

Minutes of the
Town Assembly
of the Village of Arden

meeting on
September 27, 2004
and
election results of
November 10, 2004

as prepared by
Danny Schweers
Secretary

Arden election results, November 10, 2004

From the Registration Committee; Cecilia Vore, Chair

Eligible voters: 349; Ballots Received: 274.
That equals 78.5% participation! Thanks for voting!

Special Referendum on Land Rent Assessment

With 175 votes needed to pass either assessment, the Assessors Committee Assessment received 89 votes and the Alternate Assessment received 177 votes, meaning the alternative assessment was approved.

2005-2006 Budget Referendum

With 175 votes needed to approve an item, the entire budget passed.

Here are the details:

221 - Approved Entire Budget

6 - Disapproved Entire Budget

o - Invalid ballots

34 - Ballots with itemized disapprovals as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Advisory Committee - 2 | Archives - 4 |
| Board of Assessors - 2 | BWVC Program/Administration - 6 |
| BWVC Maintenance - 2 | BWVC Renovations- 10 |
| BWVC Roof Renovations - 6 | Civic Committee - Roads - 3 |
| Civic - Commons and Forests - 2 | Civic - Trash Collection - 6 |
| Civic - Special Cleanup - 2 | Community Planning - 6 |
| Legislative Reference - 4 | Playground Committee - 1 |
| Registration Committee - 1 | Safety Committee: General - 4 |
| Safety- Town Watch Coord - 6 | Safety- HarveyRd Speed Enf - 18 |
| Town Admin Expenses - 4 | Salary- Secretary - 2 |
| Salary-Bookkeeping: Town - 2 | Donations - ACRA - 3 |
| Donations - Arden Page - 2 | Donations - Arden Library - 3 |
| Donations - Fire Companies - 4 | Gild Hall Rental - 19 |
| Contingencies - 1 | |

Board of Assessors Election

Denis O'Regan was elected convener. Also elected were (in this order): Tom Frantz, Jane Frantz, Walter Borders, Brooke Bovard, Laura Wallace, Larry Walker. [Click here](#) to read the statements made by the Assessor candidates before the election.

Thank you to Steven Blades, Alida Fish, Harold Kalmus, Ron Ozer, Charles Robinson, Ray Seigfried, and Stephen Tanis who were also willing to serve and allowed their names to be placed in nomination.

Many thanks to Laura Wallace, Steven Threefoot and Barbara Henry, who helped with the counting, along with Registration Committee members Ruth Bean, Natalie Hubbard, Beth Stevenson and Debbie Theis, plus Town Secretary Danny Schweers and Trustees' Secretary Elizabeth Varley and Trustee Marianne Cinaglia.

Minutes of the Town Assembly for the Village of Arden (uncorrected) Monday, September 27, 2004

Gild Hall – Arden, Delaware

One hundred-seventy-six (176) residents were in attendance, as shown below. Of these, 77 attended the last meeting. Only 18 people who attended the last meeting did not attend this meeting. In recent years, attendance at September meetings was 65 in 2003, 61 in 2002, 43 in 2001, 46 in 2000, 65 in 1999, 87 in 1998, 56 in 1997, 46 in 1996, and 54 in 1995.

Margot Al-Taweel
Lew Aumack
Patricia Baker-Ryan
Beverly Barnett
Victoria Barone
Patrick Barry
Ruth Bean
Samuel "Lou" Bean
Kathy Bird
Steven Blades
Jennifer Borders
Walter Borders
Brooke Bovard
Lizzie Broadbent
Walter Broadbent
Dale Brumbaugh
Dela Bryan
Robert Bryan
Molca Budin
Bill Busch
Alan Burslem
David Burslem
Patricia Callaway
Jaimie Campanella
Marianne Cinaglia
Joann Colameco
John Conner
Carolyn Cordivano
Jeanne Corman
Mike Curtis
Alton Dahl
Christine Demsey
John Demsey
Cynthia Dewick
Carol DiGiovanni
Dorinda Dove
David Ewing
Carl Falco
Michael Falstad
Leo Faucette
Alida Fish
Phil Fisher (half dead)
Jane Frantz
Tom Frantz
Joy Gardiner
David Gerbec

Stephen George
Caroll Page Githens
Dick Githens
John Gray
Rachel Grier-Reynolds
Rick Grier-Reynolds
Charlie Hahn
Val Hahn
Nancy Halsey
Judy Hammond
Finn Hannover
Stephen Harcourt
Frank Harrison
Barbara Henry
Amy Hill
Heidi Hoegger
Sue Hornung
Tim Hornung
Alice Isaacs
Milton Isaacs
Ronald Jarrell
Rodney Jester
Diana Kadash
Harold Kalmus
Derrick Kennedy
Diane Kennedy
Deborah Kenney
Allan Kleban
June Kleban
Sharon Kleban
Lynda Kolski
Eliot Levin
Don Lipstein
Mary Lo
Matthew Lo
Ken Mabrey
Marjorie Mabrey
Frank Maier
Mary L. Marconi
Albert Marks
Ray McDevitt
Connie W. McKinney
Burley Melton
Helga Melton
Marlene Myers
William Myers

Gary Mullinax
Lisa Mullinax
Jean Mullin
Amy Mullins
Stephen Mullins
Rick Mulrooney
Mary Murphy
Kevin Noonan
Susan Noonan
Betty O'Regan
Denis O'Regan
Helen Ohlson
Ron Ozer
Ruth Panella
Sam Panella
Pamela Pearson
Roberta Perkins
B.R. Phillips
Jeffrey Politis
Dink Pompper
Liz Porter
Diane Postell
William Press
Pat Pyle
Peter A. Renzetti
Josiane Rey
Deborah Ricard
Clay Ridings
Hugh Roberts
Marjorie Roberts
Charles E. Robinson
Nanette B. Robinson
Shelley Robyn
Ed Rohrbach
Richard Rothrock
Susan Rothrock
Dale Sampson-Levin
Ann Schmittinger
Johanne Schroeder
Danny Schweers
Ray Seigfried
Jim Semenic
Atul Shah
Debbi Sheiker
Sally Sharp
Barb Shippy

Jan Erik Sigtbakken
Sadie Somerville
Jeffrey Steen
Neal Ann Stephens
Art Stevenson
Mary Stevenson
Larry Strange
David Sutton
Mike Sutton
Rebecca S. Sutton
Ken Sutton
Lynne Svenning
Steve Tanis
Jacqi Tanzer
Steve Tanzer
June Taylor
Van Taylor
Debbie Theis
William Theis
Kate Threefoot
Steven Threefoot
Terry Truono
Marjorie Van Neerden
Elizabeth Varley
George Vernon
Mary Vernon
Cecilia Vore
Larry Walker
Laura Wallace
David Warner
Susan Warner
Elaine Weber-Hoopes
Sara Jane Weible
William Weible
Jan Westerhouse
Tom Wheeler
Mamie Woolery
Mark Zylkin

