

The Ardsley Villager

A Publication of the Ardsley Village Board of Trustees

IMPORTANT UPDATE

TRAFFIC & ROUTE 9A

The New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) will commence work on the Route 9A / Ashford Avenue intersection later this spring. Major improvements, including turning lanes, will be made and there will be changes to the Addyman Square area. This should help the traffic flow better through the downtown area. For more information on the changes, please visit Village Hall where you can view the diagrams illustrating the project.

Sprain Road from Jackson Avenue south to the Yonkers city line has been open for several months and it has helped with the flow of traffic now that the major stores have opened at the Austin Ave. development. We will continue to monitor this situation.

As a result of recent meetings with DOT, we are pleased to announce that DOT is working on installing a traffic light at the intersection of Heatherdell and Route 9A. We have also requested a traffic light in the vicinity of the Genovese shopping center, and DOT is currently studying that as well. We will keep you informed of the status of these projects. Over the next few months the Village Board will be discussing whether Center Street should be made a one way street from Route 9A to American Legion Drive. This was the recommendation of our traffic consultant, and DOT agreed it would help with the traffic flow once the light is installed at Heatherdell.

NEWS BRIEFS

9A BY-PASS PROPOSED: We recently met with representatives from the NYS Thruway Authority regarding our long-range traffic problems. We proposed a by-pass that would allow certain traffic to circumnavigate Route 9A and its intersection with Ashford Avenue in the heart of the Village. One suggestion calls for the construction of a Thruway exit ramp somewhere shortly north of Secor Road. As a response to the Austin Avenue lawsuits, the Thruway Authority is conducting a regional traffic study that should be completed by year's end. We will work with the Authority to address future local and regional traffic issues.

CHANNEL 73 DEBUTS: Cable access channel 16, where the Village Board meetings are broadcast, as well as our electronic bulletin board, is moving to Channel 73 on March 28. Cablevision is rearranging many of its channels; please look for their flyers for more information. In addition, the other government channels 14 and 15 will be moving to 71 and 72.

WATER WHEEL PLANS REVISED: In January, an architect presented a preliminary plan for the development of townhouses on the old Water Wheel restaurant site. In response to community input, the plan has been revised, and was to be informally presented to the Planning Board on March 13. It is expected a formal application will be filed in the Village Clerk's office shortly, and will be reviewed by the appropriate boards in the coming months.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

VILLAGE ELECTIONS MARCH 21

On Tuesday, March 21, Village Elections will be held to elect two Trustees each for a two year term. The polls will be open from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm. Voters in the 24th and 53rd Election Districts may vote in the Community Center located at 18 Center Street. Voters in the 25th and 54th Election Districts may vote at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church located at the intersection of Heatherdell and Revolutionary Roads.

For more election information, or to obtain absentee ballot applications, please visit or telephone Village Clerk, Clara Smith, at 693-1550.

COMMUTER SURVEY

Enclosed with this newsletter is a commuter survey. **It is very important.** Please take the time to complete and return it to Village Hall. We need to learn as much as we can about the commuting habits and experiences of our residents as we try to address our future commuting needs. If you are interested in joining our commuter committee, please contact Village Clerk, Clara Smith, at 693-1550.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE PINTEL PROPERTY

The Village Board is waiting for Hassett Belfer Senior Housing, LLC to submit revised plans for the proposed senior housing development.

For those residents not familiar with the history of this 12 acre property at the northern end of the Village known locally as the Pintel property, the section of the site nearest Route 9A for many years was zoned for commercial use while the section near Concord Road was zoned for residential use. In early 1996 the Village Board rezoned the property for residential use. The objective was to prevent the further development of commercial strip malls on Route 9A.

In the late summer of 1998, the developers, Hassett Belfer, made a presentation, and in 1999 submitted plans, to build 250 senior housing units and eighteen single family homes. The proposed senior housing consisted of independent living units, assisted living units, and special needs units. Nursing home units are not part of the proposal. Of the eighteen new houses, four were to be built on Concord Road on the existing residential lots totaling one acre -- these can be built as of right without any zoning change.

After the developers submitted their application, the Village Board declared itself lead agency (not unlike the role played by the Village Board in the early 1980s for the development of Stonegate), and the environmental process required under New York State law began. Numerous public hearings were held. The developers were seeking to have the zoning code amended to allow the senior housing development to be built on approximately 7 ½ acres and re-zone the remaining 3 ½ acres near Concord Road to build the other fourteen homes.

