

March 2008

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Harding Township Recreation Association

HTRA will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday April 16th at the Harding Township School Library at 7:30. All are welcome; any questions please contact President, Jerry O'Loughlin at topdown911@yahoo.com.

The Civic Association asks if you have a nomination for “**Citizen of the Year**”.

This annual award is presented at the Memorial Day celebration, to be held this year on May 26, to an individual who has made a significant contribution to Harding Township in a voluntary capacity. Awards have been made in the past to Richard Walter, John Bocchi, J.J. Pierson, Father Corre, Leslie Cooke, Ben Josephson, Marianne Morris, Frank DeMotte, Ellie and Jay Smith, George Baldwin, Harvey Page Jr, Anita Cole, George Chorba, Jim Halsey, and Rene Castenschiold, to name only a few. Perhaps you know someone who quietly and modestly contributes to our town. Maybe not many other people know what that person does, and you do. Please let us hear from you with your suggestion. Please send suggestions, with background information, to the Editor, email hesnaj@verizon.net, or the Chairman, Civic Assn, gwennclaytor.mac@mac.com.

The Harding Township School is proud to present their 5th spring musical, ***Alice in Wonderland***, in the Matthew C. Sellitto Gymnasium on **Friday April 4 at 7:30PM, Saturday April 5 at 7:30PM, and Sunday April 6 at 2:00PM.**

Tickets are \$9.00 and may be purchased by calling Mrs. Kathy Galdieri at 973 267-6398, ex. 165 or emailing her at kgaldieri@hardingtwp.org.

Annual New Vernon Presbyterian Nursery School Fundraiser

The 4th Annual NVPNS Fundraiser will be held on Friday, May 9th, 2008. If you would like to donate and/or attend the event, please contact Jennifer Flanagan at flanagans@verizon.net , 973-644-3044 or Karen Ferguson at beemer323girl@hotmail.com , 973-975-2759. Tickets will be sold in advance for \$75 per person and at the door for \$100 per person. We also ask local business and individuals for your donations of goods, services or a monetary contribution. All goods and services that are donated will be put on display for auction at the event, which is attended by approximately 200 people from the local area. All donations are tax deductible. The New Vernon Presbyterian Nursery School

provides an environment which facilitates a child's growth toward independence.

THE LIBRARY

Storytime with Lynn Hughes: Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Your preschooler will love these highly interactive mornings featuring stories, songs, and crafts. March story themes are: *Train Stories* (3/19), and *Adventure!* (3/26).

Fairytales Forests: Bedtime Story Hour at the Library.

Friday, March 28 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Once again, Lynn Hughes and company will bring well-loved fairytales to life in a special evening event for 3-6 year olds. Come in pajamas and bring a pillow. Registration required, please.

Evening Book Group: Wednesday, March 26 at 7:30 p.m. Join the Evening Book Group for spirited discussions covering a wide range of literature. This month's selection, *Life Class* by Pat Barker, explores the impact of World War I on the lives of young British lovers.

4th Grade Book Club: Meets every other Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. Please call the Library for this month's selection and dates: 973-267-8000 X 132.

5th-6th Grade Book Club: Meets every other Thursday at 4:30 p.m. Please call the Library for this month's selection and dates.

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 June 30 and ending July 25, 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 also offers swimming lessons for children entering Kindergarten and 1st grade.

The Camp Director, LuAnn Romano, is an elementary school teacher and has been with the HTRA Camp for over 30 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**, **e-mail to promano59@patmedia.net** or visit our website **www.hardingtowshipdaycamp.com**

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.)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE asks for help from residents to locate nests In its efforts to control the Canada geese population in Harding Township. An effort to treat the eggs of the geese during the nesting season rendering them infertile is being organized to carry this out. The challenge is to locate the nests. Volunteers are asked to help in this endeavor! The geese usually build their nests in the same locations year after year. Their proximity is indicated by the presence of goslings. Thus, residents who have sighted goslings in prior years may wish to get in touch with the Committee at khmeister3@aol.com or by phone: (973) 605 8274 with that information. It is important that this be done **before April 17**.