*Also in attendance
but not voting were
Janice Bean O'Neill,
Jackson Politis, Amy
Pollock, Ken Schuler,
Mark Taylor and Pat
Toman.*

1. CALL TO ORDER

Steven Threefoot called the meeting to order at 7:47 p.m., somewhat awed by the number in attendance, all of whom he asked to keep their remarks brief and to the point. There being no changes proposed to the minutes of the last meeting, Alton Dahl moved and Elizabeth Varley seconded, that the minutes of the last meeting be approved as printed. The vote was unanimous. [Prior to the meeting, Bev Barnett had corrected the last sentence of Jane Frantz's statement on page 16 to the following: "If the assessors cannot provide examples of this kind of development, why, then, are people being given a reduced rate on the first 6500 sq. ft.?"]

2. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

Steven Threefoot noted that several meetings are coming up at which the extension of the Philadelphia Airport runways will be discussed. He encouraged those interested to contact him at 475-3333 or ardenchair@theardens.com

Last Friday, Steven attended the State of our Schools Breakfast given by the Brandywine School District. Again, he was available for those wanting details.

Danny Schweers noted that these minutes are on-line at www.theardens.com.

3. NEW RESIDENTS

Barbara Shippy and her daughter, Riley, were among those brave enough to stand and identify themselves.

4. DEPARTED.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Warren Hoffman, Don Holcomb, Carole Piccara, and Lee Starr.

5. HARVEY ROAD TRAFFIC CALMING

John Demsey reported that the traffic light at Veale Road will be energized soon and speed signage will be completed in the next two weeks including larger 25mph signs. While line painting to define the edge of the roadway should be done by October 15. Grass is growing in the geogrid between Veale and Sconset. Steve Mullins asked if this work has it slowed down anything? He believes the nice, newly paved road has speeded things up, if anything, compared to old pot holes. John observed that the colored, textured cross walks will slow traffic some, as will traffic light at Veale Road once it is energized. We will have an electronic speed limit sign deployed plus enforcement. We were not allowed to add more aggressive traffic calming measures such as speed bumps.

Rodney Jester noted that the Arden Town Assembly has voted against and then for a gateway on Marsh Road. He moved that the question be sent to all the voters as a referendum, so that we might hear from everyone. Linda Kolski seconded the motion.

Steven Threefoot and Elizabeth Varley noted that motions like this one, rescinding previously-passed motions, need a two-thirds majority to pass. However, if the motion is made at this meeting and voted at the next, with ample time for discussion and for notification of voters, then only a simple majority is needed for passage.

Cecilia Vore said we should not send everything to referendum. Town meetings are adequate for most decisions.

Lynda Kolski said we give everyone a chance to vote on this, especially since this was a close vote both times.

Ruth Bean noted that she made the motion to rescind and reminded people that, without signage, people driving by cannot see we are a special community.

Sue Rothrock agreed, noting that many people don't know about the Ardens as a special community. Also, she notes that no village money will be spent on this project.

Albert Marks spoke, saying we need this referendum.

Brooke Bovard asked if this meeting does not pass this motion, will this motion come up again?

Lew Aumack said that some things are so crucial to the whole community, they should go to referendum.

Vote by hand. Count is Aye, 94; Nay, 67. Motion fails since 106 votes are needed (2/3 of those voting).

That settled (for the moment), the report of the Harvey Road Traffic Calming Committee was accepted unanimously.

6. CLAYMONT RENAISSANCE REPORTS

Eva Abbott of Ardencroft, the representative of the three Ardens to the Claymont Renaissance, had previously submitted the following reports of meetings in August and September. Steven Threefoot noted that, at the school board meeting, he received many compliments for our participation in this effort.

CLAYMONT RENAISSANCE MET ON AUGUST 19 and handed out two very professional manuals: Claymont Community Redevelopment Plan and Manual of Design Guidelines. The first goes into great detail about the Hometown Overlay District, Del Dots plans for Philadelphia Pike, location of the Claymont Center, etc. Folks can access these manuals at www.co.new-castle.de.us. Click on Land Use, then, Community Redevelopment Plans and then, Claymont.

The Hometown Overlay District proposal will be decided at the Oct. 12 Council Rezoning Hearing. The Renaissance group decided to move ahead in forming the Advisory Committee which would review new construction/renovation proposals in Claymont and pass on their recommendations to the NCC Executive Council.

Another body, called the Claymont Renaissance Development Corporation has an almost-opened office at the Community Center. This group will work with businesses wanting to do business in Claymont.

Finally, Claymont is holding a symposium celebrating the integration of Claymont schools which happened peacefully two years before Brown. Event is scheduled for Sept 18 from 12:30 - 4:30 at the Claymont High School and will feature Jack Greenberg, Esq., lead counsel in two DE companion cases to Brown. Arden will be mentioned because it quickly followed Claymont's decision by integrating its school.

CLAYMONT RENAISSANCE MET ON SEPTEMBER 16.

The focus of the group is now the approval of the Hometown Overlay District proposal by NCC on October 12. If approved, the Claymont Renaissance group will 'end' in its current form. Three groups will take its place: the Claymont Renaissance Development Corporation which will market Claymont to businesses; the Design Review Advisory Committee (DRAC) which will review land use applications to ensure they are in harmony with Claymont's goals; and the Claymont Citizen's Advisory Group for DRAC which, in essence, is the old Claymont Renaissance group.

The group hopes it will be kept very busy with requests by businesses and companies to set up shop along Philadelphia Pike. One limiting factor is sewer capacity, and although money has been allotted, the upgrade is slated to occur over the next 10 years. Astra Zeneca is also being wooed to refer employees to consider living in Claymont.

7. ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Elizabeth Varley reported that the following nominations had been made and accepted for the position of Assessor, to serve from November, 2004 through to the next election in November, 2005: Walter Borders, Brooke Bovard, Alida Fish, Jane

Frantz, Tom Frantz, Harold Kalmus, Denis O'Regan, Ron Ozer, Charles Robinson, Ray Seigfried, Steven Tanis, and Laura Wallace. Since two more nominees were needed for a full slate of 14 nominees, Linda Kolski nominated Steven Blades (who accepted) and Bill Press offered to serve again. [Shortly after the meeting, Bill Press withdrew his nomination and Larry Walker offered to serve.]

