

# 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>	Always call 911 for Emergencies
<p><b>TAKING OUR FUTURE INTO OUR OWN HANDS</b></p> <p>For years, the village has been working to bring housing for volunteer service workers to Ardsley. Along the way there have been many obstacles, and many misconceptions. Let's discuss the misconceptions first.</p> <p>The largest misunderstanding concerns the meaning of the term "Affordable Housing." I'll start with what it is not. Affordable Housing does not refer to homeless shelters, "low-income" housing or "Section 8" housing. By Westchester County's definition it is for working people that earn as much as 80% of the county's median household income. Currently, that would be incomes for a family of two of \$67,400 and \$84,200 for a family of four.</p> <p>Our goal of finding housing for volunteer fire fighters and volunteer ambulance corps workers serves the village in several capacities. It is important to public safety for us to keep the ranks of the emergency services corps as full as possible. We would have to raise taxes dramatically if we had to pay for professional firefighters and EMTs [emergency medical technicians]. All one needs to do is examine the Police personnel budget to estimate what it would cost to pay for professional Fire and EMT services as well. This not only affects Ardsley residents, but also those Greenburgh residents who reside within the Ardsley Fire Protection Districts and the ASVAC service area. In short, Affordable Housing for volunteers insures lower taxes in the</p>	<p><b>IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER</b></p> <p><b>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5</b>  <b>CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY</b>  <b>6:00 PM, LEGION PARK</b>  <b>[See page 4]</b></p> <p><b>TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15</b>  <b>MENORAH LIGHTING CEREMONY</b>  <b>6:30 PM LEGION PARK</b>  <b>[See page 5]</b></p> <p><b>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31</b>  <b>LAST DAY TO PAY SECOND INSTALLMENT OF VILLAGE TAX BILL</b>  <b>[See page 4]</b></p> <p><b>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31</b>  <b>LAST DAY TO FILE FOR VARIOUS PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS</b>  <b>[See page 3]</b></p> <p>*****</p> <p>future. This is not a farfetched possibility; sections of Greenburgh and Pelham for example employ professional firefighters at taxpayer expense.</p> <p>Secondly, emergency services volunteers make for great neighbors. Their community volunteerism and enthusiastic willingness to serve are examples of why they are among the</p>	<p>best residents a village can ask for. It's a privilege to have these folks living next door (and a relief to have an EMT nearby if you need him/her).</p> <p>Unfortunately, the game has changed since the county settled a lawsuit with the Federal Government and a public housing advocacy group. As part of the settlement, the county is obligated to build 750 units of Affordable Housing in 31 communities with low percentages of minority residents (including Ardsley). The county is now obligated to supply over \$50 million to support this effort, and must use all of its power, including litigation if necessary, to see that municipalities are cooperative. Also, as part of the settlement's goal of encouraging integrated communities, these affordable units cannot be filled via the use of local preferences or criteria. That means if affordable units are built in the Village of Ardsley, we can no longer earmark them for emergency services volunteers.</p> <p>The Village Board has therefore passed a zoning change for the R-4 district that addresses this situation and hopefully will address everyone's concerns. The R-4 district is an area that runs along Route 9A that is zoned for "cluster housing," or more aptly, attached townhouses.</p> <p>The zoning ordinance dictates that new developments within the R-4 district will contain a minimum of 20% affordable units, and an additional minimum of 20% "workforce housing" units. Workforce housing are units priced for individuals and families earning 80% to 120% of the county median</p>

household income. These units are not subject to the settlement conditions, and can therefore include preferences for emergency services volunteers. The remainder of the units can be built as market rate housing, affordable or workforce units. The affordable and workforce units must be built indistinguishable from the exteriors of the market rate units, and comparable in design, appearance and construction on the interior.

This zoning plan has something for everyone to like. For the county, it includes affordable units that can be counted toward their mandatory 750, supporting its obligations dictated by the recent settlement.

For local taxpayers, the new zoning supplies the workforce units that can be targeted for emergency services volunteers. An informal survey of our local volunteers indicated that the 80%-120% of MHHI range is where many of their rank and file falls into. The setting aside of workforce units therefore addresses this important issue for which we have been working toward a solution for so many years.

The inclusion of market rate units addresses the concerns of some local residents that a sub-market housing project will lower their property values. I do not think this would be the case anyway, but the fact that a new development could include market rate units, or even higher priced sub-market rate housing, alleviates this concern. The requirement that the affordable and workforce units must essentially be equal to the market rate units further insures that any development built in the district will be attractive and characteristic of the surrounding community.

