

October 2008

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

NEW VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT Soup Contest:

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

Date: **Sunday, October 19**

Time: 5:00PM - 6:00PM

Place: Fire House, Village Road

Cost: \$6.00 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) to let us know you will be entering a soup.

The Annual Children's Halloween Parade will be held **Thursday, October 30th at 7PM** at the firehouse on Village Road. All town residents are invited. There will be refreshments and fun for everyone. Prizes will be awarded!

The Harding Township Historical Society: The Preview Party for the 25th Anniversary of the Annual Antiques Show takes place at the Tunis-Ellicks House on Friday evening, **November 7** from 6 to 9 p.m. Our caterer, Chris Casey & Company and designer David Mitchell of Still Life Fine Event Design, were both featured in New Jersey Life magazine this month. Together with an array of new dealers and fabulous antiques, they promise to make this a stellar evening. Reservations are requested. Admission is \$60 per couple/\$30 per person which includes wine, hors d'oeuvres and a weekend pass. Those without reservations will be charged \$35 at the door. The show continues on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. .Send your check to H.T.H.S., P.O. Box 1776, New Vernon 07976.

HARDING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF HEALTH

FLU CLINICS: the **influenza immunization clinics** are scheduled **Thursday Oct. 23 and Thursday Oct. 30**, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The flu shots are available free of charge to Harding Township residents who are at least 65 years old and residents who are at high risk for flu due to chronic disease as defined by the CDC criteria. High-risk residents must provide a note from their doctor

authorizing the vaccine before the Health Department can administer the shot. The Health Department cannot give the flu vaccine to persons under 18 years of age. Parents who wish to have their children vaccinated should contact their pediatrician.

Residents, 65 years and older, who wish the pneumonia vaccine must call the Health Department at 973/267-8000, extension 148 to make an appointment. For future clinic information, please call the **Flu Hotline at 973/267-8000, extension 190.**

Eyeglass Collection: The Harding Township 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/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, extension 148.

RABIES CLINIC SATURDAY, Nov. 1, 2008 From: 9AM to 11AM

Harding Township in cooperation with the New Jersey State Department of Health and the Morris Township Health Department, will offer a free Rabies Vaccine Inoculation for cats and dogs **at the New Vernon Firehouse, at 22 Village Road, New Vernon NJ.** Dogs whose rabies vaccination expires before October 31, 2009 must be vaccinated before a license can be issued for 2009.

FROM THE HARDING TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE: *An Invitation to Serve Your Town* In 2009 there may be a few openings on the Boards, Commissions, and Committees that support the governance of Harding Township. If you are excited by the possibility of contributing your time and talents to your town, we need to hear from you. The major qualifications sought are your interest in participating in one or more of the activities covered by the committees (listed on the Township web site (www.Hardingnj.org) as well as in the annual Harding Township Civic Association Directory) and the time to attend meetings (usually once a month). If you are interested, please contact Cindy Phillips, Administrative Assistant at 973-267-8000 ext. 147, or email: CPhillips@hardingnj.org; or any member of the Township Committee.

Harding Alliance Against Substance Abuse

Harding Alliance is co-sponsoring many substance abuse awareness events during Red Ribbon Week. To kick off the week, an information session on the '40 Developmental Assets' will take place at Harding Township School cafeteria on **Friday, October 24th at 7:15 PM**. Parents, Grandparents, Caregivers and Community Leaders are welcome to attend. Harding Alliance is also promoting Family Dinner Night on Wednesday, October 29 to recognize family time as a protective factor for our youth. Please see the website for further details: <http://hardingalliance.hardingnj.org>. You will find our meeting schedule, mission statement, useful links to substance abuse prevention websites, current programming and more. *Harding Alliance meetings are always open to the public. Questions? email Judymotown@comcast.net. Our next meeting will be in the Guidance Office of the Harding Township School at 8:45 AM on January 24, 2009.*

THE LIBRARY

***Storyhour* with Jennifer Carlin, Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m.** Preschoolers with their parents or caregivers are invited to join Miss Jennifer for a fun, interactive hour of stories, songs, and crafts. Upcoming themes are: *All About Me*; *Favorite Pets*; and *Halloween*. To register, please call 973-267-8000 x 132.

Evening Book Group, Wednesday, October 29 at 7:30 p.m. This month's selection is the acclaimed novel, *The Book Thief*, by Markus Zusak. Set in World War II Germany, the book explores the hardship and courage of ordinary citizens in a war-torn land. All are welcome!

Harding Township Library is reaching out to the community. In the coming months, Jennifer Carlin will be holding several storyhour sessions at the New Vernon Presbyterian Nursery School. She is also planning to join forces with Patti Alexander, Harding Township School Librarian, to hold lunchtime book clubs for grades 1-4. Details and program information to be announced.

Election Day Book Sale, Tuesday, November 4. After casting your vote, start your holiday shopping at the Municipal Building...an all-day affair. Novels, non-fiction, mystery, treasures, quality paperbacks, children's books...*It's the best bargain in town!* The books have generously been donated, and all proceeds benefit the Library.

