

# The Ardsley Villager

A Publication of the Ardsley Village Board of Trustees

Visit us at <a href="http://www.ardsleyvillage.com">www.ardsleyvillage.com</a>	<i>Ex Ardsley semper aliquid novi!</i>	Always dial 911 for emergencies
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR</b></p> <p><b>Sanitation Schedule:</b> Before looking back at 2012, I wanted to make sure everyone has now absorbed our new sanitation schedule. We have simplified the weekly schedule: residents no longer have to figure out what will be collected this week as most every week will be the same. Monday is regular garbage pick-up for the south side of the Village, and Tuesday is regular garbage pick-up for the rest of the Village. The routes and dates have not changed. The big changes are for the remainder of the week: We now have paper recycling every Wednesday, and every Thursday is recycling of commingled glass, metal and plastic. Friday is an extra garbage pick-up for the entire Village. There will be some weekly changes in pick-up owing to holidays, so check your sanitation calendar carefully this year.</p> <p>Our goal is to reduce the amount of garbage we are collecting and increase recycling. There are cost benefits, benefits to the health of our sanitation workers and environmental benefits. Everyone needs to make sure that they are separating recyclables from garbage as commingling can lead to severe fines for the Village. While we will continue the Friday garbage collection, the first weekly</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">***** <b>PERMIT RENEWALS</b></p> <p><b>The annual grace period for the renewal of overnight parking permits, and alarm permits is long over.</b></p> <p><b>Residents are reminded that parking is prohibited on all streets and municipal parking lots year round between the hours of 2:00 am and 7:00 am in the absence of an overnight parking permit. Such permits may be secured at the Police Desk for a fee of \$25.00.</b></p> <p><b>Residents are also reminded that the installation of central alarm systems require a \$25 annual permit and registering with the Police Department. Should the police respond to an alarm call, and determine a permit is not in place, you will be subject to a sliding scale of fines. An application is included in this newsletter. – Emil Califano, Police Chief</b> *****</p> <p>pick-up should be your regular garbage pick-up day, and you should consider the Friday pick-up as a back-up day for unusual items or emergencies. As we monitor the changes, we will see if further adjustments in the schedule are needed.</p> <p><b>Beverly A. Levine:</b> The past year was, as usual, a year of</p>	<p>accomplishments and of tribulations. While we have had more than our share of misfortunes in the past few years, this past year we lost one of our Village stalwarts, Beverly Levine. Beverly succumbed to an aggressive cancer four months after diagnosis. At the time, she was a sitting Trustee, President of the Library Board, President of the Village Historical Society, Village Historian and a member of the Board of Southern Westchester BOCES. She was the embodiment of volunteerism, and strived every day to make her Village a better place to live. She will be sorely missed.</p> <p><b>Dealing with Sandy:</b> We also dealt with a storm which by some measures was the worst in anyone's memory. Close to 95% of the Village lost power, dozens of trees were downed, and many residents suffered damage to their houses, property and cars. In the aftermath of Sandy, we are thankful that no one was injured, and we are thankful to see that our Village residents and officials came together to speed the recovery and aid those in need of assistance. I want to thank George Calvi and the Village staff, Rick Thompson and the DPW, Chief Emil Califano and the Police Department, Chief Mark Florkowski and the Fire Department, Captain Frank Doherty and ASVAC, Library</p>

Director Angela Groth and the entire library staff, Supt. Lauren Allan and the School District, and all others who helped us get through the storm intact.

As for Con Ed, there are numerous post-mortems under way. From my vantage point, given the severity and extent of the storm, I do not think Con Ed performed as poorly as many critics have suggested. Ardsley residents had power restored, in most instances, within a week, a trying week, but much before most of Westchester and certainly the rest of the metropolitan area. There are many questions that need to be addressed: can Con Ed preparedness be improved? do we need a better tree pruning program? Is the cost of burying overhead wires worth the cost if we are going to spend billions of dollars every time a severe storm hits the area?

