

January 2006! Happy New Year!

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

The **Civic Association Annual Meeting will be Monday February 6, at 7:30 PM**, in the Township Hall. Mayor John Murray will address the community on the "State of the Township". If you would like to participate more actively in the Civic Association, please come and let us know who you are. We welcome new members to the Board of Trustees, which covers and reports on civic affairs. Refreshments will be served. Peter Mercer has been nominated for membership on the Board of Trustees; this will be voted at this meeting.

### **HARDING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Annual Meeting of HTHS will take place at the New Vernon Firehouse on **Thursday, January 12 at 7:30 p.m.** Join us for light refreshments and an entertaining talk about "The History of Applejack" by local historian Bill Wilkie. Popularly known as Jersey Lightning, the potent drink originated in Monmouth County, NJ more than 200 years ago and is still produced by Laird's, the company that started it all. According to the census of 1833, there were 388 legal distilleries in NJ, and 53 of them were in Morris County. Mr. Wilkie knows all about them, where they were, and what remains of them. Admission is free to HTHS members, others will be charged \$5.00. Reservations are necessary, so please call (973)292-0161 to let us know you're coming!

**HTRA - Madison/Harding Little League Baseball & Softball Registration-** Saturdays, January 7th & 14th, 9:00 am-12:00 noon Tuesday, January 10th, 7:00 pm- 9:00pm at the Madison Community House Gym, 25 Cook Avenue, Madison. You must bring a birth certificate and proof of Harding residence. All players 8 & up must be present to be fitted for uniforms at registration. HTRA will continue to have T-Ball in Harding. Registration will be in March. Any questions please call Brian McCabe @ 973-425-9399

**Harding Girls Lacrosse-** Registration is now taking place for all Harding Girls in grades 3rd-8th. Please contact us at [harding\\_girls\\_lacrosse@yahoo.com](mailto:harding_girls_lacrosse@yahoo.com) for all registration information. Forms must be returned by January 20th. No exceptions!

### **Garden Club News**

The New Vernon Garden Club will meet on **Thursday, January 19 at 10AM** in the First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon on Lee's Hill Road. *IKEBANA*, which is the refined art of Japanese flower arranging, will be the subject of this month's program. Marilyn Gardullo, a noted exhibitor and lecturer will discuss the basics of this art form. New Vernon residents are most welcome to attend the program. Reservations are requested and may be made, or more information obtained, by calling (973) 425-0878.

### **Annual Blood Drive**

Please mark your calendars on **Saturday, January 21, 2006** for Harding Township's Annual Blood Drive. It will be held at The First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon at the Crossroads of Lee's Hill Rd. and Glen Alpin from 8:30 AM until 2:00 PM.

The American Red Cross needs your blood to provide a safe and adequate supply of blood to local hospitals. We need your support to meet the challenge of saving lives.

Please call Mary Van Kirk at (973) 425-0114 or Sue Sameth at (973) 267-0552 to schedule an appointment for January 21<sup>st</sup> and/or to volunteer your time to help with this worthy cause.

### **THE LIBRARY**

**Storytime...Tuesday, January 10 and Tuesday, January 24 at 10:30 a.m.** Winter stories, songs, and crafts for preschoolers. Led by Beth Gibson and Sharon Hemmer. All are welcome.

**Evening Book Group** meets **Wednesday, January 18 at 7:30 p.m.** This month's selection by Nicholas Baker, *Double Fold: Libraries and the Assault on Paper*, describes the deliberate destruction of irreplaceable print media by modern libraries. Copies of the book can be obtained at the Library.

**4<sup>th</sup>-Grade Book Club** will meet on **Tuesday, January 31 from 5 until 6:15 p.m.** The book for discussion, *Peter and the Starcatchers* by Dave Barry, is a fun, fast-paced prequel to J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan*. If you want to request a copy through the Library, please fill in an Interlibrary Loan Request form at the desk. *Note the new venue: East Meeting Room, Parish Life Center at Church of Christ the King.* (Please drive around to the back door to drop off your child.)

**Harding Library Late fees...**under the MAIN Libraries' new computer system, the 50¢ per day fine for overdue videos and DVDs has disappeared. Please be aware that the new fine is \$1 per day. Overdue books and audio tapes/CDs remain at the 10¢/day rate.