8. MOTION FOR ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT

Denis O'Regan moved, and Tom Frantz seconded, the following motion for an alternative assessment.

"As provided under Section 7(e) of the Act to Reincorporate, as leaseholders in the Village of Arden, we move that the Town Assembly approve an alternative assessment rate for the fiscal year 2005/06 as described in the attached report and that this alternative assessment rate be submitted to the Village of Arden for a general referendum."

ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT FOR LAND RENT DUE MARCH 25, 2005

REPORT TO THE TOWN ASSEMBLY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2004

BACKGROUND

The assessment for land rent due on March 25, 2005, as presented by the Board of Assessors in June, has been the subject of controversy since last spring. This assessment is a radical departure from the way land rent has generally been assessed since at least 1980. The 2005 assessment was presented without an objective, factual basis to support it and without a consensus within the town. It was also adopted despite the effect it will have on certain groups of residents, namely those with large leaseholds and those with multiple domiciles. The assessment presented in June is a somewhat modified version of a plan passed by the Board of Assessors on April 19, 2004, which would have had even more extreme consequences than the one finally presented. At two public hearings of the Board, and again at the June Town Assembly, an ever-growing number of residents tried to get the Board to reconsider its decision based on the adverse financial impact their plan would have on a large number of leaseholders. The Board responded by modifying its original plan, but, in the end, the assessment reported to the town in June still presents many leaseholders with financial hardships. Further, the Board's assessment for 2005 disproportionately and adversely affects some leaseholders, while benefiting others. That is because, under this assessment, approximately half of Arden's leaseholders will see tax increases next year while the other half will benefit from tax cuts.

RATIONALE

The Village of Arden does not exist in a vacuum when it comes to real estate valuation. Property values here in Arden are governed by the same forces that affect property values in the surrounding county, state, and across the nation. Real estate reality simply does not support the notion that all square feet of a property are equally valuable. The historic valuation studies that supported a multi-tiered rate system for land rent and which previous Boards of Assessors have relied upon (Von Dreele, 1970's; Gladstone, 1980's; Curtis, 1990's) continue to be valid today and are supported by current property sale data available from New Castle County's Department of Land Use. All of these sources support the fact that as property size increases, value per unit (i.e., square foot) decreases. A good explanation as to why this is true can be found in the Illinois Real Estate Letter, published by the Office of Real Estate Research at the University of

Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Spring 1999 (copy available on request). In addition, the Village of Arden attaches considerable value to its current combination of woodlands and open space. It is inconsistent, therefore, with both real estate reality and with our own community's values to institute land rent policies which encourage development.

Beyond these considerations are the more basic values of fairness and consensus. The decisions we make with regard to land rent are ones that the entire community must live with. They affect our own household budgets, our ability to sell our properties should we move, and our ability to attract new residents. Consequently, any changes we make to our land rent system, especially dramatic changes, must be based on need, not ideology; on facts, rather than beliefs. And, in good Arden tradition, they must be arrived at through public discussion leading to consensus. Until we have good supporting data for making a change, until our leaseholders have had the opportunity for discussion, and until we have arrived at a consensus in our community, we should maintain the land rent system we have.

ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT

Based on the rationale given above, our alternative is to continue using the 2004 land rent formula with an additional 2.2% to cover the projected increase in total land rent (as indicated by the Board of Assessors in their June report). The alternative assessment is based on the concepts presented by the 1980 Board of Assessors which, in general, have been used by all succeeding Boards. Specifically, our model is the assessment used by the 2003 Board of Assessors for land rent due in March 2004. The land rent revenue provided from this assessment will provide adequate income for the Village to:

1. Pay New Castle County property, land, and school taxes.
2. Pay for administrative expenses incurred by the Trust.
3. Pay for the 2005 Village of Arden budget (also known as the "Community Standard of Living") as approved by referendum.
4. Provide a prudent reserve of approximately one-third of the total village expenses at the end of the fiscal year in March 2006, to insure the Village has the freedom to consider future community expenditures.

The total land rent to be collected in the fiscal year beginning in March 2005 will be approximately \$384,000, based on figures provided by the Board of Assessors in their Report to the Town Assembly on June 28, 2004. The amount to be collected is approximately 2.2% more than last year's assessment. The prudent reserve, or the amount of money left in the Village's general fund at the end of the fiscal year, will be approximately \$147,000, again based on information provided in the Board of Assessors' Report to the Town Assembly in June.

Definitions

The **General Rate** (also called the **A Rate**), covering the first 6,500 square feet of a leasehold, is the area on which the primary domicile rests. This rate, and dollar value, is the same for all leaseholds.

The **Multiple Dwelling Rate** (also called the **B Rate**) reflects the added value of those leaseholds having the privilege under zoning regulations or allowance by the Trustees of establishing and maintaining more than one dwelling unit on a leasehold. A dwelling unit is defined as an independent living facility for one or more persons containing permanent cooking facilities (not a hot plate) and other permanent facilities for living, sleeping, eating and sanitation; existence of a kitchen is an essential ingredient of a dwelling unit.

The **Lot-Size Adjustment Rate** (also called the **C Rate**) is the rate applied to the area remaining where additional domiciles are not allowed by zoning codes or by Trustees' action. This rate reflects the fact that large lots have less rental value per 1,000 square feet than smaller lots.

The **Commercial Rate** (also called the **D Rate**) reflects the added value of a leasehold with the privilege of accommodating commercial, as opposed to residential, use. This rate currently applies to only one lot.

Specific Location Factors make adjustments to appropriate leasehold land rent in accordance with uniformly applicable rules based on the physical situation of the leasehold.

Calculation of Total Revenue Required

The Board of Assessors reported to the Town Assembly in June that the total revenue required from land rent for 2005 is \$384,000. We accept this figure and the Board's calculations to obtain it. Our rates are based on the need to raise that amount of revenue.

Rental Rates for Fiscal Year 2005/06 (for FY beginning March 25, 2005)

A Rate: \$161.54 per 1,000 square feet applied to the first 6,500 square feet of each leasehold. The A Rate for 2004 land rent was \$158.00. The A Rate applies equally to all leaseholds.

B Rate: 100% of A Rate. For each dwelling unit beyond the first, the leasehold is charged the B Rate for an additional 2,000 square feet but is not charged for more than the actual area of the leasehold.

C Rate: 40% of A Rate. This rate is applied to that area of a leasehold in excess of the area charged by the A and B rates.

Base Land Rent: The sum of the charges, in dollars, from applying the A, B and C Rates to the area of a leasehold.

