

March 2006

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

From **The Planning Board**: all residents are invited to attend an open public meeting on **Tuesday April 4, 2006 at 7:30 PM** in the main meeting room of Kirby Hall. The subject of the meeting is the reexamination of the township's Master Plan and Development Regulations. A working outline of topics currently under consideration will be available before the meeting at the Planning Board office. Under the Municipal Land Use Law, every six years the township is required to undertake this reexamination to ensure that the Master Plan and Land Use regulations properly reflect the community's planning objectives and to consider changes that may be occurring that will have an impact on the township's land use policies. In 2000 a similar hearing was held and the Planning Board obtained valuable input from other boards, township officials and the public at large. As you may know, the Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance have been updated a number of times since then, largely in response to issues raised during the last reexamination.

The Board hopes that you will participate in this process by attending the meeting on April 4th. If you are unable to do so and would still like to send comments or suggestions to the board, please feel free to send a letter to the committee chair coordinating this process.

Please send comments or suggestions to: Carol Conger, Chair; Planning Board Advisory Review Committee; PO Box 666; New Vernon NJ 07976-0666

Garden Club News The New Vernon Garden Club will meet on **Thursday, March 16 at 10AM** in the First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon on Lee's Hill Road. The program, "The Chinese Tree Peony", will be presented by Michael Hsu, grower of 50,000 of these exotic plants on his farm, Peony Land, in Bucks County, one of the largest tree peony farms in the western hemisphere. All Harding Township residents are most welcome to attend the program.

Reservations are requested and may be made, or more information obtained, by calling Patti Wood at (973) 425-0878.

Harding Township School announcement: The middle school will perform the play "Annie, Jr.", on Friday March 31, 2006 7:30 PM, Saturday April 1, 2006 7:30 PM, and Sunday April 2, 2006 2:00 PM, at the school gymnasium. Tickets are \$7.00 each. You can order them by coming to the school, calling 973 267- 6398,

ex. 147 or downloading the ticket form at www.hardingtwp.k12.nj.us.

THE LIBRARY

Evening at the Library...Thursday, March 23 at 7:30 p.m. *Past Perfect, Present Tense: Macculloch Hall after 200 Years.* Join us to hear David Breslauer, Curator of Morristown's Macculloch Hall, as he brings to life the history of the family, the house, and the creation the museum.

Storytime... Thursday, March 23, *Fairytales from Near and Far.* Spend an hour in the company of magical creatures, witches, and lovely princesses. Create your own knight's helmet or royal crown. From 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building.

Evening Book Group to discuss *Mountains Beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder...call the Library for new date and time. Copies of the book can be obtained at the Library.

4th-Grade Book Club will meet on **Tuesday, March 28 from 5 until 6:15 p.m.**

The participants will be discussing *Flush* by Hiassen, *The Bell, The Book, and the Spellbinder* by Strickland, and *The Falcon's Malteaser* by Horowitz. The Library is grateful to the Church of Christ the King for welcoming this book group into its comfortable Parish Life Center! We are still happy to welcome new members.

What an Opportunity!... The Library seeks volunteers to cover the Circulation (and Everything Else!) Desk and to help with its popular children's Summer Reading Program. Please call the Library at 973-267-8000 ext 132 and talk to us about how you can help.

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

Anyone interested in playing women's softball for the summer season of 2006 please contact Colleen Ercole ---Delmom@aol.com or call 973-455-0455. The season is from 1st Tuesday after Memorial Day to 1st week in August, every Tuesday night from 5:30 to 8:00. We are linked with the Mendham League, and play Morristown and Mendham teams; fields are within a 5-mile radius. Please note: A strong commitment is needed. You must be 21 years of age or older. All are welcome!!!! The deadline for signups is **March 30, 2006.**

HARDING TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ADULT HEALTH CLINIC will be held on **Thursday, April 27** from 8:00 A.M. to

11:30 A.M. at the Municipal Building. This program will include blood pressure; fasting blood chemistries - including cholesterol typing; and information on nutrition. An optional BMI (Body Mass Index) and Body Fat Analysis will be performed by Morristown Memorial Hospital free of charge.

