INSIDE: MINUTES OF September 22, 2008

All Village of Arden Residents are encouraged to attend the next Town Meeting.

Monday, January 26, 2009
In the Gild Hall, 7:30 p.m.
2326 The Highway, Arden, Delaware

THE TOWN ASSEMBLY’S AGENDA WILL INCLUDE:

1. First Reading of Revised Ordinance No. 11
2. Proposal to Move Town Meeting to the BWVC, as a part of the Buzz Ware Village Center Committee Report
3. Report of Memorial Garden, as part of the Community Planning Committee Report
4. Proposal for Establishing Community Gardens, as part of New Business

All are welcome hither

Please note: Those attending Town Meetings are eligible to vote if they have resided in the Village of Arden the six months prior to the Meeting, and are 18 years of age, or older.
Minutes of the Town Assembly for the Village of Arden (uncorrected)

Monday, September 22, 2008
A Total of Residents attended the Meeting.

Bob Andress
Beverly Barnett
Patrick Barry
Lou Bean
Ruth Bean
Jennifer Borders
Marianne Cinaglia
Mike Curtis
Alton Dahl
Carl Falco
Anna Greene
Betty Greene
Heidi Hoegger
Rodney Jester
A. Barnes King
June Kleban
Chuck Landry (NV)
Ken Mabry
Barbara Macklem
Connee McKinney
Rebecca Meick
Ron Meick
David Michelson
Denise Nordheimer
Cookie Ohlson

Bonnie R. Phillips
Jeff Politis
Gary Quinton
Betty O’Regan
Denis O’Regan
Liz Resko
Deborah Ricard
Hugh Roberts
Shelly Robyn
Ed Rohrbach
Warren Rosencranz
Sue Rothrock
Danny Schweers
Wally Scott
Ray Siegfried
Sally Sharp
Bryon Short (NV)
Sadie Sommerville
Larry Strange
Lon Sullivan
Steven Threefoot
Elizabeth Varley
Cecilia Vore
Larry Walker
Tom Wheeler
VILLAGE OF ARDEN
TOWN MEETING
SEPTEMBER 22, 2008

1.1 CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was Called to Order at 7:40 pm at the Arden Gild Hall by Town Chairman Steven Threeefoot

1.2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the June 23, 2008 Town Meeting were Corrected and Approved

1.3 NEW RESIDENTS

Larry Strange and his family have returned to Arden, and the Town is happy to have them back.

1.4 RECOGNITION OF THE DEPARTED

Bonnie Phillips said that this was the first Town Meeting she had attended this year, and she asked that her sister Charlotte Glass be remembered. There was a moment of silence by the Assembly.

1.5 COMMUNICATIONS

Steven reported that he had executed the Local Services Function Application with New Castle County, and this was the document in which the Town requests services from the County. Police protection, building inspections, code enforcement, and other items are offered, and the Town is billed through the Real Estate Taxes for the number and types of services requested.

Arden has transferred the administration of a HUD Community Block Grant Program for Housing to New Castle County for the next three years, starting June 30, 2009. If Arden does not turn the program over to the County, Arden must administer the pro-
gram itself, and at this point the Village is not in a position to administer a bureaucratic Government program.

The Town received a notice from the Delaware League of Local Governments and the Office of the State Treasurer, informing Arden that as a result of recent State Budget discussions, the Town of Arden will again receive Municipal Street Aid for the coming year. That amount is reflected in the Town Budget to be presented later. There had been concerns that because of recent reduced State revenue projections, the Municipal Street Aid might be canceled. Steven wanted to note that the Delaware League of Local Governments, of which Arden is a member, had vigorously lobbied with the Delaware Legislature to see that Municipal Street Aid was funded at the levels of previous years.

1.6 VISITOR

Chuck Landry, President of Council of Civic Organizations of the Brandywine Hundred (CCOBH) came to make a presentation. Steven said that CCOBH is another organization in which Arden is a member. Chuck thanked the Meeting for the opportunity to speak, and remind everyone that CCOBH is a civic umbrella group composed of 26 civic organizations, municipalities, and other groups. CCOBH is involved in many activities, but primarily focuses on zoning and development issues, particularly on development issues.

Chuck wanted to speak about a major project that if it goes through will greatly affect the Brandywine Hundred. He said that Stoltz Realty proposed to build a regional shopping center at US 202 and Beaver Valley Road, and at this point it is before Land Use. There will be both commercial areas and office spaces. The traffic at Naamans Road and Concord Pike is at a maximum capacity right now, and the traffic from the new complex will put the traffic in the area into complete failure. There has been significant development north of the area in Pennsylvania, and this already has negatively impacted the traffic at that intersection and in our area. Chuck wanted the residents of our area to fight this
proposal, along with three others that Stoltz Realty has proposed.
CCOBH will fight particularly against the proposed develop-
ments in Greenville and Brandywine.

Stoltz wants to put in 4 million sq. ft. of new retail and office
space, and the roads cannot handle the addition traffic loads.
There are many pressures to create economic growth, and some in
the County like the idea of new construction and new jobs. So
some in County Government will bend rules, or change the inter-
pretation of certain regulations to allow new development, which
will bring in additional revenue.

CCOBH feels that this will bring a glut of retail and office space,
and the regional shopping center will attract business from other
malls and office complexes. They feel there would be no true
growth in jobs and businesses. There will only be parasitic move-
ment of businesses from other areas and office spaces, so in the
end we will be left with the same number of players, just shuffled
around between different buildings.

