



"you are welcome hither"

VILLAGE OF ARDEN
TOWN ASSEMBLY
SEPTEMBER 25, 2023 &
OCTOBER 2, 2023



JANUARY 22, 2024

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

Town Meeting at a Glance

6.0 Town Chair's Communication Report - Chair Jeffrey Politis

1. On Sept 25, 2023 a **motion** was made to adjourn town meeting to Oct 2, 2023.
2. Harvey and Marsh Road were completed.
3. A special town meeting was held on Aug 28, 2023 to consider approving the use of speed cameras.
4. Due to the limited guidelines in the charter on calling a Special town meeting, the Chair proposed two guidelines and conditions as to when to call a special meeting.
5. A draft document for the Schroeder Trust is on line.
6. Wilmarco is planning on to set up the monitoring committee.
7. The Village of Arden has received a cyber security grant.

7.0 Trustee Report – Carl Falco

- A summary of the 2023 taxes.
- Updates on Property Tax Rebates and Senior School Property Tax Credit
- Sent Supplemental Tax Bills to the Trustees
- No transfers since June meeting.

8.0 Treasurer's Report – Skip Bailey

- All Village financial policies are on the Village of Arden website.
- Review of basic financial reports effective as of August 31, 2023.
- The Treasurer has established the new bank accounts with FCCB (First Citizens Community Bank).

9.0 Advisory Committee Report – Sachin Puranik

- Provided a list of eligible residents willing to serve on the next Board of Assessors.

10.0 Board of Assessors – Deborah Ricard

- No Report
- The Board of Assessor Report that was provided at the June 2023 Town Assembly is the assessment that will be abided by since no alternative assessment has been submitted.

11.00 Committee Reports presented in Alphabetical Order

11.1 Archives – Lisa Mullinax

- Working on new website.
- Planning on purchasing a new computer.
- Provide the site specifications to a vendor to start the programming work
- Contract with Past Perfect to make any needed conversions to our collection catalog and enable online access.
- This year, we revived our “Afternoon With The Artist” series in conjunction with the Arden Artisans Collective.
- Fall exhibition will be showcasing Women Artists of the Ardens, 1900-1960.

11.2 Audit - Cookie Ohlson

- All was found to be in order.

Town Meeting at a Glance

11.3 Budget – Deborah Ricard

- Introducing the 2024-2025 Budget
- **Motion** to approve 2024-2025 Arden Budget as shown in the draft ballot for referendum. **Motion Approved**
- Update on the NCC Property Reassessment Project.

11.4 Buzz Ware Village Center – Toby Ridings & Mary Young Co-Chair

- Building Maintenance: Gutter Guards, Fire Alarm System.
- Rentals: Wilmington Sudberry School new Lease has been signed. Awakened Heart Spiritual Center is interested in expanding their rental usage with a new lease.
- BWVC Programming Scheduling updated.
- Upcoming Community event: Don Lipari will give a talk on how cell phones and other mobile devices work.
- PPP annual Fundraiser earned gross income of \$7,860.
- Departed: A very special appreciation and recognition of Randy Hoopes.

11.5 Civic – Steven Benigni

- Continue to develop plans for the Watershed E storm water management BMP or Best Management Practices projects.
- Bamboo removal is progressing on leaseholds adjoining the Clubhouse Path.
- The village received a Municipal Street Aid allocation of \$18,331. Developing a timeline map of past road repairs.
- Change speed humps from the yellow triangles/diamonds to the mandated white chevrons.
- Update on Aeration and overseeding of the Village and Sherwood Greens
- Trash Tech has changed its name to Sustainable Environmental. The company has been co-mingling yard waste with household trash.
- Working on placing small markers/plaques/signs at Walt Whitman and Soldiers & Sailors memorials on the Village Green.
- The stockade fencing in the Frank Stephens Memorial Theater to be replaced.
- Civic forecasts a much smaller surplus.
- Reducing their next year's budget request by \$5,000.
- Elections for Village Committee members are coming up.

