

The Ardsley Villager

A Publication of the Ardsley Village Board of Trustees

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Basic STAR Exemption Deadline Nears

Village residents are reminded that the deadline for filing for the basic STAR school tax property exemption is fast approaching. Once March 1 passes you will not be eligible for a partial exemption on your school tax bill until March 1, 2000. Many of your friends and neighbors have already filed their forms and will be receiving significant decreases in the September 1999 school tax bill.

Forms are available in the Office of the Village Clerk as well as the Town of Greenburgh Assessor's Office. However, all questions must be referred to, and all completed forms must be returned to, the staff in the Office of the Town of Greenburgh Assessor located in Town Hall. The Assessor may be reached at 993-1520.

The Basic Exemption Form is quite simple. It requests your name, address, and tax i.d., as well as your signature, and a copy of your driver's license. No income information is required. Don't delay and miss your one big chance to reduce your school taxes in 1999!

NEW DESIGN

We hope you like the new name and design of the newsletter. The old format had been around since 1990. We feel that the crisp bold headlines over each story will assist you in zeroing in on what's most important to you. The name "The Ardsley Villager" was chosen to convey what the newsletter is all about – you the people who live and work in this beautiful Village that we call home.

February 16 is Grievance Night

The Village Board of Trustees and Village/Town Assessor, Gennaro Iagallo, will hear grievances, if you have a complaint about the Village tax assessment on your property, on Tuesday, February 16 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Village Hall located at 507 Ashford Avenue. Contact Village Clerk, Clara Smith, at 693-1550 for the proper forms and filing deadlines.

If you want to confirm your current property tax assessment or compare your assessment to that of your neighbors, please visit our offices and ask to review the 1999 tax assessment roll.

IMPORTANT ELECTION NEWS

Village Elections Will Be Held March 16

Village Elections will be held on Tuesday, March 16, for the purpose of electing a Mayor and two Trustees each for a term of two years. Voting will take place from 6:00 am until 9:00 p.m. at the Community Center located at 18 Center Street for the 24th and 53rd election districts, and at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church located on Revolutionary Road for the 25th and 54th election districts. For information on voting and absentee ballot applications, please contact Village Clerk, Clara Smith, at 693-1550.

Commuter Bus News

We hope that you have heard the good news! Funding for Bus Route 39 to the Hartsdale train station was restored in the 1999 County Budget. We thank all who wrote letters on behalf of its restoration, and a special thank you to our County Legislator, Thomas Abinanti for his efforts.

We are saddened, however, to hear that the Village of Dobbs Ferry has just reduced the number of parking permits at its train station for non-residents from 100 to 75. Please be assured that your Village government will do all that it can to address this situation which is so vital to so many of our commuting Village residents.

In the interim, all commuters are advised that there is a bus, the #66 which traverses Ashford Avenue from the Dobbs Ferry train station to the Scarsdale train station. In addition, there is the #39 bus which traverses Abington Avenue, Ashford Avenue, Addyman Square, Heatherdell Road, and on to the Hartsdale train station. Efforts are already being made to petition the County to extend the number of trips daily on each route.

Traffic Update

At a recent meeting, the Village Board of Trustees hired a traffic consultant, Frederick P. Clark Associates of Rye, to review the flow of traffic in the area from Heatherdell Road to Ashford Avenue.

No news on the Austin Avenue project. Our court case is on appeal and we hope to have a decision this Spring which is when the development is scheduled to open.

Village People

Congratulations to our Highway Foreman Louis Pascone, an Ardsley native, who in January celebrated his 50th year with the Village DPW. We will be honoring our good friend at a dinner in March.

On a sad note, Ed Zimmer, a dear friend and major Ardsley benefactor, particularly with the Community Center and other recreation programs, passed away recently. Our deepest sympathies to the Zimmer family.

The Ardsley PBA recently held its elections. Congratulations to Evan Kanigher upon his second term as President. Rounding out the slate are officers Kevin Downey, Nick Piqueras, Ronald Perkins, and Michael Starr.

Congratulations to Detective Carl Calabrese, who on the recommendation of Police Chief Emil Califano, was promoted to Sergeant by the Village Board of Trustees at their February 1 meeting. The appointment is effective March 1.

