

# 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>	For emergencies, always dial 911
<p><b>MAYORAL MESSAGE</b></p> <p>As we put the hot and sticky summer of 2012 behind us, we can be thankful that none of the extreme weather events that plagued the country hit our area. That does not mean we should drop our guard. We need to be prepared for emergencies, both at home and in the Village. You should have emergency kits and plans for escape. You can get emergency tips from Con Ed and from our fire and police departments.</p> <p>There has been a great deal of activity in town this summer. Later in the newsletter our rec director Trish Lacy will report on the Community Center renovations, now almost complete. And you will see a report on the completion of the solar panel installation at the firehouse.</p> <p><b><u>Sanitation schedule changes are under consideration:</u></b> Before moving on to other recent news, I wanted to make sure everyone is aware that we are considering changes to our sanitation schedules, with the goal of increasing our recycling collections. We will be inviting public comments at our</p>	<p>*****</p>  <p><b>MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!</b></p> <p><b>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14</b></p> <p><b>SEE DETAILS INSIDE</b></p> <p>Tuesday, September 18 Board meeting. The advantages of increased recycling are many: dollars saved, more frequent recycling pick-up, regular days for paper and metal/glass/plastic recycling pickup each week, reduced weight of bins for the</p>	<p>benefit of our men, more time devoted to public works projects and reduction in the amount of garbage in the waste stream. Please come to the meeting, or be prepared to call in (693-6202), and share your views. And now for other news:</p> <p><b><u>Robbery suspects arrested:</u></b> Five people have been arrested in the home robbery on Bramble Brook Road last April 23. While it would not be appropriate to comment on a pending criminal matter, the suspects did know the victims, and this was not a random home invasion. The Police Department, and especially our detectives, working together with other law enforcement agencies, worked hard to solve this serious crime and did a great job; we thank them for their efforts.</p> <p><b><u>Ashford Avenue Bridge repairs:</u></b> as I am sure you are all aware, we had another incident of falling debris from the Ashford Avenue Bridge on June 22, this time shutting down the New York State Thruway for several hours. We have been meeting with the County, pressing them to speed up temporary repairs and pushing</p>

for more modern improvements to the Bridge when the rehabilitation takes place sometime in the next two or three years. Unfortunately, the costs of a truly upgraded bridge present the biggest hurdle. We continue to push for real improvements that will help alleviate our traffic bottlenecks. I want to thank County Legislator Mary Jane Shimsky, Trustee Beverly Levine, Frank Doherty and the rest of the Traffic Committee for their time, ideas and strong advocacy for the needs of the Village.

**New businesses:** We are all concerned about the number of empty storefronts, but good news is on the way as a number of businesses have opened or are getting ready to open. We have two new restaurants: **Downtown**, serving Greek American cuisine, and **The Italian Kitchen**, opened by celebrity chef and neighbor, Shea Gallante. Staying on the food theme, we have a new market, **Ardasley Market and Deli**, in the old Bavarian Beverage space, **Good to Go Deli** has re-opened under new management, and **Yogurt by You** in the Village Green. We also welcome **SpinCredible**, a fitness site in the RSA building, and a veterinarian's office opening in the Village Green. Finally, **House of Sports** is preparing to open its field house and sports facility on Elm Street in a few short weeks.

**Waterwheel Update:** We expect Westchester County to

finally approve funding for the Affordable Housing/Workforce Housing project on the old Waterwheel Restaurant site on 9A, and we can then finally move on to the development phase. The developer has obtained the necessary approvals from our land use boards, and the finished project should be a welcome addition to the Village.

**Route 9A Widening Update:**

The construction plans for the widening of 9A through the downtown stretch [Ashford to Heatherdell] are going through re-workings and should be finished in another few weeks. The plans then have to go through final approvals from the State Department of Transportation, so we are still several months away from the start of construction.

As the fall season starts up and we resume our regular semi-monthly Board meetings, I encourage you to tell us what is on your minds. Let us know if you have problems we can help with or if you have complaints about any of the services we provide. If you have suggestions for improving life in the Village, we want to hear from you. Enjoy the fall weather, and let's keep in touch.

