

The Ardsley Villager

A Publication of the Ardsley Village Board of Trustees

Visit us at www.ardsleyvillage.com	<i>Ex Ardsley semper aliquid novi!</i>	Always dial 911 for emergencies
<p>A MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR</p> <p><u>Happy New Year</u></p> <p>This is our first newsletter for 2014. Although somewhat belated, on behalf of the Board and the Village staff, I want to wish everyone a healthy and happy New Year. We are just coming out of one of the longest cold snaps in memory. The winter weather has created havoc with our roads and our snow plowing budget. Many of us are not used to the frigid temperatures. Please be smart: bundle up when you have to go outside; make sure your heating and hot water systems have been properly inspected; do not turn your heat off nor turn it down too low when leaving your house for long periods; and make sure your children learn these lessons. These are not the kinds of weather conditions where it would be wise to test Mother Nature. She always wins. Stay safe, and stay warm.</p> <p><u>Tax Caps, Tax Rebates and State Aid</u></p> <p>A few years back, our State government passed a real property tax cap, trying to tell</p>	<p>*****</p> <p>ANNUAL PERMITS</p> <p>On May 31, 2014 the annual parking permit for the Bridge Street / Village Green parking lots will expire. Please stop by Ardsley Village Hall after May 23 to renew or purchase the 2014-2015 permits. For information, please call the Village Clerk at 693-1550.</p> <p>The registration renewals for the 2014 home & business alarms and the 2014 overnight parking permits were due in January. The grace period for such permits has long since expired. For information, please call the Police Desk at 693-1700.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>schools and municipalities how much they could spend to take care of their citizens' needs. The State did not, however, increase State aid, nor reduce State mandates that would have made these caps more realistic. In fact, the State has increased the amount we have to</p>	<p>contribute to the employee retirement funds exponentially over the past couple of years, and increased other charges to municipalities. The State has done nothing to reform the public employee arbitration system which severely limit's the towns' and villages' ability to control labor costs. To my mind, this is nothing more than political grandstanding.</p> <p>Now the Governor is at it again. He is proposing what is being mislabeled as a "tax freeze." The State would refund the tax increase in real property taxes if your municipality stayed within the tax cap in the first year and, in the second year also took steps toward sharing services with other municipalities. You will see that the only people getting tax relief are those whose taxes rise the least. But it gets worse. There is still no attempt to help municipalities to deliver services; there is no thought of reducing our massive pension and health care costs; there is no talk of fixing our labor system.</p> <p>And what about these shared services? They will only look at <u>future</u> plans for sharing services. We get no credit for all the programs we have</p>

instituted over the years. It took George Calvi and me less than five minutes to come up with an extensive list of shared services programs in which the Village participates, but none of them would matter in the Governor's future-oriented plan. These shared services include: the Library (provides library services to Elmsford); the Fire Department (covers substantial parts of Greenburgh); the seniors transportation program (Dobbs Ferry); municipal vehicle fueling (Dobbs); senior nutrition program (Dobbs, Greenburgh); tax assessments (Greenburgh); SWAT and drug training (Greenburgh); joint purchasing programs with villages in Greenburgh, including road resurfacing; Youth advocate, recreation, SAYF coalition and Community Policing Officer, all shared with or provided to the School District (along with other informal arrangements with the School District); informal arrangements with Greenburgh for snow removal, sanitation and police; and acquisitions from State, Federal and County lists. We also minimize costs by doubling up our sanitation department and department of public works, and we do not have our own Village planner or engineer. Much of our equipment is obtained on a rental basis to avoid the acquisition and storage costs.

We grapple with the budget every year, fighting against increased pensions and health care costs, inflationary charges

from insurers, and higher energy costs, just to hold the line and deliver the services that our residents demand, and that make life here in the Village quite enjoyable. Budgeting has been exacerbated by declines in our assessment role. We are not extravagant, and we do not have gold-plated programs. But we strive to provide the best services and programs that we can with our limited resources. We don't need State officials telling us how to run the Village.

Improved Web Site

Thanks to the tireless efforts of former Trustee Nicole Minore and Village Clerk Barbara Berardi, a few weeks ago the Village launched its new and improved web site, www.ardselyvillage.com. Come check it out. While there if you haven't done so already subscribe to the email blast and NIXLE.

