

## **VILLAGE NEWSLETTER**

**DECEMBER 1998**

### **VILLAGE HALL UPDATE**

The Village Board held its first meeting in the new Village Hall on November 2, and with the November 16 meeting, we are back on the air (Cable Channel 16). The Village Court should be moving in soon. Look for the dedication announcement for the building during the next few weeks. Also, remember that Channel 16 provides important information about our Village services and upcoming events.

### **TREE LIGHTING SCHEDULED**

The annual holiday tree lighting will take place this Saturday, December 5. We will assemble and light a tree at the new Village Hall at 5:30 pm. We will then proceed to Legion Park where we will light the trees in the downtown business district. Finally, we conclude with refreshments and songs in the Community Center.

We are asking all to bring to the tree lighting ceremony canned goods for those disaster victims as a result of the recent hurricanes and storms in the Caribbean basin and Central America. For information on this and other recreational events, please contact Parks Director, Betty Giaccio, at 693-8012.

### **VILLAGE MEETINGS**

Residents are reminded that the Village Board meets the first and third Monday of each month (televised on Channel 16). The Planning Board meets the second Monday of each month. The Board of Architectural Review meets the first and third Tuesday of each month. The Zoning Board of Appeals meets the fourth Wednesday of each month. All of these meetings are held in Village Hall at 507 Ashford Avenue. The Parks and Recreation Commission meets the second Tuesday of each month in the Community Center at 18 Center Street. The Library Board meets the fourth Thursday of the month at the Ardsley Public Library at 9 American Legion Drive. All meetings begin at 8:00 PM, and are open to the public. However, all dates and times are subject to change due to holidays and other circumstances. Thus, if you are not a regular attendee of these meetings, it's always best to confirm with the Village Clerk at 693-1550, beforehand.

### **POCOST PARK WORK PROGRESSES**

We are almost finished renovating the triangular pocket park in memory of our late Mayor Michael Pocost. When completed, Pocost Park will have benches, flower barrels, a brick walkway, and a border of bricks donated by individuals in the community. Anyone interested in contributing to the park, or purchasing a community brick can contact Village Hall at 693-1550.

### **PARK AND RECREATION NEWS**

In addition to the December 5 tree lighting ceremony, the Parks and Recreation Commission is holding an Ice Cream Social on January 8 at the Community Center. For information, please call our Recreation Director, Betty Giaccio, at 693-8012.

If you have driven by McDowell Park lately you will notice that renovation is under way. The Little League organization and the Village are working together on this project. The first field is being re-worked, and we are planning to install new fences and a parking lot. This work will be completed before the start of the baseball season in the Spring. We hope to do more renovations to other fields later in 1999. Our thanks to the Little League for all of their hard work. Drainage work is also underway along Heatherdell Road near the Park. We hope this has a positive impact on the water problems we have had at the Park.

### **SURVEY UPDATE**

We want to thank the 300 of you who took the time to complete and mail in our Village survey, accounting for an overwhelmingly response rate of almost 25%. A general summary of the responses will be contained in a forthcoming newsletter. We will also endeavor to respond to the many thoughtful questions that were asked particularly those on attached typewritten sheets!

### **VILLAGE PEOPLE**

At the November 16 Village Board meeting, Mayor Abate appointed long time resident, Dr. Matthew Hertz, to the Akzo Nobel community action panel. Dr. Hertz is a former Parks Commissioner, and is a current member of the United Water New Rochelle Community Action Panel.

### **VILLAGE HAPPENINGS**

In recent months several new businesses have opened: Ardsley Athletic Club on Center Street; Goldberg's Bagels and Deli on Saw Mill Road, and Computer Smart on Colonial Court in the Village Green. Word has it a hair salon and a medical supply store will open shortly near the old A&P, a dentist office will open adjacent to The McCartney Agency, and a real estate agency may open in the new Bucci building. Let's continue to show our support for our new and existing merchants. Now, it we can only do something about the parking and traffic!

