

Harding Township Civic Association

THUMBNAIL ACCOUNTS OF CIVIC AFFAIRS

October 2009

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

HARDING TOWNSHIP HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The second **flu clinic** is **Thursday, October 15, 2009** from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon. Residents must be 65 years of age and older and are asked to bring their MEDICARE cards. Anyone under the age of 65 with a chronic illness as defined by the Center for Disease Control criteria must have a doctor's note. Residents are asked to wear short sleeves. No appointments are necessary.

Harding Township residents 60 and older can now obtain the **Shingles vaccine (Zostavax)** at the Madison Health Department. A \$220 check and a doctor's prescription are necessary before an appointment can be made. Please call Dr. Florence Rice at 973/593-3076 at extension 6 to make arrangements.

Harding Township will hold in conjunction with Morris Township a free **rabies clinic** on Saturday, November 7th from 10 a.m. till 12 noon at the Woodland Firehouse, 20 Dwyer Lane, Morris Township.

NEW VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT Soup Contest:

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

Date: **Sunday, October 18**

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 **Friday, 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 LIBRARY

Story Hour, Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m. for 2-3 year-olds with Children's Librarian, Jennifer Carlin. The program will include stories, songs, and a small craft/coloring activity related to each weekly theme: Oct. 13 ~ *Pumpkins*; Oct. 20 ~ *Owls*; Oct. 27 ~ *Halloween*. Come in costume and be ready for some goodies! Nov. 3 ~ *Bears*; Nov. 10 ~ *Favorite Fairy Tales*; Nov. 17 ~ *Dinosaurs*;

Nov. 24 ~ *Turkeys*. **Evening Book Group, Wednesday, October 28, 7:30 p.m.** If you enjoy reading and like to discuss what you read, consider joining the HTL Evening Book Group, meeting last Wednesday of the month to discuss an eclectic array of fiction and non-fiction. This month's selection is *The Russian Concubine* by Kate Furnival, a love story set in war-torn 1928 China. Upcoming selections include: November: *The Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafon; December: *My Life in France* by Julia Child; January: *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett; February: *Slamming Open the Door* by Kathleen Sheeder Bonnano; March: *The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield; April: *The Botany of Desire* by Michael Pollan; and May: *Sara's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay. All are welcome!

For up-to-date Library information and to check the online catalog, see hardinglibrary.org.

Election Day Book Sale, Tuesday, November 3. 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, sponsored by Friends of the Library.

From Harding Police Chief Gaffney

Police Chief Gaffney notes many automobile accidents are caused by distracted drivers ignoring basic and common-sense safety rules while driving, resulting in accidents and injuries. While driving please refrain from: 1. Tuning a radio or CD player; 2. Applying makeup; 3. Talking to other passengers; 4. Tending to children or pets; 5. Eating and drinking; 6. Adjusting or concentrating on the GPS navigation system and 7. Talking or texting on a cellular phone. Cell phones are one of many distractions both inside and outside the vehicle which can cause crashes. New Jersey law bans the use of a handheld cellular phone while driving, and drivers who talk on a handheld cell phone while driving face a

fine of up to \$100. Driving requires your full attention.

New Vernon Presbyterian Nursery School is now accepting limited enrollment for January admission to our 2 ½ -year-old class. Children must be 2 years, six months by January 1st. Now celebrating its 20th year as a pre-school, NVPNS has classes for 2 ½ through 4 year olds. The school is in the building next to the First Presbyterian Church, at the crossroads in New Vernon. For more information or to schedule a tour please call our director, Denise Keevil at 973-326-9839.