D Rate: A surcharge of 75% of the Base Land Rent for a leasehold with commercial privileges; no deduction for frontage on Marsh Road.

Specific Location Factors:

- | | |
|--|------|
| 1. Leaseholds adjacent to Arden or Sherwood Forests | +10% |
| 2. Leaseholds fronting on Arden or Sherwood Forests by being across the street | +5% |
| 3. Leaseholds adjacent to or fronting on communal green | +5% |
| 4. Leaseholds adjacent to Harvey and/or Marsh Roads | -5% |
| 5. Leaseholds having driveway access only to Harvey and/or Marsh Roads | -5% |

Notes:

a.) Specific Location Factor charges (in dollars) to be added to or subtracted from the sum of the Base Land Rent are obtained by multiplying the Base Land Rent for the leasehold by the appropriate factors as given above.

b.) Leaseholds having less than a 25-foot opening to the forest will not be charged a woods factor. More than that frontage to the forest will be considered full access and a full factor will be charged.

c.) Location factors 4 and 5 are additive if both apply.

EXAMPLES:

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|------------|
| Base Land Rent: | 10,000 square foot lot | \$1,276.17 |
| | 20,000 square foot lot | \$1,922.33 |
| | 30,000 square foot lot | \$2,568.49 |
| | 40,000 square foot lot | \$3,214.65 |
| | 50,000 square foot lot | \$3,860.81 |
| | 80,000 square foot lot | \$5,799.29 |

Sample Land Rent Calculations:

A 20,000 sq. ft. lot containing one dwelling unit, fronting on a Village green and adjacent to Arden forest:

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| 6,500 sq. ft. x \$161.54/M sq. ft. | \$1,050.01 |
| 13,500 sq. ft. x \$161.54/M sq. ft. x 40% | <u>872.32</u> |
| Base Land Rent | \$1,922.33 |
| Forest Factor: \$1,922.33 x 10% | 192.23 |
| Greens Factor: \$1,922.33 x 5% | <u>96.12</u> |
| Total Land Rent | <u>\$2,210.68</u> |

A 30,000 sq. ft. lot containing three dwelling units and adjacent to Arden forest:

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| 6,500 sq. ft. x \$161.54/M. sq. ft. | \$1,050.01 |
| 2,000 sq. ft. x 2 x \$161.54/M. sq. ft. x 100% | 646.16 |
| 19,500 sq. ft. x \$161.54/M. sq. ft. x 40% | <u>1,260.01</u> |
| Base Land Rent | \$2,956.18 |
| Forest Factor: \$2,956.18 x 10% | <u>295.62</u> |
| Total Land Rent | <u>\$3,251.80</u> |

A 50,000 sq. ft. lot adjacent to Arden forest:

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| 6,500 sq. ft. x \$161.54/M. sq. ft. | \$1,050.01 |
| 43,500 sq. ft. x \$161.54/M. sq. ft. x 40% | <u>2,810.80</u> |
| Base Land Rent | \$3,860.81 |
| Forest Factor: \$3,860.81 x 10% | 386.08 |
| Total Land Rent | <u>\$4,246.89</u> |

(For informational purposes, a comparison spreadsheet was made available, showing the effect on each Arden leasehold of both the Board of Assessors 2005 land rent assessment as well as our alternative. The 2004 land rent figures are provided as a baseline and to demonstrate the percent change under each plan.)

CONCLUSION:

The Board of Assessors' 2005 land rent assessment has drawn much-needed attention to the subject of land rent assessment and to the power wielded by the Board of Assessors. However, it has also generated a great deal of controversy and unnecessary divisiveness. While it is clear that our current land rent assessment system is not perfect, it is also clear that dramatic changes should not be made in the absence of hard facts and consensus. Until we have had time to gather objective, factual data and to consider all the different (and strongly held) points of view on land rent assessment in our community, we submit that our best course of action is to leave in place the

system that has been in use for more than twenty years. We respectfully submit this alternative assessment and ask that the Town Assembly approve it for consideration by the Village in a general referendum.

Signed: Tom & Jane Frantz, Denis & Betty O'Regan, Charlie & Nanette Robinson

DISCUSSION:

Steven Threefoot explains that a 2/3 vote of this assembly needs to approve this motion to send this alternative assessment to referendum and asks comments be limited to 45 minutes. Cecilia Vore notes that a vote to send anything to referendum should be votes positively in favor of the motion.

Ed Rohrbach: Many people may not know the history of this system. Our system is based on the Single Tax philosophy of Henry George, who wanted land taxed at its full rental value, without any other taxes. Founders of Arden didn't want to relinquish ownership of land, instead they rented the land, which has the same effect. The idea is to punish those who hold their land out of full development. Over time, full rental value was re-defined to what our community needed to sustain itself. Then we saw people building many structures, some commercial, so the community adopted zoning regulations to limit growth, in contravention to all Georgist values, to a per-building-unit value. People are now restrained from developing their property. A 40,000 sq.ft. lot is not four times as valuable as a 10,000 sq.ft. lot. My neighbor will pay three times what I do under new assessment. Is this fair? No! Idea that value of land is pegged to square footage is crazy. To be fair, vote for the alternative.

Bill Press: These folks simply want to get out of paying their fair share. The old system has been going for 30 years. I don't know of one person who has moved out because they cannot afford the land rent. Maybe we should take up a collection to help.

Rodney Jester: I'm a Georgist. The old and the new assessments are wrong. To resolve this issue, hire professionals to determine the land values, based on facts.

Alton Dahl: My rent will go down under the Assessors new assessment but I support this referendum.

Mark Zylkin: I want to send this to referendum. The issue is that there is a discount on the value of land as lots get larger, but no one knows really what it is. Until we do, let's not change things.

B.R. Phillips: When people are in the grip of an idea, they may not see its shortcomings. The proposal is neither egalitarian nor democratic.

Mike Curtis: [Rises to cheers.] I was on Assessors Committee when the sliding scale was introduced. This year's assessors did as good a job as possible. They didn't have any facts but neither did we. Do you have data or do you have some other reason?

Tom Frantz replies: No one has new data. That's our point. We shouldn't make significant changes without new data.

Betty O'Regan: We will have two informational meetings at the Buzz Ware Village Center. Last two year's of assessors had a few pages of political ideology.

Ron Ozer: Have prepared paper but my better half tells me not to read this aloud. Smaller lots are obviously of more value per square inch than larger ones.

Alton Dahl: I was on Assessors in the '70s and later. Every time we used studies of hard data to support our rates.