**TOWNSHIP NEWS**

Harding Township Committee, Regular Meeting, December 21, 2005  
Public Session Notes

**Attendance: Township Committee:**

Mr. Murray, Mr. Dinsmore, Mrs. Farrell, Mrs. Prendergast, Mr. Lanzerotti

Town:Linda Peralta, Garry Annibal, Lynn Evers

**Announcements/Reports/Presentations**

**Troop 43 of Harding**

Troop 43 attended the TC meeting as part of the Merritt Badges. Mayor Murray introduced the TC and gave a brief overview of the TC responsibilities.

**Upcoming Meetings**

On January 18<sup>th</sup> – there will be a special meeting to train the Township Committee members regarding the proper use of new technologies to conduct township business such that such use is consistent with regulations that require township committee activities properly end up in the public domain.

On February 1st – Annual school report will be conducted.

**Recognition of Service**

The following individuals were recognized for length of service:

**1 Year:** Barbara Schwab, Court Administrator  
Russel Heiney, Zoning Officer

**20 Years:** James Miller, Public Works  
Joyce Otrisal, Tax Collector

Pasquale Aceto, Tax Assessor  
Gary Willshaw, Assistant Supervisor Public Works

**Consent Agenda Resolutions**

Except as noted, the following resolutions were passed by the Township Committee:

Resolution	Ordinance	Description/Comments
05-271, 272, 273		Harding Township will participate in the Morris County Joint Insurance Fund (JIF), a pooled insurance policy shared with other townships in Morris County. By joining the JIF, Harding expects to save \$64,000 in premiums. Harding's premium is \$100,000 annually for a 3-year policy.  Part of the policy premium, \$6,000, provides Harding with a "risk manager" who is available to help the Township with claims, risk assessments, etc.

05-274		Professional Services Agreement for Ferriero Engineering – Inspection Services for Affordable Housing Project.
05-275		PMK Group - Professional services agreement to evaluate heating/cooling/other systems in the municipal building. The current systems probably need repair/upgrading.
05-276		Establish a Dedicated Trust by Rider - Public Defender
05-277		Establish a Dedicated Trust by Rider – Parking Offenses
05-278		Establish a Dedicated Trust by Rider – Donations
05-279		Endorse Morris Township Wastewater Management Plan
05-280		Authorize Release of Performance Bond, Block 8, Lot 9.03
05-281		Transfer of Funds
05-282		Payment of the Bill List: Mr. Lanzerotti asked about using different vendors in order to save money. Lynn Evers replied that the Township typically had to use vendors on the NJ State Approved list or else had to put the work out to bid. For many low to medium expenditures, it is not cost effective to use vendors who are not on the State Approved list.

Non Consent Agenda Items

The following resolutions were discussed:

05-283		<p>The Township Committee discussed the proposed purchase of an easement on property owned by John Wilkerson located on Sand Spring Lane.</p> <p>The 3-acre easement will provide public access for horse or walking trail use via a 20' wide trail along the front and Northern side of the property.</p> <p>The cost of the easement is approximately <b>\$630,000</b> plus legal costs, <b>\$450,000</b> of which will be contributed by a Morris County grant. Also participating in the proposed purchase is Green Acres/Open Space Trust Committee and The Land Trust who will be contributing \$50,000 for</p>
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		<p>the bride path portion of the easement. This is the fist easement in Harding obtained with pubic money. Part of the easement agreement will include the merger of two lots into one that will allow a proposed building foot print of nearly 12,000 sq. ft. Mary Prendergast expressed concern that there was nothing to prevent the placement of such a large building close to the easement – which would be contrary to at least one of the reasons of the easement purchase – the protection of the streetscape.</p> <p><b><i>This resolution was still open for review and not voted on in this meeting.</i></b></p>
05-285		<p>Authorization to execute the agreement with Nicholas and Carol Mazzocchi. The authorization was approved.</p>

**WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** has provided this information regarding Deer/Motor Vehicle Accidents.

