

The Ardsley Villager

A Publication of the Ardsley Village Board of Trustees

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| <p>MESSAGE FROM MAYOR JAY LEON</p> <p>Summer is the time for ice cream, swimming pools and relaxation...and for a temporary easing of Ardsley's traffic. Aided by the economic downturn, traffic has improved somewhat in the village (a consultant told me that traffic was off -10% during the spring months from last fall). However, summer always leads to fall, and the worst of recessions eventually turn around. This is no time to get complacent, because sooner or later, the traffic will return.</p> <p>For over a year, Deputy Mayor Peter Porcino and I have been active members of the Ridge Hill Intersection Improvement Committee. Ridge Hill is the mammoth construction project being built along the east side of the NYS Thruway, across from Stew Leonard's. Several years ago, Ardsley, Greenburgh and Hastings reached a settlement with Yonkers and developers Forest City-Ratner to establish a \$5 million escrow fund to improve 12 identified trouble spots within the three municipalities. These roadways will be negatively affected by the traffic generated by the new development.</p> <p>The committee advises the governing boards of the three municipalities how best to spend the money. The committee is spearheaded by Greenburgh Commissioner of Planning Thomas Madden, and includes representatives from the town and the two villages. The committee hired traffic consultant Maris Associates and engineering firm Nelson & Pope to collect data, analyze</p> | <p>PUBLIC HEARING ON SEASONAL LEAF BLOWERS SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 3rd</p> <p>The Village Board of the Village of Ardsley has scheduled a public hearing for 8:45 pm, Monday, August 3 2009 to consider a proposal to enact seasonal leaf blower restrictions between May 15 and September 30. See page 4 for details.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>ARDSLEY DAY IS BACK!</p> <p>Mark your calendars and join us Sunday, October 4th for a fun - filled Ardsley Day event coinciding with the Ardsley School District's Homecoming Weekend. Look for details inside on page 3.</p> <p>the intersections, identify the trouble spots, to suggest solutions and to provide engineer's drawings. It has already been decided that some of the spots are lower priorities. Others (like the entrance to the Sprain Parkway at Jackson Avenue and a suggested new northbound Thruway entrance in Ardsley by where Exit 7 feeds into 9A) have been referred to the respective NY State agencies, along with supporting data and drawings.</p> | <p>The remaining areas will be presented to the three boards at a joint work session on Wednesday, August 5th, 8pm, at Greenburgh Town Hall. This meeting is open to the public if you wish to observe the findings of the experts.</p> <p>Specifically for Ardsley, the consultant will present plans that could potentially be put into effect for the Ashford/9A intersection. They will also present a plan for widening Route 9A from Ashford Avenue to Heatherdell Road. Keep in mind a) any plan would have to receive the blessing, and possibly some funding, from the New York State Dept. of Transportation (it is their road, after all); and b) \$5 million sounds like a lot of money, but it must be spread among multiple projects. The ideas for the Ashford/Route 9A intersection for instance range in estimated costs from \$1.7 to \$2.4 million dollars.</p> <p>Ardsley has benefited greatly from all of this, because the committee's focus has fit closely with the strategies we've imposed with traffic since I've become Mayor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has supplied us with more data and consulting from highly regarded experts, at no cost to Ardsley taxpayers. NYSDOT will not accede to any projects unless its need is supported by data, and if experts present it. Maris, Nelson & Pope, and Commissioner Madden are all highly respected by NYSDOT personnel. • It has enabled us to collaborate with our neighbors in Greenburgh and Hastings, who have supported |

Ardsley greatly (and vice versa) through all of this. Our 4,800 residents alone don't have a lot of clout in Albany, but add in 40,000 in Greenburgh and 10,000 in Hastings, and we command a lot more respect (it doesn't hurt either if we have some dollars to contribute to the project, which the escrow fund helps with).

- The Ashford/9A ideas can tie in with the Ashford Avenue bridge reconstruction, contributing in multiple funding possibilities.

As reported recently in the July 17th edition of the Rivertowns Enterprise, the reconstruction is still slated by Westchester County to take place, despite the delay of federal and state funding support. The County will initially fund the \$12 million project, and hopefully it will eventually be reimbursed for the federal and state portions.

The bridge reconstruction is absolutely necessary; the nearly 60 year-old structure is in dire need of repair. However, I have been telling County officials (and anyone else willing to listen) for over three years the project cannot inconvenience the tens of thousands who use the bridge for 18-24+ months without resulting in a structure that's better than the one we started with.

I have reason to believe that the County has listened. Although there are no promises, the Westchester Commissioner of Public Works has agreed to meet with Ardsley and Dobbs Ferry, along with their designers, to try to add improvements to the bridge.

