



July 23, 2020/Mayor's Message

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

After several weeks of no new Covid-19 cases in the Village we now have two new cases last week. We must stay vigilant. Please wear a mask.

As we all stay vigilant in our safety protocols, we can still enjoy some outdoor fun. The brand-new tennis courts at Pascone Park are opened. We have also opened the playgrounds. The equipment is sanitized at least once each day, but it cannot be sanitized after each use. So, if you choose to use the playground equipment please have your child wear a mask, maintain a six-foot distance from people they do not live with, bring hand sanitizer with you and please properly dispose of any garbage, debris, used gloves or masks when you leave the park. We have chosen not to open the bathrooms because it is too difficult to keep them sanitized during the day.

Library and recreation services have returned, albeit under strict COVID requirements and precautions. For information about recreation department events please visit the Village website at <https://www.ardsleyvillage.com/parks-recreation/pages/programs-events>. For information about library operations and events please visit the library website at:

<https://www.ardsleyvillage.com/library>

The Multicultural Diversity and Inclusion Committee's lawn sign project has been so successful that it is ordering more signs. If you would like to purchase a sign please contact the MDIC at multicultural@ardsleyvillage.com.

Police Department Accreditation Process

Our country is finally starting to have some difficult conversations and many of them concern the actions and/or inactions of police officers. We have seen on the news some of the reprehensible actions and inactions of police officers. But we have also seen police officers running into collapsing buildings and on the front line of the Covid-19 crisis.

We should all be able to feel that Ardsley is a safe community where we can live and raise our families in peace and without fear. I believe that most police officers, including our Village police officers are dedicated public servants who strive to conduct themselves in a lawful and professional manner.

However, I think that the most recent horrific events demand that each of us reflect on our own beliefs, actions and/or inactions and decide what changes we should make in the fight against

racism and discrimination. This is true for all citizens and all police departments, including the members of the Ardsley police department. In addition to the review of the department's policies and procedures discussed below, the Village is scheduling mandatory interactive implicit bias training.

Chief Piccolino, the Village Manager and the Board of Trustee started the process of reviewing all current police department policies, procedures, and regulations as part of the New York State Accreditation well over a year ago.

New York State Accreditation means that our police department has current formalized policies and procedures in compliance with NYS and federal laws to govern its operational practices and procedures. Achieving accreditation and reaccreditation is evidence that a law enforcement agencies policies, procedures and operations meet the standards of current New York State policing best practices.

Following the death of George Floyd, Senator Leader Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Heastie sponsored police reform legislation and Governor Cuomo signed an executive order - the "New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative" which requires "local police agencies, including the NYPD, to develop a plan that reinvents and modernizes police strategies and programs in their community based on community input. Each police agency's reform plan must address policies, procedures, practices and deployment."

The executive order requires police departments to adopt a plan by April 1, 2021 to be eligible for future state funding and certify that they have: "1. Engaged stakeholders in a public and open process on policing strategies and tools; 2. Presented a plan, by chief executive and head of the local police force, to the public for comment; 3. After consideration of any comments, presented such plan to the local legislative body (council or legislature as appropriate) which has approved such plan (by either local law or resolution); and 4. If such local government does not certify the plan, the police force may not be eligible to receive future state funding."

We are working on this and as we move forward in the review, we will disseminate more information about the process and the requirements set forth in the Governor's executive order.

Finally, I had the distinct pleasure of meeting John Lewis. So, I will sign off with some of his words. "We all live in the same house, we all must be part of the effort to hold down our little house. When you see something that is not right, not fair, not just... do something about it. Say something. Have the courage. Have the backbone. Get in the way. Walk with the wind. It's all going to work out."

Stay Safe. Wear a mask.

Nancy Kaboolian
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