

# The Ardsley Villager

A Publication of the Ardsley Village Board of Trustees

Visit us at <a href="http://www.ardsleyvillage.com">www.ardsleyvillage.com</a>	<i>Ex Ardsley semper aliquid novi!</i>	Always dial 911 for emergencies
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>END OF AN ERA</b></p> <p>We are approaching the end of an era. Our longtime Village Manager, George Calvi, retires at the end of November, bringing to a close 24 years at the helm of Village government. He will be sorely missed. George leaves behind a long list of accomplishments, overseeing the construction, re-construction or expansion of various Village properties: Village Hall, the firehouse, the library, the Rec Center, and the salt shed; and private development, including Woodlands Atria and the Waterwheel affordable housing project. He has shepherded through numerous road and sidewalk improvement projects. He has implemented the endless stream of directives from Albany and other government officials, but has always fought to protect the Village from the forces that would undermine our interests.</p> <p>But talking about accomplishments is not the true measure of the man. George is a people person. He knows everyone in the Village, in the surrounding villages, in the County and the State. His is the most valuable Rolodex in town.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">*****  <b>ALARM PERMIT  RENEWALS!</b></p> <p>Chapter 42 of the Ardsley Village Code requires residents and businesses to file for an alarm permit annually. Many people believe that their alarm company files for a permit, and this is incorrect. It is the responsibility of the resident or business owner to file the permit application. Noncompliance with the provisions of Chapter 42 of the Ardsley Village Code could expose you to fines starting at \$100 and upwards. Should you have any questions or need an application, please contact me at 914-693-1550 ext. 120. -- Barbara A. Berardi, Village Clerk  *****</p> <p>If you need something done, someone to contact, George has the name and number. I wouldn't be surprised if he could tell you what sort of after shave or perfume that person wears. And the amazing thing is that no one has a bad word to</p>	<p>say about him. George has managed the Village for 24 years without making any enemies, conducting himself at all times with integrity and equanimity.</p> <p>Although George is irreplaceable, we are confident we have chosen a superb replacement. Our new Village Manager will be Meredith Robson, who has spent 27 years in government, both on the management and financial side. She has just completed 7 years as City Manager of Beacon, New York, a city of 15,500 going through a great deal of change. She is the Northeast Regional Vice President of the International City Managers Association (ICMA) and was the recent president of the New York State City/ County Manager's Association (NYCCMA). She comes to us highly recommended and with a great deal of respect in her field. Meredith has started work, getting herself acclimated before George leaves, so we expect a smooth transition.</p> <p>I am hoping that this newsletter reaches everyone in time, but we will be getting the word out</p>

that the Village residents will have an opportunity to say farewell to George at the firehouse on Sunday, November 23, from 1 to 5. Please stop by at some point and say thanks to one of a kind.

*Peter R. Porcino*

Peter R. Porcino  
Mayor

### **REMEMBER "THE ARDSLEY"**

Though I've been a dues paying member of the Yonkers Historical Society for years, rarely do I get the opportunity to read its quarterly newsletter from cover to cover. Fortunately, I did recently, otherwise I would have missed an excellent article by editor Mary Hoar about a "horseless carriage" known as The Ardsley.

Back in the early part of the twentieth century, two automobile pioneers, John J. Walsh and Fred Fuller opened a firm in Yonkers to not only repair cars, but to build them. The first model they built was called The Ardsley. The price tag was \$3500. According to Ms. Hoar, The Ardsley was a large four cylinder engine car with 35 horsepower. It was described as "handsome with a luxurious enclosed body and black leather upholstery. . . with a canopy top extended over the front and rear seats." The side

windows were curtained, and slid in brass grooves.