I believe that by coordinating with the Ridge Hill Committee, we might eventually succeed in coming up with a plan that will result in a better bridge, a better intersection, and a better flow of traffic through the village. I can make no promises, except that I will continue to work

hard to do all I can to see we make progress in this area.

One word on parking – as many of you understand, there is a link between parking and traffic. Parking also plays into the economic viability of the village's downtown area. Without additional parking, the kind of businesses you would like to see here will not be interested in relocating to Ardsley. Our infrastructure currently can only support low overhead, high traffic businesses.

Our ambitious but expensive proposal for a parking structure is too pricey for a village of 4,800 to fund itself, particularly during a recession. We have lobbied hard for federal and state stimulus money to support the project. We remain hopeful. However, our project does not meet the federal requirement of being "shovel-ready," which would mean the village lays out hundreds of thousands of dollars in engineering and architectural drawings for a project that still may not receive funding. For this reason, I am not optimistic this will work out for us.

Your Village Board will continue to investigate ways to add parking to the village, make traffic improvements and improve the downtown area without adding substantially to the taxpayer's burden. We welcome all suggestions. Feel free to email me at ardsleymayor@aol.com. In the meantime, may the remainder of your summer be peaceful and relaxing.

With Warmest Wishes,

Jay Leon

ASVAC NEWS

The Ardsley Secor Volunteer Ambulance Corps (ASVAC) is pleased to announce that we will be receiving an ambulance courtesy of a grant from the Carvel Foundation. ASVAC serves the entire Ardsley school district. We are an entirely

volunteer organization made up of your friends and neighbors. When a call is entered into the emergency 911 system, we are your first responders along with the Ardsley Police Department and Ardsley Fire Department for Village residents. An important feature to remember is that most home telephones are equipped with enhanced 911 which automatically routes your call to Ardsley P.D. for Ardsley residents. Using a cell phone doesn't go directly to Police Headquarters which may cause a delay in our notification. When outdoors within the Village, it is helpful to call Ardsley P.D. directly with any 911 request. We are available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. We are always happy to provide ambulance to our residents. Anyone looking to volunteer would be appreciated and an application can be found on our website at www.Asvac.org. - Charles Strick, Captain

[Editor's Note: At ASVAC's annual business meeting on June 8, 2009, new officers were elected. Charles Strick was elected Captain; Frank Doherty was elected First Lieutenant, and Donald Scherer was elected Second Lieutenant. Congratulations gentlemen! The Ardsley Secor Volunteer Ambulance Corps is located at 19 American Legion Drive and can be reached at 693-3673 for non-emergency purposes. Of course, for emergencies, always call 911 on your landline.]

IN MEMORIAM
CHARLES "CHUCK" LARM
ARDSLEY FIRE CHIEF
1972-1974

LEAGUE OF WOMAN VOTERS OF THE RIVERTOWNS (LWVR) NEWS

Membership and meetings of the League of Women Voters are open to all, male as well as female. The

LWVR is very much involved with voter registration, hosting candidates nights and voter guides before elections. We have a newsletter, a health committee, a waterfront Committee and members from all four villages monitoring village and school meetings as observers who report on issues, plans and solutions.

This past Spring the LWVR had three "Coffee and Conversation" meetings, at the Hastings Library, with coffee donated by Starbucks of Ardsley and cookies from Stop and Shop in Dobbs Ferry. The first was great conversations on "Senior Issues" with Westchester Senior Programs Commissioner Mae Carpenter – Livable Communities, neighbors helping neighbors, etc. Next was "When it Rains it Drains", water conservation, storm water, flooding, quality and quantity with Anne-Marie Mitroff, director of Groundwork / Yonkers, and lastly, we sponsored "Healthcare, in the Community and Universal Health Insurance" with Lindsay Farrell of Ossining Open Door and Madeline Zevon. We expect to continue the series in the Fall. Let us know times, topics and speakers that would interest you.

NY State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins was our speaker at the annual open membership meeting on June 6. She spoke about the difficulties of getting legislation passed, how it was getting easier – she now decides what legislation bills go for a Senate vote!

We are members of the LWV of Westchester, of the LWV of NYS and the LWV of the United States. Ardsley was incorporated into the Rivertowns League last year. If you were, or want to be a member, or for information, please contact Christine Verber at c_verber@hotmail.com or mail to LWV of the Rivertowns, P.O. Box 142, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706. We especially encourage new residents, PTA, and young members who wish to join, work and be connected to the community. -- Christine Hindle Verber

ARDSLEY GARDEN CLUB: BUSY AS EVER!

