

December 2005

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

From the Harding Police Department:

Don't forget that the Harding Township Police Department is collecting previously owned wireless phones to be distributed to victims of domestic violence through a program with Verizon. This will also provide an environmentally safe method of recycling phones. All wireless phone models from any carrier will be accepted. Phone donations will be accepted at police headquarters at Kirby Hall on Blue Mill Road from the hours of 8:30 am until 4:30 pm Monday through Friday.

Some advice about Winter Driving

Preparing your vehicle for the winter season and knowing how to react if stranded or lost on the road are the keys to safe winter driving. Have a mechanic check the following items on your car: Battery, Antifreeze, Wipers and windshield washer fluid, Ignition system, Thermostat, Lights, Flashing hazard lights, Exhaust system, Heater, Brakes, Defroster, Oil level (if necessary, replace existing oil with a winter grade oil or the SAE 10w/30 weight variety). Install good winter tires and make sure the tires have adequate tread. Keep a windshield scraper and small broom for ice and snow removal. Maintain at least a half tank of gas during the winter season. Plan long trips carefully. Listen to the radio or call the state highway patrol for the latest road conditions. If possible, travel during daylight and take another person. Store a supply of high-energy "munchies" and several bottles of water in your car.

THE LIBRARY

Storytime... Tuesday, December 20 **at 10:30 am** ...*Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow!* Frosty and his winter friends are coming to visit via stories and crafts.

Adult Book Group...Do you love to read and talk about what you have read? If the answer is "yes!" consider joining HTL's Book Group for adults. We meet one evening per month for a stimulating discussion of a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction titles. Next meeting is **Wednesday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Municipal Building to review *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See, a beautifully written work of fiction depicting the intertwined lives of two young women in 19th-century China. Upcoming titles list available at the Library.

4th- and 5th-Grade Book Club was off to a rousing start with a discussion of the mystery everyone read, followed by some fun code breaking! This month's

selection is a short, humorous book, *The Pepins and Their Problems*, by Polly Horvath with pictures by Marilyn Hafner. The reader is invited to help solve the Pepin family's unusual problems, which include a cow that creates lemonade rather than milk and coping with a competitive neighbor. Request your copy at the Library. More participants welcome; we would like to have at least 12 members by February in order to conduct literature circle discussions. Joining is easy! Simply call the Library at 973-267-8000 ext. 132 then read the book before the next meeting on **Tuesday, December 20 at 5 p.m.** at the Library.

Holiday Closings: Saturday, December 24 and Monday, December 26. The Library will be open on Saturday morning, December 31 but then closed until Tuesday, January 3, 2006.

On the Book Sale Cart, there are treasures to help you with your gift list! Inside the Library, you will find an abundance of children's holiday books for borrowing. ~ **We wish you peace and joy in the holiday season and a year of pleasurable reading ahead!**

Garden Club News

The Garden Club of New Jersey will again decorate the public spaces of the NJ Governor's mansion, Drumthwacket, for the holidays. The theme for this year's holiday decorations is *New Jersey Heritage*. Suzy Moran, a member of the New Vernon Garden Club, is the project chairman for the state. Garden clubs throughout the state will participate in the project. The New Vernon Garden Club will decorate the library in the mansion. Justine Kovacs, Nancy McClelland, Barbara Ripp and Barbara Wilkerson serve on the decorating committee for the local club.

TOWNSHIP NEWS

Township Committee

No specific report this month

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT MEETING, NOVEMBER 17TH

Pending Applications:

Application #BOA 25-05 Timothy O'Connor/Terry Strada, 88 Lee's Hill Road, Block 40, Lot 11 "C" Variance.

This house anchors the Logansville historic district. Therefore it is important to retain this property. There are two separate apartments on the property that will be used by people who work on the property. The buildings have been there for 25 or 30 years. Application approved subject to the revisions

that were submitted.

Application #BOA 23-05 – James and Laura Bestys, 11 Pleasantville Road, Block 17, Lot 32, “C” and “D” variances. Issues are set backs and location of the barn. Having a barn in the front of the house would be consistent with the Pleasantville historic district. Existing house is 23.9 feet from the sideline. The building will be moved back to 60 feet from the sideline. The barn and garage will be 95 feet from the sideline. Carport will be in the rear of the building. The gable will be removed from the top of the building per a request from the Historical Association. Wetlands are a consideration, due to the streams that flow through the property. A 150-foot buffer is required from the wetlands. The existing house is barely out of the buffer. The barn and garage are in the buffer. The DEP will have to give their approval before the applicant can build. Applicant will get an LLI so that the Board can make a decision on this application.

