



"you are welcome hither"



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# VILLAGE OF ARDEN

## TOWN ASSEMBLY

### JANUARY 23, 2023

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Town Meeting Minutes



Next Town Assembly for the Village of Arden – March 27, 2023, 7:30 p.m., Gild Hall  
2119 The Highway, Arden, Delaware

## MOTIONS/RESOLUTIONS

### 10.3 Playground – Mark Wood

**MOVED:** The Village of Arden accepts the donation of a movable GAGA Pit from an Eagle Scout candidate, and this will be maintained by the Playground Committee.

**Motion Approved**

### 11.0 Governance Task Force – Ray Seigfried

**MOVED:** Town Assembly extends the time to the Governance Task Force to issue its full report from March 2023 to March 2024 and with this extension it will conduct 4 public meetings. **Motion approved Unanimously**

### 13.0 New Business -Warren Rosenkraz

#1 Motion: **MOVED** to suspend the spraying of Roundup or other herbicides in Arden's open spaces. **Motion Tabled Unanimously.**

#2 Motion: **MOVED** that all areas treated with herbicides by any methods be clearly marked for a minimum of 30 days after application. No one Second the motion.

**Motion failed**

**TOWN ASSEMBLY  
REPORTS  
AT- A- GLANCE**

**5.0 Town Chair - Jeffrey Politis**

Filled out an ADA survey from Deldot.

Deldot decided to delay the work at Harvey and Orleans until mid-March/early April.

**6.0 Trustee Report – Carl Falco**

Finances

Land Rent

New Castle County programs available to reduce your property taxes.

**7.0 Treasurer’s Report – Skip Bailey**

Skip provided hard copies of Village of Arden Financials as of December 31, 2022. Copies at end of minutes.

The check fraud case with TD Bank has been finalized! Village accounts have been fully reimbursed for the forged check.

**8.0 Advisory Committee Report – Sachin Purnaik**

There are some procedural and practical concerns about hybrid meetings, so small sub-group from the Advisory Committee will be doing further research on the topic.

In early February, the Advisory Committee will be hosting a retreat. The guiding topic of the retreat will be the question “What does Arden look like in twenty years?”

**9.0 Board of Assessors – Deborah Ricard**

Announce new board members

Provide upcoming meeting schedule

**TOWN ASSEMBLY  
REPORTS  
AT- A- GLANCE**

**10.0** Committee Report. (Descending Order)

**10.1 Safety** – Simon Hamermesh

Improvements to signage for deliveries and emergencies.

**10.2 Registration** - Cecilia Vore

The Registration Committee conducted the annual Budget Referendum & Assessors Election.

The Committee will conduct the Election of Committees and Officers at the March meeting.

The committee distributed 20 Welcome packets to newcomers in 2022.

**10.3 Playground** – Mark Wood

Our Approved ARPA Project is to install a new climber on Village Green to replace the existing non-compliant jungle gym.

The Committee received a request to furnish and install a “GAGA Pit”

**10.4 Forest** - Co-Chair: Carol Larson & Beverly Clendening

Event: Full moon walk and campfire Indian Circle

DISC Grant

We have been monitoring a number of areas with the native plant *Euonymus americana* also known as *Strawberry Bush* or *Hearts'a'Bursting*

Weed Work group- Every Tuesday.

Walk This Way Sign.” We are rerouting the path away from an eroding stream bank along Naamans.

**TOWN ASSEMBLY  
REPORTS  
AT- A- GLANCE**

Veolia water company was permitted to cross our parcel at Mill Race Road in order to reach a water main break. They will provide us with replacement plants

ARPA: Surveying and preliminary drawings are in progress on our Watershed E plan for stormwater water management along the Mill Lane path.

**10.5 Community Planning – Jennifer Borders**

3-Ardens Transportation Group and Wilmapco are continuing to move ahead on the planning phase of making the community safer, more walkable and accessible.

ACRA Relief Fund

Community Planning is organizing a retreat in February on the subject of, “What does Arden look like in 20 years?”.

**10.6 Civic – Steven Benigni**

DNREC has approved our ORPT matching grant request for renovation of the Clubhouse Path.

Approved new contracts with American Grass Cutting, LLC and Arden Construction, Inc.

Fels Oak update

**10.7 BWVC - Co-Chairs Betty O’Regan**

ARPA grant - The installation of the new sewer system is complete.

Renovation Projects- 3 for the kitchenette sink area and cabinet storage

**TOWN ASSEMBLY  
REPORTS  
AT- A- GLANCE**

Long-term Tenants -Business as usual for both Awakened Hearts and  
Wilmington Sudbury School

Diverse programing that is open to the community– Ardens Artisans  
Collective, Jester Art Space presents Iris Papermaking, Tellebration,

Monthly Activities at the Buzz -The Coffee House, The Buzz Ware Bookie, Art  
on the Town, Tai Chi, Art Nights

**10.8 Budget** – Deborah Ricard

Working on the 3-Year Financial Forecast.

**10.9 Audit** - Helen “Cookie” Ohlson

All is in order.

**10.10 Archives** – Lisa Mullinax

October 16 exhibition commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Ardentown.

**11.0 Governance Task Force** – Ray Seigfried

We made recommendations on almost all ordinances, policies and procedures as well  
as our charter.

Some highlights of our Charter recommendations.

**12.0 Old Business**

Schroeder update Jeff continues to review draft. The final draft will go to referendum.

