

**April 2005**

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Harding Land Trust** annual meeting will be held Thursday, **April 28, at 8 p.m.** at the New Vernon Fire House. Following a brief business meeting, there will be a special program on "Re-Growing Our Forest". Guest Speaker, Eric Stiles, is the New Jersey Audubon Society's Vice President for Conservation and Stewardship. He will discuss techniques that Audubon and private landowners are using to encourage regrowth of local woodlands, in an effort to preserve the natural heritage and biodiversity of our community. What works... what doesn't...what can you do? All residents are invited for a very informative evening. Bring your questions and your neighbors!

The **School Budget Election will take place on April 19<sup>th</sup>** at the Harding Township Kirby Municipal Building from **2 to 9 PM**. See detailed article below on details about the budget.

**Harding Township Seniors Trip to Atlantic City, April 27, 2005**, costs \$22.00 (you get back \$20.00). Bus leaves from Christ The King's parking lot. Call Mary Crummy, 973-267-8032 or Gert Willean 973-984-3963.

**Harding Township Recreation Association** is holding its annual meeting at Harding Township School Library, **Thursday, April 21, 7:30 PM**. All members are encouraged to attend.

**HARDING TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

There are still some openings for the **adult health early-detection** program which will be held on **Thursday, April 21** 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 will be an audiologist present this year as well. There is no cost for the program, and all Harding residents over the age of 18 are welcome. You must register by April 15, 2005. You can register in person at the Health Department offices on the second floor of the Municipal Building or by calling (973) 267 8000 ext. 125 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.

## **THE LIBRARY**

**Adult Evening Book Discussion Group...** will meet on Wednesday, April 27 at 7:30 p.m. Title to be decided. Please contact the Library for information at 973-267-8000, ext. 132.

The Library extends warm thanks to Dr Louis Lanzerotti for his fascinating program on the Hubble telescope at the recent *Evening at the Library*. Our one regret was that the weather wasn't more cooperative!

*Art in Bloom 2005* will be in full bloom on **Friday, May 13** and **Saturday, May 14**. Please join us at the Preview Party on Friday from 5:00 until 8:00 p.m. (\$20 per person) and plan to return for a more leisurely look on Saturday, May 14 from 9:00 a.m. until noon (no admission charge). Come one, come all to support the Harding Township Library! We are grateful to Friends of the Library for making this festive event possible this year. Be aware of the change of venue to Parish Hall, below the sanctuary, of Church of Christ the King. Thank you, Father Paddy!

Keep current on Library matters by regularly checking our Website: [hardingcivic.org/library](http://hardingcivic.org/library). If you access the Website of the Harding Township School, note that there is a link to the Harding Library.

## **West Nile Virus**

To track the spread of West Nile Virus, the Harding Health Department is working with the NJ Department of Health and the Morris County Mosquito Control Commission to monitor certain dead birds. Residents are asked to report any dead or ill crows, blue jays or ravens. During normal business hours, 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM, please call the Health Department at (973) 267-8000, ext. 125. After hours or on weekends call the Police Department at 455-0500. Depending upon instructions from the state laboratory, the bird may or may not be collected for testing.

## **Stormwater Management Plan** (from the Health Department)

Stormwater runoff is the most common way that nonpoint source pollution reaches local rivers and lakes. Rainwater will carry chemicals, nutrients, sediments and other forms of pollution into local streams if the water is not absorbed by soil and vegetation. The major goal of storm water management is to increase absorption of rainwater by soil and vegetation, usually by reducing the speed of flow or by retaining the water in basins, reducing the amount of pollutants into storm sewers and streams, as well as flooding. Increasing absorption by soil has the added benefit of helping to maintain ground water supplies. Harding Township has prepared a storm water Management Plan in accordance with state requirements. The Plan is being reviewed by Morris County and once accepted it will be the basis for controlling non-point pollution in town. More information on storm water and the control of runoff will be made available from the Health Department and the Environmental Commission

in the upcoming months.

**GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENT Regarding House numbering**

Last year, for the first time ever, Harding Township officially assigned house numbers to all homes in the Township. In some cases residents had already been using other, different house numbers. The Township Committee decided not to require residents to post the new numbers, but to avoid confusion, they did adopt an ordinance that prohibits residents from posting any number other than the officially assigned number. Some homes still have the old incorrect number posted. This can be an inconvenience when it comes to mail and package delivery but can really cause a problem if it confuses emergency responders such as the Fire Department and First Aid Squad. Please take a few minutes and remove any incorrect street numbers from mailboxes, posts or fences on your property.

**Announcement from your New Vernon Volunteer First Aid Squad**

Spring is a good time to organize your medications and throw out any prescription that has expired. Keep a list handy in your medicine cabinet, including at least: *Name of medication; Date of prescription; Dose; Time of day medication is taken; Why medication is taken; Allergic reactions.*

If you are interested in good health and learning about how to handle medical emergencies, why not join the New Vernon Volunteer First Aid Squad and help others while helping yourself? Call Con Crowley at 973-656-0488 or John Thomas at 973-267-9424 for further information.

**Don't forget the Memorial Day Parade, May 30, 9:30 AM The Township's Annual Celebration**

The Civic Association, together with the community and government of Harding Township invites any interested Township group or organization to participate in this year's Harding Township Memorial Day Parade. Call Tony, Parade Chair, 973 4011971 to have your organization added to the Order of March. Also, **anyone having nominations** for "Citizen of the Year", please forward to the Civic Assn, c/o Editor, email: <hesnaj@aol.com>.

This year's topic for **the \*Harding Township Civic Association Annual Essay Contest\*** is **"Write a letter to a US soldier in Iraq."** All resident school age children are eligible to enter. **Entries are due Friday, May 6.** Prizes will be given to the best essays selected from among the elementary and middle school age groups: Grades K, 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, and 7-8. Each winner will receive a US Savings Bond and will be asked to read his or her winning essay at the Memorial Day Ceremony. The entire group of letters will be sent to soldiers in Iraq. Entries should include child's name, grade, school, and mailing address. Please submit entries of up to 500 words

to the Civic Assn. **Note:** Harding School children submit essays through the school.

The **HARDING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY** holds its annual community Memorial Day Open House following the Town parade, between 10 am and noon, at the Tunis-Ellicks House.

**The Shade Tree Committee** announces the Annual Harding Township **Fat Tree Contest** is accepting entries. Rules are: 1. Find the fattest shade tree on your property. 2. Measure up the trunk 3 feet. 3. Record the circumference of your tree at that point. 4. Send the measurement, and species identification of the tree together with your name, address, and telephone, to the Harding Twp. Shade Tree Committee, Box 666, New Vernon NJ 07976, **no later than May 24, 2005**. Winners will be announced during the Memorial Day celebration, but need not be present to win. Previous winners and Historic Designated trees are not eligible.

#### **TOWNSHIP NEWS**

**Township Committee** (summaries from meetings in Feb and March)

The Township Committee gave initial approval to **increase most land use and development fees** by approximately 30 percent to cover costs to pay lawyers, engineers and other professionals. The fees for site development, land use procedures and variance applications will increase substantially under the ordinance. Land use application fees haven't been increased in five years. Some of the biggest increases involve such things as grading permits and inspection, because engineers were spending a lot of time inspecting work that wasn't completed properly. Grading permits and inspections were changed from a flat fee to a schedule based on the square footage of the construction. The ordinance was originally introduced on Wednesday, Feb. 16, but after the committee reviewed some of the increases, they made what they said were substantial changes, and introduced the proposal again. All application fees increased as well. Those increases cover the cost of processing. Escrow cost increases were also proposed to cover attorney and accountant review. Another increase is projected for major site plan application fees. Currently, a preliminary review of a major site plan application for residential housing is \$1,500; the fee would double to \$3,000 under the new ordinance. Such things as an appeal to the Township Committee for a grant use variance would increase from \$1,000 to \$1,500. Mr. Lanzerotti and the Mayor noted that the intent of raising the fees was to make sure the Township covered its costs and that the costs were born by those causing the cost and not the general taxpayers of Harding.