11.6 Community Planning – Jennifer Borders

- Status of 2007 Harvey Road
- Connecting with the Ardens: A Transportation Plan was approved by all three villages this summer.
- Introduction to the Revisions for Ordinance 15.

11.7 Forest – Co Chairs; Carol Larson & Beverley Clendening

- Invasive removal is ongoing
- Building up the level of paths in wet areas off Hillside trailhead.

Town Meeting at a Glance

- Veolia water cut through Arden property on Mill Race Road to locate a leak in a water main.
- Watershed E update.
- Dr. Roger Latham lecture.
- Poplar and a dead Oak removed behind 2321 Woodland Lane.
- Sunset Farms residents requested that we inspect the line of trees behind their houses
- **LEAF** newsletter update and new publication "What's in the Woods" on the Forests of the Ardens Facebook page.

11.8 Playground – Mark Wood

- Performed the Playground Equipment Safety Inspection.
- The “Gaga Pit” was removed for the Arden Fair.
- The new VERVE Climber was installed.
- The non-compliant jungle gym and slide on the Sherwood Green are the next two pieces of old playground equipment to be replaced.

11.9 Registration – Cecilia Vore

- Reviewed and continue to update till deadline of Nov 8 the voting eligibility status of current Arden residents prior to the upcoming Election of Assessors and Budget Referendum.
- The Registration Committee will conduct the annual Budget Referendum and the election of the Arden Board of Assessors in October and November.
- You are all invited to a “Meet the Assessors Candidates”
- Ballots will be mailed around Oct. 10. The election date will be Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023.
- Registration Committee will present a **motion** to hold a referendum on changing the standard for referendum approval from “a majority of all eligible voters” to “a majority of those participating in the referendum.”

11.10 Safety – Simon Hamermesh

- Village signs are being maintained and replaced.
- The committee has been considering options to make Arden pathways more accessible.
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) held a general interest meeting and free training will be scheduled to educate people about disaster preparedness.
- Considerations to make the Buzz Ware a better prepared resource in case of emergency have also been underway.
- The Safety Committee - Brian Killian was voted to fill vacant position.

12.0 Governance Task Force

- The Governance Task Force has met for over 18 months, reviewing all government documents.

Town Meeting at a Glance

- The one guiding principle of the GTF is defined in the Village Charter Section 1 [b]: the "All Powers Act" and many of the changes they are recommending are based on this guiding principle.
- To explain their recommendations and address questions, they have arranged information public meetings open to all residents during October and November.
- Concurrent to the charter process will be recommended changes to existing ordinances, which will go to the Town Assembly for review, with three readings and a final vote. Once approved, it would need final approval by the State General Assembly.
- First Reading of Ordinance #1, #2 and #13.

MOTIONS/RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED

September 25, 2022 Town Assembly Meeting Motions presented

1.0 Call to Order – Chairman Jeffrey Politis called meeting to order.

Advisory Chair Sachin Purnack presented a motion to adjourn September 25, 2023 Town Assembly meeting due to high holidays and to resume on October 2, 2023.

Seconded by Danny Schweers. Motion Unanimously Approved.

Motion to Adjourn. All adjourned.

October 2, 2023 Town Assembly Meeting Motions presented

11. 3 Budget – Deborah Ricard

Budget **Motion** to approve 2023-2024 Budget for Referendum as shown in the draft ballot. **Motion Approved.**

11.9 Registration – Cecilia Vore

Motion:

The Registration Committee shall conduct a general referendum submitting the following change in election procedure to the residents of Arden for approval:

Change the requirement for passage of a general referendum from a majority of all eligible voters to a majority of the eligible votes who vote in the referendum.

If approved in the general referendum, the Town Assembly will petition the Delaware State Legislature to amend the Town Charter (Act to Reincorporate) accordingly.