**Attendance:** 54 sign-in + Jeff Politis Village Chair, Liz Resko Village secretary

First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name
Steve	Tanzer	1 Eric	Reed 28
Mike	Curtis	2 Marcia	Scheflen 29
Steve	Benigni	3 John	Scheflen 30
Lisa	Mullinax	4 Larry	Walker 31
Mike	Moran	5 Dorinda	Dove 32
Helen 'Cookie'	Ohlson	6 Ron	Ozer 33
Vicki	Scott	7 Elizabeth	Varley 34
Sadi	Somerville	8 Jennifer	Borders 35
Deborah M	Ricard	9 Ed	Rohrbach 36
Paul	Rosenkranz	10 Walter	Borders 37
Warren	Rosenkranz	11 Elaine	Hickey 38
William 'Skip'	Bailey	12 Beverly	Clendening 39
Carol	Larson	13 Clay	Ridings 40
Kathrine	Threefoot	14 Toby	Ridings 41
Cecilia	Vore	15 Betty	O'Regan 42
Carl	Falco	16 Denis	O'Regan 43
Lisa	Wolfe	17 Sachin	Puranik 44
Simon	Hamermesh	18 David	Jones 45
Ron	Meick	19 Stevie	Nolan 46
Rebecca	Meick	20 Paul	Nolan 47
Susan	Stith	21 Hunter	Clarke-Fields NV 48
Robert	Stith	22 Peter	Compo 49
Ellie	Hansen	23 Barbara Anne	Macklem 50
Bob	Erenburg	24 Tom	Wheeler 51
Ruth	Panella	25 Jess	Colgan-Snyder 52
Sam	Panella	26 Vered	Nohi 53
Danny	Schweers	27 William	Theis 54

- 1.0 **Call to Order** - Chairman Jeffrey Politis convened the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M.
- 2.0 **Approval of Minutes** – September 26, 2022 & October 3, 2022 Town Assembly meeting minutes were approved unanimously as presented.
- 3.0 **New Residents** – Welcome! Paul & Stevie Nolan

### **Recognition of Departed**

Tom Holloway, Alice V. Ponte.

Mike Curtis - Mike said when he was twelve years old, he worked at Ponte's sub shop (Marsh Rd and Sherwood Rd) and during that time they took him under their wings. He thought they were wonderful people.

A moment of silence.

### 4.0 **Visitors - None**

### 5.0 **Town Chair - Jeffrey Politis**

Communications from the Chair.  
Since the last town meeting....

1. We moved into 2023. Happy New Year to Everyone.
2. I have filled out an ADA survey from Deldot and expect to hear back from Deldot over the next several months with suggestions.
3. Reminder that the Village occasionally sends out an email. If you are not on our email distribution and wish to be, please sign up at [arden.delaware.gov](https://arden.delaware.gov). The link is on the right.
4. Deldot decided to delay the work at Harvey and Orleans until mid-March/early April.



5. A reminder that this meeting is being recorded and we ask that you please state your name when you speak.
6. Thanks to the Budget Committee for refreshments tonight.

Let's have a respectful and deliberative meeting. Thanks

So submitted

Jeffrey Politis  
Town Chair, Village of Arden

Communications Report – Thank you!

## 6.0 **Trustee Report** – Carl Falco

Finances: We cannot provide hard copies of the Trustees' quarterly financial summary to hand out as is our usual custom; the financial summary will be available as a part of this report when it is posted as part of the meeting minutes; a hard copy can be obtained by request.

Land Rent: Land rent bills are being prepared and will be mailed the first week of February. Land rent is due March 25, 2023. Included with the land rent bills is an explanation of how the land rent amount is determined, based upon the 2022 Arden Board of Assessors Report.

Also included with the land rent bills is a reminder to leaseholders of New Castle County programs available to reduce your property taxes. The Trustees rebate the amount of the reduced tax bill to the leaseholder. Over \$40,000 was returned to leaseholders last year.

You can get information about the property tax reduction programs online or by calling New Castle County at 302-395-5520. The county personnel will walk you through the application process. Please be sure you apply before the deadline of April 30th so that your tax reduction can be approved and processed for the upcoming tax year.

Leasehold transfers: Since the September Town Assembly meeting there have been no leasehold transfers.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carl Falco, Trustee

Trustees Report – Thank you!

## **7.0 Treasurer’s Report – Skip Bailey**

The Treasurer would like to remind all Village residents that all Village financial policies, general policies and those regarding monetary gifts, investment guidelines, endowment funds, and requests for grants are all found on the Village of Arden website under Budget Committee/Finances. These policies have been and remain in place.

Review of basic financial reports:

All reports are effective as of December 31, 2022

Statement of Financial Position -Funds are in standard status. Money Market Fund at TD Bank continues minimal interest income.

Statement of Financial Activity – Committees, other budgeted items.

Statement of Fund Balance - All is in order. Funds remain in the Municipal Street Aid fund for continued use by the Civic Committee. While this report does not show spending activity with the ARPA funds, the first expenditures for approved projects has begun. The March 2023 financial statements will show greater detail.

Additional information/Old Business – The check fraud case with TD Bank has been finalized! Village accounts have been fully reimbursed for the forged check.

Respectfully submitted,  
Skip Bailey, Treasurer

## 8.0 Advisory Committee Report –Sachin Purnaik

During the advent of the pandemic, the Town Assembly was able to meet remotely due to the declared public health emergency. Now that we're back in person, there has been growing interest in a hybrid (in-person and online) Town Assembly to accommodate elderly residents, families, and others, especially during adverse weather. There are some procedural and practical concerns about hybrid meetings, so small sub-group from the Advisory Committee consisting of Deborah Ricard, Simon Hamermesh, Liz Resko, Jeff Politis, and Cecilia Vore will be doing further research on the topic. In early February, the Advisory Committee will be hosting a retreat for Committee Chairs, past and present Officers, and Trustees at the Buzz Ware. The guiding topic of the retreat will be the question "What does Arden look like in twenty years?" The discussion will focus on aging in Arden, environmental stewardship, community engagement, and preserving the history of Arden.

Finally, the Advisory Committee is charged with finding nominees for the March election. During the March 27<sup>th</sup> Town Assembly, we will vote to fill 3 Officer positions and Committee positions. Two nominees are needed for every open committee position.

So far, the following are willing to serve. If any members of the Town Assembly have the names of additional nominees, or are willing to serve yourself, or have a correction, please speak up now or let me or the relevant committee chair know.

