

The Ardsley Villager

A Publication of the Ardsley Village Board of Trustees

Visit us at www.ardsleyvillage.com	<i>Ex Ardsley semper aliquid novi!</i>	Always dial 911 for emergencies
<p>A MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR</p> <p>Ardsley E-Mail Blast: Have you signed up for the Village Blast yet? Get the latest weather and storm-related updates, road closures and Village news and information. Go to the Village website, www.ardsleyvillage.com, and sign up now. Don't be left in the dark.</p> <p>Rivertowns Square: The Village of Ardsley has sued Dobbs Ferry over the mammoth Rivertowns Square project proposed for Lawrence Street and the Saw Mill River Parkway, but the real defendant is the developer. Ardsley offered to withdraw the suit if the developer would make modest changes to the project. The developer not only refused, but even refused to discuss any changes.</p> <p>Rivertowns Square suffers from many infirmities: it is too large for the site, it fails environmental analysis, ignores the impacts on Ardsley, and represents poor planning. We believe that the impacts could be readily mitigated: for example, any one of the elements--the hotel, the theaters,</p>	<p>*****</p>  <p>Sunday, Sept. 22, 2013 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm</p> <p>The Ardsley Day Festival. Free Fun for Everyone!</p> <p>(See details on Page 5)</p> <p>the retail or the housing--could be eliminated; or the density of these elements could be reduced: simply build fewer apartments, hotel rooms, theater screens and retail space. Without reduction, steep slopes will be disturbed, dozens of trees removed, impervious</p>	<p>surfaces expanded, water flows increased, noise, light and air pollution exacerbated and vehicle trips vastly increased. The proposal fails to address these issues and fails to reduce the impacts to tolerable levels.</p> <p>Westchester's 2025 Vision Plan tells us: "formal and informal arrangements between local governments on land use and infrastructure decisions . . . will need to expand. <u>Border wars</u> over the impacts of large development proposals must be <u>avoided and approvals granted with broad consideration and mitigation of impacts.</u>"</p> <p>The Saw Mill River Parkway does not permit commercial traffic so any trucks headed to or from the north will have to traverse downtown Ardsley, unless the residents of Ogden Avenue wish to permit a caravan of trucks over their street. When the Parkway floods, as it does with increasing regularity, traffic is routed onto 9A and into Ardsley. Unlike Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry will receive millions of dollars in permit and recreation fees. And Dobbs Ferry has pressed the developer to spend millions more to improve offsite roads and intersections. We</p>

suggest the following solution: reduce the size of the project, reduce the millions going to offsite roads and intersections, and then we can all address our traffic and environmental issues without the harmful impacts caused by Rivertowns Square.

Con Ed, Storms and Underground Cables: After the last storm took out a telephone pole in front of my house and a neighbor questioned the sanity of overhead wires in a densely treed part of the nation, I wrote to Con Ed. Here are excerpts from my letter:

"When you and I last spoke, I was in the midst of a personal catastrophe, with a mini-squall pulling down the pole and transformer directly in front of my house, wires hanging down to a height of three or four feet across my driveway and lying in the street in front of my house, electrical arcs to the north and south of my house, and a neighborhood under siege. A few weeks later a disaster of a slightly different order was narrowly avoided in downtown Mamaroneck as downed wires burned through the pavement and set off an explosion of a natural gas line, causing fires and destruction of cars and buildings. That there were no fatalities and further destruction was a matter of sheer luck as the storm occurred at 1:00 in the morning."

"While Con Ed raises the costs whenever the issue comes up, the question is the cost of not burying cables. Weather events are occurring with increasing frequency, and by all accounts, it may get worse. Whenever we have severe storms, the costs mount. There is the direct cost to Con Ed of repair crews and replacement materials. There is the slightly less direct cost to the municipalities of road clean up and deployment of police and firefighters to re-route traffic, put out fires and rescue stranded citizens. Then there are the costs to citizens and merchants of damage to buildings, loss of property and general human suffering in dealing without power. I would add that many people were stranded and often had no way to get to work, causing more economic loss. And finally there is the potential for loss of life, which while not always attributable to downed wires and electrical issues, often enough is."