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

**Precautions:** When you see a deer entering the roadway, do not watch where the deer is going but rather where it is coming from. More likely than not, there are others following, and they might enter the roadway too.

Try not to swerve upon encountering a deer! You might hit a fixed object such as a telephone pole or a tree and serious injuries might be the consequence. Travel slowly in the evening hours when vision is limited.

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

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

**Board of Adjustment**, December 15

Resolutions:

Application #25-05 Timothy O'Connor/Terry Strada – Approved

Application #19-05 James and Ikuyo Kidd – Approved

Application #18-05 John & Joyce Tevald – Approved

Application #22-05 Donald Lee, Jr. and Katharine Dahler – Approved

Pending Applications:

Application #23-05 James and Laura Bestys, 11 Pleasantville Road, Block 17, Lot 32, “C” and “D” Variance. Property is located near wet lands. Applicant will assume that the 150 foot transition buffer will apply to his property. A buffer averaging plan could be applied for this property which would allow construction within 75 feet of the transition area. The DEP will also check for the existence of endangered species before any exceptions are granted. These constraints limit the placement of new construction. The barn and garage are in the buffer area, the house is not. Applicant would like to keep the house and barn separated and does not want to move the house into the building envelope because it would be behind the barn. Aesthetically, the house will be more attractive if it is not behind the barn. Neighbors will be consulted regarding the planting of additional trees and shrubs to screen the area. Application approved as re-submitted.

Application #24-05 Peter Beaumont, 43 Young’s Road, Block 47, Lot 13, “C” variance. Applicant has contacted the DEP to determine the feasibility of reversing the sub-division of his property. According to the DEP, full public hearings and public needs assessment would be required, which could take 6 months to 2 years to complete. Due to this and the fact that the applicant might be turned down after this process, it is doubtful that the applicant will pursue this course of action. If sub-division is left in place, applicant will need a variance for the one story garage, which will extend past the 150 foot set-back requirement. The roof has been lowered, so the height variance will no longer be needed. The roofing will be cedar shake. Chris Allyn from the environmental commission read a letter into the minutes. His feeling is that the streetscape will be greatly improved if the lots are combined and the house is built on the larger parcel of land. This application will be continued to the January meeting. At that time, revised drawings will be submitted.

New Applications:

Application #4-05 John Hanst, 78 Meyersville Road, Block 56, Lot 6, “C: Variance. Variance is needed for set-backs. Applicant wants to construct a 768 sq. ft. garage on the side of his property adjacent to the Great Swamp right of way. Cars, yard equipment and bicycles would be stored in the garage. Property is located in an R2 zone so there are no coverage restrictions. There is a fence on the property that is in violation of the set-back requirements. Site inspection scheduled for Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 A.M. In the event of snow, inspection will be January 14<sup>th</sup>. Corners of garage are to be marked on the property prior to site

inspection.

**PLANNING BOARD, December 19, 2005**

The Board continued hearing for the **Wilkerson subdivision**, Sand Spring Rd., Bl 21, Lot 5, corner of Sand Spring Road and Sand Spring Lane. The Township is considering purchasing a conservation easement to preserve the front 3.2-acre section of one of the building lots on the 21-acre property. The subdivision request is for 3 lots of 6+ acres each. Some funding for this purchase was obtained from the County, a \$450,000 grant, but this has to be supplemented with Township monies in addition. (See Township committee report, above) This item will be heard again at the January 23 meeting.

**Board of Education**

**Harding Township Historic Preservation Comm**

**Environmental Commission,**

**Shade Tree Conservation Committee,** no reports this month.

**Civic Association News, Reminder of Annual Dues**

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.***

**EDITOR'S NOTE: THE DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT TWO ISSUES OF THE THUMBNAIL ARE** January 30 and February 28, 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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays 1/14, 1/28, 2/11 from 9-12 AM. Please do NOT leave recyclable materials if the center is closed.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**, meetings 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		1/9
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		1/23
Hist Preservation Comm (1stThursday)	8 PM		1/5
Board of Health (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday)	8 PM		
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		1/19
Township Committee(1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed)	8 PM		1/18
Shade Tree (2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday)		3 PM	
Harding Twp Civic Association	7:30 PM		1/9, 2/6