There has been criticism that a housing development will bring more traffic and congestion to Ardsley, and so we should do nothing and hope that everything remains the same as it is now. Unfortunately, the reality of the

current circumstances will not permit this to happen. Sooner or later, vacant properties will be developed. The former Waterwheel restaurant site is owned by the Town of Greenburgh, and the Town Council has decided to sell it in order to balance their budget. Without this ordinance, a purchaser could develop to the full capacity of the parcel. By codifying requirements that supply a benefit to the community, we are protecting our interests and maintaining some control over our own destiny.

Also consider that residents of affordable and workforce units own fewer cars, employ fewer household workers and utilize public transportation at a higher rate than residents of market rate housing. By setting aside units in this manner, we are actually reducing the number of vehicles which otherwise would be generated by a luxury, full-market rate development.

There's an adage that the only thing that always stays the same is the certainty that things will change. It would be nice if we could keep our village the same way it was in 1960. Unfortunately, that is not possible. The county's housing settlement, the decisions of the Town of Greenburgh and the eventual return of the housing market together insure that the character of the R-4 district will change. By remaining inactive, we cede control to outside forces. By being pro-active by passing this legislation, we are grasping the reins of our future by seeing that the hard decisions that will benefit our village and improve its quality of life are made solely by ourselves, and not by outside forces.

I thank you all for your thoughtfulness and careful consideration of this very important issue.

With warmest wishes for a happy and peaceful holiday season!

**Jay Leon**

## ASVAC UPDATE

As your ambulance service, which is made up entirely of volunteers, there are three items that affect our ability to respond to you in an emergency.

Number one is that over the years as our volume of calls has doubled, we are pleased to announce that we have a new ambulance. We owe this to the generosity of the Tom & Agnes Carvel Foundation.

Number two is that the call you make to 911 is properly routed. If Verizon services your home telephone, an emergency call will go directly to Ardsley P.D. and we will be dispatched. If another carrier provides your home telephone service it is essential that you verify that you have enhanced 911 which is routed directly to Ardsley P.D. Some carriers route their 911 calls through other agencies. Remember to call 911 from your landline (home) phone whenever possible.

Number three is the use of visible house numbers. Please drive by your house at night and look to see if we would be able to easily identify your house number in the dark. Being able to locate your address saves time. Thank you for your help and understanding. - Charles Strick, Captain – ASVAC

## ORIGINAL RECORDS SOUGHT

The Building Department has a goal of obtaining as much relevant information as possible for all properties in the Village. We always want to help the residents should they require copies of documents in our properties files. In line with this, we are requesting any resident to bring in **original** copies of Building Permits or Certificates of Occupancy which they may have in their records. It will be a great help in making sure that we have a complete file for all properties. – Larry Tomasso, Building Inspector

## **MOBILE SHREDDER RE-VISITS ARDSLEY DECEMBER 13**

Concerned about Identity Theft? The Mobile Shredder is coming to Ardsley on Sunday December 13. It will be stationed in the Ashford Park parking lot from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. This program is for Ardsley Village residents only. Paper generated by businesses and institutions is not eligible. Each resident may bring a maximum of 4 file boxes. The paper must be free of clips, bindings, folders, and files. For more information, please call the Westchester County Recycling Helpline at 211 or visit [westchestergov.com/recycling](http://westchestergov.com/recycling)

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### **HEAD SHAKERS & EYE ROLLERS**

**“Everything that can be invented has been invented.” – Charles Duell, Head of the U.S. Patent Office, 1899**

**“Who the h\_\_\_ wants to hear actors talk?” – Harry Warner, Studio Mogul, 1927**

**“Who’s buried in Grant’s Tomb?” – Groucho Marx, circa 1950-59**

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### **GREETINGS FROM ARDSLEY VILLAGE PARKS & RECREATION!**

We can't believe winter is almost here!

Ardsley Youth Basketball sign-ups and practices began this November, with games starting in January. If you somehow missed the registration, and your child wants to play, call Trish & Lori to see if there is a team that needs another player, and we will do our best to get your child on the boards!

Ardsley Adult Basketball is on Monday evenings at the Ardsley Middle School Gym. It is a fun, drop-in program for men and women over 18 years of age. There are 16

weeks of play. The fee is \$45.00 and ice packs are included!

The *Christmas Tree Lighting* will be on Saturday, December 5th @ 6:00 pm. In a break with tradition, we will not commence activities at the Ardsley Fire House. Rather, we begin at Legion Park in Addyman Square and end up at the Community Center. We will have music from the Ardsley High School, refreshments, and a special visit from The Man in Red. Please join us for a lovely evening!