"Con Ed has started to bury cables and has announced plans to bury more. The question becomes why isn't the plan to bury all cables within the foreseeable future? If Con Ed has decided to start the process, how does it decide where it is going to bury cables, and should the decision be its alone?"

Garbage Collection, Recycling and Compliance: In many locales, trash collection and recycling are not provided by the local municipality. People

pay private carters to have their garbage hauled away or are required to take their recycling to local facilities. In Ardsley, we provide curbside service for garbage pick-up and recycling. Yet many people ignore the rules, to the annoyance of their neighbors, placing added burdens on our sanitation department and putting the Village at risk of fines.

The rules are simple. Put your garbage out on your regular garbage day, Monday or Tuesday, and Friday if necessary. Put paper recycling out on Wednesday and plastic, glass and metal recycling out on Thursday. Containers may be placed curbside the evening before or by 7 in the morning, and should be retrieved within 12 hours. If your garbage or recycling was not picked up for some reason (probably you made a mistake; our sanitation workers know the rules), then bring the containers back in until the next appropriate date. Do not leave them curbside for your neighbors to stare at for days on end.

What can be recycled? Pretty much anything made out of paper, including newspapers, cardboard, cereal and other boxes, junk mail and scrap paper can be recycled. The County now recycles all plastic compounds labeled 1 through 7, which is most plastics except hard plastics.

The County will not accept garbage that includes

recyclables, and our sanitation workers are instructed to leave recyclables that are improperly mixed in with garbage so we don't risk fines from the County. Perhaps you have seen the "Oops!" stickers. Remember, we pay the County to take our garbage. Recycled materials cost us nothing. More recycling and less garbage equals less costs for the Village.

Peter R. Porcino

Peter R. Porcino
Mayor

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

The Ardsley SAYF Coalition will once again be a part of Ardsley Day; we will be providing prevention information for parents and teens. In addition we are sponsoring an activity, "The Booth" which is a photo stand with props that will be fun for all. Please make sure to stop by and say hello and don't forget to look for The Booth! Lastly, with all the talk about "Medical Marijuana" we wanted to provide some facts on the topic.

a) Marijuana vs. Alcohol: Smoking one marijuana cigarette is the equivalent to having approximately five alcoholic drinks in one sitting.

b) 50% of marijuana smoked is still in your body one week after smoking it because it's fat soluble.

c) Imperative intoxication of marijuana can last as long as 24 hours. Many people use alcohol as a beverage accompanying a meal and do not get high or become impaired in any way.

d) Teens who are dependent on marijuana show short-term memory deficits as well as delayed recall of visual and verbal information

e) Marijuana is questionable as a medication. There are no medical organizations that endorse "Medical Marijuana" and many oppose it, such as: the American Medical Association, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the American Glaucoma Society, the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Cancer Society, the National Eye Institute, and the National Institute for

Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

f) Taxes on marijuana would never pay for the increased social costs. Our nation's experiences with alcohol and tobacco show that for every dollar gained in taxes, we spent 10 on social costs.

g) Research confirms that the prefrontal cortex is not fully developed until the early to mid-20s, and that developing brains are more susceptible to all of the negative effects of marijuana use.

For more information visit us at www.ardsleycoalition.com or LIKE us on Facebook www.facebook.com/ArdsleySAYFCoalition Please remember to stop by and say hello on Ardsley Day! – Theresa Del Grosso, SAYF Coordinator

ARDSLEY GARDEN CLUB: BUSY AS EVER!

Our new fall season is here with great programs. On October 8th, we are hosting a lecture by Mary Harrington, Master Gardener. The topic is "Weeds in your Garden. Can you Eat them or Trash them?"

Join us Sunday, October 27th for an "Oktoberfest" with good

food and music. Call Mary Keehan at 693-4328 to reserve your spot.

On November 12th Barbara Fisher, Master Gardener, will lecture on a "Go Native" program. On Tuesday, December 3rd, join us for a holiday wreath decorating workshop. Holiday wreaths are then distributed to Village Hall, the Fire Dept, the Ambulance Corps, the DPW, Children's Village, various churches, and the VA Hospital in Montrose.

