

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 style="text-align: center;">A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR</p> <p>The Village Board passed its 2012/2013 budget on April 30. Spending increased by 3.8% over the previous year, but because our tax base has continued to decline, the tax rate will increase by 4.64%. The average homeowner's tax bill will increase by \$207.72 this year.</p> <p>The increase was approximately \$375,000 over current year spending. By far the largest element in this increase was State-mandated payments into the pension fund for our workers. Despite the overall health of the State pension fund, the State Comptroller has sought to achieve full funding. Ardsley's contribution to the pension fund this year increased by \$185,000. That represents just about half of our entire spending increase. We also saw a \$30,000 increase in the hydrant fees paid to United Water which was the result of a decision by the State's Public Service Commission to permit large increases over the objections of the local municipalities. We also made commitments to increase capital expenditures to replace aging equipment, maintain our roads and keep up our facilities.</p> <p>After seeing our tax base increase year after year, the base started declining in recent years. That means that our taxes will increase even if spending does not. The decline in the tax base has been caused in part by the decline in market values and by the lack of any significant development in the Village; but it also has been caused by the numerous tax challenges filed by businesses and homeowners. The</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">***** VILLAGE TAXES DUE, MONDAY, JULY 2, 2012</p> <p>The first installment of the Village tax bill, will be mailed to all property owners in late May, and is due by the end of the business day on Monday, July 2, 2012.</p> <p>Mailed payments postmarked Tuesday, July 3, 2012 and beyond, and payments made in person on July 3 and beyond at Village Hall will be assessed a penalty as prescribed by New York State law. No one can waive the penalty. Bear in mind only a bona fide U.S.P.S. postmark evidences timeliness.</p> <p>Should you have any questions, please contact Village Treasurer Marion DeMaio, or Dipika Patel at 693-1550. – George Calvi, Village Manager *****</p> <p>State has finally increased the assessment rate in the past two years, and we should see a stabilization in the tax rate as a result. Adding to the tax pressures is the fact that we have not been able to budget increases in anticipated revenues from other revenue sources due to the soft economy.</p> <p>As most of you have heard, the State passed a law restricting increases in</p>	<p>the annual tax levy to 2%. The tax levy is the amount we collect in taxes, and equals the difference between our total expenditures and income from sources other than real estate taxes. It is not the same thing as the tax rate. The Village Board decided to override the tax levy limitation for several reasons: first, the State has increased mandated expenditures by far more than 2%; second, the Village has needs, primarily in maintaining its infrastructure and equipment, that the Board believes should be made by the Village, and not by the State, and third, the cap can be inadvertently exceeded with significant consequences to the Village. Despite all that, using the State's methods of calculating the tax levy increase, with allowance for certain exclusions, the Village tax levy increased by 3.1%, which I am pleased to say is not all that much higher than the State limit of 2%. Ironically, if we were to eliminate the increase in State-mandated pension contributions, our spending increase would have been less than the State's 2% cap.</p> <p>It is always important to remember what our Village taxes pay for. The Village provides police and fire protection, picks up the garbage and maintains the roads, parks and buildings, and even though it was a mercifully mild winter, we all know how great a job the DPW does in snow removal and storm clean up. We pay for the Village Court, the Building Department, the Clerk and the Village Manager's office, providing responsive government to our citizens, and responding to our citizens' complaints and concerns. We have</p>

our highly regarded library, and our recreation department and our senior programs offer numerous programs to our youth and senior citizens. We support the Youth Advocate program and provide services and logistical support to the School District. And we support the many volunteer groups in the Village with funds, facilities and programs. It is a vast array of services, performed at the highest levels of professionalism with a limited staff. I am personally thankful for the commitment of our staff and employees who make the Village such a wonderful place to live. Should you have any question, please contact me at mayorporcino@ardsleyvillage.com or Village Manager George Calvi managercalvi@ardsleyvillage.com. My best wishes for a happy, healthy, and safe summer!

Peter Porcino

Peter Porcino
Mayor

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

The American Legion, Post #458, cordially invites you to participate in its Memorial Day ceremony and parade to be held on Monday, May 28, 2012. The parade will assemble at 9:30 am on Park Avenue at Ashford. The parade will step off at 10:00 am sharp, and will proceed east on Ashford to Pascone Park near the Middle School. At the conclusion of services, refreshments will be served. In case of rain, the ceremony will be held at the firehouse at 10:00 am.

*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)*

In the weeks before Memorial Day, please keep an eye out for some of our war veterans selling poppies which are a memorial to those who made the

ultimate sacrifice. Lastly, if you have a convertible car and would like to drive a Veteran in the parade, please call 693-3943. – Veterans of American Legion Post 458

SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAMS OFF TO A QUICK START

Our Parks & Recreation Department is all geared up for summer! Mini-wee soccer is already running on Sundays, and tennis clinics are full for Saturdays and Sundays. The Lil Cooks program is cooking up a storm on Fridays, the chess players are busy on Tuesday, the skateboarding program is taking place on Wednesdays, and the Men's softball league is underway Monday through Thursday at Pascone Park and Gould Park!