The ordinance will keep some land use fees the same. Environmental impact fees for subdivisions, amended applications for subdivisions and extensions will

essentially remain the same. The committee also tabled the plan to raise application fees for cutting down or removing trees, saying they would wait until a representative from the Shade Tree Commission reports to the committee. The committee discussed raising fees to \$25 for up to four trees and \$50 for more than four trees on unoccupied lots.

#### **Harter Road and James Street Property**

Justine Kovacs, President of the Harding Land Trust, addressed the Committee on the Land Trust's recent proposal to lease as office and meeting space, the house on the property recently acquired by the Township. As previously reported, under the proposal, the Land Trust and the Township would each contribute to improving the property and then enter into a 15-year lease. The Committee approved the plan, subject to final negotiation of the details concerning a co-tenant agreement which would allow certain other tenants to use the space as well as make space available to the Township.

#### **Municipal Budget**

Ordinance 3-05 was introduced by Resolution TC 05-31. This Ordinance was introduced in response to a new State law that restricts budget increases to 2.5% per annum unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriation. The Ordinance would allow the Municipal Budget to increase by 3.5% or \$144,710.50 and be approved and adopted. In response to a question, the Committee noted that the Ordinance would not necessarily increase spending by that amount and any money that was not appropriated in CY2005 would be retained for final appropriation in either of the two succeeding years.

#### **Patriot Media**

Patriot Media, the cable TV and Internet service provider in the Township, in a letter dated January 24, 2005, announced that they will be adjusting the prices for certain services effective for bills sent out after March 1, 2005.

#### **Environmental Commission**

Penny Hinkle, on behalf of the Environmental Commission, urged the Township Committee to make the new affordable housing project to be built on property bordered by Kitchell Road and Woodland Road, a "green" development. She suggested that the Environmental Commission was interested in working with the Township and would share in the consulting fees that may be necessary to obtain expertise. Mr. Lanzerotti questioned what precisely was meant by the term "green" and whether the costs, if higher than traditional construction, were justified by the benefits.

#### **Affordable Housing Project**

The Committee discussed the status of the current Affordable Housing project, including the following topics:

- Central Air: Whether or not central air-conditioning should be provided with each

unit. The consensus was that this was important to provide for quality of life issues for the tenants and to avoid having tenants installing their own window units. The expected cost would be approximately \$24,000 total for the 24 units.

- Patios: A small patio will be provided for each unit. Patios will help keep the units more presentable by encouraging tenants to maintain their outdoor property next to their respective unit. The cost is not yet available, but is not expected to be material.

- Plant Screening: Tree/bush planting is being considered for the, Moore Estate property that is directly opposite the Affordable Housing site, so headlights from cars coming and going from the Affordable Housing project won't shine directly into the windows of Morse Estate residences. The cost is expected to be approximately \$500.

- Schedule: The overall project is well within schedule. The landscape architects submitted their plan ahead of schedule. Construction is expected to begin in August 2005.

- Virtual Tour: A virtual tour is expected to be available within a few weeks, and more information will be forthcoming where/how the tour can be viewed by the public.

#### **Glen Alpin**

Resolution TC 05-38 which would inform the Morris Country Historic Preservation Trust that Harding Township intends to apply for a grant was discussed. Much of the discussion centered on the total estimated cost to fix the roof (approximately \$486,000) and the timing of the roof repair relative to the grant application process. The resolution was passed and the final grant application is due March 28<sup>th</sup>. The grant money of approximately \$150,000, (if the maximum is received plus \$38k in matching amounts from the Township) would first be used to create a Preservation Plan (\$68k), then Architectural Plans (\$20k) with the remainder (\$100k) available for construction.