The Ardsley won first prize in the first Yonkers automobile show, and was exhibited at the 1905 National Automobile Show in Madison Square Garden. Though it seemed to be a local favorite, sadly fewer than 100 models were sold, and Fuller & Walsh dissolved the Ardsley Motor Company in 1907. - George F. Calvi, VM

### **STRUCTURAL SOIL**

So, what is "structural soil", you say. A material that's been around for almost 20 years and currently getting a lot of stormwater retrofit attention. It's 80% angular stone and 20% clay loam soil mix, and it supports pavement on top without soil compaction. You can pave right next to a street tree and there's still plenty of room underneath for the root system and runoff water infiltration. You'll have a healthy urban tree taking up water, sending it back through leaf evapotranspiration, and providing cooling shade. With all the 9A and Ashford Bridge work, maybe structural soil can be used in replanting efforts.

Speaking of downtown planting, boxwood disease has been conquered at the Ardsley Community Center. The boxwoods, along with about a foot of soil, have been removed and replaced with Leucothoe shrubs and Heuchera perennials. Both species are native, shade

and drought tolerant, needing little water and no chemicals – great for reducing runoff and improving runoff quality. Try these at home if your boxwoods are looking sad. Thank you to Laurie Goldstein, Maryanne Reda, the local Girl Scouts, and Storm Water Intern Brian Evans for installing the new garden beds.

Remember to LELE – "love 'em and leave 'em." Shred your leaves into the lawn right up until the snowfall. Cut down on those piles of organic leaf waste, and thanks for making our water cleaner! - Lorraine Kuhn, Storm Water Assistant

### **GEORGE F. CALVI**

Twenty-four years of service, but only three to four paragraphs allotted here to encapsulate it? Hardly enough room for a Village Historian to write something factual, meaningful and for posterity, while avoiding the urge to get gushy about retiring Village Manager George Calvi.

May need another hat or judicial robes to render an appropriate verdict and write a proper judgment within this space. Much of it already on record in his very own words neatly summarized in 500 sets of minutes of Village Board meetings. Or within his frequent newsy managerial reports and village newsletters. Or his email blasts and notices, without which much of the village wouldn't know Con Ed

is working on the wires, the Historical Society is having a program, the Girl Scouts are honoring veterans, or village elections were coming up.

Not at all an easy role to describe, even if one thinks he's seen it all from both up close and on cable TV. His having to play the part of public liaison, traffic manager, troubleshooter and the Answer Man, subject to vagaries and sometime tenterhooks of the public and other officials, including Mayors David, Pocost, Morehouse, Abate, Leon and Porcino.

Such is the life of a village manager, of which George was Ardsley's ninth, following predecessors, Schrauth, Petterson, Miller, Van Vliet, Duke, Emerick, Atalese and Idoni, and had the longest tenure. Tender at times, tenacious at others, but rarely, if ever, tentative. On a scale from 1 to 10, history will record George Calvi with a well-deserved ten. - Walter Schwartz, Ardsley Village Historian

### **DON'T MISS THESE SPECIAL ACTIVITIES!**

Youth basketball starts December 1 for grades 3 through 6. The Christmas Tree lighting is set for Saturday, December 6 at 6:00 pm with everyone meeting at the firehouse and then strolling down to Legion Park. Thereafter, everyone is

welcome back to the Community Center for cake, coffee, and music by our very own Select Chorus. Senior Citizens don't forget Friday, December 5 is your holiday dinner at the firehouse from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The annual Menorah Lighting, sponsored by the Chabad of the Rivertowns, takes place at 7:00 pm, Tuesday, December 16 in Legion Park, followed by music and refreshments. --- Trish Lacy, Parks & Recreation Director

### **A REMINDER FROM OUR POLICE CHIEF**

On December 31, 2014, overnight parking permits expire. Please stop by the Police Desk for an overnight parking permit application or call 914-693-1700. -- Emil Califano, Police Chief

### **CAR SEATS, EXPLORERS, AND TOYS!**

The Ardsley Police Department has a longstanding child car seat program. Call for appointments to have your child seat inspected or installed. If needed, residents can also receive free child seats. The Police Department is looking for teenagers from the ages of 14 to 21 to join the Ardsley Police Explorer Post. Lastly, the department is starting up its Toys for Tots drive. Any resident wishing to drop off toys may do so at the Police Desk. If you have any questions about any of the

above, please contact us at 693-1700 ext 104. -- Community Policing Officer Anthony Vacca