The Ardsley Garden Club has been very busy writing and winning grants for beautification. New public recycling containers will soon be distributed in the business area, and new metal picnic tables will be placed in upper Bicentennial Park and Ashford Park thanks to funding sponsored by County Legislator Tom Abinanti. The Ardsley Garden Club Community Project involving local Boy and Girl Scouts, and their troop leaders, has planned and planted beneath the Revolutionary War signs at lower Bicentennial Park. Scott McKenna, a scout working towards his Eagle Badge, took charge researching and planning this project. Most recently the Garden Club spearheaded the new brickwork on the clock traffic island. On Sept. 1, Al Krautter of Sprainbrook Nursery, will lecture on "The Organic Approach to Gardening," a timely topic these days. Reservations are a must. For information, please call 693-4206. – Arline Weston, Vice President



MARK YOUR CALENDARS ARDSLEY DAY IS BACK!

Save the date Sunday, October 4th for a fun-filled Ardsley Day Event, which will coincide with the Ardsley School District's Homecoming Weekend, making the October 4th weekend a true Ardsley pride weekend. We hope you will come and show your Ardsley

pride while saying hello to your friends and neighbors. There will be something for everyone; planning is underway to have many activities to be scheduled throughout Ardsley. There will be events in the following locations: Ashford Park, Center Street, Village Green, Addyman Square and portions of Route 9A. Ardsley will host local merchants, have street vendors, and live entertainers and activities for adults, teens and children of all ages.

Planning has just begun, and we are looking for vendors to create a festive street fair atmosphere. If you are interested in selling your goods and would like to participate, please contact Jodi Siegel at 478-2818; josiegel@optonline.net or Nicole Minore at 478-0981; nicoleminore@gmail.com

We would also like to thank our generous sponsors who have contributed; this day would not be possible without you: The Ardsley Police Benevolent Association, Ardsley Fire Department, Ardsley Little League, Ardsley P.T.A., Ardsley Shell Service Station, Xerox Corporation, The Community Hospital at Dobbs Ferry, Ardsley Atria at The Woodlands, and the Ardsley Table Tennis Group. For further information on being a sponsor, or making a donation, please contact Community Police Officer Tony Vacca at 693-1700. The above list represents those who have donated as of the writing of this article.

The day is sure to be filled with fun filled activities, delicious foods, and you may even learn something new from one of our many different demonstrations planned.

This is truly a collaboration of so many Ardsley people working together to make this day a special event, and we hope you will come out and enjoy the festivities. – Theresa Del Grosso

STORMWATER UPDATE: A HOME FOR "OLD SALTS"

It's not a new mariners' retirement community – it's the Ardsley Village Salt Shed at last! After 40+ years under the Ashford Bridge, our road salt pile is moving down Elm Street to a secure building. Village trucks will now be sheltered under the bridge and salt will no longer wash away. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the Saw Mill River fish will be thrilled! Construction should be complete by the end of summer 2009.

Thank you to Dan Barnett and the AHS Environmental Science Club for installation of the demo Rain Barrel and receiving Rain Garden at McDowell Park. Visit it in person at the park and check out the Rain Barrel web page at www.ardsleyvillage.com, coming soon.

Thanks also go to Vincent Reda and Boy Scout Troop 3. Vin mapped and assessed our storm drains as his Eagle Scout Infrastructure Survey project, part of Village Phase II Stormwater Management. Special thanks to Vin's grandpa, Thomas Russo, for giving this job a professional advantage. Great work Vin and team!

Plenty of rain so far – good chance to try out a rain barrel and/or rain garden. Enjoy the rest of the summer! -- Lorraine J. Kuhn, Storm Water Management

OSI PHARMA ARRIVES IN GREATER ARDSLEY

OSI Pharmaceuticals has announced they will be moving to the old Ciba Geigy complex on Saw Mill River Road south of the village from their current headquarters in Melville, Long Island. OSI is expected to consolidate 400 jobs at this location, many of which are high tech, well paying positions.

Although OSI will not be located in Ardsley village (it is within our post

office area and school district), this is a wonderful course of events for all of us. OSI will generate additional tax revenue for the schools without adding any children. It will support home values as employees from out of town relocate to our area. At least 50 new jobs will open up in addition to those being relocated here, providing additional opportunities for those who work within this industry. It will support Westchester County as an attractive cluster for pharmaceutical companies. Lastly, the OSI Foundation has already reached out to the village to inquire how they can be involved in our community, indicating that they will be excellent corporate neighbors.