Application #BOA 24-05 Peter Beaumont, 43 Young’s Road, Block 47, Lot 13, “C” Variance.

Issue is height of house and setbacks. Applicant has wet lands restrictions. Proposed house has been resituated on the property so that it will conform to 150 foot set back ordinance. Height has been decreased, however because of the style of architecture, a steep roof is required. Property is currently sub-divided. Applicant wants to combine the separate lots into one 9-acre lot. Comments from public: Helen Slonaker (the neighbor directly behind this property) is in favor of the application. Brian Riley (the neighbor across the street from this property) objects to the massive size of the house so close to the road. George Hanley another neighbor, is in favor of the application, but would like to see additional landscaping. Application will be continued to the next meeting.

Application #BOA 19-05 – James and Ikuyo Kidd, 214 Village Road, Block 12, Lot 21, “C” Variance.

The Historical Association made suggestions on the height of the chimney, the doors and requested window boxes be installed. The neighbor on the property behind this house would like to have additional trees and shrubbery planted, however the area where they would go is a wet lands buffer. Application approved.

New Application:

Application #BOA 18-05 John & Joyce Tevald, 110 Colonial Drive, Block 33, Lot 4.02, “C” Variance.

Variance is needed because applicant wants to put an addition on his

house. The additional square footage will change the setback requirements from 100 to 150 feet. Addition is one story. Applicant wants to add another bedroom and bathroom (180 sq. ft.). The Tevalds are planning to sell their house to their son and use the new bedroom & bathroom during the months they reside in New Jersey. Application approved.

Application #BOA 22-05. Donald Lee, Jr. and Katharine Dahler, 14 Lee's Hill Road, Block 49, Lot 2, "C" Variance.

Applicant wants to add a pool and install a bathroom in the existing barn. At issue is the set back on the side yard. The barn has been renovated, so the only work needed would be to add the bathroom fixtures. There is a wood-burning stove in the barn. The pool will be shielded from view by the barn. The Presbyterian Church is on the other side of the house. Application approved.

PLANNING BOARD, November 28, 2005

The Planning Board voted 9-1 to grant preliminary approvals for Bernardsville-based Lancor Development to build two houses on an 11-acre site in the middle of wetlands on Meyersville Road. Neighbors had objected to the subdivision, saying the construction site development has caused flooding on their properties and that development shouldn't occur in an environmentally sensitive area.

The NJ state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) had permitted Lancor to build a driveway on the Meyersville Road property in 2002; this approval permit is good for five years. Marshall Bartlett, chairman of the Planning Board, said the board felt constrained by state DEP permits that gave permission for "That 2002 permit is still valid," said Bartlett. "It's a tough situation. The bottom line is that the state DEP inspected the property in 2002 during a very dry period. At the time, they granted permits to put a road across the wetlands, to cut trees and build houses." Roy Christianson was the only Planning Board member to vote against the project.

Wilkerson, Sand Spring Rd., BI 21, Lot 5. Applicants are conditionally requesting lot size averaging, with conservation funding for preservation of at least one of the lots. Funding was apparently approved recently, the county approving a \$450,000 grant to buy three acres to preserve a trail easement known as "Harding Streetscape." Mary Prendergast, a Harding Township Committee member, said the grant would preserve land on the corner of Sand Spring Road and Sand Spring Lane, known as a part of the Wilkerson property.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

At the November 21 meeting, the board discussed the Business Administrator position. Dr. Pallozzi explained that he had taken over supervision of the Buildings and Grounds and that Mrs. Winow had taken on the preparation of the Board Packets. It was decided to continue to employ Mr. Pearson as an Interim until June 30, 2006. The administration will evaluate the possibility of the Business Administrator position being less than full time. The administration will have a recommendation for the Personnel Committee in January so the board can make a decision and it can be included in the budgeting process for the 2006 – 2007 year.