New on the HTL Web: lists of books on order. See what's coming and feel free to send us title suggestions via desk@hardinglibrary.org, a simple click on the hardinglibrary.org site. Stay up to date on Library programs, book reviews, book clubs, children's activities, and construction news and pictures.

Announcements from Harding Township School

Board of Education Anticipated Vacancy: If you are interested in an ***anticipated vacancy*** on the Harding Township School Board of Education, please contact Gail Swenor in the Board office at 973-267-6398, extension 114, or you can email Gail at gswenor@hardingtwp.org.

Harding Township School is looking for ***substitute nurses***. If interested, please contact Faith Winow at 973-267-6398, ext 101.

TOWNSHIP NEWS

Township Committee Regular Meeting -- Sept 17, 2008

Attendees – (all) Barlett, Lanzerottis, Murray, Rybka, Ward

Ordinance - related to Eggert Property purchase – authorizes \$625K purchase and holds \$200K of the purchase price in escrow to cover remediation of the site – demolition of the house and bomb shelter and close well.

Resolutions – various resolutions passed including:

1. to hire a new deputy clerk, Amanda Gildersleeve
2. waive the noise ordinance during repair of the middle school roof, a 4 week job.
3. Execute \$750K grant agreement with NJ Historical Trust for work on Glen Alpin house.

Announcements/Reports/Presentations

1. Glen Alpin Conservancy. Presented \$37K check representing the balance of the \$47K that the Conservancy promised to raise to match state grant money to ensure that the Township would not have to find the matching funds.
2. Signs. Ned Ward said that he had received comments that there is a proliferation of permanent traffic signs (speed, stop, direction) – so many that are not in keeping with Harding's rural character. Ward counted 32 signs from Featherbed Lane to Spring Valley by way of Van Beuren Road.
3. John Murray and other Morris County advocates of affordable housing are to be honored at a breakfast on October 7.
4. A Waste Water Mgmt planning committee, consisting of Township employees has been appointed by Administrator Gail McKane to serve as

a contact point for Morris County relative to issues of sewer, septic and land use.

Correspondence

A group of residents delivered a letter to the Township Committee stating their position on Morris Township's revised proposal for the Mt. Kemble sports fields (Sept 3). The residents support the use of the parcel "as parkland" with the conditions that prior to rezoning and purchase (1) a deed restriction is completed on the adjacent 25 acre parcel; and (2) a memorandum of agreement is completed to ensure that the fields are grass; that there are no lights, PA system, bleachers, concession stands or alcohol; resolves which township is responsible for safety and patrol; that the park is for use by children, "to be developed once and done". During his Sept 3 presentation, Morris Township's Mayor Nace, of Morris Township, said that lights for night play were essential. Therefore the Township Committee has to make a decision between the desires of Harding residents and those of Morris Township officials. Harding Record Set – a record of 51.5 minutes was set for the shortest Regular Meeting!

Township Committee Regular Meeting – October 1, 2008

Attendees – Barlett, Lanzerottis, Murray, Rybka, Ward

Ordinance – Public Hearing. Ordinance amendment regarding public intoxication passed adhering to state law requirements.

Resolutions – various resolutions discussed and/or passed including:

- a. authorizing execution of Interlocal Service Agreements for the use of the County Mobile Data Terminal System and Radio Dispatching Services for 2009. Annual cost to Harding Township will decrease by \$1,003.00
- b. acceptance of generous donation to the Harding Township Police Department by Mr and Mrs Tungare.

Resolution deferred to future meeting regarding the authorization of executing a right-of-way agreement between the Township and Fiber Technologies Networks, LLC pending company's appearance before the Township Committee.

Announcements/Reports/Presentations

1. Mt. Kemble Recreation Facility. Committee confirmed the plans for a "balloon test" to take place at the facility on Saturday, October 4th pending appropriate weather conditions. Test is being conducted in an effort to help measure impact of lighting for proposed athletic fields. A resident of Harding spoke of his concern about the plan and that the Township

Committee continues to consider alternative proposals from Morris Township even though many residents are strongly opposed. The Committee clarified that at the September 3rd meeting it was agreed that Morris Township had adjusted the original proposal to address a number of the concerns voiced by both the Committee and Harding residents. Though no new resolution has been proposed or voted on, the Committee believed that one of the outstanding issues (lighting) needed further investigation as a next step. Morris Township was complimented for their efforts to work towards a mutually agreed upon solution. Another resident who spoke at the meeting asked how, if approved, would the specifics of the agreement be enforced in the years to come. The Committee stated that the Harding Township's Planning Board would provide the necessary oversight to all terms and conditions of any contract.

