

October 2005

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

THE LIBRARY

Evening at the Library, Thursday, October 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the Court Room, Kirby Hall, Blue Mill Rd. Spend a stimulating evening with Candace and Rich Weeks, recently returned from a family holiday in Tanzania. They climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro (the tallest mountain on the African continent), visited a chimpanzee research station at the Mahale Preserve, and had a first-hand experience of life in an East African country. Hear all about it!

NEW!! Watch for the Unicorn! In October, all of the MAIN Inc. libraries will migrate to a new automated library computer system, *Unicorn Workflows*. The Web2 catalog will disappear, but the user-friendly, informative *iBistro* will take its place. In a recent town wide mailing, we enclosed bookmarks summarizing this new service that you can tape to your computer monitor and thus have your library barcode and PIN readily available for online requests. Unfortunately, the printer did not run off the number of copies specified so that not everyone received this enclosure. Get one at the Library!

Storytime...Tuesday, October 11: *All My Ducks in a Row*. Tales and adventures of ducks and other web-footed friends. **Tuesday, October 25:** *We Love Pumpkins* with Beth Gibson and Sharon Hemmer. Enjoy stories and paint a pumpkin. Sign up at the Library. Storytime is at 10:30 a.m. in the Municipal Building.

The Adult Book Discussion Group meets on **Wednesday, October 26 at 7:30 p.m.** We will be reading *The News from Paraguay*, Lily Tuck's National Book Award Winner. Set in Paris and Paraguay, it tells the story of a young woman as she follows her lover to Paraguay and becomes part of his ill-fated imperial dreams for himself and his country. Pick up a flyer at the Library. All are welcome!

Back by Popular Demand—Children's Book Group...Beginning in November, Lynn Hughes will once again lead her engaging book discussions with 4th- and 5th- graders. We will need at least six students to join. Get a list of titles and sign up for this special program at the Library.

Election Day Book Sale, Tuesday, November 8, all day while the polls are open. Do your holiday shopping early. It's the best bargain in town!

Extended Hours... on *Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday when the Library stays open until 5 p.m.* Hours of operation and holiday closings are listed on our Website: hardinglibrary.org.

The **Presbyterian Church of New Vernon** will hold a four-week course on four

successive Wednesday evenings this fall. The first session will meet in Fellowship Hall of the church on **October 12th, 2005** from **7:30-9pm**, and will examine the scriptural building blocks at the foundation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). What exactly is the tradition we know as Presbyterianism? How does this almost 500-year-old denomination approach Scripture? The course is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. The course will be taught by The Rev. Dr. Wayne G. Boulton. Dr. Bolton is the Interim Minister at the church; he and his wife have joined our community recently, and are living in the Manse on Lees Hill Rd. A lifetime Presbyterian, he grew up in the New York City area, has taught Christian ethics for over two decades at the college and graduate levels, did experimental mission work in Thailand, has led a number of churches and served in an institutional presidency. The Course text is *Witness Without Parallel* by Earl Johnson, Jr. (Geneva Press, 2003; available for purchase at www.amazon.com).

The New Vernon Garden Club holds its first Program on **October 20th, at 10 AM**, in Fellowship Hall, Presbyterian Church, New Vernon. Jerry Rose will present a lively and informative talk, "Holiday Floral Design". Mr. Rose is an accomplished floral designer, event planner author and lecturer.

The Garden Club officers for the 2005-2006 year are: Nancy McClelland, President; Barbara Ripp, Vice President; Susan Stahly, Recording Secretary; Kathy Atencio, Corresponding Secretary; Lynne Gorman, Treasurer; and Denise Bridgens-Collins, Assistant Treasurer. The club meets the 3rd Thursday of the month (September-November and January-May) at 9 AM, followed by the free programs beginning at 10 AM which are open to all (reservations are requested). Information about the monthly meetings generally appears in the Club Calendar section of the Observer Tribune. For more information about the club, please contact Patti Wood at (973) 425-0878).