Dr. Pallozzi said that he had emailed the board regarding the Principal's action on Kindergarten staffing and that it that it was working well. Mr. Santoro asked if the district should reply to the parents' letter. Dr. Pallozzi said that he had sent a letter to all parents. Mr. Santoro said to reply to the letter presented at the October 24 meeting.

Regarding buildings and grounds, Dr. Pallozzi said that work on the tunnel has started and the contractor would be working Friday, Saturday and Sunday. He said that the septic work has been done and the ground should be graded before winter.

Regarding Curriculum and instruction. Mrs. Egea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Novotny to approve the following resolutions:

1. Approve Out-of-District Placements:

RES 000-05/06 "RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education approves, effective September 1, 2005, the following out-of-district placements for the 2005-2006 school year, which are required as part of the children's IEP. The children's names are on file in the office of the Supervisor of Student Services and the office of the Superintendent.

Salt Brook School \$ 29,447.00

Developmental Learning Center \$121,929.24"

2. Approve Reimbursements for Independent Evaluations

RES 000-05/06 "RESOLVED, that the Harding Township Board of Education approves the reimbursement to parents of independent evaluation costs in the amount of \$2,900.00."

Discussion: Ms. Douglas asked how the budget would be affected by the additional special education costs. Dr. Pallozzi said that the County Superintendent recommended using the unencumbered budget monies not earmarked for necessary expenses. He said that he would be discussing this with the County Business Administrator. He said the district will apply for extraordinary aid but it will not be available until next year. Mr. Novotny said that

this information should be available for the Finance Committee meeting on Dec. 1. Mrs. Graham said that there were presently thirty-five special education students. Mrs. Egea asked Mrs. Graham for relative data for the next board meeting. She asked for an overview of the process, an explanation of typical situations, the number of students and the number of employees, certification issues, etc.

HARDING TOWNSHIP SCHOOL NEWS

Harding Township School students participated in Operation Holiday, sponsored by the Women's Club of Morristown and the Daily Record, by buying gifts for disadvantaged families. This year, grades K and 2-8 are the sole sponsor of ten cases, all in Morris County. The agencies involved in identifying the families include the New Jersey Battered Women's Service, The ARC, and Family Services of Morris County. Case description and requested items, like electric toothbrushes, toys, clothes, gift certificates for food, baby items are given to each class or grade. Students also wrap all the gifts that are donated.

Students in first grade visited Morristown Memorial Hospital on November 15th. After the visit, the participated in a community service project, earning money at home by doing chores, etc. Once the money is collected, it is used to buy needed items for the Goryeb Children's Hospital and the children return to the Hospital to present it to the staff.

Thanksgiving Collection for Soldiers in Iraq:

Students in grades 5- 8 at Harding Township School have been busy collecting basic needs supplies for the soldiers serving our country in Iraq. The idea began about two weeks ago when students in the 7th grade Advisory Program, facilitated by Mr. Steve Pierce, Social Studies teacher, were discussing ways to show thanks to those less fortunate around the holidays. Mr. Pierce told them about his cousin Kevin, a 20-year old, who is presently serving in the Special Forces of the Marines in Iraq. He has been there over a year and hopefully will return home in March. Kevin's mother is a Blue Star Mother, a group of parents who have children serving in Iraq, who collect personal items for the soldiers and ship them over to Iraq. The students were very excited and decided to focus their efforts on that cause. They began bringing in simple items like, tee shirts, socks, chewing gum, playing cards and food items that would make the soldiers' lives a little more comfortable. By Wednesday November 23rd, Mr. Pierce had accumulated enough donations to fill his car and he was off to Philadelphia to deliver the supplies to his aunt so they could be shipped to Iraq. The students learned a very important lesson from this: even though someone is very far

away, we are able to help make their lives a little better and show them thanks for risking their lives everyday for us.

Musical Notes:

The 5th grade students dressed up for Halloween and went Pumpkin Caroling for the residents of Juniper Village in Chatham Township and adult day care centers Time Out in Madison and Victorian Garden in Chatham. This event has become an annual field trip for the 5th graders, and all had an enjoyable time!

The 4th graders premiered a new musical, *Land of a Thousand Dances*, for the student body and then the Board of Education at their regular meeting. Featuring popular songs and dances from the mid-20th century, the audience was treated to plenty of toe-tapping nostalgia.

