

The Ardsley Villager

A Publication of the Ardsley Village Board of Trustees

SENIOR HOUSING UPDATE

On Monday evening, October 2, the Ardsley Village Board of Trustees "accepted as complete" the Draft Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), for the proposed development of the so-called Pintell property at the northern edge of the Village. Two copies of the multi-volume FEIS along with plans are available for inspection at the Ardsley Public Library and another is available at Village Hall. Please note that the "acceptance" of the FEIS is defined as the Village Board acknowledging that all the questions posed in various public hearings and written correspondence have been responded to.

Long Island developer, Hassett Belfer has been seeking since 1998 to build a senior housing project on an eleven acre site bounded by Sylvia Avenue to the north, Route 9A to the west, Concord Road to the east, and the Ardsley Mall to the south. The original plan submitted in 1999 called for 250 units and eighteen single family homes. In response to community opposition, particularly scale, the number of units was reduced to 175, and the number of homes to 15, in early 2000.

Despite the unit reduction, the revised project has been met with opposition. Issues cited include scale, density, traffic, noise, blasting, marketability, cost of the units, proximity of the project to the elementary school, creation of mosquito breeding detention ponds, whether or not this project is in keeping with the character of the community, and the specter that Sylvia Avenue might some day be forced to open to Concord Road.

Hassett Belfer and other proponents of the project cite there is a need for

WHAT'S INSIDE

1. Ardsley Tennis Tournament
2. West Nile Spraying
3. Macy Park Improvements
4. Ladder Truck Arrives
5. November Elections
6. Used But Usable
7. Senior Citizen Events
8. After School Rec Program
9. Farm Road Update
10. Historical Society Programs
11. Library Programs & Events
12. Library Trustee Search
13. Road Race Results
14. They Rest Among Us
15. From the Manager's Desk
 - Carnival Wrap Up
 - Gil Parris Concert
 - Sale of United Water
 - Ragamuffin Parade
 - New Traffic Light
 - Intersection Construction
 - Fire Horn Update
 - Street Light Heads Purchase
 - Planning Secretary Hired
 - Bogus Soliciting
 - Affordable Housing
 - Speeding
 - Millennium Pipeline
 - Grant Watch
 - Sewer Projects In Progress
 - Route 9A Resurfacing

senior housing in this area, that many seniors, or those approaching retirement who already live in the community, would like the option to stay here. They also suggest the tax benefits from the increase in the rates, that the development would generate few children to crowd classrooms, that occupants of these facilities rarely have, or keep private vehicles for more than three years after moving in, and finally, the

SENIOR HOUSING UPDATE

demolition of the dilapidated red shack on Route 9A.

The acceptance of the FEIS on October 2 marked the commencement of a two week written comment period which ended on October 16, in keeping with the guidelines of SEQRA [State Environmental Quality Review Act]. In the meantime, the Village is anticipating receipt of an independent marketing study on regional senior housing needs. The Village's planning consultant, Frederick P. Clarke Associates is drafting a model Findings Statement, and preparing a model resolution for the proposed zoning changes for the Village Board to consider. Upon hearing comment from the public on October 2, the Mayor adjourned the Pintell public hearings on zoning until 8:15 PM, November 6, at which time the Village Board could vote on the issue.

IN MEMORIAM

William Paul Krauss died on August 12. He was 88. Patrolman Krauss was a 37 year veteran of the Ardsley Police Department, retiring in 1975. Though born in New York City in 1912, he and his family moved to Ardsley shortly thereafter where he lived for the rest of his life. He was a very well known and well liked police officer, committed in his service to the residents of the Village. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Alice, and two daughters, Marilyn of Ardsley, and Patricia of Aptos, California. Our sincerest condolences to the entire Krauss family.

ARDSLEY TENNIS: A SMASHING SUCCESS

The Ardsley Tennis tournament took place September 9-10 at the Ashford Park tennis courts. Under brilliant sunshine, residents from Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings, Irvington, and Scarsdale came out in record numbers to participate in the annual event which has come to be known as the "Ardsley Open." Ardsley resident, Ron Schwartz, the tournament director, said that 61 people participated in the two day event which featured a Singles tournament on Saturday, and a Doubles event on Sunday. The Men's Singles winner was Phil Boxer of Scarsdale, and the Runner Up was Fuki Onseng of Ardsley. The Women's Singles Winner was Ardsley's Mona Swanson, and the Runner Up was Jodi Fields, also of Ardsley. The Men's Doubles Winner was the team of Mac McLaughlin and Fred Gordon, and the Runners Up was the team of Ron Schwartz and Jim Froman. The Women's Doubles Winners were Mona Swanson and Judy Wirsing, and the Runners Up were Jodi Fields and Carlen Leaser. Congratulations to all those participants that helped make this a smashing success. This event is open to all Rivertown residents and guests, and we are looking forward to another exciting event next year.