A decision on the grant is expected by December 2005. This could, however, delay construction until the spring of 2006 because if work on the Preservation Plan is started before the grant is received, the town would lose \$27k in funding from the Trust. The Township Committee will speak to Morris County about the possibility of speeding up the approval process.

#### **Morris County Circulation Element Update**

The Township Committee has received a tentative plan from Morris County considering the possible construction of: (1) a left turn lane on Route 202 at the intersection of Tempe Wick Road, and (2) an entrance/exit ramp to Rt. 287. The improvements are intended to address rush hour traffic congestion problems at that intersection. After review of the County document, Mr. Lanzerotti expressed some concerns about how well researched the proposal recommendations might have been. Mayor Murray thought that such a plan might encourage more traffic in

Harding, and probably would not benefit its residents. The Mayor drafted a response (approved by the Committee) to the County requesting more information.

#### **Dicksons Mill Bridge**

As reported previously, the single lane bridge on Dicksons Mill Road has structural problems and does not meet County standards. The County has presented a preliminary plan for a replacement bridge. Previously, it was considered whether Dicksons Mill should be made into a one-way road. The Committee reported that the Harding Police, Fire, and EMS Departments advised against it as it could negatively impact their response capability in emergency situations. The Committee heard from one resident of Green Village, who expressed concern about the size of the proposed replacement bridge being too large and out of scale for the rural nature of the road. Mr. Lanzerotti stated that he has had experience working with the County on bridge replacement in Harding and has found that they have always been willing to work with the township and township residents to alter the design to accommodate key concerns/requests. Mr. Lanzerotti recommended that anyone interested in this issue, to take the time to look at the other bridges in Harding including those on Blue Mill, Lee's Hill, and Village Roads.

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

The Harding Township Shade Tree Commission's March meeting addressed proposed plans by developer Kaplan Company for the landscaping of the subdivision of the Lyle property on Sand Spring Road. The Company agreed to reduce the height of the stone wall on the periphery of the property from 10 feet to 5 feet. They also agreed to a tree protection area of 50 feet. They submitted a proposal for plantings and landscaping of the property to the commission that is still under review.

#### **SCHOOL BOARD NEWS**

The Harding Township Board of Education (HTBOE) meeting was held on 3/28/2005. The main agenda item was a presentation of the **proposed** 2005-2006 school budget. The proposed budget would boost taxes by 3 percent. It would mean a tax of 38.5 cents per \$100 of value or \$3,850 per \$1 million of value. The current, 2004-05 rate is 37.6 cents per \$100 or \$3,760 per \$1 million of assessment. Overall, this budget would represent a \$13 increase per \$100,000 of assessed value and includes two additional projects: a new increased capacity water cistern for fire use and an improved electronic security system. Administrative costs essentially cover the superintendent, business administrator, principal, treasurer, office staff salaries and benefits, office supplies, legal fees, board of education insurance, district wide postage, phone bills, email and computer network maintenance,

equipment, and software.

**Fixed Costs** – (Contractual and Statutory Obligations) make up 80 % of the proposed budget, which will be allocated as follows: Salaries \$3,141,479 , Benefits \$ 757,311, Insurance \$ 66,972, Tuition \$1,637,521 Transportation \$ 778,98; Total \$6,382,266 or 80% of total budget.

**Facilities improvements: include** repair crumbling masonry around Middle School; repair and repave side play area; complete door knob replacement to comply with ADA requirements; remediate remaining asbestos and waterproof utility tunnel; replace outside doors; replace four elementary school unit ventilators; roof repairs.

