The Ardsley Villager

A Publication of the Ardsley Village Board of Trustees

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Ex Ardsley semper aliquid novi

Always call 911 for Emergencies

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR JAY LEON

Many of you are very generous with your time by volunteering in the schools, for the PTA, AYSO, Little League, Garden Club or in your houses of worship. However, you may not be aware that you can make important contributions to your community by volunteering for an Ardsley Village committee or board. The following are a few of the opportunities afforded to our residents (and in some cases, to nearby non-residents):

Land Use Boards – The Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and Board of Architectural Review require some training, continuing education, and a lot of common sense. Positions are limited, but they do occasionally open up (particularly in early December, when the terms expire). positions are Mayoral appointments, and an interview and CV may be requested. If you're a fairminded person who enjoys an intellectual challenge, a position on one of our land use boards might be a good way to spend an evening or two a month.

Emergency Services – The Ardsley Fire Department and the Ardsley-Secor Volunteer Ambulance Corps (ASVAC) are 100% volunteer and can always use more members. There is perhaps no more rewarding way to serve your community than by joining one or both of these two organizations. You don't need to be present in the village during weekdays to participate. Extra benefit – volunteering for Fire or

SUMMER REMINDERS FROM THE ARDSLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Ardsley Police Department would like to remind our residents of some of the services provided to you. If and when residents decide to go away you can phone in and request a dark house check; an assurance that your house will be checked daily. Residents can also contact the Police Department and have their child safety seat inspected or installed. Any resident having children from ages 14 - 21 can join our newly formed Police Explorer Post. Please call for details. Lastly, officers will be enforcing seatbelt, cell phone, safety vehicle equipment checks, and aggressive driving. We ask all our residents to drive especially careful with the warmer weather approaching. Our contact number is 693-1700 or 911 (emergency). – Anthony Vacca, Community Policing Officer

Ambulance sets a very positive example for your kids to look up to.

<u>Library Board</u> – This is the policysetting body for the Ardsley Public Library. Most of the current members have served honorably and competently for many years, so open positions on the board are rare. If you are interested in serving one of the great jewels of Ardsley village, perhaps you might volunteer in the library itself while you wait for a board position to become available. The knowledge of the library's inner workings would help should you ever serve on the board, and they sure could use your assistance.

TPPCS – It may stand for Traffic, Parking, Pedestrian and Cycling Safety committee, but we want it to spell traffic relief!!! This committee reviews various alternatives and potential solutions to two of our biggest problems (that would be the "T" and one of the "Ps"), makes recommendations to the Village Board and conducts various analyses on occasion. It's for those of you who can think outside of the (traffic) box.

CATV Committee – These stalwart folks are responsible for the televising of our Village Board meetings (on Channel 75 for Cablevision and 35 for Verizon/Fios) via use of our recently upgraded studio. They also make decisions regarding equipment and technology purchases. Future potential projects may include the archiving and editing of tapes. No experience is necessary, but you must be able to stay awake during our often scintillating Village Board meetings.

Environmental Review Committee – The contribution of these folks has grown in importance and stature, as the village looks to become more environmentally-minded. Members meet to discuss and advise the Village Board on ways to transform our community into a greener, more energy-efficient place to live. They also liaison with similar committees and government agencies in surrounding municipalities. Like all

advisory committees, they report back to the Village Board with their recommendations, analyses and advice.

<u>Youth Council</u> – This board meets with our Youth Advocate to supply guidance and assistance to her efforts to support the health and emotional well-being of the kids in our school district.

Parks and Recreation Commission – This board sets policy and advises the Village Board on matters related to our various recreation programs and the maintenance of our parks.

Ardsley Improvement Committee – These individuals meet to discuss and recommend to the Village Board ways to improve the appearance and quality of life for Ardsley residents and merchants.

Ardsley Day – We are about to begin discussions on organizing Ardsley Day once again for sometime in September. The Police Benevolent Association has offered to sponsor the event, but once we start meeting we could use volunteers to help it become a reality. There will be more news regarding this event in the near future.

Grant Writers – Currently, this is the responsibility of our various department heads. However, it is a time-consuming and complicated activity that takes away from their regular duties. We also may be missing out on opportunities for grants because our staff has little time to research them. This would be a good volunteer position for anyone with grant writing experience or for someone who is looking to acquire these skills.

If you are interested in participating in one or more of our committees, or if you would like to organize a new advisory committee, please email our Village Clerk Barbara Berardi at ardsleyclerk@optonline.net, or call her during business hours at 693-1550.

