

# The Ardsley Villager

A Publication of the Ardsley Village Board of Trustees

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

Always use E-911 for emergencies

## IMPORTANT REMINDER

### CARBON MONOXIDE CONCERNS

The New York State Building Code now requires that you install hard-wired and interconnected smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors throughout your house if you construct an addition or perform any interior alterations or renovations on your house.

Every effort is made by the Building Department to ensure that the required smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are specified on the approved construction drawings. However, despite our attempts, the general contractors and electricians performing the work often overlook this relatively new code. As a result, the detectors must be retrofitted after all the work is completed, usually at the homeowner's expense.

Keep this in mind if you have an addition or renovation in progress, or if you are planning to do some work on your house in the future. Of course, this new code does not pertain to routine repairs or maintenance.

If you have any questions on this topic, feel free to contact Larry Tomasso, Building Inspector at 693-6961

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### DOG LICENSES REQUIRED

Residents are reminded that dog licenses must be renewed on an annual basis. All dogs over four months of age should be licensed with the Village Clerk. If your pooch lacks a tag, please contact Debbie Henneberry at 693-1550 x120

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### POLICE MATTERS

The Ardsley Police Department would like to remind residents that 911 should only be used for emergencies. All other calls for service should be directed to 914-693-1700. Residents should not call the police to inquire about school closings, cable tv issues, power issues or any other utility problem unless it is of an emergency nature. Such calls tie up the police

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

desk making for a dangerous situation. Officers will not give out this information unless it affects public safety. The following numbers should assist residents in obtaining information or reporting outages:

Con Edison Electric & Gas – 1-800-752-6633

Cablevision – 914-777-9000

United Water – 914-632-6900

Verizon Telephone – 1-800-825-3300

School Closings or Delays – 914-693-6300, WHUD Radio 100.7 FM, WFAS Radio 103.9 FM, TV Channel 12

Lastly, we remind that overnight parking regulations are in force from 2:00 am– 7:00 am seven days a week. Residents may obtain applications at the Police Desk for the \$10 permits. For more information on police matters of a non-emergency nature, please call 693-1700.

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### INTER-VILLAGE CONTINUING EDUCATION ANNOUNCES SPRING CLASSES

Inter-village Continuing Education and the school districts of Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings-on-Hudson and Irvington invite you to come back to school! The spring 2005 catalog of adult education courses has been mailed and is also available at your train station, library, local supermarket or community center. For more information, call 914-674-2025 or email [director@intervillage.org](mailto:director@intervillage.org).

## RECREATION NEWS

The Parks and Recreation Department has managed to stay busy over the winter despite the cold weather and the parks being quiet. We had over 260 boys and girls participating in youth basketball this winter. 23 teams played in our 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade league against Town of Greenburgh teams. 6 teams played in our 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade tri-village program against Dobbs Ferry and Irvington. Our high school aged kids have been frequenting the community center for events such as Monday Night Football games and "Dance-Dance Revolution" video game contests. These programs have been co-sponsored by the youth advocate, Melissa Re and the community police officer, Anthony Vacca. We have over 20 participants in our adult basketball program, which runs Monday evenings at the middle school. The senior citizens still attend their weekly meetings at the community center and have many trips planned in the next few months. Contact Evelyn Perry at 592-4366 for more senior citizen information. Parks and Recreation sponsored a ski trip to Bellaire on March 5<sup>th</sup>. We are also planning our usual spring events such as Music With Marc (toddler music class), the Spring Egg and Cookie Decoration Event, the Mini-wee soccer program and our adult softball league. The Village and the Parks & Recreation department have also been involved in some discussions regarding possible projects at V. E. Macy Park and at the tennis courts at Ashford Park. A spring/summer program brochure will be available later this month. You can reach Parks and Recreation Superintendent Matt Arone at 693-9012 or via e-mail at: ardsleyrec@optonline.net.

Village Manager's Note: Matt Arone has accepted a position with the Village of Dobbs Ferry and will be leaving us shortly. In his few short years with us he has performed an exceptional job in establishing a wide variety of programs. Although he will be sorely missed here, we have nothing but praise for him and wish him much success "across the bridge."