On November 15, the 7th and 8th grade French students traveled to New York City for a cross-curricular trip that included a visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art to study French Impressionist painters, a backstage tour of the New York City Opera, dinner at the Julliard Café and then a performance of "The Little Prince" at New York City Opera. The Harding Township Educational Foundation has underwritten a generous portion of the field trip.

HARDING TOWNSHIP HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMM. November 2005
From the Board of Adjustment

78 Meyersville Rd. John and Joan Hanst – Non contributing property. *While this property is not an historic property, it is surrounded by 8 contributing properties noted on the Master Plan's Individual Sites listing. The HPC has concerns about the proposal's streetscape impact, as well as its higher lot coverage and compatibility with the lot coverage of neighboring historic properties. (Those properties include Block 56, Lots 3, 4, 5.01, 7 and 9, Block 55, Lots 1, 2, 3.). The HPC would like to attend the site visit to applicant's property to consider the plans in detail.*

43 Young's Road - Peter Beaumont *While the applicant's property is not considered historic, its development has the potential to impact the rural landscape setting of its historic neighbors and Young's Road. Contiguous neighbors designated on the Master Plan's historic property Individual Sites list include Block 47, Lot 14 (northerly neighbor) and Block 47 Lot 12.01 (southerly neighbor). Immediately across Young's Road is Block 48, Lot 7, also a contributing property on the Individual Sites List.. Additionally, there are seven other historic properties that are on or about Young's Road; which are either contributing structures to the Logansville Historic District or itemized on the*

Individual Sites list; they include Block 47, Lots 10.01, 11, 11.01 and 14.01, Block 48, Lots 3 and 11, and Block 49, Lot 11.

In light of the proximity of numerous contributing historic structures along the distinctively rural Young's Road, the HPC reviewed Mr. Beaumont's plans, prepared by Peter Dorne, A.I.A., dated 9/30/05, and made the following comments.

The design and siting of the new construction are not consistent with Young's Road's rural landscape and would represent a significantly negative impact on the remaining features of its 19th century rural countryside character.

Given the proposed new building's height, size and design elements, the HPC does not support its location any closer to the road than the 150 ft setback.

The scope of the Logansville Historic District was diminished because of inappropriate or incompatible infill intermingled among numerous historic structures that have maintained their integrity and historic landscape setting.

This application, if approved as proposed, could further deteriorate the remaining rural character of Young's Road.

In sum, the HPC does not support the height and setback variance proposed in this application.

11 Pleasantville Rd. James and Laura Bestys - *While the Bestys' lot neither contains a historic property nor is listed in the Pleasantville Historic District, its development is likely to impact the streetscape of Pleasantville Road. The Bestys' westerly neighbor (B 17, L 33) is a historic property on the Master Plan's Individual Sites Listing, and seven nearby properties (B 17, Lots 27, 26, 23, 21, 20, 19, and 18) are all contributing properties in the Pleasantville Historic District. The Bestys presented their plans to the HPC on 11/3/05 and were offered the following comments:*

*As currently designed, the new house would not be considered as contributing to the rural streetscape character of Pleasantville Road. If the **house** was shifted or oriented in a slightly different direction to minimize the impact of rooflines and mass, the streetscape view would be enhanced. A **barn** in front of the primary structure is a feature in keeping with the Pleasantville District streetscape, but a simplified barn would be most harmonious. Specifically, the HPC recommended removing the front gable and cupola*

14 Lee's Hill Road Don and Katie Dahler_ New Vernon Village District - *Plans dated 7/27/05 were reviewed and the HPC determined it unlikely that the District's streetscape would be impacted. If plans are not changed, there is no need for further HPC review. However, if plans are revised, the HPC requests an additional review of updated plans.*

214 Village Road - Jim and Ikuyo Kidd Green Village Historic District

The Kidd home is an early 20th century interpretation of the Craftsman style bungalow and is considered a contributing element to the vernacular style of Green Village's historic building stock. Mr. Kidd spoke to the Commission on 11/3/05 and discussed his (undated) plans to add a second story and change certain exterior features.