If you are interested in gardening and community work, please come join us! For information call 693-4206. – Arline Weston, Former President

OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The League of Women Voters was created in 1920 to secure the vote for women. The LWV now includes men and is non-partisan. There are National, State, County and local chapters. The LWV membership covers all levels, and costs \$60 for individuals and \$90 for families. Donations are gratefully received! Ardsley is now officially a member of the League of Women Voters of the Rivertowns and we are looking for new and old members to join and participate.

We work to get all eligible adults to register and vote. We study issues such as Health,

Environment, etc. on which people vote. We provide Voter Services such as election information, Vote411.org, the "Voter Guide," and mediators for contested elections.

All members receive a newsletter and are welcome to join a committee. We welcome co-sponsorship with other civic-minded groups such as the Rotary Club, the local Garden Club, the PTA, and others. Please contact me, Dr. Christine Hindle Verber, at 49 Eastern Drive, at 693-9054, or at selwynverber@gmail.com. You will also find me at a table on Center Street on Ardsley Day, scheduled for Sunday, September 22nd. – Christine Verber

JEEPERS CREEPERS!

DO WE HAVE ACTIVITIES THIS AUTUMN?

By now the autumn Parks & Recreation brochure should have been received in your mail boxes. However, please find below a summary of this autumn's activities:

the **Tennis clinic** starts September 21 and runs for 6 weeks;

the **Mini wee soccer** runs on Sunday's starting September 22 also for 6 weeks;

Skate park lessons are on Wednesday starting September 18;

Chess lessons take place on Tuesdays starting September 24 with a beginner as well as an advanced class;

(New Program) Lego Class for grades K-3 starts Wednesday, September 25;

(New Program) KidzArt for grades K-4 starts Thursday, September 26;

Ardsley Day will take place on Sunday September 22 from 12-5pm;

the **Lil Cooks program** takes place on Fridays starting September 27 for 3 & 4 year olds, and

the annual **Garage Sale in Louis Pascone Park** will be on Sat, October 19 with rain date October 26.

For details about these programs, please call the Parks & Recreation Department at 693-8102 or visit our website at www.ardsleyvillage.com -- Trish Lacy, Parks & Recreation Director

LIVING HISTORY

If you have not signed up for a Veterans Living History interview, (over a hundred have been done so far), please do so by phoning 693-3943 to set up an appointment. – Steve Wittenberg, Post Commander

SENATOR ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS ADVISES THAT RE-REGISTRATION FOR STAR IS NOW OPEN!

Attention homeowners! If you are one of the millions of New Yorkers receiving the Basic STAR exemption, you must re-register with the Department of Taxation and Finance in order to receive the exemption in 2014. This is part of a new law, passed by the Legislature this year, to protect taxpayers against fraudulent or inappropriate STAR exemptions. Registration has already begun and will continue through the end of December.

You can apply online by visiting this website www.tax.ny.gov, or by calling 518-457-2036. You will need your STAR code to apply. In the next couple of weeks, homeowners will receive a letter from the New York Tax Dept. which will include their STAR code.

This new requirement does not impact senior citizens receiving the enhanced STAR exemption whose annual registration has always been required.

Please make sure to re-register by the end of December to continue receiving the critical property tax relief that the Basic STAR exemption provides. Do not hesitate to contact the Senator's district office if you have any questions.

A few words of caution: Do not drop off or send registration forms with the offices of the Village Clerk or the Greenburgh Town Assessor. This entire transaction must be conducted with the State of New York, and please do not wait until New Year's Eve or you risk losing your Basic STAR exemption until 2015! – George Calvi, Village Manager

WORDS FOR THE WISE

“Never play leapfrog with a unicorn.” – Old Tibetan proverb adopted by Detective Thomas Banacek

The Ardsley Day Festival:

Free fun for Everyone!

From bungees to bouncies, it's time to get your jump on at the annual Ardsley Day Festival. It's the one day each fall when local businesses, community organizations and volunteers offer up a wide variety of free attractions and activities for all ages. This is a day to both celebrate community and showcase all that the Village of Ardsley has to offer. Come rain or shine, the festival will be alive with activity encompassing the “downtown” area of Center Street, Legion Park, Addyman Square, the

Village Green, and the corresponding section of Route 9A from 12 noon until 5:00 pm.

