

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 use 911 for emergencies
<p align="center">A MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR</p> <p>Budget News: The Village Board adopted the 2013-2014 budget just prior to the May 1 deadline. The tax levy (the Village's expenditures) will increase by 6.45% while the tax rate will increase by 8.39% over the same numbers for the current year. The tax rate is greater than the tax levy as our tax assessments continue to decline, a result of the decline in property values over the past several years. We are hoping to reverse the trend in overall assessments as property values stabilize.</p> <p>Our budget, in a phrase, "holds the line." We have not added any services, nor have we cut back on any services. We run a very tight operation, and believe that all the services we provide are appropriate and necessary.</p> <p>So why are we seeing a large increase? In addition to the reduction in assessments, the major additions to our budget come from the spiraling increases in the State-mandated contributions to the State retirement plans. Those costs went up by over \$100,000, for an 11% increase over the prior year. In the past four years, the Village's contribution to the State retirement funds has just about doubled, increasing by \$500,000, representing nearly 5% of our total</p>	<p align="center">Ardsley Remembers Irwin Engleman 1925-2013</p> <p align="center">Pharmacist at Ardsley Chemist Shoppe 1945 - 1994</p> <p align="center">Co-President of Ardsley Historical Society; Volunteer at Friends of Karen *****</p> <p align="center">Ardsley Remembers Rita J. Norman 1928-2013</p> <p align="center">Senior Library Clerk 1971-2008 President of Friends of the Library; Founder of Adult Fiction Advisory Service *****</p> <p>expenditures. Workers compensation costs rose over 8%, and while we saw increases in health care costs, we are now requiring all participating employees, union or not, to contribute to our health plan, so we were able to soften the effects of those increases. We continue to</p>	<p>experience large increases in hydrant fees charged by United Water (up another 6% this year). Gas and diesel fuel were up over 6% and we added another \$100,000 to our debt service.</p> <p>We continue to allocate funds to address capital needs, such as road resurfacing and replacement of decades old sanitation equipment. We cannot neglect our infrastructure; otherwise we end up paying more in later years. Finally, we did not take any money from our General Fund Balance. We do not believe it is fiscally prudent to raid those funds as we will need them to cover unexpected expenses and maintain our financial health.</p> <p>Environmental Award: On Earth Day I accepted an environmental award on behalf of the Village presented by Westchester County. Ardsley tied for third in the County for highest levels of recycled materials per person. This is exciting news, and my hope is that with our new recycling schedule everyone can focus on increasing recycling and reducing the amount of waste we send into the waste management system. Remember that we pay to have garbage trucked away, but pay nothing for recycling. And of course, think about reducing first, reusing what you have, and then recycling, before throwing anything away.</p>

Rivertowns Square: The Village Board is concerned about the Rivertowns Square project at Lawrence Street in Dobbs Ferry if built as proposed. The impacts on traffic, pollution, flooding, storm water, reduced green cover and potential harm to Ardsley businesses need more serious examination than has been provided to date. The Dobbs Ferry Board approved the environmental report in January, and the law requires us to file a court challenge within four months. While I have reached out to the developer to try to reduce the scope of the project and look for other ways to reduce the impacts on Ardsley -- and those discussions continue -- we nevertheless believe it was necessary to file the court challenge to preserve the Village's options. We will provide further updates as the situation develops.

Nixle Sign-Up: We have installed an emergency phone alert system (called Nixle) to notify residents of emergencies, storm related information, and cancellations of services. Your main phone number should already be in the system, but you can re-enter it to be sure. You can add mobile numbers and second phone lines. You can sign up on the Ardsley Village web site or you can go to nixle.com for further instructions. If you do not have access to a computer or a mobile phone, please call the Police Department and ask for a sign-up form.

Peter R. Porcino

Peter R. Porcino
Mayor

MEN'S BASKETBALL RETURNS TO AHS

Thanks to the efforts of Kevin Slavin and Trish Lacy, men's basketball has been restored to the roster of Recreation Department activities. The program begins in November and is being promoted as a men's 40+ program Wednesday evenings at Ardsley High School from 7:30 pm to 9:30pm. For details, contact Recreation Supervisor Trish Lacy at 693-8012. -- George Calvi

PARKING PERMIT REMINDER

On May 31, 2013 the annual parking permits for the Bridge Street / Village Green municipal parking lots expire. Please stop by Ardsley Village Hall after May 24, 2013 to purchase a new permit. -- Barbara A. Berardi, Village Clerk

AT YOUR SERVICE: THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The League of Women Voters of the Rivertowns, a non-partisan organization for women and men, at long last has an Ardsley representative, and we are hoping you will join us. Our chief focus is to study and educate about the issues upon which you vote. Our open board meetings are held once a month with public forums on a regular basis. The LWV moderates election forums as requested, and has several standing committees: Health, Environment, Newsletter, Membership, Voter Services, and Naturalization Court. Dues are \$60/year for membership in the Rivertowns, Westchester, NYS and National LWV. Donations to the Education fund are tax-deductible.