The following officers' positions are one-year terms:

Chair of the Town Assembly, one year term: Jeffrey Politis

Secretary, one- year term: Liz Resko

Advisory Chair, one- year term: Sachin Purnanik

The following committee positions are all 2-year terms:

Archives: Maria Burslem + 5 more candidates needed

Audit: Deborah Ricard, Laura Wallace, Deborah Bricker + 2 more candidates needed

Budget: Brooke Bovard, Garrette Colgan-Snyder, Bob Erenburg, Deborah Ricard, + 2 more candidates needed

Buzz Ware Village Center: Michelle Lauer + 5 more candidates needed

Civic: Ed Rohrbach =5 candidates needed

Community Planning: Jennifer Borders, Pam Politis + 4 more candidates needed

Forest: Stevie Nolan, Paul Nolan, David Jones, Jessica Colgan-Snyder, Carol Larson, and Lisa Wolfe

Playground: Mike Moran + 5 more candidates needed

Registration: Sue Begnini, Jess Colgan-Snyder, Elizabeth Varley + 1 more candidate needed

Safety: Joan Fitzgerad + 5 more candidates

The deadline for nominations is at the end of the Advisory Committee meeting on Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. After that, absentee ballots will be available for those who cannot attend the March meeting of the Town Assembly. Candidates are encouraged to write a statement about why they are running. There are instructions for posting these statements on the Arden website. Meet the candidates is on March 11<sup>th</sup> at the Buzz.

Advisory Report – Thank you!

## **9.0 Board of Assessors – Deborah Ricard**

The 2023 Board of Assessors is comprised of Brooke Bovard, Denis O'Regan, Shana Pinter, Deborah Ricard, Vicki Scott, Elizabeth Varley and Tom Wheeler.

An organizational meeting was convened on Monday, December 5, 2022. Deborah Ricard was elected Chair and Vicki Scott was elected Secretary.

Meetings are generally scheduled for the second Monday of each month at 7:00 pm in person at the Buzz Ware Village Center; attending via Zoom is an option. Our first working meeting was held Monday, January 9. The next meetings will be Monday, February 13; Monday, March 12; Monday, April 10; Monday, May 8; and Monday, June 12. Mondays, May 1 and June 19, are tentatively scheduled as extra work meetings, if needed, to complete our annual report. Public Meetings are scheduled for 7 pm on Monday, May 8, and Monday, June 12. The Public Meetings are opportunities to share your opinions on assessment issues. All meetings are open. The Assessors welcome you to attend to hear the discussions.

The topic of discussion for each session as well as Zoom contact information is posted on the official bulletin board outside the BWVC and on the Assessors page of the **arden.delaware.gov** website.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Ricard

Board of Assessors – Thank you!

## 10.0 Committee Report. (Descending Order)

### 10.1 Safety – Simon Hamermesh

Happy New Year

The Safety Committee is reporting a few improvements to signage made for some units at the end of dead ends. This is intended to help deliveries and emergency services. The stretch of Mill Ln between Harvey and Wind is updated in Google maps to reflect its existence as a walking path and not a connecting road. Participation with the Inter-Ardens Transportation Working Group continues.

#### Comments/Questions

- Safety Committee contact information is needed. Safety's web page link "click here to contact Safety" does not work. No contact information

offered. Also, the chair does not have his phone number listed in the ACRA phone book.

- New traffic signs have been installed at the circle at Millers and Harvey Road but still it is confusing. There are also arrows painted on the road around the circle and one arrow was overlooked for painting. It will be painted.
- Sign located at the corner of Orleans and Harvey is very faded and needs to be replaced.
- Tree trimming in Ardentown is needed.

Safety Report – Thank you!

### 10.2 Registration - Cecilia Vore

#### Fall 2022 Elections

The Registration Committee conducted the annual Budget Referendum & Assessors Election. Ballots were counted on Nov. 8 for the 2023-24 Budget Referendum and election of the Board of Assessors for 2023. There were 359 residents eligible to vote in these elections. We received 241 valid envelopes containing ballots and 4 invalid envelopes (no signature on return envelope) giving us a 67% participation.

Under the rules for approval, the budget needed 181 “yes” votes to pass. There were 4 invalid budget ballots. The votes in detail are as follows: 189 for “Approve Entire Budget,” 5 “Disapprove Entire Budget” and 34 ballots with itemized disapprovals. All items on the budget were approved. Individual disapprovals are included in this report, but will not be read aloud:

Advisory Committee	2	Safety Committee: General	7
Archives	7	Safety-Speed Enforcement	7
Board of Assessors	0	Buzz Ware Support	7
Budget Committee	0	Donations - ACRA	2
Civic Committee	3	Donations - Arden Page	0
Community Planning	0	Donations - Arden Library	2
Forest Committee	5	Donations - Fire Companies	2

Playground Committee	15	Donations - Arden Club	4
Registration Committee	0	Contingencies	9

The following residents were elected to the Board of Assessors in this order: Deborah Ricard (convener), Elizabeth Varley, Brooke Bovard, Denis O’Regan, Tom Wheeler, Vicki Scott and Shana Pinter.

Thank you to Walter Borders, Bob Erenburg, Kelly Gillen, Simon Hamermesh, Sachin Puranik, Eric Reed, and John Scheflen, who were also willing to serve and allowed their names to be placed in nomination. Thank you to all the candidates for their thoughtful statements about themselves and their candidacy.

This year, because of Covid precautions, the vote count was conducted by as few people as possible, widely spaced over 2 rooms at the Buzz Ware Village Center. The Registration Committee thanks Bob Erenburg, Ellie Hansen, Barbara Henry, Carol Larson, Barbara Macklem, Jeff Politis, and Bill Theis for assisting committee members Elizabeth Varley (chief elector), Rebecca Meick, Marcia Scheflen, Steve Tanzer, and Cecilia Vore, plus ex-officio members Carl Falco and Liz Resko.

Election results were posted on **arden.delaware.gov** and are filed in the Town Office in the Registration Committee’s binder of election records. Actual ballots are kept for one year.