Where I think Con Ed fell short was in its communications. While they had liaisons stationed in all the municipalities, we still could not keep current with power outages and restoration efforts. Residents could not figure out if they were on a list for restoration or not. Entries in the Con Ed outage list would disappear and residents would receive calls advising them that power had been restored to them, while they were sitting in the dark. This was, to me, Con Ed's biggest failure, and needs to be addressed. These discussions have begun, and efforts are underway to improve Con Ed's response to the next storm.

**Village Blast:** Speaking of Sandy and communications efforts, this is the point where I again urge everyone to sign up for the Village

Blast. George and I were publishing daily updates and information during the storm's aftermath, yet many people were unaware as they were not on the Village e-mail list. Please go to the Village website, ardsleyvillage.com, and sign up now. It only takes a couple of minutes, and it is well worth the time.

**Other Events from 2012:** There were many accomplishments in 2012, and the Village appears to be awakening from the recession along with the rest of the country. We were able to reach agreement with our police union on a seven-year contract, although the first two were 2011 and 2012 when the police were working without a contract. But the deal still takes us through 2017. Our DPW / Teamster union workers also signed up for the same period, so we will have some real labor stability over the next five years.

On the environmental front, as I said above, we are trying out new sanitation schedules designed to improve recycling, reduce garbage and cut costs. We completed the installation of solar panels on the firehouse, and installed an online monitoring system so that everyone can watch the energy savings we are achieving there.

Despite the vacant stores in the downtown area, we had several new businesses open in the Village in recent months, including restaurants, delis and markets, a veterinarian's office, and two locations for the active set: a bicycle spinning facility and the House of Sports. All these openings show confidence in our Village and a wakening economy.

We wish everyone success in their new locations.

Although it wasn't exactly a new opening, our Community Center underwent a significant upgrade thanks to House of Sports which undertook the work while they were in the process of building their facility. If you haven't seen the revamped Community Center, please stop in. It looks great.

We had our best Ardsley Day ever this past autumn. The Committee did a great job, and despite the late date, we had perfect weather. The games, contests, merchandise, bands, food and everything else worked out just splendidly. I want to thank the committee, especially Nicole Minore, Deb Pence, and Deb Navins.

On the fiscal front, I am pleased that we were able to put together a budget with only modest increases, despite the challenges we face with large increases in State pension contributions, substantially higher hydrant rental charges from United Water, and all the other financial pressures we face as a Village. We will continue to strive to keep the budget under control even as we address our infrastructure needs and maintain our key Village services.

**Upcoming Projects:** Two projects that have been in the planning stages for a number of years should be starting construction soon. One is the widening of Route 9A in downtown, one of a few projects relying on money from the Ridge Hill settlement. The other is the Safe Routes to School project, where the sidewalk from Farm Road to Anthony Veteran Town Park will be undergoing substantial renovations. We will keep

everyone posted as construction progresses, and we will try to minimize disruptions.

Finally, congratulations to Nancy Kaboolian on her election to the Village Board. I want to thank her for serving as Trustee, and wish to thank Gary Malone, Larry Nardecchia and Nicole Minore for their continued service. And finally, I send my heartfelt thanks to all those volunteers who continue to serve the Village in so many capacities, and make Ardsley a great place to live with all their hard work. Have a great 2013!

*Peter R. Porcino*

Peter R. Porcino  
Mayor

### **THE LIBRARY & SANDY**

Looking back on 2012 provides a glimpse of the worst of times and the best of times – sometimes at the same time. In 2012 the Village, and most specifically for me the Library, lost one of its most involved, enthusiastic and beloved citizens – Beverly Levine. As volunteer, board member and finally board president, Beverly was a real presence in this library. She charmed many of our clients with her upfront and honest approach to life. She is sorely missed.