Cancer Screening Programs. The schedule of cancer detection clinics: The **male cancer detection** program will be held on **Tuesday, March 28 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM**. The **female cancer detection** program will be held on Thursday, March 30 from 9:00 AM to noon at the Municipal Building. The programs include testing, examination and education.

Registration for the both screening programs is open to Harding Township residents, eighteen years of age and older. There is no fee. 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 3:30 PM.

New Vernon Presbyterian Church announcement:

Susie Case, Harvard Graduate, former Wall Street analyst, author, full time Mom and founder of a National Bible Study Group will deliver a message of inspiration and motivation with humor and relevance for our busy lives today. Please join us on **Thursday, April 6 at 7PM** at the New Vernon Presbyterian Church. There is no charge for admission. Book signing and refreshments to follow. For more information please call the Church at 973-538-8394.

The Community Soup Kitchen of Morristown will host its annual Share the Bounty Dinner Dance **on April 27th, 2006** at the Madison Hotel. Tickets are \$45 and proceeds help the Community Soup Kitchen to provide a noon-time meal, 365 days a year. This year Barbara Gill of Harding Township will be honored as the recipient of the 2006 Caritas Award. To purchase tickets for this event, please call 973-267-0709.

Events from the Friends of Harding Township Library

Ladies' Day at the Spa -- March 29, 2006, 9:00am to 5:00pm. Gene and Gail Mulvihill are sponsoring a fundraiser for the Friends of HTL at the Elements Spa in the Crystal Springs resort. Facials, massages, pedicures, and manicures will all be available along with a healthful and delicious spa lunch. The spa features a heated indoor/outdoor pool with a waterfall. One hundred percent of the proceeds will benefit the Library. There are a limited number of slots so call to reserve your spot soon. Call Chris O'Donnell at 973-539-0149 or Irene Sciales at 973-966-0908 for more information.

A Literary Walking Tour of Greenwich Village to benefit the Friends of Harding Township Library, on **Sunday, April 8** from 3 pm – 6 pm. Walk through the narrow, meandering streets of Greenwich Village, learning about its history as a gathering place and inspiration for writers and artists since the early 19th century. Afterwards, enjoy wine and cheese in Jane Kendall and David Dietz' Village apartment, around the corner from the Christopher Street Path Station which links you to NJ Transit in Hoboken. (Transportation not provided.) \$75/person. Call Jane for more info: 973-425-0616 or 201-400-8852 (Cell). Limited enrollment. Call early! Children welcome.

The Friends of the Great Swamp remind you that the “second Sunday” program meets at the Friends Gift Shop and Bookstore on Pleasant Plains Road, Harding Township. A speaker with timely and interesting topics is usually scheduled; the next program is **Sunday April from 2:00-4:00 PM**. Open to all ages. Also, on **Saturday, March 25 from 5:30 pm to dusk** the annual **Woodcock Watch** cosponsored by the Greater Watchung Nature Club will occur. This is an opportunity to observe mating flights of these amazing birds as well as view other birds that become active at dusk. For more information call 973-425-9510.

Harding Township Recreation Association will hold its annual meeting on **March 22, 2006**, at the Harding School Library at 7:30 PM All members of the community are welcome to attend.

T-Ball Announcement: Harding School had the signups for T-ball for 2006 spring season. If your child does not go to Harding School, and wants to play, please email Colleen Ercole ---Delmom@aol.com or call 973-455-0455 ASAP. Deadline is March 15. Please note that your child must be either 5 or 6 years old; if child turns 7 before July 31, 2006, sign up is for Farm League at Madison rec Center. T-Ball starts in April, at Harding School on Friday from 6 to 7 PM.