LADDER TRUCK ARRIVES

To paraphrase Tennessee Williams' Blanche DuBois, no longer will Ardsley have to rely on the kindness of its municipal neighbors to replace burned out light bulbs on utility poles. Highway Foreman Louis Pascone reports that the new ladder truck whose bid was awarded to a

Pennsylvania firm in August, has arrived at the Elm Street Garage, and will be placed in service shortly. The arrival of the much needed vehicle will dramatically shorten the wait time for residents in need of bulb replacements on neighborhood poles. In fact, if you are in need right now, please call the Highway Foreman, Monday through Friday, from 7:00 am to 3:00 PM at 693-0117.

WEST NILE EFFORTS WINDING DOWN

For the moment, Ardsley seems to be out of the woods as far as the West Nile Virus spraying campaign is concerned. You may recall that the community was sprayed twice this past summer, and although a dead crow in nearby Hastings tested positive a few weeks ago, with the mercury hovering in the 50-60 degree range, the weather will pre-empt any additional spraying this autumn. The bad news is that the virus has now been detected in several varieties of mosquitoes, and has spread far beyond the metropolitan area. For further information on the West Nile Virus, please call the County Health Department at 637-4715 or 2420.

OFFICE HOURS FOR HISTORIAN

Beginning in October, Jeanne Dolgin, Village Historian, will be holding office hours in Village Hall on Thursdays from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Anyone interested in local historical records may consult with her at that time. If you have any artifacts you wish to donate to the Ardsley Historical Society, please telephone 693-6027.

MACY PARK IMPROVE- MENTS PLANNED

The County Parks Department has 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 is in the midst of the SEQRA process, and no target date has been established for its completion.

ELECTION DAY IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK

The long hard odyssey is nearing the end for many candidates as Village residents prepare to venture forth into the polling booths on Tuesday, November 7. At stake are five critical offices near and dear to the hearts of Village residents: the State Senate, the Assembly, the House seat, the US Senate, and, of course, the American Presidency. The outcome of these five campaigns will have far reaching impact on our Village for many years to come. For election and polling day information, telephone Town Clerk Alfreda Williams at 993-1500. On Election Day, polls in Ardsley will be

open from 6:00 am to 9:00 PM at the Ardsley Community Center at 18 Center Street, and St. Barnabas Episcopal Church on Revolutionary Road.

BOOKMARK THIS!

If you're not on the mailing list of the Friends of the Ardsley Public Library Newsletter, you have no idea what you are missing! The Fall 2000 edition has something for everyone. Adults can indulge in programs on keeping journals, stamp collecting, raising drug free families, creating tiny shoe charms, or on the legends of American comedy. For the children, there are storytime sessions, craft programs, book discussions, and, of course, Harry Potter. Internet training is provided on Monday afternoons, and Neil Simon's "Star Spangled Girl" will be presented on stage October 28-29. For more information on these and other programs, telephone your friendly Ardsley librarian at 693-6636.

5K/10K DRAWS 43

Parks & Recreation Supt. Joseph Arduino reports that the annual Ardsley Parks & Recreation Commission 5K & 10K road race held on September 24 was a huge success. Jay Duggan of Tarrytown won the 5K men's title. Chris Murray and Andrew McConnell came in 2nd and 3rd, respectively. Leigh Gerson of Ardsley led the women with Rebecka Lee and Judy Anker, placing 2nd and 3rd. In the 10K race, Bronxville's Rita Labarr garnered the women's first place title, and was followed by Jane Leahy and Rena McDermott. Mamaroneck's Gerardo Pizzo secured the men's first place title with Scott Mosenthal and Richard Conway placing 2nd and 3rd, respectively. Many thanks to our 43 runners, and especially to our co-sponsor Astoria Federal Bank, and the Westchester Road Runners Club for keeping official time.

