

The Ardsley Villager

A Publication of the Ardsley Village Board of Trustees

Please retain for future reference

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IMPORTANT REMINDER

SNOW ADVISORY

Please be advised that Ardsley Village Code section 190-34 (B) provides that "for the purpose of not interfering with the operations of the snow removal equipment, all vehicles on all streets and highways in the village and all municipally operated parking lots shall be removed not later than twelve (12) hours after the inception of a snowstorm.

Even if you have an overnight parking permit we ask that you move your car at some point so that the snow plows can come through and clean the street. It's only common courtesy. We thank you in advance for your cooperation in this manner. If for any reason your vehicle is disabled, please telephone the Police Department at 693-1700, and advise when you will be able to remove the vehicle from the road.

THE BINS ARE COMING!

Thanks to a state grant provided though the offices of State Senator Nicholas Spano and Assemblyman Richard Brodsky, the Mayor & Village Board on February 5 awarded a bid for 3200 new curbside recycling bins. A-1 Plastics, Ltd of Ontario will be shipping 1600 green bins for commingled recyclables and 1600 blue

bins for newspapers and junk mail. The bins come with a 7 year drop

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impact warranty. They are expected to arrive, and be distributed to each household the week of March 12-16.

Speaking of recycling, the January 2001 edition of Westchester Recycling Office News reports that Ardsley recycled 616 tons in 2000 which is 288 pounds per person or 6% higher than last year. Hastings reported a 1% increase, Irvington a 4% increase,

RECYCLING NEWS

and Dobbs Ferry a 5% decrease. In the Spring, the Village will commence a recycling publicity campaign to boost our figures even higher.

LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE

On Tuesday, April 3, the Ardsley Historical Society will present "The Tale of the Little Red School House," the story of Ardsley's first school building – which really was located in Dobbs Ferry! The program will be hosted by Society Co-President Irwin Engleman, and starts at 8:00 PM in the second floor of the Ardsley Public Library. All are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served. This program will provide a fine showcase for those of you who have been considering joining the Society.

VILLAGE ELECTIONS

Residents are reminded that Tuesday, March 20, 2001 is Village Election Day. Appearing on the ballot will be slates for the positions of Mayor and two Trustees, each serving a two year term. The polls will be open from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm at the Community Center on Center Street for districts 24 and 53, and at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church on Revolutionary Road for districts 25 and 54. Call the Village Clerk at 693-1550 for election-related questions.

GOOD-BYE LIBERTY, HELLO EMPIRE

The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles has announced plans to issue new license plates for all registered vehicles in the state. The replacement program commenced with the January 2001 registration renewals. The new "Empire State" plates will be mailed out starting this month. **The old "Liberty" license plates should be recycled.** To do so, you must ensure they can't be re-used. One way is to cross out the plate numbers with a permanent marker. Another way is to deposit the two plates in the green recycling bins during different weeks. For further information call the County Recycling coordinator, Jim Hogan, at 637-3031, or log on to www.nysdmv.com.

2001 CLEAN- UP DAYS

The Household Chemical Cleanup dates have been announced for 2001. The Yonkers Material Recovery Center will host the first cleanup on Saturday, May 19. The next cleanup will be held at Valhalla's Westchester Community College campus June 8-9. FDR Park in Yorktown will host the third on October 19-20, and the last cleanup will take place at Rye Playland on November 2-3. All Friday collections will be from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, and all Saturday collections will be from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. For further information, please call Marianne Gallagher at 637-3027.

**FOR EMERGENCIES,
ALWAYS CALL 911**

MODIFYING YOUR ADDRESS

From time to time, we receive telephone calls from village residents requesting us to change the way their mailing label is addressed such as dropping a deceased or divorced spouse's name, using a maiden name, or adding a spouse's first name. As much as we would like to honor these requests, we cannot. The names and addresses for the newsletter, the village tax bills, and the assessment roll are all derived from the same Town of Greenburgh Assessor's office data base. That information is drawn from the filed deeds in the County Clerk's office. Therefore, if you truly want to have your address amended on official records and correspondence you need to have your filed deeds amended. You can do so by purchasing a Title Transfer form from your local office supplies store and filing it with the County Clerk's office in White Plains along with a \$10.00 fee, or have your attorney do it for you. For more information on deed title amendments, please call the County Clerk at 285-3080.