We'd love to hear from you. For more information, contact me at 49 Eastern Drive, 693-9054, or via email: selwynverber@gmail.com. Many thanks! -- Christine Hindle Verber.

ARDSLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT WANTS YOU!

Ardsley Fire Department is a 100% volunteer organization and responds to approximately 300 calls per year. In order to provide the best service to our community it requires many hours of specialized training and commitment. But most of all requires members! Bottom line: Ardsley Fire Department is always open to new members; if you are interested in becoming a member or would like more information please contact Chief Florkowski at (914) 557-0908 or at AFDCHIEFS@GMAIL.COM. We look forward to having you join our family! -- Mark Florkowski

DOROTHY KAUFMAN RECOGNIZED

I had the pleasure of reading in the March 22nd Rivertowns Enterprise about my old friend Dorothy Kaufman who has lived in this community nearly 60 years. Recently, she was honored at "Girl Scout Sunday" celebrated at the Ardsley Methodist Church on the occasion of the 101st anniversary of the Girl Scouts. A decades long scout and participant in Girl Scouting, Dorothy has been for many years a member of the Ardsley Cable Television committee, and did a brief stint as Chairwoman a few years ago. She also performed some part-time clerical work for us here in the

Village offices. However, my first involvement with Dorothy was back in 1990 when she and Louise Giusti, who were operating a recycling depot in the back parking lot of the old Village Hall, wanted to extend recycling beyond newspapers and to include curbside plastic and metal containers as well. Well, along with the assistance of then Trustees Linda Polhman and Dan Kelly, as well as Theresa DeStefano, not only did we secure a grant for the purchase of the first green recycling bins for village-wide collection, but we also devised the first multi-colored Sanitation schedule which was launched in the spring of 1991. Though she has been very active over the years with many civic organizations, I want to particularly note that she is our only known surviving WAVE from World War II. Thank you Dorothy for all your years of service to the Village of Ardsley. – George Calvi, VM

IN FLANDERS FIELD

*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)

Ardsley's Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade will take place Monday, May 27th 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

OH! HOW I HATE TO GET UP IN THE MORNING

*Oh! How I hate to get up in the morning,
Oh! How I'd love to remain in bed;
For the hardest blow of all,
is to hear the bugler call;
You've got to get up,
You've got to get up
You've got to get up this morning!*

(A popular WWI era tune)
Words & Music: Irving Berlin, 1918
Introduced by Eddie Cantor, 1918

MEMORIAL DAY CLOSURES

Speaking of Memorial Day, Village offices, the Library, the Community Center, and the Highway Department will be closed May 27th in observance of the holiday. Since there will be no garbage collection that day, there will be a village-wide collection on Tuesday, May 28. Should you have any questions about trash pickups, please do not hesitate to telephone the Highway Department at 693-0117 or refer to

your 2013 Sanitation Schedule calendar which is available online at www.ardsleyvillage.com. – George Calvi, VM

VILLAGE TAX BILLS

The Village tax bills will be arriving in mailboxes before Memorial Day. Although the bills become payable on June 1, the first installment is not actually due until Monday, July 1. Payments made in person after July 1, or postmarked after July 1, however, will be subject to a late penalty. For questions regarding tax bills, please call the Village Treasurer's Office at 693-1550. – Marion DeMaio, Village Treasurer

GRIEVANCE DAYS

Village residents are advised that Monday, June 3 through Tuesday, June 18 is their window to file a property tax grievance form at the Greenburgh Town Assessor's office. Forms may be downloaded from www.tax.ny.gov. Should you have any questions please do not call Ardsley Village Hall. Please call the Office of the Greenburgh Town Assessor at 993-1520. Remember the Village of Ardsley dispensed with its Grievance Day in October 2010 when it adopted the Greenburgh assessment roll. – George Calvi, VM

STORMWATER UPDATE: "ISLANDS IN THE STREET"

Traffic Islands – you see them all over the Village. Some have lovely annual flowers, courtesy of the Ardsley Garden Club, others have flowers provided by our Highway Department, and still others may just be paved over with asphalt. The Ardsley

Environmental Task Force (ETF, formerly EAC, Environmental Advisory Committee), came up with a great idea to use the traffic islands as model sustainable native gardens. These gardens have low maintenance plants which require little watering and landscape additives. The first one to be planted is one of the Heatherdell Road islands. Thank you to the Highway Department for building up the Belgian block border and adding extra soil. Design and planting is part of Francine Klarsfeld's Girl Scout Gold Award project. There are perennial plants and colorful annuals grown from seed by Fran's Girl Scout Troop. Sustainable gardens (SG's) are "storm water friendly" because they spare water, don't add chemicals to runoff, and provide areas for street runoff to infiltrate back into the ground. If successful, more SG's are planned for other "islands in the street".