The OSI campus can be easily reached from the Saw Mill Parkway and the NYS Thruway without driving through the village itself, so that the additional jobs should not have a big impact on local traffic during morning and evening rush hours. During the lunch hour, these employees will eat and shop in our stores just up the road, offering opportunities for additional customers for our downtown merchants.

Let's welcome our new neighbors to the south with all of the genuine enthusiasm and warmth we can muster. I believe their presence is one of the best things to happen to us in a long time! – Jay Leon, Mayor

DAUGHTER OF TREASURER'S OFFICE EMPLOYEE RECEIVES BRONZE STAR MEDAL

We are pleased to announce that the daughter of Dipika Patel, who is our senior accounting clerk in the Village Treasurer's office, was presented in May with the Bronze Star Medal. CPT Amy P. Daschle received this honor for "exceptionally meritorious service in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan from March 17 2008 to May 20, 2009. Captain Daschle's personal courage and commitment to mission accomplishment in a combat zone,

under the most extreme of circumstances greatly contributed to the success of Operation Enduring Freedom." – Major General Jeffrey J. Schloesser. Captain Amy Patel Daschle is a 2005 graduate of West Point. Her brother, Amit, is a 2008 graduate of West Point, and their father, Vishnu, is active in community affairs in Yorktown. Congratulations to all the Patel/Daschle family in receiving this great honor! – George Calvi, Village Manager

SEASONAL RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF LEAF BLOWERS CONTEMPLATED

As indicated on page one, the Village Board will be holding a public hearing at 8:45 pm in Village Hall on August 3rd to consider amending the Ardsley Village Code to include seasonal restrictions on the use of leaf blowers between May 15 and September 30. This topic has been the subject of much debate for many months at televised Village Board meetings. For your convenience the proposed amendments are reproduced below. **Bear in mind that the underscored language is proposed text, and that which is not underscored is existing language in the Code Book.** The proposed amendments are also available for viewing on the village's website at www.ardsleyvillage.com. If you are unable to attend this public hearing you may watch it live on Cablevision channel 75 and Verizon channel 35. You may call in during the hearing at 693-6202. Lastly, you may email your comments to our Village Clerk prior to the meeting at ardsleyclerk@optonline.net. The proposed amendments are as follows:

§137-3(A) No person shall operate any power or manual lawn mower or other gardening equipment at any time, except between the hours of 8:00 a.m., prevailing time, and 8:00 p.m. on weekdays and Saturdays, and 10:00 a.m., prevailing time, to 8:00 p.m., prevailing time, on Sundays and holidays.

(1) Additional rules for blowers and leaf blowers powered by internal combustion engines using fossil based fuel:

(a) No person, firm or corporation shall operate a gas powered blower or leaf blower on any property in the village without first obtaining a permit.

(b) Application for a permit for the use of a gas powered blower or leaf blower by any person, firm or corporation shall be made to the Village Clerk on an approved form and for a fee to be determined from time to time by resolution by the Board of Trustees. A separate non-transferable permit shall be required for each blower or leaf blower that will be operated in the village. The permit shall be valid for the life of the blower or leaf blower.

(c) Each blower and leaf blower operated on any property in the village must meet EPA Phase 2, 2007 exhaust emission standards and must be operated in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions or specifications.

(d) Between the dates of May 15 and September 30;

[i] only one blower or leaf blower shall be permitted to be operated at any one time on any one property,

[ii] blowers and leaf blowers shall not be operated on any property in the village for a period of more than 30 minutes per day,

[iii] blowers and leaf blowers shall not be operated before 10AM or after 5PM prevailing time weekdays, weekends and holidays.

(e) The permit holder shall cause the permit to be permanently affixed to the blower or leaf blower in a prominent location. The use of copies or other reproductions of the permit shall not be permitted.

Fees:

§A210-3N Miscellaneous

(18) Leaf blower permits

(a) issued to the owners of properties containing one and two family dwellings: \$5.00,

(b) issued to the owners of commercial or multifamily properties: \$25.00,

(c) issued to any business entity working on residential or commercial properties: \$25.00.

As stated earlier, the topic has been debated for many months, and the proposed amendments have been revised numerous times owing to public input via email, "snail" mail, and attendance at the meetings. What is reproduced above is the most recent version released on June 30, 2009. Our Mayor has graciously created a comparison chart with columns showing the original and two subsequent revisions which is available for viewing on the website.
– George F. Calvi, Village Manager

VILLAGE RECEIVES NOTICE OF TWO IMPENDING MEMBER ITEMS

A big thank you to State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins for sponsoring a \$27,000 grant to fund the Ardsley Police Department's acquisition of a state of the art fingerprinting machine which has been mandated by the New York State Department of Criminal Justice (DCJS). NYS is requiring that all police departments must phase out by December 31, 2009 the mailing of paper fingerprint cards. Thereafter, fingerprints must be scanned and transmitted electronically by specially encrypted software and equipment.