YARD WASTE

For years, Ardsley has been doing a fine job in separating its fall leaves from the garbage stream. However, without naming names, Westchester County has advised that certain municipalities, some unwittingly, have been slipping in spring leaves, grass clippings, brush, and small logs, in with the regular trash for incineration at Charles Point. Effective January 2001, the County began turning away any sanitation truck that arrives at Charles Point with organic waste mixed in with the regular trash, and may even begin fining offending municipalities. Ardsley has been fortunate thus far. Under the wise guidance of our Highway Foreman Louis Pascone, for years we have separately collected leaves, grass clippings, and brush for composting or

chipping at Ashford Park. However, we have little or no control over those residents who clandestinely slip grass or leaves in with their opaque trash bags. Therefore, if you are doing so, we respectfully request that you cease doing so immediately; to consider backyard composting options; or to store your organic wastes for the Wednesday pickups. Having our trucks turned back by the County, or worse being fined for contaminated loads, could have an expensive impact on us all.

FORMER MAYOR DIES

Former Mayor Richard A. Fontana died on January 25. He was 67. After being a Village Trustee for a few years, Dick Fontana served as Mayor from 1977 to 1983. An electrician by trade, he was very active in the community. He was a photographer and teacher for Local 501 I.B.E.W., and active in Kiwanis, Boy Scouts, Little League, and many other Ardsley committees. He is survived by his wife of almost 47 years, Ernestine; one daughter, Alisa Lewis of Greenwich; two sons, Peter of Ardsley and Gregory of Dobbs Ferry; and five grandchildren. Our sincerest condolences to the entire Fontana family.

SENIOR HOUSING IN SITE PLAN REVIEW

In November, the Mayor and the three Trustees in attendance voted in favor of the development of the Pintel property for Senior housing. The assisted living facility project which was reduced from 250 to 175 units in response to community reaction is presently before the Village Board of Trustees for site plan review. The Planning Board and the Architectural Board of Review are also reviewing the plans and will submit their comments on the proposed site plan. Village officials have been assisted in

their review by planning consultants, Frederick P. Clark Associates of Rye, and Kellard Engineering of Armonk.

The Village Board will continue to review the site plan and will consider it at future meetings. For more information or to review the plan, please contact Village Hall.

A BLUE RIBBON LINE-UP

When Harry Haldt, III, branch manager of the Astoria Federal Bank learned that the Ardsley Middle School had received a U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon Award, he felt so proud that he wanted to do something special to recognize the outstanding honor. That something was a special art contest open to all the students of the Middle School. Scores of entries were received, and two judges from the community, acclaimed children's book author, Bernard Most, and Village Manager George Calvi, narrowed the field down to the ten best winners. They were Cardy Alexis, Kevin Cotter, Rachel Forman, Eric Freyer, Amanda Gonzalez, Ryan Pozin, Samantha Rivera, Katie Roberts, and Arielle Zuckerberg. A tenth winning selection was submitted anonymously. On December 1, Astoria Federal officials hosted the contestants, their parents, the judges, Mayor Sam Abate, and Middle School principals Jeff O'Donnell and Demaris Reda at a reception at the local branch. Each contestant received a \$50 US Savings Bond. The Grand Prize winner (Miss Zuckerberg) was announced, and a Public Choice winner was selected by those in attendance. All in all, it was a fine community affair.

