

The Ardsley Villager

A Publication of the Ardsley Village Board of Trustees

Visit us at www.ardsleyvillage.com		For emergencies, always call 911
<p data-bbox="250 531 488 590">MESSAGE FROM MAYOR JAY LEON</p> <p data-bbox="160 625 578 743">It's been a tumultuous month in our small village. Let's take some time out to discuss some of the positive events that are taking place:</p> <p data-bbox="160 774 578 1413">Community Policing – The Ardsley Village Board, in conjunction with Police Chief Califano and through a contractual agreement with the Police Benevolent Association, have designated Police Officer Anthony Vacca as our official Community Policing Officer. PO Vacca commands a genuine rapport with our kids along with an air of trust and authority. His schedule has been freed up so he can spend the bulk of his time working along with our Youth Advocate Allison DeLuca to prevent the pervasive problem of underage drinking and drug abuse. Tony is an exceptional person, and Ardsley is extremely lucky to have him as a member of our police force.</p> <p data-bbox="160 1444 578 1900">Traffic Issues – On June 2nd and 3rd, the long awaited re-stripping of Ashford Avenue finally took place. Vehicles will now be able to cross Route 9A onto the Ashford Avenue bridge two cars at a time. Our traffic consultant has indicated this should help alleviate the long backups we sometime experience along Ashford Avenue headed west-bound, and will help traffic headed south-bound on Route 9A that is headed toward Dobbs Ferry to stack up two at a time more readily on the bridge. This latest</p>	<p data-bbox="636 646 987 674">*****</p> <p data-bbox="654 737 969 890">VILLAGE TAX BILLS DUE JUNE 30</p> <p data-bbox="628 930 995 1476">Village tax bills were mailed to property owners on May 29. The first installment of the Village taxes is due at 4:00 pm, Monday, June 30. Payments received in the mail with a postmark of July 1 or later, or without a postmark at all after June 30, must be assessed a penalty as prescribed by NYS Real Property Law. If you did not receive your bill, or have any questions, please call the Tax office at 693-1550 Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm – Marion DeMaio, Village Treasurer</p> <p data-bbox="636 1516 987 1543">*****</p> <p data-bbox="607 1583 1021 1883">change, along with the new signal light installed at Ashford and Route 9A last December, represent the first time in anyone's memory where the New York State Dept. of Transportation made an improvement in Ardsley for the purpose of traffic improvement (as opposed to for strictly safety considerations).</p>	<p data-bbox="1052 516 1469 787">Our next goal is a follow-up to our request for New York State to install a traffic signal at Lawrence Street and Route 9A, which will be the primary secondary route for vehicles during the reconstruction of the Ashford Avenue Bridge, currently scheduled for winter of 2010.</p> <p data-bbox="1052 821 1469 1062">As always, I would like to thank the Village Board, George Calvi and the Ardsley Traffic Committee (TPCSS), and most specifically Frank Doherty, Pat Hoffman and Steve Wittenberg, for their hard work and assistance in getting the NYSDOT to pay attention.</p> <p data-bbox="1052 1096 1469 1612">CATV – For months we have been frustrated by the poor audio in the telecasts of the Village Board meetings. There appears to be a light at the end of the tunnel. The village has now received three revised bids from vendors who will rewire and re-equip the studio in village hall. This will not only correct the audio problem, but should greatly enhance the telecasts visually as well. Best of all, the funds for this work and equipment will come from the PEG fees supplied by Cablevision and Verizon, as negotiated in our last contract negotiation with them.</p> <p data-bbox="1052 1646 1469 1946">Ashford Park – Recently the parking lot at Ashford Park was enlarged, curbed and repaved. The extra space now allows vehicles to back out safely. The softer asphalt curbing was replaced by the stronger Belgian Block curbing making it much more apparent to a motorist if he or she accidentally jumps the curb onto</p>

the parkland. There were some complaints that one part of the parking lot was too close to the playing area, and although there was disagreement as to whether this was actually a problem (since the superior curbing is now in place), we put up a guard rail around the area of most concern. A special thank you to our Highway Department for providing the labor for the work (with no overtime incurred); they did a great job! Thanks also to Trustee Larry Nardecchia, who provided engineering services. Also note that materials and paving costs were paid out of capital accounts that were funded by developer's fees, meaning the only taxpayer cost for the job was the regular wages of the Highway Department.

