

## **New Vernon Garden Club will landscape, maintain new library grounds**

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**HARDING TWP.** – Fresh from decorating downtown New Vernon and Drumthwacket for the holidays, the New Vernon Garden Club has turned its attention to the grounds of the new library.

At the Township Committee's Dec. 16 meeting, Nancy McClelland, the garden club's library landscaping chair, presented the committee with the plan to plant- and maintain low-maintenance trees and shrubs around the new library.

Currently under construction adjacent to town hall on Blue Mill Road, the privately-funded library is expected to be completed early in 2010.

According to McClelland, three years ago, the garden club raised \$25,000 as a gift to the Harding Township Library for the purpose of creating a landscaping plan and donating plant materials to beautify the library grounds.

"We are aware that, according to the library lease, the surrounding property extends 20 feet from the perimeter of the exterior library walls, and we have not gone beyond those limits in preparing this plan," McClelland wrote in a Dec. 9 memo to the Township Committee.

"We also understand that the town will be responsible for mowing the grass but not maintaining the plant materials. It is our intention that club members will install all of the library plantings in the spring and will maintain the grounds through 2012," she wrote.

"At that point, the club will vote to adopt the library landscaping as an ongoing project, similar to the job the club does at the George Washington Triangle, the Tunis-Ellicks House and the Sarah Ortman Parlor Garden," McClelland wrote.

She also said the plantings, which will range in variety from Japanese dogwoods to southern Magnolia flowers to varied types of evergreens, will be deer-resistant, low maintenance and non-invasive in according with the township's Master Plan.

McClelland wrote that a committee of club members has been formed to follow through with implementing the project, and to document progress.

"We also intend to submit documentation of this project to the Garden Club of New Jersey for an opportunity to achieve state recognition and a possible award," she added.

The club also presented the committee with a larger rendering, prepared by McClelland, which depicts the types of plants, shrubs and flowers and where they will be located around the new facility.