TOWN / COUNTY TAXES DUE APRIL 30

MACY PARK IMPROVEMENTS IN HIATUS

Last newsletter, we reported that the County Parks Department had advised that they are moving full throttle with the creation of a multi-purpose recreation center at the former Cantina restaurant site in Macy Park. The proposed center will support a variety of recreational uses including bicycling, roller blading, ice skating, boating, and picnicking. The project will include the rehabilitation of the existing buildings to provide for a café, rental shop, and public rest rooms, the removal of sediment to restore Woodlands Lake to its original depth, and to raise the elevation of the ball fields in lower Macy Park to eliminate their chronic wet conditions. The project started in the late autumn with the arrival of heavy mechanical equipment but has been stalled by the numerous snow storms since December. No doubt it will start up, again, in the spring, or sooner if the mercury rises enough.

"BELL FOR ADANO" INSPIRATION DIES

Frank E. Toscani died on January 26. He was 89. Mr. Toscani served several terms on the Ardsley Village Board of Trustees in the early 1960s. His stint as an Army Colonel who became a military governor of a small city in Sicily in the immediate aftermath of its liberation by Allied Forces in World War II became the inspiration for John Hersey's best selling novel, "A Bell for Adano," a work which garnered the 1945 Pulitzer Prize, and was adapted for the stage and the silver screen. A sales manager for Santini Brothers moving business in civilian life, Mr. Toscani

lived in Ardsley until 1985 when he moved to Pearl River in Rockland County. He is survived by his wife, Dolores; a daughter, Francesca Webber of Beverly, Mass.; and a son, Frank, Jr. of Fort Lee, New Jersey. Our sincerest condolences to the entire Toscani family.

BIBLIO-FETES

If you haven't been to your local public library lately, you have no idea what you've been missing! In March, Michelle Clinton will continue hosting "**Sign Time for Hearing Hands**" and teach your babies and toddlers to communicate before they can speak. Learning sign language with your baby encourages pre-verbal children to communicate their needs in sign language and helps build linguistic and language skills. March 16 will feature the **National Circus Project "Yo-Yo Workshop**. Learn the ups and down of the yo-yo from experts. When you leave you'll be able to "walk the dog" and "rock the cradle." BYOYOYO and join the library staff for a yo-yoing good time. Mad Science of Westchester brings **Mischievous Magnets** to Ardsley on March 23. Discover that opposites really do attract in this exciting look at magnetism. Visit the North and South poles and explore their fields! Build you very own compass, and learn how magnets can help you find your way.

National Library Week kicks off on March 31 when Nora and Erin of Storytime Stage present songs and stories about the joys of books and reading. **Crusty Critters** venture from the New York Aquarium and wash ashore in Ardsley on April 21. Learn about the arthropods – lobsters, crabs, and shrimp. Examine arthropod molts, eggs, and shells, and try on some rubber lobster claws. Enjoy home movies of baby horseshoe crabs, and then meet some in person. Thursdays in May are **Chess with Kev** days. Come join Kevin Fleming of Kev's Chess King and receive tips on your game. This is a program for all ages from beginners to aficionados. May 5 marks the library's **Outdoor Book Fair** where you will be able to partake in a round of Book Bingo, and meet Ardsley's own Leslie Kimmelman,

children's author of *Frannie's Fruits* and *Me and Nana*. Of course, there's so much more at the library like craft programs, storytime sessions, and reading clubs. However, you'll have to get the details on your own by visiting the library, located at 9 American Legion Drive, or calling our Library Director, Angela Groth, at 693-6636.

One last bit of Library news: after a series of candidate interviews, Susan Randol has been selected to fill a vacant spot on the Library Board of Trustees. In being appointed to the Library Board, Ms. Randol will complete the unexpired term of Judith Speigel who moved last autumn. Ms. Randoll's abbreviated term runs through April 2002 at which time she will be eligible to be re-appointed for a full five year term.