Motion Approved

Motion Approved as Amended Amend motion to change motion from “those who vote” to “eligible voters”

Hand Vote:

In favor 36

Oppose 11

11.10 Safety – Simon Hamermesh

Election to fill vacant position

12.0 Governance Task Force

First reading changes to Ordinance #1, #2 and #13 (refer to 12.0 for complete Ordinance)

Attendance 56 sign in plus no signage: Mary Keefer, Jeffrey Politis, Liz Resko

First	Last Name		First	Last Name	
Steve	Tanzer	1	Beverly	Clendenning	29
Gary E	Quinton	2	Larry	Walker	30
William	Theis	3	Jeanne	Corman	31
Lisa	Mullinax	4	Roberta	Perkins	32
David	Michelson	5	Lisa	Wolfe	33
Carol	Larson	6	Sam	Panella	34
Vicki	Scott	7	David	Gerbec	35
Steve	Benigni	8	Ed	Rohrbach	36
Carol	DiGiovanni	9	Barbara Anne	Macklem	37
Deborah M	Ricard	10	Bob	Erenburg	38
Sadi	Somerville	11	Ellie	Hansen	39
Helen 'Cookie'	Ohlson	12	Jess	Colgan-Snyder	40
Ray	Seigfried	13	Pam	Politis	41
Susan	Stith	14	Warren	Rosenkranz	42
Ruth	Panella	15	Eric	Reed	43
Rachelle	Zazzu	16	John	Scheflen	44
Mike	Curtis	17	Dorinda	Dove	45
Carl	Falco	18	Sachin	Puranik	46
Laura	Wallace	19	Jennifer	Borders	47
Rebecca	Meick	20	Grace E	Ressler	48
Ron	Meick	21	Tom	Wheeler	49
Brooke	Evans	22	Brian	Killian	50
Simon	Hamermesh	23	Vaughn	Byarm	51
Toby	Ridings	24	Rep Sherry Dorsey	Walker NV	52
Clay	Ridings	25	Betty	O'Regan	53
William 'Skip'	Bailey	26	Jeffrey	Steen	54
Daniel	Henn	27	Garrett	Colgan-Snyder	55
Elizabeth	Varley	28	Brooke	Bovard	56

First	Last Name		First	Last Name	
Steve	Tanzer	1	Beverly	Clendenning	
Gary E	Quinton	2	Larry	Walker	
William	Theis	3	Jeanne	Corman	
Lisa	Mullinax	4	Roberta	Perkins	
David	Michelson	5	Lisa	Wolfe	
Carol	Larson	6	Sam	Panella	
Vicki	Scott	7	David	Gerbec	
Steve	Benigni	8	Ed	Rohrbach	
Carol	DiGiovanni	9	Barbara Anne	Macklem	

Deborah M	Ricard	10	Bob	Erenburg
Sadi	Somerville	11	Ellie	Hansen
Helen 'Cookie'	Ohlson	12	Jess	Colgan-Snyder
Ray	Seigfried	13	Pam	Politis
Susan	Stith	14	Warren	Rosenkranz
Ruth	Panella	15	Eric	Reed
Rachelle	Zazzu	16	John	Scheflen
Mike	Curtis	17	Dorinda	Dove
Carl	Falco	18	Sachin	Puranik
Laura	Wallace	19	Jennifer	Borders
Rebecca	Meick	20	Grace E	Ressler
Ron	Meick	21	Tom	Wheeler
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October 2, 2023 Town Assembly

1.0 Call to Order – Chairman Jeffrey Politis called meeting to order at 7:37 p.m.

2.0 Approval of Minutes - June 2023 Town Assembly Minutes approved as presented by unanimous consent.

3.0 New Residents –Welcome! Mary Keefer’s has just moved in with her daughter Susan Stith, and Brooke Evans.

4.0 Recognition of Departed

Randy Hoopes the voice of the Arden Fair amongst other things. As he like to say “he knew a little about a lot”

Van Taylor who was third generation growing up in Arden.

A moment of silence.

5.0 Visitors

Representative Shirley Dorsey Walker District 3 has announced her campaign for Lieutenant Governor. To know more about her and her campaign <https://legis.delaware.gov/AssemblyMember/152/DorseyWalker>

Mike Curtis, wanted to know her opinion on the Single Tax. Unfortunately she was only given two minutes....

6.0 Town Chair’s Communication Report - Chair Jeffrey Politis
Communications from the Chair.

Since the last town meeting....