And while we are talking about Scouts, thank you very much to the Scouts for their annual Village Cleanup which took place on Saturday March 23rd. They always do a great job, and cleaning up helps keep trash out of our water, too.

Please "stop by" the completely updated Storm water Management Plan at www.ardsleyvillage.com/stormwater.html. Appendix I Storm water Modeling is a new section which was prepared to comply with NYS DEC requirements. The entire Village of Ardsley Water Treatment Model (Center for Watershed Protection software) is available on disc at Village Hall. Have a happy, water-saving summer! – Lorraine Kuhn, Storm Water Assistant

ARDSLEY GARDEN CLUB ACTIVITIES

Spring bulbs and flowers planted by club members around the village are showing their best for the season. To help celebrate the 100th anniversary of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church and the installation of the new minister, Rev. Pamela Owen Strobel, the Ardsley Garden Club has provided the Church with two stone planters, soon to be overflowing with summer flowers. In other activities, the Ardsley Girl Scouts completed their study of trees and displayed their program at the annual Flower Show. Club members have planted shrubs and bulbs around the flag pole in Upper Bicentennial Park.

The purpose of the Garden Club is to explore new avenues of horticulture, practice conservation of our natural resources, and protection of our environment. Our philanthropic endeavors include flower service to the Village of Ardsley, the Nature Conservancy, Community Churches, youth programs, and scholarships. There are two openings in the Garden Club and we invite those interested to join us. Questions? Please call 693-4206. – Arline Weston, Member

GETTING TO KNOW THE SOCIAL HOST LAW

Do you know what the Social Host Law is? If not, you're not alone... this relatively new law is not well known, but can have significant ramifications. Passed in 2008 in Westchester County, the Social Host Law states that it is a violation for adults (21 and over) to allow underage drinking in their home or on their property. The

primary purpose of the Social Host Law is to address the problem of adults who allow minors to drink alcohol in their homes, distinguishing this behavior from existing laws that penalize adults who actually provide alcohol. (Note: Under the Penal Law, parents are exempt from prosecution for providing alcohol to their own child in their own home, the same applies for the Social Host Law.)

The focus of the Social Host Law is to make parents who host underage parties realize the need for diligence against allowing underage drinking in their home and on their property. You can be charged with the Westchester County Social Host Law if you are 21 years of age or older, you own, rent or otherwise control the private residence, you have knowledge that one or more minors are consuming alcoholic beverages in your home and you allow it OR you fail to take corrective action. The Penalties for breaking this law are as follows: 1st offense - \$250.00 fine; 2nd offense \$500.00; 3rd offense \$1,000.00 and / or up to one year in jail. This law can be enforced by any municipality in Westchester County and prosecuted in any town, village or city. For other helpful tips and resources please check our website, www.ardsleycoalition.com. – Theresa Del Grosso, SAYF Coord.

DOG LICENSES ARE NOT OPTIONAL

New York State Law requires that every person owning a dog must obtain a license if the dog is 4 months old or older. Licenses may be obtained either by visiting the Greenburgh Town Clerk's Office

located at 177 Hillside Avenue in Greenburgh, or downloading a form from the Town's website, www.greenburghny.com. The fees range from \$16 to \$23. You will need to present a current rabies certificate at the time of registering your dog. Should you have any questions, please contact the Town Clerk's Office at 993-1500 x5 or at townclerk@greenburghny.com. – George Calvi, Village Manager

NOISE

When it comes to weekend noise, for the record, power equipment of any sort cannot be utilized prior to 8:00 am on Saturdays and 10:00 am on Sundays. Unlike other code violations, the only way to address them is by notifying the police department at 693-1700 when the noise is in progress. There is no way the department can address the complaint once the noise ceases. That being said, law or no law, for some, 8:00 am can be an ungodly hour to be operating power equipment.