CCCOBH will meet with Governor Elect Jack Markell, and the
will ask him to require DELDOT to do a very thorough traffic
study to determine the impact of the proposed Stoltz develop-
ments, with particular focus on traffic in the Brandywine Hun-
dred. Chuck said CCOBH is not against development, but it
works hard to make sure that it is done thoughtfully and correctly.
Otherwise, the area must live for decades with the mistakes the
developers had been allowed to make. Unwise development can
degrad the quality of life in the Brandywine Hundred. The
group wants to carefully consider the ramifications of develop-
ment projects so we know exactly where we are going.

Steven said that Marianne Cinaglia remains our representative to
CCOBH, and she would be willing to meet with you to provide
additional information, or answer questions.

Bonnie Phillips reminded everyone that “STOTLZ” sounded very
much like the past tense of “STEAL”....
Ron Spinks was introduced as the Manager of Brandywine Accounting, and he was here to see how the Arden does its business.

Bryon Short, the State Representative for this District, said he was happy to see Chuck here, and he commented that Chuck was a dedicated volunteer, a great leader, and a good person. Bryon said he attended the Arden Fair, and enjoyed the morning of politicking, and the afternoon in the beer garden.

June Kleban asked Rep. Short what could be done about speeding cars and loud exhausts on Marsh Road between Harvey Road and Silverside Road, and she felt it was frightening. Also, cars run up the bicycle lane before it becomes a turn lane. Bryon said that there had been similar complaints from other Civic Associations in the area, so he was aware of the problem, which is an enforcement issue. However, he acknowledged that the police have to deal with priorities and other problems, so the loud road noise on Marsh Road is not frequently monitored.

Steven reminded everyone that the Gild Hall will be the polling site for the General Election in November. He encouraged everyone to vote.

2.0 ELECTION OF PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR

Cecilia Vore said that the Registration Committee was asked to come up with a procedure for electing the Project Administrator. Only one nominee will be needed, just as for other Town Officers. The name of the elected position will be “Monetary Gifts Administrator. The person will be elected for a two year term, and that election will be held in March of odd number years. After the first Election, the Advisory Committee will be charged with getting the nominee, but for this first Election, the Ad Hoc Committee will be asked to suggest a nominee. There can also be nominations from the floor. Since there was no urgency in electing the Monetary Gifts Administrator, the Committee recommended that this election be put off until March 2009.
Alton Dahl asked if money had been transferred to the Town from the Schroeder Estate, and Steven said it had not been done yet. Alton said that since there was no money, there was no urgency.

This part of the Report from the Registration Committee was Accepted.

3.0 APPROVAL OF ASSESSORS REPORT

NOTE: The Report of the Assessors Committee was Accepted by the Town Meeting of June 23, 2008, and the full Report was printed in those Minutes.

Steven asked if there would be an Alternative Assessment Report, and there was none. He asked that the Assessors Report, as Accepted by the June 23 2008 Town Assembly, be unanimously Approved. This was So Moved, Seconded, and Approved Unanimously.

4.0 TRUSTEES

Connee McKinney presented the Report of the Trustees.

Trustees Report September 22, 2008 Town Meeting

The Trustees have several items to report:

Finances: We have copies of the Second Quarterly Report (September 2008) available tonight. The County and School Taxes will be paid tomorrow: County Taxes are $65,232.74 and School Taxes are $260,036.67, plus approximately $24,000 in rebates. We want to emphasize that the leaseholders should always check their copy of the New Castle County Tax Bill for accuracy. (It says, “Do Not Pay.”) particularly the ‘Over 65” rebate and the “age/Income” Rebate. We calculate the Rebate Checks that we issue to individual leaseholders on the bills that we receive from the County. If you have questions about it, please call
the County Treasury Office (323-2600). Also, we will be meeting soon with the new Arden Treasurer to move items that are now under the Trustee Administration Budget to the Village of Arden Budget and Town fiscal responsibility.

Lease Transfers: There have been three lease transfers since the June Town Meeting: Two were removing names from leases, and one was changing an LLC to the individuals who were part of the LLC.

Leasehold Administration: We have had the papers in the Trustee safety deposit box scanned by DMI. These are the original Arden deeds and agreements. We received two sets to archive: one roll of microfilm, and a copy of it as a CD. One set is now at the Delaware Public Archives in Dover, and the other set will go to the Arden Archives. They are interesting documents—some handwritten and folio size. We hope that you find time to have a look at them.

Welcome to Arden Packet for new leaseholders: With input from the Civic Committee, we have finalized the “Rights-of-Way letter about the Village of Arden Ordinance No. 11 in our “Welcome to Arden” packet. We have added the work “plantings” so that part of the letter now reads: “It is important to read the Ordinance carefully. It is particularly relevant if you are removing or replacing old fencing, or installing a new fencing or plantings that could encroach over the Town Rights-of-Way over time. The Rights-of-Way vary: Always consult your survey to confirm you lot lines with neighboring leaseholds, the Town Rights-of-Way, and the Forest boundary.”

Trustee Outreach: We are looking for ways to communicate Trustee policies with Arden leaseholders. We acknowledge that there is a perception that we are not open, and we want to change that. We are in an on-going process of reviewing our policies, and are currently discussing our tree removal policy. We consider various ways of communicating that policy: an open meeting in October, posting the policy on the Arden Government web
site, or publishing it in the Arden Page. Other policies that we are reviewing are: variances, lot splitting, and encroachments. We are interested in your thoughts about the best way to get that information out to our residents.

Respectfully submitted,
Connee McKinney, Arden Trustee

The Report was Accepted.

5.0 TOWN TREASURER'S REPORT

David Michelson introduced himself to the Town Assembly, again, and he said he would present the Quarterly Financial Report to the Town Assembly. He wanted to remind everyone of the changes underway. The Trustees have continued to pay all of the Town’s bills, but that will change in March 2009. For the coming Fiscal Year, some of the financial responsibilities will be shifted from the Trustees to the Town, with the Village Officers signing the checks for the Town’s bills. All of the Town’s money will be in one account, and it will be easier to see money in-money out.