Volunteering

I return to a favorite subject: volunteering to help run the Village. It follows quite neatly from the topic above: one way we keep costs down and keep the Village attuned to the desires of the residents is to provide services through the use of volunteers. There are no more striking examples than the Fire Department and the volunteer ambulance corps. These organizations are filled with men and women, mostly Village residents, who dedicate

much of their free time to training and providing irreplaceable services to the Village residents, at the expense of family time and sleep, and even put themselves in harm's way, all to be of service to their neighbors. (A friendly disclaimer here: ASVAC is an independent organization, and does not receive any funds from the Village.)

Our fabled library would not be able to run without its dedicated volunteer corps. All of our land use boards are run by volunteers. Our recreation commission is all-volunteer and many of the recreation programs function with the aid of volunteers. Our garden club, cable committee and senior programs are all run by or with the invaluable assistance of volunteers. And while not under the purview of the Village, our Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts organizations are run by volunteers. And I haven't even mentioned the Little League and AYSO soccer, all fueled by volunteers who coach and run these organizations so well.

I realize that the School District takes up much of the focus of the parents as it, too, runs many programs that benefit our families, and they also require volunteers. So we are all competing for the time and energy of hard-working parents. Ultimately, it comes down to these thoughts: first, if you are not participating in some way in the Village government,

committees or programs, or sports programs, or School District programs, shouldn't you be? You certainly reap the benefits; help us out and get involved. Second, this is not all about altruism. The Village of Ardsley was incorporated in 1896, some 118 years ago. We are self-governed. Yes, there are County and State and Federal laws we have to abide by, but many of the laws that govern our daily lives are debated and made by us citizens, and all the services that we have come to depend upon are paid for and provided by the residents. Don't you want to have a say in how we govern and what services we provide? I would hope the answer is yes. Get involved, and help run your Village.

Peter R. Porcino

Peter R. Porcino
Mayor

STORMWATER UPDATE:

“You Make Me Feel Like a Natural Streambed”

The Village of Ardsley waters feed two major watersheds – the Saw Mill River and the Sprain Brook/Bronx River. Many natural streams flow down our hillsides, including the Bramble Brook, Abington to Plainview stream, Concord Road stream and more. In winter, there's icing, in warm weather, there can be flooding. Yet, our natural waters shouldn't be

thought of as just a nuisance, they're a resource for wildlife, habitat for birds, chipmunks, frogs, plants and even fish. Much of our water is piped underground to the storm sewer system. But some is “daylighted”, like the huge “daylighting” project at the mouth of the Saw Mill River in downtown Yonkers. If you have a backyard open waterway, enjoy it and keep it clean by removing trash. Pitching in to help maintain our small local streams helps everyone. Please watch for our AHS Environmental Science Club Eco Car Wash this spring, and thanks to Ms. Zucchetto for hosting the Annual 4th Grade Enviroscope Program once again! Thanks for keeping our water clean – Lorraine Kuhn, Storm Water Assistant.

EMERGENCY ACCESS

In recent years there has been a rise in Fire Department calls due to severe weather conditions, most recently freezing temperatures. Many times fire fighters will arrive at the scene of an alarm and no one is home, or even worse yet, the resident is unable to get to the door.

Depending on the type of call, we have to decide whether to call the police for a key holder or break into the residence. The point I am trying to make is that we would be better able to serve our residents if there was a plan for emergency entry when no one was home. The Fire

Department suggests that you have a copy of your house key along with any current contact information on file with the Police Department.

An alternate solution is the Knox-Box Residential Program. The Knox-Box is a box mounted to the house where you store spare keys and contact information. Only the fire department has a master key to the Knox-Box so they are immediately able to reach your house key in case of an emergency. This is a simple way to save us time and more importantly could save a life! For more information please contact me at (914)693-6581 or e-mail afdchiefs@gmail.com. Have a happy and safe new year! --Chief Mark Florkowski

RIVERTOWN LWV REPORTS:

The League of Women Voters is nearly 100 years old and since women got the right to vote, it's for Women as well as Men. We are non-partisan. We study issues on which “the People” vote - locally, statewide and nationally.

Our LWVR needs male and female members, for support, to be active on our committees - Voter Services, Observation Corps, Youth Outreach, Environment, Health, Publicity and to collaborate with other local organizations. We hold public meetings and communicate with legislators and voters. Some members

moderate contested election debates. We distribute voter registration forms and LWV Voter Guides, write letters to the newspapers

For more information, our website is:

www.watpa.org/lwv/rivertowns
You may also email us at: LWVRivertowns@aol.com or write us at: P.O. Box 142, Hastings, NY 10706. To learn about more about candidates visit: www.vote411.org. Christine Hindle Verber is your Ardsley representative. She may be reached at 914-693-9054.

