

# 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 dial 911 for emergencies
<p><b>ANNUAL REORGANIZATION MEETING</b></p> <p>On December 6, I had the pleasure of swearing in Village Trustees Beverly Levine and Gary Malone who were re-elected in early November. I thank Beverly and Gary for their service and look forward to working with them in 2011. Additionally, I re-appointed Jerome Parnes to the Planning Board for a five year term; Zoning Board Chairman Norman Goodfarb to a five year term; and Jeff Axelrod to a three year term on the BAR. Jacob Amir was appointed to an unexpired one year term on the Zoning Board to fill the void created due to the untimely death of our former Mayor and ZBA member Marie Stimpfl. Bernie Preisser was appointed for an unexpired 2 year term on the BAR, while Ivan Kimball was appointed to a three year term. These appointments follow those made earlier in November, when I appointed Michael Wiskind to the Zoning Board, Eti Katoni to the BAR, and designated Paul Bialowas as Chairman of the BAR.</p> <p>Our esteemed Village Manager, George Calvi, appointed Johanna Scala as intermediate part-time clerk in the Treasurer's office. He also appointed Rick Thompson to his first full year term as Highway Foreman, and promoted Patrick Lindsay to Deputy Highway Foreman. I am grateful to all our volunteers and thank them for their service to the Village. They all perform very important roles that contribute to the quality of life in Ardsley. They should all be commended for their commitment to the village!</p>	<p><b>TAX PAYMENTS DUE</b></p> <p>The second installment of the Village tax bills is due by 4:00 pm, Monday, January 3, 2011. Any payment received after that time in person at Village Hall, or postmarked by the United States Postal Service, Tuesday, January 4 or later will be assessed a penalty as prescribed by the New York State Real Property Law. No one can waive that penalty. – Village Treasurer Marion DeMaio</p> <p><b>2011 ASSESSMENT ROLL</b></p> <p>The 2011 tentative assessment roll for the Village will be filed in the office of the Village Clerk no later than February 1, 2011. Those wishing to grieve their assessment may do so on the evening of February 15 from 5:00 pm until 9:00 pm. Forms may be obtained from the Village Clerk or off the New York State website. – Barbara Berardi, Village Clerk</p> <p>Please permit me to wish all of you a peaceful and joyous holiday season, as well as a Happy New Year. As always, it is a pleasure and a privilege to serve you as your mayor. Thank you very much for bestowing upon me the opportunity and the honor.</p> <p>Sincerely, <b>JAY LEON</b> Mayor of Ardsley</p>	<p><b>NEW BUILDING CODE IN EFFECT FOR 2011</b></p> <p>The Building Inspector wants to remind everyone that the 2010 version of the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code was adopted with an effective date of December 28, 2010. Any plans for building permits submitted after December 28, 2010 must comply with the 2010 version of the code.</p> <p>If you are planning a project that requires a building permit, please ensure that your design professional is using the correct version of the code. You can contact Mr. Tomasso at <a href="mailto:avinspector@optonline.net">avinspector@optonline.net</a> if you have any questions.</p> <p><b>RENEW YOUR ALARM PERMIT NOW</b></p> <p>In 1990, the Village of Ardsley enacted a new law regulating alarm systems. The law provides for an annual permit process for residences and businesses, and a schedule of monetary penalties for false alarm activation.</p> <p>The annual fee is \$25 upon the mailing of renewal application by the Police Department. To register for the first time, please email the Police Chief at <a href="mailto:chiefcal507@aol.com">chiefcal507@aol.com</a> or call the police desk at 693-1700. A full explanation of the alarm system program is detailed in the Ardsley Village Code chapter 42 available on line at <a href="http://ardsleyvillage.com">ardsleyvillage.com</a>. – Evan Kanigher, Police Sergeant</p>

## **STORMWATER UPDATE: PUT ASIDE THE CHLORIDE**

Okay, the County says, "Halt the Salt!" Either way, it's that time again to fix those leaky spots, chop out the ice and spare the salt when deicing. If you must salt, please try some new "enviro-friendly" products. Studies show that even the salinity of our ground water is creeping up, and there's no easy way to remove salt from water.

