

# The Ardsley Villager

A Publication of the Ardsley Village Board of Trustees

Visit us at [www.ardsleyvillage.com](http://www.ardsleyvillage.com)

## MESSAGE FROM MAYOR JAY LEON

By now, many of you are familiar with the mixed used municipal structure proposed by David Smith, a planner with the consulting firm of Saccardi & Schiff. A presentation was made at a special meeting on Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> at the Ardsley High School auditorium and the plan was featured in an article in *The Rivertowns Enterprise*. The proposal is for the structure to be constructed on Center Street in the current parking lot between the Community Center and Stars Bagels. If you missed the meeting, the presentation along with support documents can be found on the village web site [www.ardsleyvillage.com](http://www.ardsleyvillage.com). The meeting is also being re-broadcast regularly on our local government access channels.

This structure would consist of 4,200 square feet of retail space on the ground floor, several decks with 230 parking spaces, and a new community center on the highest level. The retail space will enable us to recoup some of the cost of the project. The parking will generate revenue through meters or permits. This plan would effectively address several serious problems in the downtown area:

Parking – The shortage of spaces in the village is a major factor with a lack of economic development downtown. Ardsley currently has 36,000 square feet of empty retail space, despite rentals that are several dollars per square foot less expensive than surrounding communities. The lack of spaces contributes to traffic congestion and air pollution.

\*\*\*\*\*

## VILLAGE TAX PAYMENTS DUE WED., DECEMBER 31

The second installment of the Village tax bill is due on December 31. Any payments postmarked after December 31, arriving by mail without a postmark after December 31, or paid in person after December 31, must be assessed a penalty, as prescribed by New York State Real Property Law. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the Village Treasurer at 693-1550 x124.

Applications for the new Cold War Exemption and the new Disability exemption must be filed in the Office of the Village Clerk by the end of this month in order for it to be applicable for the June 1, 2009 Village tax bill. Should you have any questions, please contact the Village Clerk at 693-1550 x120. New applications for aged, veteran, and fire exemptions must also be filed by the end of the month.

\*\*\*\*\*

Traffic – The NY State Dept. of Transportation places the root cause of 9A traffic on circumstances that can be remedied if parking spaces could be relocated. NYSDOT also identifies space searchers and parking queues (such as those that occur in the CVS shopping center when drivers are waiting for spaces) as incremental contributors to the traffic problem. Additional spaces from the structure

For emergencies, always call 911

will open up options for relocating spots, eliminating left turns, and will centralize the spots.

Community Center – The plan accounts for a sizable replacement of the current community center, which is too small, too energy inefficient and doesn't serve our needs.

Long Term Planning – In a village with no remaining open space and several major highways on our periphery that aren't going anywhere, we have virtually no options for long term planning. The structure provides many alternatives for re-planning the downtown area of the village that currently aren't available to us, including several ideas from the planner for beautifying and improving the business district.

Now that I have summarized the project, the need for it and the problems it will address, I would like to refute some incorrect rumors and misinformation that appears to be circulating about the structure:

Nothing Has Been Decided – Although I have said many times that nothing has been voted on, no resolutions have been passed, no decisions have been made, and the Village Board is open and flexible to design changes and suggestions, some folks still think this is a "done deal."

As I stated at our Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, Ardsley taxpayers cannot be expected to bear the brunt of the cost of the project. Without financial support from the outside, the project is not likely to move forward.

### Don't Assume We Can't Afford It

At this point, we do not know whether we can receive infrastructure grants, or how much. Until we have a better picture of whether we can receive assistance and how much, we shouldn't assume anything.

### Ardsley Needs Additional Basketball Courts

– Anyone with a child who plays in a local basketball league knows there aren't enough courts to go around. Kids are often forced to practice late on school nights, and games take place far outside the village. Basketball or volleyball would serve as an incentive for kids to use the facility instead of complaining "there's nothing to do there." Party rentals would be more attractive with a court. Frankly, it would be a waste of money to build a new Community Center without at least a half basketball court included, as most other nearby facilities have.