A big thank you, also, to Assemblyman Richard Brodsky for sponsoring a \$10,000 grant to fund a pilot project for environmentally friendly streetlights. Once the paperwork is completed, a small residential street will be selected to

install the experimental light fixtures.
– George F. Calvi, Village Manager

ARDSLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY'S GRAND RE-OPENING

The Library Board of Trustees is happy to announce the grand re-opening of the Ardsley Public Library on October 4, 2009 at 2 pm. What better way to celebrate Ardsley Day than to show off our newly expanded and renovated library. After a brief ceremony the tours and festivities will begin! We will share a celebratory cake and lots of fun activities for the kids including making buttons, balloon creations by Nora and some other surprises. You've struggled along with our shrinking walls – come help us celebrate our new space! Remember, Sunday, October 4, 2009 at 2 pm. Rain or Shine! – Angela Groth, Library Director

COUNTY APPROVES BAN ON FUTURE SALE & USE OF PHOSPHOROUS-BASED FERTILIZERS

On April 27th, the County Board of Legislators issued the following press release:

"The County Board. . . approved a local law banning the sale and use of lawn fertilizer containing phosphorus within the county. A phase-in period will allow suppliers and retail stores to sell off their existing stock. The no-phosphorus fertilizers are required to be introduced in Westchester markets by January 2011. To minimize nutrient run-off that can result from other components in fertilizer, such as nitrogen, the law also prohibits any lawn fertilizer applications between December 1 and April 1.

"With this new law, we aim to make the spring lawn 'green-up' a little more earth-friendly," said County Legislator Tom Abinanti, chair of the Environment & Energy Committee.

The phosphorus fertilizer ban was proposed by the County Executive and

extensively reviewed and modified in committee to address concerns raised by lawn care professionals. Abinanti said that many soils in Westchester already have high phosphorus content, thus negating a need for additional lawn fertilization. He noted that the law does not apply when a new lawn has been planted or phosphorus is otherwise necessary.

"Restricting the use of phosphorus fertilizers is a major step in tackling a water pollution crisis that threatens more of our watershed areas every day," said County Executive Andy Spano. "If not used properly, fertilizer can wash off yards and driveways and go directly into our streams and reservoirs. This legislation would impose inexpensive and common sense guidelines for the use of all fertilizers and help residents make better decisions when it comes to maintaining healthy lawns and gardens."

Phosphorus and nitrogen contributes to eutrophication or 'algae blooms' in surface water bodies, as seen in several drinking water reservoirs in northern Westchester County, Long Island Sound and other water bodies

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Treatment processes to clear "algae blooms" in drinking water are costly and can produce harmful disinfection by-products. The December 1 to April 1 ban will reduce nutrient runoff during a period when soils are frozen or when plants are typically dormant."

SUMMER ASSISTANCE

This summer the Village of Ardsley was the fortunate recipient of volunteer services by two fine young men: John Roberts and Sam Geiger.

Ardsley High School senior John Roberts of Dellwood Lane performed and completed several much needed tasks that had been languishing for some time. The first was completing a block-by-block inventory of all the streetlights in the Village for the Dept. of Public Works. Next, he digitally photographed all the storefronts in the business district for the Building Inspector's files. Lastly, he updated the mailing list of all the businesses and commercial properties in the Village. In between he tended to records management matters and assisted the staff in the Community Center. John's four week tenure here was much too short and we would

have preferred to keep him here longer. John will be a freshman at Notre Dame in the fall, and on behalf of all the staff he worked with, we wish him much success!

Sam Geiger of Overlook Road spearheaded an inventory of every street sign in the Village. Initially, he covered his own neighborhood, but eventually he broadened his work to cover the entire village! Sam's work, carefully laid out on an Excel spreadsheet, not only provides us with raw numbers but also lists numerous remarks on the condition of a sign on whether it was faded or defaced, or most importantly, if it was missing altogether. Sam's inventory will go a long way in assisting the Ardsley DPW in ordering new signs with the Greenburgh sign shop which manufactures signs for the Village. Sam will be a 7th grader at AMS in September, and is a First Class Scout working towards his Star rank which requires 6 hours of community service. No doubt, this project took more than 6 hours of hard effort. Sam received some assistance from fellow Scouts Charlie Yee and TJ Lyons. Thank you fellows for a job well done! – George Calvi, Village Manager

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