Harding Land Trust News

Help Wanted! There is a staff position open for an individual interested in preserving our community's open spaces and natural places! Work part time (flexible schedule) in our office in the woods — within three miles of your Harding Township home. Great job for local talent. We'd like you to be computer literate,

a good communicator, willing to work independently and take the initiative. Learn and grow on the job. There is also has a part time office position available: flexible hours, computer skills a must. Call Penny Hinkle, 973 267-2515

Harding Land Trust Annual Meeting

will take place on **Thursday, April 27, at 7:30 p.m.** at the New Vernon Fire House. Following a brief business meeting, there will be a special program on "Open Space: Harding's Top Priority ". Guest Speaker, Harding Mayor John Murray will discuss the history, present status and future of land preservation in Harding and the partnership of Harding's Open Space Trust Committee with the Harding Land Trust. All residents are invited for a very informative evening. Bring your questions and your neighbors!

HARDING TOWNSHIP SCHOOL PTO- The 5th Annual Harding Township PTO Fashion Show will be held **Saturday, April 8, 2006** at the Spring Brook Country Club from 11a.m. - 2:30 p.m. The theme of this year's luncheon, auction and fashion show is "A Postcard from Paris." Proceeds will support improvements at the school's athletic fields, used by both school teams and HTRA groups. Tickets will be available in early March. For further information please call Kim Caldwell at (973) 539-9533. If you are interested in supporting this event, you can donate a basket for auction, or write a check to help underwrite a show expense. Mail any checks, made out to Harding Township School PTO, to Mrs. Kim Caldwell, P.O. Box 58, New Vernon, NJ 07976.

Harding Environmental Commission announces the next **Harding Clean Up Day** is planned for **Saturday, April 15th from 9:00 till 11:00.** The rain date is the following Saturday, April 22nd.

Harding Blood Drive *Thanks* to all the donors and volunteers who participated in the Harding Blood Drive on January 21st. We are all grateful to Donors who took the time to share this gift and to the volunteers who devoted time to this endeavor.

TOWNSHIP NEWS

Township Committee, February 15, 2006
\$365,000 Glen Alpin Grant Application

The Township will be filing a notice of intent to apply to the Morris County

Historic Trust fund for a \$365,000 grant for Glen Alpin renovation. If the grant is approved, the funds will be used to reimburse the Township for expenditures made to install a new HVAC and plumbing system for Glen Alpin.

Ordinances

The Township introduced and discussed Ordinance 7-06 – Miscellaneous Land use amendments. The amendment includes proposed language regarding the placement of signs on municipal public land. Currently, signs totaling no more than two square feet are permitted if permission is obtained from the Township construction officer. One of the reasons for the change was to permit the Friends of the Library to post a sign “Site of the future Library” on the proposed library site. The proposed sign would be 2’ by 2’ - bigger than the current ordinance allows. The Township Committee wished to support the Library but didn’t want to violate the existing ordinance. The Township Committee had substantial discussion, led by Mr. Lanzerotti, on the ordinance options for permitted signage.

Mr. Lanzerotti stressed that the sign ordinance was very important to Harding citizens and noted that the Township was unusual in that there not the typical advertising signs (for painting, construction, etc.) along the road that one might see in other localities. “The citizens want the scenic byways to be maintained, and commercial signs distract from the scenic beauty.” Mr. Lanzerotti said this is important to maintain particularly considering all the money spent on public open spaces. The Township discussed whether or not the new language should be prescriptive (specifying a specific size which might not address other situations) or discretionary and approved by application (which might create a barrage of applications for the Town to process).

After much discussion, the Township Committee decided to consider the options and decide on final language in a future meeting.

Consent Agenda Resolutions

The Township Committee passed the 8 resolutions, including the following:
06-55 Authorize contract for the appraisal of portion of Glen Alpin property. The appraisal will cost about \$3000 to appraise a couple of triangles of land to swap with a neighbor.

Gary Annibal mentioned a request for use of Kirby Hall room for a food preparation demo from the Library for fund raising purposes. The Township Committee all looked down at the newly installed carpet and said a formal request needs to be made before they would consider it.

Department Reports: Mr. Lanzerotti noted that the total assessed property value in Harding was about the same as in the prior year with a \$2 million decrease.