### **SAYF COALITION RESEARCHES ABUSE**

The Ardsley SAYF Coalition is entering year four of our Drug Free Communities Grant, and we thank our fiscal agent, the Village of Ardsley for their continued support. We offer our congratulations and best wishes to our outgoing Village Manager, George Calvi on his retirement. Mr. Calvi has been a strong supporter of the SAYF Coalition, served as the Project Director, and has worked hard on our behalf. We also thank our Village Treasurer, Marion DeMaio. Both Mr. Calvi and Ms. DeMaio are entitled to receive a stipend for their administrative work on behalf of the coalition, however both have chosen to have the funds reimbursed to the Village of Ardsley. We also welcome Ms. Meredith Robson as our new Village Manager and Project Director for the Ardsley SAYF Coalition. We are looking forward to working with her in our efforts to prevent and reduce substance use among our teens.

Now on to our prevention news. Parents, are you aware of how many places there are in Ardsley to purchase alcohol? Within Ardsley there are nine restaurants that serve alcohol, two bar/restaurants, 11 stores where you can purchase alcohol to be consumed some place

other than the store where it was purchased, and two liquor stores. There are six stores where cigarettes can be purchased, three stores that sell rolling papers, six stores where energy drinks are available for sale, two stores that sell highly infused caffeinated gum, six stores that sell portable hookahs and one store that sells marijuana paraphernalia. On top of that, when our teens walk around Ardsley they are exposed to signage pertaining to the marketing of alcohol, cigarettes and energy drinks.

All of these products are legal to be sold based on the age of the purchaser. So you ask, what is the purpose of letting you know about these items if they are sold legally? Research shows that the more available these substances are the more likely youth are to use them. That is why it is so important for you to continue to have the discussion with your children about the dangers associated with the above items.

Our children are exposed to these items not just through the media, in movies and television, but innocently walking through our Village. As the holidays approach, there will be more advertisements for alcoholic beverages, more opportunity to witness drinking, and therefore more opportunities to talk to your children. -- Theresa Del Grosso, SAYF Coalition Coordinator

## **CHIMNEY FIRE SAFETY**

With the cold winter months ahead, keep in mind that chimneys are one of the leading locations of residential structure fires. A chimney fire can be caused by various different reasons; a dirty, blocked or one in disrepair, can inhibit smoke up the chimney and lead to a chimney fire, or carbon monoxide poisoning.

Having a qualified chimney sweep perform an annual inspection/cleaning can help to prevent a fire or carbon monoxide issue. Ensure that a chimney cap is installed, and following a storm, earthquake flood or lightning strike, have your chimney inspected.

Whenever using your fireplace burn only well-seasoned hardwood. Make sure that not only smoke detectors are installed and operational, but also that carbon monoxide detectors are in place.

Paying attention to these guidelines will help to insure that a chimney fire can be prevented, and remember that in case of any emergency, dial 911.

Lastly I would like to thank George Calvi for providing this Village with exceptional service to the Village of Ardsley as Village Manager for the past 24 years and I wish him the best. -- Fire Stephen Kaskawits

## **FIRST ANNUAL BATTLE OF THE BOOKS**

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the participants in Westchester County's First Annual Battle of the Books! We had 2 teams entered in the competition. Our 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade team led by Marianne Ripin came in 2<sup>nd</sup> Place! Members of the 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade Ardsley Literary Lions were: Aaron Bradford, Alex Lalli, Maxine Tjaden, Liam Amouzou, Sedna Gandhi and Ronin Gandhi. Our 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade team led by Peggy Mechmann came in 4<sup>th</sup> Place! Members of the 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade Ardsley Literary Lions were: Rachel Chan, Dhara Marfatia, Alexandra Rivera, Anna Schneiderman and Nell Sirotin. It was quite inspiring watching these two teams answer a minimum of 100 questions on five age appropriate, complex books. Their poise, graciousness and kindness to those they were battling were equally impressive to the wealth of knowledge they exhibited about the subject matter. The Ardsley community can be proud of its representation in this event!!