NEW VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT Soup Contest

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

Date: **Sunday, October 23**
Time: 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Place: Fire House, Village Road
Cost: \$5.00 for soup, bread, coffee

Homemade desserts and soda will be available for sale. Vote for your favorite soup. Prizes will be awarded. If you would like to enter a soup in the contest, admission is free, please call Pat O'Reilly (973 301-2151) or Connie Cherrillo (973 539-9383).

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

HARDING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY 22nd Annual Antiques Show & Sale takes place on November 4, 5 and 6

beginning with a preview party at the Tunis-Ellicks House, corner of Millbrook and Village Rds, on Friday evening, November 4, from 6 to 9 p.m. Guests will enjoy a light buffet dinner, wine bar and first look at the antiques. HTHS members have received preview party invitations with which to make reservations. All non-members without reservations will be asked to pay \$15.00 at the door. Admission on Saturday and Sunday is \$3.50 or \$3.00 with show card or newspaper coupon. There will be no bake sale this year, but more dealers, bringing the total to 25, will utilize the additional space.

News From Harding Twp/Green Village Bridle Path Association (HT/GV BPA)

Many of you are aware that there is a network of Bridle trails throughout Harding Twp. Many of them are old wagon trails that the farmers used well over 75 years ago. A great number of them are owned by the Land Trust, have formal easements or are listed on homeowner's maps; most are on private property.

You may not see horses and riders very often, as they usually ride alone or in pairs and ride at different times of the day and the week. Our volunteers maintain the trails and clear brush or fallen limbs so that we can continue to have access. For many years we have co existed peacefully with our property owners and added to the rural character of Harding that we all cherish.

Some safety concerns about ATV's (all Terrain Vehicles) have recently arisen. Although it may be a homeowner's right to ride an ATV on their own property, ATV's are not permitted on the bridle trails. Our Association carries insurance to protect homeowners to allow horses and riders on their property. ATV's are not covered by our policy and are very dangerous to both horses and riders on the trails. The easements only cover horses and riders.

A horse may be surprised to see an occasional person walking on the trails that they usually have to themselves. However, encountering an ATV can be a very scary and dangerous thing to a horse that could easily be startled by such a vehicle. Riders could be thrown and horses could injure themselves. In general, it is important to be aware of the presence of horses on the trails.

If you encounter a rider in the road please slow down. If they are crossing the street, please stop and let them pass. Remember they are an animal and are not always as easily controlled as your vehicle.

A new State Statute was recently passed requiring drivers to slow down on the road for horse's and riders: Title 39 also (P.L. 2004, c.163). 39:4-72. a. "When approaching or passing a person riding or driving a horse, a person driving a motor vehicle shall reduce the vehicle's speed to a rate not exceeding 25 miles an hour and

proceed with caution. At the request of or upon a signal by putting up the hand or otherwise, from a person riding or driving a horse in the opposite direction, the motor vehicle driver shall cause the motor vehicle to stop and remain stationary so long as may be necessary to allow the horse to pass...”

For more information on the Bridlepath Association or the trails, contact Linda Halsey at 973-425-2299 or email us at bridlepath@att.net; web site is www.bridlepath.org

FREE RABIES CLINIC. SATURDAY, November 5, 2005. CATS and DOGS: 9-11a.m. Reminder- free Rabies Vaccine Inoculation for cats and dogs at the New Vernon Volunteer Firehouse, at the corner of Village Road and Millbrook Road. Dogs whose rabies vaccination expires before October 31, 2006 must be vaccinated before a license can be issued for 2006.

The New Vernon Volunteer Fire Dept. held its annual Country Auction on Sept 24. The Fire Dept. would like to thank all those who volunteered countless hours to make this event a success.

The New Vernon Volunteer First Aid Squad is pleased to announce the following new members to the New Vernon First Aid Squad: Rich Weeks, Chris Barry, Betty d'Esterhazy, Howard Gladstone, Donna Gandy, Barbara Coulter, and Janet Cornish; Junior members: Lilia Stefaniwsky, Ryan Crowley, Jessica Cornish, and Christian Mills. If you see them, please thank them for joining a vital service organization in our community.

