



June 8, 2020

Dear Ardsley Community,

I am proud of Ardsley for stepping up and showing support for the Black Lives Matter movement. I want to thank all the organizers and attendees of the peaceful demonstrations in Ardsley this past week. Well over 100 people stood at the corner of 9A and Ashford holding up signs and over 300 people marched from Pascone Park through the entire Village and back to the park for a rally. Everyone I saw was wearing a mask.

These events and the ones we are seeing all over our country are evidence of the need to confront systemic racism and inequality. We need to have constructive open conversations. They are long overdue. Conversations are happening online, but I think it is more important that they happen in person. Regardless of where they are happening, we need to listen to each other and recognize that we all have different life experiences that shape our thoughts, beliefs and opinions. Please do not assume you know what someone means. Ask questions that help you understand perspectives different from your own and let's try to give each other the benefit of the doubt. These conversations will be difficult, but we should all commit to having them in a civil and constructive way.

What the Village is doing in light of recent events

Chief Piccolino is reviewing all current police department policies, procedures and regulations. The Ardsley Police Department along with the Westchester County Chiefs of Police Association issued the following statement:

We join our state and national law enforcement colleagues in denouncing the actions, and inactions, of the Minneapolis police officers that caused the death of George Floyd. The officer's tactics, and the officers' failure to intervene are inexplicable, and they must be held accountable.

The actions and inactions of the officers in question are not a reflection on all the hard-working men and women in uniform who serve and protect us every day. In Westchester, we are committed to responding and investigating incidents of alleged police violence swiftly, transparently, and fairly. We strive to treat everyone with dignity and respect, while embracing the principles of community-based policing. We are committed to partnering with our communities to develop strategies to build trust and promote safety for all. We stress that police-community communication is critical to effective policing and we must maintain open lines of communication-

now more than ever. While we train and expect our officers to practice de-escalation, we need our community partners to encourage the same. We support non-violent civil disobedience, not criminal actions that result in injuries to people and damage to property. We stand ready to listen to all recommendations the community and our leaders deem necessary to better serve our constituents."

Meredith Robson, Village Manager, has identified diversity training programs and is working on having staff, the Board of Trustee and members of our boards take the training.

The Village is proud of the work of the Multicultural, Diversity and Inclusion Committee. The committee works to promote understanding, acceptance, and respect for all, regardless of race, ethnic background, gender, sexual orientation and abilities.

Together we can effectuate change.

Garbage Schedule – We will resume two day per week garbage pick-up on Monday June 15, 2020.

Residential garbage collection will now be done on Mondays and Fridays for the entire Village, so every property will return to twice per week garbage collection. There will be no residential garbage collection on Tuesdays.

Paper will be collected as usual on Wednesdays throughout the entire Village.

Commingled glass and plastic will be collected as usual on Thursdays throughout the entire Village.

Fire Department – Congratulations to our new fire department chiefs: Chief PJ Murray, 1st Assistant Chief is Bob Mancini and with some history being made as the first female Chief in Department history is 2nd Assistant Chief Joan Podolski. We would like to wish our Chiefs, as well as Company Officers best wishes and a safe term in office.

Village Taxes - The first half of the Village Tax is due, without penalty, by July 1, 2020.

School Board and Budget Vote – On June 7th, Governor Cuomo adjusted the due date for the school district election/budget vote ballots to be accepted by mail. To be counted, ballots can be accepted by hand-delivery via a Ballot Box through 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9th, and received by mail through Tuesday, June 16th, 2020.

In addition, there will be a Ballot Box located in the back of Ardsley High School by the Cafeteria/Commons area on Tuesday, June 9th from 6:00 a.m - 5:00 p.m., for anyone who would like to drop off their ballot. The Ballot Box will only be present on Tuesday, June 9th. Please vote.

Reopening - New York City enters Phase One and Westchester County enters Phase Two

Governor Cuomo has issued an executive order allowing for:

1. Places of worship to reopen with 25 percent occupancy with all social distancing protocols in place during Phase 2 of reopening.
2. Commercial buildings to conduct temperature checks for people entering office buildings as employees begin to return to the office.

Phase Two – Offices, Real Estate, Essential and Phase II In-Store Retail, Vehicle Sales, Leases, and Rentals, Retail Rental, Repair, and Cleaning, Commercial Building Management, Hair Salons and Barbershops. Details for Phase Two can be found here:

<https://forward.ny.gov/phase-two-industries>

Specific guidelines for hair salons and barbershops can be found here:

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/HairSalonsAndBarbershopSummaryGuidance.pdf>

Governor Cuomo is encouraging everyone who attended a rally to get tested for Covid-19.

Stay Safe. Wear a mask. Peace.

Nancy Kaboolian

Mayor

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