October 29<sup>th</sup> brought Super Storm Sandy into our life, wreaking havoc with our electrical power, cable and heat. Ardsley was hard hit with over 90% of its residents left in the dark and cold, but Sandy also brought with it a sense of community. The library got its power back on Wednesday evening and on Thursday morning

we opened our doors. We opened early, remained open late and opened for the first time in my history on Sunday in order to offer shelter, light, heat and electrical outlets. People came in great numbers filling every chair, plugging in to every outlet, using every computer and getting creative – my favorite was the gentleman that sat on one of our stepstools and used a garbage can to hold his computer...instant workstation! The library was a place for people to congregate and check to see who got their power back. I heard many people offering hot showers, hot meals and a warm room to sleep – often to virtual strangers they just met here.

I want to thank several of my board members who spent hours volunteering their time at the library and my staff members who were willing to stay extended hours so we could keep our doors open. So Super Storm Sandy was bad, but oh was it so good. I was very proud to be a part of the Ardsley community. Although everyone that availed themselves of our open building was very appreciative, I am most appreciative of what you all have given me. Thank you and happy 2013! – Angela Groth, Library Director

*[Editor's Note: Lacking an emergency generator, the Community Center was powerless for an extended period. Funds for a generator are proposed for inclusion in the forthcoming Village budget. Many thanks to the Ardsley School District for making the Middle School available as a warming station. - GFC]*

### **ARDSLEY REMEMBERS REINA S. GREENWALD 1963-2013**

**Wife, Mother, Volunteer with  
Girl Scouts, ASVAC, Midnight  
Runs for the Homeless,  
Holocaust Survivor Luncheons,  
and Women's Shelters**  
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### **GENERATING HEAT: A primer on installing an emergency generator**

With the recent rash of long term power outages in the village, more and more residents are thinking about purchasing a generator to provide backup power in the event of another outage. There are two main types of generators available, portable generators and standby generators. Permits are required to install both types of generators, and both types of generators must be installed and operated in full compliance with the manufacturer's specifications.

Portable generators are usually low powered units that are stored in a garage or shed and are rolled out and connected to the house power supply when needed. Once properly connected, a portable generator can provide enough electricity to power the basic necessities.

Standby generators are installed outside next to the house. They are usually connected to the natural gas supply or propane tanks. Through the use of an automatic transfer switch, standby generators turn on automatically, usually within 30 seconds of a power interruption. If sized correctly, a

standby generator can power an entire house.

To install a portable generator hook-up, a licensed electrician must file an electrical permit to install the generator connection plug and a manual transfer switch. The work must be inspected and approved by the electrical inspector before the generator is put into service.

A generator permit is required for the installation of all standby generators. The electrical hookup for the generator must be installed by an electrician licensed in Westchester County, and the natural gas supply must be installed by a plumber licensed in Westchester County. The electrician and plumber must file for separate electrical and plumbing permits. If the generator will be powered by propane, then the propane supplier must apply for a tank permit to install the propane tank on the property. Several inspections must be performed before the standby generator can be put into service.

The generator permit application including detailed instructions is available on the village website under the "Forms" tab. For more information email me at [avinspector@optonline.net](mailto:avinspector@optonline.net). – Larry Tomasso, Building Inspector

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“Drop the question what tomorrow may bring, and count as profit every day that Fate allows you.” – Horace, Roman poet (65 B.C. – 8 B.C.)

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## TREE CARE

At a recent Village Board meeting, new Village Trustee Nancy Kaboolian inquired about how residents can secure assistance with trees leaning on power lines. Candidly, the process is an old tried and true one. If a tree located on the Village right of way is leaning on wires, or its branches are entangled around wires, a resident may telephone the Highway Department at 693-0117, and the Village Manager will send a formal letter to the particular utility company authorizing the work to address the problem. Note that the utilities companies will NOT accept such a request directly from a property owner.