CAR SEATS & THE EXPLORER PROGRAM

Residents are reminded of our child safety car seat program. We issue free new child seats to residents who are in need of them. Also, our Police Explorer program is looking for students who would like to join between the ages of 14 and 21. Please contact us at 693-1700 x 104. – Community Policing Officer Anthony Vacca

DON HOY REMEMBERED

Donald G. Hoy, longtime and loyal Village resident, employee and businessman passed away on January 2 at the age of 91. Don built his own home on Dellwood Lane, which he owned from 1950 until his recent death. He served a total of 32 years as part-time Building, Plumbing and/or Sewer inspector, beginning with his appointment in 1958,

approving and inspecting countless residential and business new construction and renovation. He also maintained a plumbing business on 9A from 1945 until 1986. Don was a kind and gentle man, a good neighbor and friend, and made an enormous imprint upon the Village of Ardsley, as we know it today. – Walter Schwartz, Village Historian

SAYF: MEDRETURN & PHARMING

The Ardsley SAYF Coalition has provided the Ardsley Police with a permanent MedReturn Drug Collection Unit. Anybody can take any unwanted medications to the Ardsley Police Station at any time, no questions asked. Simply drop the meds in the box located in the lobby, to ensure privacy is protected, we recommend you remove or cross out any personal identifying information that might be on the packaging, such as your name, address, phone number or prescription number before disposing medication in the MedReturn unit. The medications that are collected will be taken by the Ardsley Police to a DEA approved facility for proper disposal. There are a number of reasons why it's important to dispose of unwanted or unused medications in this manner; it takes away the chance of abuse.

Have you heard of the phrase "pharming"? Well teens know it, and it refers to using prescription or over the counter

drugs for recreational use. Though our children's safety is the most important reason to ensure medications are disposed of properly, disposing of the drugs according to DEA regulations is also better for the environment. Flushing medications down the toilet pollutes our drinking water. – Theresa Del Grosso, SAYF Coordinator

IS THAT SO?

COLLECTING NUGGETS OF WISDOM FROM OUR DAILY LIVES

Trading WI-FI for wildlife can help you think. Four days in nature without technology improved creativity by 50 % for hikers in a recent study. April-May 2013 – AARP

Go to AnnualCreditReport.com to obtain your free annual credit report from each of the big three credit bureaus, then look for and dispute any errors. Stagger your requests to get one report from a different bureau every four months. February 2014 Consumer Reports

Did you know that ice removes carpet dents? Place a cube in the stubborn hole, and let it melt. To make the fibers come back to life and look good as new, fluff the damp spot with a fork. January 2014 Reader's Digest

How many times a day do most people heat metal to 4500 degrees F? The answer: at least

once by everyone who flips a light switch. That's the filament temperature of a typical 60W to 100W light bulb. January 2014 Topbulb.Com

SPRING PROGRAMMING FROM THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Sign up now for these exciting programs coming your way this spring.

The **Tennis Clinic** runs Sat/Sun starting April 26; **Redbull soccer** runs on Sundays starting April 20; **Lil Cooks** will take place Fridays starting April 25; **Chess** is scheduled on Tuesdays for 8 weeks starting April 22; **KidzArt** commences Thursdays starting April 24; and **Lego Builders** is on Wednesdays starting April 23.

The **Ice Cream Social** is held on the last day of school which is Thursday, June 26th at Pascone Park. Looking ahead to summer, the popular "**Concerts in the Park**" returns to Pascone Park from 7 pm to 9 pm on the following dates:

The Magic Touch, Fri., July 11;

Raising Cane, Sat., July 26;

Lady Swings Sinatra, Sat. Aug. 9;

The Kootz Band, Fri., Aug. 15

Skate Park lessons have been set for Wednesdays starting April 23, weather-permitting. – Trish Lacy, Recreation Supervisor

SCHOOL TAX VETERAN EXEMPTION UNDER REVIEW

Attention all military veterans a law, recently approved unanimously by the New York State legislature and signed by Governor Cuomo, allows local school boards to give veterans a reduction on their school tax. Contact your school board if you are in favor of this bill and ask them to opt in. Email your opinion to the school board at BOE@ardsleyschools.org, or you may contact it via first class mail to the attention of School Board President George Holt, 500 Farm Road, Ardsley NY 10502 -- Ardsley American Legion Post 458

CABLE COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Village of Ardsley's cable television committee is down to one member. We need at least four more members to keep this committee alive. The cable television committee is responsible for broadcasting the twice monthly Village Board meetings.