*Peter R. Porcino*

Peter R. Porcino  
Mayor

**THINGS ARE  
HAPPENING WITH  
ARDSLEY RECREATION**

The Tennis Clinic will start the weekend of Sept 22 and 23, at Pascone Park and will run for six weeks. Red Bull Mini-wee Soccer will also start September 23, at Pascone Park. In the Community Center, Chess will run on Tuesdays starting September 25th with beginner and advanced classes. Skate park lessons are planned for Wednesdays starting October 3 for six weeks. The annual Garage Sale is set for October 13th with a rain date for October 20<sup>th</sup>. The Lil Cooks program will operate on Fridays starting September 28th, and the Hallowe'en Festival will take place on Saturday October 27th at the Community Center. Ardsley Day is set for Sunday October 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be a defensive driving course offered for November 14 and 15 at the Community Center. Youth and Adult basketball starts in late November. Youth Advocate Alison Mastrogiacomo will be running a Red Cross Babysitting course at the Community Center for 12 - 16 yr olds with time and dates to be announced! The Community Center is located at 18 Center Street. Anyone seeking information and applications may contact the Parks & Recreation Supervisor at 693-8012 or at ardsleyrec@optonline.net. – Trish Lacy, Recreation Supervisor

**STORMWATER UPDATE:  
“STORMWATER SOCIAL  
MEDIA?”**

Village of Ardsley Stormwater Management is now on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Village-of-Ardsley-Stormwater-Management/340082942735285>

Check out our “Hall of Fame Drains” photo album of pulled-up downspouts that drain to porous areas - less driveway grease running into our water bodies. Stop by and become a “Friend”. Ardsley Day is coming up soon. We will reprise our popular biodegradable pet bio-baggie giveaway. Keep up the good work keeping that “poo” out of our water. It’s fall and still a great time to do some gardening. You can plant tulip and daffodil bulbs all the way until December if the ground doesn’t freeze. Just put them in the ground in a bunch and cover with soil and mulch. Maybe start a new bed and reduce your amount of high maintenance lawn area? Seeing these beautiful flowers pop up in the spring is so cheerful, and now you’ll have a spot to start a perennial garden. Try some rudbeckia or echinacea flowers, when the tulips and daffodils are done. Perennial gardens are a perfect way to help reduce garden chemicals and water use. Thanks for taking good care of our waterways! – Lorraine Kuhn, Storm Water Assistant

**SAYF COALITION:  
BUSY AS EVER**

Greetings from the Ardsley SAYF coalition, a committee dedicated to providing youth with educational programs and support pertaining to underage drinking and substance use. We are proud to report we received approval for year two of our five year grant and had a positive site visit from our federal Grant Manager Angela Richardson, who evaluated what we are doing to help educate and safeguard Ardsley youth from underage drinking and substance use.

We have had a busy spring! Last May, we held a Town Hall Meeting bringing together a panel of experts to answer questions pertaining to social hosting laws, underage drinking and substance abuse. We tried a new format by asking student volunteers to perform skits to introduce questions. We plan to hold another panel next year using the same format. In June, the coalition mailed out a prom safety brochure to parents. The brochure was designed to be shared with teens as a way for parents to discuss drug and alcohol related issues associated with prom night. Lastly, we wish to thank the community for their support of our graduation balloon fundraiser which raised over \$900.00.

Please save the date of October 23rd, 2012 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the High School Auditorium for a SAYF

coalition presentation of the latest results from an Ardsley High School student survey on drug and alcohol use (conducted November 2011) as well as an important and powerful presentation by Jeffrey Veatch. The student survey data reveals both good and bad news about drug and alcohol use and related attitudes in our community. After the data is presented, Mr. Jeffrey Veatch, the father of a student who had a problem with drugs, will speak to the audience about his son’s situation, and how his son had none of the usual risk factors associated with drug use. He will also give a presentation to the students at Ardsley High School the following day and encourage them to get help for friends who may be having problems with alcohol and other drugs. We hope that you will come out and hear what he has to say and use this as an opportunity to discuss the issue of drug and alcohol abuse with your own children.