Once again, I thank our volunteers for their time and the great job that they do. Your tireless effort and fantastic attitude is part of what makes Ardsley a great place to live!

Warmest Wishes,

Jay Leon

RETIRED VILLAGE CLERK PASSES AWAY

No doubt many of you remember our former Village Clerk Mary Kamens. Mary who passed away on January 19th at her daughter's home in Manhattan. Born on September 14, 1913, Mary started her career with Ardsley on April 1, 1957 as a stenographer for Village Manager Ben Miller at the beginning of Mayor Louis Zito's administration. She soon became Village Clerk and remained in that position until her retirement on January 3, 1997. Upon notice of her death flags throughout the Village were lowered to half mast in her honor.

Mary didn't move into the city for health reasons. She moved there because she loved New York City. Her father operated a haberdashery there, and she often spoke of returning to the city. She also loved live theatre, reading the New York Times Book Review and the Wall Street Journal, dabbling in the Stock Market, and sneaking cigarettes, not necessarily in that order. Often one would find her preparing the Village Board or Zoning Board minutes at odd hours, including weekends, in Village Hall. I once asked her why she did that. advised me that Village Hall was her second home, and she never bothered to having cable television or air conditioning installed in her small apartment!

Upon hearing of her passing, a number of present and former Village Officials emailed me the following remarks about Mary Kamens:

"She was a fantastic person, kind of in the same mold as Lou Pascone." – former Mayor Marie Stimpfl

"When Lisa and I moved to the Village 26 years ago, Mary WAS the Village (along with Lou, of course)." — Bob Pellegrino, Planning Board Chairman

"Mary was a classic". – Timothy Idoni, former Ardsley Village Manager and current County Clerk of Westchester

"She was one of a kind." – former Mayor Samuel Abate

... and indeed, she was. – George Calvi, Village Manager

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders Field the poppies blow, Between the crosses row by row That mark our place; and in the sky The larks, still bravely singing, fly Scarce heard amid the guns below. -- Lt. Col. John McCrae, Canadian Army (1872-1918)

On the week before Memorial Day, you may see some of our WWII veterans selling poppies which are a memoriam to those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Monies raised will be used to refurbish the WWII wall of honor in Ashford Park. – Veterans of American Legion Post 458

LOUIS PASCONE CELEBRATES 60 YEARS ON THE JOB

On January 21st, Mayor Leon presented Louis Pascone a plaque from the New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) recognizing sixty years of service with the Village of Ardsley. Louie was hired on January 14, 1949. He had a brief stint with the U.S. Air Force in the early 1950s. He was promoted to Deputy Foreman in 1961, and then was promoted to General Foreman / Superintendent in 1977. He has been a resident of the Village for the past 79 years. His responsibilities include the overseeing

of all operations for the Department of Public Works, which include Sanitation, Recycling, Maintenance of Sewers, Road Paving & Street Maintenance, Street Lighting, Snow Removal & De-icing, all Local Parks, all Traffic Islands & Planters, Tree Maintenance, Storm Sewers, all Municipal Buildings, and all Street and Traffic Signage. Louie Pascone is one of the most resourceful men that I have known in any field. Ardsley has been blessed to have an employee of his caliber for all these years! George Calvi, Village Manager

TRASH TO CHARLES POINT DOWN

Kudos to our Village residents for stepping up their efforts to reduce, reuse, or recycle because the amount of trash being carted off to Charles Point in Peekskill is significantly down from last year. According to our records, the Village DPW carted 3,104.25 tons of trash in calendar year 2007. In 2008, the DPW carted 2,480.62 tons. That is a difference of 623.63 tons which at \$25 per ton translates into a potential savings of \$15,590.75.

However, according to our intermunicipal agreement we were committed to sending the County a minimum of 2,794.00 tons in 2008. Thus, we had to pay for 313.38 undelivered tons amounting to \$7,834.50. Yet, we still yielded a net savings of \$7,756.25. Minimums are based on 90% of prior year actuals. Thus, 2009's minimum commitment will be 2,232.56 tons

When asked how the savings were achieved, Highway Foreman Louie Pascone advised me that the residents are definitely recycling more, and DPW crews are being very vigilant in not picking up garden debris placed in plastic bags. There are outside forces at play here as well. With the economy in a tailspin people are consuming less and thus producing less waste. Moreover, they are holding on to possessions longer. Ask

any landfill operator or junk dealer and he will corroborate that fact. – George Calvi, Village Manager

STORMWATER UPDATE: MORE FUN THAN A BARREL OF ...RAINDROPS!