A happier note – Thank you to Saumik Rahman and Scouts and families for the lovely new Sustainable Native Plants Garden at the Veteran's Building in Ashford Park! It's part of the BRWI SW Demo project. Species include Sedum, Cone Flower, New England Aster, and even Dwarf Goldenrod, all low maintenance perennials. Look for more info in a spring edition of the Ardsley Villager. Porous driveway and walkway are complete, and several local contractors have already dropped by for a first-hand demonstration of how well the porosity is working. Another porous pathway is tentatively planned for Bicentennial Park, too. Lastly, looking for little holiday gifts? How about some nice new garden tools so folks can get out and reconnect with the environment right in their own backyard? And don't forget those high tech water bottles and whimsical coffee mugs. Those items really cut down on disposables. – Lorraine Kuhn, Stormwater Assistant

## **THE HORN BLOWS AT NOON**

The horn which blows at noon every day in the Village actually began as an emergency notification for the Fire Department. Later on, notification was extended to the Ardsley-Secor Volunteer Ambulance Corps, but with a different number of tones. The newest horn can use different tones as well as give emergency directions verbally. The horn is a backup system to telephones, cell phones and pagers. In 2002 when the East Coast had an

electrical emergency and all cell towers were down, only the horn was available for notification. The horn is tested at noon to make sure it is functioning properly. It is only used, if necessary, during the night for the Fire Dept. It is not used at night for ASVAC because ASVAC has assigned crews for night calls and they are notified by pagers. In the past, the Fire Dept. had no assigned crews for night calls so the horn had to sound.

In 2005, 60 Control in Valhalla, became the dispatcher for the fire department instead of the Ardsley Police Department. ASVAC continues to use the Ardsley Police Department as the primary dispatcher and uses 60 Control as their backup dispatcher. The horn remains as an emergency backup if nothing else works. Each night at 7 PM all pagers are tested for the Fire Dept. and ASVAC. In closing whenever I hear the horn I think to myself "Oh my! Someone's in trouble." My second thought is "... another life will be saved." – Beverly Levine, Village Trustee & Liaison to ASVAC

## **GREENBURGH HAZMAT PLAN**

The Town of Greenburgh, through its Police Department, is leading the creation of a Comprehensive All-Hazards Emergency Management and Mitigation Plan for the Town and the six Villages: Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Elmsford, Hastings, Irvington and Tarrytown. The creation of this plan will help the area to better prepare for and respond to hazard events and disasters, and allow the Town and participating Villages to be eligible for future mitigation funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This is an opportunity for the Greenburgh area to create a detailed plan that will address a variety of potential hazards that could affect our residents, businesses and other institutions. Project funding is available for both public and private property. Further information about the planning process, including an online citizen's hazard preparedness

survey, is available on the town's website. – Joseph DeCarlo, Greenburgh Police Chief

## **JUST OUR BILL**

William F. Schropp, Jr. died on Saturday, October 2, 2010 at the age of 87. Bill was born in 1923 in Norton, Kansas. He was a wonderful man, full of good spirits, fun, laughter and concern for others. He and his wife, Hank, lived in Ardsley for many years and we all got to know both of them through all the good works they did in the community. Bill served during WWII in the Pacific. He was a yachtsman and a renowned photographer working for many years with Salvador Dali, photographing his artistry. Bill served on the board of the Ardsley Historical Society and was the on-call photographer for anything going on in the Village. Unfortunately, he was one of the many favorite people Ardsley lost this year who won the hearts of anyone who had the privilege of knowing them. Our Bill always left us laughing, and always will. -- Beverly Levine, Village Trustee and Village Historian

## **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

## **WORLD WAR II VETERANS VIDEO PROJECT**

The WWII Veterans' Video Project is currently being shown on the Verizon and Cablevision government channels continuously during the day. So far,

we have featured Bill Schropp, Bruno Viani, Adam Damascus, Dorothy Kaufman, and Nick Macri. Others will follow. We hope you enjoy these memories. – Beverly Levine, Village Trustee & Village Historian