On a personal note: Where have the last 24 years gone? The first time I met George Calvi was as a community Girl Scout leader picking up keys at the Police Department. The new Village Manager came over to introduce himself and say hi! Who knew that 2 years later I would begin working at

the Library and we would forge a relationship merging work, respect and a bit of shared ethnicity! Our conversations were always direct, professional, informative and usually fair – even when he disagreed; I always knew he was seriously considering my point of view. Through these 22 years I have learned a lot from George and he has been an important influence in my professional life – even if I never did open a Starbucks in the Library! I want to speak not only for myself but for the rest of the Village residents who won't have this chance. Thank you. You took care of the business of running this Village with a level hand, a great smile and often with heroic patience. We wish you well. You Did Good!!! *Mi mancherai un sacco!* - Angela Groth, Library Director

### **ARDSLEY'S BUSY GARDEN CLUB**

It has been a busy season for the Garden Club. The Oktoberfest fund raiser dinner was held to benefit the Ardsley Beautification Fund. In early December the members will gather to decorate holiday wreaths for village buildings, Children's Village in Dobbs Ferry, and nearby veteran hospitals. A special holiday wreath project will be held at the Community Center for Senior Citizens. We are planning the coming year's agenda that will be filled with programs in gardening, floral

design, and our annual flower show in May. If you are interested in our club and community work, come join us at our monthly meetings. For information call 914 693-4206 or 693-6840 - Arline Weston, former President

### **ASVAC: 52 YEARS OF COMMUNITY RESPONSE**

Ardsley Secor Volunteer Ambulance Corps (ASVAC), has been responding to 911 medical emergencies in the Village of Ardsley and the Ardsley school district for over 52 years. ASVAC provides Basic Life Support transport, and with the assistance of the Greenburgh Police Department NYS Paramedics will provide Advance Life Support transport to area hospitals. ASVAC also serves as a training facility to its 60 members, including 20 NYS certified Emergency Medical Technicians, and 24 College and High School members.

ASVAC training facilities are made available to the community offering First Aide and CPR classes twice a month; large groups are accommodated as well with advance notice. As an all volunteer agency we are always looking for new members and donations; they are critical to our success. Applications, CPR class enrollment and donations can all be made on line at [www.asvac.org](http://www.asvac.org). Our goal is to make our community, state, and country a safer place. -- Captain Jerry Bedingfield

### **VILLAGE TAX BILLS DUE DECEMBER 31**

The second installment of the Village tax bill becomes payable on December 1 and can be paid without penalty until the end of the business day on Wednesday, December 31. Though the other administrative offices will be closing at 12 noon that day in observance of New Year's Eve, **the Office of the Village Treasurer shall remain open until 4:00 pm to receive payments.** Payments made in person after December 31, or that arrive via mail postmarked by the USPS after December 31, or arrive after December 31 without a USPS postmark, will be assessed a late penalty as required by New York State Real Property law. Meter-mailed postmarks are not valid proof of timely payment. Please bear in mind that no Village official is empowered to waive the late fee for any reason. -- Marion DeMaio, Village Treasurer

### **A FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM ONE OF OUR TRUSTEES**

On the occasion of your retirement, I want to give you [George Calvi] my thanks for the years of leadership that you have given our village. You have made us a better village through your gifts of wisdom, humor, fairness and control. Many people have told me that you have been the best manager this Village has ever known. You have helped every one of

us, and you have touched all of us deeply. I cannot thank you enough for the hard work you have put in, and the guidance that you have given me personally. I wish you all the best for your retirement years. -- Andy DiJusto, Village Trustee

### **DOGGONE DAYS**

It may often be said that a man's, woman's, or child's best friend is his/her canine. However, as in the case of human behavior, there are laws in Ardsley that apply to dog demeanor. A brief, but not all-inclusive summary follows.