Steven said that for the first time since the Town was Incorporated, the Town Government will pays its own bills. It is hoped that the new process will make it clear how much it costs to run the Town, and it will make the whole process more transparent.

NOTE: The Quarterly Financial Report that was present is printed at the end of the Minutes.

David explained the Quarterly, and went over various line items in the Report.

Dave said that the large amount of money in the Vanguard Accounts will be reduced when the Town pays the County Real Es-
tate taxes and the School Taxes tomorrow.

Liz Resko asked why the Town's taxes were not listed as a liability, even though they knew the amount that was due. David said that it should have been done.

Jeff Politis suggested that the Line Item for the Avery Task Force be removed. Also, the Buzz Ware Village Center Committee has a Line Item, but not all expenses are included there. Jeff asked about the payments to the Avery Purchase, because it seemed that only the amount of the interest was shown. David said that because of the way the Quickbooks Program was written, the mortgage interest was shown in one place, and the principal payments were shown elsewhere.

Hugh Roberts asked about the money left over from the three grants, as explained in the Audit Report from last Town Meeting. There is a total of almost $2,500 left. Elizabeth Varley said that these were grants from different fiscal years. Hugh wanted to be sure that the funds will be spent. David said that Civic has spent $950 already, and the various committees will deal with those balances. He said that the Traffic Calming Grant was only for capital expenses, so there were limits on how it would be spent. Danny Schweers said that recently there were two accidents at Harvey and Orleans, and there was interest in installing guardrails around the intersection. Danny asked if the Traffic Calming Money could be used "to prime the pump" for DELDOT to install the guardrails. Steven suggested that Danny talk to Rep. Bryon Short about this issue.

Alton said that there was a series of reflective chevron arrows on the north side of Harvey Road, and they did reduce the number of accidents there. There is now only one, and no one is sure why the other chevrons were removed. He suggested that the money be spent to replace the chevron arrows. David said that someone in Dover was working on reducing the number of signs on the roads, and probably these signs were removed as a part of that effort. Danny said that there was an effort by the State of Dela-
ware to minimize signs in general, but the chevrons were not a part of that. Three chevrons were left, and the surrounding residents have done their part to keep the chevron signs installed when they are knocked down, which unfortunately has been fairly frequently.

The Report of the Treasurer was Accepted.

6.0 ADVISORY

Bill Theis presented the following slate of nominees for the Assessors Committee for 2008-2009:

Walter Borders
Brooke Bovard
Marianne Cinaglia
Alton Dahl
Milton Issacs
Mary Marconi
Ron Meick
Denis O’Regan
Jeff Politis
Gary Quinton
Liz Resko
Warren Rosencrantz
Anne Schmittinger
Tom Wheeler

Bill said that anyone can nominate himself or herself, and asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none.

The Annual Advisory Committee Retreat has been scheduled for November 15, 2008 at the Buzz Ware Village Center from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. All are invited to attend.

Steven reminded all Committees that a representative should attend the Retreat.
The Report of the Advisory Committee was Accepted.

7.0 ARCHIVES

The Archives has had a good few months, and were open for the Town Fair, as well as the two following days. An upcoming event for the Archives is Remembrance Day on October 12, with the theme of journalists. There will be more in the Arden Page.

Submitted by
Sadie Somerville

Ruth Bean said that Remembrance Days is an annual event to let people honor people who were a part of the community, and important to the development of Ardens. Last year Pauline Young was honored. This year two journalists for the local newspapers will be recognized, and they are Cy Liberman and Bill Frank. There will be family members and storytellers who knew them well, and anyone with a story about either man is urged to come to share it with everyone.

The Report of the Archives was Accepted

7.1 REPORT OF THE CRAFT SHOP-MUSEUM

Alton Dahl reported for the Craft Shop-Museum. He said that everything had been going along "swimmingly" at the building, especially when one of the sewers was stopped up. The necessary repairs were made, the basement cleaned, and all is now well.

The Annual Election of the Board will be upcoming, and this is the group that runs the building, like renting out the apartments, making repairs, looking at needed improvements, and making sure all of the finances are correct. The Election was announced in the September Arden Page, and the next Arden Page will have the ballots as an insert. Alton asked everyone to vote, so that the proxy votes will allow for a quorum at the Annual Meeting.
Steven asked Alton to explain the relationship of the Corporation to the Village. Alton explained that when the building was about to be sold, they developed a plan and process so that the building could be preserved, with space made for a Museum for the Town. However, all of that raised many questions and issues, and the result of the discussions and legal advice was to start a Corporation, which was a "separate stand alone company" to manage and operate the building separate from, but in coordination with, the Village government. Later, the Craft Shop-Museum was re-incorporated to widen the base of participation in this Museum, to include all three of the Ardens. Now, any voter in a Town Meeting in any of the Three Ardens is a member of the Corporations and eligible to vote and participate in the activities of the Corporation and the Museum.

Liz Resko asked if the Financial Report of the Corporation has been presented to the Town, and Alton said that it had been done in the past. Perhaps, it could be done again. Alton said that the Corporation is financially sound, and it has built up some capital for long range maintenance projects, like a roof replacement. Accumulating funds for maintenance and improvements was prudent in operating a building. Alton said that he might put some of the financial information in and article in the Arden Page.

Steven thanked Alton for the Report.

8.0 AUDIT

On Sept. 18, 2008 Cookie Ohlson and David Michelson met with Ron Spinks of Brandywine Accounting. We reviewed the books for the Fiscal Year to date. No problems were found.