Low Aumack: We did not spring a major change without a rationale. In January of 1976, Cy Liberman brought up idea of one flat assessment on every square foot of land. In 1994, an alternative proposal was made with this flat assessment. In 1998, I put out a flat-assessment flyer. This is not a new idea. Taxes can be progressive, flat or regressive. Arden's rate has been regressive. Shaul Gladstone, former Trustee, said that every square foot of land in Arden is worth the same. Land rent is paid on the potential for development. Curbs against development are the fault of Trustees and residents, not the Assessors. The only fair system is to pay the same rate on every square foot.

Charles Robinson: Everyone currently pays the same rate. I will vote for this referendum. I agree with Lynda Kolski and Bill Press, that this proposal needs to go to referendum since it will affect the entire village.

Brooke Bovard: This should go to referendum, but we don't need professional help.

Tom Wheeler: Data was presented which supports the alternative, which I intend to vote for.

Sadie Somerville: We hire professionals to do many things but, for some reason, we have not hired professional to help us determine assessments.

Steven Threefoot asked if there was a call for the question. Alton Dahl did so, amid many seconds.

Cecilia noted that leaseholders cannot vote on this issue, even though they are allowed to propose an alternative assessment. The vote was taken and the motion easily passed.

9. TRUSTEES

Marianne Cinaglia reported that the School and County taxes to be paid by the Village of Arden to New Castle County at the end of September are as follows:

| | |
|------------|------------------|
| School Tax | \$182,879.79 |
| County Tax | <u>54,312.05</u> |
| Total: | \$237,191.84 |

Marianne noted that the Buckingham Greene case is still in the hands of Judge Nobel.

Receipts and Bank Balances as of September 24, 2004

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Checking/Savings | |
| ARDEN BUILDING & LOAN - TRUSTEE | \$120,048.44 |
| TRUSTEES - WILMINGTON TRUST | 47,881.69 |
| VANGUARD | |
| FUND 30 | 36,566.85 |
| FUND 33 | 43,322.59 |
| MSA - FUND 50 | <u>37,700.61</u> |
| Total VANGUARD | <u>117,590.05</u> |
| Total Checking/Savings | 285,520.18 |
| | |
| Accounts Receivable | |
| LAND RENT RECEIVABLE | <u>6,465.91</u> |
| Total Accounts Receivable | <u>6,465.91</u> |
| Total Current Assets | 291,986.09 |

Trustee Quarterly Report, April 1 through September 24, 2004

| Ordinary Income/Expense | Apr 1 - Sep 24, 04 | Budget |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Income | | |
| DONATIONS | \$743,904.00 | |
| GRANTS | 950.00 | |
| Interest - Trustees Cking Acct | 104.48 | |
| INVESTMENT INCOME | 3,675.88 | |
| LAND RENT | 365,127.16 | 381,000.00 |
| LAND RENT FINANCE CHARGE | 711.18 | |
| MEADOW LANE ACCESS | 704.52 | 704.52 |
| MEMORIAL GARDEN DONATIONS | 2,635.00 | |
| Uncategorized Income | 239.66 | 45,000.00 |
| ARCHIVES/MUSEUM | 710.00 | |
| Total Income | 1,118,761.88 | 426,704.52 |
| Expense | | |
| ADVISORY COMMITTEE | 0.00 | 300.00 |
| ARCHIVES | 0.00 | 1,700.00 |
| BOARD OF ASSESSORS | 40.00 | 50.00 |
| BuzzWareVC COMMITTEE | 6,308.03 | 9,000.00 |
| CIVIC | 29,892.20 | 84,000.00 |
| COMMUNITY PLANNING | 33.21 | 1,000.00 |
| CONTINGENCIES | 0.00 | 2,000.00 |
| CONTRIBUTIONS | 4,450.00 | 4,450.00 |
| GILD HALL RENTAL | 900.00 | 900.00 |
| GRANT EXPENSE | 425.00 | |
| LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE | 0.00 | 100.00 |
| Loan Payable | 6,961.67 | 16,179.84 |
| PLAYGROUND | 1,225.00 | 1,750.00 |
| REGISTRATION | 0.00 | 1,200.00 |
| SAFETY | 1,200.00 | 5,400.00 |
| TAXES | 237,191.84 | 247,357.00 |
| TOWN ADMINISTRATIVE EXP. | 1,299.02 | 4,000.00 |
| TOWN BOOKEEPING SER Gross Wages | 1,266.00 | 2,748.00 |
| TOWN SECRETARY | 3,132.00 | 6,804.00 |
| TRUSTEE ADMINISTRATIVE | 41,541.89 | 49,460.00 |
| MEMORIAL GARDEN (Not Subject to Referendum) . | 820.83 | |
| ARCHIVES/MUSEUM (Not Subject to Referendum) | 3,415.00 | |
| Sherwood Forest Expense (Purchase) | 846,721.87 | |
| Total Expense | 1,186,823.56 | 438,398.84 |
| Net Ordinary Income | -68,061.68 | -11,694.32 |
| Net Income | -68,061.68 | -11,694.32 |

10. ARCHIVES AND ARDEN CRAFT SHOP MUSEUM

The Arden Archives moved to its new home, the Arden Craft Shop Museum, at Millers Road and Cherry Lane, in April 2004. And we've been busy. Many thanks to the Museum And Archives committee, the Arden Craft Shop Museum Board and all the other friends and volunteers who have been working tirelessly to unpack, organize and catalog the collection and put the finishing touches on our new home.

We always welcome volunteers to catalog the collection (it's fascinating to look through what we have!), donate items, and suggest exhibition ideas. We will be announcing regular opening hours soon (probably about two hours/week to start). You can contact any member of the Museum and Archives Committee if you'd like to help out. You can also leave a message for the Museum and Archives Committee at 475-3060.

Now we're ready to show off what we've been working on. Residents are the Ardens are cordially invited to see the new Arden Craft Shop Museum at our dedication and celebration on Sunday, October 24th, from 2 to 4:30 p.m. This will be the official opening of the museum (yes, there will be a ribbon cutting!) and of the museum's inaugural exhibition, "The Ardens: A Living Experiment." We look forward to seeing you!

The Archives report was accepted unanimously.

11. AUDIT

There was no report from the Audit Committee.

12. BUDGET

Tom Frantz presented the projected budget for fiscal year 2005-2006, as shown on the next page, with the following notes. This report was unanimously accepted.

