

March 2007

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Harding Township's Annual Blood Drive will be on **Saturday, March 23, 2007** at Christ the King Church on Blue Mill Rd. from 8:30 AM till 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. *This year NJ Blood Services is also offering a free cholesterol test at the Blood Drive.* Please call Mary Van Kirk at (973) 425-0114 or Sue Sameth at (973) 267-0552 to schedule an appointment and/or to volunteer your time to help with this worthy cause.

CORRECTION. Art in Bloom will be held on May 11 and 12, 2007 (*not March 11 and 12 as reported last month*) at Christ the King Church. The Preview Party is scheduled for Friday, May 11 from 6-9 pm and the admission price is \$25.00 per person. The show will continue on Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm. This year's show and sale will feature many new artists and a wide range of oils, pastels, watercolors, jewelry, sculpture, glass and pottery. For further information, please call Carol Conger Vellekamp at 973-539-9531 or Chris O'Donnell at 973-539-0149. Help is always welcome, and there are a variety of jobs to suit your time and talent. Please leave your name and telephone number at the Library or e-mail Pamela Turnage at turnagenewvernon@aol.com.

THE LIBRARY New at the Library: Sunday "Crafternoons"...Sunday, March 18 and March 25, 3:30-5:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building...a fun-for-the-whole family series of exciting craft-inspired sessions created by local artist and costume designer, Bettina Bierly. We will cover a wide range of crafts—from folding intricate origami creations to sewing your very own sleep-over pillows. Bettina's vast experience as designer for both opera and theater makes this series a *must*. Registration and a \$3 materials fee are required. Sign-up sheets, more information, and future dates may be obtained at the Library or on our website: hardinglibrary.org.

4th and 5th Grade Book Club...meets **Tuesday, March 27 from 4:30-5:30 p.m.** This month's selection in our thrilling exploration of literature's villains is *Raven's Gate* by Anthony Horowitz. First in a new series, *The Gate Keepers*, this novel recounts a battle against the forces of evil. The book is available at the Library. No registration required. All 4th and 5th graders are cordially invited.

Evening Book Group...Wednesday, March 28, at 7:30 p.m. Join us for an

evening of stimulating discussion! The book selection for March is Andrea Levy's award-winning novel, *Small Island*, which highlights the intertwined lives of two families, one Jamaican and one English, capturing the reality of racism and class in postwar England. The book is available at the Library.

Enriching the Community...The NEW Harding Township Library...“Many hands make light work” is a saying both familiar and true. If you would like to be in on the ground floor—and what an inspiring main floor it promises to be!—***you can***, by assisting the Capital Campaign Committee in telling the Library story to friends and neighbors. The more hands we have, the sooner we will all see the building take shape.
Please help make it happen! Call the Library today, 973-267-8000 X 132

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Canada Geese- Help needed from residents to locate nests

A federal permit has been obtained to rendering eggs infertile in up to 25 nests and volunteers are being organized to implement this. We need help in locating the nests. As geese usually build their nests in the same locations year after year, if you have sighted goslings in prior years, and wish to discourage the nesting this year, please get in touch by phone: (973) 605 8274 with the Committee or at khmeister3@aol.com. It is important that this be done **before April 17**. Additional volunteers are also welcome!

Harding Township Health Department announces that a female cancer detection program will be held on Thursday, March 29, 2007, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Municipal Building. (The male cancer detection program has already been held.) The programs include: testing, examination, and education. An **Adult Health clinic** will be **Thursday, April 26, 2007**, 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 Respiratory Assessment, including Spirometry, will be performed by Morristown Memorial Hospital free of charge.

Registration for clinics is open to Harding Township residents, eighteen years of age and older. There is no fee. You can register in person at the Health Department office located on the second floor of the Municipal Building or by call 973/267-8000, extension 125 between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

NEW VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT Soup Contest - It's time once again for the Auxiliary sponsored "Home-made Soup Contest" , on **Sunday March 25**, 5:00-6:00 PM; Fire House, Village Rd; Cost: \$5.00 for soup, bread, coffee. Homemade desserts and soda will be available for sale. Come early! Vote for your favorite soup. Prizes will be awarded. If you would like to enter a soup in the contest, entry is free. Please contact Pat O'Reilly 973-301-2151 or Connie Cherrillo, 973-539-9383.