THE JOYS OF USED BUT USABLE

Tired of looking at that old gray monitor your kids abandoned for a fluorescent iMAC or a late model lap top? If it's still in good functioning condition it could be a candidate for the County Used but Usable Clearinghouse. This service which has been in operation for several years has generally concentrated in finding new homes for household and office items such as furniture, large appliances, and cribs. Recently, the scope of wanted items has been expanded to include monitors, printers, keyboards, modems, lap tops, scanners, and peripherals. By dialing 637-3011 Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:00 PM, you can list your usable computer equipment, and find out if there is an item in the County's data bank that you can use. No fees can be charged by either party and transportation of the item is the responsibility of the recipient. The clearinghouse can also be accessed on the Internet by downloading westchestergov.com/treasures. Try it out. All you have to lose is a dust collector, and we can all afford to do that!

FARM ROAD UPDATE

On September 27, Joseph Urbanowicz mailed to all school district residents an update on the Farm Road project. The construction of the expanded / improved track and fields begin at the High School on October 16th. After that date, the track and fields will be closed until summer 2001. The portion of Farm Road that is on the High School property will be rerouted so that fields can be expanded. There

will be times when Farm Road will be closed to through traffic. The school will attempt to minimize those times and give advance warning on its web site at www.ardsleyschools.k12.ny.us.

The parking lot expansion will take place in July 2001. If you have any questions, call Mr. Urbanowicz at 693-6300 x2208.

SENIOR EVENTS

Thanks to the care and co-ordination of Evelyn Perry, Ardsley's Senior Citizens have a wonderful recreation program each Wednesday at the Community Center. During the month of October alone, in addition to the usual coffee and cake, the Seniors will enjoy an exercise program with Emily; a 50/50 raffle, a Chinese auction, and a travel discussion. A special trip to Foxwood Resort is planned for November 2, and a 5 hour casino cruise out of Freeport, Long Island is being contemplated for May. For the health conscious flu shots will be administered on November 13 between 1:00 and 3:00 PM at the Community Center. For details on all these programs, please call Evelyn Perry at 592-4364, or just drop in Wednesdays at noon.

LIBRARY TRUSTEE SOUGHT

The Ardsley Public Library is seeking one good man or woman! The Library Board of Trustees has a vacancy, and the only requirement is that you be a Village resident and a library user & lover. The Board meets the fourth Thursday of each month except for August. If you are interested in making a contribution to the Library, send a resume or brief letter of interest to Lydia Dallis, c/o of the Ardsley Public Library, Nine American Legion Drive, Ardsley, New York 10502, by October 30.

YOUR PAST FUELS OUR PRESENT

Had you been a registered member of the Ardsley Historical Society, you would have known that local artist, Anthony Radomski, had provided a wonderful video and talk on October 3. Don't miss out on future programs! Join the society today. Call society president Irwin Engleman [693-4267], and get your application. Or drop by the next Ardsley Historical Society program which takes place at 2:00pm, on Sunday, November 5 at the library. You can't argue with the price of admission, and the refreshments are free. How can you go wrong?

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?

CATV announcement coordinator, Bruce Novich, suggests that should you have any community events or programs that you would like to see on the Village's government access channel, please fax, mail, hand-deliver, or email them 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 November 2000 announcements should be received by Monday, October 23. Please no commercial, religious services, or partisan requests. The Village Manager's fax number is 693-3706, and his email address is: george.f.calvi@worldnet.att.net.

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.

Lastly, the Village is researching with General Code Publishers the costs involved in placing the Ardsley Village Code online. More about that in a future edition of this newsletter. Your written comments on our existing web site and cable announcements, and suggestions to improve them are most welcome.

FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK

- **CARNIVAL:** Once again, Ardsley Engine Company put on a wonderful carnival in Ashford Park between September 21 and 24. The carnival featured thrilling rides, great food, and for the first time, a classic auto show. We can hardly wait until next year!
- **WATER:** No, Evian will not be coursing through Ardsley's water pipes, but it is true that United Water is now a wholly-owned subsidiary of Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux, as of July 27.
- **CONCERT:** RCA recording artist, and Village resident, Gil Parris, treated his hometown with a fantastic jazz concert at the Middle School on September 15. The concert is part of the Village's Gazebo Music Series, partially funded by a grant from the Rivertowns Arts Council.
- **PARADE:** The Halloween Ragamuffin Parade will be kicking off in Ashford Park on Sunday, October 29 at 1:00pm. Call the Parks Dept at 693-8012 for details.
- **TRAFFIC:** The NYS DOT notified us in the waning days of September that they will be resurfacing Route 9A from the Yonkers City line to the Ardsley Village line over a three week period during the summer of 2001. With the anticipated reconstruction of Ashford Avenue / Ardsley Road between Route 9A

and the Sprain Parkway scheduled for April 2001, and any residual work at the Route 9A intersection and Farm Road projects, traffic conditions are going to be very interesting. Perhaps it would be wise to pack up the spouse and kids and take that long overdue trip to the south of France next summer. Ardsley Travel's phone number is in the book.