Coyotes and Foxes have been sighted in the township with increasing frequency. Although coyote attacks on humans are rare in the northeast, preventative measures should be taken, including removing potential food sources such as garbage and birdfeed. Do not feed outdoors, nor leave food outdoors overnight. Sightings alone should not cause alarm. Significant damage and nuisance coyote problems should be reported to the Wildlife Services Section at (908) 735-8793.

FROM THE HARDING TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT

An Adult Health clinic will be held on Wednesday, April 30, 2008, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Municipal Building. This program will include, blood pressure, fasting blood chemistries; including cholesterol typing and information on nutrition. An optional Dermascan Screening, which indicates sun damage to skin, will be performed by Morristown Memorial Hospital free of charge.

Registration for all clinics is open to Harding Township residents, eighteen years of age and older, no fee. Register in person at the Health Department office, second floor of the Municipal Building or by calling 973/267-

8000, extension 125 between 9 - 2, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

TOWNSHIP NEWS

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE, February 20, 2008

Gail McKane, Administrator, briefly stated that she was amending the temporary budget of March 5th and addressing the permanent budget on March 15th. She also announced that Moody's has assigned Harding Township a AAA rating.

Appointment of part time clerk and registrar Gail McKane at \$15,000 part time salary; effective date is not confirmed. Approved.

Appt of liaison between Harding Township and the Agricultural Development Board; Lanzerotti was appointed. Ward inquired as to budget source; funds are paid for by open space, but there should be no costs incurred.

Several ordinances approved including an approval of a model cash management plan revision and a current contract to award as a public services contract driveway, joint with the new Library. In answer to a question from the public, the amendment will cost \$25,000; the new parking lot and driveway will cost \$450,000.

The township committee held an executive session on February 19 and agreed on two actions in reference to the Glen Alpin Conservancy. The committee agrees that it needs a financial analysis report, which has been agreed to be done for an amount not exceeding \$7500. The second action is that the committee is agreed to keep the public informed. At this point, representatives from the Glen Alpin Conservancy offered to provide an accountant with information and facts. Mary Prendergast asked if volunteer hours would be taken into account in this report and received a negative reply. Justine Kovacs noted that grant money will "come into town" due to the Glen Alpin Conservancy.

Hearing Persons present: Justine Kovacs from the Glen Alpin Conservancy: We are hoping for a report. We feel we have a strategy to make Glen Alpin a fundraising entity. Lanzerotti responded that the Committee feels that the best plan is to study the issue further using an Request for Proposal (RFP). The Committee has not yet determined the parameters of the RFP. To quote Lanzerotti: "We are exploring the future use of the property using the RFP process."

Another inquiry from the public: Kevin Beech wanted to know if a meeting date had been set for discussion of the Mt. Kemble Sports Complex. McKane said the meeting date was still undecided.

Third inquiry from public: Glen Alpin Conservancy asked about the responsibility of grounds maintenance of the Glen Alpin property. May a volunteer remove a dead tree? The final answer after discussion was that the GAC will work with McKane and the DPW to make grounds decisions.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING, March 5, 2008

Attending – Lanzerotti, Murray, Rybka, Ward; Township Admin McKane and Attorney Neergard, Absent – Bartlett

Three Ordinances were adopted:

1. CAP – limits spending on certain operating expenses to 3.5% increase
2. Rules for membership on the Harding Open Space Trust committee membership was modified to allow an individual who is both a citizen and an employee serve.
3. Min/Max Salary --- required by state statute to set ranges. Last year the average increase in compensation was about 4%. Estimate for this year was not available.