Village Budget – By now those of you who do not escrow your taxes have received your 2008-09 village property tax bills. The original tax increase included in the first draft of the budget was lowered to 2.74%, the lowest in the Rivertowns and among the lowest we've aware of in Westchester County. While there was no reduction in services, this is truly a bare bones budget. With the cost of fuel and energy rising exponentially, a downturn in the overall economy plus the non-discretionary cost of living increases in wages to union employees, we were fortunate to keep the tax increase to a minimum. This is the second year in a row with a tax levy in the 3% range. I doubt any village in the state can make a similar claim. Our thanks go out to our Village Manager, George Calvi and our Village Treasurer, Marion DeMaio, for their hard work on this year's budget.

Speed Trailer - After years of discussion, the Ardsley Police are now proud owners of a speed trailer. You may have seen this apparatus indicating your speed

while encouraging everyone to drive safely on Route 9A and Heatherdell. The trailer also accumulates data for traffic counts and speeds. We believe the machine will go a long way in helping us make our roads safer. Please note that the funds for the trailer came from a remainder capital fund account designated for police purchases, and was not paid for by the village's general fund.

Other News – Some of you may be wondering whether there will be an Ardsley Day this year. The success of this event over the past two years has been due to a small number of hard working volunteers, one of whom is me. With so many other mayoral responsibilities occurring over the past few months, I decided there wasn't enough time this year to devote to all the planning necessary for Ardsley Day. And, without me acting as resident cheerleader and taskmaster, the event wasn't meant to be for this year. If there's enough interest, perhaps we can continue sponsoring the event in 2009.

I wish all of you and your families a very happy, relaxing and safe summer - Jay Leon, Mayor

NEW STATE BUILDING CODE IN EFFECT

The Building Department wants to remind all residents that the effective date of the 2007 version of the NYS Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code (Uniform Code) was 1/1/2008. All permits issued on or after January 1, 2008 must comply with the 2007 version of the Uniform Code regardless of when the application was originally submitted. Please plan your projects accordingly and ensure that your architect is working with the correct version of the Uniform Code as the Building Department is not permitted to deviate from this effective date.

"In waking a tiger, use a long stick." – Mao Tse-Tung

YOUTH ADVOCATE RESTORES SAFE RIDES, SCHEDULES EVENTS

The Ardsley Youth Advocate Program is starting the Safe Rides program for the village in the fall. 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.

We are looking for adult and student volunteers. If you are an Ardsley School district student or adult and are interested in volunteering please contact the Ardsley Youth Advocate, Allison De Luca, at (914) 674-4845 or at delucaa@ardsleyschools.org. (If you 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.)

Summer Trips and Events for High School students

July 9th – Trip to SplashDown Beach Water Park (\$ 15 per person)

August 5th – Guitar Hero Competition at the Community Center

Summer Trips and Events for 7th and 8th graders

July 14th – Trip to New Roc City (about \$25 per person)

August 6th – Guitar Hero Competition at the Community Center

For more information and permission slips please call the Ardsley Youth Advocate, Allison De Luca, at 914-674-4845. The deadline to sign up for summer trips is June 30.

“If you’re going to tell people the truth, be funny or they’ll kill you.” – Billy Wilder

CATCH THE READING BUG AT THE ARDSLEY LIBRARY!

On June 28, 2008 the Library will be having its summer Reading Club Kick-Off Party featuring a mystifying show by Magic Dave.

The Club is open to all children that have completed Kindergarten on up and features weekly raffles, trivia games with weekly prizes and other scheduled programs on Thursday evenings at 5:00 pm. Call the library at 693-6636 to register.

Make time to visit the Library during the summer months. See the beehive in the window and search further and find some walking sticks, caterpillars and other crawly bugs scattered throughout the library. This year the first graders of Concord Road helped us prepare for our Summer Reading Club by creating these insects on their field trip to the library the first week of June! While here, check out our collection of books-on-CD for your summer car trip. It might just let you forget how much your gas is costing you...

Just a reminder – The Library will be closed on Friday July 4th and Saturday July 5th for the holiday – plan accordingly.