Our Chess program has been a HUGE success, and we hope to have it again this winter/early spring. We are looking for MORE "indoor classes" for the late winter and spring. If you have an idea, please give us a call!

Safe Rides! Safe Rides is off to a good start, but we need more adults and more teen volunteers! Please call Allison DeLuca nee Mastrogiacommo (our Youth Advocate) at 693-7564 x. 2524 for additional information. – Trish Lacey & Lori Hunter, Parks & Recreation Staff

### **IT’S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN!**

Seniors - Remember to file your renewal application for Partial Tax Exemption. Call the Village Clerk’s office for a copy of the application at (914) 693-1550 ext. 120.

If you are a War Veteran or Cold War Veteran, you may be entitled to an exemption, as well. Any questions, please call the number above. Exemptions are also available for volunteer fire fighters, ambulance volunteers, and income qualified disabled. – Barbara Berardi, Village Clerk

### **ROOFING & SIDING PERMITS NOW REQUIRED BY NYS BUILDING CODE**

The village is now required to issue permits for all roofing and siding

projects, as per the recently revised New York State Building Code.

Please keep this in mind if you are planning to install a new roof or siding on your house because it is the property owner’s responsibility to obtain the necessary permits. Since it will take some time before all of the roofing and siding contractors who work in the village are made aware of this change, please inform your contractor of the need to file for a permit before signing a contract. You may pick up an application at Village Hall or download one from the Village’s website.

You may contact me by e-mail at [avinspector@optonline.net](mailto:avinspector@optonline.net) if you have any questions. – Larry Tomasso, Building Inspector

### **LITTLE HOUSE ON THE TRIBUTARY**

Ardsley straddles two watersheds – the Saw Mill River feeding the Hudson and the Sprain Brook feeding the Bronx River, ultimately reaching Long Island Sound. Ashford Park drains to the Sprain Brook, a significant tributary. In Summer 2008, the former “Village Clerk’s Office / American Legion / McCartney Building” found a new home in Ashford Park. (You may read all about this historical structure in The Ardsley Villager September 2008 edition.) The Building is currently undergoing restoration thanks to the efforts of American Legion Post #458. In its “next life”, the Building will serve as both a cultural and Stormwater Education resource center.

In August 2009, the Village of Ardsley was awarded a Bronx River Watershed Initiative grant. Funding is provided by the NYS Office of the Attorney General and the grant is administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Our project will be a demonstration of several Best Management Practices for stormwater treatment. The “Little House” will

have a rain barrel, and downspouts will feed a large rain garden behind it. Runoff from the circle driveway will enter a new storm drain, continue to a dry well, excess water will go on to a dissipater, and finally over rip rap on a portion of stream bank which will be cleared of invasive plants. Native plants will be used in site landscaping. The circular driveway will have a ring of porous pavement, and porous walkways will be added to the site. The design phase began this Fall 2009. Look for work to begin in Spring 2010. Community involvement will be a hallmark of this project and volunteers are being sought for planting tasks. Interested in volunteering? Please email us at [stormwater@ardsleyvillage.com](mailto:stormwater@ardsleyvillage.com).

Holidays are just around the corner. Consider water-friendly small gifts like an office coffee mug or new “quirky” design water bottle. Cuts down on all those disposable cups and bottles turning into floatable trash. Thanks from Stormwater Management! – Lorraine Kuhn

#### **VILLAGE TAXES DUE DECEMBER 31**

The second installment of the Village Tax bill is due by 4:00 pm, Thursday, December 31, 2009. Although other Village offices will close at 12 noon that day, the Tax Office will remain open to receive payments from taxpayers in person. Payments received in person after December 31 or bearing a January 1 or later U.S. Postal Service postmark will be assessed a penalty as required by New York State. Envelopes arriving January 1 or later without a USPS postmark will also receive a penalty. **MOST IMPORTANTLY, DO NOT SEND YOUR PAYMENT TO THE LOCKBOX. PLEASE MAIL IT DIRECTLY TO THE VILLAGE OF ARDSLEY AT 507 ASHFORD AVENUE, ARDSLEY, NY 10502.** Should you have any questions, please telephone the Tax Office at 693-1550 x124. – Marion DeMaio, Village Treasurer.

#### **ARDSLEY GARDEN CLUB NEWS**

The Garden Club is busy as usual with all things related to Ardsley Village gardening and conservation. In October its community project, “Plantings Beneath the Revolutionary War Signs” won three blue ribbons at the Youth Flower Show at the Tarrytown Marriott Hotel. This project involved the Girl Scouts, the Garden Club and Boy Scout Scott McKenna who won ribbons for documenting the project. Leah McKenna won a Blue Ribbon for her arrangement entitled “The Hudson River.”