### **TOWN OF GREENBURGH RESPONSIBLE FOR DOG LICENSING IN 2011**

Recently, in an attempt to shift costs from itself, the State of New York enacted a law giving up the responsibility of issuing dog licenses and transferred it to local jurisdictions. Taking advantage of a provision of this new law, the Village of Ardsley and the Boards of the other five Greenburgh villages subsequently approved resolutions passing this duty to the Greenburgh Town Clerk's office. Effective January 1, 2011, all transactions regarding dog licenses must be handled through the Town Clerk's office at 177 Hillside Avenue in Greenburgh. If you have any questions, please contact the Town Clerk's office at 993-1501. – Barbara Berardi, Village Clerk

### **AMBULANCE SIRENS**

During this time of giving thanks, I would like to remind everyone to be thankful every time the Village Siren sounds. Firstly, that a volunteer is responding to an emergency. Secondly, that the emergency isn't for themselves. There are residents who complain that the sirens are loud, annoying and cost the Village money. Actually, they are a call to action to our volunteers. Volunteers are not required to respond, but do so out of the generosity of their hearts and concern for their fellow friends and neighbors. It is impractical to require a volunteer to carry their pager 24/7. There are times when we are not able to access our pagers for various reasons and yet when the sirens sound we respond. We respond to every call to action, over 700 times a year. The only way to eliminate the sirens is to require our volunteers to be on standby at all times or to hire paid

staffers. We have the best response rate in the Rivertowns and possibly the whole county for an all Volunteer Agency. When people no longer volunteer there will be a paid agency and then the sirens can be eliminated. Remember that as a volunteer agency we don't receive any tax money, but rely on donations and insurance reimbursement for our funding. To find out more about ambulance care in the Village or volunteer opportunities, please e-mail me at [mail@asvac.org](mailto:mail@asvac.org). Have a Happy and Healthy Holiday season from all at ASVAC. On Saturday, January 8, 2011 ASVAC will be sponsoring a CPR Class for the general public at 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. The fee is \$35.00. For more information, please call Tony Rabadi at 494-1402. -- Charles Strick, Captain

### **ARDSLEY GARDEN CLUB CREATES RAIN GARDEN; SPREADS HOLIDAY CHEER**

This past summer the Ardsley Garden Club partnered with the Saw Mill Coalition, the Lions Club, and AmeriCorps to plan and plant a demonstration rain garden at the bus shelter in Legion Park across from Addyman Square. A rain garden is defined as a planted depression that allows rain water runoff from impervious surfaces (roofs, walkways, compacted lawn area, etc.) an opportunity to be absorbed. This reduction in runoff allows storm water to soak into the ground as opposed to flowing into the drains, which causes erosion, water pollutions, and flooding. This simple project can be incorporated into home gardens. We invite the public to examine the demonstration rain garden with the thought in mind, that in our area, this will help revitalize and protect the Saw Mill River, a tributary of the Hudson River. To add to the holiday spirit, on November 30th the Garden Club made wreaths to decorate local Veteran's homes, Ardsley's public buildings, the local churches, the ambulance building, and the village clock. We will also made colorful

swags to grace the parking meters. Interested parties are invited to join us in our community activities. Please call us at 693-4206. Happy New Year! – Arline Weston, Vice President

### **LIBRARY HAPPENINGS**

The beginning of a new year – what fun! This year the numbers themselves are exciting, all those ones, 1/1/11! Here at the Library we start anew with our programs. Our pre-school story times will begin again on January 12<sup>th</sup> with the two year olds meeting at 10:30 in the morning and the three year olds and up meeting at 1:00 pm. Our "Bouncing Babies" programs for those under 2 will resume on Friday mornings at 10:30 starting on January 14<sup>th</sup>. We also offer families a chance to enjoy story times with their little ones at 10:30 on the first Saturdays of the month. Please call to register your child so we have a list of who to expect and if something unexpected happens we can contact you if need be (like what happened when a sewer issue caused us to close for a day – a Friday – and we contacted all our bouncing babies families!)

