

The Ardsley Villager

A Publication of the Ardsley Village Board of Trustees

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MAYOR'S CORNER

Re-election:

On behalf of my running mates, Trustees Andy DiJusto and Mollie Monti, I want to thank everyone for your confidence in re-electing us to another term. This is my third two-year term as Mayor after serving six years as a Trustee. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve. I will strive to maintain and improve the excellent fiscal condition of the Village, address the residents' concerns and move the Village forward as we face the challenges of the 21st Century. We will be responsive to the wishes of the residents; I only ask that you step up and share your concerns with us.

In the heated political atmosphere the country finds itself in today, there is much talk of "government," and a strident debate about whether government is the answer or the problem. Here in Ardsley, you and I and all your neighbors ARE the government. We are fortunate that we are able to make many of the decisions about what services and programs to provide and how to deliver them. Here, government is not some distant abstract concept.

DECEMBER 31 LAST DAY TO PAY SECOND INSTALLMENT OF VILLAGE TAX BILL

The second installment of the Village tax bill becomes payable on December 1 and can be paid without penalty until the end of the business day on Thursday, December 31. Though the other administrative offices will be closing at 12 noon that day in observance of New Year's Eve, **the Office of the Village Treasurer shall remain open until 4:00 pm to receive payments.** Payments made in person after December 31, or that arrive via mail postmarked by the USPS after December 31, or arrive after December 31 without a USPS postmark, will be assessed a late penalty as required by New York State Real Property law. Meter-mailed postmarks are not valid proof of timely payment. Most payments made through online banking come in without dates and will not be accepted if the envelope is not postmarked by the deadline. Please bear in mind that no Village official is empowered to waive the late fee for any reason.

-- Marion DeMaio, Village Treasurer

It is us. So join us in self-government: join a committee,

volunteer for a Village service organization, run for office. We cannot afford to operate solely by hiring paid employees. Without you, we cannot function efficiently and effectively. And you can help shape our future.

Electronic Communications:

We are now on Facebook and Twitter. In addition to our electronic bulletin board which you can find on the Village website (ardslevillage.com), you can now get all your news from Facebook and Twitter. This is important since we will no longer be circulating this newsletter, the sanitation schedule or any other traditional announcements by mail. You can sign up to receive communications by mail if you do not have access to the web or are not a regular Internet user. Our Village Board meetings are now also fully accessible on the website: you can review the agenda, notices, resolutions and reports, all online.

The Village is also joining with other local organizations in posting coming events on Burbio. You can sign up on Burbio.com and find out about upcoming events. You can also post your organization's events on Burbio.

Construction:

We are nearing an end to the 9A widening project, and although there have been times when traffic got seemingly stuck in neutral, for

the most part the work has gone smoothly and quickly. Unfortunately, United Water decided to put in new water lines on 9A just as the project was nearing an end, so the final paving will have to wait until the spring. I am sure you have already noticed that some of the parking lots have been narrowed, so everyone needs to be extra careful navigating them. Con Ed also decided this would be a good time to perform some storm hardening work, and we had them stopping traffic while we were dealing with our other construction project. They too have now finished, although they may be adding other municipal buildings to the project in the future. We do expect the Ashford Avenue bridge project to be starting soon, and we will keep everyone informed when we get further word on lane closings and other shutdowns.

We have started repaving and re-curb-ing all the streets in Ardsley, slowly circulating around the Village. The entire project will take place over several autumn seasons. We will endeavor to inform everyone who is immediately affected, but much of the work is contracted out, and the contractor has not been doing a good job of letting the Village know where they will be from day to day. We apologize for the inconvenience.

You have undoubtedly seen the massive project going up across the Saw Mill Parkway at Lawrence Street, the Rivertowns Square project. The jury is out on the impacts on our Village, but we will continue to monitor it. Meanwhile there is another proposal before the Greenburgh boards on our side of Lawrence Street across from Life,

the Place to Be. The proposal is for 272 apartments, and we believe the project is misguided. They are calling it Jefferson at Saw Mill Corners. Please follow the proceedings in Greenburgh and make your feelings known to their boards. There is a public hearing on this project on January 13th @ 7:30PM at the Greenburgh Town Hall. More information on this project is available on the Town of Greenburgh website – www.greenburghny.com.

Downtown Rejuvenation:

Even with all the construction downtown, business downtown is definitely starting to pick up. The Village Green, the DeCicco's shopping center and the Center Street businesses are all now fully rented for the first time in many years. The new owners of the Ardsley hardware store are performing extensive renovations, but remain open during their work. L'Inizio restaurant has expanded and it seems everyone in town has tried the new Ardsley Diner. I know that parking continues to be a problem downtown, and I have seen many "creative" attempts at cramming cars into somewhat dubious parking spots. I do hope the Police are not being overly restrictive. We will continue to look for solutions, but remember that leaving your car at home and walking to the downtown helps reduce the parking problem while providing you with many health benefits. Speaking of downtown walking, the DPW has repaved the path from lower Bicentennial Park to upper Bicentennial Park, and it looks great. It provides an easy way to get from the CVS lot to the DeCicco's lot. So get out of your cars and walk the Village.