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## BIBLIOBYTES

We have some exciting news here at the library. Beginning January 1, the

library went wireless! What this means to you is that if you have a laptop computer with a wireless card you can jump onto the Internet in the library without waiting for one of our terminals. This will also allow you to download from the Internet or upload from your computer and send a document through your email. We are hoping this will aid all those job searchers who have been frustrated in the past.

The Friends of the Ardsley Public Library will not be publishing *The Bookmark* this spring. They will be putting that money towards a special construction project that is in the works, hopefully, for the near future. Meanwhile, visit us and learn about the programs we will be offering this spring.

On Sunday, March 6 we celebrated the lives and accomplishments of library benefactors, Jeanne Dolgin and Floyd Lichtenberg at the Ardsley Public Library. Fond memories and refreshments were served.

In October, the Ardsley Public Library was nationally ranked as one of the top 10 libraries in the country in our population category. It was very exciting and rewarding to learn of this very special recognition. The enthusiastic response of our patrons has been equally heartwarming. The entire Village shares our pride in this prestigious award. We will continue to offer the vital services that you want and need. Keep in touch and keep well - Angela Groth, Library Director

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## A MERGER & A REVIVAL

Recently, Mayor Abate merged the defunct Beautification Committee with the Ardsley Pride Committee. Trustee Gary Malone who spearheaded the revival presided at the first meeting on March 2 at which time Judy Lindey was named Chairperson. The new group will strive to improve the appearance of the Village. The other members of the committee include Tom DeMaio, Mary Ann Tina, Marilyn Nolan, Barbara Novich, Robert Geiger, and Kathleen Malone. Trustee Gary Malone will be the Village Board liaison to the committee.

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## STORMWATER PHASE II

Welcome to the winter update on Stormwater (SW)! March 2005 marks the close of year 2 of the Phase II SW Management Program (Phase II refers to little villages like Ardsley; Phase I was for the big cities.) Six so-called Minimum Measurable goals of the program cover public education, public involvement, illegal discharge detection, pre- and post-construction regulation and DPW Village housekeeping. Believe it or not, the federal government aims to bring all water bodies in the country to swimmable and fishable levels, including our own Saw Mill River and Grassy Sprain Brook.

Why worry about SW in the winter, you say? Well, our state uses about 800,000 tons of salt per year during storms, roughly the salt in 1 cubic mile of ocean! Yorktown is trying a pilot program using liquid brine and New Castle just got computerized spreaders that slow the salt drop as the truck slows. Thanks to our intrepid highway crew here in Ardsley for also using exactly the right technique spreading the salt in the wee hours *before* the storm so that the brine layer forms beneath the falling snow and allows easier road clearing later on. But still, all that salt drains off into the streams. Homeowners and businesses can do their part by keeping their salt applications to a minimum. Snowmelt runoff can create icy road patches and other problems. Please report these to our Highway Department at 693-0117 and also send an email to [stormwater@ardsleyvillage.com](mailto:stormwater@ardsleyvillage.com).

Check out our "Hotline" on the website where you can submit all SW comments. Also coming soon, "Name That Drain" quiz. Try to identify those stenciled drains under the snow! Stenciling continues in the spring and volunteers are still needed.

Coming this summer is outfall mapping. Ardsley is required to map wherever storm water drains to a body of water. We may be using a corps of student interns for this task. So, please welcome them into your backyard to map Ardsley's water.

Watch for website and newspaper information about the new Erosion and Sedimentation law. The first public hearing was held on March 7<sup>th</sup>, and there will be another on March 21.

And, remember those County Household Chemical Clean-up Days: May 6 & 7 at FDR Park in Yorktown; June 10 & 11 at WCC in Valhalla; Sept. 17 at the County Recycling Center in Yonkers and Nov. 4 & 5 at Rye Playland – Lorraine Kuhn, Ardsley Stormwater Liaison

(For more info log on to [www.westchestergov.com/envfacil.](http://www.westchestergov.com/envfacil.))