Hearing from Persons Present

Several citizens had follow up questions and points concerning the signage ordinance including special provisions for signs for charitable events. The Township noted that this would bring up questions concerning how a “charitable” event would be defined and that the ordinance could not be tailored to have one standard for “local” organizations vs. “outside” organizations.

Township Committee, March 1, 2006

Mayor John Murray announced that going forward, the Township Committee would provide basic information on what will be talked about in Executive Session, so that the public could better follow those proceedings and examine the public record of those proceedings when released.

Kirby Building & Downtown Redevelopment

The Mayor announced that new blinds and drapes for the courtroom as well as matching fabric for the chairs had been selected. This is part of the refurbishment of the Kirby Municipal Building. The Mayor also noted that digging had begun on the post office site and that there was considerable excitement on the part of the developers concerning the plans for the new deli that will be part of the complex. Development of the “Cook Property” across from the “Academy” is still in the planning stage with the developer and Township working to make sure the project complies with Township Ordinances.

Recycling

Mayor Murray commented on a recent article on Morris County’s recycling program that appeared in the Star Ledger. Harding was not mentioned because the Harding handles its own recycling operations. The Mayor said that in the year 2000 when Harding participated in the Morris County program, recycling cost the Township \$54,000 and no rebates to participating towns were provided by the County (rebates are now provided and ranged from \$22 to \$15,700 in 2005). In 2005, Harding spent \$23,500 on recycling utilizing equipment purchased by the Township and DPW labor. Offsetting this expense was \$21,400 in revenue from the sale of recycled materials making the net cost to Township \$2,100. The Mayor expects that in 2006 the Township will make money on its recycling operations. Donald Dinsmore suggested that the Mayor write a letter of thanks to the DPW for their excellent work on recycling.

Miller Road

Lou Lanzerotti said that Paul Fox, the Township Engineer had drafted a letter to

the NJ Department of Environmental Protection for signature by the Mayor, to try and get a resolution to drainage problem on Miller Road.

Ordinances

Bond Ordinance 1-06 authorizing the acquisition of an easement on Block 25.02 and portions of Lots 10.02 and 10.03 was approved unanimously. This Ordinance concerns 18 acres of woodlands on the “Simon Property” (now Thebault) on Sand Spring Road and a related easement on 32 acres of farmland being acquired by Morris County. The Township is paying \$1,470,000 for the easement and the funds to service the debt will come from the Open Space Tax.

Bond Ordinance 2-06 authorizing the additional appropriation of \$850,000 for the Glen Alpin restoration was passed unanimously. This increases to \$1,850,000 the total approved so far for Glen Alpin. According to Mary Prendergast, the increase is intended to cover the new roof, the contract for which is being rebid because the first bids were higher than expected and \$432,000 for comprehensive architectural and engineering plans covering the entire Glen Alpin project.

A Township resident at the meeting, asked for more detail on what he thought was a large fee for architectural and engineering plans and whether a building inspection was done before the township purchased the property. According to the several members of the Committee, their strategy for Glen Alpin is to proceed with the restoration as quickly as possible in order to begin generating revenue from the property, and that this requires comprehensive architectural and engineering plans which Ms Prendergast noted also includes construction management services. Ms Prendergast also noted that \$273,000 in grant money had been applied for and was expected to defray the Townships costs.

Regarding the question of the inspection of the Glen Alpin building before purchase, the Mayor said that Township had identified the areas of the building and its systems that need to be fixed and that there have been no surprises as far as what needed to be done to the structure. He conceded however, that the cost to fix the building was turning out to be considerably higher than the \$1.5 million “estimate” at the time of purchase.

Ordinance 4-06 increasing the allowable increase in municipal appropriations in 2006 over 2005 to 3.5% from 2.5% was passed unanimously. The Committee explained that this gave the Township more flexibility and that it did not mean that actual appropriations would increase by the maximum. However, Township salaries, which comprise a large part of the township expenses were increasing by approximately 4%.