From the Civic Association:

Our appeal for annual dues will be coming to your home soon. We appreciate all your contributions that help our efforts to produce high quality reporting of civic events. ***You help us achieve our goals by joining as a dues-paying member.***

The Harding Township Civic Association serves an unusual role in the community. The goals of the Association have been to foster public interest in government, and to assist in achieving and maintaining ***good mutual understanding between citizens and public officials, to promote knowledge and appreciation of public problems through non-partisan publicity and to inform, arouse and lead public opinion toward the solution of public problems.*** To these ends, and for over 50 years, the Civic Association is staffed by volunteers who attend and report on many of the official doings of the Township government. These reports appear in The Thumbnail, the monthly newsletter which you are reading. Although the Civic Association asks you, and everyone living or working in the Township to join the Civic Association as a dues-paying member, the Thumbnail is mailed to every home in Harding Township, regardless of whether or not you contribute. As you make your schedules for the fall, consider joining the Harding Township Civic Association. Volunteer members also organize the Memorial Day Parade, the Civic Association website www.hardingcivic.org, the new neighbor welcome kits, and provide the Harding Township annual directory.

You can send in announcements for posting on our calendar of events, see the Civic Association website www.hardingcivic.org for instructions.

We also can send you the Thumbnail via e-mail, sign up also on our website www.hardingcivic.org.

Recent new nominees for trustee membership include Rene Williams. We also have three interns, Sarah Barba, Jerica Lam, and Harrison Mills.

If you are interested in participating, please call Barbara Brennan (973-267-2624) or e-mail (Barbara.Brennan@preludeinc.com), or just come to next meeting, which is usually the first Monday of the month, 7:30PM at Kirby Hall in the small conference room. Next meeting date is November 2.

Harding Alliance Against Substance Abuse

The mission of Harding Alliance is to provide education and resources to promote healthy decision making and to avoid substance abuse and risky behaviors. This year, Red Ribbon Week (October 17 to 24) focuses on community substance abuse issues. A talk and question session is being presented by the Morris County Prosecutor's Office and Madison Pharmacy's Frank Iannarone, RPh, covering Prescription Drug Abuse on **Wednesday, October 21st, 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM** at Harding Township Middle School.

The evening of **October 21st** will also be set aside for *Family Dinner Night*, to recognize the importance of family time as a deterrent to substance abuse. This evening, midway through the week, is an opportunity for parents and students to discuss substance abuse issues in a relaxed format. HTS teachers and administrators have structured homework and after school activities to facilitate the evening.

On **Thursday, October 22 at 11 AM**, at Church of Christ the King, a Senior Information Luncheon is planned. This luncheon, co-sponsored by Harding Alliance, will include a presentation about Prescription Drug Abuse by the Morris County Prosecutor's Office.

As a complement to these events, any unused, unwanted and expired medications are being collected by the **Harding Township Police on Saturday, November 14, between 10AM and 2PM**. Further information about **Operation Medicine Cabinet** can be found at drugfreenj.org/medicine or by calling Harding Lieutenant Nunn at **973-455-1389**.

We seek representatives for the Alliance who can help organize parent programming. This is not a major time commitment, nor does it involve fundraising. If you have any questions or comments, or would like a copy of our handout 'Legal and Other Consequences of Substance Abuse' please contact judymotown@comcast.net or pick one up in the Kirby Municipal Building rotunda. More information, including our meeting schedule, can be found at <http://hardingalliance.hardingnj.org>.

TOWNSHIP NEWS

Township Committee Meeting, Sept, 2009

Announcements regarding agenda at upcoming meetings:

October- Two police officers will be promoted to Sergeant and sworn in at the October meeting. Between early 2007 and now the number of officers has fluctuated between 12 and 14. The current department is staffed with 14 officers, however two of these officers will be retiring by the end of the year. Since the town has had only 12 officers at times over the past three years, the Township Committee will examine the staffing needs moving forward. The discussion will be on the public agenda for the October meeting. Come out to the meeting and let them know what you think.

November- Should the tennis courts be replaced? The tennis courts are beyond repair and need to be replaced. Initial estimated cost of replacement is \$100,000. The question is, should the Township Committee spend the town funds to replace the courts or would the money be better spent on something else? Who is using the courts? Since there is no formal sign up sheet, the town does not know how heavily they are being used. If you are using the town tennis courts and want to continue to do so, you should plan on letting the town know by attending this meeting, sending a letter or e-mail, or calling them.

November- The Bayne Park Committee completed their work and presented their recommendations earlier this year, outlining a plan for maintenance. As a result, the Township Committee decided their recommendations should be utilized in the other parks in the township. A new Parks Committee will be formed and a discussion regarding its duties will take place in November.

