

The Ardsley Villager

A Publication of the Ardsley Village Board of Trustees

IMPORTANT UPDATE

SENIOR HOUSING HEARINGS

On June 30 and July 6, the Village Board held public hearings on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement [DEIS] concerning the proposal by Ardsley Housing Associates to develop the 12 acre Pintel property in the northwest corner of the Village. This matter will, again, be discussed at the August 2 Village Board meeting, after which the public will have until September 10 to comment in writing on the project. The senior housing proposal calls for 250 living units consisting of 75 independent living units, 125 assisted living units, and 50 special care units. Also included in the proposal is the construction of 18 single family homes, four of which would be on Concord Road and the remaining homes would be on a cul-de-sac from Sylvia Avenue off Route 9A. For more information about all aspects of the this proposal, please contact Village Hall at 693-1550.

Copies of the two volume DEIS complete with plans are available for review in the Village Clerk's office and the Ardsley Public Library. To receive a 14 page summary of the proposed project by mail, please telephone Mary Connick at 693-1550.

TRAFFIC UPDATE

AUSTIN AVENUE & RT. 9A

We are waiting for the court decision on our appeal on the Austin Avenue project which may open before Labor Day. Also, the Yonkers City Council is considering the environmental impact of whether Sprain Road should be opened or closed. We will continue to play an active role on this very important issue.

The NYS Dept. of Transportation is reconstructing Route 9A just north of the Village border with Greenburgh for one mile until Park Ave. This project includes resurfacing, new drainage, turnoff lanes and other improvements (but no widening), and should be finished by late fall, but until then traffic will be slower.

In the fall DOT will award bids to reconstruct the Rt. 9A/Ashford Avenue intersection in the spring of 2000. Improvements will include new turning lanes, and a new access to Addyman Square. Bids will be awarded in the fall of 2000 for the reconstruction of Ashford Avenue in the summer of 2001. Improvements here will include resurfacing, new granite curbs, sidewalks, and drainage.

NEWS BRIEFS

FIRE HORN: Several months ago, we reported that the fire horns had been changed. Unfortunately, our fire fighters and ambulance corps members are having difficulty hearing the new horn. As a result, we are reviewing our options to increase the sound so that it can be heard better, while at the same time being mindful of those who live in the vicinity of the firehouse.

CANINE FUGITIVES: Did you know that there are only 77 dogs in Ardsley! Well, that is the number of dog licenses that have been issued, and we can't imagine that anyone in the Village has a dog that is not licensed. But seriously, a dog license is required for all dogs not just for census reasons but to ensure that distemper and other shots have been administered. We ask that you obtain one as soon as possible (otherwise, we will have the dog police come after you!). Contact Village Clerk Clara Smith for more information at 693-1550.

VILLAGE TAX BILL INCREASE: The Village Board of Trustees passed a 1.84% tax increase in May, the lowest tax increase in more than 10 years.

NEW FIRE HOUSE: The Village Board and members of Engine Company No. 1 have commenced discussions regarding plans for a new fire house which would be constructed in several years. More details about these discussions will appear in a future edition of the Ardsley Villager.

NEW PARKING METERS: We will soon be installing new parking meters in the business district. The electronic meters have digital displays, and will be easier to read. Parking fees will be changed to 10 cents for 10 minutes,

and 25 cents for 30 minutes. The use of nickels will be discontinued.

PARK & RIDE: On July 19, the County Dept. of Transportation installed a new bus stop sign at McDowell Park indicating the operation of a new Park & Ride for commuters to the Hartsdale train station through March 2000.

WATER RATES: United Water New Rochelle has announced huge rate hikes over the next few years citing necessary repairs to its aging system. In response Ardsley has joined a consortium of communities which has hired legal and engineering services to study the rate hike requests and ensure that whatever is proposed to be spent is necessary.

POWER OUTAGE: Con Edison has announced that you may be eligible for reimbursement for spoiled foods as a result of the recent blackout. Please send your detailed list to Con Edison Claims, 4 Irving Place, Room 1820, NY, NY 10003. Please include your name, phone, and Con Edison account number.