Although the broadcasts are not in immediate danger due to the diligence of our cable television committee chairman and the cable access coordinator, everyone involved would breathe a lot easier if there were a few backups in place in the event of sickness or vacation.

Thus, if you have an interest in serving the Village of Ardsley

by lending some of your cable television skills, kindly leave a message with the Village Clerk at ardsleyclerk@optonline.net, and someone from the cable television committee will get back to you.

THE CARNIVAL RETURNS !!!!!

The annual Volunteer Fire Fighters Carnival returns to Pascone Park this spring for five fun-filled days. The carnival will be open from Wednesday evening, May 7 through Sunday afternoon, May 11 which just happens to be Mothers' Day. The hours are as follows:

Wed., May 7: 6 pm to 10pm;

Thu., May 8: 6 pm – 10 pm;

Fri., May 9: 6 pm to midnight;

Sat., May 10: 10 am – midnight;

Sun., May 11: 10 am – 5pm

Of course, all the hours and days are subject to weather conditions. There will be more information about the carnival posted around the Village as we approach the month of May. – Ex-Chief Ron Gretczko

ARDSLEY GARDEN CLUB

Members of the Ardsley Garden Club are preparing for the May 7th & 8th Flower Show "Museum Classics" at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church. The show, open and free to the public, will include horticulture educational exhibits, floral arrangements, and crafts. Crafts will feature Folk Art bird

houses made with natural materials and Ukrainian decorated eggs.

For information about membership, please contact Linda Kiel, Garden Club President at 693-6840. Lastly, there will be an open house for membership on September 9 at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church. Details to come. – Arline Weston, Former President

FRESH STARTS

Ardasley welcomes the arrival of L'inizio [Tel: 693-5400] and Cornucopia [Tel: 479-5900] to the mix of restaurants in our community. We wish them much success!

Ardasley also welcomes Clubhouse Friends [Tel: 674-1940], an exciting new after school program at the Ardsley Methodist Church. Much success to Clubhouse as well!

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

*In Flanders Field the poppies
blow,
Between the crosses row by
row
That mark our place; and in
the sky
The larks, still bravely singing,
fly
Scarce heard amid the guns
below.*

-- Lt. Col. John McCrae,
Canadian Army (1872-1918)

Ardasley's Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade will take place Monday, May 26th at Pascone Park (the parade steps off at 10AM sharp from Park Avenue heading east on Ashford Avenue). Veterans and citizens will spend a few moments remembering the 14 young graduates of Ardsley High School who made the supreme sacrifice. Ardsley's Fire Department will again be cooking breakfast for all veterans from 8:30 to 9:30AM at the firehouse. In case of rain, the ceremony will be held at the firehouse at 10AM. If you have a convertible car and would like to drive a Veteran in the parade please call 693-3943. On the week before Memorial Day, you may see some of our WWII and Korean War Veterans selling poppies which are a memorial to those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Lastly, anyone with military memorabilia can display it in the little museum next to the snack bar. -- Ardsley American Legion Post 458

ASHFORD AVENUE BRIDGE UPDATE

On Tuesday, February 25, Mayor Porcino, Traffic Chairman Frank Doherty, and the Village Manager participated in the periodic Ashford Avenue Bridge shareholders meeting along with a host of other local, County, State, and Federal officials. The topic, of course, was the progress on the plans for the bridge's rehabilitation. At the

meeting we were provided with a project timeline with 58 milestones. The milestones we were most interested in were items 56 through 58. Specifically, they represent the bid submission date of December 15, 2014, the construction start date of March 1, 2015, and the November 30, 2017 construction completion date.

Yes, the County is projecting a 30 month construction period. The plans are 99% complete, and now have to be submitted to the Federal government, specifically FHWA, for approval. In the meantime, the county is finalizing the acquisition of temporary easements for construction and staging purposes around the bridge. Our Mayor, County Legislator Mary Jane Shimsky, and yours truly continually emphasized the importance of having a presentation by a County spokesperson at Village Hall once the bids have been awarded. Be aware though this will not be a hearing for the public to make suggestions. That ship has long sailed. Rather it will be an opportunity for the County to prepare our local residents as to what to expect during the construction period.

Bluntly, there will be noise, there will be traffic, and there will be delays. There is also the specter of the possibility of other major construction projects going on at the same time namely the construction of

the 22 units at the former Waterwheel site, the widening of Route 9A from Ashford Avenue to Center Street, and the construction of the new shopping center, hotel, and Cineplex at Rivertowns Square.