At the **September** meeting, two ordinances were introduced: The first ordinance is the approval of a new street name for the Primrose Preserve development. The proposed street name approved by the Post Office is Oak Meadow Lane. However, the name is so similar to Meadow Lane the Township Committee will check with the fire department and the Post Office to make sure the streets would not be confused with each other. A second ordinance was introduced to classify solar panels and wind turbines as accessory structures and specify set back and heights.

The township will be selling delinquent taxes for 2008 on Oct 7 and delinquent taxes for 2009 on Dec 28. To date the township has collected \$300K less in taxes than last year at this time.

The township has \$750,000 in grant money remaining for the restoration

of **Glen Alpin**. The township accepted a bid of \$700,385 for structural improvements, installation of a new HVAC, and the updating of the electrical system. Any money remaining from the \$750,000 grant after those items are completed will be used to address the windows. The Township Committee members commented that beyond this point only private money would be used to fund additional restoration. Still to be done before the building can be used is the septic system and water. If private funds cannot be found, the Township Committee is considering and investigating the potential of mothballing the house. The town will be awarding a contract to upgrade the HVAC system in Kirby Hall in the amount of \$278,500.

(See also the article reprinted below from the September 25 Observer Tribune)

“Harding Township awards contract for more work at Glen Alpin (Reprinted from the Observer Tribune, September 25 2009)

by MIKE CONDON

“As much as \$750,000 more is about to be spent on improvements to the Glen Alpin mansion, but the Township Committee says the purse will slam shut after that.

The \$750,000 will be reimbursed via a state grant. The Township Committee unanimously agreed Wednesday, Sept. 16, to award a contract for Glen Alpin Phase II work. All of the second phase work on the old mansion, according to Administrator Gail McKane, will be paid for via a grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust. McKane said the grant is for \$750,000, while the contract, which will be awarded to Schtiller and Plevy of Newark, is for \$700,385.

“McKane said the work would include a structural reconstruction of the basement, upgraded electrical work and the installation of a heating, ventilation and air conditioning system in the building. According to the non-profit Glen Alpin Conservancy, which was formed by the Township Committee in 2004 to help devise a plan to market the home, the present house at Glen Alpin was constructed in 1847 as a country home for a wealthy young New York couple, Henry and Frances Hoyt. The stone villa was built in the newly fashionable Gothic Revival style, featuring steep gables, elaborate trim and latticed windows. It remains one of the best models of that style in New Jersey and is the earliest remaining example of the substantial country houses built around Morristown in the 19th century. The Hoyts called it Mount Kemble, keeping the old estate’s name. Justine Kovacs, president of the Glen Alpin Conservancy, said Wednesday morning that conservancy members are pleased and excited that the committee voted in favor of utilizing \$750,000 more in grant funds to help

rehabilitate the mansion. "We are grateful, and this is a great way to make Glen Alpin a financial contributor to this community rather than a drain," Kovacs said. "Any improvements the township makes will make it more appealing to the public, and will make it easier to find a tenant," she said.

"HVAC work, and basement stabilization, she said, will make it more marketable for potential tenants. Because there are constraints involved with any structure purchased with grant money, however, Kovacs said some things simply won't be feasible. "There has been talk of making it a private home, but I do not think that will be possible," she said. Township Committeewoman Regina Egea said that, to date, the township has spent about \$1 million to purchase and begin restoration work on Glen Alpin, including roof repairs. This grant will add another \$750,000 to that amount, she said. The township will allocate the funds up front, and the grant will reimburse what is spent.

"Million Dollar Ceiling

"The original business plan created by the township included spending up to \$1 million. We have reached that ceiling, and this grant will expire our ability to invest any additional funding in Glen Alpin," she said. Phase I, she said, consisted of roof repairs, while Phase II is, largely, heating and air conditioning work. Resident Michael Meade objected to the expense of any additional funds on Glen Alpin, which many now consider an albatross around the township's collective neck. "It will be the fifth anniversary next month since we purchased it. How does it benefit Mike Meade or any other taxpayer? There is no benefit at all," he said. Egea said if the township proceeds with its plans to "mothball" the mansion, structural work on the basement, as well as electrical, heating and air conditioning work must be completed for stabilization purposes. "There is currently no pathway to find any more funding, and most of this Phase II work is being performed by a grant from the state," she said. "The main purpose is to protect it through the winters and summers." Mayor Louis Lanzerotti said there is no more funding available and that that the work is a "step on the road toward mothballing" the structure.