Rain and melting snow pour off your rooftop down the drainpipe, run out over your driveway into the street, along the way collecting dirt, oil and grime which go down the storm drain into our local streams. Even if your drainpipes connect directly to the storm drain system, that runoff water misses an opportunity to clean up by infiltration into the ground and also overburdens the system during storms which contributes to flooding. Rain barrels are a great way to "disconnect" your home downspouts from the storm sewer system as well as providing some water for garden irrigation. Rain barrels are available online and at supply local garden stores. www.marc.org/Environment/water has tips on how to build your own, too. A few important points, always keep the top overflow outlet open and directed at least 10 feet away from your foundation (preferably into a rain garden), use a screen at the barrel inlet and prop the barrel up on cinder blocks to allow access to the bottom outlet. Make sure it is stable: a 50 gallon barrel of water is heavy. Watch for the "Adopt-a-Rain Barrel" page on www.ardsleyvillage.com coming this spring.

In Stormwater Media News, there's a new Ardsley Stormwater video on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1nI
LJqh6ZFU . A link to the video is posted on the Village website. Also, SW "Commercial" soon returns to Channel 75 CATV. Lastly, a Phase II Stormwater Management Survey will be posted on the website. Please take

a few minutes to fill it out. Responses are extremely helpful to our Minimum Measure 2 Public Participation efforts. And thanks for being Stormwatersavvy – keeping our water cleaner! - Lorraine Kuhn, Stormwater Assistant

NEWS FROM ARDSLEY – SECOR VOLUNTEERS AMBULANCE CORPS (ASVAC)

Last year was a busy one for the Ambulance Corps. With over 560 calls our members saw their share of cuts, bruises, sprained ankles, broken bones and many other emergencies; some not so routine. We treated the young and the elderly alike, but one call stood out with one of our crews along with the fine help of the Ardsley Police department saving a choking victim who I am glad to say is doing fine. Our ranks are growing and more and more of our members are becoming Emergency Technicians so that ASVAC is ready -24 hours a day -7 days a week to respond when we are needed!

Remember that ASVAC receives no funding from the Village of Ardsley. We rely heavily on the generosity of our friends and neighbors in the community. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer then please see our website at www.asvac.org or email me at - mail@asvac.org. - Alan Greenwald - Captain

TALES OF THE HASTINGS PACHYDERM

Ethan Mordden's 2008 biography, "Ziegfeld, The Man Who Invented Show Business," tells of the goings on at Burkely Crest, which later became known as the Burke Estate in nearby Hastings-on-Hudson. Actress Billie Burke, of Glinda the Good Witch of the North fame, had purchased the property long before she married Florenz Ziegfeld, as an idyllic, peaceful place far from the mayhem of Manhattan. Of course, after the marriage, owing Ziegfeld's to eccentric taste, the estate became anything but peaceful. As animal lovers, the Ziegfelds kept a menagerie that included dogs, donkeys, lambs, buffalos, exotic birds, and an elephant calf named Herman.

Herman had a taste for Uneeda brand biscuits and was supplied regularly by Delia, the maid at the back door of the mansion. Free to roam around the property, Herman one day spied five year old Patty Ziegfeld with a Uneeda and yanked it out of her small hand with his trunk. Patty entered the house and proceeded to the kitchen to get another, but was followed by Herman. With a new supply of biscuits in hand, Patty retreated up the back stairway with Herman in hot pursuit. Unfortunately, the small elephant got wedged in the narrow area and began to trumpet and stomp.

Oddly, with all the staff employed in the house, only Ziegfeld appeared, characteristically nonplussed about the whole situation. As was always his way with the ladies, Ziegfeld maintained a respectful tone, and calmly advised, "Patty, you're not supposed to bring Herman into the house." -- George Calvi, Village Manager

STANDARD FLOWER SHOW MAY 6TH

The Ardsley Garden Club will hold their 46th Standard Flower Show on May 6, 2009 from 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church on Revolutionary Road. The event is free to the public. For further information, please call Garden Club president Arline Weston at 693-4206.

I KID YOU NOT!

Our Village Clerk Barbara Berardi and Planning Secretary Lois Duggan have been doing a yeomen's job in preserving on microfiche the many decades of Village Board meeting minutes which were in various stages of decay. Recently, the Clerk came across this little ditty from the Ardsley Village Board minutes of April 10, 1905:

"The Clerk was directed to write Carl Kindevatter that if his _____ [rhymes with witch] is not shut up it will be ordered to be shot."