2. Historic Glen Alpin House. A closed meeting was held on Monday, Sept 28th with members from the Township Committee and Glen Alpin Steering Committee to discuss the status of the Request For Proposal (RFP) for the restoration and adaptive re-use of this Harding property. It was agreed that a major effort needed to be put forth by the Township Committee and all willing residents to actively market this location to potential tenants. As a result, the Executive Committee has approved the RFP which will be released and made available on the town's website within one week's time. Because of the sources that have provided significant grants for both recent and future restoration, only a singular or multiple non-profit organizations would be eligible to lease this nine and three quarter acre property and historic building. The town is anxious to find a suitable tenant and as a result, notable efforts will be made to market the RFP.
3. Ten Towns. Members of the Township Committee and the Harding Township Environmental Commission met recently to discuss Harding's participation in Ten Towns. It was determined that further information was needed in order to better understand both the current viability as well as future direction and goals of this initiative. The group agreed that subcommittees needed to be immediately formed to review many areas of question including the general financial structure, use and management of grants, specific projects and benefits and partnerships. It was stated that Harding Township contributes \$12,900 annually which represents

more than 50% of the combined participating towns' fees. The fees are set based on proportion of land mass.

4. New Parking Lot at Town Hall. Resident commented on how attractive the new parking lot is and that the new lighting is particularly helpful.

Board of Adjustment, September 18, 2008

Resolutions – Approved

Harding Property LLC (Part 2), 55 Red Gate Road, Block 6 Lot 2.01 Zone R1, as amended; granted a 62' setback for an emergency generator.

Johanna Geraghty, 79 Primrose Trail, Block 40 Lot 7.01 Zone R-4; permitting an addition resulting in a building area ration of 20.5% and rear setback of 18.2'

Pending Application

Daniel and Samantha Anderson, 613 Van Beuren Road, Block 5 Lot 7.09 Zone RR, "C" VarianceA site inspection was conducted. A revised plan was submitted reducing impervious coverage, making it compliant. Three variances remain, lot coverage, setback and height. Again, there were several comments from the public against the granting of variances. The Board stated that they may consider approval of the application if proper landscaping is proposed. The application was adjourned until the next meeting and a revised landscaping plan will be submitted.

New Applications

Tallaksen Construction (Contract Purchaser), N.J. Audubon Society (Owner), 137 Lee's Hill Road, Block 51, Lot 8, Zone RR

A variance is needed because the lot is 3 acres in a 5 acre zone. In addition, variances are needed for side setbacks. The existing home will be knocked down and the current septic system will remain. The lot is very wooded and an attempt will be made to maintain as many trees as possible. The lot has grading issues which effect the location of the new home on the lot. A site inspection was scheduled for September 27, 2008, at 9:00 am. Formal action may be taken by the Board at the site inspection. Public comment was generally in support of the project.

Board of Education/School News

BOARD OF EDUCATION – SEPTEMBER 8, 2008 Meeting: Present were Evelyn Douglas, Regina Egea, James Novotny, Jane Connell, new Superintendent Dr. Timothy Purnell and Edward Pladdys. The main agenda item was a progress report of the Academic Intervention Program (AIP), which offers supplementary individualized instruction for students experiencing academic difficulties. Fraida Yvalberg, Interim Supervisor of Student Services, described how, in July 2008, the state Board of Education increased the required scores on math and reading proficiency tests for 5th -8th grades. Consequently, proficiency levels at Harding from 2008 cannot be accurately compared to those from 2007; as a result, it is hard to determine whether AIP has lead to either an increase or decrease in scores. However, Ms. Yvalberg did suggest improvements to AIP. Harding did not hire additional staff for the program, AIP remediation is only 40 minutes a week often with a non-subject teacher, and parents are permitted to opt-out of the program. Ms. Yvalberg suggested that students with scores of 210 or less should be encouraged to participate in AIP voluntarily, and that students with scores below 200 should be required to participate. In addition, she suggested that AIP take place twice, not once, a week, and that the school consider hiring additional staffing trained in the requisite content areas. Ms. Douglas expressed concern about spending more money on AIP when the Board has no proof whether AIP is successful. The Board referred the issue to the Curriculum Committee to recommend a course of action.

Planning Board

No Planning Board meetings in August or September, no reports.

Historic Preservation Comm., No report

Civic Association News and Announcements

Civic Association: The **DEADLINES FOR THE next 2 issues OF THE THUMBNAIL** are **November 7** and **December 5**, respectively. Current and past issues of Thumbnail, as well as the Directory are also on our Website: <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.

TOWNSHIP RECYCLING

Commingled Recyclables: consists of all aluminum and tin cans, glass bottles, and only plastic bottles and containers with the Recycling symbol, and #1 or #2. Try to crush plastic bottle to conserve space. Please remember no plastic or paper bags. **Commingled Mixed Paper recycling;** consists of all paper, cardboard, newspaper, office paper, magazines, and books. Please put loose or shredded paper in paper bag. Please flatten all boxes or fill with other paper products.

Other accepted items; Batteries; automotive (car) and household (rechargeable accepted); Computers and all related peripherals, i.e. printers and monitors; Automotive and light truck tires, (on or off rim) and Propane tanks (BBQ size only)

The Hours of operation are every Wednesday from 7AM. to noon (7– 9AM self service); and **Saturdays: 10/18, 11/1, 11/22, 12/6, 12/20, 9AM to noon.**

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)	7:30 PM
Shade Tree (2 nd Monday)	3 PM
Harding Twp Civic Association (1 st Monday)	7:30 PM