	<b>Revised 2004-2005</b>	<b>Proposed 2005-2006</b>	<b>% of total budget</b>
Regular Instruction	\$ 1,694,057	\$ 1,761,250	22.9%
Special Education	\$ 252,836	\$ 297,893	3.9%
Basic Skills/Remedial	\$ 38,447	\$ 35,226	0.5%
Bilingual Education	\$ 13,666	\$ 150	0.0%
Co/E xtra-C urricular	\$ 35,732	\$ 46,458	0.6%
Athletics	\$ 39,621	\$ 40,987	0.5%
Tuition	\$ 1,531,908	\$ 1,637,521	21.3%
Attendance Services		\$ 16,151	0.2%
Health Services	\$ 49,462	\$ 52,116	0.7%
Other Support Svcs.-Speech	\$ 61,296	\$ 75,065	1.0%
Other Svcs.-Guidance	\$ 60,781	\$ 60,209	0.8%
Other Svcs.- Spec Ed.	\$ 228,366	\$ 216,959	2.8%
Curriculum Development	\$ 14,900	\$ 157,507	2.0%
Library/Media Center	\$ 94,086	\$ 95,156	1.2%
Staff Training	\$ 16,300	\$ 16,800	0.2%
Superintendent/BOE	\$ 362,529	\$ 320,816	4.2%
Principal's Office	\$ 151,896	\$ 18,523	0.2%
Business Off. & Technology	\$ 177,886	\$ 146,766	1.9%
Maintenance/Plant	\$ 647,985	\$ 690,558	9.0%
Transportation	\$ 811,546	\$ 815,279	10.6%
Employee Benefits	\$ 772,191	\$ 856,118	11.1%
Food Services	\$ 9,250	\$ 10,250	0.1%
Capital Reserve	\$ 250,000	\$ 225,000	2.9%
Equip./Const. Svcs.	\$ 281,507	\$ 99,473	1.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 7,596,248</b>	<b>\$ 7,692,231</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Increase from 2004-05 to 2005-06		<b>1.26%</b>	

Overview of how will the money be spent is in the table.

**PLANNING BOARD, March 14 and March 28**

The Master Plan of the Township was proposed for amendment, to include a new element a "Historic Individual Sites District", which would cover about 150



individual houses not already included in one of the Township's many larger districts. The significance of the new district would be to have the dwellings fall under jurisdiction of the "Demolition Delay Ordinance" as well as providing review by the Historic Preservation Committee for any changes sought by owners by way of Board of Adjustment variances or Planning Board approval. This was approved by the Planning Board, and sent to the Township Committee.

The Kaplan/ "Ridge at Sand Spring"/Lyle subdivision had extension hearings, with more to come. Landscape plans, the water retention basin, the private road location and alignment, the tree conservation easement (50' around the entire perimeter), bridle trail relocation all were discussed by Applicants and commented on by interested parties. The application has requested 5 lots with an average size of 5 acres, although 1 lot would be 8 acres, another 1 lot has 6 acres, and 3 lots would be 4 acres each. The issue raised by one of the immediate neighbors, was the correctness of the calculation of a 5-lot subdivision, given the steep slope on part of the property. The significance of this dispute is whether Applicants are entitled to lot size average to the 5-lot subdivision, or whether only 4 lots should be possible on the land. This question will be continued at the April 25 hearing.

The Carey subdivision on Van Buren Rd, for three lots, all of which meet the 5-acre size limitation, has been postponed again, to April as well.

#### **BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT, March 17**

##### Resolutions:

Application #20-04 – Brent and Leslie Wentz – Approved

Application #21-04 – Howard Baldwin and Nancy Areson – Approved

Application #22-03 – The Huff, FLP, LP – Approved

##### Pending Application:

#1-05 – Michael and Patricia Garguilo, , 3 Holly Hill Lane, Block 6, Lot 9.01, Zone R-1, "C" Variance: Variance was required because of coverage and set-backs from Blue Mill Road. Property is bordered by Holly Hill Road in the front and Blue Mill Road in the rear. Applicant must provide additional evergreen trees (Spruce and Hollies) to screen pool area from Blue Mill Road. Elevation of pool was limited to 2 feet above current grade. Application approved.

##### Request for Amended Approval:

Application #4-04 – Peter Dorne, 106 Lee's Hill Road, Block 47, Lot 10.01. R-1, Request for additional "C" Variance. Upon applicant's request, carried to April 21, 2005 meeting.