The process for the removal of a dead tree on the right of way is a three pronged process. First the resident notifies the DPW. Then the Village Manager sends a letter to the utility company to top the tree. Once that task is accomplished, the Village contracts a private tree service to remove the remainder of the trunk.

There are two things the DPW cannot do:

The DPW is not permitted to trim branches around power lines. Only utility companies and their assigned subcontractors are authorized to perform this task.

The DPW will not authorize the removal of live healthy trees from the Village right of way for aesthetic reasons or any other reason. The sole exception to this rule is if the roots of the tree are ripping up the adjacent driveway, a matter that is determined on a case by case basis.

While we are on the topic of trees, the Village strongly urges residents not to plant trees directly under power lines. Though they can provide incredible curb appeal, bear in mind that today's dream tree can grow into tomorrow's nightmare down the road. Plant the trees as far as possible away from the home near the perimeter of the yard. If you live on a small lot, select only trees that will not grow to tower over your home. You are only asking for trouble in the years ahead.

Last but not least, the Village of Ardsley cannot become embroiled in tree disputes between neighbors on private property. This is what is known as a civil matter. Whether it be a dead tree, a fallen tree, a tree threatening to fall, or overhanging branches, the resolution must be negotiated between the two parties. The Village plays no role whatsoever. I hope you find this information useful. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Highway Foreman Rick Thompson at 693-0117, or email me at [ardsleymanager@optonline.net](mailto:ardsleymanager@optonline.net).

-- George Calvi, Village Manager

## AHS: PLEASE JOIN US

The Ardsley Historical Society has been in existence for over 25 years. Its mission is collecting, preserving and presenting Ardsley's history.

Each year the Society shares Ardsley's history through its Newsletters and a number of Special Social Events. It now has an expanded website, [ardsleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://ardsleyhistoricalsociety.org), with newly added archive material. The Ardsley Historical Society is located on the top floor of the

library and can be visited Tuesdays from 10 to noon. To become a member, simply download our membership form under our Support page, or if you have any other questions, please call us at 693-6027 or email us at [info@ardsleyhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@ardsleyhistoricalsociety.org). Upon becoming a member, you too will receive our Newsletters and our picture filled Calendar, and be treated to our Special Social Events. – Theresa DeStefano

### **NIXLE DEBUTS**

Through the work of the late Trustee Beverly Levine and Police Chief Califano, the village has signed up with Nixle Information Services to provide a community notification system. There are four types of messages that can be sent from this system.

- 1) Alerts- this consists of emergency type alerts
- 2) Advisories- less urgent need-to-know information
- 3) Community information- day to day community level information
- 4) Traffic-very localized traffic information.

Currently the village has the capability of sending out Alerts through the reverse 911 system. These alerts will be automatically received through your hard wired telephone. All residents are urged to register with Nixle notifications additionally via your cell phone, or e-mail. Register at: <https://ardsleyvillageny.my.nixelpro.com/signup>. To learn more about Nixle please go to Nixle.com. A registration link will soon be added to the village's new website. – Emil Califano, Police Chief

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**Westchester wants to contact you in an emergency. Sign up at [www.westchestergov.com](http://www.westchestergov.com)**

### **HISTORIAN'S CORNER**

Surely, if you had lived here back in the year 1912, you would have remembered when the President came to Ardsley. It was on Saturday, November 16, 1912, that William Howard Taft, our 27<sup>th</sup> President, was the luncheon and tour guest of Adolph Lewisohn. If Lewisohn was not the most famous person ever to live in Ardsley, he was the most influential with our nation's leaders, the wealthiest and the most generous. Lewisohn's Ardsley estate, Heatherdell Farm (which he named after the wild purple heather which bloomed in the valley below), extended from Heatherdell Road (then called Daisy Avenue) to Secor Road, a total of 356 acres, from 1906 until his death in 1938 at age 89. Where Ardsley High School now is situated, stood a magnificent hilltop castle: 40-rooms, made of stone imported from England and wood-paneled with precious artwork and artifacts throughout.

