on March 16, to Hunt's Landing includes lunch, drinks, and show for \$47.00. Bus leaves from Church of Christ The King parking lot.

For more information call Mary Crummy at 973-267-8032 or Gert Willean at 973-984-3963, or email at gwillean@msn.com.

THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Art in Bloom 2005 will open with a Preview Party on **Friday, May 13** from 5:00 until 8:00 p.m. The Art Show and Sale will continue on Saturday morning, May 14 from 9:00 a.m. until noon. The show provides a time of family fun and an opportunity to collect the works of regional artists-all in support of the Harding Township Library.

This highly anticipated biennial event continues to get bigger and better. To accommodate this growth, *Art in Bloom* is moving to larger quarters at the Parish Hall of Christ the King on Blue Mill Road, opposite the Library. The Show will display a wide range of artists specializing in oil, watercolor, pastel, photography, sculpture, ceramics, and jewelry. Along with established favorites, there will be a roster of new-to-the-show artists as well. Want to help? Leave your name and telephone number at the Library. Don't miss out on the fun!

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

Anyone interested in joining women's' softball for the 2005 summer season, please call Colleen Ercole--973-455-0455 or email delmom06@aol.com. The season starts June 7,2005 and ends August 9,2005. The games are every Tuesday night from 5:30 to 8:00. All fields are within a 5-mile radius. All surrounding towns are welcomed to join the Harding team. Please note: all players from last year must call to confirm

their commitment for the 2005 season. Please call no later than March 30,2005. Team roster must be submitted to the Mendham league by April 1,2005. No calls or emails to join will be accepted after March 30,2005.

HTRA Summer Day Camp and Field Hockey Camp Announcement

Calling all campers and counselors! The **HTRA Summer Day Camp** will be held from July 5 thru July 29 at the Harding Township School. Brochures and applications will be mailed on February 25th to all who attended camp last summer. They will also be distributed to all students in grades K-5 in the Harding Township School as well as children in the New Vernon Presbyterian Nursery School. Additional brochures will be available at the Harding Township Municipal Building and the Harding Township School office.

Students entering grades 7 and higher who are interested in attending as CITs or working as counselors must send a letter or intent to Pat Romano at P.O. Box 753, New Vernon, NJ 07976 by February 28. Applications will then be sent out by March 1.

HTRA Field Hockey Camp – Mr. Keating will also be conducting a summer Field Hockey Camp for girls entering grades 4-8. Camp will be held the 1st two weeks of August. Brochures will be mailed to those who attended previously and will also be available at the Harding Township Municipal Building and the Harding Township School office. If you should have any questions, please call the camp office at 973-605-5866.

Harding Township School PTO Spring Fashion Show, Auction & Luncheon

The Harding Township School PTO presents its annual Spring Fashion Show on *Saturday, April 9, 2005* at Spring Brook Country Club. The theme, **“Hollywood in Harding”** features the leading ladies and gentlemen of our school, our very own teachers, students, and parents. And for the first time ever, a special presentation of “The Class of 2005”. Watch, for your invitation coming to your mailbox in mid-March.

As many of you know, the first-rate education for which Harding Township School is known is beyond the reach of the budget alone. Monies raised by the PTO help to bridge this gap and help sustain our excellent programs throughout the year. In the past, school gifts have included two new playgrounds, a sound system for the gymnasium, musical instruments, books, rock climbing wall, bleachers, and much more.

There are **three ways** in which we need your help:

Create a raffle basket with some friends or donate some select items.

The theme of each raffle basket this year will be a movie. In the coming weeks the Fashion Show committee will be distributing its wish list, by movie, to the community. Silent auction gifts are also needed; for example, vacation packages tickets to sporting and cultural events, spa or personal training services, etc.

Financial contributions are welcome and gratefully accepted.

Underwrite a particular aspect of the show. Expense items not entirely covered by the ticket price include invitations, programs, postage, auction, and clubhouse décor.

Please contact **Kim Caldwell at 973.539.9533** if you are interested in supporting our production either by donating a basket, writing a check or underwriting an expense. Mail any checks directly to: Mrs. Kim Caldwell, Post Office Box 58, New Vernon 07976. All checks should be made out to "The Harding Twp. School PTO". The continued success of our fundraiser is possible because of the ongoing support and generosity of our families and friends in the Harding community. Thank you for your loyal partnership with us as we all help prepare our students to walk down that red carpet and out into the limelight...

Harding Township/Green Village Bridle Path Association

It's time to renew your 2005 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 2005*. We will be issuing our Annual Membership Renewal Letter shortly, so please look for it in your mail. Questions, call Dorothy M. McCann, Secretary, 973-443-0622

Harding Blood Drive Thanks to all the donors and volunteers who participated in the Harding Blood Drive on January 24th at Christ the King Church. We are all grateful to Donors who took the time to share this gift and to the volunteers who devoted time to this endeavor. This was very much appreciated by the American Red Cross and by the recipients of this blood because the Blood Bank was extremely low on inventory after the holidays.

TOWNSHIP NEWS

Township Committee

(This article thanks to Observer-Tribune, 1/27/05, Maria Vogel-Short reporter)

The Township Committee is considering charging new home owners a 1 percent development fee to fund an estimated \$2 million affordable

housing plan, said Planning Consultant Susan C. Kimball. A proposed ordinance, which was discussed on Wednesday, Jan. 19, would help fund construction of 24-units of low- and moderate-income housing at the intersection of Kitchell and Woodland roads, scheduled for construction this fall. Kimball said the typical new Harding home costs \$2 million to build, excluding the cost of the land. She said a development fee of 1 percent would raise \$20,000 for new construction.