RECYCLING SLACKERS: We need to recycle more. At least that is what the County of Westchester tells us. We are exploring some ideas, such as a fall awareness program, the possibility of distributing new recycling bins to all households, and the possibility of picking up all recyclables every week instead of every two weeks. Look for more details in the next few months.

RECYCLING WOES: While we're on the topic of recycling it would be appropriate at this time to thank all those residents who have made the back-breaking effort to place all their leaves in plastic bags so as to speed collection by our DPW. Likewise, a big jeer to the youthful individuals who open the leaf bags and spread them all over the very lawns and driveways they were painstakingly collected from, along with the beer bottles and cans consumed in their nocturnal escapades. Someday, the guilty parties will be caught, and they will be recycled through our penal system. You know who you are, so cut it out now!

NEW FIRE FIGHTERS: At their May 25th meeting, the membership of Engine Company No. 1 voted in two new members. They are Frank

Ditraglia of Hartsdale, and Richard Thompson of Ardsley.

HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS: Trustee Linda Pohlmann reminds us that there are two remaining household chemical collection days this year. The first will take place on Saturday, October 23 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at FDR State Park in Yorktown. The second will take place on Saturday, November 6 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Rye Playland. Bring your automotive fluids, degreasers, cleaning solvents, fire starter fluids, button cell and rechargeable batteries, pesticides, swimming pool chemicals, and up to 10 car tires per household. NO PAINTS AND NO MOTOR OIL. For information call the Household Chemical Info Line at 637-3037.

FLORAL PHOTO EXHIBIT

Local resident and photographer, Marion Hesse, has opened a wonderful exhibit of photographs of flowers many of which were found right here in Ardsley. The exhibit is on display in the central hallway of Ardsley Village Hall, and is open to the public Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

THE ARDSLEY MYSTIQUE

The word "Ardsley" means many things to many people. Unfortunately, much of it is erroneous and sometimes downright inconvenient. Woe to the unknowing traveler who takes a late train from Grand Central Station to Ardsley (as it appears on the schedule) only to arrive several miles away from the Village in the tiny postal district of Ardsley-on-Hudson which is located within the confines of the Village of Irvington. Woe to the poor truck driver from upstate who straggles into Ardsley Village Hall desperately seeking directions to a business on Ardsley Avenue which is, again, in Irvington or a home on Ardsley Road in Greenburgh which is disguised with a Scarsdale address.

The misconceptions about Ardsley are legion, and the zip code is the demon. Although it may have an Ardsley address, the old Ciba Geigy campus which has metamorphosed into Ardsley Park is not in the Village of Ardsley. Neither are Ardsley Estates, Ardsley Green, the Ardsley Middle School, the Ardsley Country Club, the Ardsley Swim & Tennis Club, or even the Ardsley Chiropractor's office.

Nobody calls anything by its right name. Ashford Park is not the Middle School field. McDowell Park is not Little League Field Park. Addyman Square is not Ardsley Square as the bus system would have you believe. Sometimes misconceptions are self-fulfilling prophecies. For years, many referred to the old Village Hall as the Fire House because they saw the apparatus bays on the first floor. Today, the old Village Hall is the Fire House ever since the municipal offices moved next door last August.

No one seems to know where the Village begins and ends otherwise we wouldn't be fielding complaints about Lawrence Street, Sheldon Street, Maple Street, Winding Road, Pine Street, or Wood Avenue all under the jurisdiction of our Greenburgh Town Supervisor. Cross Road between Markwood Avenue and Sprain Road is in the Town though OLPH's rectory is in the Village. Incidentally, there is only one home on the entire stretch of Sprain Road that is in the Village of Ardsley.