Enrollment has opened for the HTRA Summer Day Camp

The Harding Township Recreation Association, once again is pleased to offer its Summer Day Camp. Starting on July 2 and ending July 27, Mondays through Fridays, campers can enroll for one week at a time, two, three or for all four weeks if they like. The hours are from 9 a.m. through 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Programs for children ranging from 3 - 12 years of age. Located at the Harding Township School on Lee's Hill Road in New Vernon, the daily activities include Arts & Crafts, Swimming, Sports & Games, Camp Crafts, Computer Lab and Drama. Some HTRA Day camp favorites include tie-dyeing, plaster molding, team sports activities, outdoor cooking and scavenger hunts. All children participate in groups with children of their own age. In addition to the regular daily activities, campers will have the chance to show off their favorite T-shirts, hats, and stuffed animals. The Polliwog program is for 3 and 4 year olds and runs from 9 a.m. till noon, however, for those that wish to enroll in the extended day till 3 p.m. that option is available for 4 year olds.

A science enrichment program is offered for children in grades 1-4 that are interested and sign up for this activity. In addition to being fun and exciting, this is also a wonderful educational experience for campers as well.

The Camp Director, LuAnn Romano, is an elementary school teacher for over 25 years and has been with the HTRA Camp for over 25 years as well. Most of the adult staff have been working in local schools as teachers and teacher's aides and have been at the camp for a number of years. **For more information, contact (973) 605-5866 or e-mail to promano59@patmedia.net.**

Be sure to enroll early and reserve your child's spot. They are sure to have a great time. (Also, anyone going into grades 7 and 8 wishing to be a **CIT** or anyone age 14 and older looking for a **counselor position**, should contact Pat Romano at the phone number or e-mail address listed above.)

The Harding Township School Vision Council is concerned about pending state legislation ostensibly to reduce property taxes, which could dramatically

affect our school and our town. One initiative would create an appointed "Executive" County Superintendent having control over each School District budget instead of the local School Board, with no local accountability. At the recent Board of Education meeting attended by our State Legislators (Senator Kean and Assemblyman Bramnick), they suggested email communication to state officials, including the assembly speaker and the Governor. The vision council has provided the following text as a suggestion to be sent to officials at these Email links:

District 21: <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/SelectRep.asp>

Assembly and Senate Leadership:

<http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/leadership.asp>

Assembly Speaker Joseph Roberts: AsmRoberts@njleg.org

Governor's Office <http://www.nj.gov/governor/govmail.html>, or
<http://www.state.nj.us/governor/govmail.html>

"I strongly oppose the recent initiatives you have introduced to reduce local control over our schools. Our Board of Education and School District is accountable for and continues to provide a high quality, cost effective education for the children in our town. Specifically, the creation of an "Executive" County Superintendent represents a concentration of power and authority in a single individual that not only creates a level of disconnect between educators and parents, but ultimately overrides local decision making. We have seen in the past that creating yet another level of bureaucracy increases spending and decreases accountability. To push through changes in this structure without public debate and discussion is unacceptable and does not reflect the best interests of the residents of New Jersey."

For answers to questions or more information, contact President of Harding Vision Council, Cathy Moore, cathymoore@patmedia.net.

Harding Alliance for a Drug-Free Community:

Harding Alliance is a community-based grass-roots organization that promotes alternative activities to substance abuse. The organization receives its funding from the county and the township (Total 2007 Budget: \$11,328). **There is no fund raising involved!** Our website is www.hardingalliance.com. We have recently launched a **Parent Networking Group** with a chance for parents to exchange ideas. If you would like further information on this group, please contact Jane Williams at [janewilliams@patmedia.net](mailto:jnewilliams@patmedia.net). Regular quarterly meetings are open to the public and are in the Guidance Office of the Harding Township School at 8:45 AM on April 18, June 6 and September 19, 2007.