The public hearings were well attended, and many comments were received from residents, the Ardsley Planning Board, the Westchester County Planning Board, the independent planning consultants hired by the Village, and others. All written comments, transcripts of the public hearings, and the developers' plans are available in Village Hall. Objections to the proposal included problems with density, traffic, parking, blasting, noise, and the buffer zone. These were some of the concerns cited by the Ardsley Planning Board in their recommendation that the proposal be rejected.

The developers are now reworking their plan to address these objections. We understand that Hassett Belfer is working on a revised plan for 175 senior housing units and fifteen houses (which include the four proposed for Concord Road). When the revised plans are ready, a public information meeting will be scheduled so the Village Board of Trustees and the public can review them and pose questions to the developers.

To date, no decision has been made. The Village Board will continue to review all materials and all comments from the public, the various advisory boards, and its consultants. The Village Board will make its decision at the conclusion of the environmental review process, which is many months away.

RECAP OF HIGH SCHOOL PARKING ISSUE

The Village continues in its efforts to address the parking situation at the High School and the surrounding neighborhoods. Last autumn, the

Town of Greenburgh restricted parking between the hours of 7:30 am and 9:30 am on the streets in Greenburgh north of the High School. Since this resulted in a sudden increase in

student parking on the Ardsley side of the High School, the Village Board of Trustees was forced to take action. Over the past few months the Village has similarly restricted parking on all or part of seven streets (Huntley, Lookout, Dellwood, Revere, Overlook, Oak Hill, and Wildwood).

Unfortunately, the problems persist. The simple fact remains that more students are driving to the High School and parking spaces are limited. At a recent meeting of Ardsley, Greenburgh, and School District officials, we all agreed to work together towards a solution. We discussed having the High School add parking spaces on their grounds, and Ardsley and Greenburgh switching to one side of the street parking only on the streets nearest the High School. The Village Board discussed these ideas with residents of the affected neighborhoods at the March 6 Board meeting. We will continue to meet with our residents, and Town and School officials in an effort to resolve this multi-dimensional issue. Any long term solution is expected to take effect in September.

LARGE NUMERALS REQUIRED

At the request of our Fire Chief, Adam Novich, the Village Board recently passed a law that requires all homeowners to have house numbers at least four inches tall and in a location conspicuous at all times from the street. Thus, front doors and garage doors are not recommended spots because the numerals aren't visible when the doors are left open. It is hoped this new legislation will assist the drivers of our emergency vehicles to locate your house more quickly.

CALLING FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS

On April 3 the Village Board will hold its annual reorganization meeting. At that time, Mayor Abate and the Board members will make numerous appointments to advisory boards and committees. If you are interested in getting involved in Village affairs, please contact our Village Clerk.

RIGHT TURN ONLY AT CVS

The Village Board has amended the local Vehicle & Traffic law to provide for right turns only out of the CVS shopping center. Prior to this you could make a left turn from 8:00 pm until 8:00 am or venture straight across Route 9A at any time. Under the new law, you can no longer make a left turn nor can you drive straight across Route 9A at any time. You can only make a right turn.

VILLAGE PEOPLE

Congratulations to Police Officer, **Nicholas Piqueras**, who was recognized as the Ardsley Policeman of the year at the annual Rivertowns Lions Club award dinner at Rudy's Beau Rivage on March 8.

Congratulations to our Village Justice, **Walter Schwartz**, who is celebrating his 25th year of community service in Ardsley. On March 6, Mayor Abate presented Judge Schwartz a certificate of achievement provided by the New York Conference of Mayors.

On December 10, 1999, Library Trustee and recent Library Board President, **Floyd Lichtenberg**, was inducted into the Westchester County Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. Inductees pledge to continue to work toward enhancing the quality of life for all older persons in the community, to serve as a role model dedicated to helping others and to endeavor to

uphold the highest standards of citizenship.

Mr. Lichtenberg, and Village Historian / Library Trustee, **Jeanne Dolgin**, were honored on November 30, 1999 as Library Luminaries at the Westchester Library System's 40th anniversary gala for their outstanding and continuing service to the Ardsley Public Library.

Sadly, we must inform you of the recent deaths of **Gabriel Alfano**, **Leonard Balducci**, **Clifford Doorley**, **Miriam Porter**, **Harry Kloos**, and **Stephen Ryan**. Gabe Alfano, former post commander of the Ardsley American Legion, who was also very active in county Veteran affairs, died suddenly in October. Sgt. Doorley, a 31 year member of the Ardsley Police Department passed away in November. Sgt. Balducci, a 32 year member of the department passed away in late December. In January we learned Miriam Porter, Ardsley's first Library Director, passed away in Santa Fe, New Mexico in late 1999. Harry Kloos, who passed away in February, was a prominent local artist whose works hang in both Ardsley Village Hall and the Library. In early March retired Village Treasurer, Stephen Ryan, passed away in Ocala, Florida. Our sincerest condolences to all the surviving family members.