The Mayor and other officials will continue to participate in these stakeholder meetings, and if anything of strategic note arises we shall share it with you. Keep in mind to look out for the scheduling of the County presentation regarding expectations during construction in early 2015. – George Calvi, VM

A FEW THOUGHTS ON GOVERNING THROUGH THE AGES

“If pro is the opposite of con what is the opposite of progress?” – Paul Harvey (1918-2009)

“Laws are like sausages, it is better not to see them being made.” – Otto von Bismarck (1815-1898)

“To rule is easy, to govern is difficult.” – Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832)

“If men were angels, no government would be necessary.” – James Madison (1751-1836)

“Politics has become so expensive that it takes a lot of money even to be defeated.” – Will Rogers (1879-1935)

THE SUN MAY SET ON CDBG

On Wednesday afternoon, February 26, the Village Manager attended the monthly meeting of the Municipal Managers Association to hear Deputy County Planning Commissioner Norma Drummond advise us on the future of Community Development Block Grants, also known as CDBG. As you may recall the disbursements of CDBG were a catalyst in the law suit settled between the County and HUD regarding affordable housing. On the bright side, in the wake of that settlement, Drummond noted that many affordable units have been constructed in the County, and many are in the hopper including Ardsley’s 17 units on the former Water Wheel property. Curiously, the demand for such units continues to be in the southern portion of the County, particularly in Mount Vernon and Yonkers which is in contrast with the goals of the federal settlement to build such housing throughout the County. The other interesting remark issued by Drummond is that some applicants mistakenly continue to think this housing is Section 8 housing. Far from it. One must have a full time job or steady income in the ranges set by the County to even qualify to apply for this housing.

On the downside, Drummond shared that the days of CDBG

in Westchester County could be numbered. She has strong reason to believe that the County will not renew its application for the next CDBG cycle. Over the years, funding from CDBG has been responsible for the purchase of senior buses, the construction of community centers and sidewalks, the funding of youth programs, and the list goes on and on. Sadly, its fate has been mired in the housing settlement dispute between the federal monitor and the County. Drummond’s staff has been whittled down over the last several years from well over 200 employees to the current 35, and she does not see a bright future for the program. – George Calvi, VM

SPRING INSPECTIONS

As this long winter finally comes to a close, the building inspector would like to encourage homeowners to take a close look at the exterior of their homes when the snow melts. We were fortunate not to have had the storm related property damage that we experienced these past few years, but the extreme cold and prolonged heavy snow loads do take their toll on buildings as well. The damage tends to be more subtle, but if it isn’t corrected, the long term affects could be severe. Damage typical of a cold snowy winter includes buckled or missing roof shingle, ice dam leaks, sagging roof

**VILLAGE OF ARDSLEY
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lines, damaged gutters, damaged porch and deck boards and railings, porches and decks that are sagging or pulling away from the house, damaged driveways and walkways and water in the basement. It is best to have these conditions repaired before they cause further property damage or injury.

Also, many residents will be considering various home improvement projects this spring. With this in mind, the building inspector would like to remind everyone that building permits are required for most home improvement projects including but not limited to additions, renovations, alterations, decks, roofing, siding, fences, sheds and generators. It is best to contact the building department in the early planning phases to

OR CURRENT OCCUPANT

determine the permit requirements for your project.

More information is available on the Building Department page of the village website. If you have questions contact us at avinspector@optonline.net. -- Larry Tomasso, Building Inspector

Library Happenings

Summer Reading Club

Fizz, Boom, Read! SRC Kickoff Party - Saturday, June 28. Join us as we kickoff our exciting summer reading programs for kids. Then join us on Wednesday and Thursday nights in July for some cool science and great reading fun!! Programs for pre-school, elementary and teenaged kids. Check our website www.ardsleylibrary.org in June for more details

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HAPPY PASSOVER!
April 14-15

HAPPY EASTER!
April 20

Book Clubs

Cookies and Critic Grades 3 & 4 Friday, April 4 at 4pm

Flora & Ulysses by Kate DiCamillo. A fun book group with great books, exciting discussion and tasty cookies. Come join the fun!!

Reading Rox Grades 5 & 6 Friday, April 11, 2014 at 4pm

Cold Cereal by Adam Rex. Monthly discussions of fantastic books plus a delicious snack!!

Kids Krafts Club Grades K to 2nd Thursdays April 10 & 24 at 4pm. Join us for stories and related craft projects to get those creative juices flowing!!

Much more to come with **Bouncing Babies, Romp & Stomp, Two's Company, & Music with Jennie**. Call 693-6636 or visit the library's website for details.