The Library will be open on Saturdays from 10 to 1pm beginning July 12 until Labor Day. We will resume our regular hours of 10 to 5:30 on Saturdays beginning on September 6th. Happy Summer – Angela Groth, Director

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR VILLAGE CLERK

County Clerk Tim Idoni’s Mobile Office Comes to Ardsley on July 10th.

The Westchester County “Clerk Mobile” Office will appear in Ardsley in the parking lot of 875 Saw Mill River Road on Thursday, July 10th from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. If you need to apply for a U.S. Passport, his staff can take your photo and process your passport

application. A certified copy of your birth certificate, a valid driver’s license and the fee is usually all you need. If you are planning to apply, please call 995-3086 or visit www.westchesterclerk.com for specific requirements.

DOGS: Residents are reminded that dog licenses must be renewed on an annual basis. All dogs over four months of age should be licensed with the Village Clerk. If your pooch lacks a tag, please contact Barbara Berardi at 693-1550 x120. Dog walkers, please keep in mind that dogs must be kept on a leash not more than six feet in length and should not be walked on other residents’ lawns.

DAYTIME PARKING PERMITS:

If you have not renewed your parking permit for the Village Green/Bridge Street Parking lots, please do so as soon as possible. The permits expired 5/31/2008. The fee for the year is \$150.00. For more information, please contact Barbara Berardi at 693-1550 x 120.

Also, visit our website www.ardsleyvillage.com click on Calendar and you will be able to view all Calendar Events for each month.

A serious gambler, Warren G. Harding once bet a set of White House china in a poker game – and lost!

ARDSLEY GARDEN CLUB

The Ardsley Garden Club began the new year in February with its annual fundraiser, an Irish Dinner featuring traditional Irish food and Bagpipers. Again, the summer banners are flying high over Ardsley with the help of the loyal

men of the Public Works Department.

Our Conservation chairman, Linda Keil reports that the Blue Bird Boxes, placed in March at the Ardsley Country Club now have nesting Blue Birds. Youth Leader, Bebe Harrison, held another successful Poetry Contest. The poems were published for all to enjoy our young local talent. The 45th Annual Standard Flower Show was held on May 7th and was open to the public. Our first Garden Tour on June 14th, "Come Into our Gardens" began with a light breakfast at St. Barnabas Church where you picked up maps and toured eleven gardens featuring a Hosta Garden, An Herb Garden, an outdoor Railroad and much, much more.

The Winner of our Student Scholarship went to Emily Rose Bialowas for her continued interest in garden-related subjects, such as conservation, environment, plant research, and horticulture. Emily will go on to study Environmental Science at Cornell University. The Garden Club has won a \$4,000 award, from Albany, to plant beneath the Revolutionary War Signs and other plantings within the village. Garden Club members

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will hold horticulture classes for local scout troops. For more information about these subjects and the Ardsley Garden Club call (914) 693-4206) – Arline Weston, President.

STORMWATER NEWS: H₂O = \$

Yes, water conservation makes "cents" (sense)! It's expensive to chlorinate our drinkable water and treat wastewater. Here are some summer garden tips: buy hardy, native plants which require less herbicide, pesticide and water, mow lawns less frequently to develop strong roots, don't over water and try using a rain barrel to collect water for your plants. Save money and reduce polluted runoff, too.

The Stormwater Annual Report 2007-8 is now available at www.ardsleyvillage.com, Village Hall and the Library. NYSDEC has issued a new SPDES permit to the Village covering May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2010. Stormwater Management Program continues, Annual Reports in June.

Lastly, looking for a change of scene that's "fuel-friendly"? Visit the Bronx River. There's a great hiking and biking path and two

Stormwater spots to visit. Park at the Crestwood RR station in Tuckahoe and walk a few yards north on the trail to the SW Management Demo garden. Also, stop by the County Center parking lot in White Plains and check out progress on conversion to a SW Management Practices Demo. Bronx River clean-up is ongoing and a healthier waterway will benefit all of us. Keep up the good work helping to make our water cleaner and have a great summer!

"One thing I've learned in this business . . . is that there's only 18 inches between a pat on the back and a kick in the pants!" – Hattie McDaniel

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 30th – Tax Bills Due

July 4th - Village Offices Closed

July 7th – Village Bd. Mtg.

July 17th - Concert in the Park

July 31st – Concert in the Park

August 4th – Village Bd. Mtg.

September 1st – Offices Closed

September 2nd – Village Bd. Mtg

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