Introduction of Bond Ordinance 8-06 authorizing the acquisition of Block 33 Lot 8 for \$1,020,000 was unanimously approved. This 14 acre tract of land is bounded by Tempe Wick and Route 202 and is owned by the Andersons. Funds for the purchase would come from the Open Space Trust (\$120,000), Harding Land Trust (\$400,000) and Morris County (\$500,000). The Committee noted that the purchase price was below market value. Lou Lanzerotti asked that the Township monitor closely the potential impact on the Township's affordable housing obligation as the property includes the Andersons' residence.

Introduction of Ordinance 9-06 which would amend regulations for signs on public property was approved by a four to one vote with Epsy Farrell voting no. The Ordinance is intended to allow a temporary sign on the municipal building property identifying the proposed library. Ms Farrell expressed concern about the length of time such a temporary sign could be displayed. According to the Mayor, the Township Committee would control the display of the sign.

Resolution TC 06-74 rejecting a construction bid for a **fire cistern for the School** was approved unanimously. One bid was received that was several times more than the \$150,000 estimate based on another cistern recently constructed. The Township expects a lower bid from another construction firm that missed the first bidding deadline.

Resolution TC 06-75 waiving permitting fees (estimated to be \$736) for a project to improve water runoff and stream and pond banks in Bayne Park was approved unanimously. Gary Annabel updated the Committee on the long planned demonstration project coordinated by the **Ten Towns Committee** to improve the stream and pond banks and drainage in Bayne Park and across the street at Christ the King. Lou Lanzerotti noted that while the project was being paid for by Ten Towns and would provide several benefits for Harding, he doubted that this was the best use of Ten Towns funds and saw it more as project to generate fees for the consultants that conceived it. Mr. Annabel noted that the consulting firm in question was no longer being used by Ten Towns and that Ten Towns had since changed its process for deciding on which projects to pursue.

Correspondence

The Mayor reported that the **Board of Adjustment** presented their Annual Report to the Township. The two issues raised were the regulations on building heights and the height of deer fences. The Mayor reported that the Planning Board had reviewed the building height ordinances together with the Fire

Department and found them to be working well. The Planning Board is continuing to work on investigating the appropriateness of a 7 foot limit on deer fences.

Board of Adjustment, February 16, 2006

Pending Applications:

#20-05 – Donna M. Alfieri and Patricia M. Kurkewicz, 34 Miller Road, Block 13, Lot 6. Construction has already been done without a building permit. Applicant is now seeking a variance for impervious coverage. Current coverage is 13.04%. Applicant has already removed some of the impervious coverage. There is a problem with standing water and flooding during heavy rain storms. Dry wells are not effective because of the high water table. Neighbor, William Dunn testified that a storm drain that was installed is now directing run-off toward his property. The neighbor feels that there is a direct causal relationship between the new construction and the current water problem. He also felt that the regrading that was done for the construction has also redirected the run-off toward his property. Applicant agreed to remove the discharge pipe and use a splash block. The front storm drain will go to the other side of the property. Drainage pipes will be capped and the walkway that was widened will be returned to its former width.

Planning Board, February 27, 2006

The Planning Board approved the Wilkerson subdivision on Sand Spring Rd. This ended up as a 3-lot subdivision with the front lot of 6.8 acres, one of 6 acres, and the 3rd lot of 7.6 acres with the existing house. The latter has a failing septic tank, which will be replaced by applicants in any event, according to their attorney. The township had purchased a conservation easement in the front of the lot on Sand spring Road.

One interesting problem arose with the Wilkerson subdivision. There was a “storm water management ordinance” passed last year, which requires a homeowners association for all new subdivisions to make annual reporting in perpetuity, to the Township engineer, to ensure storm water management system integrity. Both the Carey (Van Buren Rd) and this Wilkerson application have requested and received a waiver of this requirement, making it necessary for each homeowner to make an individual report. Discussion about the cost/time burden to the homeowner, the Township, and whether there is a “standard reporting form” ensued. Some members of the Planning Board questioned why any reporting was required, even though the ordinance was reviewed thoroughly

by the Board. The impact of Township ordinances sometimes takes even the reviewing Boards by surprise.