Also in October, the SAYF Coalition will sponsor TIPS training (Training for Intervention Procedures) free of charge to Ardsley businesses that serve alcohol on premise. This specialized training is designed to help restaurant employees identify intoxicated or underage customers. We are very excited and proud of our Ardsley students who worked so hard to create our coalition’s first Public Service Announcement. To see the PSA

you can visit our website at [www.ardsleycoalition.com](http://www.ardsleycoalition.com).

Please visit our website often for frequent updates on alcohol and drug safety related information and tips we offer as a resource for Ardsley families. -- Theresa De Grosso – SAYF Coordinator

\*\*\*\*\*

### **ARDSLEY DAY RETURNS OCTOBER 14!**

Join the community once again as we celebrate Ardsley. There will be plenty of activities for all ages, live music, vendors and participation from all of our wonderful community groups.

Don't miss our new restaurant tastings and our second annual Apple Pie Contest - more information to come if you are interested in submitting a pie!

A special thank-you to our sponsors that make this day a possibility – please support them for giving back:

**Thomas and Agnes Carvel  
Foundation**

**Rivertowns United FC  
(AYSO)**

**Ardsley Little League**

**Ardsley PBA**

**Ardsley Volunteer Fire  
Department**

**Ardsley PTA**

### **Ardsley Shell**

### **Robert Jacobson Sports**

### **Monte Press**

Take a tour of the renovated community center, see your neighbors, and meet your local businesses! For more details, please reach out to [nicoleminore@gmail.com](mailto:nicoleminore@gmail.com). – Nicole Minore

\*\*\*\*\*

### **CAR SEAT INSTALLATION AVAILABLE**

Are you in need of a child seat? Grandchildren visiting in the near future? If so, please consider telephoning Community Policing Officer Anthony Vacca who is happy to install your child car seat appropriately. He may even have a free child car seat available for the asking! Officer Vacca may be reached at 693-1700 x104. – George Calvi, VM

\*\*\*\*\*

### **CALLING ALL VETERANS!**

Veterans are invited to the annual veterans appreciation barbeque to be held on Thursday evening, September 27 at 5:00 pm at Anthony Veteran Park, 11 Olympic Lane, Ardsley. The event will begin at 5:00 pm and end by 8:00 pm. As usual there will be delicious food donated by area restaurants and businesses for you and your

family to enjoy. Please RSVP for the event so we can know how much food to prepare [914 993-1540]. The event is free. Weather permitting the event will be held outdoors, if the weather deteriorates arrangements have been made to hold the event indoors. We promise to keep remarks short. – Paul Feiner, Town Supervisor

\*\*\*\*\*

### **AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM OUR FIRE CHIEF**

Did you know that plastic garbage bags left in the hot sun could catch fire spontaneously? There have been two cases this year of fires in Ardsley that appear to have been generated by the combustion of sawdust in plastic bags left in the hot sun. The sawdust was created and discarded when contractors removed floor finish. If you are having construction done, notably refinishing of floors, you should have the waste removed by the contractor. If this is not possible, bags containing sawdust with chemical waste should be stored in a metal container and disposed of properly as soon as possible. They should not be stored where they are likely to heat up. -- Mark Florkowski,

\*\*\*\*\*

### **GIRL SCOUTS PAY TRIBUTE TO 9/11 VICTIMS**

I am pleased to advise that Ardsley Girl Scout Troop 2890,

supervised by Margie Berman, will once again be tying yellow ribbons at Pascone Park, along Ashford Avenue, in the business district, and particularly Village Hall, in observation of the anniversary of 9/11. This is a lovely thing for the Village, and we greatly appreciate the Troop's continuing efforts to remember those who perished at the Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the field in Pennsylvania that awful day eleven years ago. – George Calvi, VM

\*\*\*\*\*

**ARDSLEY CARES DAY  
EXPANDS PROGRAM  
WITH NEW  
VOLUNTEERING  
OPPORTUNITIES  
BENEFITTING DIVERSE  
GROUPS ACROSS  
WESTCHESTER**

Ardsey Cares Day, which began as a partnership between the schools administration and the Ardsley PTA to put hands-on volunteering opportunities at the fingertips of Ardsley families, will make a broad slate of activities available on its 4<sup>th</sup> annual day of community service, to be held October 27, 2012.