The Committee will conduct the Election of Committees and Officers at the March meeting. Residents who are 18 years of age or older and who have lived in the Village for 6 months or more on March 27, are eligible to vote. Assuming we are able to meet in person for the March Town Meeting, we will return to our regular voting procedure during the meeting, along with absentee voting for those who are unable to attend the March 27 meeting. If we have a virtual Town Meeting in March, we will follow the voting procedure we used in 2021.

To request an Absentee Ballot, download the Request Form at [arden.delaware.gov](http://arden.delaware.gov) and submit it by March 20. We also have printed copies available tonight.

You can see candidate statements and a sample ballot on the website as this information becomes available. If you are a candidate, we thank you for running and invite you to post a statement by following a link on the website.

The committee distributed 20 Welcome packets to newcomers in 2022. If you know of newcomers, or are a newcomer and haven't received one, please contact the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Varley

Registration Report – Thank you!

### **10.3 Playground** – Mark Wood

Since the last Town Meeting, the required playground committee inspections have been made, and all equipment is in safe condition.

Our Approved ARPA Project is to install a new climber on Village Green to replace the existing non-compliant jungle gym. The new climber has been ordered, and it should arrive by Spring. The timing of the installation would be approximately one month after receiving the equipment shipment, but the start date might be affected by weather, and other projects that our installer might have underway. If anyone is interested in acquiring the old jungle gym for an artistic project or trellis, please contact the Committee.

The Committee received a request to furnish and install a “GAGA Pit” which would be a donation to the Village of Arden. The youthful donor had gone to ACRA as a child, and wanted to give something back to the Arden Community in appreciation. The donor is a Boy Scout from Ardencroft, and she wants to complete this project to fulfill a requirement to become an Eagle Scout. She attended the September 2022 Town Meeting, and made her presentation, plus taking questions. The only change has been that in the intervening time, it was decided to make this a “movable structure, instead of a permanent fixed structure. She would like to install this initially near the basketball court behind the BWVC, and both the Playground and Civic Committees agree that the location would be good. The reason for the involvement of the Playground Committee is that the GAGA pit structure would become a part of the Town's playground equipment inventory and regularly maintained by the Members. Submitted by Mark Wood, Chairman

The Playground Committee makes the following Motion: **MOVED:**  
The Village of Arden accepts the donation of a movable GAGA Pit from an



Eagle Scout candidate, and this will be maintained by the Playground Committee. **Motion Approved**



UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF THE ARPA PROJECT  
 PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE  
 January 22, 2023

The Approved ARPA Project is to install a new climber on Village Green to replace the existing non-compliant jungle gym.

The amount of the Grant is \$14,000

Estimated Costs		
	Climber Purchase	\$5,600
	Shipping	800
Installation		
	Installing structure in the ground	2,600
	Mulch	1,200
	Receiving, Storage & Delivery	<u>500</u>
	Total	\$10,700



The removal and disposal of the old unit will be done by the Committee  
 Playground Report – Thank you!

**10.4 Forest** - Co-Chair: Carol Larson & Beverly Clendening

The Forest Committee meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 6:00 at the Buzz. Since the September Town Meeting, we had a Full Moon Walk and campfire at Indian Circle. Owls were seen, marshmallows were eaten. A big success with over 50 people attending so it will be an annual event. Our slate for this March election: Lisa Wolfe, Stevie and Paul Nolan, David Jones and Jessica Colgan-Snyder and me.

DISC Grant –Final report to the Delaware Invasive Species Council is next Tuesday in Dover. Even though the grant period finishes, we look forward to observing native plant growth in areas where deer are excluded along the Cherry Lane pathway. We consider this a multi-season project.

We have been monitoring a number of areas with the native plant *Euonymus americana* also known as *Strawberry Bush* or *Hearts'a'Bursting*. They are deer candy, so we will be putting up another deer enclosure to protect these rare plants until they are large enough to withstand grazing.

Weed Work group- Every Tuesday, Recent ongoing work areas include the old pool park area, Orchard Lane and Sherwood Forest along Perkins run. Last year we put in 450+ hours of volunteer time.

Paths Please note our “Walk This Way Sign.” We are rerouting the path away from an eroding stream bank along Naamans.

Veolia water company was permitted to cross our parcel at Mill Race Road in order to reach a water main break. They will provide us with replacement plants.

Another issue of LEAF (Living on the edge of the Arden Forest) is forthcoming.

We encourage more leaseholds to register as Certified Wildlife Habitat. Call us if you want advice

The Committee offers tours of the woods and visits to leaseholds to mark invasive species in the woods near your house and demonstrate removal techniques. An “Invasive Plant Check-up” if you will. We are happy to help improve the condition of the woods near you, please contact us.

Looking forward to Spring Clean-up Saturday, April 22, EARTH DAY!

ARPA: Surveying and preliminary drawings are in progress on our Watershed E plan for stormwater water management along the Mill Lane path.

Forest Report – Thank you!

### 10.5 Community Planning – Jennifer Borders

1. 3-Ardens Transportation Group and Wilmapco are continuing to move ahead on the planning phase of making the community safer, more walkable and accessible. A public meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 15, from 6 to 8 PM, at the Buzz Ware Village Center. Childcare and light refreshments will be provided. A special workshop for school age children will also be held beforehand. For more information you are encouraged to go to [www.wilmapco.org/ardens](http://www.wilmapco.org/ardens).
2. A guest speaker from the Claymont Community Center came to the October CPC meeting and spoke about how the ACRA Relief Fund worked during Covid. The relief fund was a partnership between ACRA, who provided the funds, and the CCC, who administered the program. The relief fund provided small donations to people with demonstrated need in the three Ardens. The funds went to food, rent, utilities, car repairs, medical expenses, and other expenses considered life sustaining. All recipients remained anonymous. Community Planning Committee is exploring ways to help people in need in Arden.
3. Community Planning is organizing a retreat to be held at the Buzz Ware for the Advisory Committee in February on the subject of, “What does Arden look like in 20 years?”. A report on the outcomes of the retreat will be given to the Town Assembly at the March Town Meeting.
4. The community garden annual kick-off meeting will take place at the Buzz Ware Village Center on Monday, March 6, 2023 @ 7 pm. Applications for plots will be available for those who have the time, energy and commitment to grow their own vegetables, but lack the space or sun to do so. Please consider joining us. The community garden will officially open the first Saturday of spring March 25<sup>th</sup>. Contac Garden Reps: AALCHEMY2@gmail.com or Dave Jones: edkona14@gmail.com. Additional details will be announced in the February Page.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Borders, CPC Chair

### Comments/Questions

Claymont Community Center in partnership with ACRA program not only provided money for approximately fifteen people to help them with paying their utility bills, loans, food stamps, etc., but the best part was in many cases people were not aware of the various government programs available to them that provided help with long term issues and provided an understanding on how to navigate the system.