TOWNSHIP NEWS

Township Committee – February 7, 2007

Glen Alpin Mr. Murray announced the formation of the Glen Alpin Strategy Committee (“GASC”), a subcommittee formed to develop options for Glen Alpin. GASC is charged with identifying actionable options for the disposition of Glen Alpin, which will then be presented to the Township Committee for their consideration. The GASC is comprised of two Township Committee members (Mr. Murray, Mr. Ward) as well as seven Harding citizens, including representatives from Harding Historic Preservation and the Glen Alpin Conservancy. Mr. Murray stated that any constructive suggestions/recommendations from members of the public would be appreciated.

Eggert Property

Tom Gravel, the New Jersey field representative from the Trust for the Public Land (“TPL”), gave a summary to the Township Committee with regard to the progress on the Eggert Property purchase. The TPL holds an option to purchase the property from the owner for \$650,000, and hopes that the purchase of the property by the Township will close by the end of March. There have been two appraisals confirming the \$650,000 purchase price. The purchase price would be funded as follows: a \$325,000 grant from the Morris County Open Space Fund; \$125,000 from New Jersey Green Acres; \$125,000 from Harding Township; \$50,000 from the Harding Land Trust; and \$25,000 from the Trust for Public Land.

The house on the property will be removed. An in-ground oil tank has been removed. The property contains a 1950’s bomb shelter that will be excavated and removed. There is an in-ground gas tank that will have to be removed as per DEP guidelines. The property contains two open pools and four wells, all of which will be filled with gravel to remediate any safety concerns. According to Mr. Gravel, the TPL hired a historical consultant to investigate if there were any historic aspects of the property that needed to be protected. According to the consultant, there was no listing that designated the property as historic. The Township’s 2006 application to Morris County for the \$325,000 grant stated that the property may contain historic cisterns.

A member of the public, Mrs. Judie Ward, stated that a number of the reasons given for purchasing the Eggert property, including the protection of Primrose Brook, extending Patriot’s Path, and protecting historical significance, have not been substantiated, and that she hoped that future purchases will have

much more compelling reasons for purchasing them as open space properties. Mrs. Penny Hinkle, of the Harding Land Trust, responded that Open Space Trust committee did consider such points, but believes that all such reasons are still valid, and that it will be a good purchase.

Rt. 202 Detour through Harding

The State DOT wants to perform repair work this coming spring or summer on retaining walls along Rt. 202 in Morris Township that could result in Rt. 202 traffic being detoured through Harding. The work includes six sites and is scheduled to last approximately 16 weeks. The Township would like the State to give specific dates, and requested them to modify the detour to have less of an impact on Harding. The detour will utilize Glen Alpin, Blue Mill Road, and James Street. Police Chief Gaffney and the Township Administrator, Gail McKane, are currently working with the DOT to try to mitigate the impact to Harding. The Township Committee stressed that the Township wanted to minimize the disruption to Harding residents.

Affordable Housing

The Township authorized the Affordable Housing Corporation to put out a request for proposal to dealers to raise permanent financing for the affordable housing project. The current financing is an interest only loan with a bullet principal maturity. The new financing will be paid back over a ten year term.

ANJEC Planning Assistance Grant

The Township Committee discussed applying for a Smart Growth Planning Assistance matching grant from the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, which can be up to \$20,000 and could be used to help fund local planning initiatives. Possible uses in Harding include studying Highlands Act impact, traffic planning, pollution impact to Primrose Brook from 287, and village pathways. Mr. Ward commented that he would like to have a map of Harding developed that clearly showed developed land, protected land, wetlands, and land that could be further developed. More information on the grant and ANJEC can be found at <http://www.anjec.org/pdfs/SmartGrowthGrantsApp2007.pdf>

Engineering Contract for the Library

The resolution concerning the engineering contract for the new library was postponed until a later meeting.