Fall is a busy time for the First Aid Squad members. In October, they will attend a two-evening, two-day recertification course. The goal of the New Vernon First Aid Squad is to provide professional, up-to-date care at the scene of an emergency and safe transport to the hospital, if needed. Obviously, the Squad is a valuable resource in Harding. In most New Jersey communities, tax money supports the first aid squad—but not in Harding, where it is maintained by volunteer effort!

If you think that the New Vernon Volunteer First Aid Squad is important to our community, why not join us? We would love to meet you. Please call Con Crowley at 973-656-0488 or John Thomas at 973-267-9424 for further information.

TOWNSHIP NEWS

Township Committee

September 6, 2005 and September 21, 2005

Drought Conditions

Gary Annibal gave an update on the drought conditions. For the Harding

area, we are 8" below the expected level for this time of year. The NJ State DEP, however, reports a normal or near normal condition statewide. There have been 10 reports of well water shortages/problems in Harding to date. The TC discussed whether to impose any water restrictions. According to Annibal, a restriction may be helpful, but probably would not have any direct impact on improving any water shortage since the water supply is not in continuous zone but is distributed across many aquifers. After debating the topic, the TC decided to implement the following **mandatory restrictions:**

No watering of lawns, No filling pools, No washing of cars or driveways.

The restrictions are in effect from September 29, 2005 to October 31, 2005.

Affordable Housing

Austin Godfrey, Assistant Secretary of the Affordable Housing Corporation was on hand 9/6/05 to explain the rationale for TC 05-207 which increased the amount of money authorized to remove excess soil (not contaminated) from the building site. Originally \$75,000 was approved, but as work progressed more topsoil was required to be removed to get down to firm ground suitable for a foundation. Evidently, the site had a very deep layer of top soil because the land had been used for agriculture. According to Mr. Godfrey, the current estimate is 5,800 cubic yards of soil (up from 3,800) at \$17.58 per cubic yard. The Corporation asked that \$110,000 be approved to cover the cost of the removal plus a contingency. A Committee member asked if the soil could be sold since it was not contaminated. Gary Annibal explained that the soil was not saleable as is because it contained debris, but that he anticipated that the company receiving the soil would probably screen the soil and prepare it for resale. Resolution TC 05-207 authorizing the change passed unanimously.

On 9/21/05, it was reported that the cleanup of toxic substances at the Affordable Housing site has been completed including the removal of arsenic affected soil, and the remediation of pesticide affected soil.

Waiver of fees for Land Trust Hoedown

The Harding Land Trust requested and was granted a waiver of the tent/other permit fees of \$120 for their planned Land Trust Hoedown Event. When asked if this would set any kind of precedent, Lanzerotti said that the Township worked closely with the Land Trust on several acquisitions and therefore deserved special consideration.

Glen Alpin

On 9/6/05, Ms. Prendergast reported that consultants are currently writing the specification for asbestos remediation. Bid documents for the roof replacement have been completed and after bidders are qualified by September 21st, they will receive bid documents in November with a contract award expected in December. The Septic system needs to be replaced and a location for the new system has been

identified pending archeological investigation. A landscape plan has been prepared and paid for and is under discussion. Ordinance 16-05 increasing the amount of the Glen Alpin bond offering was unanimously approved.

On 9/21/05, The TC conducted a public hearing regarding applying prequalification requirements for those contractors bidding on the Glen Alpin roof replacement construction project. Generally, NJ State requires that any company who wishes to bid on a construction project be allowed to do so – with the low cost bidder winning the project. In cases of historical restoration renovation projects, however, the State allows reasonable prequalification conditions to be imposed. Resolution TC 05-210 stated that in order for a contractor to be considered qualified by the TC for bidding on the Glen Alpin roof replacement project, the contractor must submit a resume demonstrating experience with and successful completion of 2 prior projects similar in nature to the Glen Alpin project. TC 05-210 was passed unanimously. Draft plans for the septic system were sent to the State. The landscape plan has been reviewed by the Steering Committee.