New events this year include opportunities in Ardsley – working on improvement projects at Concord Road and Ardsley Middle School – as well as options throughout Westchester, including a project with Habitat for Humanity and a Westhab Garden Project at

WestHab's PEAK Center in Mt Vernon. Every year, Ardsley families have the chance to share a fulfilling day by helping disadvantaged kids; bringing an afternoon of enjoyment and activity to senior citizens; donating children's clothes and books; preparing meals and sorting clothes for Westchester families in need; and beautifying the local town and parks. "We could not make this happen without our partners in the community," said Linda Weber, co-chair of the Ardsley Cares Committee. "Everyone from the parents who run our events, to the teachers and administrators in the schools, to the organizations we serve, to community partners like our friends at Home Depot, who provided essential supplies and worked hand-in-hand beside us last year make this event happen. As we've always said 'Our community cares, our families deliver.'" For up-to-date information on the schedule and to register for an event, Ardsley families may visit [www.ardsleycares.org](http://www.ardsleycares.org) or email

[ArdsleyCares@gmail.com](mailto:ArdsleyCares@gmail.com). – Rachel Carr, Volunteer

\*\*\*\*\*

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMAN  
VOTERS WANTS YOU!**

The League of Women Voters is also open to men. It is non-partisan, and studies issues that people vote on, come to a consensus, and make recommendations. The LVW of the Rivertowns covers Ardsley,

Dobbs Ferry, Hastings, Irvington, and Tarrytown, and is associated with the county, state, and national chapters. To vote, one must be registered with the local Board of Elections (914 995-5700) at least six weeks before Election Day to be on the rolls. Election Day this year is November 6. If you are interested in joining, we have several standing committees: board, health, environmental, newsletter, naturalization court, candidate night monitoring, etc. Current issues we are monitoring at this time include the impact of the Rivertowns Square project on enrollment at the Ardsley schools; sanitary sewer breaks and other pollution incidents in the Hudson River south of Croton Point; and the consequences of fracking on the ecosystem particularly aquifers. Also important to know, effective January 1, 2013, owing to redistricting Congressman Eliot Engel will be our representative rather than longtime Congresswoman Nita Lowey. For further information, please contact Dr. Christine Hindle Verber at 693-9054, email her at [selwynverber@gmail.com](mailto:selwynverber@gmail.com), or visit with her at the LWV table on Ardsley Day on October 14. – Christine Verber, Volunteer

\*\*\*\*\*

**PEDESTRIANS ARE NO  
MATCH FOR 3 TONS OF  
STEEL**

Channel surfing late one Sunday evening I came across a

program called American Masters. Featured that evening was a very interesting story about the life of Margaret Mitchell, author of Gone With The Wind. At the conclusion of an otherwise satisfying program, I was shocked to learn that she had died at the early age of 49 having been hit by a taxi driver while crossing busy Peachtree Street in Atlanta.

Ironically, earlier that day while flipping through the pages of the July/August edition of The Saturday Evening Post, I came upon a story called "Drivers, Not Pedestrians, Should Have the Right of Way." The author of the article, a native New Yorker, remarked that while growing up in the big city "... as a pedestrian you take your life in your hands every time you venture into the street. You shouldn't stand there waiting for a car to stop. You run for it. There's an understanding, and everyone is safer for it."

The author proceeds to state she "moved to Washington, D.C. where the pedestrian crosswalk is sacred. Drivers must stop if a pedestrian sets so much as a big toe in the intersection. Pedestrians act like zombies, marching carelessly into the streets without as much as a sideways glance." I was immediately reminded of last summer's field trip to a Manhattan museum with my daughter and her friends and being mortified while in the vicinity of Hunter College observing students and other

young people crossing the avenue while texting without lifting a head to glance at oncoming traffic. Recalling the late 1960's, it's a miracle we don't see daily casualty counts reported on the evening news.