Congratulations to former Children's Librarian, Angela Groth, who in January was appointed by the Library Board of Trustees as the next Library Director.

A big welcome to Denise Caporale, who has been hired as a Library Trainee.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to our Village Clerk, Clara Smith, who fractured her right arm during a January snowstorm. Although her arm is still in a sling, Clara has returned to work and is dutifully performing the functions of her office.

Roger Burchell, our new Youth Advocate, is fully ensconced in his Community Center office and is holding office hours on Mondays from 1:30 PM to 5:30 PM, and Fridays from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.. Roger may be reached at 674-4845.

Congratulations to Trustee Bernie Preisser who along with area residents Packy Murray and Len Guglielmo, will be honored on March 16 by the PTA with the Jenkins Memorial Award for outstanding service to the community and the youth of Ardsley.

Senior Housing Update

In January the Village Board adopted the scoping document for a Senior Assisted Living Facility on the 12 acre Pintel property which is bounded by Concord Road, the Ardsley Mall, Route 9A, and Sylvia Avenue. This document outlines all the issues that must be addressed as part of the environmental review process which

will take place over the next three to six months. Your Village Board will closely monitor this proposal, especially as it concerns traffic and other environmental issues. The senior housing proposal calls for a total of 250 units, consisting of independent living units, assisted living units, and special care units – many of which are single room occupancy. Also included in the proposal are the construction of eighteen single family homes – four on Concord Road and the remainder on a cul de sac accessed from Sylvia Avenue. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Village Hall at 693-1550.

Sunny Texaco To Redesign

In January, the Village Board of Trustees approved the site plan for the refurbishing of the Sunny Texaco service station next door to the Village Green. Plans call for the demolition of the present building, the construction of a mini food mart, the installation of more and better configured fuel pumps, the erection of a canopy, and appropriate landscaping. The project should commence during the summer of 1999, and be completed by the fall.

Survey Results Arriving Shortly

The results of the Village survey will be presented in a separate forthcoming newsletter in late February or early March. Once again, thanks to the 300 residents who thoughtfully responded to the questions.

Tech News

The Village has established a website, and we invite you to check it out though it is still "under construction": www.ardsleyvillage.com. The site is being designed by Revere Road resident, Stephen Giglio.

Village residents may now contact Mayor Samuel Abate, 24 hours a day, via the miracle of e-mail. Send your thoughts, comments, or complaints to abate@mccarter.com

To further assist and encourage your participation in local government we are working on establishing a telephone call-in system during Village Board meetings, and planning the re-broadcasts of our live meetings.

Interested in learning a new skill? We are in desperate need of volunteers to join the Cable Television Committee to assist in the broadcast of Village Board meetings and other programming. Thanks to Concord Road resident, Bruce Novich, we have been blessed with a state of the art studio and equipment. However, the equipment needs bodies to operate it. Therefore, if you have any spare time to assist the Village in keeping its residents abreast of the news of the day, please send a letter of interest to Village Hall, care of Village Manager, George Calvi.

Village Hall Dedication February 27

With the relocation of the Village Justice Court in late December, the move into the new Village Hall is complete. A dedication ceremony for the building has been scheduled for 10:00 am, Saturday, February 27. Please join us for a tour, refreshments, and an opportunity to meet with some of your elected representatives.

McDowell Park Parking Lot and Field Work In Progress

On February 1, the Village Board of Trustees awarded a \$67,000 bid for improvements to the McDowell Park parking lot to Etre Associates (ELQ) of Mamaroneck. The project design, a combined effort of DPW Foreman Lou Pascone, Little League Pres. Mike McHugh, and Consulting Engineer Larry Nardecchia, calls for new asphalt for the parking lot and basketball court, a reconfiguration of the parking spaces, new basketball backboards and posts, and the planting of some trees. This work combined with the drainage work donated by nearby Arrowcrest Properties, and the extensive field and fence work conducted by the Little League Association will forge McDowell Park into a jewel of the Ardsley Village park system. All work is planned to be completed before Little League's April Opening Day. The Village's portion of the project will be financed through a \$15,000 grant from Senator Spano's office, a portion of the Parks Reserve Fund, and monies from the current General Fund.