NOTES TO BUDGET:

1. **Land Rent**—Total based on Board of Assessor's report to the June Town Assembly.
2. **Interest and Other Income**—Summation of investment income, rights-of-way, Delaware grants (street aid), and other income. Includes estimated \$12,000 state grant for roads. Please note that the 2003-2004 figure was inflated due to the receipt of Buckingham Green pre-settlement.
3. **Property Taxes—County & School.**
 - a. **County Taxes**—No change is expected in the county tax rate. We assume a 1% creep in our liability due to increases in county assessment.
 - b. **School Taxes**—Expect School tax rate to increase to \$1.30 per \$100 assessed value from \$1.28 per \$100 assessed value. In addition, we added a 1% creep due to increases in assessment.
4. **Trustees Administration**—The 2005/2006 expected expenses represent a 6.2% increase due to higher insurance costs (+\$2,000), operating fees (+\$1,500), and salary increases (+\$488).
5. **Long-Term Debt**—Sherwood Forest Loan—Annual payments for the acquisition of the Avery Property (aka Sherwood Forest), will now be a re-occurring non-discretionary budget expense. The annual repayment amount is \$16,180.
6. **Total Non-discretionary budget expenses**—Represents about \$32,400 increase or 9.8% from last year due to the assumption of the Sherwood Forest Loan, County and School taxes, and increased Trust expenses.
7. **Advisory Committee**—No change in requested funding.
8. **Archives Committee**—Reduced funding requirements due to the elimination of the rent previously paid to the BWVC.
9. **Avery Task Force**—No funding required.

Projected Budget (Fiscal Year March 25, 2005–2006)

| INCOME: | NOTES | (2005-2006) PROJECTED | (2004-2005) PROJECTED | (2003-2004) ACTUAL |
|--|-----------|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Land Rent | 1 | 384,000 | 376,000 | 378,263 |
| Delaware Municipal Street Aid | | 20,000 | 20,000 | 23,586 |
| Interest and Other Income | 2 | 40,000 | 45,000 | 67,155 |
| SUB-TOTAL: INCOME | | \$444,000 | \$441,000 | \$469,004 |
| Reserve | | 131,557 | 152,711 | 197,802 |
| TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE | | \$575,557 | \$593,711 | \$666,806 |
| EXPENSES: | | | | |
| NON-BUDGET EXPENSES | | | | |
| Property Taxes: | | | | |
| County | 3a | 57,900 | 57,630 | 57,059 |
| School | 3b | 203,500 | 190,599 | 185,048 |
| Trustees Administration | 4 | 52,508 | 49,460 | 64,974 |
| Long Term Debt (Sherwood Forest Loan) | 5 | 16,180 | | |
| Grants - State of Delaware | | | | |
| State Grant | | | | |
| State Grant for Roads to Civic Committee | | 12,000 | 12,000 | 11,612 |
| Delaware Municipal Street Aid - Roads | | 20,000 | 20,000 | 25,467 |
| SUB-TOTAL NON-BUDGET EXPENSES | 6 | \$362,088 | \$329,689 | \$344,160 |
| BUDGET EXPENSES | | | | |
| | | PROPOSED BUDGET for Referendum | APPROPRIATED (2004-2005) | ACTUAL |
| Advisory | 7 | 300 | 300 | 125 |
| Archives | 8 | 1,000 | 1,700 | 3,514 |
| Avery Task Force | 9 | — | 25,000 | 2,037 |
| Board of Assessors | 10 | 50 | 50 | — |
| Buzz Ware VC, Program/Admin | 11a | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Buzz Ware Village Center, Maintenance | 11b | 2,000 | 2,000 | |
| Buzz Ware Village—Renovations | 11c | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| Buzz Ware Village—Roof Renovations | 11d | 6,000 | 6,000 | |
| Civic Committee: | | | | 11,612 |
| Roads | 12a | 18,000 | 18,000 | 14,265 |
| Commons & Forests | 12b | 20,000 | 21,000 | 17,963 |
| Trash Collection | 12c | 41,000 | 43,000 | 34,653 |
| Special Clean-up | 12d | 2,000 | 2,000 | — |
| Community Planning: | 13 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 184 |
| Legislative Reference | 14 | 100 | 100 | — |
| Playground | 15 | 1,750 | 1,750 | 1,847 |
| Registration | 16 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,069 |
| Safety—General | 17a | 1,000 | 1,000 | 380 |
| Town Watch Coordinator Fees | 17b | 2,400 | 2,400 | 2,268 |
| Harvey Rd. Speed Limit Enforcement | 17c | 2,000 | 2,000 | — |
| Town Expenses | | | | |
| Salaries: | | | | |
| Secretary | 18a | 7,021 | 6,804 | 6,108 |
| Bookkeeping—Town | 18b | 2,845 | 2,748 | 2,472 |
| Town Administrative Expenses | 19 | 3,500 | 4,000 | 220 |
| Donations: | | | | |
| ACRA | 20 | 1,450 | 1,450 | 1,350 |
| Arden Page | 20 | 1,450 | 1,450 | 1,350 |
| Arden Library | 20 | 550 | 550 | 550 |
| Fire Companies | 20 | 1,250 | 1,000 | 950 |
| Gild Hall Rental | 21 | 1,200 | 900 | 1,020 |
| Contingencies | 22 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 238 |
| SUB-TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES | 23 | \$128,066 | \$156,402 | \$111,175 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 24 | \$490,154 | \$486,091 | \$455,335 |

See accompanying notes to Proposed Budget FY 2005–2006: Referendum in October 2004.