DO YOU HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

CATV committee members suggest that should you have any community event or program news that you would like to see on the Village's government access channel, please fax, mail, hand-deliver, or email it to George Calvi, the Village Manager. All we ask is that you be brief and succinct. Please provide a contact name and phone number, and submit your request by the fourth Monday of each month prior to the month you hope to have your announcement appear. For example, all April 2001 announcements should be received by Monday, March 26. Please no commercial, religious services, or partisan requests. The fax line for the Village Manager's fax number is 693-3706, and his email address is: manager@ardsleyvillage.com

In a similar vein, the Village has a web site, www.ardsleyvillage.com, designed and maintained by Village resident, Steve Giglio. If you are providing services or wares in the Village through your own web page and would like to have it linked to the Village's, please email Mr. Giglio at webmaster@computertek.com.

Your written comments on our existing web site and cable announcements,

and suggestions to improve them are most welcome.

FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK

- **OVER NIGHT PARKING:** Since we are well into 2001, residents are reminded to renew their overnight parking permits, if they haven't already, at the Ardsley Police Department. These permits are only for those residents who have no driveways or insufficient space in their driveways to accommodate their cars. These permits do not, however, grant you permission to warehouse i.e. leave your car on the street "24/7." You must move your car from time to time, or you could be ticketed.
- **JOGGING DANGER:** Hilltop Road resident, Dan Kelly, dropped by not too long ago to share with me a harrowing incident he observed on a local road. It seems a motorist almost side-swiped two pedestrians out for their evening constitutional perhaps because they were wearing dark clothing. Dan encourages all joggers, strollers, and other pedestrians who use the roads at night to wear white or reflective garments. Black may be all the rage in fashion today, but it has no place on dark lonely roads.
- **CODE ENFORCEMENT:** In December, the Village welcomed to the staff, John Symonds, as our new part-time Code Enforcement Officer. John is a familiar face in the Village owing to his many years as an auxiliary police officer and as a softball umpire. In his two months in the position, John, with the encouragement of the newly organized Ardsley Pride Committee, has performed a yeoman's job in encouraging residents to use leaf bags, persuading merchants to unclutter their windows with flyers, and coaxing them to use proper trash receptacles. Much still needs to be done, and John is very much

up to the challenge. He may be reached at 693-1550 x122 if you need to file a complaint or seek code advice. The core members of the Ardsley Pride Committee are Deputy Mayor Linda Pohlmann, Judith Lindey, Mary Ann Tina, Tom DeMaio, Brenda Sanborn, and Scot McCartney.

- **AFTER SCHOOL RECREATION:** Karen McGeory, Tom Elliot, Anthony Giaccio, and Genevieve Penna have returned as Instructors to work in the spring session of the After School Recreation program. William Slade has also returned as Chaperone. The After School Recreation program is sponsored by the Ardsley Village Parks & Recreation Commission, and takes place at the Concord Elementary School. Supt. of Parks & Recreation, Joseph Arduino can provide fee and schedule details at 693-8012.
- **PBA NEWS:** The Ardsley Police Benevolent Association has announced their slate of officers for calendar year 2001. They are: Evan Kanigher, President; Kevin Downey, Vice President; Nicholas Piqueras, Treasurer; Ronald Perkins, Secretary; and Michael Starr, Trustee.
- **PATROLMAN RECOGNIZED:** River Towns Lions Club President, Tarak Das Banerjee has announced that Patrolman Ronald Perkins will be receiving the Lions Club Police Recognition Award at a dinner on March 14 at Rudy's Beau Rivage in Dobbs Ferry. Congratulations, Ron, upon receiving this prestigious award!
- **ACTIVITY DAY:** Thursday is Drop-in Recreation Activity Day at the Ardsley Community Center. The program which started January 25 and continues through March 22 offers activities as varied as ping pong, billiards, pocket pool, board games like chess and checkers, air hockey, and basketball foul shots. Children in grades 4 through 6 are welcome to come and enjoy the Community Center, under adult supervision, of course. For more information or if you would like to express your desire for this

program to be extended, please call Parks & Recreation Supt. Joe Arduino at 693-8012.