Mr. Kidd explained that the plans represent an average height of 32 feet from grade and that there will be no change in building footprint. All exterior materials will be cedar and the new roof will consist of Timberline Mission Brown style roof shingles. He intends to replace windows with Anderson Prairie style windows, keeping with the wish to enhance the Craftsman style features of his home. He intends to change the façade's paint color from white to a neutral Benjamin Moore camouflage color. The HPC, mindful of the vernacular style of architecture in the Green Village District and the Kidds' historic property's Craftsman elements, made several suggestions:

The window boxes shown on the drawings could be considered excess ornamentation. If used, they should be painted the same color as the façade to minimize their appearance.

The front door entrance, as shown with eight columns, could be considered incompatible with the relatively simple, vernacular Craftsman style. Instead, the HPC recommended a return to single tapered columns at the entrance.

The HPC suggested that Mr. Kidd's architect double-check the chimney height; there were some concerns that it appeared too short or possibly non-compliant with building codes.

Appropriate window choice is important because they are such a prominent design feature on this contributing structure. The Prairie style choice identified by Mr. Kidd is likely to enhance the structure and its additional floor.

88 Lee's Hill Road Timothy O'Connor and Terry Strada Logansville Historic District

The main house and most of the buildings on this former farm complex are considered contributing structures to the Logansville Historic District. The core of this rambling farmhouse dates to the third quarter of the 18th century and its expansion over the years has extended its long and low profile along Lee's Hill Road. Trees, vegetation and the building's oblique orientation to the road minimize its streetscape impact. The HPC met with Tim O'Connor on 11/3/05 and offered the following comments:

The proposed 10 ft. expansion beyond the current footprint is in keeping with the structure's overall dimensions and scale. A telescoped addition, as proposed, is

more appropriate to the historic character of the house than other alternatives (e.g., a perpendicular addition) that might keep the expansion further away from Lee's Hill Road. The HPC also noted that the proposed addition is likely to utilize the existing landscape screens, thereby reducing streetscape impact.

The plans dated 6/22/05 prepared by Peter Dorne, A.I.A., reflect highly stylized windows, door treatments and transoms that seem out-of-character for the modest farmhouse style of this and other Logansville Historic District homes. The HPC suggested six over six windows, screens and shutters, and removing the proposed transoms and dormers altogether.

In lieu of the bay window shown on the left elevation, the HPC suggested a fire back. This would continue the modest farmhouse style and lessen streetscape impact.

To facilitate future application review, the HPC suggested the applicant list all the out buildings on the lot in a legend on the site plan. Such a legend would assist in identifying particular buildings and their planned improvements.

From the Planning Board

371 Sand Spring Road - John and Barbara Wilkerson Silver Lake Historic District

Previous comments stand. The revised drawings reflect many of our earlier comments.

The HPC suggests that the applicant consider (in lieu of paving the proposed cul de sac) the alternative used by Hartley Farms and utilize stabilization blocks.

Construction Official

599 Van Beuren Road Joseph and Aimee Bloom Silver Lake Historic Plans for replacement of all windows and doors in sunroom, and repair/replacement of corresponding trim work were reviewed and discussed with A. Shea Dayton. Proposed changes do not impact historic integrity of structure

Environmental Commission.

Shade Tree Conservation Committee, no reports this month.

Civic Association News, Appeal for Annual Dues, Annual Meeting

Thank you for your generous response to our appeal for annual dues, as well as your appreciative notes about our efforts to continue with high quality reporting of civic events. ***You help us achieve our goals by joining as a dues-paying member.***

The **Civic Association Annual Meeting will be Monday February 6, at 7:30**

PM, in the Township Hall. The highlight of the evening will be the annual report to the community on the "State of the Township". Mayor Murray will be the key speaker.

EDITOR'S NOTE: THE DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT TWO ISSUES OF THE THUMBNAIL ARE December 30 and January 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>. If you have questions or comments about Thumbnail of the Civic Association, send an Email to the editor, hesnaj@aol.com, or write The Harding Township Civic Association, PO Box 72, New Vernon, NJ 07976.

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 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	1/9
Seniors (2 nd and 4 th Thursday)Chrst KingCh	11 AM	
Planning Board (4 th Monday)	7:30 PM	12/19, 1/23
Hist Preservtion Comm (1stThursday)	8 PM	1/5
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	12/15, 1/19
Township Committee(1 st and 3 rd Wed)	8 PM	
Shade Tree (2 nd Monday)	3 PM	
Harding Twp Civic Association	7:30 PM	1/9, 2/6