Harding Open Space Trust (HOST) Committee – February 13, 2007

Projects' Status – Anderson Property – the field survey and on-site appraisal for Green Acres has been completed. Overall, the project is on a good track to successful closing.

Eggert Property –(see information reported under Township Committee, above.)
Wilkerson – the Land Trust is completing the necessary baseline evaluation and documentation, including photographs, to assure complete future preservation. Further, it was determined that future stewardship of the property can be funded by HOST monies.

Farmland Preservation – progress was noted toward the final completion of the preservation arrangements for the Devine, Scaff and Haeberle farms, all located on Lees Hill Rd.

Finance and Stewardship – the Committee assigned two subcommittees to develop the budget and associated template for a baseline study of HOST properties to be monitored and maintained. The objective is to have a complete, digital inventory of conservation easements and owned properties which is compatible with the Harding Land Trust inventory. This will enable effective future stewardship of all these properties. The Committee plans to propose a spending budget to the Township for this important baseline work.

HOST Handbook – will be a comprehensive, useful document for use by HOST members and the general public. A draft of the contents was reviewed which included material related to the mission, history, membership, financials, maps and acquisition criteria. This Handbook will serve as a resource for anyone interested in the HOST activities.

Harding Township Historic Preservation Commission January 2007

New Business – Alvey, 17 Lake Trail West. Plans were presented to enlarge existing residence with detached garage to optimize the lake view from the house. The McCabe study states this home was built between 1938-1941. The mass and scale were deemed satisfactory by the Commission.

Tonzola, 85 Sand Spring Road – This is a contributing structure in the Silver Lake Historic District. Pat Burke III, architect for the project, presented plans to enlarge the existing accessory structure. The plans maintain the integrity of the present structures. The Commission did suggest that the applicants address the Board of Adjustment concerning the necessity of additional approval to enable future rental of the accessory structure.

Petillo, 80 Young's Road – This applicant is seeking after the fact approval for constructed patios, walkways and gardens on a new construction site. Although this is not in a historic district the HPC commented because much of the lot has been clear cut and therefore impacts the streetscape from both Lake Trail East and Bailey's Mill Road. It was recommended the landowner be required to install sufficient screening materials to minimize the impact on the Lake Trail East

streetscape.

Steinmetz/D'Andrea, 37 Glen Alpin Road – this application has been previously reviewed. Architect Pat Burke III presented amended drawings modifying the round window over the front door and the “silo” has been tucked back 3-4 feet. Commission members were pleased that these modifications have been made.

PLANNING BOARD, February 26, 2007

A workshop session on the topic of cluster zoning was held, with a full house in attendance. Questions from the floor included the number of properties to which this technique might be applicable, with no satisfactory answer from the Planning Board; one member of the public commented that there are perhaps 10 properties in town with more than 20 acres susceptible of subdivision. A number of comments wanted more information about the impact of this technique on the town. The full report from the Planning Board on cluster zoning is posted on the Civic Association website, <http://www.hardingcivic.org>.

Following the cluster zoning discussion, discussion ensued on 5 applications. 1. Carey (Hartington Trust) Van Buren Rd, the draft resolution is not yet memorialized regarding adjustments to lot coverage; this was continued to a future meeting. 2. Fidler, extension granted. 3. Crimi, Welsh Lane: this was accepted for completeness, the full hearing will start next meeting. 4. Iuliano, essentially a lot line adjustment on Glen Alpin Rd, BI 26.03, lot 4.02, waivers granted, hearing to start next month. 5. Christ the King, for changes to lighting to conform old parking area to the new lot, hearing to be continued.

(Overlap issues from the Township Committee)

- Growth Share Ordinance: The Planning Board and the Township Committee is working on a new ordinance in reaction to the NJ appellate court ruling concerning New Jersey’s council on affordable housing (“COAH”) regulations, which found that the COAH’s “growth share methodology” rules are unconstitutional. The growth share methodology calculates municipal affordable housing obligations based on the municipalities’ own housing and employment projections. The appellate decision was in response to a lawsuit brought by plaintiffs including the New Jersey Builders Association. The court decision will require Harding to adjust its COAH related fee regulations it applies to developers.
- Proposal to reinstate zoning provisions to allow flag lots. Flag lots were permitted up until May 1985 until the TC at that time decided to not allow any more. The planning board found that flag lots often had planning benefits (helpful to open space preservation) and should be allowed in the R5 zone.