I will energetically pursue grant opportunities to the best of my ability. With the new administration in Washington looking to pass a stimulus package that will fund infrastructure improvements, this project is an excellent candidate for funding. Please note - I may be asking our residents to follow up my meetings with letters or emails of support to elected officials for the project. I hope you will participate if and when the time comes.

If you are frustrated by 9A traffic, a lack of parking, a cramped community center and/or an unattractive downtown, I sincerely hope you support the project.

As always, I thank you all for the privilege of serving as your Mayor, and I wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous holiday season and New Year.

Warmest Wishes,

*Jay Leon*

### **STORMWATER UPDATE: DON'T "P" ON THE LAWN!**

"P" for Phosphorous, that is! The Environmental Subcommittee of the County Board of Legislators is hard at work on regulations to lower the phosphorous content of lawn fertilizer. The law is not yet final, but the message is clear. Too much fertilizer running off lawns is causing algae overgrowth and very poor water quality in our lakes and streams. You can do your part right now by reducing your use of lawn fertilizer and/or asking your landscaper to do so, too.

You can also help out by using less chemical pesticide. ICM (Integrated Cultural Management) is a lawn and garden technique using native plants and grasses, compost "tea" and even beneficial fungi. For more information, go to [www.grassrootsinfo.org](http://www.grassrootsinfo.org).

Winter's on its way and we all appreciate the incredible efforts of Highway Dept to keep our roads clear and safe. But our road salt needs a home! We're happy to report that Advanced Storage Technology, which designs salt shed for groups across the State including the NYS Thruway Authority, is busy preparing plans for Ardsley's salt shed on Elm Street. Fish and other aquatic life in the Saw Mill River will cheer this runoff water quality improvement. Expect construction in summer 2009.

It's a good idea to limit home pavement salting as much as possible, too. And it's never too early to plan a spring water quality improvement project. The Village may try a porous pavement application in Bicentennial Park. The pathway may be replaced with a Geogrid system or Flexi-pave, a porous pavement made from recycled tires. Either way, stormwater runoff will get a better chance to get back into the ground.

Watch for Ardsley's Rain Barrel drive coming this spring and thanks for

keeping our water cleaner! – Lorraine Kuhn

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE RIVERTOWNS**

For more than 80 years the League of Women Voters has been encouraging citizens to get informed about their government and communities. We influence public policy through both advocacy and education.

Whether your interest is in the environment, health, education, criminal justice or human rights the League is involved at the local, county, state and national levels.

Membership is open to all women and men. We are totally non-partisan. We do not support or oppose political parties or candidates. We do support or oppose issues after careful study and consensus by our members.

We sponsor candidates meetings and provide information on issues through forums and the news media and we train and assign moderators for meetings.

The League is one of the most respected grassroots groups in the country and a powerful voice that lawmakers listen to.

For Voter Guide information on the computer try [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org)

For election information: change of address or name or party, absentee ballots, voting application forms, contact Dr. Christine Hindle Verber, EdD, RN at 49 Eastern Drive, Ardsley, NY 10502 914-693-9054, or at [c\\_verber@hotmail.com](mailto:c_verber@hotmail.com).

### **SCARSDALE TRAIN STATION PARKING PERMITS ON SALE**

Scarsdale Village has announced that it is accepting applications from Village of Ardsley residents for Freightway Garage Parking Permits.

The permit allows the holder to park at the Freightway Garage located off Garth Road [just steps from the Scarsdale train station] for 24 hours per day, seven days per week. For those Ardsley residents interested in purchasing a Freightway Garage Permit, the fee will be \$700 and the permit will be valid until June 30, 2009. Permits will be issued on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Permit applications are available at Scarsdale Village Hall or online at [www.scarsdale.com](http://www.scarsdale.com). For more information, please contact the Scarsdale Village Clerk's Office at 914 722-1175.