- **HYDRANTS:** I received a nicely written note recently from Prospect Avenue resident, Bill Foss, who suggested "if there is a hydrant on your street, please keep it clear of snow for use by the fire department." He further added "The life and home you save could be yours." That's very wise advice, Bill. Thank you.
- **DAY TRIPS:** The first in a series of trips sponsored by the Parks & Recreation Commission occurred early this month. A week-end ski trip to Hunter Mountain took place on Sunday, March 11. This will be followed by a bus trip to the Culinary Institute of America at Hyde Park later in the Spring. If you have any ideas for other trips, please contact Park Supt. Joe Arduino at 693-8012.
- **TRAFFIC HURDLES:** Two weeks ago, United Water notified us that they will be commencing a water main improvement program, as early as this April. This project will manifest itself as a series of excavations along Route 9A between Donald Lane [just south of Jackson Avenue] to Center Street. With the anticipated reconstruction of Ashford Avenue and Ardsley Road between Route 9A and the Sprain Parkway scheduled for June 2001, and any residual work at the Route 9A intersection and Farm Road projects, traffic conditions will remain difficult.
- **INTERSECTION ACTIVITY:** The contractor hired by the NYS DOT for the 100% state-financed Ashford Avenue intersection project went belly-up in late December. Thanks to the intervention of State Senator Nick Spano, and Cheryl Murray of the Governor's office, the project was safely "winterized" by filling in all the trenches and constructing temporary asphalt sidewalks and curbing. NYS DOT and the defunct contractor's bonding company plan to complete the job with a new contractor this Spring. In the meantime, you may have noticed some activity in the Addyman Square area in the past

few weeks. NYS DOT has permitted a former subcontractor of the defunct firm to install new traffic light poles.

- **SOME LIGHT CONVERSATION:** Preliminary engineering and surveying work has been completed by NYS DOT for the installation of the new traffic light at the corner of Heatherdell and Saw Mill Roads. The actual fixture should arrive before the end of Spring. Discussions are underway to incorporate into the Ashford Avenue bid specifications decorative arms and light fixtures for the utility poles. Lastly, NYS DOT has agreed to add ornate lighting and poles for the soon-to-be created parklet near Lucy's Deli.
- **FIRE SIREN:** The new fire siren has been operating for Fire Department and Ambulance (ASVAC) calls since the beginning of January. It replaced a less powerful siren which was just not meeting the needs of our emergency services. We recognize that the adjustment in volume has caused some inconvenience to a number of our residents but we need to ensure that our emergency personnel can hear the fire horn, at all times. Some residents have questioned why a siren is needed at all when modern technology like pagers is available. The response is that we cannot overlook that the members of the Fire Department and ASVAC are volunteers who when not attending to an emergency call are tending to their personal routines. Few can wear their pagers all the time, and even fewer hear them when they are sleeping. The wail of the siren ensures that every available volunteer can respond to an emergency call when it occurs, particularly during the day when so few are actually in the Ardsley vicinity. Please be advised that a short daily noon test of the siren may be instituted in the near future.
- **HOLIDAYS:** Residents are reminded that the Village offices will be closed on Friday, April 13 [Good Friday], and Monday, May 28 [Memorial Day]. Please consult your 2001 Notice of

Sanitation calendars for rescheduled trash collections.