"Although Glen Alpin was listed as one of the 10 "most endangered" historic structures in Morris County, Egea said the township decided a long time ago not to spend more than \$1 million. "We are at that ceiling now. In order to continue in any way, we would need private money to come in and invest," she said. Egea said the first bids received for Phase II exceeded \$750,000 and were rejected. It was re-bid, and the lowest qualified bidder came in at \$700,385. McKane said some "selective demolition" was done in the basement already, so all of the needed improvement areas would be exposed for potential builders to

examine.

“Lanzerotti also said that earlier this year, the committee turned down a grant application for more work. “There are no more grants after this. There is no more state money or any other money for Glen Alpin,” McKane said. Egea said the township has garnered some interest from the private sector for fundraising, and/or using the building as office space. “We don’t have any contracts yet, but it’s possible,” she said. Meade said the township would still be responsible for heating and electrical costs. “How in God’s world did we ever get involved with this? What is the end use here? What are we going to do with this thing?” he asked. Lanzerotti said he has been promising- for the two years and nine months that he has been mayor that Glen Alpin will be resolved. “And it hasn’t been, but that’s not from a lack of trying,” he said. Meade persisted, however, faulting the committee for wasting taxpayer money. “We have people in town in trouble. Tax money is going into this building that we have no idea what in the hell we are going to do with,” Meade said. Committeeman Marshall Bartlett said that the committee is doing its best to dispose of the mansion. “It’s not easy, but we are trying to do it,” he said. Committeeman James Rybka also defended the township’s actions. “We can’t do whatever we want because of the grants attached to it. We can’t just simply do as we wish,” he said.”

Route 202 Bridge Construction: A meeting was held with representatives from the state, Morris County, Somerset County, Bernardsville, and Harding. As a result of the meeting five possibilities were developed for the state to take back and consider. Four out of the five did not require road closures. The fifth possibility would only require the road to be closed while equipment was being moved, perhaps an hour or so. Construction on the bridge will not begin until some time in 2011.

Morris County Freeholders will hold their November Meeting in Harding on Nov 23. The public is welcome to attend and voice their opinions.

PLANNING BOARD MEETING- September 28, 2009

Thomas dePoortere absent.

Discussion/Reports/Correspondence

Mrs. Olcott made a presentation to John Murray to recognize his efforts to balance the interests of development and open space, and to maintain the rural character of Harding. Mr. Newlin then expressed a desire to schedule a meeting to discuss Board administration issues (process, training, etc.). It was agreed that this could be accomplished at the October 26th meeting.

The Board then discussed briefly and unanimously approved two ordinances referred from the Township Committee which had previously been discussed and found consistent with the master plan: Ordinance TC-11-09 dealing with accessory structures (in particular energy related structures), and Ordinance TC-12-09 dealing with miscellaneous land use amendments.

Mr. Edgar reported that the Development Review Subcommittee had met to discuss concept plans for a proposed subdivision off Pleasant Valley Road.

Applications

PB-03-09, **Applicant William and Richard Blanchard**, Block 26, Lots 13 and 13.01, 42 Glen Alpin Road, Minor Subdivision with Variances, Action: Continue Public Hearing. The applicant's engineer discussed several revisions to the plans including: (1) moving of lot line to put all headstones and graves within the cemetery, (2) paving at the end of new shared drive, (3) stormwater management details involving drywells to collect runoff, and (4) site distances for existing drive. With respect to this last item, measurements had been taken and it was determined that no more than 160 feet of site distance existed in either direction. The new plans proposed clearing and grading to the west and clearing to the east, resulting in a minimum of 350 feet of site distance in either direction.