Our adult book discussion group continues to meet here at the library on the third Thursday of the month at 7 pm. The last few books we have discussed were *Mapping the Edge* by Dunant, *Let the Great World Spin* by McCann, and *Sarah's Key* by Rosnay. This month we will be reading *One Good Dog* by Wilson. If you are interested in joining the group, or even just reading the same books, feel free to call me at the library. Stay tuned for scheduled book discussion groups for all school age children as well as craft programs and other special events to come. Visit our homepage to see our program schedule, access the library catalogue, explore the digital download options available, use the great databases available 24/7, and check out the new and exciting music library where you can use Freegal to download free and legal music from Sony Music. This is available only for Ardsley Library Card holders so take

advantage of it at:  
**www.ardslevlibrary.org.** Happy  
New Year and I hope to see you at the  
library! – Angela Groth, Library  
Director

**A PAGE FROM “THE MORE  
THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE  
THINGS STAY THE SAME”  
DEPARTMENT**

A wise old soul once told me that  
nostalgia is merely the product of a  
bad memory. Nothing confirms that  
point of view more than a letter to the  
editor supplied to me recently by  
former resident Ward Thorpe:

“What a year those political hacks in  
Washington have given the voters who  
put them in office. Accomplishments?  
A big fat zero . . . Their one  
accomplishment was, as always,  
spending, between raising their own  
salaries and hiring more useless and  
needless employees. . . And what a  
year our state legislators have hung  
up. Absolutely nothing except  
fighting over taxes, cigarette taxes the  
highest in the nation, auto licenses to  
be raised and corporation taxes the  
highest ever. I can just see

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

**MAYOR JAY LEON  
DEP. MAYOR PETER PORCINO  
TRUSTEE LARRY J. NARDECCHIA  
TRUSTEE GARY MALONE  
TRUSTEE BEVERLY LEVINE**

**VILLAGE MANAGER GEORGE CALVI  
VILLAGE TREASURER MARION DEMAIO  
VILLAGE CLERK BARBARA BERARDI  
EDIT/DESIGN: GEORGE CALVI**

**THIS MONTH’S CONTRIBUTORS:  
BEVERLY LEVINE, ANGELA GROTH,  
CHARLIE STRICK, LORRAINE KUHN,  
BARBARA BERARDI, MARION DEMAIO,  
LARRY TOMASSO, TRISH LACY,  
JOSEPH DECARLO, EVAN KANIGHER,  
ARLINE WESTON, & GEORGE CALVI**

corporations waving hello and good-  
bye to the cigarette smugglers as they  
pass at the borders of our state. Any  
record of reductions in expenses?  
None. . . How long are we taxpayers  
going to put up with these state and  
federal bureaucracies and their  
ridiculous spending. . . Let’s start  
demanding instead of asking that some  
form of sanity be established in our  
law making bodies.”

A compilation of sentiments for 2010?  
Try 1969! The letter was written by  
Ward’s dad, Willard Thorpe, to the  
Johnstown, PA “Tribune-Democrat”  
in January 1970 protesting the  
profligate spending ways of his  
elected representatives. Next time you  
start yearning for the good old days,  
think again. Perhaps the good old days  
weren’t so good after all! No doubt  
2010 was an *annus horribilis*! Let’s  
stop carping about the past and start  
working on improving the future. As  
Charles Grodin might say, 2011 has to  
be better. It just has to be! On behalf  
of all the officials and staff, sincerest  
best wishes to all our residents for a  
happy, healthy, and safe New Year! –  
George F. Calvi, Village Manager

**OR CURRENT RESIDENT**

**JANUARY RECREATION  
PROGRAMS**

The Ardsley Village Parks &  
Recreation Department reports that the  
Youth Basketball program for grades  
3-6 has its games starting the week of  
Jan 8. The Men’s Adult Basketball  
program is taking place on Monday  
nights at the Ardsley Middle School  
gym from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

Lastly, hopes remain high that the new  
indoor soccer program will get off the  
ground. Aimed at 3rd and 4th graders,  
it would take place in Tarrytown  
come January. For details regarding  
the above programs and others, please  
call the Community Center at 693-  
8012. – Trish Lacy, Parks &  
Recreation Supervisor

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**ARDSLEY REMEMBERS  
NEIL SLACK  
FIRE CHIEF & INSPECTOR  
1917 – 2010**

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