“There would be no fees on existing homes,” said Township Committeeman Louis Lanzerotti, “This will have no impact on existing residents, unless they decide to build a brand new home.” The proposed ordinance was not introduced at the Wednesday, Jan. 19, committee meeting, because officials couldn’t decide on the finer details.

Under a rule of the state Council on Affordable Housing, (COAH) municipalities can charge development fees of 1 percent for new construction and 2 percent for commercial construction, Kimball said. Under recent COAH guidelines, for every eight market homes constructed, a township has to build one affordable housing unit, said E.J. Miranda, a spokesman for the Department of Community Affairs. Harding Township averages about 10 new homes a year, Kimball said. For every 25 jobs created in a town, measured by new or expanded commercial construction, another affordable housing unit also is required under the new guidelines, Miranda said.

The township is also considering imposing a 2 percent development fee on commercial properties that involve new construction or improvement on a new building. Both the construction and the residential development fees would be based on assessed values. As an example, the fee for a small new business assessed at \$1.5 million, would be 2 percent, or \$30,000, Kimball said. Since less than 1 percent of Harding’s land is zoned commercially, and most lots are already built out, few fees are expected from commercial development, Kimball said.

The planned new housing meets a previous COAH requirement that required Harding Township to have 88 affordable housing units, Miranda said. Harding Township transferred 43 units to the city of Orange, fulfilling the rest of the 88-unit obligation, said Miranda. To transfer the 43 units of obligation, Harding paid Orange \$860,000 or \$20,000 a unit, Miranda said. The preliminary cost for the proposed affordable housing apartments on Kitchell and Woodland roads was originally estimated at \$1.7 million, but it could go as high as \$2 million, Kimball said.

Typically, COAH allows towns to charge development fees, which are

placed in an escrow fund to be used for housing rehabilitation. Those who qualify for the low-income housing could make a maximum of \$32,000 a year and moderate housing would be available for residents who make \$51,000, Murray said. Engineering consultant Paul Ferriero said the proposed development would have five one-bedroom apartments, 14 two-bedrooms and five three bedrooms. A single bedroom apartment would be 650 square-feet, two bedroom units would be 985 square-feet and a three-bedroom unit would be 1,208 square-feet, Ferriero said. There would be no basement for the affordable housing units because of the water table. A wetland area led planners to require a 150-foot buffer zone along the western area of the property. The development will be located on the northeast portion of the 8.3-acre site, facing Woodland Road.

PLANNING BOARD, January 24, 2005

There was discussion relating to the approval of the Township application for the affordable housing project. The Mayor argued for approval of the application (#5-99), in order for the building project to commence ASAP. The COAH regulations apparently recently changed, in December 2004, and Township officials need to build the units by the end of 2005 in order to meet the previously agreed-upon COAH requirements for the town, (see above discussion also relating to this matter). Although the Township has committed to comply with all environmental regulations applying to this site, the waiver of the Environmental Commission was necessary to pass the application on 1/24/05.

Application, 4-04, was heard for Kay Lyall, owner, and Kaplan, builders, on the revised plans for her property of 26 acres, "The Ridge at Sand Spring". In November this had been a 3-acre, 6-lot, conforming subdivision, no variances, but due to changes in the minimum zoning laws, now is a 5-lot subdivision, with an average size of 5 acres. The biggest lot is closest to Sand Spring Rd having 8 acres, another lot is 5+ acres, and the remaining 3 lots are about 4 acres each. The present application requires a design waiver to permit a access road of more than 12% grade, which would stay on the westerly edge of the property, instead of going across the hillside.

Application 10-04, Carey, Van Buren Rd, for 3-lot subdivision, one with existing house, two building lots, all comply with current 5-acre minimum zone, was also heard.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The records of the school board meeting are found at Board Notes, on the school's official website: www.hardingtwp.k12.nj.us. Upcoming meetings are

2/14, 2/28, 3/14, 3/28 and 4/11. All meetings are held at 7:30 PM in the Harding Township Middle School, Lee's Hill Rd.

**HARDING TWP HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION,
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION** , No reports

Call for updates to the Harding Township Directory

Thank you for the updates to the Directory. Remember that it is your responsibility to ensure that your organization's listing is correct.

EDITOR'S NOTE: THE DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT TWO ISSUES OF THE THUMBNAIL ARE *February 28 and March 30*, 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/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 2/5, 2/19, 3/5, 3/19, 4/9, 4/23 from 9-12 AM. Please do NOT 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	2/8, 3/8
Seniors (2 nd and 4 th Thursday)Chrst KingCh	11 AM	
Planning Board (4 th Monday)	7:30 PM ..	2/28, 3/28
Hist Preservtion Comm (1stThursday)	8 PM	3/3
Board of Health (2 nd Thursday)	8 PM	3/10
Board of Education (2 nd and 4 th Monday)	7:30 PM ..	
Board of Adjustment (3 rd Thursday)	7:30 PM ..	2/17, 3/17
Township Committee(1 st and 3 rd Wed)	8 PM	
Shade Tree (2 nd Monday)	3 PM	3/14
Harding Twp Civic Association	7:30 PM	2/7, 3/7