TC resolution 05-216 authorized the retainer of a “project manager” for the Glen Alpin construction project. The project manager would be responsible for the progress and quality of the project during construction, and conduct regular visits to the site to ensure that construction was performed according to expectations. The cost for the project manager was not expected to exceed \$43,000. Resolution 05-216 passed unanimously.

Dickson's Mill Road Bridge

Mr. Lanzerotti reported that a meeting recently took place with four Morris County officials. The County is recommending the bridge width be increased to 44 feet and the road over the bridge be straightened. Mr. Lanzerotti communicated that the local residents were very concerned that the County plan would allow for increased speed over the bridge which could be dangerous, in addition to being less historic. The County responded that increased speed was a law enforcement issue. Mr. Lanzerotti noted that there had not been an accident involving the bridge (or the road) for at least the last 10 years and that he would persevere in representing the views of the community. The issue was not resolved and has been referred to State of NJ officials.

Pension Costs

Ms. Evers explained that Harding (and most if not all other towns in NJ) was facing increasing costs of pension funding for municipal employees. According to Ms. Evers, during the Whitman administration, the State changed the calculation of the value of pension assets to reflect the actual market value of investments which resulted in a reduced funding requirement (which helped to pay for tax cuts). When investment values declined in 2000, pension contributions were then inadequate to fully fund pension obligations. The State has mandated that funding be increased.

Harding is expecting its pension funding to increase from \$8,700 under the old rules to \$50,000 in 2005 and from \$25,488 to \$119,532 in 2006.

Alcohol Consumption by Minors on Private Property

Ordinance 15-05 reducing the penalty for consumption of alcohol by minors on private property to bring it in line with NJ State penalties was unanimously approved. The Township, in a previous Ordinance last year had increased such penalties inconsistent with State law.

Wildlife Feeding

Ordinance 17-05 prohibiting the feeding of wildlife on public property was introduced and Resolution TC 05-208 approved deer hunting dates and locations.

Verizon Development Plans near the Pleasantville Historic District Area

(This article thanks to Observer-Tribune)

A third public hearing on a Verizon Wireless proposal to install a 120-foot-high cellular phone tower near the former AT&T office complex in Bernards Township and not far from Harding Township was postponed before the scheduled September 15 meeting.

Verizon officials asked the zoning Board of Adjustment, which had scheduled the hearing for Thursday, Sept. 15, for a postponement so they could have more time to explore alternative sites within the office campus. Verizon had requested several variances to erect the tower behind a house at 246 Madisonville Road, zoned for E-1 office use, which currently houses the offices of the Passaic River Coalition. Verizon is under contract to acquire the tract as part of its recent deal to buy the adjoining, former AT&T complex at 295 North Maple Ave. Verizon plans to move 3,000 employees into the complex by July 2006, and contends it needs a tower nearby to provide those employees with cell phone service. During the first two hearings on Aug. 3 and Sept. 7, about 20 residents from Bernards and Harding townships challenged the proposal and questioned why the tower could not work within the 130-acre office campus. At the second hearing, Verizon officials agreed to explore alternative sites, but said a Sept. 15 hearing would leave enough time only for "propagation models" and not actual field tests.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT MEETING, September 15, 2005

Resolutions: BOA #13-05 – Newton B White – Approved

BOA #11-03 – Minor Amended Variance Approval – T. Heston Allocco – Approved

Pending Application:

BOA#16-05 – Sand Spring Associates, LLC, 121 Lee's Hill Road, Block 51, Lot 7.01, "C" and "D" Variances. There were no significant problems uncovered at the site inspection. Applicant will preserve the historic house as an accessory structure. Relief for this variance is tied to the historic significance of the building. The driveway will be 87 feet from the property line and a buffer of Norway spruce will

be planted. Impervious coverage was reduced and trees will not have to be removed. Attorney for the neighbor, Mr. McGuire, questioned applicant. The neighbor strenuously objected to a second driveway. Since Lee's Hill Road is a County road, the County could reverse the Board's decision on the driveway. The Board approved this application because of the historical significance of the accessory structure.