### RECIPE FOR ARDSLEY STEW

Take your basic Village Seniors program, headed by the Seniors Coordinator Pierrette Rissland. Add a large amount of support from the Recreation Department in the form of Trish Phillips and Lori Hunter ("TrishandLori" is one word these days). Add the expertise of the Ardsley PBA in the form of Community Police Officer Tony Vacca ("Officer Everything.")

Community Ingredients consisted of a full inventory of items supplied by twenty-two Village merchants in the form of delicious food, beautiful desserts, cooking services, paper goods, hot dishes, coffee, gift certificates and door prizes.

Special flavor was added by Allison DeLuca, our Youth Advocate, who wrangled up two kitchen assistants, and 16 waitresses and waiters from Ardsley High School. The addition of the Ardsley High School Select Choir, directed by Spencer Smith added a spicy zing to the evening.

Our Secret Ingredient was the Seniors presenting the first Seniors Award to local merchant and forty-year supporter of the youth and residents of the Village of Ardsley, Tejender "Yogi" Singh, in a simple and sincere

ceremony of gratitude. Each year Jogi provides a lovely luncheon for the Seniors, among other things in the Village.

To complete the Ardsley Stew, collect seventy-five Senior Citizens from the "Greater Ardsley" area (the senior bus was provided for this special night) and bring out the warm feelings of close friendships. Place all of the above in a shiny, decorated Community Center and serve.

Result – A fun evening with great food, and a totally appreciative group of Senior Citizens.

Thank you EVERYONE for a great evening!" – Trustee Larry Nardecchia reporting on the first Annual Seniors Dinner at the Community Center on December 4.

### LEGION PARK LIGHTS UP

The annual Christmas Tree lighting ceremony was held on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Everyone gathered at American Legion Park, and then headed back to the Community Center for hot chocolate and cookies.

The annual Chanukah Menorah Lighting will be held on Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm, also in Legion Park. This event is sponsored by Chabad of the Rivertowns. For information, please call 693-6100.

### GARDEN CLUB ACTIVITIES

In October of this year, the Ardsley Garden Club welcomed Barbara Fischer, Master Gardener of the Native Plant Center in Valhalla. Mr. Fischer presented a slide show and lecture that made us look at our gardens in a new way. Her knowledge of native plant life captured our imagination.

A field trip to Wave Hill in Riverdale on October 11 was enjoyed by all members particularly the tour of the beautiful gardens followed by a

luncheon. A joint fundraising dinner, "A Taste of Italy," was held on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Dobbs Ferry Women's Club with proceeds benefiting both organizations.

On November 11, Jean McMurray, Master Judge, held a workshop & demonstration on "Mini Arrangements" at St. Barnabas Church. Lastly, the Garden Club held a "Holiday Wreath Making" workshop on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Decorated wreaths were distributed throughout the village, specifically, the Village Hall, Fire Department, ASVAC, the Churches, the Community Center, and some nearby Veterans hospitals. If you would like to join the Ardsley Garden Club, please contact Arline Weston, President at 693-4206.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Elmo:** "Mr. B., I don't get this!"

**Dagwood Bumstead:** "It's classic TV, Elmo! Clark Kent is really Superman!"

**TV Set:** "*Look! Up in the Sky!*"

**Elmo:** "No, but ..."

**TV Set:** "*It's a Bird!*"

**Dagwood:** See? By changing clothes in a telephone booth, Clark magically transforms into Superman!"

**TV Set:** "*It's a Plane!*"

**Elmo:** "I still don't get it . . . what's a telephone booth?!"

\*\*\*\*\*

### A NEW YEAR'S WISH FROM GEORGE CALVI

Recently, as my thirteen year old daughter searched for the latest installment of the "Twilight" series at the local bookstore, I found myself aimlessly rifling through an old book someone had left on a reading table about 1920's silent film star, Clara Bow, who found worldwide fame as The "It" Girl. While perusing the last chapter of the book first, as is my quirky nature, I stumbled across a passage lamenting how even though her films were riding a new wave of nostalgia in the late 1960's, and that a number of titles were readily available, most of her films had

remained locked in storage and criminally neglected by Paramount Studios for decades. When the "lost" reels were finally located, tragically, most of the old celluloid had disintegrated into powdery dust!

