

October 2006

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Please note Time correction: A special "Meet the Candidates night" will be held October 17th 7:00 PM at Town (Kirby) Hall, sponsored by the Harding Township Civic Association. Come see and hear Marshall Bartlett (R), Mike Meade (D), and Ned Ward(R), the 3 candidates for 2 Township Committee seats in the general election November 7.

HTRA ANNOUNCES REGISTRATION FOR GRADES 2-8 BASKETBALL

The Harding Township Recreation Association will hold registration for the Harding winter basketball program on **Saturday, October 14th from 12:00pm to 1:30pm** at the Harding Middle School gym entrance. The HTRA Basketball program features instructional basketball clinic for girls, grades 2 and 3 and boys, grades 2-4. These clinics are designed to introduce the children to the fundamentals of basketball, and the concept of team play. Girls in grades 4-8 and boys in grades 5-8 participate in teams consisting entirely of Harding players. These teams will play in the Mendham Basketball League. Players at all skill levels are invited to participate and all children who register will be on a team and play. If you have any question concerning the HTRA basketball program, please e-mail htrabasketball@yahoo.com.

NEW VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT Soup Contest

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

Date: **Sunday, October 22**
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).

Harding Open Space Trust (HOST) Harding Open Space Trust Fund, First Annual meeting and public forum **Monday, October 16, 2006 at 7:30 pm**; Kirby municipal building. Learn more about open space and your tax dollars!

Presentations by Green Acres and Morris County Open Space Trust. Agenda includes time for public comment and questions. If you have any questions about HOST, please contact Chair Sally Dudley at 973-698-6990 or shdud@verizon.net.

HARDING TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY 23rd ANTIQUES SHOW & SALE takes place on **November 10, 11, 12** and opens with a preview party at the Tunis-Ellicks House on Friday, November 10 from 6-9 p.m. Guests will enjoy a light buffet and wine bar and first look at the wares of 24 dealers, several of which are new to the show. HTHS members will receive invitations with which to make reservations. Non-members will be charged \$15 per person at the door. Everyone is welcome! The show continues on Saturday, November 11, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, November 12, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission on both days is \$5 or \$4 with show card or newspaper advertisement.

THE LIBRARY

Children's Storytime: Join the fun every other **Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.** at the Harding Township Municipal Building; intended for pre-schoolers and their parents or caregivers.

October 10: *Friendship Tales...* We have friends everywhere—in our neighborhood, at school, and at home. These stories focus on friendships and what friends do together. Make a friendship bracelet for your best friend.

October 24: *Pumpkins!* Halloween is only a few days away. Let's share scary (but not *too* scary!) pumpkin stories. We'll make a trick-or-treat bag for the big night. **November 7:** *Pets are Precious!* Meet McDuff, the white, fluffy dog; Moonlight, the lost kitten; and many other delightful pets. Make dog biscuits for your own or a friend's dog.

Evening Book Club for Adults... meets for a book discussion the last Wed. of every month, 7:30 p.m., at the Harding Twp Municipal Building. The next meeting is on **Oct 25** to discuss *The Dark Angels* by Karleen Koen. This grand prequel to Koen's *Through a Glass Darkly* is set in Restoration England and traces the life and adventures of Alice Verney, maid-of-honor to Charles II's queen. Upcoming titles include: *Why Zebras Don't Get Ulcers* by Robert Sapolsky (Nov), and *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards (Dec).

Fourth- and Fifth-Grade Book Club... will start again on **Tuesday, November 28**. The Club is designed to foster a love of reading through the exploration and discussion of age-appropriate books, both fiction and non-fiction. *Registration for*

this book group is required. Please contact the Library for more information.
Volunteers sought for Story hour. All we ask is a one-hour commitment once or twice a month—the rewards are delighted children and grateful parents! Please contact the Library if you are interested (973-267-8000 X132).
www.hardinglibrary.org = the source for up-to-the-minute Library information.

The First Annual “Potluck” **Ecumenical Thanksgiving Dinner, Sunday, November 19th, 5-7 PM**, at the Presbyterian Church of New Vernon; sponsored by Four Harding congregations, the Church of Christ the King, St. Mark Lutheran Church, the United Methodist Church in Green Village, and 1st Presbyterian Church of New Vernon. All members and friends - and all ages - are invited. We will sing old favorites, eat great food, get to know our neighbors and have a good time.

The 1st Presbyterian Church New Vernon is sponsoring an adult study series this fall, **How to Act Like a Christian**, Wednesday nights starting in **October 7 at 8:30 pm** in the Church Library. The series is free and open to the public. The convener is the Rev. Dr. Wayne G. Boulton, Interim Pastor at the church and a specialist in Christian ethics. For specific topics and other information, call the Church Office (973.538.8394).