New this year is the *Shot of the Day* photo contest where a picture that epitomizes Ardsley Day has a chance to win big. Contestants are asked to upload their favorite shots the day-of to Ardsley Day Facebook or Twitter pages #ashotoftheday. Also for the first time ever, both kids and grown-ups are invited to whip up their yummiest in the baking competition — *Ardsley's Ultimate Chocolate Chip Cookie* for ages 6 to 12 or *Ardsley's Cupcakepalooza* for 13+.

There's truly something for all ages at Ardsley Day. You can still jam to live music while sampling *A Taste of Ardsley's* free food and drinks by neighborhood restaurants, plus kick-off your holiday shopping by supporting local merchants and vendors. Teens can climb a rock wall, bungee or groove to live music by local bands. Younger kids can play on inflatable obstacle courses, drive go-karts or glide down giant slides, while the littlest ones will enjoy face painting, a balloon artist, creating a fun fall craft or s'mores made by the local Boy Scout troop.

Don't miss the community festival where Ardsley Village pride shines at an event that gives everyone plenty to look forward to year after year. For information, call 588-0337. – Deb Navins

STORMWATER UPDATE: “IMBY!”

IMBY! When it comes to Stormwater, keep it IMBY – In My Back Yard! How can you do this? Plant a rain garden, a garden slightly below the level of your yard to collect runoff. Set up a rain barrel or cistern, cover with screen to prevent mosquitoes and empty during dry weather. Pull up a downspout, make sure to drain downhill and away from your foundation. Drain on to a path of gravel or stone to prevent soil erosion. Install a porous paver path or driveway at your house so runoff infiltrates back into the ground.

There’s plenty of information at www.ardsleyvillage.com/stormwater.html on how to get these useful things done. And, there’ll be a new SW video shortly on CATV with other SW reminders. Lastly, please don’t forget LELE – Love ‘Em and Leave ‘Em. Composting autumn leaves saves money and keeps landfills smaller which makes runoff cleaner. Check out www.leleny.org for more info. Thanks from the Village of Ardsley SW Management! – Lorraine Kuhn

A SPECIAL REQUEST

On behalf of certain residents in our community, I am asking that motorists be conscious as to how they park their automobiles in proximity of driveways. Curiously, neither the Ardsley Village Code nor the NYS

Vehicle & Traffic Code addresses this matter though the V&T does dictate that one cannot park within 15 feet of an intersection, and specifies how far from a fire hydrant, also 15 feet. And it is very possible that most motorists are totally unaware they are generating headaches and sight distance issues for their close neighbors.

Nevertheless, law or no law, not cramming one’s vehicle too closely to another’s driveway or not parking directly across the street from one’s driveway on one of Ardsley’s notoriously narrow streets is a gracious act of kindness and would be tremendously appreciated by one’s neighbor! And most importantly, a failsafe way to avoid dings! – George Calvi

GENERATORS

With the recent rash of long term power outages in the village, more and more residents are thinking about purchasing a generator to provide backup power in the event of another outage. There are two main types of generators available, portable generators and standby generators. Permits are required to install both types of generators, and both types of generators must be installed and operated in full compliance with the manufacturer’s specifications.

Portable generators are usually low powered units that are stored in a garage or shed and

are rolled out and connected to the house power supply when needed. Once properly connected, a portable generator can provide enough electricity to power the basic necessities.

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.

To install a portable generator hook-up, a licensed electrician must file an electrical permit to install the generator connection plug and a manual transfer switch. The work must be inspected and approved by the electrical inspector before the generator is put into service.

A Generator Permit is required for the installation of all standby generators. The electrical hookup for the generator must be installed by an electrician licensed in Westchester County, and the natural gas supply must be installed by a plumber licensed in Westchester County. The electrician and plumber must file for separate electrical and plumbing permits. If the generator will be powered by propane, then the propane supplier must apply for a tank permit to install the propane tank on the property. Several inspections must be performed

before the standby generator can be put into service.

The generator permit application including detailed instructions is available on the village website under the "Forms" tab. Contact Larry Tomasso at avinspector@optonline.net if you have any questions.