10. **Assessors**—No change in requested funding.
11. **Buzz Ware Village Center**—No change in requested funding.
 - a. **Programs/Administration**—Represents annual program and administration costs.
 - b. **Maintenance**—Annual routine maintenance costs.
 - c. **Renovations**—Minor renovations as needed to BWVC.
 - d. **Roof Renovation**—Major renovation needed for the roof—BWVC committee wishes to accrue \$6000 per year for three years to pay for the roof renovation. This year's budget represents the second year of accrual.
12. **Civic Committee**—A 3.6% reduction in funding is requested. Based on the actual amount spent in the 2003-2004 budget, the 2004-2005 budget may be more than what is needed to cover the committee expenses. The projected 2005/2006 requirements are based on this lower assessment for the 2004/2005 needs.
 - a. **Roads**—No change in requested funding.
 - b. **Commons & Forests**—\$1000 reduction in requested funding.
 - c. **Trash Collection**—\$2,000 reduction in requested funding.
 - d. **Special Trash clean-up**—No change in requested funding.
13. **Community Planning**—No change in requested funding.
14. **Legislative Reference**—No change in requested funding.
15. **Playground**—No change in requested funding.
16. **Registration**—No change in requested funding.
17. **Safety**—No change in requested funding.
 - a. General
 - b. Town Watch Coordination Fees
 - c. Harvey Road Speed Limit Enforcement
18. **Town Expenses**—Salaries.
 - a. **Secretary**—A 3% increase in 2005/2006 salary. Current salary is \$6,264 to increase to \$6,456 plus \$565 in payroll taxes.
 - b. **Bookkeeping**—A 3% increase in 2005/2006 salary. Current salary is \$2,532 to increase to \$2,616 plus \$229 in payroll taxes.
19. **Town Administrative Expenses**—Reduced \$500 to \$3500.
20. **Donations**—Increased donations to fire companies by \$250.
 - a. **ACRA**—No change in requested funding—annual donation is \$1450.
 - b. **Arden Page**—No change in requested funding—annual donation is \$1450.
 - c. **Arden Library**—No change in requested funding—annual donation is \$550.
 - d. **Fire Companies**—Increased donations to fire companies by \$250 to \$1250. The breakdown would be Claymont Fire Company - \$650; Talleyville Fire Company - \$300; and Brandywine Hundred Fire Company - \$300.
21. **Gild Hall Rental**—Increased \$300 to \$1200.
22. **Contingencies**—No change in requested amount (\$2000) for contingencies.
23. **Total Discretionary Expenses**—The total amount of discretionary expenses have been lowered by approximate \$28,000 or about 18%. This reduction is due to the elimination of Avery Task Force expenses and reductions in by the Civic committee.
24. **Total Expenses**—The total expenses are expected to increase by approximately \$4000 or 0.8%.

13. **BUZZ WARE VILLAGE CENTER.** Debbie Theis made the following report:

Events of this summer include:

* ACRA had another successful summer camp.

* The new entrance doors have been hung. Two years ago friends of Dan Conner donated \$4,000 in his memory. To this, the BWVC Committee added the \$1,000 anonymous donation from one of the residents of Arden. With this money, local craftsmen Denis O'Regan, Alex Scala and Peter Renzetti have hand-crafted a stunning set of wooden doors. A few final details still need to be completed; hopefully, this will happen within the next several weeks. After which, we plan to have a dedication event; all donors and the three Ardens will be informed of this once we have set a date. In addition to all those who donated in memory of Dan, we especially want to thank the three craftsmen who created these doors. This project has truly been a labor of love.

* Art exhibit at the Buzz during the Arden Fair. Jessica Roy's Saturday art class exhibited their artwork in Room 3 during the Arden Fair. This exhibit was an incredible testimony to youthful talent; it's an amazing delight to see what Jessie's students have created under her tutelage. We are hoping that some of their artwork will soon be hanging on the walls of the BWVC in permanent display.

The YMCA programs have resumed at the Buzz Ware. This year they are again offering pre-kindergarten programs and before/after school programs. Other long-term renters include Jessie's Saturday Art Class, the local chapter of Home Inspectors Association, and Kerry Orr's yoga class. Several of the community functions occurring at the Buzz are the Feldon Krist group, Tai Chi practice, Arden committee meetings, and Ardencroft's town meetings.

The Coffee House season has resumed. September's Coffee House was held in our familiar cozy Room 3 but plans are underway to start a new venue at the Buzz. October's Coffee House will be the first BWVC-sponsored event held on the recently re-opened stage. We made a fund-raising appeal during September's Coffee House and our crowd responded generously. We will now be able to buy additional round tables and other accessories needed for the stage area. So put it on your calendar to come check out the new Coffee House digs the second Friday of October.

The BWVC Committee is seeking a volunteer (or two) from our Arden committee to assist with building management. We desperately need someone to manage three key functions at the Buzz: scheduling coordination, janitorial/maintenance supervision, and tenant relations. The idea for this position is still in the conceptual stage, so it's hard to give a definite time requirement, but a fair estimate would be 5-6 hours throughout the month. Being involved with the BWVC during this time of creative and progressive change can provide a very rewarding sense of community accomplishment—so if you have some extra hours during the month, and are looking for a way to give back to our collective Arden communities, here is a great opportunity. If you are interested and would like more details, call me at 475-1995.

Future projects currently in the works:

* Re-design of the entranceway (to resolve ongoing roof leaks and to enhance architectural community of the building. Repair/replace the roof of Rooms 1 and 2—the BWVC Committee has been planning this project for the past two years, a wise decision as we continue to have ongoing and persistent leaks.

* Window replacement—the two auctions we have held over the past two and a half years have netted \$26,000. Now that we have shown we are in earnest about this project, we hope to find grant money to help us reach our goal.

* The recently opened stage area needs some cleanup and cosmetic brush up. We have removed the island in Room 1 and are planning to replace it with a portable island. This opens additional space for seating for concerts, plays and meetings. We are looking at this area to see if we could accommodate Town Meetings. At this point,

we are not ready to make that offer.

As you can see, there is a lot going on at our community center for the Ardens. we are attempting to do a lot on a fairly limited budget and without over-burdening the Village of Arden with additional requests. Right now our unrestricted resources are pretty slim (our new bathroom renovations took most of our operating buffer), so in order to continue on track with these ideas and endeavors, we need involvement from the residents of the Ardens, both in finances and volunteer time. So please keep us in mine when you are contemplating what you can do to help enhance your community.

Having made that report, an account reconciliation for Fiscal Year 2003-2004 (seen below) was made available to all. The BWVC report was accepted unanimously.

**Buzz Ware Village Center
Account Reconciliation for Fiscal Year 2003 - 2004**

1. The BWVC Operating Budget, a separate account, controls the revenues and associated expenditures relating to the daily operation and maintenance of the Center
2. The Town Assembly budget provides for administrative/programming expenses and for town authorized special needs.