1. Welcome to the continuation of the Sept Town Meeting. On Sept 25, 2023, I opened our normally scheduled town meeting where a motion was made that when we adjourn to Oct 2, 2023 at 7:30 pm– this moment.
2. It’s been about a year since the work on Harvey and Marsh Road was completed. After living with it for a year, I am pleased with the improvements that were made – including the turn arrows, lane changes, and crosswalks. Thanks to all those who worked on it to make our community and the

surrounding communities safer – including those leaseholders who gave the necessary permission to do the work.

3. A special town meeting was held on Aug 28, 2023 to consider approving the use of speed cameras. A motion to approve speed cameras on Harvey Road was approved. The motion also included having the town chair pursue them. A brief update – Deldot is working through the necessary regulations and vendors. Their process will likely take a least another 3 months and up to another 9 months to complete. Additionally, as Harvey Road is a state road and not a municipal one, enforcement falls under the state police. The state police are also working through what would be necessary to monitor and enforce speed cameras. I have had several conversations with the Troop 1 to understand how to move forward with them.
4. Speaking of special town meetings. The charter provides for special town meetings to be called by a minimum of 25 residents of the Village of Arden and must be for a singular topic/agenda item. Once signatures are received by the village, the charter instructs the Village Secretary to call a meeting. There are no other instructions or guidelines for the Village Secretary other than our normal notification. In this case, the town secretary sought the town chairs advice and further the advisory committee's guidance for setting a date and time – focused on allowing time to get the most people in the meeting.

Further about special town meetings – it is my opinion that special town meetings should be call for one of two reasons – 1. The topic for the special meeting would take so much time that it is disruptive to the normal business of town meeting, such as the meeting to determine the ARPA funds or 2. There is a timing urgency that demands the topic be addressed before our normal town meeting. I don't believe the Aug special town meeting met either of these two reasons.

The reason I suggest these guidelines is that our normal town meetings are set by the charter and residents can plan around them – allowing everyone to plan to attend well in advance. It will not be clear who will be available to attend on a “moments” notice and thus may not be a “normal” representation of Town. Fortunately, attendance was high at this Aug special town meeting.

When considering a requesting special town meeting, please consider these proposed guidelines before signing onto to the request.

5. Last week I send out a draft document for the Schroeder Trust. Remember that the town assembly voted to settle the lawsuit over the purchase of 5 Mill Race Road by placing the remainder of the Schroeder Bequest in a Trust. We will not

discuss this topic tonight, but hope to in a future town meeting. Please take the time to look it over and supply and comments/feedback to me at ardenchair@arden.delaware.gov.

6. With Ardentown's approval of the Transportation plan, Wilmapco is looking to set up the monitoring committee. As the plan's development including members of our Safety, Community Planning, and Civic committees, I have asked those committees to continue to represent the Village on the monitoring committee. If there are no objections, then each committee will name a representative.
7. The Village of Arden has received a cyber security grant. We are currently setting up a meeting with the state to determine how the Village can use it.
8. Lastly, a reminder that this meeting is being recorded and please state your name when you speak.

Let's have a respectful and deliberative meeting. Thanks

So submitted

Jeffrey Politis
Town Chair, Village of Arden.

Questions/Comments

Carol DiGiovanni hopes that the Chair can keep an open mind as to his opinions, restrictions on who can call a Special meeting and if someone has an idea for a special meeting that it will not be made difficult. Jeff agreed.

Carol points out that under Roberts Rule of Order that the Chair should always refer to himself as "The Chair".

Communications Report - Thank you!

7.0 Trustee Report – Carl Falco

Finances:

New Castle County and School taxes, due October 2nd, have been paid. A summary of the 2023 taxes is shown below.