[Editor's Note: This originally appeared in the December 2012 Ardsley Villager. However, the demand for generators has not slowed down one iota so we thought this information could be helpful to those still contemplating such a purchase and installation.]

Ardsley welcomes the arrival of Planet Wings and the United Martial Arts Center. We wish them much success!

HAPPY SEPTEMBER!

Someone came into the library recently and said that even though she works full time, all year round, there's something about September that feels like a new start. I totally agree! It seems that the natural flow of library programming follows the school year schedule too. We have scheduled very exciting fall programs. We continue to have story times on Wednesdays for preschoolers, programs for babies on Fridays, craft programs and book discussions for various ages: 3

& 4 graders, 5 & 6 graders, teens, and adults.

This year we have started a Lego club – using the many thousands of Lego pieces that have been donated this summer you can let your imagination soar and build your hearts out! We have scheduled a family program for every Saturday so you need not miss out on the fun if you work weekdays. We want to be here for you and offer what you would like – we just need you to let us know what that might be.

Come in to the Library, or call us [693-6636], for specifics. All programs require registration so we know how many to expect. See you at your library! - Angela Groth, Library Director.

GENERAL ELECTIONS

Village residents are reminded that the General Elections have been slated for Tuesday, November 5, 2013. The polls will be open from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm at the Ardsley Community Center and St. Barnabas Episcopal Church. Appearing on the ballot will be the positions of Mayor and two Village Trustees. Newly elected Ardsley officials would take office at the December 2, 2013 reorganization meeting. Should you have any questions about voter registration, absentee ballots, or voting districts kindly telephone the Greenburgh Town Clerk's office at 993-1501. – George Calvi, Village Manager

SCHOOL BUILDING AND SCHOOL CENTENNIAL

The cornerstone ensconced in the lower left hand corner of the Ashford Court condominium facing Ashford Avenue reads, "1912," however it was exactly 100 years ago, in the fall of 1913, that the original building opened on that site to the first generation of Ardsley high school students and the inception of K through 12 public education in our community.

Ardsley's reputation for educational excellence may have had its origin in the decision by local voters a century ago to forego any further expansion of the old five-room schoolhouse across the street on Ashford Avenue (later utilized as the Village's Municipal Building and now where a modern firehouse stands) and, instead, to raise the funds to build a magnificent new school building to house grades K-12. While we have for many years had separate elementary, middle and high school buildings, each a tribute to that continuing commitment to excellence, for 40 years from 1913 until 1953, all of the children in Union Free School District #5 attended school together in that one big building, which was later enlarged.

This fall, in commemoration of the old building's centennial and the coming of age of the Ardsley School District, the

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Ardsey Historical Society and the Ardsley School District will be collaborating in presenting programs and activities relating to the old Ashford Avenue School (which remained in use for middle school pupils until 1971 and was retrofitted to become a residential condominium in the mid-1980's) and the transition of 100 years of public education in Ardsley.

These events will include exhibits of rare photographs, documents, and other materials at each of the school buildings, reminiscences of residents who attended the old building, musical tributes, preparation of time capsules and other informative programs. Look for

OR CURRENT OCCUPANT

details through the school district, village and Ardsley Historical Society communications, and join in the celebration. – Robert Pellegrino, President, Ardsley Historical Society & Hon. Walter Schwartz

KITCHEN FIRES

Fire Prevention Week is October 6 through 12 this year, and it commemorates the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, a two day blaze that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 more homeless, and destroyed more than 17,000 buildings. That tragedy inspired reform across America, spurring new fire safety codes and public awareness campaigns. Each October, the National Fire

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Protection Association serves as the official sponsor of a nationwide fire prevention campaign to highlight the importance of fire safety education.

This year's theme focuses on how to prevent fires in kitchens – the #1 place where home fires start. Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Two thirds of home cooking fires started with the ignition of food or other cooking materials. On Ardsley Day, visit the Fire Department's exhibit on how you can survive a home kitchen fire. – Mark Florkowski, Fire Chief

Editor's Myth Buster: Mrs. O'Leary's cow did not start the Great Chicago Fire by kicking over a lantern in her barn. The story was made up by Michael Ahern, a Chicago Tribune reporter to boost newspaper circulation!