Let's all be good neighbors and delay the operation of the jarring noise until later in the day on weekends. Moreover, if you notice your neighbor is holding a garden party in the backyard or enjoying a little tranquility on their deck, maybe that's not the best time to turn on the leaf blower or the hedge trimmers or the buzz saw. A little courtesy and consideration for one's neighbors can go a long way for neighborhood harmony! -- George Calvi, VM

SUMMER REC PROGRAMS

Please take special note of the following programs taking place in the Village this summer. It all

begins with an **Ice Cream Social** at the Community Center on June 21st. Between July 8-12, there will be the new **Lego Camp** for K-2nd from 4 to 5 pm, and from July 15-19, a new Lego Camp for 3-5th graders, also at the Community Center.

An Ardsley / Dobbs Ferry **basketball** program starts July 8 for 5 weeks at Gould Park. From August 5-8 there will be summer basketball clinic from 9:30am to 1pm, and the summer **volleyball** clinic from 1:30pm to 5pm, both at Ardsley High School.

Last but not least are the **free summer concerts** at the Pascone Park gazebo featuring **Mack & Soul** on July 12, **FDR Drive** on July 26, **The Kootz** on August 9, and **The Saints** on August 23. For details, please telephone 693-8012 or email the Recreation Dept. at ardsleyrec@optonline.net. – Trish Lacy, Parks & Rec. Supervisor

LIBRARY NEWS!

Come visit the Library this summer for programs for all ages! Starting June 22, 2013 all school-age children(K & Up) are invited to "Dig into Reading" at the Ardsley Public Library! This year's **Summer Reading Club** will be filled with star-studded programs, massive quantities of book giveaways, prizes and trivia contests galore! You have a younger child? – No problem. We will be holding special summer programs for the toddlers and preschoolers also, including the popular bedtime story times in August. Your teens looking for something to do? Send them over; we'll have special programs for them with intricate crafts and contests. For all of you over the

age of 18 – stay tuned. We will be screening book related movies for your viewing pleasure and yes adults get snacks too!

In case you don't own your own E-Reader, we have 2 Kindles and 2 Nooks to lend you. Try them out, see what the fuss is all about, and see if you like them. They are here for you. Or, if you have an E-Reader and need a little help getting comfortable with it, come on in and we can help you with that. So, if you have 5 minutes to just come in and snatch a book or DVD, or have an hour or two to meet and participate with fellow community members, come on in and visit. We love to have you here!!

***Please register for all programs so we'll know how many to expect! Check in with us in June to sign up. – Valerie Lalli, Trustee & Angela Groth, Library Director.

2013 WEST NILE VIRUS PREVENTION EFFORT

The Westchester County Department of Health began evaluating catch basins throughout the county for standing water and applying larvicide as needed on Monday, May 13. These efforts are intended to eliminate breeding sites for mosquitoes that can carry West Nile Virus. For more information about larviciding and West Nile Virus, go to www.westchestergov.com/health or call the Health Department at (914) 813-5000. – George Calvi, VM

WATERWHEEL CLOSING

The closing on the former Waterwheel property took place on May 8. This closing which involved the Village of Ardsley,

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the County of Westchester, the Town of Greenburgh, and a New Jersey firm, will facilitate the construction of 22 units on the former restaurant site.

Seventeen units will be affordable, and will help the County of Westchester in meeting its goals in connection with the federal housing settlement. The remaining five units will be set aside and classified as workforce housing, and will be allotted first to local first responders, specifically, volunteer fire fighters and volunteer ambulance workers.

Although all the land use approvals are in place, no date has been determined yet when the actual

Or current occupant

construction will begin, nor has an arrangement been made as to the procedure for securing one of the work force housing units.

The procedure for securing one of the affordable housing units will be spearheaded by the County of Westchester on a regional basis according to the terms of the federal settlement.

As for the split of the proceeds from the sale of the property, the formula includes making the Town and the Village whole for back taxes going back to 1994, a covering of out of pocket foreclosure related expenses, and an equitable split of the balance of the proceeds between the Village and the Town. – George Calvi, VM

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MORE ABOUT TREES

We last reported on trees back in the March issue. Two points though are worth repeating. 1) The Village urges you not to plant trees directly under power lines. Though holding curb appeal, bear in mind that today's dream tree can grow into tomorrow's nightmare. 2) The Village cannot become embroiled in disputes between neighbors on private property over trees. This is a civil matter. Whether it be a dead tree, a fallen tree, a tree threatening to fall, or overhanging branches, the resolution must be negotiated between the two parties. The Village plays no role whatsoever. I hope you find this information useful. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Highway Foreman Rick Thompson at 693-0117. – George Calvi, VM