Speaking of Greenburgh, Edgemont is not a Village nor any municipally-recognized unit, nor is Hartsdale. They are merely neighborhoods which some like to reference by the quaint sobriquet "hamlets." Another widely-held belief is that because we pay taxes to the Town of Greenburgh we also have the right to use Anthony Veteran Park's pool. Right? Wrong! On average, only three percent of a Village resident's tax bill is paid to the Town of Greenburgh. This three percent provides for the collections of Town, School, and County taxes, the handling of November general elections by the Town Clerk's office, assessment services, and the provision of traffic signs and road markings by the Town Highway Department. That's it! The taxes which are collected for the operation and maintenance of Greenburgh's parks are contained in what is known

at the B Budget which is financed solely by the inhabitants of the Town of Greenburgh OUTSIDE the Villages, i.e. Hartsdale, Edgemont, Fairview, Parkway Homes, Chauncey, Ardsley Estates, Greenville, Boulder Ridge, Hidden Glen, St. Andrews, Donald Park, and lastly Clarewood.

Often we receive telephone calls at Village Hall asking us can't we do something about this school issue or another? The simple answer is no. Although we have an extremely friendly and cooperative working relationship with the school district we have absolutely no control over its operation. The Ardsley Union Free School District is a separate, independent, corporate entity operating under the auspices of the State Education Department. They do not even have to seek a building permit from us if they wish to expand a building. They are also much bigger than us, not only in budget, but in physical size as well. Ardsley Village has about 1400 households. The School District has well over 3000 and includes homes in Dobbs Ferry, and the White Plains, Scarsdale, and Hartsdale postal districts of Greenburgh.

The Village of Ardsley has very little if any control over Saw Mill River Road. Also known as Route 9A, it is a road owned and operated by the New York State Department of Transportation. Macy Park is not a Village park. It is a park owned by the County of Westchester and operated by the County Department of Parks & Recreation.

Lastly, it is most important to dispel the myth that we have paid fire fighters and ambulance workers. They are all unsalaried and belong either to Ardsley Volunteer Engine Company No. 1 or to Ardsley Secor Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Also falling into the unpaid category are the Mayor, the Village Trustees, the Acting Village Justice, and all the advisory boards and committees.

I trust this has been an eye opener for some, and not too confusing for others. If you're a new resident, give yourself some time to sort it all out. It's merely all part of the Ardsley mystique that makes this community so unique . . . and I wouldn't change a thing! --
George F. Calvi, Village Manager

**The Mayor, Trustees,
and Village Staff wish
all a healthy, happy,
and safe summer.**

VILLAGE PEOPLE

During the recent Village elections Mayor Sam Abate and Trustee Steve Dalton were re-elected. Mark Mildner was elected for the first time as Village Trustee.

At the annual reorganization meeting, Mayor Abate appointed John Horner to the Planning Board, Peter Porcino to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Steve Wolfson to the Board of Architectural Review, and Wladishlaw Neudorfer to the Cable Television Committee.

The Mayor also appointed Ken Dubensky, Stuart Katz, and Ron Klein to the Parks & Recreation Commission, and Jay Leon and Gerald Weinberger to the Traffic, Parking, and Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee. Maggie Carrel was named Co-Chairwoman of the Beautification Committee, and Peter Kiel was re-appointed to the Library Board of Trustees.

Although he will remain on the Library Board, Floyd Lichtenberg has stepped down as President, and is highly praised for his many years of service. Lydia Dallis has been elected the new Library Board President.

Jay Teitelbaum, who chose not to run for re-election as Village Trustee this past Spring, has moved to Briarcliff Manor. We thank him for all of his efforts over the past two years.

The new officers of the Ardsley Secor Ambulance Corps are: Jesse Nelson, Captain; Kevin Speigel, 1st Lt.; Valerie Nelson, 2nd Lt.; Steve Gratzan, Treasurer; and Claudia Wolfson, Secretary. Tr. Bernie Preisser, Andrea Rosenberry, and Bill Goodman were re-elected to the Board of Directors.

Lastly, congratulations to Ardsley Parks & Recreation Commissioner Anthony Giaccio who started his career as our part-time recreation director in the early 1990s. Anthony

has recently been appointed the new full-time Parks & Recreation Superintendent for the Village of Dobbs Ferry.