***New Application: This is for the new Post Office, site currently Ortman's Garage.*** #3-05 – James Cleave, Applicant. Dennis Page/Janice Hayes (Owners) 12 Village Road, Block 17, Lot 61, Preliminary and final site Plan with "C" and "D" Variance. Waivers from the Town Engineer were incomplete, but will be completed

by the Applicant. This is the first application for the Town Redevelopment District. Applicant is requesting a use variance so that the building can be one story and not include a residential apartment as required by the Redevelopment Ordinance. There will also be a coverage issue because of a pedestrian walkway and wider than average parking spaces.. Applicant has a signed lease from the Post Office for one side of the building and a bakery/deli for the other side of the building. There will also be a bulletin board in front of the building to announce town events. A plan for remediation of the contaminated soil has been submitted to the State and was approved. The DEP case number for this property is 0204231221-37. There are two heating oil tanks that must be removed. The gas tanks have already been removed.

According to the criteria in the Redevelopment District Zoning, this building was supposed to provide a residential or affordable housing unit. Because of the requirements for the Post Office (they require 10 foot ceiling), the building will be much too massive for a second story. Applicant will make a voluntary donation of \$35,000 to compensate for the affordable housing unit.

The existing building will be torn down. There will be a driveway with 2 entrances onto Village Road and one entrance out the back to the municipal area. There was some discussion as to whether or not the rear exit should be a one way or two way street. Regarding storm-water management, there can be no increase in the volume of run-off. Also, all run-off from the parking area must be treated. Lighting will be on timers from 6:00 A.M. to 9:30 P.M. The Post Office might make deliveries as early as 4:30 A.M. The Historical Society did not want the lights to be mounted on tall poles. Applicant will be required to provide an evergreen buffer between properties. A storage tank for water will be provided for fire fighting. The elevation will be "barrier free" so that a long ramp would not be needed for the handicapped. There will be two wall mounted signs – one for the P.O and the other for the deli.

**HARDING TOWNSHIP HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMM.,** March 2005

The following applications were reviewed by the HPC

***(From the Board of Adjustment)***

**Jim Cleave (contract purchaser) 12 Village Road (old Ortman's Garage Lot)  
Proposed Post Office Site**

The proposed plans were in keeping with Mixed-use buildings of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century community. The commission notes that the building front set back has been increased and building lighting has been changed in response to recommendations by Preservation Consultants, Westfield Associates. The commission further notes stated concerns about the architectural context of the building, especially in building placement and site features, as well as the visual impact of the proposed parking lot. The Commission is aware of the specific constraints on building access, height proportion, and scale imposed by the U.S. Postal Service requirements. These

account for the bulk and use variance, which the Commission supports.

The following suggestions were made regarding building materials:

- Use of A.J. Downing's color palate, typical for mid-19<sup>th</sup> century structures
- Multiple use of colors or varied textures to break up the façade of building
- Use of single pane window for door and display window of retail space

The following additional comments concern the site plan:

- Consider reducing the height of the exterior pole lights from 12'
- Consider use of gravel walkways, instead of brick or pavement
- Consider historic curbing options – not Belgian block curb
- Consider historic marking for parking spaces (not delineated by painted pavement)

The Commission requests review of final architecture, lighting, sign and landscape plans.

**Peter Dorne, 106 Lee's Hill Road (at Young's Road)**

The Commission does not support this request for a height variance for the accessory structure. Initial support was based on "the small size and scale of the proposed accessory structure". The proximity of this proposed structure to the street and existing topography, the proportion of this building will appear bigger than other small barns in Harding and significantly larger than the existing structure.

Recommendations:

- Proposed roofline is lowered to a height consistent with the ordinances.
- Last choice of the Commission is to allow the average height of the building to remain at 29 feet as proposed but to require that both the chimney/fireplace and cupola be eliminated.