2023

County taxes	\$106,112.19
School taxes	\$374,439.14
Total County and School taxes paid	\$480,551.33
Rebates to leaseholders	\$47,158.39
Total	\$527,709.72

Property Tax Rebates: Property tax reductions to individual leaseholders are determined by programs issued by the State of Delaware or New Castle County (not the Trustees). One program called the **New Castle County Senior Tax Exemption** is a tax exemption for those who are over 65 before July 1 of the year for which you are applying for exemption, and who fit the financial and residency requirements. This program provides a reduction of the taxable assessed value up to \$32,000. The other program, issued by the State but administered by the County, is called the **State Senior School Property Tax Credit**. That program is based on your turning 65 before July 1 of the year in which you apply, but you also must meet the years of residency requirement. This program provides a 50% credit on the school taxes of the property up to a maximum of \$500. If either of these programs could lower your taxes, we encourage you to apply. If you qualify and receive a tax reduction the Trustees will send you a rebate check for the amount of that tax reduction. This year 75 leaseholders benefited from these programs with rebate checks totaling over \$47,000. There is a filing deadline to qualify for the upcoming tax year. Please contact New Castle County Property Assessment (302) 395-5520 for either application and for any questions that you have. The County is helpful with filling out the forms. The eligible leaseholders for the County programs this year should receive their rebate checks by mid-October. If you do not receive your rebate by then, please contact the Arden Trustees Office (475-7980).

Supplemental Tax Bills: New Castle County may generate a Supplemental Tax Bill after a leasehold transfer and/or after a new construction building permit has been closed due to a reassessment of the property value. If any Village of Arden leaseholder receives this type of invoice from the County, please promptly notify the Trustees of Arden by phoning 302-475-7980 or emailing trustees.of.arden@gmail.com. The Trustees have requested several times that the County send these Supplemental Tax

Bills to the Trustees and a copy to the leaseholders, as they do with the annual tax bills, but this never happens. Leaseholders should not pay these bills. The Trustees will pay them. However, we cannot pay the bill unless you inform us of it. If the bill does not get paid promptly, the County starts adding on penalties, which can become substantial.

Lease Transfers-There have been no lease transfers since the June Meeting

Respectfully submitted,



Senior Trustee

Trustees Report – Thank you!

8.0 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 August 31, 2023.

Statement of Financial Position

Funds are in standard status.

Statement of Financial Activity

Committees, other budgeted items.

Statement of Fund Balance

All is in order. Municipal Street Aid (MSA) funds for 2022-2023 have been received.

Additional information/Old Business

The Treasurer has established the new bank accounts with FCCB (First Citizens Community Bank). The full transition from TD Bank may take a few months as the recurring expenses that are automatically charged (utilities, etc.) need to be updated to reflect the new bank account. All funds listed in the September 2023 reports include balances from both banks as we transition.

As a reminder the switch to FDCCB was prompted by these benefits from FCCB.

- Money Market account interest rate, variable, set for 12 months There are multiple tiers of interest based on balance; the tiers most likely to impact this account: (TD account earned 0.05% interest)
 - 10,000 -- 49,999 2.61%
 - 50,000 -- 99,999 3.14%
 - 100,000 -- 249,999 3.66%
- Checking account interest rate is also tiered. (TD accounts earned no interest)
 - .01--9,999 .05%
 - 10,000-99,999 .15%
 - 100,000+ .25%

- No fee business debit card linked to main account. This should give treasurer and committees greater flexibility for subscription accounts, etc., and reduce reimbursement processes.

Note on Town Meeting notification mailings. All town meetings, regularly scheduled or special, require notification to all Village residents. At present, costs for these mailings are about \$260.00.

Respectfully Submitted,
Skip Bailey, Treasurer

Treasurer's Report – Thank you

9.0 Advisory Committee Report – Sachin Puranik

Each Fall, the Advisory Committee is responsible for finding eligible residents willing to serve on the next Board of Assessors. This year the following residents have accepted the responsibility of placing their names on the ballot and will serve if elected. The candidates so far are:

Brooke Bovard
Rachel Brown
Steven Curley
Simon Hamermesh
Dan Henn
Andrew Larason
Jean Mullin
Stevie Nolan
Denis O'Regan
Shana Pinter
Sachin Puranik
Deborah Ricard
Laura Wallace
Tom Wheeler
Rachelle Zazzu

I would like to thank Deborah Ricard for all her help finding candidates this year. We welcome additional nominees at this time.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sachin Puranik
Advisory Chair

Advisory Report- Thank you!