POCOST PARK DEDICATED

On Saturday, June 19, 1999, family, friends, present and former Village officials, and other officials attended the dedication of Pocost Memorial Park in honor of our late Mayor Michael M. Pocost who passed way on December 23, 1991. The park is located at the corner of Ashford Avenue and American Legion Drive. The creation of the park was in part financed by the sale of inscribed memorial bricks. It was further embellished by the donation of three iron park benches donated by the Duke, Sommerfield, and DeMaio/Miano families, and the donation of half whiskey barrel planters by the Ardsley Garden Club. If anyone is still interested in ordering inscribed bricks for the path, please telephone Village Clerk Clara Smith at 693-1550.

SAFETY TIPS

Police Chief Emil Califano is encouraging all residents to obtain and complete a residential registration form which will be kept on file to be used in case of an emergency at home. The form may be obtained by visiting the Police Department, the Village Clerk's Office, or the Library. Completed forms can be dropped off at the Police Desk or mailed to the Ardsley Police Department located at 507 Ashford Avenue, Ardsley, New York 10502 to the attention of Ptl. Evan Kanigher.

Residents are reminded that the Police Department maintains a secure key file for any resident that wishes to leave a key for their house. This has proven to be invaluable for people who have locked themselves out of their home or were in need of emergency service.

Lastly, residents are advised to check to see that their homes are properly numbered and that the numerals are visible. Valuable time is lost when

emergency personnel have to search for a house that is not numbered or does not have numerals which are visible from the roadway.

THE AHS WANTS YOU

Do you belong to our Historical Society? Why not? Learn about our rich history. For instance, did you know that Ardsley once had many farms, that a dairy farm was just over the bridge in Dobbs Ferry, that cows would graze in what is now Macy Park, that sheep grazed on the Waterwheel property, and that there was a pickle factory on King Street?

Give membership coordinator, Beverly

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

**SAMUEL J. ABATE, JR. MAYOR
LINDA POHLMANN, DEP. MAYOR
STEPHEN DALTON, TRUSTEE
BERNHARD PREISSER, TRUSTEE
MARK MILDNER, TRUSTEE**

**GEORGE F. CALVI, VILLAGE MANAGER
CLARA SMITH, CLERK
MARION DEMAIIO, TREASURER**

Levine a call today, and obtain an application. She may be reached at 693-1266.

CATV NEEDS YOU!

The Cable Television Committee is desperately seeking new blood. The time one must devote is limited to two Mondays a month, and the emotional rewards in being part of a close-knit team are immense particularly with the excitement of live broadcasts and the advent of live call-ins during the visitor portion of the Village Board meetings. No particular training is necessary though some familiarity with broadcasting would be highly advantageous.

If you are interested, please call Village Hall and leave your name with Village Clerk Clara Smith (693-1550) who will pass it on to the Cable Television Committee members. Please bear in mind if we are unable to attract new volunteers live cable broadcasts of the Village Board meetings as we have come to know them could cease to exist. Please don't let that happen. Call today.

BARBECUE TIPS

Summer is here, and with it comes to

**GAZEBO CONCERT SERIES:
THREE B & BITTER WINE
3:00 PM, SUN., AUGUST 15
ASHFORD PARK**

good old fashioned summertime barbecues! However, nothing ruins a good time like a fire. So, here are some safety tips from your Ardsley Volunteer Fire Department.

When using charcoal, always place the unit in a well-ventilated area, away from all furniture or hanging objects. Before lighting, remember to use only approved lighter fluid, never gasoline, or any other fuel. Never apply lighter fluid to a smoldering or lit fire.

Propane grills are certainly more convenient, however, they can be dangerous! During the season, it is important to check the operation of several key components of the grill. Check the hoses for leaks or cracks (you will smell the propane if there is one). Make sure the hose does not contact any hot surfaces. It may cause the hose to rupture. Make sure the tank shuts off properly, never leave it on between uses. If the tank shows signs of excessive rust bring it to an authorized refilling station for inspection. When lighting a grill, follow the manufacturer's lighting procedures. Never place your face over the grill, and never use any lighter fluids. Do not wear any loose fitting clothing when grilling. Finally, if a fire does occur, do not hesitate to call **911**.

So, there you have it, just a few tips to make your summer safe! Just remember that there's no such thing as bad barbecue!

FOR EMERGENCIES, ALWAYS CALL 911