Community Planning Report – Thank you!

### 10.6 Civic – Steven Benigni

- DNREC has approved our ORPT matching grant request for renovation of the Clubhouse Path and has generously agreed to increase their initial funding amount to cover the projected increased expenses that arose due to inflation. Bamboo removal and excavation will begin later in the year as weather permits.

Projected village expenses will be around \$7,000 and will be funded from next year's Civic Committee budget allocation. Thanks to adjoining leaseholders for agreeing to fund the remainder of the village's matching share. The Arden Club will also consider contributing funds to the project.

- We have approved new contracts with American Grass Cutting, LLC and Arden Construction, Inc. for mowing and snow removal respectively. Both contracts include reasonable price increases due to the current inflationary environment.
- We expect to be able to absorb these expenses in our current and next fiscal year budgets. In fact, based on projected expenses through March, we hope to once again return approximately \$20,000 to the general fund — more if we're fortunate to escape significant snowfall through the remainder of the winter.
- A reminder that if you have trash, recycling, or yard waste service issues involving your leasehold, you should contact Trash Tech customer service. (The number is on the trash can.) Report problems involving multiple leaseholds or repeated issues to the Civic Committee.
- A quarterly trash schedule is posted on the village website for whenever folks can't remember if it is a recycling or yard waste week. Informational flyers on village trash/recycling procedures and state recycling guidelines are available at

the entry table today and on the village home page.

- The greens have suffered some damage due to parking at Arden Club events. The Club has assured us that they will continue to work with us and pay for repairs. We are considering adding a large rock or other barrier to prevent traffic from driving over the curbs while exiting the overflow parking area.

As part of our monitoring of village tree health, we have consulted three arborists regarding the condition of the Fels Oak. The committee voted to accept the proposal from M. LaBare Certified Arborist, LLC to remove dead, dying, and diseased limbs and to moderately reduce the crown in accordance with ANSI A300 pruning standards. They will also install a steel cable static support system.

All three arborists recommended increasing the mulching radius around the Fels Oak to improve tree health.

LaBare will also install a dynamic support system on the double-stem white pine near the soldier's memorial on the Village Green.

- We have also removed or trimmed several trees in the greens and rights-of-way. Thanks to Carol Larson for coordinating these efforts.
- Thanks to everyone who has been keeping our stormwater catch basin grates clear. They were in good shape for the recent rains, and Civic didn't have to clear as many leaves this year.
- There are still several open Civic Committee ballot spots for the upcoming March election. If you are interested in possibly serving on Civic, please contact me or any of the other committee members.
- We continue to receive suggestions and concerns through our [civic@arden.delaware.gov](mailto:civic@arden.delaware.gov) email account. We appreciate your input and will continue to address these issues as they arise.

- Reminder: The Civic Committee is selling our old street signs at \$15 each (\$20 for larger signs). They're available at the end of today's meeting and on request.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Steve Benigni, Civic Committee Chair

### **Comments/Questions**

Request Trash Tech holiday schedule and to post it to the Arden Village website. Steve Beginin, Chair of the Civic Committee will formalize it and put it in the Arden Page.

Civic Report – Thank you!

### **10.7 BWVC - Co-Chairs Betty O'Regan**

Although rental requests have been a bit less than usual lately, we continue to have a comfortable level of activity at the Buzz, between paid rentals, our regular tenants, government meetings, and a wide variety of community events. In addition, we continue to work on improvements to the building. Thanks to the Shibori Sisters: Barbara Henry, Cecilia Vore, and Rachel Kantner, for sharing their work in the showcase for the last few months. Currently on display is the work of the Monday Night Art Group. We extend thanks to Cookie Ohlson, Jeanne Orr, Linda Celestion, and Marybeth Brainard for assembling the display. *Remember to book rooms at the BWVC, contact Pam Cohen, Building Usage Manager at [Ardenbuzz@gmail.com](mailto:Ardenbuzz@gmail.com)*

### **ARPA grant**

The installation of the new sewer system is complete. The last step is to fill in some dirt and to reseed in the spring. In the meantime, please be careful when walking along the side of the building and obviously, don't drive over this area.

### **Renovation Projects**

Construction will begin soon in room 3 for the kitchenette sink area and cabinet storage Mary Young is kindly volunteering her expertise by providing the design and helping us to procure the components. Assembly will be required so if you can help with this, we need some willing volunteers of all levels of expertise...from unpacking, sorting parts, interpreting instructions,

attaching parts and finally installation (where the big brain and brawn is needed). Contact any committee member. Date is to be determined. In the near future, a new storage shed will house the chairs when not in use and will help free up some more space in our rooms.

### **Long-term Tenants**

Business as usual for both Awakened Hearts and Wilmington Sudbury School.

### **Diverse programing that is open to the community–**

Ardens Artisans Collective hosted The Small Art Show and Holiday Market, which were rousing successes. 23 artists, from established professionals to hobbyists, participated with a total of 45 works in the Art on the Town exhibit in room 3. 8 pieces ranging from \$40-\$300 sold. Thank you to AAC artisans, organizers (especially Jill Althouse-Wood and Bernadette Donahue), BWVC committee members who helped supply a tasty spread of holiday treats, and all who supported the event by visiting and buying. The newly established group's next event consists of brief sharing from approximately 15 members, tomorrow evening from 7:30- 9:00. All community members are welcome to see what goes on in the life of an artist and...there will be cake!