Holiday Greetings:

Let me close by wishing all of our Villagers and their families a happy, safe and healthy holiday season. And please consider the plight of those less fortunate as we count our blessings here in Ardsley.



HELLO FROM THE

VILLAGE MANAGER

Although it hardly seems possible, a year has passed since I became Village Manager here in Ardsley. Time flies ... with a jet pack on its back! It has been a very positive year for me and, I trust, for you as well. We're making some changes and doing things a little differently, but the commitment to provide great service to the community remains as strong as ever. We have wonderful and dedicated staff who continue to do their best to provide local services in the most cost efficient and effective manner possible. We have elected officials and volunteers on boards and committees who work tirelessly on the Village's behalf, and residents and business owners who do their part to make this community a great place to live and work. For all of this, I am very thankful. We have much yet to accomplish, but we are on the right path. I am proud and pleased to serve this Village and look forward to continuing the history of fine service and to many more years of positive progress.

No matter the holiday you choose to celebrate, I wish you all the very best of the season and a very happy and healthy new year!

Affordable/Workforce Housing Update:

The Water Wheel development is soon to be completed! Qualified applicants have been confirmed for all of the units and we are hoping for closings sometime in March. This will add 22 potentially new families to our community and we welcome them.

Capital Improvements:

As you know from the Mayor’s comments, we are nearing the end of many of our capital projects that were started in 2015. We can enjoy newly paved roads, a beautiful path at Bicentennial Park, upgrades to some of our recreation facilities, and improvements to 9A, to name some of the highlights of the past year. More is in the works as we move forward, so stay tuned. We are doing our best to keep folks informed via electronic means so please be sure to sign up through our website for alerts, Facebook and Twitter!



Changes/Savings in Past

Year:

Though there have been a number of changes made and savings secured this past year, the following are some of the highlights:

- Transitioned to new payroll service – saved \$5,000 off existing program (\$12,000 savings based on the updated program we would have needed that mirrored what we’re getting from new vendor); provides for enhanced services, including ACA reporting and employee leave time reporting

- Eliminated need for additional vendor for refrigerant removal by having refrigerant removed for free at Brookfield – saved \$3,000
- Development and implementation of 10 year capital plan
- Implementation of capital project financing schedule on an annual basis, rather than as-needed – estimated \$15,000 - \$30,000 savings on required professional services per additional bond issue
- Re-organization of senior citizen program – elimination of inefficient bus service and reallocation of funds to increased staffing level and programming support
- Re-structuring of budget process – utilization of KVS financial system for budget preparation to reduce additional staff time necessary for input into Excel spreadsheets and ease of access to year-to-date financial information; also reallocated a number of expenditure lines to better reflect true service costs
- Implemented paperless Board of Trustees meetings – estimated \$3,400 savings
- Implemented electronic newsletters and sanitation schedules – estimated \$3,500 savings
- Initiated social media communications and project updates

- Implementation of bi-monthly department head meetings
- Renewal of regular meetings between Village and School officials
- Installation of LED street lights throughout the Village – estimated \$42,000 savings per year



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Village Offices, except the Treasurer’s Office, close at noon on Christmas Eve and New Years’ Eve and all day on Christmas Day and New Year’s Day.

ALARM PERMIT RENEWALS

Chapter 42 of the Ardsley Village Code requires residents and businesses to file for an alarm permit annually. Many people believe that their alarm company files for a permit, and this is incorrect. It is the responsibility of the resident or business owner to file the permit application. Noncompliance with the provisions of Chapter 42 of the Ardsley Village Code could expose you to fines starting at \$100 and upwards.

Should you have any questions or need an application, please contact me at 914-693-1550 ext. 120 or download the application off the Village’s website. -- Barbara A. Berardi, Village Clerk

A REMINDER FROM OUR POLICE CHIEF

On December 31, 2015, overnight parking permits expire. Please stop by the Police Desk for an overnight parking permit application, call 914-693-1700, or download the application off the Village's website. -- Emil Califano, Police Chief



STORMWATER UPDATE

“Runoff – Important in Flood or Drought”

In times of drought, pollutants can concentrate in our waterbodies. It remains important to keep runoff from less frequent storms as clean as possible. The Village has made some runoff improvements in Bicentennial Park. Previously, the connecting walkway between the upper and lower park areas was strewn with rocks and loose dirt. The erosion rate was 0.5” per year, resulting in a loss of ¾ tons of sediment washing into the nearby Saw Mill River every year! Now that the walkway is paved, that erosion has ceased. Thank you to Larry Nardecchia, PE for his walkway design, and Buccì Contracting, the winning bidder, who did a beautiful job of installing the walkway this past summer. In addition, Larry Nardecchia, Lorraine Kuhn and SW Intern Melvin Ward Johns just finished installing terraced planting beds alongside the walkway. Planting of native sustainable flowering plants

and shrubs is planned for spring 2016.