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### ASVAC SEEKS ASSISTANCE

The Ardsley-Secor Volunteer Ambulance Corps is looking for new volunteers. If you have heard our ambulance pass your home or business, then once again it's ASVAC on the way to help one of your neighbors in need. ASVAC is a volunteer organization that provides emergency basic life support service to the Ardsley School District 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We receive no funds from the Village, but rely on the generosity of our neighbors for our continued existence. ASVAC has reached a crossroad in its forty-five years as an organization. We may have to respond to more emergency calls than ever before.

Every member of our organization is a volunteer! There are approximately 35 active members in the corps, including our juniors and college students. We also have life members and associates who have been members over the years and although they remain interested and active in the corps' business, they do not ride on any ambulance calls. Our corps is very diverse. Members range in age from 16 to 60+. Coming from all walks of life and backgrounds. We have engineers, truck drivers, teachers, nurses, dentists, real estate brokers, lawyers, homemakers, construction workers, entrepreneurs, repairmen, insurance agents, police officers, students, and so on.

Each member is trained in CPR, first aid and ambulance driving. Volunteers who are interested in becoming Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) can have their tuition for training paid by the corps. ASVAC is chartered under the NYS Dept. of Health and follows all of their guidelines and protocols.

Help your community and neighbors by joining ASVAC today and calling

693-3673. Leave a message that you are interested in becoming a member and someone will get back to you!.

You can also contact us via our website [www.asvac.org](http://www.asvac.org) or e-mail us at: [email@asvac.org](mailto:email@asvac.org).

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### ARDSLEY CHAT GROUP

Thanks to the efforts of Michael Goetz, the Ardsley chat page address [Ardsley-Village@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Ardsley-Village@yahoogroups.com) is available to residents as forum to openly discuss general matters of Ardsley village interest. Subscribing is easy. Send an email to [Ardsley-Village-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Ardsley-Village-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

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### THINKING OUT LOUD

The past 12 months have been very interesting to say the least. There have been so many changes in the Village it is hard to decide what deserves to be reported on first so I won't even attempt to prioritize. In the area of personnel we have a few new Library Trustees, Ellen Fountain and Susan Sperling, who filled the seats of the late Floyd Lichtenberg and Jeanne Dolgin. In the administrative offices we have a new Deputy Village Clerk / Assistant Village Manager, Debbie Henneberry who fills the post of recently retired Village Clerk Clara Smith. On the Village Board we have newly elected Trustees Gary Malone and Michael Kolesar. Parks & Recreation Supt. Matt Arone has announced his departure and there should be a new face helming his department by June 1. Late last year Melissa Re joined us as Youth Advocate, and Tasha Macedo is taking minutes for three boards. Last but not least, former Village Trustee Maxine Howard is now working as our Village Prosecutor.

The Woodlands, a new senior residence on Route 9A, has been completed, and is in full operation. Review of the massive Ridge Hill development in Yonkers across the Thruway from Stew Leonard's continues on, and should be fully monitored by Village residents. Development of the Gelsprain project near the corner of Sprain and Ardsley Roads continues to be debated before the Greenburgh Planning Board.

Likewise, Artist Walk on Route 9A continues to be debated before various Hastings boards. A new firehouse is in the works, and the Ashford Avenue reconstruction project is for all practical purposes completed.

The one item, which has not changed much at all, is everyone's favorite bugaboo, traffic. Despite a redesigned intersection at Route 9A & Ashford Avenue, traffic continues to plague our community. And I suspect without drastic changes to the familiar character of the area conditions may not change soon. Let's face it there is only one bridge over the Saw Mill and Thruway from Dobbs Ferry. Thus, until the chronic I-287 construction-caused backups finally subside Irvington, Dobbs Ferry, and South Tarrytown motorists who wish to visit Scarsdale, Edgemont, Worthington, or even our own Starbucks and CVS need to find their way over that bridge. Recent findings from a destination and origin study performed by the NYS DOT proved inconclusive where all the traffic is coming from and ultimately going.