Submitted by
Cookie Ohlson, Chair

(There was applause for the brevity of Cookie’s Report.)

The Report of the Audit Committee was Accepted
9.0 BUDGET committee

Jeff Politis presented the Budget for the next Fiscal Year 2009-2010. This proposed budget needed to be approved by the Town Assembly before it could go to Referendum in the fall. He went over the Income section and pointed out the differences between the Discretionary and the Non-Discretionary Funds. The Committee had made most of the changes suggested by the Trustees and the Treasurer to make things clearer, and Jeff wanted to point these out.

The professional Accounting/Bookkeeping figure was larger, and was a result of putting two line items together. The Trash Removal line item had been a yearly item, but a three-year contract had been signed. Because the contract is multi-year and a liability to the Town, it can no longer be a discretionary expense, so it has been changed to a non-discretionary expenses. The Contingencies line item has been raised from $3,000 to $8,000 to cover unexpected expenses. In the past, many expenses has been paid by the Trustees, and now those expenses will be the Town’s financial responsibility. Because there will be some unanticipated expenses, the Contingencies line item has been increased to account for things that might come up. A Town Office will be constructed at the BWVC, and it will be a secure location for town business. It will be a one-time expense.

Sue Rothrock asked about Delaware Municipal Street Aid and roads Rights-of-Way, and she wondered if these had been separated out. Previously the Rights-of-Way was taken out of the Municipal Street Aid, so last year the $4,600 for Rights-of-Way had been taken from the $13,000 in Municipal Street Aid. She wanted to know if the money for the Rights-of-Way had been taken out. Steven said that had been done, and said that the overall amount of $18,000 will be the same.

The Budget Report was Accepted.
Steve wanted to clarify how money would be moved between the line items, in order to avoid going to Referendum for any additional committee funds. If the money was only to be moved within a committee’s line items, it could move $10 of the funds with the approval of the committee, plus the approval of the Treasurer. He said that up to 10% of a committee’s budget could be moved to a different committee where there was an unexpected need, but those moves of money would require the approval of both committees, plus the Town Treasurer’s approval. For example, many heavy snow might required so much snow plowing that the costs exceeded the amount in the line item. However, the total of all line items for the total Budget cannot be exceeded, without going to Referendum. In the past, the Town Government had the flexibility of the Trustees to pay certain bills, but with the Town splitting its finances off from the Trustees, it is prudent to have mechanisms to allow some movement of funds without going to Referendum.

Alton asked why there would be a 10% maximum. Steven said that the 10% could be eliminated, if the Town wanted, but the overall amount in the entire budget could not be overspent.

NOTE: The entire Budget and Notes are printed at the end of the Minutes.

10.0 BWVC

The Town Secretary read the BWVC Report, since Willard was unable to be here tonight.

BUZZ WARE VILLAGE CENTER REPORT
September 22, 2008

The Buzz Ware Village Center at this time is not prepared to give an accurate Budget at this Meeting. We will be busy preparing a Budget for the next Town Meeting in January 2009. The Budget for 2009-2010 will have a drastic change in format. A more clear and understandable budget, separating Town money, donations,
rentals, restricted funds, and a term I dislike, “other.” We are hoping that it will simply show what it takes to run the Buzz. Other than a mere glance at lines and numbers, it will be a well-defined Budget with explanations. It will also project the cost of future projects planned for the Buzz.

On the rental front, we did not renew the YMCA rental. We found that their use restricted possible rentals that would combine Rooms One and Two. After a review, we decided that the YMCA paying only $17 per day did not work, so we would take our chances on having the extra space available for other uses. The Village has plans in place for the renovations and rental of office space for the Village Office. The Amount of $8,000 has been set aside in the Town Budget for this construction project in the space adjacent to the stage. Several bids will be entertained for this project.

The window project has been completed, and we hope to see a difference in our utility bills. The old windows have been sold, thanks to the efforts of Laura Wallace and other Committee Members. I am not sure if I ever reported that the security system has been updated.

Our next project is the overhaul of the front entrance to the Buzz, which is in need of a facelift. It will tie into the existing roof-line, and protect the doors of the Buzz from the elements. It will cover the flat roof section above the doors, giving a softer look to the entrance. Before we look at re-painting the Buzz, we have to finish some of the other projects.

Submitted by
Willard Glenn, Chair

Warren Rosencranz volunteered to answer questions for the Committee. Jeff Politis asked if the BWVC Committee had asked the YMCA to pay amount the Committee figured it need to charge to make them a viable tenant. Warren said that the Committee told the YMCA that their monthly rental needed to be raised to $600,
and after they were told, the YMCA declined to renew.

Cecilia Vore asked if there would be screens in the new windows, and Warren said that the windows in Rooms 1 and 2 had "roller screens." Cecilia then asked why there was a window air-conditioner in Room 1. Warren said that the rooftop unit for that room had broken, and the window unit was a temporary measure for the event for the Arden Fair. Ruth Bean asked where the Town Office would be, namely would it be in the old kitchen? Warren said that the Office would be in that area.

The Report of the BWVC Committee was Accepted

11.0 CIVIC

Sue Rothrock reported that there is a new sign in front of the BWVC, and it is an official place to post Town notices and other announcements.

The repainting of the road stripes and speed bumps has been contracted out, but no schedule for completing the work has been given.

Roadwork has also been partially completed, but the contractor should be finishing the rest of the repairs this coming week.

Submitted by
Sue Rothrock, Chair

Sadie Sommerville asked if the arrows on Sherwood Road indicating "One Way" and located near the Sub Shop would be repainted. She asked if One Way arrows could be painted on Sherwood Road at the Hillside Road intersection to stop people from going the wrong way on that section of Sherwood Road. Sue said that the existing One Way arrows would be repainted, but there were no plans to put in any new arrows.