On July 9, the five week basketball program commences at Gould Park in Dobbs Ferry, and the first concert in the park takes off on July 13 with The Stella Blue's Band at Pascone Park from 7-9 pm.! To join the fun, call the Community Center at 693-8012. -- Trish Lacy, Parks & Recreation Supervisor

FRANK ADDYMAN MEMORIAL PLAQUE REDEDICATED

Frank Addyman, the fourth President of the Village of Ardsley (1923-1927) and our second Mayor (1931-1934) died in office on May 14, 1934, just a few days after he had a 20-minute conversation with President Franklin Roosevelt over a local sewer project. He was given a military funeral procession along Ashford Avenue and 12 months later, in his honor a large bronze tablet was installed upon the facade of the old Municipal Building in the presence of 500 school children and all civic leaders. That gives you an idea of how important and beloved he was. The plaque reads, in part, "**May the memory of his devotion to duty ever be our inspiration. This tablet is erected by his fellow citizens in token of their lasting affection.**" For more than 70 years,

until the old building was razed to make room for the new Fire Department building, the tablet, which includes Addyman's profile, stood as a beacon throughout all weather conditions. Now it is being restored so that it will regain its rightful place facing Ashford Avenue in front of the Village Hall. Mayor Addyman was a Major in World War I, Commander of the American Legion, President of the Ardsley Hose Company, a local businessman and founder of the local bank, and a nationally recognized dog show judge. The Herald Statesman acknowledged his accomplishments by describing him as "an earnest advocate of non-partisan government," leaving behind "a host of sincere friends who admired all those enviable qualities that go to make the real leader, and a splendid record of achievement. – Walter Schwartz, Village Justice

Editor's Note: On May 20th, a rededication of his restored plaque was held in front of Village Hall in the presence of various Village officials

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE RIVERTOWNS

If you are interested in becoming a member or a board member, we would love to hear from you. We mail a great newsletter to members on a regular basis. It is easier for us if you join LWV through us, then we pay your national, state and county dues. Individual membership is \$60/year, households are \$90/year. Donations to the Educational Fund or "in memory of" are gratefully accepted. For information, please email inquiries to us at selwyn@gmail.com – Dr. Christine Verber

UPDATE ON PV SOLAR PROJECT – FIRE HOUSE

A 25kW PV solar array will be installed this spring on the Ardsley Firehouse. This will be the first PV solar installation on a village owned building but the third PV solar installation in the village; there are 2

existing installations, a business and a residential PV solar array. The Board of Trustees approved the bid award to Solar Liberty of Buffalo, New York at a special board meeting on April 30th. A project like this requires a team effort and I want to thank the following individuals for their help in getting us this far: Fire Chief Mark Florkowski for hosting the potential bidders for their pre-bid inspection of the firehouse; Building Inspector Larry Tomasso for assisting with the review of the technical specs for the bid; Village Clerk Barbara Berardi for managing the bid documents, and Village Manager George Calvi, who since January 2010 has guided this process and without whose leadership and support, none of this would have happened. - Susan Porcino

ARREST MADE

Over the past two weeks there have been a number of reported burglaries in Ardsley and the surrounding towns and villages. At this time I am happy to report that an arrest has been made which links the suspects to at least two of those committed in our village. Generally these arrests are made by information provided by someone who resides in the neighborhood who calls the police when they see suspicious activity. Our residents are truly the eyes and ears of the police department. Please help to keep our community safe by watching out. – Emil Califano

HIDDEN WATERS

Thank you to Ms. Zucchetto and Principal Holland for another successful Concord Road Enviroscape program. This current group of 4th graders learned all about how Non-point Source (NPS) Pollution gets into our water from washing over everywhere.

Introductory question is, “What are Ardsley’s water bodies?”, and the answer always takes a while. Of course, they are the Saw Mill River (SMR) and the Sprain Brook – both worth a visit. Best access for the SMR

is the center section of Macy Park. Sprain Brook can be observed on the east side of Pascone Park. Thanks go to Ardsley Highway for cleaning up the stream bank on the north end of the park. Go visit and enjoy the surprise of finding fish and turtles in these waters.

Most of us only think of these water bodies when they overflow. Now, under the County SW Management Law enacted in 2011, Ardsley is a member of two Basin-wide groups, SMR WAB and Bx River WAB (Watershed Advisory Board). Each of these will help the County to formulate a Reconnaissance Plan to address water quantity and quality issues. We need your help. Please gather photos and accounts about flooding and other river related matters, and kindly send this info to stormwater@ardsleyvillage.com.