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, the Garden Club featured a workshop called “Decorating with Pine Cones for the Holidays,” and in December it will be devoted to making wreaths for the holidays for the Village-owned buildings, the Veterans Hospital in Montrose, and Children’s Village in Dobbs Ferry.

Are you interested in gardening and community work? Please call us at 693-4206 -- Arline Weston, Vice President

#### **WHAT’S NEW AT THE LIBRARY?**

What’s NOT new at the Library? After a year of shifting and moving collections while we continued to stay open for business, we have a much more spacious, bright and airy library for all to enjoy. If you haven’t been in to see us – come on in! I think you will be pleasantly surprised. You will discover some new reading areas, an extended workstation for computer use and the finally re-opened and expanded children’s room.

There is one thing that has not changed at the Library and that’s the fact that we are all here, ready and available to help you find what you need. Whether you are a student investigating a topic, a young reader voraciously reading your way through the “Magic Tree House” series,

someone searching for a book in any format including large print, on Tape or CD, or preloaded on an MP3 player, a cinema aficionado seeking the newest DVD or classic VHS or TV fan looking to fill in some lost episodes of a favorite series, we can help you get what you are looking for. We’re out of our “cave” and have come into the sunlight – come visit us. We want to show you your new library! -- Angela Groth, Library Director

#### **REPORT FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Thanks to a \$3500 grant from County Legislator Tom Abinanti, who chairs the County Board of Legislators’ Energy and Environment Committee, the Village purchased two picnic tables and five recycling containers this summer. These were installed in the downtown area and Bicentennial Park. None of this would have been possible without the efforts of Arline Weston, immediate past president of the Ardsley Garden Club, who put together the grant request. The EAC thanks Arline for her tireless efforts to secure the grant funding for the picnic tables and recycling containers.

The County of Westchester mandates that all residents recycle paper and cardboard, as well as commingled glass, metal and certain plastics. The soon-to-be-released 2010 recycling calendar contains updated information about what residents should recycle at curbside as well as information on how to recycle household chemicals, batteries and electronics. The new New York State bottle law requiring a 5-cent deposit on all plastic water bottles is now in effect. Plastic water bottles should be returned to stores for deposit redemption. Plastic bags can now be recycled at many stores, including DeCicco’s in Ardsley. You should not use plastic bags to collect recyclables. Simply place recyclables in your recycling containers.

Remember: **REDUCE, REUSE, AND RECYCLE**. While recycling is good, reducing and re-using are better.

A new law governing the use of **GAS POWERED LEAF BLOWERS** is now in effect in the village. This law is effective year round. Residents and landscapers who wish to use gas powered leaf blowers must comply with the following: obtain a permit for a small fee, which is good for the life of the machine, from the Village Clerk. The permit is in the form of a decal that must be affixed to the leaf blower. To qualify for a permit, the gas powered leaf blower must be a make and model that complies with the EPA 2007 Phase II emission standards.

The details of the new law can be found on the Village website. Residents who do not wish to purchase a permit have alternatives to the gas powered leaf blower: they can use electric or battery-powered leaf blowers or a rake. -- Susan Porcino, Chairperson, Environmental Advisory Committee.

*Editor's Note: Leaves must be placed in biodegradable bags or rigid open containers. The Village Clerk's Office has a limited supply of leaf bags, the first two being free. Leaving piles of leaves in the street is illegal, unsightly, and poses a hazard to motorists. Please discourage your landscaper from piling leaves in the street for later pickup. Thank you for your cooperation. – G.F.C.*

#### **NEWS FROM THE ARDSLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The Ardsley Police Department is conducting compliance checks for seatbelts and speed enforcement. Please buckle up and observe the local speed limits.

Residents are reminded when unfamiliar solicitors attempt to sell products or request donation monies to contact the Ardsley Police Department

to verify if the organization they represent is valid.

The Youth/Community Officer is available to check and install child safety seats along with issuing free child safety seats for residents if needed. Please call for an appointment.

Any resident wishing to have their child join the Ardsley Police Explorer Post (must be at least 14 years of age), please contact Youth/Community Officer Anthony Vacca at 693-1700 ext 104.

Overnight parking permits and alarm permits expire December 31. Please apply for your 2010 permits as soon as possible.