- **TRAFFIC LIGHT:** In early October, NYS DOT engineers were inspecting records in the Village Clerk's office determining rights-of-way for the installation of the new traffic light at the corner of Heatherdell Road and Route 9A. Current projections have the installation taking place before the end of the calendar year.
- **INTERSECTION:** Albeit slowly, work continues to progress at the intersection of Route 9A and Ashford Avenue. The new turning lanes have been framed out, as have the enlarged traffic island, and the new parklet adjacent to Lucy's Deli. It is hoped that most of the work will be completed before winter weather sets in, but no doubt much of the landscaping improvements will have to wait until Spring. Most of the work will continue to take place Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings from 8:00 PM to 6:00 AM to accommodate commuters and merchants, but some day work will have to be accomplished from time to time. We beg your indulgence during the periodic traffic delays.
- **FIRE HORN:** The new fire horn should be arriving any day at Village Hall. It will replace a siren which was just not meeting the needs of our emergency services. We recognize that the adjustment in the new siren's volume will cause some inconvenience to our residents but we need to ensure that our emergency personnel can hear the fire horn.
- **STREET LIGHTS:** Thanks to the generosity of the Town of Greenburgh, the Village is coming into possession of approximately 60 surplus street light heads at a nominal cost just in time for the arrival of our new ladder truck.

Enlightened exchanges like these illuminate the benefits of municipal cooperation.

- **PERSONNEL:** The Village welcomes Lois Duggan to our staff as the part-time secretary to the Planning Board. Mrs. Duggan will be chiefly responsible for taking the minutes of the Planning Board which meets the second Monday of each month, and assisting the Planning Board in assembling the agenda.
- **SOLICITING:** Residents are advised not to respond to telephone solicitations for donations to the Ardsley Police Benevolent Association. These calls are bogus. The Ardsley PBA communicates with the residents solely via written correspondence. Similar caution should be exercised for solicitations on behalf of the Greenburgh Fire Department; no such animal exists. Although there are several fire districts in Greenburgh, none operate under the "Greenburgh" moniker.
- **PIPELINE:** You may have read in the tabloids that much discord has been generated, particularly upcounty, about the revised proposed route for the Millennium Pipeline. The original proposed route was intended for the Con Edison Right of Way on the east side of the Village until the utility company complained to the NYS PSC [Public Service Commission] citing potential power line problems. The route would have been too uncomfortably close to the backyards of many homes on Heatherdell, Jordan, Kensington, Agnes, and Markwood. The revised [preferred] route, on the west side of the Village, will parallel the South County Trailway which is located between the Thruway and the Saw Mill Parkway far from any Village residences. However, we may be alone in our opinion. An effort is underway by the County and many of the affected communities to restore the pipeline to the original route, if there has to be a pipeline at all. With the project now having been delayed one year, that decision by FERC, the Federal Energy Regulatory

Commission, could be made sooner than later.

- **HOLIDAYS:** Residents are reminded that the Village offices will be closed on Tuesday, November 7 [Presidential Election Day]; Friday, November 10 [Observed Veterans Day]; and Thursday, November 23 [Thanksgiving]. Additionally, Village offices will close at 12 noon on Friday, November 24. Please consult your 2000 Notice of Sanitation calendars for rescheduled trash collections.
- **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 Abate resuscitated the committee and sent out a call for volunteers. Three have responded, but more are needed. Should you be interested in joining this committee, please fax [693-3706] or email a brief letter of interest to the Village Manager at [george.f.calvi@worldnet.att.net]. In addition to housing, the Mayor is seeking volunteers to participate in the newly created Downtown Appearance, and Traffic Camera Feasibility Ad Hoc Committees.
- **HOLIDAY LIGHTS:** The annual holiday tree lighting ceremony will take place on Saturday, December 2. Refreshments will be served at the Community Center. Consult Joe Arduino at the Parks & Recreation Dept. (693-8012) for details.
- **SPEEDING:** Motorists traveling in excess of the speed limit is a perennial problem in our Village, particularly on the long straight stretches of Heatherdell Road, Western Drive and Almena Avenue. However, certain drivers in the Beacon Hill area of Ardsley have almost raised speeding to an art form, and unfortunately this