Now, here's the kicker, the author cites a recent study that pedestrian fatalities in New York City last year were 3.49/100,000 – the second lowest of any large American city. In comparison, Washington, D.C.'s was 5.74, and Margaret Mitchell's hometown of Atlanta was a whopping 10.97! Though I agree with the author's conclusion that we should all pay attention in the crosswalk; I totally disagree with her assertion that we should rescind laws that give pedestrians right of way. But, and it's a big but, one must remember that along with privilege comes responsibility. Yes, automobiles need to slow down for pedestrians, but pedestrians must be aware of their surroundings at all times and not have their noses buried in a Blackberry, Nook, or iPad.

One doesn't have to travel to Manhattan to observe this risky behavior – our own Route 9A / Center Street intersection comes to mind. Please, when entering crosswalks, pay attention, or you too, like Margaret Mitchell, could be Gone With the Wind. – George Calvi, VM

\*\*\*\*\*

## **ASVAC – STILL GOING STRONG AT 50!**

Members of Ardsley Secor Volunteer Ambulance Corps are honored to celebrate the organization's 50th anniversary. The Corps was started in June, 1962 after Dobbs Ferry Hospital discontinued its ambulance service.

For 50 years residents and local employees have volunteered to be available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week to provide medical assistance and transportation to local hospitals. Our membership is comprised of residents of the Ardsley School District, people who are employed within the Village, people of all walks of life, professionals, teachers, nurses, stay at home moms, police officers, realtors, insurance agents, lawyers, merchants, truck drivers, municipal workers, business executives, even a former Mayor of the Village. Our members constantly train to provide the best available care to our patients. Each contributes to the safe, caring, professional emergency situation they are dispatched to over 700 times last year.

We welcome our friends and neighbors in the community to celebrate with us and attend our open house on Ardsley Day, 2012. We thank you for your continued support. – Frank Doherty, Captain

## **COMMUNITY CENTER IMPROVEMENTS**

The Community Center has been vastly improved. All new ceiling tiles and light fixtures have been installed, as well as a nice wooden Pergo floor. The entire place has been painted and a nice Conference room has been constructed along with an extra storage room. New wooden window blinds are on each window, and new carpet and light fixtures in both offices are in place. Workmen gutted the entire kitchen, put down a new floor and purchased all new appliances. Three new couches, two end tables, and a TV stand, have been purchased, and the old stage has been removed! By the time this newsletter hits your mail boxes, two new televisions should have arrived, and reconfiguration of the sprinkler system should be completed. All work should be completed by Labor Day. – Trish Lacy, Recreation Sup.

## **SOLAR PANEL PROJECT COMPLETED**

The PV SOLAR PROJECT has been completed and the system is now up and running at the Ardsley Firehouse. In February 2010, the Village of Ardsley received a competitive grant award from the Federal ARRA (American Relief and Recovery Act) program to install a 25 kW PV solar array in the village. The total cost of this project

was paid for by the grant awarded to the village.

The original site for this project was to be the Ardsley Public Library; however, structural issues with the original 1982 library roof prevented installation of this project at the library. The village identified the firehouse as a viable alternative for this project and a competitive bid process was initiated in the late spring.

Solar Liberty from Buffalo, New York was awarded this project and they completed the installation this summer. A DECK monitoring system was also installed at the firehouse; a link to this monitoring system on the village website will allow residents to see how much electricity the PV solar array is producing, as well as, learn how PV solar works. – Susan Porcino, Volunteer

\*\*\*\*\*

**Are you one of those residents constantly in the dark?**

**Well, perhaps it's time you find out what's going on in your Village. The best way to keep current on what's going on in the Village of Ardsley is to subscribe to the Ardsley email blast.**

**It's really quite easy. Visit our website: [ArdsleyVillage.com](http://ArdsleyVillage.com)**

**You merely have to enter your email address on the**

**upper right hand corner of the homepage, and follow the prompts.**

**Since 2010, the email blast has been the prime way to find out what is going in the Village whether it be agendas, public hearings, or changes to Village policies.**