Fast forward to 2008, and digital photography is all the rage. Convenient, versatile, it has all but replaced traditional film. I read an article in a doctor's office recently that only 20% of photographs are actually printed these days while the remainder are imprisoned on disks or hard-drives and rarely seen. Are we repeating the sins of Paramount yet on a much grander scale? Daily, new technology replaces old technology, and rarely are they compatible. How much of our family heritage and how many photographic gems will be lost forever because we continue to "upgrade?" Not buying this scenario? I challenge you to find replacements or parts for your eight-track player, your Betamax, or even your Super 8 projector, items that were readily available in the not too distant past.

**VILLAGE OF ARDSLEY  
507 ASHFORD AVENUE  
ARDSLEY, NEW YORK  
10502  
914 693-1550  
FAX 693-3706**

**MAYOR JAY LEON**

**DEPUTY MAYOR PETER PORCINO  
TRUSTEE LARRY NARDECCHIA  
TRUSTEE GARY MALONE  
TRUSTEE BEVERLY LEVINE**

**VILLAGE MANAGER GEORGE CALVI  
VILLAGE TREASURER MARION DEMAIO  
VILLAGE CLERK BARBARA BERARDI**

**EDIT/DESIGN: GEORGE CALVI**

**THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS: JAY  
LEON, LARRY NARDECCHIA, LORI  
HUNTER, LORRAINE KUHN, ARLINE  
WESTON, CHRISTINE VERBER, &  
GEORGE CALVI**

One Saturday night, my daughter invited a friend for a sleepover. The girls wanted to select a film on Pay Per View. Having just written my last check for the monthly bills I was not in a giving mood, and suggested some titles from my own growing classic film library as an alternative.

Knowing my daughter's tastes, I offered what I thought was an entertaining package. She advised, "Oh, they just won't do." When I inquired why, she plainly stated, "My friend doesn't watch "Black & White" films." While still yanking the dagger out of my heart, I asked her friend to humor me. That evening, the girls giggled through several "Our Gang" comedy shorts, winced through Abbott & Costello's "In the Navy," and made fun of Johnny Weissmuller's Tarzan zip-lining through the jungle without a harness! As they escaped from the family room, the girls admitted the evening hadn't been a total loss!

Not having fully acquired any converts, I took solace convincing myself that somehow I had opened their eyes to an entertainment world

that existed long before "Ugly Betty" or "One Tree Hill." Unexpectedly, a triumph of sorts was delivered via my 10-year-old son who bravely said he enjoyed all the films but could do without The Andrew Sisters. Proudly noting that he is probably the only ten year old on the entire eastern seaboard who could identify Patty, LaVerne, & Maxene on sight, I reluctantly agreed to his terms.

The point of all this that is what is old is not necessarily bad. What is new is only good as long as we recognize that its path was trail-blazed by what came before it. In planning for our future, we need to preserve and cherish our past so we can reflect and better comprehend how and why things came to be. Words for the wise as we embark on a new year with its usual promise of possibility sadly tinged with economic uncertainty. Nevertheless, as your ever-optimistic Village Manager, I take this opportunity to extend to you and all your loved ones my sincerest best wishes for a very happy, healthy, safe and even prosperous New Year!

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
WHITE PLAINS, NY  
PERMIT NO. 2026

**A BIG WELCOME BACK TO  
HIGHWAY FOREMAN LOUIE  
PASCONI, & BELATED  
CONGRATULATIONS TO  
DEPUTY HIGHWAY FOREMAN  
RICK THOMPSON WHO WAS  
ELECTED FIRE CHIEF**

**Or Current Occupant**