**Peter Dorne, 114 Lee's Hill Road (at Young's Road).**

An existing secondary structure on above property.

The proposed conversion of the existing "Secondary" Residence to a Barn has an appeal to this commission. This structure is influential to establishing a streetscape along this portion of Young's Road.

**Paul and Richiko Howarth, 85 Pleasantville Road**

The HPC provided comments to the applicant and architect at October 2004 meeting. These suggestions remain the same and have yet to be incorporated into the building plans.

***(From the Planning Board)***

**Township of Harding Affordable Housing Project**, Woodland and Kitchell Road, although property not within historic district HPC seeks to review architectural design as this property is one of first encountered entering into Harding Township from Woodland Road. The Commission members will follow this development closely and request opportunity to comment on the different design phases of the project.

**The Ridge at Sand Spring,** Proposed landscape does not do enough to retain the rural and historic streetscape of Sand Spring Road. The HPC requests the Planning Board require applicant to prepare a model of the site (including landscape, exterior lighting) as visible from Sand Spring Road

The HPC has no comment on the following (not historic structure, no impact on streetscape, not in historic district). Laurence Margolis, 20 Country Drive; Mr. and Mrs. Grano, 84 Glen Alpin Road

### **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Plant Material not Favored by Deer** The following list was prepared in collaboration with members of the New Vernon Garden Club and reflects the experience of gardening in Harding. Residents might find it helpful in planning their spring plantings. Deer in our area rarely damage the plants listed. Nevertheless, they will browse at any plant, if no alternative food is available. In addition, each deer herd is different. The young deer eat what their mothers eat. So eating habits may vary from herd to herd. Deer will usually not eat any leaf, which is gray and/or furry. Many herbs fall in this category.

#### **Trees**

Cedar  
Fir  
Maples, ornamentals  
Spruce  
Dogwood  
American Holly

#### **Shrubs**

Andromeda  
Boxwood  
Cotoneaster  
Skimmia; Juniper

#### **Perennials**

Daffodil, Jonquil  
Foxglove; Lilly of the Valley  
Hellebore  
Iris; Bleeding Heart  
Ferns; Cimicifuga,  
Lavender; Fairy Candle

#### **Groundcover**

Pachysandra  
Lamium  
Ornamental Grasses  
Ajuga; Leucothoe

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION, no report this month**

### **HARDING TOWNSHIP CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

**PUBLIC NOTICE:** The following persons will be elected as Trustees of the Harding Township Civic Association at a special Membership Meeting scheduled on May 2, 2005: David Hodgson, Alf Newlin, and Janet Rizzo. The following persons will be elected as officers: Peter Saulier President; Gwen Claytor, Vice President; Sal Capizzi, treasurer, and Anna Magnell, Secretary.

**EDITOR'S NOTE: THE DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT TWO ISSUES OF THE THUMBNAIL ARE *April 28* and *May 31* respectively.** Please send copy to the editor, Hesna Pfeiffer. Most preferred format is by E-mail, **email [hesnaj@aol.com](mailto:hesnaj@aol.com)**, as we don't have to re-type, but fax is also acceptable, to the editor's **fax, 973 540 8911**. 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. Don't forget to check the Civic Assn website for information about your town! [www.hardingcivic.org](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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays 4/23, 5/14, 5/28, 6/11, 6/25 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 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday)	4 PM	
Municipal Court (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday)	11AM	
Environmental Commission (1 <sup>st</sup> Monday)	7:30 PM	5/2, 6/7
Seniors (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday)Chrst KingCh	11 AM .....	
Planning Board (4 <sup>th</sup> Monday)	7:30 PM ...	4/25
Hist Preservation Comm (1stThursday)	8 PM	4/7, 5/5
Board of Health (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday)	8 PM	5/12
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 ...	4/21, 5/19
Township Committee(1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed)	8 PM .....	4/20, 5/4, 5/18
Shade Tree (2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday) 3 PM		4/11, 5/9
Harding Twp Civic Association	7:30 PM	5/2