Jester Art Space presents Iris Papermaking. Originating in Holland, this paper craft uses folded strips of paper arranged in a pattern that resembles the iris of a camera. Each participant will create two Valentine's Day themed cards from aperture cards and templates. All tools and materials are provided. Ages 16-adult, pre-registration is required. "The Muscle Man" sketch event will be held Sat, Feb 11 at 12:00pm. This is a clothed Figure Sketch-along with a "physical" soundtrack. All are welcome. Bring your own materials.

Tellebration is back. Storytelling for children after the Gild Hall Dinner is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Jan 25 at the Buzz. Thanks to Gerry Konzelmann for sponsoring.

Upcoming classes, which require fees and registration, include a Martial Arts/Self-Defense class for adults and kids, more Ikebana classes (a contemporary take on the ancient Japanese art form), Saturday morning Yoga with Susan Oates, and starting just yesterday, Restorative Yoga on the 2nd Sun of each month at 3:00. Look for announcements and details for all of these and more in the Arden Page and on the BWVC website.



### Monthly Activities at the Buzz

- **The Coffee House**

Celebrations are in the works for The Buzz's 25<sup>th</sup> season (or is it the 26<sup>th</sup>?). Back in the day Frank Vincent dubbed this event, "The Buzz", but since then, the building itself has become known as The Buzz. Let Shari Phalan know if you can share a memory, provide pictures, share memorabilia, or were an original performer (especially if you would be willing to come back to our stage in late spring or early summer).

- **The Buzz Ware Bookies** are now meeting on a new night, the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month. On February 2 at 7 p.m. they will discuss *The Personal Librarian*, a remarkable story of Belle da Costa Greene, J. P. Morgan's personal librarian—who became one of the most powerful women in New York while navigating a dangerous secret. As always, all Ardenites and friends of the Ardens are welcome. Reading the book is optional.
- **Art on the Town** occurs on the 1st Friday of each month. February 3<sup>rd</sup> will feature "Overlooked" by Jennifer Small. These paintings are representational abstractions of everyday routines. Banal or overlooked objects are collected, collaged, to become the shapes, forms, and textures in her work.
- **Tai Chi** with Jill Emery is for all levels. They continue to meet Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday 9:00-10:00
- **Art Nights** Monday evenings 7:00-9:00 This supportive and friendly core group has convened for several years now, working on their own projects. They welcome drop ins and newcomers. If one of your New Year's resolutions was to practice artmaking more consistently, this is your chance. I'm looking forward to participating this year!

### Election of new committee members in March.

If you are interested in becoming a part of this dynamic group tasked with implementing exciting programming, continuing it's revenue-neutral/self-sustaining status, and maintaining the physical space, please let any of the committee members know. The work is mostly fun, rewarding, and important.

Please join me in thanking all the BWVC team, the committee members (Susan Stith, Patrick Barry, Toby Ridings, Maria Burslem, Betty O'Regan) representatives (Shari Phalan and Ken Rosenberg), staff (Pam Cohen, Rachel Brown, and Jeremy Sheiker) for their dedication and hard work.



Respectfully submitted,  
Betty O'Regan, Co-Chair

Buzz Ware Village Report – Thank you!

### **10.8 Budget** – Deborah Ricard

I want to thank Brooke Bovard, Bob Erenburg, David Gerbec and Vicki Scott for serving on the Budget Committee and meeting via Zoom on the third Thursday of most months. The committee is currently working on the 3-Year Financial Forecast. We appreciate the insight and assistance that have been received from Treasurer Skip Bailey, Senior Trustee Carl Falco and Chair of Town Assembly Jeffrey Politis. This annually updated document will be presented at the March Town Assembly Meeting.

The Budget Committee is currently seeking candidates to run in the March elections. Kindly speak to any member of the Budget Committee if you have an interest in joining this team.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Ricard

Budget Report – Thank you!

### **10.9 Audit** - Helen “Cookie” Ohlson

Cookie Ohlson and Debbie Ricard, with the attendance of Skip Bailey, town Treasurer, met on January 11 to examine Arden’s quarterly vouchers, invoices, investments, and the Fidelity Account statements. All is in order.

Cookie Ohlson, Chair of the Audit Committee

Audit Report – Thank you!

### **10.10 Archives** – Lisa Mullinax

We are pleased to report that the Arden Craft Shop Museum reopened—on schedule—October 16 with our exhibition commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Ardentown. Our exhibit space looks great, with new carpet,

new paint, new lighting, repurposed vintage woodwork and a splendid exhibit. Heartfelt thanks to our committee members and volunteers and especially to Arden committee member Barbara Macklem, curator Abby Harting, and volunteers and former curators Robin MacDonald and Liz Minsinger for making it happen.

We have welcomed many visitors back to the Museum, some from the Ardens, some from all over the US and beyond.

The committee has been discussing plans for more in-person programs and events. This could include reviving Afternoon With The Artist in conjunction with the Arden Artisans Collective, walking tours and guest speakers. Many committee members will be attending this year's Small Museum Conference to be held in February in Wilmington. Please come visit us! The Museum is open Wednesdays, 7:30 to 9 p.m. and Sundays, 1 to 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Mullinax, chair

Archives Report – Thank you!