On **Saturday, October 28, at 7:30 PM**, a Musical Celebration and Party to Honor the 40th anniversary of the music ministry of Margaret P. Gray, better known as “Maggie”, will be held in the First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon. Come one, come all and enjoy music and celebration.

CUB SCOUT News. Cub Scout Pack 43 has a new Tiger Den lead by Mr. Tom Butler. Our Cub Master is Mr. Chris McReynolds who works together with our 2 new Co-Committee Chairs, Mrs. Lotte Newlin and Mrs. Wendy Bongo. If you have a son in 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th grade and are a resident of Harding Township...it's never too late to join. For more information, contact Mrs. Newlin at Newlin@Main.Morris.Org or Mrs. Bongo at Bongoteam@aol.com.

HARDING TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT **FOOD HANDLERS COURSE**

A Food Handlers Course for persons who are not professional food handlers will

be held on October 25, 2006 at 7:30 P.M. at the Municipal Building, Kirby Hall, 21 Blue Mill Road. This course is for individuals who belong to non-profit community groups that serve food during functions such as fundraisers, charity events, etc. The course will cover safe food handling and the rules that regulate providing food to the public. The course is free, but we ask that you register by calling 972 267-8000, ext. 124.

RADON AWARENESS. The Harding Township Health Department has pamphlets available on radon and its risks. The NJDEP will provide a list of certified companies that have testing services or do-it-yourself test kits, call at 800-648-0394 or www.njradon.org.

FLU CLINICS The Health Department expects to receive its full allotment of flu vaccine. A delivery date has not been established but residents can receive updated information by calling our Flu Clinic Hotline at 973-267-8000 ext. 190.

EYEGLOSS COLLECTION The Health Department will again be sponsoring an eyeglass collection this fall. The eyeglasses will go to the Lions Club for distribution to those in need. All types of eyeglasses and sunglasses, prescription and non-prescription, including reading glasses will be accepted. The eyeglasses may be dropped off during our flu clinics or brought to the Health Department located in the Municipal Building on Blue Mill road. For more information call 973-267-8000 ext 148.

RABIES CLINIC, SATURDAY, November 4, 2006 from 9 to 11 AM

The Harding Township Department of Health, in cooperation with the NJ State Department of Health, will again offer a 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, 2007 must be vaccinated before a license can be issued for 2007.

MEDICAL RESERVE CORP ORIENTATION/TRAINING

The Morris County Medical Reserve Corp was established by the Morris County Office of Health Management to recruit and organize medical volunteers to assist local public health agencies during a public health emergency. An orientation/training session for new and previously registered volunteers will be

held Monday, **November 13, 2006 from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.** at the Morris Township Municipal Building at 50 Woodland Avenue, Convent Station. Photo ID's will be taken at this time. For further information call 973-267-8000 extension 148.

TOWNSHIP NEWS

Township Committee, September 20, 2006

The meeting was well attended by more than 25 members of the public, as well as reporters from the Observer-Tribune and the Star Ledger. Each member of the Township Committee was present.

Proposed Plans for School Athletic Fields

Dr. Dennis Pallozzi, Superintendent of Schools, presented the public with a description of the current plans for rehabilitation of the existing athletic fields and the development of the so called "Upper Fields" that the School owns.

Dr. Pallozzi had a large rendering on poster board of the proposed project that detailed the major elements of the project as follows:

- Remove the two existing baseball fields that are underutilized and replace with one baseball field on the Upper Field.
- Three full size athletic fields that could be used for soccer, field hockey or lacrosse
- Relocate existing basket ball court
- 40 additional parking spaces
- Three tennis courts
- Walking paths for public recreation
- Concession stand for big events such as field day and athletic tournaments
- Lavatory facilities
- Water holding tank for irrigation of fields and fire department use
- Landscaping and creation of natural areas for student science study

Dr Pallozzi stressed that the entire project, which is estimated to cost \$3.8 million could be done in phases over time. The first phase is expected to cost \$1.8 million. Funding is expected to come from private sources coordinated by the Harding Township Recreation Association, The PTO and the Harding Township Educational Foundation ("HTEF"). The HTEF recently received a gift from an anonymous donor who designated approximately 1/3 or \$150,000 to the project. Fundraising activity is expected to kick off this winter with a major event.

Redevelopment Zone

The Mayor discussed the issue of sidewalks in the downtown redevelopment zone. According to the Mayor, the property developers agreed to put funds in escrow for the eventual construction of sidewalks or pathways once engineering and design work is completed.