Cecilia asked what parking areas would be striped, and if more
than the Handicapped Space in front of the BWVC would be repainted. Sue said all parking spaces would be painted.

Alton Dahl asked if the Town planned to paint line in the wide paved area in front of the Gild Hall to delineate the area which actually was The Highway, as opposed to the Loading Area in front of Gild Hall Entrance, which is Arden Club property. Sue said that she did not know where the property line was, so there were no plans for that painting. Alton volunteered to show her, and said that the Club’s property line was a straight line. Steven suggested that the Arden Club ask the Civic Committee at one of their monthly meetings to paint that line in the paved area.

Marianne Cinaglia asked if there were recent statistics on the amounts the Town put out for recycling. Steven and Sue said none has been received recently. Steven said he had some statistics, and he would present them in an Arden Page article. Marianne asked how much the Town has had to pay for the recycling, and Sue said there was no charge. It had been a part of the negotiation for the Trash Removal Contract with Waste Management. The recycling has reduced the amount of trash to be hauled, so the recycling has lowered our contract costs.

The Report of the Civic Committee was Accepted.

12.0 COMMUNITY PLANNING.

Ray Siegfried said that the Committee meets the third Wednesday of each month at the BWVC, and he thanked Danny Schweers for posting the Committee Minutes on the Town Website. All of this helps to make the Committee’s work more transparent.

Ray provided an update of the ADUs process. At the last Town Meeting a question had been raised that some properties in Arden did not meet the strict definition of an ADU, and the intent of the Town Motion was that all of those rental properties should be included in this process. On September 12, 2008 Steven and Ray met with the Land Use Department, and out of that meeting they
received a letter that informed them that the ten properties in question would be included. So, all 31 properties in Arden will now be covered in the Certification procedure, which was the original intent of the Town’s Motion. (Applause) Ray said he will be working with Ardentown and Ardencroft to get all of the Certifications submitted to Land Use. That should close the book on this long process.

Ray said that on September 12, 2008 there was a very interesting article in the News Journal about violations causing Code Enforcement for properties. The article described the items that were given Instant Tickets, and it spoke of the Top Ten Violations. Ray started to read this list, and it was met with jeering. Ray and Steve asked Land Use if there was a different way for dealing with this issue in the Ardens, and he noted that the City of Wilmington was exempt for this process, because it had its own enforcement process. He hoped that this could be the way for Arden. (Applause)

Denis O'Regan explained that at the old Buden Property which he now owns with his wife and business partner, an unfriendly neighbor used the Code Enforcement process to target neighbors, and this person decided to make a report to the County about his leasehold. Denis had received a warning letter that there were violations on the property, and the letter included pictures. A medium sized branch was lying in some ivy, and there was an old kitchen cabinet with some gardening implements in it outside in the back, which was out of view from the road. Denis called the County, and told the Code Enforcement Officer that he would correct those items after he returned from a business trip scheduled to start the next day. Denis was told that the cabinet was furniture that should not be kept outside. Denis left Town for his business trip, and when he returned, he found an Instant Ticket at that house. He wanted to appeal the Ticket, and was told that he would first have to pay the Ticket, and then appeal, with no guarantee that the appeal would rescind the ticket and result in a refund of the fine. He paid the fine, but recognized that this would be an ongoing problem. Denis drove around Arden, and observed
that over 80% of all Arden leaseholds every day are in some way in violation of the current Code. He spoke to a clerk at Code Enforcement to voice his concern, and to explain that there was a neighbor who had reported almost all of the nearby leaseholds. Denis felt that this person was misusing the Code, and that the County needed to address this. He was informed he would receive a confirmation letter on this concern, and then he was put into the voice mail of the Code Enforcement Officer for this area, where he told of his concern of misuse of the Code. He had received neither a letter or a phone reply. After three weeks, he received a second Instant Ticket for violations unrelated to the first Ticket, and these were petty violations, in his opinion. Later, he received a letter from the County acknowledging his phone call, and thanking him for reporting violations at 1906 Orleans Road, which was his own house! (Long and loud laughter) Denis wanted the Town to pursue this issue, for he sees that it will be ongoing with no end to it. And, he is now out $100, and the use of that weapon will continue. (Applause)

Cecilia Vore felt that the list of violations was asinine. She cited some of the issues, felt that these was no one's business but their own. She acknowledged that you can move into a community with deed restrictions, and since you have agreed to these in advance, you comply. But this Code is a form of new deed restrictions, and it was imposed on Arden. When people bought their Arden leaseholds, the new list of violations to the Code had not been a part of the bargain. The provision that you must pay your Instant Ticket first, and then appeal to get you money back, is completely bogus Part of the value of Arden is that we do not impose esthetic considerations on our neighbors. Public health and fire safety considerations should be enforced, but other listed violations are an imposition of deed restrictions on people who do not want them. (Applause)

Liz Resko wanted to go back to the ADU issue, and even though she had gone through the legal process with the County to obtain non-conforming legal status, plus a mitigating variance, she had been refused a new mortgage because the mortgage company
would not acknowledge her unique status. She has the serious
cconcern that she had the legal status, but there was sufficient con-
fusion in the County that her exception was not recognized. Even
when she presented the papers to the mortgage company, she was
still refused. Steven said that the goal is to cover all affected
ADUs in Arden, and he suggested that after the process is com-
pleted, all affected leaseholders should go to the County to obtain
a copy of the certification of legal non-conforming status for their
records.