- Planning Board is working on a draft ordinance regarding development standards for RR and R-1 zones. The draft would cut the lot coverage for bigger acreage lots.

The Board will be considering whether cluster zoning or other regulations would promote the township's planning goal of preserving its traditional character. An excerpted report on the subject, entitled Creative Development Techniques: Cluster Subdivisions is included in this Thumbnail as a public service; available during normal business hours at the Planning Board Offices located in the Municipal Building on Blue Mill Road, Harding Township.

HARDING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION, February 12, 2007.

The main presentation was a review the anti-bullying, intimidation and harassment (A/I/H) programs at Harding and at Madison by Dr. Pallozzi, Ms. Klikier for Harding and the Superintendent Dr. Noonan, the Principal, Mr. Robertson, the Athletic Director, Mr. Dowling and the Assistant Principal Mr. Sera for Madison. A summary of the Madison presentation and the considerable amount of public inquiry that resulted is presented below. This item was on the agenda primarily to provide an opportunity for the Harding BOE and the public to learn what Madison was doing in response to specific incidents of bullying and harassment. As reported in the Independent Press on 1/17/2007, five Madison High School students were suspended from the basketball team, and face mandatory counseling and community service as a result of their bullying, intimidation and harassment of a Harding student while the students were attending a sports camp in Pennsylvania in July 2006. Note that although the article claimed that no physical harm resulted to the Harding student from these acts, several parents at the meeting questioned the validity of this point.

During the 2 hr presentation and follow up period Dr. Noonan first pointed out that this incident was not brought to the Administration's attention until December 20th. But that time they have in place several safeguard's to try and eliminate this type of behavior and to clearly communicate that this will not be tolerated at Madison. For example, all the students attend a 1 hr class on anti-bullying policies. The athletic director meets with the coaches 4 times a year to review the anti-bullying policies and they are required to have all athletes sign an anti-bullying document. In addition they have established a training program for team captains to help them become good role models and a heroes and cool kids program designed to get the high school students interacting in a positive role with middle school students to help emphasize the importance of the anti-bullying programs.

There were many questions asked from the 30 to 40 members of the public. Many of the the parents were noticeably disturbed by these events and several pointed out that the schools response to the sports camp incident was inadequate and that the students involved should have at least been suspended from school and not just suspended from the sports team. One parent voiced a serious concern that the environment at Madison High School must be very intimidating since not a single student felt comfortable enough to bring this incident to the attention of a teacher, counselor or administrator from September to the end of December. Other comments from the public included: i) the penalties for bullying need to be more clearly communicated to the students, ii) the Madison anti-bullying plans are reactive and not proactive, and they rely too much on students to point out problems (which didn't happen in this case) and they do not have a good way to measure whether or not the programs are working, iii) the lacrosse and other teams must stop having freshman be servants and water boys for the varsity players iv) the school should hold parents as well as the students accountable for these acts , v) the Harding BOE needs to monitor the safety of the Harding students attending Madsion High School.

On a final note, it was mentioned that the Madison BOE is holding an anti-bullying program with a presentation by Dr. Michael Pritchard at the Madison Junior School auditorium on March 5th and the Harding community is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Board of Adjustment, February 15, 2007.

The variance application of Earl and Erin Shaw was approved, to authorize a partial second story addition enlarging the dwelling while maintaining the non-conforming front setback of 74'; 145 Bailey's Mill Rd, BI 5602, lot2

Civic Association

Please send the editor any information regarding changes to the Harding Township Directory to be published soon. 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, ***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.***

DEADLINES FOR THE next 2 issues OF THE THUMBNAIL are April 6 and May 4, 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>. Send questions or comments about Thumbnail to 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)	3 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