Finally, thanks to AHS Environmental Science Club and advisor Dan Barnett for our 2nd Annual Eco Car Wash. See http://www.ardsleyvillage.com/stormwater_brwi.html for a glance at our entire SW project. Happy Spring & Clean Water! – Lorraine Kuhn

YOUTH ADVOCATE PROGRAM

Allison Mastrogiacomio, licensed master social worker, is available to our 7th -12th graders for substance prevention and early intervention services. If a teen is having difficulty with peers, school or family, feeling stressed or has something on their mind they would like to talk about, Allison is available to speak with them at the Community Center by appointment. Counseling services are free and confidential. She can be reached at 674-4845 or mastroga@ardsleyschools.org.

The Youth Advocate program is a social, recreational and educational resource for the Ardsley community. It offers activities and services for 7th -12th graders who live in Ardsley, including those who attend school out

of district. The program has two Youth Advisory Boards, one for middle school and one for high school. The middle school Youth Advisory Board meets during school once a month to plan activities such as dances, ping pong tournaments and Movie Nights. The high school Youth Advisory Board meets once a month at the high school to also plan activities of interest to teens such as Band Nights, barbeques and talent shows. This is a great leadership opportunity for Ardsley youth.

Don't miss the **High School Open Mic Night** in Louis M. Pascone Park Friday, May 18th at 7:00PM! Rain or Shine! (Sponsored by the Youth Advocate, Youth Officer and the HS Key Club) Teachers, parents and students are welcome to perform. **Middle School Open Mic Night** in Louis M. Pascone Park will be Friday June 8th at 6:30PM! Rain or Shine! If it rains on either of these dates, the event will be held in the middle school auditorium. – Allison Mastrogiacomio

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR VILLAGE CLERK

On May 31, 2012 the annual parking permit for the Bridge Street/Village Green parking lots will expire. Please stop by Ardsley Village Hall after May 28, 2012 to purchase a new permit. I would also like to thank all the Ardsley Seniors for inviting me to speak at the Community Center on April 25th. It was such a pleasure seeing all of you, again! -- Barbara Berardi, Village Clerk

GRIEVANCE DEADLINE RAPIDLY APPROACHING

Residents are reminded that the Village of Ardsley no longer handles property tax grievances. However, the deadline to file with the Town of Greenburgh Assessor's Office for Village, Town, School, and County assessments is rapidly approaching. You can file as early as June 1, but no later than June 18, in person or by mail. Should you have any questions,

please telephone Edey McCarthy, or her staff, at 993-1520. – George F. Calvi, Village Manager

SAYF COALITION REPORTS!

The Ardsley SAYF Coalition recently partnered with the police and completed compliance checks of local establishments that either sell or serve alcohol to ensure that they were not selling to minors, helped to organize two drug/alcohol free High School dances, and represented ourselves in Washington D.C. by attending the CADCA National Leadership/Capitol Hill Day event. We also had two successful Prescription Drug Give Back Days, and held a town hall meeting for parents and teens on the law, alcohol, and drugs. A new format for our town hall meeting was used where High School students were asked to act out scenarios that they may be faced with, and then had follow up questions pertaining to the scenarios posed to our panel of experts. We felt this was a successful format, and plan to repeat this next year. A big thank you to High School student/actors Trey Davis, Alyssa Cohen, Maria Gallagher, Oren Barkow, Nick Beldoch, Zoe Solomon,

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and Emily Greenwald We are currently running our Graduation Balloon Fundraiser; this is a nice way for the community can acknowledge the accomplishments of all our graduating classes. For more information about this event and to obtain an order form, please visit the Village's website.

The SAYF Coalition is here to help. We are very fortunate to have members who are experts in their field. They are a resource to our community. If you know of a neighbor or family member who is in need of help, please don't hesitate to reach out to them: **Ellen Morehouse** LCSW, CASAC, CPP; Executive Director of Student Assistance Services Corporation; **Ross Fishman** Ph.D, a New York State certified psychologist, director of Innovative Health Systems; **Allison Mastrogiacomo** LMSW, Middle School Student Assistance Counselor and Village Youth Advocate for students in 7th to 12th grades; **Monique Johnson** LCSW, Ardsley High School Social Worker for over 11 years; and **Tony Vacca**, Ardsley Youth Police Officer. There are also many other community

members who volunteer their time to the coalition, and they are: Dr. Jim Haubner, Patty Bova, Sylvia O'Hagen, Andrea Fallick, Rob Bernstein, Rachel Ahn, T.J. Knoesel, and liaison to the Village Board, Trustee Nicole Minore. Please feel free to reach out to any of our coalition members with your questions or concerns. With the summer coming I would like to remind everyone that the Village has a party buster hot line where you can call in anonymously to report an illicit house party. You can reach the party buster hot line at 693-5666. Let's all work together to keep our teens SAYF! – Theresa Del Grosso, Coordinator

BUILDING SAFETY MONTH

The building inspector would like to remind everyone that May is Building Safety Month. There is a different area of focus for each week of the month. Week one is energy conservation and green buildings. Week two is disaster safety and mitigation. Week three is fire safety awareness, and week four is backyard safety. Information and brochures are available on the International Codes Council website at www.iccsafe.org/eNews. -- Larry Tomasso, Building Inspector

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“Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man’s character, give him power” – Abraham Lincoln