TIPS:

THOMAS JEFFERSON AND BUFFALOS NEED NOT APPLY

Last autumn we advised you that new parking meters were being installed in the business district. The electronic meters have digital displays, and are easier to read. Parking fees were changed to 10 cents for 10 minutes, and 25 cents for 30 minutes, and the use of nickels was discontinued. Unfortunately, some of you continue to attempt using nickels. Although the meter head rejects foreign coins, tokens, and other slugs, for some reason it ravenously swallows nickels without pride, and will not yield you any time. Therefore, to avoid an unpleasant surprise on your windshield, only feed the meters a steady diet of Washington quarters and Roosevelt dimes.

A KEY IDEA

The Ardsley Police Department provides a special service for those homeowners who wish to store a key for those (hopefully rare) times when they may lock themselves out of the house. To participate in the program, please bring a copy of your house key to the police desk at the Ardsley Police Department. In the event you lose your key, please visit or call the department. It's that simple. For more details, please call 693-1700.

VITAL DATA REQUESTED

For those homeowners who DON'T have an alarm system, please visit the Ardsley Police Department to obtain a form requesting vital contact data in the event something happens to your home when you are not around. Typical data which may be provided include name & phone number of a relative or friend with a key. The elderly and alone are encouraged to fill out this form so that in the event of illness or incapacity a loved one or friend can be contacted. For details, contact Community Police Officer, Evan Kanigher at 693-1700.

WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU

Census 2000 is upon on us! Many of you should have received reminder notices recently from the Bureau of the Census that your questionnaires will shortly be in your mailboxes. It is so important that you complete and return these forms. The 2000 Census will be the basis for congressional reapportionment, state redistricting, and the allocation of billions of dollars in federal assistance. Census data is used to determine funding for transportation, schools, hospitals, day care centers, and many other programs. New York State stands to lose representation in Washington and its fair share of federal assistance if the Census Bureau fails to count all New Yorkers. **Each New York household represents more than \$2000 in federal funding.**

If you have any questions about Census 2000 or census enumerator job opportunities, please phone Leslie Maeby in the governor's office at 518 474-4288, or visit the official website Census2000.state.ny.us

We're counting on you!

RECREATION NEWS

We are hiring a Recreation Director who we hope to have on board by May 1. This will be the first time in Ardsley history we will have a full-time employee at the helm of the department. We are very excited about the prospects of creating new recreational programs for all Ardsley residents.

The annual Little League parade, kicking off the new season, will be held on Saturday, April 8. The Ardsley

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**SAMUEL J. ABATE, JR. MAYOR
LINDA POHLMANN, DEP. MAYOR
STEPHEN DALTON, TRUSTEE
BERNHARD PREISSER, TRUSTEE
MARK MILDNER, TRUSTEE**

**GEORGE F. CALVI, VILLAGE MANAGER
CLARA SMITH, VILLAGE CLERK
MARION DEMAIO, VILLAGE.
TREASURER**

Little Athletic Association which has undertaken the task of renovating the ball fields at McDowell Park, is soliciting donations from the community to complete their work. Please send your tax deductible donations today to the Ardsley Little Athletic Association, Inc., P.O. Box 577, Ardsley, New York 10502, attn: Michael McHugh, President.

AYSO soccer games begin April 9. Registration for the fall season is March 18 and March 22. For information, call Mark Cohen at 693-0274.

HAVE A QUESTION?

Are there any matters that you would like the Village to address? If so, please telephone Village Hall at 693-1550, or fax us at 693-3706. You may also e-mail a message to Mayor Sam Abate at abate@mccarter.com.

FIRE HORN UPDATE

We are still working on replacing our current fire horn because our volunteer fire fighters and ambulance corps members are having trouble

hearing it. We hope to resolve this soon, but are not yet satisfied with our options. We recognize an adjustment to the siren's volume will cause some inconvenience to our residents but we need to ensure that our emergency personnel can hear the fire horn.

2000 / 2001 VILLAGE BUDGET PROCESS

The Tentative Village Budget for fiscal year 2000/2001 is scheduled to be released at the end of the business day on March 20. The Village Board of Trustees will schedule work sessions to review the budget document during the month of April. All budget sessions are open to the public. As per New York State law, a public hearing on the budget must be held by April 15, and the final budget must be adopted by May 1.

REMINDER

Village offices will be closed April 21 in observance of Good Friday. Check your sanitation calendar for rescheduled trash collections.

**FOR
EMERGENCIES,
ALWAYS CALL 911**

Visit us at
WWW.ARDSLEYVILLAGE.COM