criticism is directed at a most unlikely group – the otherwise law-abiding parents of school age children. These 21st century Mad Maxes, often in over-sized SUVs, in their zealous quest to get their kids to class on time, are zipping through that neighborhood's narrow streets at incredible speeds and ignoring stop signs. When confronted by pedestrians urging them to slow down, they brazenly "flip the bird," and when stopped by a patrolman, are enraged at the inconvenience. Our simple message to them, [and you know who you are] is **CUT IT OUT, NOW!** The make and models of vehicles owned by several of these rogue drivers have already been provided to the Police Department, and they will be keeping an eye out for them. For everybody's sake, please slow down, come to a complete halt at the stop sign, and most importantly, yield to the young pedestrians when crossing the roadway. No class, no job, no social engagement, is important enough to risk the safety of our children. The potential consequences of your haste are just too dreadful to contemplate.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Although the fall registration deadline has passed, parents of elementary school children [K-4] should contact our Parks & Recreation Supt. Joseph Arduino about spring registration in the Ardsley Village After School Recreation Program. The eight week program is open to school district students, costs \$70 per class, and is held at the Concord Elementary School. The 50 minute programs include football, sports & games, baseball, cheerleading, movement & dance, volleyball, baseball, soccer, and basketball. Mr. Arduino may be reached at 693-8012.

THEY REST AMONG US

It is a long acknowledged fact that the pastoral settings of the northern NYC suburbs are a refuge for those with the means to escape the hustle and bustle of the city. What is little known is that these same communities have been a favorite final resting place for some very well known people, and the greater Ardsley area is no exception. MGM song and dance sensation, Judy Garland, came to the end of her Yellow Brick Road in nearby Ferncliff Cemetery on Secor Road, and she is not alone there. Mommy Dearest herself, Joan Crawford, and civil rights leader, Malcolm X, are eternal neighbors. Immediately south of the Village in Westchester Hills, the small cemetery adjacent to Mount Hope, rest fraternal music legends George & Ira Gershwin (Rhapsody in Blue), Born Yesterday's Judy Holliday, and Warner Bros. tough guy, John Garfield (Gentleman's Agreement).

VILLAGE OF ARDSLEY

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SAMUEL J. ABATE, JR. MAYOR

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MARK MILDNER, TRUSTEE

GEORGE F. CALVI, VILLAGE MANAGER

CLARA SMITH, VILLAGE CLERK

**MARION DEMAIO, VILLAGE.
TREASURER**

GRANT WATCH

The Village Treasurer is happy to announce that she has completed the final expenditure report for an \$8,954 grant received from the State Education Department for local government records management. The grant was used for microficheing the Village's tax records, assessment rolls, Trustee and Planning Board minutes, and the purchase of a viewer which will be available for public use before the end of the year. The Police Department has completed the acquisition and installation of a new portable radio system and antenna owing to a \$10,000 grant from the Department of State. The Village Manager is working on a \$50,000 Community Development grant secured through the County Planning Department for a new senior bus. He is also working on a \$65,000 grant secured from the Department of State through the offices of State Senator Nicholas Spano and Assemblyman Richard Brodsky to purchase new recycling bins, install an infra-red listening device in the Village Hall Board room, acquire SCOT PAKS for the Fire Department, replace some trees in the business district, and assist the Little League in their repair of McDowell Park's fields. The

**FOR EMERGENCIES,
ALWAYS CALL 911**

purchase and distribution of these funds will take place over the next several months.

SEWER PROJECTS

Three major sewer projects are in the works which will affect several neighborhoods this autumn. All three are being designed and supervised by Dolph Rotfeld Engineering of Tarrytown. All State Power Vac of Rahway, New Jersey has been 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. Joken Development Corp of White Plains has been awarded a \$48,925 job to perform storm drainage improvements on Columbia Road. The cost of both of these projects is being financed through a bond anticipation note. Surveying work has been completed for the Ridge Road storm drainage project, and plans and specifications are expected to be released to potential bidders shortly.

HAVE A QUESTION FOR THE MAYOR?

Email him at abate@mccarter.com

RAGAMUFFIN PARADE

**1:00 PM SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 29**

ASHFORD PARK