On the estate were 14 greenhouses, a dairy barn and thousands of chickens and cows as well as wild animals. Lewisohn made his millions largely in copper mining and finance, contributed greatly to hospitals, colleges, orphanages and immigrant societies and donated to the City of New York Lewisohn Stadium, the great amphitheatre which was situated on the campus of City College for 50 years beginning 1915.

On November 16, 1912, with Lewisohn as his host, President Taft was paraded through Dobbs Ferry in early afternoon before visiting Children's Village, having lunch at Heatherdell Farm and touring an orphanage in Pleasantville which Lewisohn had

founded. Taft had appointed Lewisohn to the Child Labor Committee and nominated him to serve on the Industrial Relations Board. Lewisohn, who knew 14 presidents, later served as head of the National Committee on Prisons and Prison Labor. – Walter Schwartz, Village Historian

### **STORMWATER UPDATE: “PLANT A (SENSIBLE) TREE”**

We lost a lot of trees in the storms of Fall 2012. A tree is the best storm water practice. Its roots take in water, and its leaves return the water to the atmosphere by evapotranspiration. Removal of vegetation and disturbance of the natural water cycle is part of what gets us into the violent storm mess. But, we've learned that we must plant sensibly. Tall trees in the wrong places wreak havoc. When replanting your property, consider woody shrubs which will be less likely to come crashing down, yet still provide landscaping and storm water control benefits. Consult an arborist for deer-resistant species.

Westchester County remains hard at work on Flood Mitigation and Storm water Management Plans. Ardsley is represented on both the Bronx River and Saw Mill River Watershed Advisory Boards (WAB's). SMR WAB has a draft plan which gives priority to the Addyman Square / Thruway flooding problem, which may provide some funding help. NYSDEC SW Modeling for the Bronx River became due in January. We cannot increase Pollutants of Concern (POC's), floatables (trash) and pathogens (primarily pet waste), in the Sprain Brook on the east side of the Village. For the Saw Mill River,

we must control those POC's, and also phosphorus (mostly from lawn chemicals).

As spring arrives, consider some "SW-friendly" projects like rain gardens, rain barrels and porous pavement if you are redoing your driveway. Check out our new "How to" pages at [http://www.ardslevillage.com/storewater diy.html](http://www.ardslevillage.com/storewater_diy.html). Thanks for taking better care of our water! – Lorraine Kuhn Storm Water Assistant

### **HOUSE NUMBERS 101**

From time to time we find the need to remind residents that there is a law stating that address numbers must be in a conspicuous location visible from the street, and that the numbers must be at least four inches in height.

The facts are simple – if you don't have a number on your home, first responders like police, fire, and ambulance will be delayed in finding your home in times of emergency. Placement of numbers on front doors doesn't help either. Often during emergencies most people have their front door open eagerly awaiting assistance. And if the number is on that open door, it's no longer visible. Placement on a rock near the driveway entrance works in summer weather, but loses its value once the snow flies.

For maximum assurance that your number will be seen when it is needed most, please consider installing it to the right or the left of your front door, or over your garage door. Remember, in emergency situations, seconds count, and first responders should not be losing valuable time seeking

out your house number. – George Calvi, Village Manager

### **I REMEMBER BEVERLY**

No doubt you've heard the stories about Beverly Levine, the Village Trustee, the Library Board President, the BOCES Trustee, the Historical Society President, the rabid Yankee fan, but how much do you know about the person?

Beverly Levine absolutely loved history, and loved unraveling puzzles. She was my **GO TO** person whenever I received overseas inquiries from people seeking long lost relatives buried in a nearby cemetery. In fact, she was the first person I turned to last year when a Portuguese medical student sought assistance in locating the owner of a long lost passport, circa 1940s, that he had rescued from a bin in a Parisian flea market. Thanks to her getting the ball rolling, aided by the remarkable memory of Bea Caporale, a very surprised former Ardsley resident was located in the City of Lights and reunited with her passport; a happy story that received national attention in the Huffington Post and other publications.