Mr. Fox suggested that the Board might want to consider the possibility of a future subdivision of Lot 13 and the access issues created by this action. One solution would be to allow access from the rear of the two possible lots using the new shared drive. Other alternatives were also discussed, and Mr. Hall indicated that any future application to subdivide would require the Board to deal with the access issue. Mr. Fox also indicated that a plan for tree removal for the new drive had not been submitted. While the applicant's attorney argued that a plan was not necessary since construction would not begin immediately, the Board agreed that a plan should be submitted. Finally, Mr. Fox indicated that he needed to review certain calculations relating to stormwater drainage with the applicant's engineer.

Mr. Hall then walked the Board through the resolution approving the application noting where changes were needed based on the evening's discussion. A motion to approve the revised resolution was then unanimously approved.

Board of Adjustment, no report this issue The Civic Association reporter notes there was light activity at this meeting over the summer and the September meeting was cancelled.

HARDING TOWNSHIP HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMM, Sept. 2009
DEMOLITION DELAYS

Meyers, 77 Glen Alpin, Block 49, Lot 11.02. The Commission reviewed their intent to grant a conditional Certificate of Appropriateness for the demolition of this 18th century Victorian-style farmhouse in the Individual Sites District, with the stipulation that the applicant return before the Commission with a final site plan, landscape plan, and exterior lighting plan for the proposed brick Georgian Colonial. Through this, the Commission hopes to obtain more closure regarding how the applicant will minimize the impact on streetscape. The Commission again expressed their desire to see a naturalized mix of deciduous trees and brush consistent with the informal vegetation along the road.

Bodenstein, 82 Sand Spring Road, Block 22, Lot 1; Ponak/Dioda, 518 Van Buren Road; Block 6, Lot 9.01. D. Denson will send a notification that the Certificates of Appropriateness on these properties have expired and that the Demo Delay still applies. With this in mind, the Commission suggests that they apply for new COAs at the appropriate time.

Farley (Contract Purchaser), 164 Sand Spring Road, Block 23.03, Lot 2. This is a contributing property in the Individual Sites District, in close proximity to the township line. D. Denson reported that Mr. Farley, who came before HPC in March 2009, will not be proceeding with his purchase of the property. The conditional Demo Delay remains, with the condition that any new potential buyer come before the Commission to present actual building plans and site plans that demonstrate that the siting of any planned construction would prevent the lot from being subdivided.

DISCUSSION

M. Soter provided a brief update on the cell tower proceedings that had been before the Commission: 1) The proposal for the cell tower at the *NJ*

Conference Seventh Day Adventists Church, 501 Tempe Wick Road, has apparently been discarded; 2) The cell tower at the Route 287 Rest Stop has been completed. The Commission discussed an idea for developing "Guidelines for Landscaping in Historic Districts.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Coyotes and Foxes and Bears Oh my! Coyotes and foxes and bears have been sighted in the township with increasing frequency. Both bears and coyotes are of particular concern. Prevention is the best method for controlling damage, such as removing potential food sources such as garbage and birdfeed. Also, pets should not be fed outdoors, nor should they be left outdoors overnight. Sightings alone should not cause alarm but are a signal to take preventive measures.

Black bears should never be fed (Note: in New Jersey, it's illegal to feed black bears, and violators face a penalty of up to \$1,000 for each offense) or approached. If a bear comes into your yard, make the bear aware of your presence. Do not feed the bear! Make sure the bear has an escape route. Yell, bang pots and pans or use an air horn to scare the bear away.

Significant damage, nuisance coyotes or aggressive and non-yielding bears can be reported to the NJ state Wildlife Services Section at (908) 735-8793, the Harding Police Department at (973) 455 0500 and the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife at (877) 927-6337. It is very important to report these incidents as the Division will take action only if there is a history.

Civic Association News and Announcements

Civic Association: The **DEADLINES FOR THE next 2 issues OF THE THUMBNAIL are November 6 and December 4**, 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: 10/24, 11/7, 11/21, 12/5,12/19, 9AM to noon.**

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(3 rd Wed)	7:30 PM
Harding Twp Civic Association (1 st Monday)	7:30 PM