### **11.0 Governance Task Force – Ray Seigfried**

- We made recommendations on almost all ordinances, policies and procedures as well as our charter. All of our recommendations can be reviewed on the Arden web page.
  - Go to the web page scroll down to the GTF link
  - Scroll down to the draft recommendation and click
  - There you find recommendations on all of the government documents.
  - In addition, there is an opportunity for you to provide comments at the end of each Ordinance. We will consider each statement along with our recommendation for a final recommendation.
- As for the Charter recommendations, some highlights of our recommendations are as follows;
  - Add a preamble to the charter listed on our web page.
  - We are making the entire document gender neutral

- Recommending that all Town Officials have job descriptions outlining their authority and responsibility.
- We are adding the term “community standard of living” to a total rental value within the Board Assessors section.
- We are looking at ways to better align the work between the budget committee, Board of Assessors, Trustees, and School Board and County Government.
- We are establishing a fiscal year that aligns with both School Board and the County Government.
- Our meeting schedule is posted on the web page and at Buzz Ware on the board outside the front door. We continue to meet on the third Thursday at 7:30 for our sub-committee meeting and our general meeting on the fourth Thursday at 7:30 Buzz Ware of each month. We just had our public meeting on Tuesday 17 of this month. We also had an article announcing our meeting scheduled in the January PAGE.
- Given the work we need to accomplish, it does not appear that we will be able to meet the March 2023 deadline for presenting our final recommendations. So, I am placing a motion before Town Assembly for your consideration. That **motion** is as follows;

“Town Assembly extends the time to the Governance Task Force to issue its full report from March 2023 to March 2024 and with this extension it will conduct four (4) public meetings.” **Motion approved Unanimously**

### **Questions/Comments**

The Governance Task Force was seeking some legal advice specific to what they were doing and they requested a retainer in the amount of \$3,000 in which an engagement letter was signed by the Village. They have not used it as of yet. Bev Clandestine presented a power point demonstration on how to navigate the Governance Task Force Village web page which includes their posted minutes, schedules and how to submit on line feedback.

Governance Task Force Report – Thank you!

## **12.0 Old Business**

Schroeder update Jeff continues to review draft. The final draft will go to referendum.

### 13.0 New Business

Warren Rosenkranz read the following:

For my health, physical and mental, and the health of my partner, my pet and all our neighbors, I ask for a suspension of spraying Roundup in the open spaces of Arden. When spraying is done, the overspray kills not only the intended victims but also the native plants in the area. Roundup does not discriminate among its victims.

**#1 Motion** – Suspend the spraying of Roundup or other herbicides in Arden’s open spaces.

The Forest Committee presented a PowerPoint presentation on the use of glyphosate to control non-native invasion plants and why it is not only safe but is necessary for our Forest.

Invasive species are capable of causing extinctions of native plants and animals, reducing biodiversity, competing with native organisms for limited resources, and altering habitats. To manage the problem the Forest Committee uses manual removal combined with chemical treatment. Manual removal, in itself, is not efficient because the invasive plants reproduce through the root systems. Plants must be pulled before seeds are set and pulling must be done repeatedly to exhaust seed bank in the soil. Chemical Treatment is necessary to reduce or stop the resprouting of treated plants when mechanical control is impractical, not effective or would cause excessive soil disturbance. Glyphosate based product is a commonly-used herbicide that is the least harmful. It is absorbed by traveling down to the roots. Risk is how likely the substance is to cause harm at a certain level of exposure. To reduce exposure and therefore risk, follow the instructions on the label to ensure the herbicide is applied correctly and safely. To give an idea of how little the Forest Committee uses chemicals, over 450 volunteer hours they only used 2 cups of herbicide. Currently, they target the cut area of the plant with a small hand-held dabber bottle using a low volume of herbicide solution. Degrading of glyphosate is dependent on the conditions. It breaks down from anywhere from 1 week to 140 days.

In summary, the problem the Forest Committee faces in terms of managing invasive plants is immense. Therefore, careful, well- thought out and controlled use of chemicals is necessary. Mt Cuba, state parks along with many organizations controls their invasive plants by using chemicals. They have a healthy environment.

#### Comments/Questions

- Current Village Policy Glyphosate based product are already banned for use on the Village green.

- Warren -The National Institute of Health has issued herbicide used in Roundup is toxic. Also, he has an issue with spraying because it will affect the environment but he has no issue with dabbing the targeted plant. He suggests alternative to chemicals would be vinegar and salt which are considered very effective and will not affect pollinators.
- Arden does not use Roundup

Warren requested to table the #1 motion. **Motion Tabled Unanimously.**

**#2 Motion: Moved** that all areas treated with herbicides by any methods be clearly marked for a minimum of 30 days after application. No one Second the motion. **Motion failed.**

Note - Village Chairman suggest that the Forest Committee generate a policy on how you use these chemicals. This might provide structure on what you are doing and why you are doing it.

#### 14.0 Good & Welfare

- Mike Curtis says this is his “last time” he will be teaching the Henry George class. It starts tomorrow, Tuesday at 730, BWVC and will repeat the class on zoom on Wednesday.  
Available on bulletin boards or contact the Georgist Gild for a booklet: A brief history of the Ardens and the history of Henry George.
- Danny Schweers tells of the time when he and his wife, Barbara, first moved to Arden and were calling around for a rental. They contacted Liz Resko about her rental. Her first question was “What do you know about Henry George?”
- Jeff started the day a little awry but that turned around when some thoughtful people provided some much-needed help. He can’t help but think “a little kindness goes a long way”. He expressed how much he appreciated the kind help and he hopes he can return that someday.

#### 15.0 Motion to Adjourn 9 46 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Elizabeth Resko, Village of Arden Town Secretary

Postcard reminders and agenda will be mailed prior to next Town Assembly meeting  
Those attending Town Meetings are eligible to vote are 18 years of age, or older

.