When it came to politics, Beverly couldn't give a hoot if you were on the Democratic or the Republican side of the aisle. She had very little tolerance for nonsense. She just wanted to make sure you were capable of getting the job done.

On another note, she was a fellow big time old movies fan and we often exchanged comments about films on Turner Classic Movies. And how she loved to sing. Once while on the NYS Thruway during a return trip from

a conference in Albany she shared with me that she was taking singing lessons. Advising her that I'm from Missouri and she needed to show me, she did so by warbling an old Tin Pan Alley ditty. Her voice was reminiscent of that of Alice Faye, a 1930's musical actress indentured to 20th Century Fox.

Unbeknownst to me I was soon to receive an encore. As we approached the Tappan Zee Bridge, signs were ominously flashing, warning that high winds were threatening. My heart sank as I took notice of all the huge semis hugging the breakdown lanes. I turned to Beverly and asked what we should do. Pull over for Lord only knows how long, take a detour to the Bear Mountain or GW bridges, or plow full speed ahead? Observing that the hour was late, she said, "Go for it!" Further adding, "You drive in the furthest left lane, and I'll sing to keep you distracted." Thus, with a lump in my throat and two sweaty palms gripped to the wheel we ventured forth with howling winds buffeting my Tribeca, perhaps the only car on the bridge at the moment, as Beverly belted out Irving Berlin's "Alexander's Ragtime Band." Upon getting to the Tarrytown side after what seemed like an eternity, I wiped my brow and looked over to Beverly, much composed, still singing. Unlike the driver, that woman had no fear. It was a surreal moment I will never forget!

She was a remarkable woman who impressed me with her fluency in Italian, not bad for a Jewish grandmother from New Jersey. She'd stop by the office most days for a few minutes and regale me

with stories about her years working with the Ford Foundation; all the contacts she made worldwide; and the people she worked with. She never shied away from telling me who she liked, and who she disliked at all levels of government, opinions I am forever sworn to secrecy. She was one of the more colorful people in the village, and the place is just not the same without her. – George Calvi, Village Manager

### **THE SKINNY ON SMOKE DETECTORS**

A recent inquiry about the disposal of smoke detectors generated the following response from the County of Westchester.

Smoke detectors may be thrown out with your regular trash. According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), smoke detectors contain a micro-curie amount of Americium-241, do not pose a radiation hard, and are exempt from regulation. Further, according to First Alert, a

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leading manufacturer of smoke detectors, as well as several other leading radiological and environmental experts, it is safe to dispose of both ionizing and photoelectric smoke detectors in the trash.

Some facts on smoke detectors:

\* the radiation it emits is too weak to penetrate human skin

\* the amount of radiation you would get from standing next to a smoke detector constantly for one full year would be less than watching TV, wearing a luminous wristwatch (LCD), or cooking on a natural gas range for over a year

\* normal disposal of detectors in the trash does not create any radioactivity hazards, regardless of whether the trash is burned or incinerated.

Should you have any additional questions, please contact Sean O'Rourke at the Westchester County Dept. of Environmental

Facilities at (914) 813-5473. – George Calvi, Village Manager

### **LIBRARY SHORTS**

**Reminders:** The library now subscribes to FREADING, a downloadable app for eBook lending, and Freegal, which allows you access to free music. Visit us at ardsleylibrary.org for details.

**Pre-school story time:** where children ages 3 ½ to 5 are treated to stories, songs, films, and fun activities every Wednesday at 1 pm

**Adult Book Discussion:** March 21 at 7 pm with the Library Director.

Lastly, please consider becoming a **Friend of the Ardsley Public Library**. Your contributions help to fund so many of our programs and support your library's success. Visit our website for details, or call Rose Pena at 693-6636. – Angela Groth, Library Director & Library Trustee Valerie Lalli

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