### **TRAFFIC UPDATE**

We continue our fight on the Austin Avenue project as our court case is on appeal. Additionally, we continue to have discussions with elected officials and the NYS Dept. of Transportation about helping us solve our traffic problems.

We sense that the pedestrian crosswalk cones and signs are working, but we must continue to educate and remind everyone that motorists must stop at the crosswalks for pedestrians, and that cars are expected to stop for pedestrians when crossing at the designated crosswalks.

Finally, the Village Board held a work session on November 23 to discuss Route 9A where it intersects with Center Street and Colonial Court [in the Village Green]. We are considering a traffic study to determine how we might alter the flow of traffic, e.g. should Center Street and Colonial Court each be one way. We will keep you informed of our progress.

### **SENIOR ASSISTED LIVING HOUSING PROJECT MOVES FORWARD**

On November 16, the Village Board of Trustees declared its intent to act as lead agency as part of the environmental review process for the senior assisted living housing project for the 11+ acre Pintel property situated at the intersection of Sylvia Avenue and Route 9A. This proposal, which was highlighted in the local newspapers recently, would include independent living units and assisted living units. At the December 21 Board meeting, we will consider the scope of this project. We will continue to share as much information as possible as it becomes available.

### **FIRE HORNS BLAST NEW TUNE**

Hear anything different lately? On November 21, the fire horns were replaced with a new unit. Instead of the single blasts we have heard in the past, we now will hear a siren type horn (similar to the one in Dobbs Ferry). The new horn is not as loud and will be shorter in duration.

### **COMMUTER BUSES: THE COUNTY GIVETH & THE COUNTY TAKETH AWAY**

In late October, Bus Route 66 was altered to make morning and evening runs to and from Ashford Avenue and the Dobbs Ferry train station. We hope this helps toward relieving the tight parking situation. We have also learned, unfortunately, that our County Executive is contemplating in his proposed 1999 budget the elimination of funding for Bus Route 39 to the Hartsdale station. We will take all steps possible to keep this route running.

### **INVESTMENT ADVICE FROM YOUR VILLAGE MANAGER**

As per state law, each year municipalities must designate a publication as its official newspaper of record for the placement of official notices and news. At its annual reorganization meeting each April, the Village Board of Trustees designates two local newspapers, The Journal News, a daily, and the Rivertowns Enterprise, a weekly. Although the New York Daily News, Post, and Newsday have their charms, and the Sunday New York Times has a so-called Westchester section, none of these publications can hold a candle next to the local coverage provided by these two local newspapers. Therefore, if you wish to stay abreast of what's going on in your community, it almost incumbent upon you to subscribe to one of the officially designated newspapers.

Please don't misunderstand us. What's happening in Washington, the stock market, or the Persian Gulf is quite important. However, what's happening with Austin Avenue, the Millennium Pipeline, local elections, commuter bus routes, Route 9A traffic, and the Pintel property development, has a deeper and far more immediate impact on your quality of life. So, if it's been awhile since you fled the boroughs, it's probably time to abandon the totems of Gotham's fourth estate and reach out for something that yields real value to your daily lives. Support your local newspapers, become informed, be active in your community. It's the best investment advice you'll receive all year from any venue!

### **HOLIDAY CLOSINGS**

Village offices will close at 12 noon Thursday, December 24 and reopen 9:00 am Monday, December 28 in observance of Christmas. The offices will, again, close at 12 noon Thursday, December 31

and reopen at 9:00 am Monday, January 4,  
1999 in observance of the New Year.

**ARDSLEY VILLAGE HALL  
507 ASHFORD AVENUE  
ARDSLEY, NEW YORK  
10502**

The only exception will be the Tax office  
which shall remain open until 4:00 PM on  
New Year's Eve to receive the second  
and last installment of the Village tax bill.  
Payments not postmarked by December  
31, or received by hand on or after  
January 1 will be assessed a late penalty.  
No exceptions. It's the State law!

**The Mayor, the Village Board of  
Trustees, and the Staff wish all our  
residents and merchants a happy  
and healthy holiday season!**