**If you haven't subscribed already, you have no idea what you are missing. Do so today!**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **LET'S TALK ABOUT ANIMALS**

Thanks to development all around us, and the reduction of their living spaces, indigenous woodlands creatures have become regular visitors to homeowners' backyards. No longer are animal reports limited to sightings of raccoons, chipmunks, squirrels, possum, or wood chucks. Deer are omnipresent, and coyotes are seen from time to time. There have even been reports of flocks of turkeys, and the occasional red fox. Beyond Ardsley in neighboring communities reports have come in about the existence of red-tailed hawks and turkey vultures. None of this is surprising, with the loss of habitat, these animals have been flushed into the open. They are part of the landscape; part of the ecosystem. Short of hunting them down, they are going nowhere. And as any NYS DEC representative will tell you, they were here first,

and they are protected. I guess we should thank our lucky stars that the black bears that have plagued the Town of Harrison and points north have not made it down to Ardsley – yet.

However, if living amidst the Wild Kingdom is not your cup of tea, there are many websites on the Internet which will detail how you can make your property less hospitable for these wild creatures. This may come at a cost such as forgoing planting such “deer candy” as hostas, roses, and tulips, or those crocus bulbs that chipmunks thrive on. Or finally purchasing that rigid trash can so raccoons don’t feast on those garbage bags left curbside. I could go on, the point is, there is so much one can do, if there is a will.

Nevertheless, if one has been

**VILLAGE OF ARDSLEY  
507 ASHFORD AVENUE  
ARDSLEY, NEW YORK 10502  
914 693-1550**

MAYOR PETER PORCINO  
DEP. MAYOR GARY MALONE  
TRUSTEE LARRY J. NARDECCHIA  
TRUSTEE BEVERLY LEVINE  
TRUSTEE NICOLE MINORE

VILLAGE MANAGER GEORGE CALVI  
VILLAGE TREASURER MARION DEMAIO  
VILLAGE CLERK BARBARA BERARDI

EDIT/DESIGN: GEORGE CALVI

THIS MONTH’S CONTRIBUTORS:

PETER PORCINO, NICOLE MINORE,  
LORRAINE KUHN, PATRICIA LACY,  
PAUL FEINER, SUSAN PORCINO, MARK  
FLORKOWSKI, TONY VACCA, MARGIE  
BERMAN, RACHEL CARR, CHRISTINE  
VERBER, FRANK DOHERTY, THERESA  
DEL GROSSO, & GEORGE CALVI

physically threatened by an animal by all means call the police department. However, if a wild animal is merely sauntering through your yard or looks sickly, **DO NOT CALL THE LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT!** Please call the animal control officer with the Town of Greenburgh at 682-5300. Unlike cities, **villages do not provide this service.** The reason is simple. This service is already provided for on the Town level, and paid for in the Town-wide portion of your property tax bill. Thus, since you’ve paid for it, use it.

While we’re on the topic of animals, let’s talk about what’s referenced in the Ardsley Village Code. Though the laws may be archaic, bee hives and pigeon coops are still permissible via Village Board resolution in all zones. The

OR CURRENT OWNER

raising of livestock and poultry are only permissible in the R-1 District which means your lot cannot be any smaller than 40,000 square feet. Bear in mind though your animals cannot be a nuisance to your neighbors. Of course, people, being people, attempt to interpret laws as best suits their desires. Is a pot-bellied pig livestock, or is it a house-hold pet? Are home-raised chickens a wonderful source of organic food, or do they represent the decline of property values in the neighborhood? Fortunately, I am neither judge nor attorney and these matters may be battled out in court some day for interpretation.

Switching gears for one closing thought: Schools re-open in September. Speaking as the parent of two teenagers, as the commercial proclaims, it truly is the most wonderful time of the year! – George Calvi, VM

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
WHITE PLAINS, NY  
PERMIT NO. 2026

**ARDSLEY DAY,  
SUNDAY OCTOBER 14<sup>TH</sup>!**