What we do know for certain is that Ardsley is a very desirable place to reside in and do business. The school district is excellent. One can find whatever they need in both local shops and nearby malls. Ardsley is centrally located and serviced by three major highways and three bus routes. Though there has been some new construction such as The Woodlands, the new homes on Concord Road, Grandview Avenue, and Jordan Lane, most activity has taken place outside the Village particularly to the south of us and it is these developments which I firmly believe have greatly contributed to the traffic adversely impacting our Village. One simply cannot dismiss all the traffic generated by Greenburgh's development of the six dozen new homes in Ardsley Estates and Ardsley Green that exclusively rely on Ashford Avenue for access, as well as all the traffic generated earlier by the opening of Boulder Ridge, Hidden Glen, and St. Andrews. Imagine if Gelsprain and Artist Walk ever get developed. Nor can we continue to ignore some of our own irksome habits like driving children to school when bus service is readily available. Of course, there are other factors which tie up traffic like the school buses which cross the bridge four times a day to pick up

children on the Dobbs Ferry side, or those gargantuan accordion-like Bee-Line buses which don't always pull into the bus lane reserved for them in Legion Park with their tail ends blocking intersection traffic flow. I suppose I could go on pointing fingers. However, short of placing a toll booth on Route 9A, banning trucks, buses, and SUVs, or limiting households to one auto, the sad fact is there is no one person or thing to lay the blame on, and even if we could what would that accomplish? So, we continue to seek solutions.

The County of Westchester is planning to (gasp!) work on the Ashford Avenue Bridge again in 2006. Though plans call for the replacement of a deteriorating infrastructure, Village officials are taking this opportunity to ask the County to consider other enhancements like the addition of a traffic lane, or the installation of a ramp on the north side of the bridge to northbound traffic on the Saw Mill. There has even been a bold suggestion to remove the ramp on the south side of the bridge to force westbound Ashford Avenue traffic to utilize the Lawrence Street exit though this might not prove too popular with Dobbs Ferry motorists or officials.

#### VILLAGE OF ARDSLEY

507 ASHFORD AVENUE

ARDSLEY, NEW YORK 10502

914 693-1550 FAX 693-3706

SAMUEL J. ABATE, JR., MAYOR

JAY LEON, DEP. MAYOR

LARRY J. NARDECCHIA, TRUSTEE

MICHAEL J. KOLESAR, TRUSTEE

GARY J. MALONE, TRUSTEE

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GEORGE F. CALVI, VILLAGE MANAGER

DEBBIE HENNEBERRY, DEPUTY  
VILLAGE CLERK / ASSISTANT VILLAGE  
MANAGER

MARION DEMAIO, VILLAGE  
TREASURER

The one thing we cannot do is restore the intersection to the way it was before as some have suggested. We cannot go back to the days when pedestrians didn't have a prayer safely crossing that intersection, or when making a left turn was a death defying feat. Nor do I wish to return to those days when I first arrived back in 1990 when there was an unhealthy share of empty storefronts in the business district. What's in the past belongs in the past, the domain of the Historical Society to ponder. As for the rest of us we have to focus on the present and the future. As I said earlier, traffic or no traffic, Ardsley is a very desirable community. We hold a duty to focus on the positive aspects of our community, and to strive to correct the few negative aspects. These challenges may seem overwhelming at times but I continue to maintain faith that we can somehow manage them if we truly put our minds to it. - George F. Calvi

*When he's not thinking out loud, the Village Manager can be reached at [manager@ardsleyvillage.com](mailto:manager@ardsleyvillage.com) or at 693-1550 x 117.*

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#### A CALL TO ARMS

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the newly revived **Ardsley Villager**. Thanks to the efforts of our Village Historian Beverly Levine the village newsletter is once again in print. Of course, Beverly did not do it alone. Our various department heads drafted many of the stories contained within. Nor should Beverly be performing her duties alone. Surely, there are volunteers out there who would love to assist her in getting this publication out four times a year. Otherwise, the newsletter could become dormant again. If you are interested in volunteering your services to assist Beverly in writing, formatting, or simply getting the newsletter to the printers or the post office, please leave me a message at 693-3435 or send me an email at [manager@ardsleyvillage.com](mailto:manager@ardsleyvillage.com). Thank you. - George Calvi, Village Manager

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#### KYKUIT ON THE HUDSON

All are welcome to join the members of the Ardsley Historical Society for a trip to Kykuit, the Rockefeller Estate, on Thursday, May 5. The tour should take about 2 hours. You can sign up at the library, or call 693-6027 for more information.

OR CURRENT OCCUPANT