New Fire Pumper Displayed

In December, Fire Chief Ron Gretczko took delivery of a new Class "A" 1750 GPM Pumper Fire Apparatus from Saulsbury Fire Equipment Corp. of Tully, New York. The new vehicle was formally placed into service at a "wet-down" at the Fire House sponsored by the Ardsley Fire Department on February 7.

Pocost Park Taking Shape

Thanks to the efforts of many people Michael Pocost Memorial Park is taking beautiful shape. The pocket park located at the corner of Ashford Avenue and American Legion Drive was designed by Trustee Stephen Dalton and Barbara Novich, our Beautification Chairwoman. Funds for the three black steel benches were donated by the Duke Family of Dellwood Lane, the Sommerfield Family of Orlando Avenue, the DeMaio Family of Almena Avenue, and the Miano Family of Stonegate. The red inscribed bricks were donated by scores of Village residents. Electric conduit work for the installation of future light fixtures was donated by Robert Saltsman. The three half whisky barrels, which will be brimming with flowers in the Spring, were donated by the Ardsley Garden Club. The remainder of the work - regrading, seeding, laying of the brick work, and the erection of the split rail fence was a collaborative effort of Colonial Landscaping, Gun Hill Fencing, and the Ardsley DPW. A formal dedication of the park is anticipated for the late Spring. Those still interested in participating in the inscribed brick program to help offset the cost of the park are encouraged to call the Village Clerk's office for a form.

Safety Tips

The next newsletter will feature a section by our Police Chief on motorist etiquette and general safety tips. In the interim, please remember to yield to pedestrians in the crosswalks.

Recycling Efforts Bear Fruit

Calendar year 1998 will go down as a milestone in the Village's efforts to

reduce its waste stream. For the first time since 1990, when the Village first began tracking recycling data, residents actually sent less trash to the Charles Point incinerator than they had in the prior year, 1997, and even 1996. At a recent Village Board meeting, Recycling Liaison, Trustee Linda Pohlmann, pointed to a surge of newspaper and cardboard recycling. However, she also noted that there was a slight dip in bottle and can recycling which might be attributed to more people returning redeemables to the store. All in all, it was a good year for Ardsley's recycling efforts. Besides the environmental benefits of recycling, the Village reaps a savings of about \$22 for every ton not sent to the incinerator.

Village of Ardsley
507 Ashford Avenue
Ardsley, NY 10502
914 693-1550
914 693-3706 (fax)

Ashford Ave. Project Back on Track

Thanks to the combined efforts of Mayor Sam Abate, Trustees Jay Teitelbaum and Bernie Preisser, and Village Manager George Calvi, with a big helping hand from State Senator Nicholas Spano, the reconstruction of Ashford Avenue and the intersection with Route 9A has been placed back on New York State DOT's schedule, and even enhanced.

Bids for the redesign of the Ashford Avenue/Route 9A intersection will be let October 1999, and the bids for the portion of Ashford Avenue stretching from approximately the Bank of New York to Sprain Road will be let in April 2000. The intersection work is a 100% cost of the State of New York. The cost for the remainder of Ashford Avenue will be divided up by a formula devised by the State with between 3%

and 5% being allocated to the Village of Ardsley. The one silver lining to the delay of the project has been the subsequent inclusion of certain curbing and sidewalk work in an area along Route 9A from Bridge Street to Center Street which will also be a 100% New York State charge.

Other improvements for Route 9A which had been requested by Village officials this past summer are being considered for inclusion into the current capital program though a timetable has yet to be established.

Holiday Observances

Village offices are open on Monday, Presidents' Day (Feb. 15), and closed on Monday, Washington's Birthday (Feb. 22). The second Village Board meeting this month will be on Tuesday, February 16.

Refer to your Sanitation Calendar for rescheduled trash pickups.

Samuel J. Abate, Jr., Mayor

Trustees:

Linda Pohlmann, Dep. Mayor

Stephen Dalton

Jay Teitelbaum

Bernhard Preisser

George Calvi, Village Manager

**Marion DeMaio, Village
Treasurer**

Clara Smith, Village Clerk