No doubt, the Village Board of 1905 took noise ordinances very seriously. – George Calvi, Village Manager

THE DOG DAYS OF SPRING

Word has reached our offices that dog walkers are not picking up after their pets in a number of neighborhoods, particularly the southeast corner of Grandview and Eastern, the 70's stretch of Bramble Brook Road, and Rockridge Road / Rest Avenue areas. Please be advised that there is a local law prohibiting this action, and that observance of this law is not optional. Section 190-10 of the Ardsley Village Code states that:

"No person owning, harboring, keeping or in charge of any dog shall cause, suffer, or allow such dog to soil, defile, defecate on, or commit any nuisance on any common thoroughfare sidewalk, passageway, bypath, play area, park, or av place where people congregate or walk or public upon anv property whatsoever or upon any private property without the permission of the owner of said property . . . The person who curbs a dog shall immediately remove all deposited by such by any sanitary method . . ."

Therefore, if you are the owner of a dog or in charge of one, please pick up after the pet. No one should have to experience the indignity of stepping into what dogs leave behind on front walks, driveways, or lawns. If a dog or dog owner is causing a nuisance in your neighborhood, please contact the Police Desk (693-1700) immediately. There is little the Police can do once the dogs and their walkers have departed.

If you own a dog, and you have not yet registered it with the Village Clerk's office, you are in violation of Village and New York State law. If your dog is without a license, please contact the Village Clerk's office at 693-1550, today. Lastly, dog walkers please remember your canine must be on a leash at all times while out in public. – Barbara Berardi, Village Clerk

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION SITE

Have you been to the Library lately? As our banner proclaims, "We're Open" and continue to offer a full range of library services. We continue to purchase new books and DVDs as they are released, offer free Internet and wireless connections as well as storytimes, book groups and class visits.

Our Summer Reading Club is scheduled to kick off on June 27, 2009. This year we will "Get Creative @ Your Library" and we expect a very exciting summer! So come on in, see our shrunken space before it expands! Visit and Catch the Excitement! -- Angela Groth, Library Director ©

"I find television very educating. Every time someone turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book." – Groucho Marx

ROOFING & SIDING PERMITS NOW A MUST

Due to recent changes in the New York State Building Code, the village is now required to issue permits for all roofing and siding projects.

Please keep this in mind if you are planning to install a new roof or siding on your house it is the property owner's responsibility to obtain the necessary permits. It will take some time before all of the roofing and siding contractors who work in the village are made aware of this change, so 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 the building inspector by e-mail at avinspector@optonline.net if you have any questions. – Larry Tomasso, Building Inspector

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM COUNTY EXECUTIVE ANDY SPANO

Would you need extra help in an emergency?

If so, sign up for the Special Needs Registry.

What It Is: Westchester County is putting together a list of residents who may require additional assistance, transportation or a place to stay in the event of a major emergency or disaster. If you are elderly or disabled and would have trouble leaving your home quickly if told to do so, you should sign up for the Special Needs Registry.

Why: The Special Needs Registry will be shared with local municipalities, as well as county, state and federal agencies that might be involved in an emergency response. If there is an emergency in Westchester County, these agencies would know who is need and where to focus their resources.

Who: Any county resident with a physical or mental disability who would need special assistance is eligible for this Special Needs Registry. However, it is only intended for use by those who live independently, and not in a residential special needs facility (i.e. nursing home or hospital).

Call 211 to sign up over the telephone or register yourself at Westchestergov.com/specialneeds.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM UNCLE SAM

From now through July, U.S. Census employees will be visiting every housing unit in every neighborhood in Ardslev. To conduct the 2010 Decennial Census, the Census Bureau must know the address and physical locations of each place where people live or stay. Census employees will wear official identification and carry hand-held computers to capture physical addresses and their GPS coordinates. The U.S. Census is reaching out to police departments, local governments, and civic organizations to inform the community about this important activity to reduce public concern. Should you have any questions, please contact Kathleen N. Ludgate, Regional Director, Boston Region, at 617 223-3610 or PDSP@census.gov.

THE EAC HAS BEEN VERY BUSY

With the increasing cost of energy, the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) has made the issues of energy efficiency and use of renewable energy high priorities. As part of an initiative to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy costs, the EAC arranged for the Village to participate in a free energy audit conducted by the New York Power Authority (NYPA) at the end of October 2008. A report outlining suggested several energy saving improvements for the Village has since been supplied to the EAC by The EAC is exploring whether a pilot solar energy project can be installed in the Village; a small scale solar installation would be used to educate the public about solar power as well as provide a renewable source of energy.