Two Resolutions of a technical nature were passed:

1. Temporary Budget for 2008
2. Designating a Bond Anticipation Note as a qualified tax-exempt obligation.

Administrative Updates

1. \$8.725 Million Bond Issued with a net interest cost of 3.80%. Harding was fortunate to hit the market near a local bottom of interest rates.
2. State Aid Cut. Harding lost about \$51K in state aid. Harding still receives \$517K in other state aid. Mr. Murray expressed that NJ is putting economic and regulatory pressure on towns, especially small ones, to force them to combine service with other towns or roll them up into the county.
3. Great Swamp Bike Loop. Ms McKane said that Harding received a letter from Morris County expressing that they were “not happy” with Harding’s refusal to support the marking (cost \$6,500) a bike route though and around the Great Swamp. A citizen commented that because the roads are narrow and without shoulders, encouraging family bicycling by marking a route could actually raise the risk of tragic injury. No response to the County’s letter was decided at this time.
4. Sand Spring Road resurfacing. Grant for \$75K was received. Cost is \$80K.

Proposed Mt. Kemble Recreation Complex. This proposed project is

controversial as evidenced by the duration of the discussion, the unanimous opposition by the public present, the nature of the questions, the lack of clear information, and the effort being expended by would be neighbors to stop the project.

As background, the leadership of Morris Township wants to acquire a 15 acre piece of undeveloped land, that is located in Harding, from a private owner and build a “sports complex”. Though the specifics of the project were not clear to those present, it seems to include 3 (or 4) artificial sports fields, a concession stand (or perhaps not), uncertain hours of operation, and a loudspeaker system. The site is on land on the Harding – Morris Township border behind the old AT&T Long Line complex on Route 202 and abuts I-287. The land is likely owned by an entity associated with the owner of the office complex. Clear information and hard facts were not on offer.

Member of the public said that the definition of the project has changed from Morris Township’s first grant application (2006) to the second (2007). According to members of the public, the nature of the project and press reports suggest that the complex is not meant for small children but for adult use – specifically mentioned were soccer teams from an wide area around the state and perhaps even out of the state.

When asked about the status of a decision, Mr. Lanzerotti said that nothing has happened in the last month, that the ad hoc committee (Murray and Bartlett) examining this issue has not met and that Harding will not make a move without a public hearing.

Mr Lanzerotti laid out three options:

- (1) “Annex” -- allow Morris Township to annex the property if and when it buys it from the private owner. In this case Morris Township would have to rezone the property. Harding would lose the tax revenue of \$13K.
- (2) “Rezone” -- Keep the property as part Harding territory but rezone it for public use so the recreation complex could be built by Morris Township. Lose \$13K in tax revenues.
- (3) “Do Nothing” -- Property would remain as privately owned land in Harding, zoned R-2 residential thereby preserving \$13K property tax revenue.

Members of the public expressed frustration as to why either of the first two options were even being considered given that the project was opposed by all Harding neighbors of the proposed project and that it costs Harding tax revenue. A citizen asked specifically, if this is under consideration as some sort of payback to Morris Township for something. Mr Lanzerotti said that there was “no agreement”.

A citizen asked if there was a COAH (Council on Affordable Housing) aspect to the decision. He was told that if the property is annexed by Morris Township there is not COAH implication. If it is rezoned, then Harding will have a COAH obligation. Of course if nothing is done, there would be no COAH obligation unless homes were built on the property.

Members of the public also expressed concern about impact on wildlife and water supply and stated that in the documentation for the Morris Township open space grant application lacked any commentary on the environmental impact of the project.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT MEETING – February 21, 2008

Attending: L. Sheren; B. Gannon; J. McCormack; P. Rosenbach; W. Keefauver; T. Eichler; G. Hall.

Resolutions: 147 Pleasantville Road (McFayden/Luciano contract purchasers) – PASSED, allowing variance from the 3% minimum building area ratio to 6.16%, and from setback requirements; 31 Youngs Road (Thirty One Youngs Road LLC) – PASSED, allowing expansion of non-conforming residence, and to permit a replacement swimming pool.

Requests for Extensions: 17 Lake Trail West (Alvey) -- 1 year granted; 110 Kitchell Road (Anderson) – 1 year granted

Pending Applications:

6 Meyersville Road (Flanagan) – historic structure; Pool and shower in garage removed from the application; Application approved as amended.