Barbara Macklem said she is another "happy" resident of Orleans
Road and she had been cited by our "friendly" County Code Offi-
cer twice, with no fines. She said she was fortunate to have been
helped out by neighbors with lawnmowers and pick up trucks.
She felt that there were other areas in the County that needed
code enforcement because of blatant public health issues and de-
clining property values, and a Code can have its place. But Arden
is not a place to wield your own personal view of things, or to get
on your own soapbox. It would be a challenge to have Arden get
into Code Enforcement, but it would be reasonable for a
municipality to regulate public health. Barbara hoped that some
middle ground could be found on this pressing issue.

Since this discussion had gone on for quite a while, Steven asked
someone to put a Motion on the floor so that discussion could be
directed toward an action.

Cecilia and Denis did not have a Motion prepared, and there was
a brief attempt at wording one. Ray then suggested that the Com-
munity Planning Committee look at this issue, and make a report
to the January Town Meeting. They could look at the details, and
see if some compromise could be reached.

Alton Dahl said he had read that the County assured residents that
they would be very alert to misuse of their Code Enforcement
process (laughter), but obviously they were not very alert. He
made the Following Motion:
MOVED, the Chairman of the Town Assembly of the Village of Arden shall write to New Castle County Executive and the Head of Dept. of Land Use expressing a serious concern by the Town Assembly that this process is being used and seriously abused within the Village. The Town Assembly would like them to do something about it.

The Motion was not Seconded.

Cecilia asked if there could be a “Sense of the Meeting” vote on this issue, but did not make a Motion asking for one.

Ray made the following Motion:

Moved: The Community Planning Committee will meet with Land Use, and come back with alternatives to the January Town Meeting.

The Motion was Seconded.

Denis O’ Regan said he would vote in favor of the Motion, but offered an Amendment.

AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION: The Chairman of Community Planning and the Town Chairman will send a letter requesting suspension of Instant Ticketing for violations in Arden until such time as the Community Planning develops a new process.

The Amendment was Accepted by Ray and the Seconder.

Anna Green said that the NCC had an exception to the Code for locations established as “natural Setting” and this would move Arden into a different category for enforcement. The Town would have to request this change. Until a change is made, the County must continue to respond whenever there is a complaint made about a violation.

Mike Curtis spoke in favor of the Motion, and hoped that Com-
munity Planning could figure out what things Arden wanted. He wanted them to make sure that only those things were enforced in Arden, just like the Home Occupation Ordinance. He did not want Arden to take over the enforcement process themselves.

Marianne Cinaglia described how the present process evolved. There had been a request to have people call in to the County about problems, but it proved difficult to get individuals to stand up when they could be recognized. The present Code Enforcement process was developed as a result, but Arden now has a problem with this. She said that there could be a middle ground between "complaint driven" and "instant ticketing". She said she would abstain from this vote.

Denise Nordheimer said that it seemed to be simply one person who was causing this problem, and she would want to look at the data to confirm this. She said that some people in Arden have very different displays and artwork on their leaseholds, but that was an individual choice.

There was a Call for the Question.

The Motion Was Approved.

Ray Siegfried said that he did not have anything new to add as information on the FAA lawsuit. But he hopes to have more information at the January Town Meeting.

13.0 FOREST

Elizabeth Varley presented the following report:

Forest Committee Report
To Arden Town Assembly
September 22, 2008

- Encroachments into the Forest by leaseholders who border the Forest continues to be a thorny issue.
• Kudzu along St. Martin’s Lane is being controlled manually by Committee Members.

• Several smoldering fires have been found in the morning at Indian Circle and the old Swimming Pool area. Neighbors called the police after the second night of partying at the Swimming Pool. That seems to have stopped the party for now.

• A request to re-open a path to Sherwood Forest from Sherwood Road (at the end of Lovers Lane) needs to be addressed to the Civic Committee, since it is adjacent to the leasehold land, and not in the Forest.

• In the future, we plan to develop a trail/path in the new five-acre area of Sherwood Forest.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Marconi, Chair

Rodney Jester asked if the path being discussed was between the Sutton and Ozer leaseholds, and Elizabeth said that it was the area under discussion.

Denis O’Regan asked if the Path was on a right-of-way. Rodney said that this was Town property, but it had been abandoned.

The Report of the Forest Committee was Accepted.

14.0 PLAYGROUND

Since the last Town Meeting, the required Playground Equipment Inspections were made, and the equipment was adult tested for safety. All equipment appears to be in good and safe condition. The Committee will work with the Buzz Ware Village Center Committee to see about storing during the winter the soccer goals behind their two storage sheds at the rear of the BWVC.
This fall, the main effort will be the addition of wood chips under the rest of the playground equipment. Over time, the wood chips break down, decay, and are kicked away, but keeping a thick bed of chips is the best way to provide a cushion for when a child accidentally falls. According to the national statistics on playground safety, over 80% of all playground injuries are the result of falls from equipment. A soft landing surface makes a great difference in reducing injuries.

At the Advisory Retreat, the Playground Committee will ask for idea on what could be done with the "Giraffe," a piece of playground equipment that was removed for safety reasons. Playing on it had given Arden youths many fond memories, and the Committee would want to preserve it for others to view in our Town. Submitted by,

Larry Walker and Mary Vernon, Co-Chairs

The Report of the Playground Committee was Accepted.

15.0 REGISTRATION

The Registration Committee will conduct the annual Budget Referendum and election of the Board of Assessors. Ballots will be mailed around Oct 9, 2008 and will be counted Wednesday, Nov 5, 2008. Volunteers are welcome to help with the Assessors Election, which uses the fascinating Hare System of Proportional Representation.

Respectfully submitted,
Cecilia Vore, Chair

The Report of the Registration Committee was Accepted.

16.0 SAFETY

Denis O'Regan made the "inscrutable" Safety Report. He said
that there had been activities at the old swimming hole in the Arden Woods, and at times they were pretty loud. He asked nearby Residents to call him when they hear such things.