Ardsley EAC members have joined with environmental representatives from the other villages in the Town of Greenburgh to form the Greenburgh Environmental Forum. The Forum was organized so that local villages

would have an opportunity to share information about environmental issues and to create regional initiatives to address these issues.

Two recycling containers for cans and bottles were installed in Ashford Park and Mac Dowell Park earlier in the year, and according to DPW personnel, they are being used regularly. The receptacles help the Village comply with the County's mandate that all municipalities recycle. The EAC has recommend that additional recycling containers be purchased for use in the downtown area. The Chair wishes to thank the members of the EAC, Lorraine Kuhn, Bernie Preisser, Eti Katoni, and Trustee Peter Porcino for their hard work in helping establish the EAC and for their terrific ideas for improvements to the environment. I also wish to thank the village manager, Mr. George Calvi, for his help and support of the initiatives the EAC has proposed this past year. -Susan Porcino, Chairperson, Ardsley EAC

Editor's Note: Thanks to a recent grant sponsored by County Legislator Thomas Abinanti and the cooperation of the Ardsley Garden Club, several bottle & can recycling bins will be installed in the business district later this year.

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY & PARADE MAY 25TH

Ardsley American Legion, Post #458, cordially invites you to participate in its Memorial Day services and parade to be held on Monday, May 25, 2009. Village residents and veterans alike will gather to pay tribute to seventeen young men from the Village of Ardsley.

Again this year the parade will assemble at 9:30 am on Park Avenue at Ashford Avenue. The parade will step off at 10:00 am sharp, and will proceed East on Ashford Avenue to Ashford Park next to the Middle School. Convertible cars will be

available for those Veterans who choose not to march. At the conclusion of services in Ashford Park, refreshments will be served. In case of rain, the ceremony service will be held at the Ardsley Fire House 10:00 am.

If you have a convertible car and are interested in driving a veteran in the parade, please call 693-3943. We sincerely hope you will join us on this most important observance. – Veterans of American Legion Post 458

LEAGUE SPONSORS PROGRAM ON COMMUNITY HEALTH

On May 27 at 10:30 am, the Rivertowns League of Women Voters will sponsor a program at the Hastings Library on Community Health. The speakers are Lindsay Farrell, CEO-Director of Ossining Open Door Family Medical Center, and Madeline Zevon, Vice-Chair of our Westchester County LWV Health Committee. They will discuss "Single Payer". The program is free to all, and Starbucks

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coffee will be served. For information, please contact the LWV's Ardsley representative, Dr. Christine Hindle Verber at 693-9054 or at c verber@hotmail.com.

TENNIS, SOCCER, CHESS, ICE CREAM, & MORE!

Ardsley Parks & Recreation has many activities coming your way this spring and early summer! Tennis clinics for all ages on Saturdays or Sundays; Red Bull Mini-Wee Soccer for ages 3-4; Red Bull Soccer Camp for ages 7-12; Defensive Driving class (two days); Skate Park Clinic for ages 5 and up; Greenburgh Track & Field day for ages 7-16; Chess lessons for ages 6-10; Summer Basketball for grades 3/4 & 5/6; and last but not least, our famous Ice Cream Social on June 26 and our three Concerts in the Park! Call Parks & Recreation at 693-8012 for more information and fees. You can also check the Ardsley website at www.arsleyvillage.com. - Lori Hunter, Parks & Recreation Commission Member

KEEP CURRENT WITH THE ARDSLEY CHAT GROUP

For up to date information as to what is going on in the Village, or at Village Board meetings, subscribe to the Ardsley Chat Group. It's very easy. Just log on to your email and send a message to Ardsley-Villagesubscribe@yahoogroups.com.

ARDSLEY'S BRAVEST

On April 7th, the 2009-2010 slate of the Ardsley Fire Dept. officers were sworn in by Mayor Leon in our new Fire House. Rick Thompson, Vinnie Coulehan, and Mark Florkowski are continuing as Fire Chief, First Assistant Fire Chief, and Second Assistant Fire Chief, respectively. Also sworn in were Captains Doug Berletic, P.J. Murray, and Steve Kaskowitz. In Volunteer Engine Company No.1 we welcome new President Patrick Lindsay, V.P. Ed Treasurer Don Black, Gotthelf. Recording Sec'y Mark Coulehan, and Financial Sec'y Dr. George Shapiro. Good luck gentlemen! -- Troy Roberts, Ex Fire Chief & Ex Engine Company President

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OR CURRENT OCCUPANT