All are welcome hither

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Attachments next page

**Trustees of Arden  
Financial Report  
Town Meeting January 23, 2023**

**Current Assets**

Schroeder Bequest (Arden B&L)	\$20,880
Schroeder Bequest (Vanguard)	224,978
Trust Reserve (Arden B&L)	101,663
Trust Reserve (Vanguard)	17,946
M & T Checking Account	42,383
<b>Total Cash &amp; Equity</b>	<b>\$407,850</b>
Land Rent Receivable	42,718
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$450,568</b>

**Income & Expenses**

**Income Mar 25-2022 - Dec 31-2022**

Land Rent Received	\$	771,717
Other Income-All Sources		1,764
<b>Total 2022-23 Operating Income</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>773,481</b>

**Expenses 25-2022 - Dec 31-2022**

Village of Arden	\$	190,000
Trust Administration*		13,301
New Castle County Property Tax		110,261
New Castle County School Tax		379,220
Tax Rebates to Leaseholders		44,644
<b>Total 2022-23 Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>737,426</b>
<b>Surplus or (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>36,055</b>

\*(Salary, Payroll Tax, Legal, Audit, Bookkeeping, Office Rent, Operations)

UNAUDITED  
FOR DISTRIBUTION  
AND DISCUSSION  
PURPOSES ONLY  
FOR ARDEN  
TOWN ASSEMBLY

**Village of Arden**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
As of December 31 2022

		Notes
<b>Checking/Savings</b>		
1000 - TD Bank Checking Account	132,025	includes \$297.46 TD bank Buzzware Debit Card
1010 - TD Bank Municipal Street Aid Checking Account	2,749	
1010 - TD Bank Money Market Account	407,393	
1032 - Arden Building & Loan	31,131	
1050 - Fidelity Investments - net value @ 12-31-22	408,601	Schroeder Bequest - initial investment \$301,002
<b>Total Cash</b>	<b>981,899</b>	
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
2000 - Accounts Payable, Current Liabilities, PR Tax Payable	5,320	
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>		
Buzz Ware Renovation Fund	52,994	
J Schroeder Bequest	435,463	
Memorial Garden	7,460	
Municipal Street Aid	10,829	
Capital Maintenance Fund	30,000	
Village - cash available to meet budgeted expenses @ 12/31/22	170,035	
Vacant Dwelling Fund	32,529	
Delaware Invasive Species Council Grant	750	
Playground Grant	30,465	
ARPA Funds	206,053	



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Village of Arden  
Statement of Financial Activity  
As of May 31, 2022

	<u>3/25/22- 12/31/22</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% to Budget</u>	
<b>Revenue</b>				
4000 · Transfer from Trustees - Land Rent	190,000	-		
4100 - Donations, grants, rentals	1,270	-		
4510 · Franchise Fee Receipts	25,742	-		
4900 · Interest Income	675	-		
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<u>217,687</u>	<u>-</u>		
<b>Expenses</b>				balance left in budget
6000 · Payroll & Payroll Taxes	14,295	18,448	77.49%	4,153
6300 · Administrative Expenses	14,141	33,762	41.88%	19,621
8000 · Committee Expenses - see detail below	24,414	84,300	28.96%	59,886
8010 · Contributions & Donations	5,800	5,800	100.00%	-
Contingency Fund	-	10,000	0.00%	10,000
8030 · Trash Service	44,840	67,260	66.67%	22,420
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>103,490</u>	<u>219,570</u>	<u>47.13%</u>	<u>116,080</u>
<b>Surplus (deficit)</b>	<u>114,197</u>	<u>(219,570)</u>		
<b>Committee</b>	<u>Actuals YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>		balance left in budget
Advisory	-	100		100
Archives	1,607	1,800	94.26%	193
Board of Assessors	-	100	0.00%	100
Budget	60	100	60.00%	40
Buzz Ware - Renovation Fund	-	2,000	0.00%	2,000
Buzz Ware - general operating support	-	5,000	0.00%	5,000
Civic	21,764	58,000	37.52%	36,236
Community Planning	-	500	0.00%	500
Forest	367	8,000	4.59%	7,633
Playground	133	4,000	3.33%	3,867
Registration	-	300	0.00%	300
Safety	392	4,400	8.92%	4,008
	<u>24,414</u>	<u>84,300</u>	<u>28.96%</u>	<u>59,886</u>

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	Special Village Funds									
	BuzzWire 3/25/22-12/31/22	Buzz renovation 3/25/22-12/31/22	J. Schneider Request 3/25/22-12/31/22	Memorial Garden 3/25/22-12/31/22	MSA 3/25/22-12/31/22	Capitol Hill Fund 3/25/22-12/31/22	Vacant Dwelling Fund 3/25/22-12/31/22	Playground Grant 3/25/22-12/31/22	ARPA Funds 3/25/22-12/31/22	Deleware Innovation Council Grant 3/25/22-12/31/22
<b>Revenue</b>										
4000 - General Funds - Village	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4010 - Donations	2,342	2,709	-	1,575	-	-	-	-	-	-
4100 - Program Donations	3,340	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4300 - Grants	-	-	-	-	16,580	-	-	-	105,105	750
4400 - Fertile	20,732	3,310	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4600 - Vacant Property Registration Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,230	-	-	-
4900 - Interest & Dividend Income	15	-	14,895	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SREC	-	072	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8200 - Unrealized loss on investments	-	-	(54,035)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>27,207</b>	<b>6,051</b>	<b>(40,200)</b>	<b>1,575</b>	<b>16,580</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,230</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>105,105</b>	<b>750</b>
<b>Expenses</b>										
0200 - Payroll & Payroll Taxes	18,797	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
0300 - Administrative Expenses	507	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
0310 - Janitorial Supplies	606	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7020 - Utilities (gas, electric, water, telephone)	3,890	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7050 - Licenses/Permits/Fees/Alarm Monitoring	1,402	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7080 - Repairs & Maintenance	2,581	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8010 - Program Expenses	1,593	4,106	-	3,833	10,530	-	66	-	13,015	-
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>29,866</b>	<b>4,106</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,833</b>	<b>10,530</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,015</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>7,207</b>	<b>4,945</b>	<b>(40,200)</b>	<b>(2,258)</b>	<b>6,050</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,164</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>92,090</b>	<b>750</b>
<b>Carried forward fund balance</b>		<b>45,040</b>	<b>475,233</b>	<b>9,775</b>	<b>2,749</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>24,114</b>	<b>30,485</b>	<b>109,963</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Fund balance</b>		<b>52,596</b>	<b>435,433</b>	<b>7,440</b>	<b>10,499</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>32,250</b>	<b>30,485</b>	<b>209,953</b>	<b>750</b>