| Revenues | Actual 3/25/03 - 3/24/04 | Variance (FY04-FY03) | Projected 3/25/04- 3/24/05 |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Interest | | | |
| Bank Interest - Wilm. Trust | 39.1 | -\$41.28 | \$26.00 |
| Bank Interest - AB&L | 833.15 | \$210.48 | \$1,003.00 |
| Subtotal: | 872.25 | \$169.20 | \$1,029.00 |
| Misc. Income | | | |
| BWVC Activities | 1650.47 | \$245.83 | \$1,168.00 |
| Donation, Ardencroft | 1000 | \$0.00 | \$1,000.00 |
| Donation, Ardentown | 1100 | \$100.00 | \$1,100.00 |
| Donations, other | 404 | -\$724.00 | \$2,700.00 |
| Donation, restricted: Dan's doors | 1000 | -\$3,033.00 | \$3,761.00 |
| Town money: renov & prog | 7000 | | \$9,000.00 |
| Subtotal: | \$12,154.47 | -\$3,411.17 | \$18,729.00 |
| Rental Fees: | | | |
| Archives | 2366 | \$364.00 | \$0.00 |
| YMCA | 13140 | \$640.00 | \$13,455.00 |
| Other Rentals | 5848.5 | \$1,458.50 | \$4,300.00 |
| Subtotal: | 21354.5 | \$2,462.50 | \$17,755.00 |
| TOTAL INCOMES: | \$34,381.22 | -\$6,279.47 | \$37,513.00 |
| Disbursements | | | |
| Admin/Program | -2181.92 | -\$1,272.80 | -\$1,235.48 |
| Maintenance & Supplies | -18805.41 | -\$9,450.54 | -\$20,136.96 |
| Small Equip/Improve. | -21156.11 | -\$7,369.35 | -\$10,761.00 |
| Utilities | | | |
| Electricity | -1826.66 | \$55.91 | -\$2,087.00 |
| Oil | -3330.57 | -\$336.66 | -\$3,500.00 |
| Water | -370.34 | \$14.50 | -\$622.00 |
| Phone | -433.08 | -\$12.95 | -\$420.00 |
| Subtotal: | -\$5,960.65 | -\$279.20 | -\$6,629.00 |
| TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS: | -\$48,104.09 | | -\$38,762.44 |
| NET OPERATING PROFIT | -\$13,722.87 | | -\$1,249.44 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Current liabilities: Dan's doors & window project | \$30,213 | | |
| Bal in B&L as of 8/17/04 | 15238.25 | | |
| bal in checking as of 8/17/04 | 17078.04 | | |
| Available to operating (no income since Aug recorded in this rep) | \$2,104 | | |
| Town money being rolled over from FY04 for roof | \$6,000 | | |

14. CIVIC COMMITTEE

Sue Rothrock made the following report. New recycling has started every Tuesday. We have two vacancies on the committee and we move that Annie Schmittinger and David Gerbec fill them, to replace the unexpired terms of Ken Sutton and Rick Grier-Reynolds. Bev Barnett seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Susan Warner commented that it is wonderful that recycling is going on but wondered if we have any assurance everything is being recycled. Sue replied that we do and noted that Waste Management no longer has a facility in Maryland that can separate recyclables; that is why we now separate items.

Alton Dahl noted that the separation requirements are too complicated. Difficult to separate newsprint from advertisements and junk mail.

Brooke Bovard suggested that people just don't buy the *News Journal*; reading it just raises your blood pressure.

The Civic Committee's report was accepted unanimously.

15. COMMUNITY PLANNING

Jeanne Corman reported that Ruth Panella has replaced Julie Hurlong-Hannum as co-chair of the Committee. She also reported on a July 28 Meeting for the County Management Code regarding cars and boats parked on hard surfaces and to remove restrictions to create backyard habitats. Report accepted unanimously.

16. PLAYGROUND

Larry Walker reporter that there have been two inspections of playground equipment since the last meeting. Also, 20 cubic yards of chips have been dumped on BWVC parking lot. After the ground freezes, a backhoe will be used to move them. Report accepted unanimously.

17. REGISTRATION

Cecilia Vore made the following report: As of tonight, there are 363 eligible voters in Arden. Our current census information shows 378 adults and 74 children under age 18 living in the village.

The annual budget referendum and Assessors election will be held in November. Ballots will be mailed the week of October 13, with a return deadline of November 10. Ballots will be counted on Wednesday, November 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the Buzz Ware Village Center. A few volunteers are needed to assist the Registration Committee with the count. Please see me if you are interested. Anyone is welcome to observe the ballot count.

Mike Curtis noted that tonight was the first time in 100 years that an alternative assessment has been approved for referendum.

Cecilia notes that a majority of eligible voters needs to approve a referendum, not a majority of the people who actually vote. This is part of our charter.

The report was accepted unanimously.

18. SAFETY

Denis O'Regan reported that a letter has been issued about a parking violation on Sunset Lane. He then reported news about convicted sexual criminals now released and residing in the area, but did not give specifics. Jennifer Borders wondered how people can get specifics. Denis replied that this information is available from the state but that the Safety Committee does not publicize this information.

June Kleban wondered whether, with all this vandalism, have our own people been involved? Denis replied that, yes, sometimes we do know who it is and sometimes it is

local residents. Denis notes Safety isn't an enforcement agency or counseling service.

Rachel Grier-Reynolds noted that the average sex offender has 100 victims. Denis suggested creation of a phone tree or e-mail tree, especially to inform those most vulnerable, but the Safety Committee does not have resources to implement this idea.

The report was accepted unanimously.

19. OLD BUSINESS

None.

20. NEW BUSINESS

Rodney Jester: We give use of Town Land to Arden Club, Club should give us free use of the Gild Hall.

Alton Dahl: The Arden Club hopes that Town Assembly continues to meet here and asked residents to please look at the letter he distributed.

Brooke Brovard noted that the Arden Club pays \$6,500 a year in land rent.

21. GOOD AND WELFARE.

The following upcoming events were announced:

Saturday, Oct. 9, 8pm, Gild Hall, History of Banjo with Tony Trischka.

Oct. 24, ACRA Halloween Party at Gild Hall.

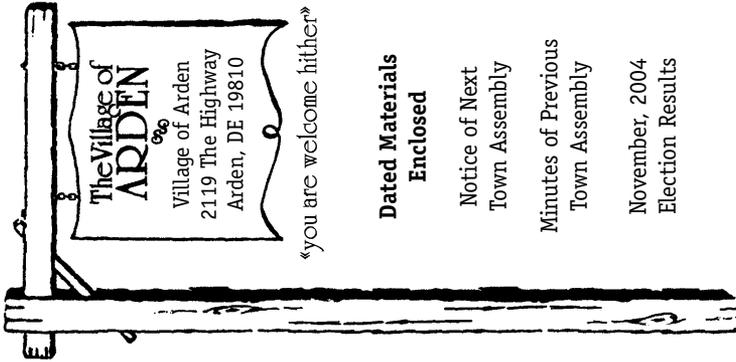
22. ADJOURNMENT

Alton Dahl moved and Elizabeth seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously, at 9:55 p.m.

Faithfully submitted,



Danny N. Schweers, Secretary



The Village of
ARDEN
Village of Arden
2119 The Highway
Arden, DE 19810

«you are welcome hither»

**Dated Materials
Enclosed**

Notice of Next
Town Assembly

Minutes of Previous
Town Assembly

November, 2004
Election Results