One known pathway will connect the new Post Office building to the new parking area with 13 spaces near the DPW. According to the Mayor, the pathway will be “brick like” and the Historic Preservation Committee is weighing in on the finer points of color and design. Lou Lanzerotti commented that issues of maintenance and snow removal responsibility still needed to be worked out. Ned Ward asked about liability to the Township for the paths. The Mayor responded that these issues would be addressed.

Affordable Housing – Farm at Harding

The Mayor said that 10 leases were signed and 8 more were expected by October 1st. Several winners in the lottery, declined to sign leases and several other applicants did not meet eligibility requirements upon investigation. Five additional leases will be offered soon to those on the waiting list. The development has 24 total units.

Bond Ordinance 20-06

A bond ordinance was introduced for \$350,000 to finance the installation of two fire cisterns, one in the center of town (\$295,000) and the other at the school (\$55,000). The bulk of the funding for the school’s cistern was already provided by the school budget via a referendum, but since the actual cost of the cistern exceeded the estimate at the time of the referendum, the Township is “backstopping” the shortfall for a period of time.

Glen Alpin

The Mayor led a lengthy discussion on Glen Alpin particularly as it related to two Resolutions (see below) that were later approved over the no votes of Lou Lanzerotti. There were many questions and comments from the public both critical and in support of Glen Alpin.

The Township Attorney, Maryann Nergaard, gave an overview of the legal issues concerning the Township’s ability to pursue various alternatives for the Glen Alpin property including its sale or demolition. Her main point seemed to be that since the Township had accepted Green Acres funds and Morris County funds, any unwinding would be very difficult given the conditions of that funding.

The Mayor then presented the outlines of a Resolution that included the following elements

- Fund \$868,000 which is the current cash obligation of the Township

- includes \$278,000 cash spent to date (excluding the open space purchase made with open space tax revenue)
- includes payments remaining to fix the roof of \$754,000
- includes rebuilding of the three chimneys \$125,000
- less grant money of \$273,000 and donations of \$16,000
- Make a \$100,000 additional commitment toward the design and installation of a HVAC system
 - \$300,000 expenditure
 - less a \$200,000 grant from Morris County
- Re-contract with Watson & Henry for a stepwise, pay as you go arrangement
- The \$968,000 projected obligation could be funded by a 20 year bond issuance and serviced by the tax revenues available for historic preservation of approximately \$82,000 or 10% of the current total open space tax. The Township would have to supplement the tax revenue with \$24,800 over the first five years in order to service the debt, after which the tax revenue would exceed the debt service according to the Mayor's figures.

The Mayor felt the proposal limited the financial risk to the Township and took advantage of the Morris County grant money to improve the building. He commented that he and Epsy Farrell had just returned from a positive meeting with County Officials who understood the Township's challenges with Glen Alpin and were supportive of the direction the Township was taking as presented by the Mayor and Ms Farrell.

Alternative Proposals

Lou Lanzerotti proposed an alternative Resolution that would have:

- Declined the Morris County grant of \$200,000
- Removed the chimneys to the roofline (presumably saving most of the \$125,000 needed in the Mayor's proposal)
- Completed the roof contract
- Cancelled the Watson & Henry contract
- Installed a bare-bones fire alarm system
- Established a study group for future considerations (e.g. HVAC) and privatization

Mr. Lanzerotti could not get his motion to vote on his proposal seconded. He then presented a modified alternative that would accept the Morris County grant and expend a portion of the money on a minimal HVAC system after adequate

study and costing. His motion on that proposal also was not seconded.

After more discussion between the Township Committee and the public, the Mayor's **Resolution TC-06-198** was approved by a vote of four to one, with Mr. Lanzerotti voting no.

There was then a vote on Resolution **TC-06-207** to authorize change orders costing \$21,129 to fix the flat roofs at Glen Alpin that was approved by a vote of four to one with Mr. Lanzerotti voting no.

For past reports relating to Glen Alpin, please see the articles posted on the *Harding Civic Association website*: <http://www.hardingcivic.org>. See also the letter from Wendy Montgomery, Historic Preservation Commission chair, below.

Other Business

Resolution TC 06-202

This resolution would have approved a standard performance guarantee and storm water management plan for a Lancor subdivision near Meyersville Road. Mr. Lanzerotti, suggested that the vote be delayed, and a meeting scheduled with the Township Engineer to see if modifications to the standard agreement, particularly with regard to property owner monitoring of drainage, were necessary given the history of flooding in the area. A motion to this effect was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

Resolution TC 06-205

The Committee unanimously approved a \$10,000 "emergency appropriation" to pay for litigation expenses relating to a lawsuit brought against the Township by a property owner who did not like a decision made by the Board of Adjustment concerning a project on an adjacent property to their own. The lawsuit was decided in favor of the Township, but legal expenses were greater than the budgeted allowed, necessitating the action.