The Safety Committee has decided to install a STOP sign at the intersection of Lovers Lane and Sherwood Road, with the new STOP on Sherwood Road, as a way of both making the intersection safer and slow down the speed of traffic coming down Sherwood from the Sub Shop. The Safety Committee decided to make the island at Millers Road and Orleans Road into a roundabout, and they will paint yellow arrows on the road to show this. He did ask for input from the Civic Committee on this, in case there were legal restrictions that the Safety Committee did not know about.

Alton interjected that the intersection had not been designed as a roundabout, and had always been a “Y” intersection. The split at the end of Orleans Road has always been two way on both sides, and had been made wide enough for two way traffic on each side. He felt that to make it a roundabout, the whole intersection would have to be re-configured.

Denis continued the Report. The Civic Committee attended the last Safety Meeting, and they discussed the 11 intersections that have tree and shrub overgrowth, and other things that limited visibility. Civic has since informed us that they are pursuing different strategies, and they will be getting back to us with a long-term strategy. This will be ongoing.

Submitted by,
Denis O'Regan, Chairman

Sadie asked about what can be done to improve safety at the Marsh Road-Sherwood intersections. Denis said that he wants the hanging "DO NOT ENTER" sign re-installed, and it is a DELDOT responsibility to do this. He had made several calls to no avail. Sadie asked what could be done to keep people from driving up Sherwood toward the Sub Shop, and the people she
noticed doing this were people from outside Arden. Denis said the Committee put up a second “Do Not Enter” sign on Sherwood at the Hillside Road intersection, and perhaps they could put another “Do Not Enter” sign across from the Sub Shop on Sherwood Road. (Someone shouted out that they should put in those springy spikes that are used in parking lots to make sure people do not go the wrong way at an exit. There was laughter.) The Committee will continue to look at that problem.

Jeff Polities said he echoed Alton's position, and was concerned about the conversion of the Miller-Orleans intersection from a two way “V” into a round about. He agreed that it was a dangerous intersection, but he asked Safety to take a long hard look at it before making their decision.

Jennifer Borders said that she does use the island as a round about, but that is her preference. She wanted the speed bumps painted on Millers Road near the Green to help slow traffic. That area is a major bus stop with many kids and parents around there in the morning and afternoon, and possibly a STOP sign installed in the area would slow traffic. Denis said he will ask Civic to repaint the speed bump.

Liz Resko asked about the island at Sherwood and Hillside Road. It presently handles traffic on both sides, and since this is the same as the Miller-Orleans intersection, it should be looked at also.

Hugh Roberts suggested that the width of the Sherwood Road roadway at Marsh Road should be reduced to one lane to make a funnel effect, making it harder to enter Marsh Road going the wrong way. He was against changing Miller Road and Orleans Road intersection into a roundabout.

Sue Rothrock said that the one way sign on Lower lane and Harvey is missing, so she asked Safety to contact Del Dot about replacing it. She asked that the State add additional speed limit signs on Harvey Road going east near the Marsh intersection.
Right now, when you enter Harvey Road from March Road, there is only one bent speed limit sign, and then there are no more for a long way. The sign near Marsh Road should be moved further on down (east) and additional speed limit signs installed.

Danny Schweers said that the two new STOP signs at Orleans Road and The Highway do slow the traffic down. Most people slow down to look at the other road to make sure no one is coming.

The Report of the Safety Committee was Accepted.

17.0 OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business was brought up.

18.0 NEW BUSINESS

Rod Jester reported that the Georgist Gild will start classes on October 7, 2007, and they will continue for quite a while

Steven announced that the first Hamburger Lecture will be given in early November. This lecture series was funded by a gift from Sally and Aaron Hamburger when they left Arden. The subject will be on green development in communities, and it will be held at the Buzz Ware Village Center.

Warren Rosencranz made the following Motion:

MOVED: In order to promote a greater sense of community, and to better utilize Town facilities, I move that the Quarterly Arden Village Meeting be moved to the Buzz Ware Village Center.

The Motion was Seconded.

Cecilia felt that the Town Meeting belongs at the Gild Hall, because the Hall has such history in it. The building can accommodate the large crowds. She felt that the area in the BWVC would
be crowded, and did not like the idea of the physical split down
the middle of the Meeting. There is too much presence here, and
so much history. She does not like the idea of being crowded in
next to her neighbors, for it will not make for a comfortable ex-
perience. (Laughter.)

Alton said that he would have made the same points as Cecilia.
He did not like the idea of this proposal being brought up time
after time after time, and this is not a good idea. Over the years,
the Town has consistently turned it down, so the Town should
just let it rest.

Betty O Regain said that she wanted to give it a try for one or two
meetings, as an experiment, and just see how crowded it is. If the
Town were comparing a free meeting place with another free
meeting place, it might be different, but in this case, the Town is
paying money to rent the Gild Hall. Because there is money in-
volved here, atmosphere is not as important.

Elizabeth Varley said she would vote against the Motion. She
thought that the meeting space at the Gild Hall was much better,
and there was limited parking at the BWVC. In inclement
weather, parking on the adjacent Green would not be very good,
and there is no outside lighting in that area. Elizabeth agreed with
Cecilia’s sense of space at the Gild Hall. She urged the defeat of
the Motion.

Mike Curtis spoke for the Motion, but he did acknowledge that
his grandmother dropped dead in the middle of a Town Meeting
haranguing someone, and he, also, had spent much of his adult
like haranguing other people here. He felt that we should use the
free building, instead of renting the Gild Hall. If the Town owned
the BWVC, it would make sense to use it, and even hold a Town
Meeting there to see if it would work.