With the winter months quickly approaching we remind our residents the roadways can become hazardous at times, so please drive slowly and carefully. Lastly, the Ardsley Police Department would like to wish all our residents a safe and Happy Holiday season. – Police Chief Emil Califano & Community Officer Anthony Vacca

#### **MENORAH LIGHTING**

Rabbi Benji Silverman and Chabad of the Rivertowns are once again constructing a Menorah in Legion Park which will be in place for the duration of Chanukah from December 11-18<sup>th</sup>. The Shamash candle will be lit on December 15 at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to join an outdoor evening of music, dance, and free latkes. For information, please call 693-6100.

#### **YOUTH ADVOCATE SEEKS SAFE HOME PLEDGES**

The Ardsley Youth Advocate program is looking for more pledges for Safe Homes. The Safe Homes Program is a parent network that aims to convey a clear and consistent message to parents in order to prevent adolescent alcohol and other drug use. The program involves parents signing a

pledge to follow steps that will help prevent youth from using alcohol and other drugs. The pledge states parents agree to the following:

- ♦ **Not to serve or allow minors to consume beer, wine, alcohol, or use other illegal drugs at a gathering of minors in our home or on our property**
- ♦ **To be present and provide supervision at any gathering of minors in our home**
- ♦ **To contact each other if we have any concerns about a youth's alcohol and other drug use in our community**

A directory of contact information for those who wish to participate will be posted on the Ardsley School District website. Parents can obtain a Safe Homes description and pledge from the Ardsley School District website or the Village of Ardsley website. For more information please email me at [mastroga@ardsleyschools.org](mailto:mastroga@ardsleyschools.org) or call 674-4845. –Allison Mastrogiacomio, Youth Advocate

#### **YOUTH ADVOCATE SEEKS ADULT & STUDENT VOLUNTEERS FOR SAFE RIDES PROGRAM**

The Ardsley Youth Advocate program is looking for more adult and student volunteers for the Safe Rides program. Safe Rides is a student/adult-run organization that provides a safe and secure way for students to get home at night on the weekends. On designated weekend evenings, from 10pm -2am, four to six students and one to two adult volunteers will staff the Safe Rides Program at the Ardsley Community Center. Two students working at the Community Center will answer all incoming telephone calls, log in calls and maintain contact via cellular phone and/or radios with each of the Safe Rides cars out on call. Two other students, preferably a male and a



female, will be sent from the community center to pick up students as a team. The driver will use his or her family car and must have their senior license. The rider is responsible for keeping contact with the Community Center to give information on departure times, pick up times, addresses and passenger names. The parents will be in a separate room from students taking calls. The parents are there to handle emergency situations only. Students participating in the Safe Rides program agree to keep all details of their service activities confidential within the program. An adult volunteer is on duty as a consultant if the young people need help. If any further assistance is desired, the team may contact the Safe Rides adult volunteers on duty, the police department, or the emergency ambulance service.

All student and adult volunteers will receive training. If you are an Ardsley School district student or adult and are interested in volunteering please contact the Ardsley Youth Advocate, Allison Mastrogiacommo (formerly De Luca), at 914 674-4845 or at [mastroga@ardsleyschools.org](mailto:mastroga@ardsleyschools.org). If you

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are interested in being a driver, please remember you must have your senior license. Students in grades 9th-12th can volunteer to answer telephone calls.

### **ANTHONY RADOMSKI RETROSPECTIVE**

The Ardsley Historical Society will hold a program meeting on Sunday, December 6 at 2:00 PM at the Ardsley Public Library located at Nine American Legion Drive. We will feature a video of our own "Leatherman," the late Tony Radomski. Some of his children will also be with us and share memories of their father. Refreshments will be served. – Beverly Levine, Village Historian

*Editor's Note: Many of Anthony Radomski's artworks are on view in the main corridor of Ardsley Village Hall including the special "time capsule" he created in honor of Ardsley's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1996. Most of the artwork was crafted from surplus shoe leather he obtained from contacts in the shoe manufacturing*

*industry. Not one for waste, Anthony would incorporate the stamped brand of a steer's hide into an animal, plant, or Native American symbol. His imagination knew no bounds! Stop by Village Hall sometime and check out his work. – G.F.C.*

### **PARTING WORDS FROM GROUCHO MARX (1895-1977) THAT HAVE STOOD THE TEST OF TIME**

**On party affiliation - "All people are born alike – except Republicans and Democrats"**

**On aging - "Getting older is no problem. You just have to live long enough."**

**On government - "Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedies."**

**On health care - "A hospital bed is a parked taxi with the meter running."**

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS!  
HAPPY CHANUKAH!  
HAPPY KWANZAA!  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**