- **BUSINESS REGISTRATION:** In the interest of safety, the Village Board, at the urging of Fire Chief Adam Novich, is reviewing draft legislation for the registration of businesses located in the commercial districts. If approved, such businesses would be required to fill out forms providing the name, address, and telephone number of the business owner, the property owner, and a contact to call in the event of an emergency. Those businesses which comply will be issued a proof of registration certificate which must be prominently displayed on the premises.
- **FRONT PORCH EVENT:** This highly energized group of neighbors has organized a progressive dinner for Saturday, March 31 from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM. The evening will commence with cocktails at one volunteer's home, progress to dinner at another's home, and end with dessert at the Woodlands Community Temple. This is a golden opportunity to meet and spend time with people in the community. You may RSVP by emailing program committee chairwoman, Maggie Carrel at macatorlando@aol.com.
- **AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** In the early 1990's, Westchester County determined that Ardsley should build 23 units of affordable housing as its share in meeting a county-wide housing shortage. Although an ad hoc committee was organized to study that need, for a number of reasons little was accomplished and the committee became dormant. Recently, having concerns that the County may be planning to mandate the provision of 23 units, Mayor Sam Abate resuscitated the committee and sent out a call for volunteers. Several residents responded, and an organizational meeting took place in early March. Trustee Mark Mildner has been assigned as Liaison to the committee. Should you be interested in joining this committee, please fax [693-3706] or email a brief note of interest to the Village Manager at manager@ardsleyvillage.com.

SEWER PROJECTS

Two major sewer projects are in progress which affect several neighborhoods. Both have been designed and supervised by Dolph Rotfeld Engineering of Tarrytown. All State Power Vac of Rahway, New Jersey was awarded a \$61,983 job to install sleeving in sanitary sewer pipes on Wilmoth Avenue, Major Appleby's Road, Cross Road, and Columbia Road. It is hoped that the sleeving process will extend the life of the sanitary sewers many of which are near the projected end of their useful life which is usually 60 years. Most of

Pilot Commuter Bus Schedule

Departing McDowell M-F 8:35am, 9:10am

Departing Hartsdale M-F 7:59pm, 8:38pm

VILLAGE OF ARDSLEY

507 ASHFORD AVENUE

ARDSLEY, NEW YORK 10502

914 693-1550 FAX 693-3706

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**

completed. However, some additional sleeving needs to be completed on the south end of Wilmoth along with the restoration of blacktop and some curbing. Joken Development Corp of White Plains was awarded a \$48,925 job to perform storm drainage improvements on Columbia Road. Restoration work will also be completed for this project in the Spring. The cost of both of these projects is being financed through a bond anticipation note. A third project having to do with storm drainage was completed near the intersection of Ridge Road and Shady Road North in December. The above referenced projects are part of the Village Board's ongoing rehabilitation program to update and improve the Village's physical infrastructure.

Staying on the topic of sewers, a few years ago, the County of Westchester identified a number of locations where storm water was infiltrating sanitary sewer lines. These defects increased the volume of water flowing into the Yonkers sewage treatment plant causing many problems. This past autumn the County released a repair schedule with several locations in Ardsley. Most of the work in the Village concerns the replacement of manholes, and each of those projects is expected to take one day each to complete, at a schedule to be determined by the County for sometime this Spring.

HAVE A QUESTION FOR THE MAYOR?

Email him at abate@mccarter.com

**A great gift suggestion: Edith Holscher
DeCecca Watercolor Note Cards (5) \$10.
Call the Historical Society at 693-6027**

COMMUTER CORNER

Ardsley's NYC-bound commuters have really been challenged lately. It almost seems as if everyone from the County Bee-Line to neighboring communities has conspired to turn their collective backs on them. Of course, there is no conspiracy, but there may be some light at the end of the tunnel. With Dobbs Ferry's train station parking lot

rehab work almost completed, Mayor Brian Monahan has advised Mayor Abate that more parking permits may become available shortly for Ardsley commuters. These permits are in addition to those 25 which were distributed via lottery to a fortunate few a couple of weeks ago. To lessen the burden for others, the Board initiated in January a pilot bus program (extended through March 31) from McDowell Park to the Hartsdale station to prove to the County that additional, more convenient, runs were needed. Early last year, commuters were alerted to parking options near the Scarsdale station at Eastchester's Grayrock lot. Lastly, talks are ongoing with MTA officials to find viable locations for commuter parking lots near various train stations. Log on to the web page, Ardsley-commute@egroups.com, designed by Mike Goetz, for the latest in commuting issues and options.