New Applications:

84 Sand Spring Road (Fleming) – Application for a pool house described as having one story, 344 sf, gable roof, with heat, kitchen and full bath. Lot is about 4 acres. Variances needed because (1) pool house is to be in the front of the house with the pool (750 feet from road) and (2) lot coverage would be 10.76 %, exceeding the 10% max. Since the plan calls for a full bath, heat and kitchen, the pool house was determined to be a second residence/dwelling. Plan was approved with amendments to put the shower on the exterior and to insert specific language that the structure is to be used only as a pool house. The outdoor shower will necessitate a walkway which further increases lot coverage by about 80 sf to 10.86%. Lastly, a greenhouse structure, currently near the property line, is to be moved within the building envelope.

27 Lake Trail East, (McGoldrick) – Application is to expand an already non-conforming structure. Expansion totals 368 sf in two locations, the master suite and kitchen. Because of the slope of the property to the lake, the expansions would be open underneath and supported by several piers. No tree removal is

necessary and the design was considered appropriate to the area and aesthetically an improvement over the existing condition. Ray Nagley, the neighbor on the north side, had no issues. Mr. Nagley, now speaking for the Lake Shore Association, the owner of the adjacent property on the south side, represented that the association had no objections to the plan. The application was approved as submitted.

122 Jenks Road (Capar) – Simple application to install a roof over an area that is currently a deck. Approved as submitted.

Annual Report to the Planning Board – discussion followed regarding (1) investigating again the feasibility of eliminating so-called “split lots”, lots that are in two zones; (2) investigating fence height restriction, as the current 7 ft max may not be high enough to stop deer; and (3) defining lighting codes. This was followed by a discussion of when construction might be deemed to be halted so as to determine when a new permit might be required.

PLANNING BOARD, February 25, 2008

The applications heard included **Frelinghuysen**, for preliminary and final subdivision approval on James St and Sand Spring Lane, approved.

The **Furst** application, 16 Lindsley Rd, requested waivers for completeness. These were granted, so that the application could be heard at the March meeting. This application was originally DeMartino, approved a few years ago with strict square footage and height requirements due to the unusual shale and location of the subdivided lot. Applicant Furst has not complied with the preexisting conditions.

On the other hand, the **Morris** application, 48-52 Red Gate Rd, for subdivision, was not granted waivers for completeness, but will be continued in March as well.

The Board also had a public hearing in regard to the Open Space Element of the Master Plan. The various changes made were minor and involved neither substantive nor policy changes, but were primarily editorial in nature.

HARDING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION, Feb. 25, 2008

The main agenda items were updates on the Comprehensive Equity Plan and the Educational Leadership Search. In order to trim the budget to stay below the state mandated less than 5 % yearly increase Harding Township has applied for waivers to cover increased costs for both energy and special education. If these waivers (of ~ \$100,000) are granted then the remaining \$50,000 could be removed from the budget by deferring some facilities improvements. If, the

waivers are not granted then more drastic measures would have to be considered. Dr. Pallozzi mentioned that one option would be to reduce the number of teacher's aids.

In a brief update on the search for a new superintendent, Ms. Egea mentioned that the search committee had narrowed the field of applicants down to 8 candidates who would be invited for interviews on March 5th and 6th, and the final 2 or 3 applicants be selected for additional interviews. One question from the public expressed some concern and surprise that the community would not have any chance for further involvement in the selection process from here on out. After the conclusion of the BOE meeting the Board met in executive session to further discuss the pool of 8 candidates.

Civic Association DEADLINES FOR THE next 2 issues OF THE THUMBNAIL are April 11 and May 9, respectively. ***Announcements should be complete and concise to help the editor.*** Thumbnail issues and 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 (3/29, 4/12, 4/26, 5/10, and 5/24)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 Preservation Comm (1stThursday)	7:30 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)	7:30 PM
Shade Tree (2 nd Monday)	3 PM
Harding Twp Civic Association (1 st Monday)	7:30 PM