Resolutions TC 06-204 – release of escrow for Ehinger (AVR LTD, Inc.) and **TC 06-206** – approval of bill list, were approved unanimously by consent agenda.

The Committee then went into executive session on Resolution TC-ES-06-18 - a litigation matter concerning a tax lien and Combe Fill South.

Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) view on Glen Alpin

This letter was sent to Thumbnail from Wendy Montgomery, chair, Harding Historic Preservation Commission. It was originally addressed to the Township Committee and other officials on September 20, 2006.

“The HPC has been asked to weigh in on the future of Glen Alpin. In a nutshell, we support continued rehabilitation of this historic home and believe it should not slow down and should not stop; we believe that the Township should increase its efforts to manage the costs and evaluate alternative uses which might produce more revenue. We welcome the oversight of the Watchdog Group in the continued rehabilitation of Glen Alpin.

“The HPC supports the rehabilitation of Glen Alpin. If preserving historic structures and adapting them for current use was always a smooth or low-cost proposition, then there would be many, many more surviving historic buildings. The HPC was not initially involved in the decision to purchase the Glen Alpin property. In fact we first learned of the Township’s plan to acquire Glen Alpin when we read about it in the Observer Tribune, and were not part of the projects initial evaluation. While several HPC members were aware that we marching into this purchase with many unanswered questions and therefore were not surprised by the magnitude of expenses and problems that have emerged, we continue to support the project.

“From the start, this was publicized as an open space acquisition. It happens that there is a historic home on the property and now we must deal with that reality. It also happens that, due to the way the purchase of the property was structured and funded, there are some use restrictions on the property and legal commitments and agreements; we must deal with that reality also.

“Our view is that the Glen Alpin property is arguably one of the most important, if not the most important, properties in Harding, equally important to HOST (from the standpoint of open space at a very important crossroads) and the HPC (from the standpoint of the historic context of Harding). It also happens to be one of the finest, if not the finest, example of a Gothic Revival mansion in the state. Further, it presents future opportunities for additional connections to Patriots Path and might be an important site to the Crossroads of the American Revolution initiative. As a result, the Township should continue to aggressively pursue grants to support restoration from all levels of government and not let this project bite the dust or cave due to political pressure.

In a referendum in 2002, I believe, Harding voters approved spending up to 10% of open space funds for acquisition of historic properties. Our view is that, having no other spending priorities at this time, the full contribution of HP funds in the Open Space Trust fund (currently over \$75,000 annually) should continue to be dedicated to pursuing the renovation of Glen Alpin. This on-going source of funding should pay for significant debt financing for the project and should supplement the money received from grants.

“The HPC is concerned that failure to go forward with this project, as described to people at State and County levels for more than two years, will irreparably damage Harding’s reputation as a steward of its historic properties and open space. To date, these organizations have been steadfastly enthusiastic about the project. The decision to stop or put limits on this project, in the absence of a plan to ultimately complete the restoration, is short-sighted and may have implications for the township for future availability of open-space funds in addition to future availability of funds to restart this project down the road.

“We encourage the Township Committee to support continued, steady rehabilitation of Glen Alpin, to negotiate vigorously for the Mansion in May nomination in order to jump start some of the rehabilitation efforts, and to explore creative uses for this structure once it has been rehabilitated, including use by Township staff. As someone once said to me, the purchase of Glen Alpin was all about the land. Well, we believe that this property, including the house, has the potential to be a centerpiece, albeit misplaced, for Harding. We urge you to vote yes on a plan to continue to move forward.

“One other point: The Watchdog Group has done a great job in identifying holes in the current planning process and costs associated with the rehabilitation efforts, focusing primarily on the magnitude of both. We think they would be most productive to focus future efforts on helping those involved to reduce the costs of this project and then provide continued oversight to ensure it comes in as close to budget as possible. We welcome them to identify alternative uses which produce higher income and possibly require less rehabilitation.”

Note: Watch dog Report is posted on **Harding Civic Association website: <http://www.hardingcivic.org>.**

Planning Board: no meeting this month; no report.

**Board of Adjustment meeting, Board of Education/School News
Environmental Commission, No reports**

Civic Association News and Announcements

EDITOR’S NOTE: THE DEADLINES FOR THE next 2 issues OF THE THUMBNAIL are November 8 and December 6 respectively. *Announcements should be complete and concise to help the editor.* 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, write the editor, **email address: hesnaj@verizon.net**, or 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 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
Seniors (2 nd and 4 th Thursday)Chrst KingCh	11 AM
Planning Board (4 th Monday)	7:30 PM
Hist Preservtion Comm (1stThursday)	8 PM
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
Township Committee(1 st and 3 rd Wed)	8 PM
Shade Tree (2 nd Monday)	3 PM
Harding Twp Civic Association	7:30 PM