Stormwater Management Program presentations for Ardsley Middle School 8th grade Earth Science students were presented in October. Thank you to Mr. Walsh, Mr. Ryan and students. Thank you to “Ardsley Cares” for their Annual Village Cleanup event.

December is your last chance to repair and redirect gutters and downspouts to avoid icy impervious pavements in winter. Less icing helps to cut down on salt use, and keeps salt out of runoff to our fresh water Saw Mill and Bronx Rivers. Also, it's a last chance to put in some daffodil and tulip bulbs, and mulch leaves before the winter freeze. Those flowers will be a welcome sight in spring, and give you incentive to cover garden bare spots with plants.

Thanks for making our water cleaner!

ARDSLEY GARDEN CLUB



This fall season started with a full schedule that included a luncheon and open house to welcome new members. The program included guest speaker, Jeanne Nelson, Master Judge, and her topic was “Photography for Flower Shows”. The Garden Club was part of the Village Garage Sale that sold plants and related items. The proceeds will go towards Ardsley Beautification. Our big fundraiser, “Oktoberfest”, was a big success and the proceeds will go towards spring planters for the village. Donna Lassiter, “Cornell

Extension” gave the members a lecturer, November 10th on “Gardening for Butterflies and Hummingbirds”. Members of the club are working on the planting of the new pathway that leads from lower Bi-centennial Park to the upper deck. December 1st, the Club held a Holiday Wreath Decorating Workshop. The wreaths will decorate buildings around the Village, VA Hospital in Montrose and Children's Village in Dobbs Ferry. The club also held a Senior's Holiday Wreath Decorating at the Community Center on December 2nd. Club members spent time designing fall plantings at the Blue Star Memorial in the Village Square. We invite those interested in gardening, floral arranging, community projects and related subjects to join us. Call 914-693-4328.

- Arline Weston,
Past President

GREETINGS FROM THE LIBRARY!

Thanksgiving is over, turkey is almost all gone and we are into December with a season of happy celebrations to look forward to! On December 19th, we will have a special musical program for children followed by a visit from a therapy cat. Come say hi to Sadie and her trainer.

We will continue to offer our various children's programs as well as some additional special events during school break including a movie and balloon sculpturing.

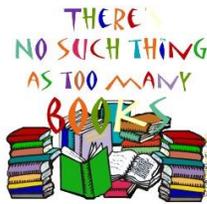
On December 30th we will have a wonderful intergenerational art

program with Michael Albert. This collage-making program is fun for all ages – so bring your grandchildren, parents, brothers and sisters. A good time is guaranteed for all!

We have also re-instated our hands-on technology support sessions, where you can ask your computer questions or receive one-on-one instruction on how to download free eBooks and audiobooks - just bring your device.

Check in with the library for specific times, register and join us for some winter fun! Call: 693-6636

++Coming up in the New Year – a new look to our website. Stay tuned...++



- Angela Groth, Library Director

CAR SEATS, EXPLORERS, AND TOYS



The Ardsley Police Department has a longstanding child car seat program. Call for appointments to have your child seat inspected or installed. If needed, residents can also receive free child seats. Any High School Senior looking

for an internship program with the Police Youth Academy at Pace College, please contact our Police Department at 693-1700 ext. 104.
- Community Policing Officer, Anthony Vacca

A MESSAGE FROM AMERICAN LEGION POST

458



This December 7th, members of Ardsley American Legion Post 458, along with family and friends, were thinking of their neighbor, Augie Giusti, who had been assigned to the battleship U. S. S. West Virginia, when it was sunk that morning by seven torpedoes. A special American flag that flew over the U. S. S. Arizona on December 7, 2004, has flown at Pascone Park in honor of Augie and those who were lost that day, as America was thrown into W W II. Augie passed away several years ago, but the motto of his Pearl Harbor Survivors Association bears repeating.... KEEP AMERICA ALERT ETERNAL VIGILANCE IS THE PRICE OF LIBERTY

RECREATION SIGNUPS

New programs have been added! Join in on the infant – pre-k music classes on Tuesday mornings from January 12 – March 8, or the Gym on Wheels exercise and gymnastics classes on Thursdays from January 14 – March 10. For more information, please call the Community Center at 914-693-8012.



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