Perhaps most famous among such ordinances is Ardsley's pooper-scooper law, if you will excuse the expression. Labeled, "Nuisances," it prohibits allowing one's dog to soil certain common areas and also requires persons to clean up after their dog. Anyone requiring something more explicit should consult Village Code Section 90-10 or the dictionary.

Of course, like every driver, New York State requires that every dog must have a license. That mandate is found in NYS Agricultural & Markets Law Sec. 109. But, it is the Town of Greenburgh, not the State DMV or Village of Ardsley that issues annual dog licenses.

"Running at large," in Village Code Sec. 90-9, is applicable equally to small, medium or large size dogs. When off the

premises of the owner or the dog sitter, the canine must be on a leash, chain, rope, etc. that may not exceed six feet, including the hand grip. An adequate collar must be attached in order to avoid being collared by the police. Owners who violate will come face to face with a fine.

Most serious of all canine laws are the "Dangerous Dogs" provisions contained in NYS Agri & Mkts Sec. 123, which--upon a complaint by the police or by a private citizen who has been attacked or whose companion animal has been attacked by another dog, or who has witnessed such attack upon a child or adult--authorize a local court to make a determination whether a dog is a "dangerous dog." If so satisfied, the Court has broad power to order the dog to be neutered, evaluated by a certified animal behaviorist, confined to protect the public, or, in the most serious circumstances, euthanized.

Of course, before any legal determinations may be made in any of these situations, the dog is entitled to have its day in court. While the Village Court has handled every type of doggone case over the years, as yet no one has requested bringing their dog, small, medium or large, into the courtroom. -- Walter Schwartz, Ardsley Village Justice

### **NEWS FROM THE LWV**

The League of Women Voters of the Rivertowns is studying "Poverty" in this area. If anybody has special information on the various forms of poverty, and its effects on people - Health etc. - services, food facilities e.g. food pantries, food stamps, .... please contact me - Christine Verber, - 914-693-9054. I am the LWVR Ardsley representative. LWVR includes Dobbs Ferry, Hastings, Irvington, Tarrytown, and Croton. We are happy to have new LWVR members [your dues make you a member of the LWV nationally, statewide and locally!]. We invite men as well as women, young and elderly. We have several committees - environment, voter services, "Voter Guides", advocacy, health, PR, membership, and we have a "trial" membership for those who can help with committees! We also have a Book Club meeting at the Tarrytown Library at 7pm once a month on a Monday. All are welcome. -- Christine Verber.

### **ELECTIONS RESULTS**

Congratulations to Village Justice Walter Schwartz, Trustee Nancy Kaboolian, and Trustee Gary Malone upon their re-election on November 4. All three will commence new terms on December 1, 2014 which coincides with the Village's annual Reorganization Meeting. -- George Calvi, VM

## THANK YOU

In 1946 Sam Goldwyn released a wonderful film called "The Best Years of Our Lives." The drama received seven Academy Awards including Best Picture, and had absolutely nothing to do with me. Its title however pretty much sums up the last 24.5 years of my life spent with you as your Village Manager. Little did this fellow know back in 1990, he would be spending nearly a quarter of century dealing with the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of this one square mile community.

In a sense 1990 was a relatively quiet time in the Village, and much was still done with pencil and pen. The Village Treasurer and the Village Clerk would break the ir routine each day at 10:00 am, and prepare tea and scones for themselves and anyone who happened to stumble into the offices. Computers had not arrived yet, nor had postage machines, fax machines, copy machines with collators, or even smoke detectors, but we did have an Addressograph! Construction was slow. If my memory serves me correctly, a grand total of 5 building permits were issued that year. The fleet of vehicles were ancient, but not as ancient as our Village Hall whose attic and walls were shelter to many squirrels, bats, and other furry fauna, with heaving floors, a failing HVAC system, and non-functioning windows. The timbers in the basement were

still scarred black from an oil fire in the 1970s, and one of my first assignments was to secure a firm to install metal reinforcements so the floors wouldn't collapse. My second assignment was to get a bond issue to cover the cost of introducing computers to the workforce. My third assignment was to determine how to address the trout who had taken up residence in the Village Green parking lot -- a very long story unto itself. The Village Board was embroiled in a debate with the local merchants about the costly retro-fitting of fire sprinklers in the various storefronts, and much in the way of midnight oil was burnt as this routine stretched on for months and months.