New Applications:

BOA# 17-05 – John Bush – 101 Pleasantville Road, Block 15, Lot 21.02 “C” Variance. Applicant needs to repair a porch and wall that are non-conforming. Changes to these structures were negligible. Application approved.

BOA#5-05 – Tim Holdings LLC, 9 Village Road, Block 18, Lot 3, Major Site Plan & “D” Variance. This property is also known as “The Academy”. Repair work is currently being done on the building. (Old timbers were removed because of safety issues.) Waivers have been approved. Property will be set up like a small village. A two-story apartment will be built next to the main residence. There will be a privacy fence and shrubbery to screen this property from the neighbors. The parking lot was raised slightly so that water will drain toward Village Road. The parking lot will have 13 spaces and be illuminated by 6 lights. A dumpster will be located at the rear of the building. Comments from Public: The neighbor at the rear of this property was concerned with headlights and run-off. Storm water will be contained in pits. Any overflow will go towards Village Road. There will be fences and shrubbery/trees to screen the back yard. Parking lot lights will be on timers.

PLANNING BOARD September 26, 2005

The **Valgenti** subdivision for 2 lots, both over 5 acres off Glen Alpin Rd, west of Country Drive, BI 35, lot 21.09, approved last month, memorializing resolution approved.

Margolis application, BI 35, lot 21.09, requesting a 2-lot subdivision from proposed flag-lot access driveway was approved. This is located at the back of Country Drive; off Glen Alpin Rd. The application had requested front and side lot variances, and impervious lot coverage exceptions.

A *de minimus* waiver for storm water management was granted for **Carey**, BI 7, Lot 1, Van Buren Rd; this subdivision had been approved a few months ago

The **Lancor** subdivision request on Meyersville Rd will be continued, BI 55, lot 10. One of the issues is whether the approval from NJ DEP is relevant to current activity. Although the State DEP had approved Applicants' activity, there was testimony at the Sept meeting regarding observations of violations not referred to in the DEP approval. Neighbors dispute the DEP conclusions as relevant to present conditions. The Planning Bd has requested the letter from DEP be brought up-to date. At an inspection in August, new violations of the conservation easement were

apparent. A DEP visit to the site is requested, and assurance that the current violations are addressed. Continued to October 24 meeting. The applicant is requesting a two-lot L-shaped subdivision on seven plus acres, to build two houses in an area surrounded by wetlands. One of the homes would be on 3.6 acres and the other proposed structure is on 3.5 acres. (Lot size requirement in this area is 3 acres.) Lancor has already built two homes on other contiguous lots. Continued to October 24 meeting.

Also continued to October is the 4-lot subdivision, **Wilkerson**, Sand Spring Rd., Bl 21, Lot 5 This application was not heard due to time constraints.

BOARD OF EDUCATION (This article thanks to Observer-Tribune, 9/15/05))

A new 3-year contract with the Harding teacher's Union was ratified in September. The teachers' association in June rejected the original offer of a 4.3% raise and cutbacks to health insurance, but the Association accepted an increased offer of 4.9% salary increase following summer negotiations.

Having a two-tier plan solved the health insurance issue, with teachers hired before July 1, 2006 having a more open plan with no primary care physician requirement and a larger network of providers. Teachers hired after 7/1/06 will have to use a primary care physician within the health care network. Called the "point of service" plan, it will become the base plan for all staff hired on or after July 1, 2006. The "point of service plan," (POS) is based on the managed care system where medical costs are lower because members must use doctors listed under the plan. Those enrolled in a POS plan are required to choose a primary care physician to monitor health care. The primary care physician must be chosen from within the health care network, and becomes the "point of service."

Teachers association members employed before July 1, 2006, can enroll in the preferred provider option, which is a more open plan with no primary care physician and a larger network of providers, according to Peter Pearson, interim school board secretary.