Late in the evening, there was a brief update from the "Village Element Subcommittee", Isobel Olcott reporting, mentioning a study of building size and the area encompassed within the "Village" zone. A report has been commissioned from the Township planner. Other matters mentioned at the same time was that the Master Plan will be updated in 2006, the last time was 2000. There was also discussion about signage in the Public Land Zone, due to the request from the library fundraisers for signage near Kirby Hall, to indicate where exactly the new library might be located. As no specific site has been assigned, and the location and duration of the signage is presently unknown, this was referred back to the Township committee.

An application by Robert Fidler for a minor subdivision was granted waivers for completeness, and will be on the agenda for a hearing next meeting.

Board of Education, February 13, 2006

The following topics were discussed.

Tentative 2006-2007 school calendar – The Board discussed the scheduling of breaks during the next school year and the potential issues that could be facing parents if the Harding Township schools and schools of surrounding districts did not have similar vacation schedules. The school calendar consists of 184 days (180 days and 4 in-service days along with the 3 designated snow days). Proposals were made regarding moving the April break, scheduling an extra day in May so the last day of school would be June 22, 2007 and adding 2 snow days rather than 3 snow days when the last day of school would be June 26, 2007. The Board agreed to table the issue until a future Board meeting.

The Board discussed the Field Study Proposal relating to the athletic fields and focused on Kinsey Associates Park Recreational Consultants. Displayed at the Board meeting were Master Development Proposals for Recreation Sites and Athletic Fields. Dr. Pallozzi stated that, out of the four companies that submitted proposals, Kinsey Associates sent four associates to survey the property, sent an engineer out to the property the day before the survey, asked the most questions and took pictures. In addition, Dr. Pallozzi stated that he checked references which were all positive and that Kinsey was about one-half the cost of the other proposals.

Regarding the search for Supervisor of Student Services, Dr. Pallozzi informed that there were 30 applications received. From those applications, 8

candidates were selected to be interviewed. After the interviews, the committee unanimously was not able to make a recommendation and is not prepared at this time to reopen the search. Dr. Pallozzi stated that he may reopen the search next year. The position is presently filled by Freida Yavelberg who is available for one more year.

A new science curriculum was purchased. Dr. Pallozzi stated that many liked the new science curriculum, especially in the middle school. The new curriculum blends activities and experiments and the students are more involved in understanding the application of the science concepts.

A resolution was approved regarding a revised bus route, to add a stop for a new student, for the 2005-2006 school year.

Daphne L. Mott was appointed as long-term substitute for the Library/Media Center effective February 27 through June 30, 2006 at the per diem rate of \$95 for the first fifteen (15) days and then the per diem rate of the first step of the guide, \$203.80, for the remainder of the school year, upon the recommendation of the superintendent.

**Harding Township Historic Preservation Comm
Environmental Commission.**

Shade Tree Conservation Committee, no reports this month.

Civic Association News and Announcements

**Please send the editor any information regarding changes to the
Harding Township Directory to be published later this year.** If you have responsibility for a listed service or organization, please take a moment to review and update your listing. Send an Email to the editor, ***NOTE NEW email address: hesnaj@verizon.net,*** or write The Harding Township Civic Association, PO Box 72, New Vernon, NJ 07976. ***Remember that it is your responsibility to ensure that your organization's listing is correct.***

EDITOR'S NOTE: THE DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT TWO ISSUES OF THE THUMBNAIL ARE March 30 and April 28, respectively. ***Please keep your announcements concise, to help the editor's task.*** 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, ***NOTE NEW email***

address: hesnaj@verizon.net, 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 3/11, 3/25, 4/8, 4/22 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	3/6, 4/3
Seniors (2 nd and 4 th Thursday)Chrst KingCh	11 AM	
Planning Board (4 th Monday)	7:30 PM	3/27
Hist Preservtion Comm (1stThursday)	8 PM	4/6, 5/4
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	3/16
Township Committee(1 st and 3 rd Wed)	8 PM	
Shade Tree (2 nd Monday)	3 PM	
Harding Twp Civic Association	7:30 PM	3/6, 4/3