Roll the cameras forward to 2014. To the casual observer not much has changed, but the landscape has changed, and the changes have been vast. The ancient Village Hall was finally demolished and a new modern facility was erected in 1998. A new fire house arrived a few short years later. The reconstruction of Ashford Avenue, first conceived by my predecessor, Tim Itoni, in 1989, was finally completed in 2001. The library endured not one but two expansions thanks to the generosity of the Carvel Foundation and a joint services contract with the Village of Elmsford. The 1960s vintage ASVAC building was demolished, and thanks to the cooperation of the NYC DEP, a

new modular building arrived in the last decade. The Jordan property was subdivided, and Jordan Lane came to be with its several beautiful homes. With the guidance of Little League and Mayor Leon the parking lot was paved in McDowell Park, a new restrooms facility arrived, and 4 ball fields were restored. Pascone Park has its skatepark thanks to Lorraine Kuhn, and a gazebo thanks to Cheryl Mathew. Milton Pintell subdivided his property and The Woodlands and the nearby beautiful homes on Sylvia Avenue came to be. Bridge Street was revived with the arrival of new or remodeled buildings occupied by Doctors United, Riviera Bakehouse, Bucci Auto, and Stagioni. Lou Cillo built a beautiful office building on the south side of the Village, and Maurice Hyacinthe and the DeCicco Brothers revitalized a shopping center in the heart of the Village. Mayor Leon secured a large state grant, and, with the aid of Don Marra, we now have sidewalks we can be proud of on Heatherdell Road, at least between Farm Road and Town Park.

And the changes will continue. Although the plans are in place, I leave a Village Board and a very talented new Village Manager who will be faced with the tasks of contending with the reconstruction of the Ashford Avenue bridge, the widening of Route 9A, the dedication of the affordable housing project on the former Waterwheel site, and whatever traffic is generated

**VILLAGE OF ARDSLEY  
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**MAYOR PETER R. PORCINO  
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TRUSTEE NANCY KABOOLIAN  
TRUSTEE ANDY DIJUSTO  
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NEW VM MEREDITH ROBSON  
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GEORGE CALVI**

during the construction of Rivertowns Square. I have full confidence they will perform their tasks admirably as did the five mayoral administrations before them.

Often I hear people say they moved here for the schools, and though the schools dearly deserve their fine reputation, I dare say that is only part of the equation. Ardsley has always been very fortunate with the people who reside here. The volunteer spirit in this community has always been alive and well, and continues to thrive even in this era of dual income households. The residents stay in tune with what their local government is up to whether it be via newsletter, local newspaper, television, the

## **OR CURRENT RESIDENT**

Internet, over the fence gossiping with a neighbor, or showing up unannounced at the front counter of Village Hall. No matter the mode of communication, the important thing to take away is that the people of Ardsley care about what happens in their community, they really do care, and as a local municipal administrator I really cannot ask for more than that. And so, from the bottom of my heart I thank you all for letting me be part of your lives these last few decades! -- George Calvi, Village Manager

## **GENERATORS**

With winter approaching the building department is receiving many inquiries regarding the installation of generators. There

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are two main types of generators available, portable generators and standby generators. Permits are required to install both types of generators, but this article will focus on standby generators.

Standby generators are installed outside next to the house. They are usually connected to the natural gas supply or propane tanks. Through the use of an automatic transfer switch, standby generators turn on automatically, usually within 30 seconds of a power interruption. If sized correctly, a standby generator can power an entire house. A Generator Permit is required for the installation of all standby generators. Several inspections must be performed before the standby generator can be put into service. Detailed instructions for the permit are available on the Village website. -- Larry Tomasso, BI