Currently, 44 teachers are on the preferred provider plan. Costs vary. The 13 teachers with family programs costs the district \$1,161 a month for each family. For 13 other teachers who had two adults covered, the cost is \$993 per month, Pearson said. For 15 teachers with single coverage, the cost is \$455 a month, Pearson said. Three teachers with health insurance for a parent and a child costs \$664 a month. Currently, only one teacher is on the point of service plan, which will be the standard plan for incoming teachers. The plan for the single teacher costs \$1,042, to insure two adults each month. Finally, three teachers are on the traditional plan, which costs \$1,221 a month for family coverage.

HARDING TOWNSHIP SCHOOL NEWS

Under the leadership of Harding Township School's 8th Grade PEERS, students rallied to raise funds for Hurricane Katrina relief. A school-wide baked goods and lemonade sale was held throughout the day on Friday, September 23, 2005. Guidance Counselor Colleen Heyert worked with teachers Linda Hauck and Francis Ruano to coordinate the student effort. At the end of the day, the students raised a total of \$1,092.15, which was donated to the Red Cross.

Outdoor Education at Fairview Lake

Continuing an annual tradition, middle school students packed their bags and headed out for a two-day outdoor and environmental education experience at Fairview Lake in Stillwater, New Jersey. During the trip students work in grade level and multi-age groups to: solve challenging action socialization tasks, build teamwork, practice problem solving and decision making, demonstrate creativity and leadership skills, and explore nature and wildlife studies. The students were accompanied by teachers and administrators who assist the camp staff throughout the visit.

Harding Township School is pleased to welcome the following new staff members to our school community:

Angela D'Addona – Kindergarten. She is a graduate of The College of St. Elizabeth where she earned a B.A. in Elementary and Early Childhood Education and Psychology.

Linda Hauck – Resource Center, earned her B.S. in Exceptional Education and Childhood Education from the State University of New York at Buffalo where she graduated summa cum laude.

Colleen Heyert – Guidance Counselor, is a graduate of Villanova University where she received her B.A. in Human Services and Boston College where she earned her M.A. in Human Services.

Michele Lachow – School Psychologist. She holds a B.S. in Psychology and Environmental Science from Cook College, Rutgers University, an M.A. in Clinical Psychology from Fairleigh Dickinson University, and an M.A. in Educational Psychology from Kean University.

Jessica Loeb – Resource Center, earned her B.S. in Social Work from The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey and her Master of Arts in Teaching from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Francis Ruano – Spanish Teacher, earned her B.S. in Psychology at St. Peter's College and her B.A. in Spanish at William Paterson University.

Kelly Hogan – First Grade, is a 2002 graduate of The University of Scranton where she earned her B.S. in Elementary Education.

Kathleen Doherty – Social Worker, holds a B.S.W. from Providence College and an

M.S. in Health Care Systems Management from Iona College.

HARDING TOWNSHIP HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMM, no report this month

EDITOR'S NOTE: THE DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT TWO ISSUES OF THE THUMBNAIL ARE October 27 and November 30, respectively. 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 10/22, 11/5, 11/19, 12/3, 12/17 from 9-12 AM. Please do NOT leave recyclable materials if the center is closed.

DATES TO REMEMBER, meetings as noted.

Municipal Court (1 st and 3 rd Tuesday)	4 PM	
Municipal Court (2 nd and 4 th Friday)	11AM	
Environmental Commission (1 st Monday)	7:30 PM	11/7, 12/5
Seniors (2 nd and 4 th Thursday)Chrst KingCh	11 AM	
Planning Board (4 th Monday)	7:30 PM ...	10/24, 11/28, 12/19
Hist Preservation Comm (1stThursday)	8 PM	11/3, 12/1
Board of Health (2 nd Thursday)	8 PM	
Board of Education (2 nd and 4 th Monday)	7:30 PM ...	
Board of Adjustment (3 rd Thursday)	7:30 PM ...	10/20
Township Committee(1 st and 3 rd Wed)	8 PM	
Shade Tree (2 nd Monday) 3 PM		
Harding Twp Civic Association	7:30 PM	11/7, 12/5