Steven said that he had some questions about this move. For ex-
ample, he said that the sound system used at Town Meetings be-
longed to the Club, so that equipment issue needed to be resolved
first. He wanted to be sure that the many other details were worked out before any decision on moving was made.

Alton said that he had heard this issue would come up, and he worked up a list of the many free events that the Town gets at the Gild Hall, and these events are supported by the rents. What would the Club start to do about supporting the free events in the event that it would lose the rental income from the Town Meetings.

Connee McKinney spoke in favor of the proposal, but only wanted only the June Town Meeting to be held there as a pilot. That Meeting is hot, and the facilities in the BWVC would be cooler. She felt that the BWVC also had a considerable history and presence, and it was also a part of the community. Connee did not want to make this into a popularity contest, but just wanted to give it a try. After that pilot Meeting, the Town could better decide Yes or No.

Connee made the following Amendment to the Motion:

AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION, The June Town Meeting will be held at the BWVC as a pilot.

The Maker of the Motion did not Accept the Amendment, so Steven asked for a Second to the Amendment. The Motion to Amend was Seconded.

Steven called for a Vote on the Amendment, since the voice vote was unclear. He asked for a vote by raised hands, with the Registration Committee counting the votes.

At that point, Steven declared that the Quorum had been lost, so the Village Assembly could take no further action. He ended the discussion on the proposal.

19.0 GOOD AND WELFARE
No items were brought up.

There was a Motion for Adjournment, which was Seconded and Approved, and the Meeting ended at 9:33 pm.

Faithfully,

Larry Walker
## Village of Arden
### Receipts and Bank Balances
#### As of September 19, 2008

### Assets

#### Current Assets

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<td>Sherwood Forest Extension</td>
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### Liabilities & Equity

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<td><strong>Total Other Current Liabilities</strong></td>
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### Equity

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<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</strong></td>
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### Treasurer:

[Signature]
# Village of Arden Quarterly Report
## April 1 through September 19, 2008

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<th>Income</th>
<th>Apr 1 - Sep 19, 08</th>
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<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
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Net Ordinary Income: 498,623.76

Net Other Income: 0.00

Net Income: 498,623.76
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<td><strong>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>726,760</strong></td>
<td><strong>757,371</strong></td>
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**NON-BUDGET EXPENSES**

- Property Taxes
  - County (Property + Crossing Guard) 5: 74,900
  - School (Brandywine + Votech) 6: 290,288
  - Administration (Details below) 7: 47,600
- Audit: 6,000
- Insurance: 11,500
- Professional-Legal: 3,000
- Professional-Engineering/Misc: 5,000
- Professional-Accounting/Bookkeeping 15: 10,900
- Office Rent: 2,600
- Payroll Taxes: 1,100
- Salaries: 7,500
- Long Term Debt (Sherwood Forest): 16,176
- Trash & Special Pickup: 14: 48,000
- State Grants
  - Community Transportation Grant: 0
  - Municipal Street Aid: 13,264
  - Trails Renewal Grant: 0

**SUBTOTAL NON-BUDGET EXPENSES**

- 490,228
- 433,648
- 415,809
- 383,057
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<td>585,670</td>
<td>565,792</td>
<td>527,655</td>
<td>509,144</td>
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Arden Budget Notes YE 2010

1- Land Rent-
   From Assessor’s meeting June 2008

2- Grants-
   Trail Renewal grant & Community Transportation grant
   are not foreseeable.

3- Municipal Street Aid-
   Estimated to be 18,600 of which 4600 is deducted for
   Road Right-of-way income.

4- Reserve-
   Estimated Reserve at the end of FY 2010---The actual
   reserve for the year ending 2008 (per the audit) is 147,683.
   To this figure add the budgeted surplus in operating
   expenses for the current fiscal year (2008-
   2009) which is 43,981. Deduct the known budget deficit for
   the current fiscal year (2008-2009) for County & School
   taxes which is 3,042. Deduct the current
   deficit from the current budget (2009-2010) of 23,241. This
   makes the reserve at YE 2010 165,381

5- County Taxes-
   Within 500.00 of YE 2009 budgeted amount. Increase
   of 6% of YE 2009 actual amount.
   County taxes are grossed up to include rebates to
   qualifying leaseholders.

6- School Taxes-
   Increase of 5.88% over YE 2009 budgeted amount.
   Increase of 3.29% over YE actual amount.
   School taxes are grossed up to include rebates to
   qualifying leaseholders.

7- Non-budget Admin-
   11,495 lower than YE Budget due to lower anticipated
   legal & professional fees. Note that this category is no
   longer identified as Trustee Admin. It includes both Trust
   admin and Town non-budget admin expenses.

8- Roads & Commons-
   30,899 shown for YE 2008 is the actual cost from budget
   funds. In addition, 12,555 was used from a grant obtained
   by Sue Rothrock and 17,566 was used from Municipal
   Street Aid. The rising cost of oil is affecting the cost of
   road repair. Sue is noting the increased number of trees
   dying or in need of pruning and informs us that the trail
   grant will not be issued in 2009. Also the trash contract
   will need to be renewed by 9/2009. The cost is unknown.
9- Safety - The Town Watch Coordinator fee has been eliminated by the Safety committee.

10- Town Admin- Increase reflects increased responsibility of Village for administering finances

11- Office Construction- One time expense to establish a secure office at the BWVC. Should allow elimination of office rental in future years.

12- Fire Donation- Equal to 3.25 per person per year.

13- Contingencies- Increased due to increased financial responsibility of the Village.

14- Trash Pickup- Village has a long-term contract obligation through September 2009; thus budget item moved to non-budget item

15- Bookkeeper- Accounting service required for operation of Village; thus, combined the Village and Trust expenses into a single non-budget item