10.0 Board of Assessors – Deborah Ricard

- No Report

Note: Since no Alternative Assessment has been presented this year, the Board of Assessor Report provided in June 2023 Town Assembly is the assessment that will be abided by. This report and its companion leasehold spreadsheet can be referenced on the Assessor page of Arden’s official website, arden.delaware.gov.

Board of Assessors Report – Thank you!

11.00 Committee Reports presented in Alphabetical Order

11.1 Archives – Lisa Mullinax

A small group of Committee members and volunteers has worked over the past months to outline how to make the website more attractive and accessible and enable us to share more of the collection online.

As you know we were awarded a share of the ARPA funds to do this, and we trying to be as cost-effective as possible to use these funds responsibly.

So far, without spending any money yet, we have:

- Designed the home page
- Created a site map
- Identified how we can upgrade to our existing collection management software (Past Perfect) to enable us to share collections online
- Created a budget for the necessary work.

Next steps are to:

- Purchase a new computer to replace our aging one that is not able to handle our collections software.
- Provide the site specifications to a vendor to start the programming work
- Contract with Past Perfect to make any needed conversions to our collection catalog and enable online access.

This year, we revived our “Afternoon With the Artist” series in conjunction with the Arden Artisans Collective. Each of these quarterly events will showcase the work of one or more of our local artists, giving the community a chance to see their work and find out about their creative process. The first featured plein air painter Janet Williams. It was well attended, as was the second featuring readings of Arden poetry past and present and a special tribute to Walt Whitman, who inspired so many of the early Ardenites. The next event will be in November.

We are pleased to announce that our new Fall exhibition will open on this month. We will be showcasing Women Artists of the Ardens, 1900-1960. Some of their names may be familiar to you, and some may not be. These talented artists and artisans made significant contributions to the Ardens. Please join us for the opening on Sunday, Oct. 15, 1 to 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Mullinax

Archives Report – Thank you!

11.2 Audit - Cookie Ohlson

The Audit Committee members Cookie Ohlson, Laura Wallace and Debbie Ricard met on September 13th to examine the Village of Arden's vouchers and invoices for the past quarter.

We also performed a random audit on the Buzz Ware Village Centers's records of deposits for the past fiscal year. All was found to be in order.

Cookie Ohlson,
Audit Committee Chair

Audit Report- Thank you!

11. 3 Budget – Deborah Ricard

Good evening! Before introducing the 2024-2025 Budget, I want to share a brief update on the NCC Property Reassessment Project.

Tyler Technologies Data Collectors spent many days in August knocking on leasehold doors, asking residents questions about their homes and measuring structures in the Ardens. When residents were not home, a brochure explaining the property reassessment project was left by the door and measurements of structures on the leasehold were recorded. These data collectors are NOT assessors or appraisers.

The next part of the reassessment project involves sending letters to each NCC property owner detailing the data that was collected on their property. NCC asks homeowners to notify them of any errors or if something was missed by the data collectors. Accurate information will ensure the most accurate valuation for each property. Expect these letters to be mailed sometime during the summer or fall of 2024.

Then TylerTech's appraisers will begin their task of analyzing the confirmed data collected from throughout NCC. This property reassessment project is reported to be on schedule

for completion in time for newly assessed property values to be used in determining NCC tax bills sent in 2025.

The Property Reassessment Project promises to be revenue neutral across each county, but not necessarily in each community or sub-division. This project also has implications for increased school taxes because of the newly assessed values assigned to each parcel. In other words, stay tuned for more information as project updates are released.

Save this date: Mon, Nov 16, 2023 The Council of Community Organizations of Brandywine Hundred (CCOBH) will sponsor a Public Meeting "NCC Property Reassessment and Implications" at the First Unitarian Church located at 730 Halstead Rd, Wilmington, DE 19803. Time TBA.

Moving on to the Budget Committee, a BIG thank you goes out to members - David Gerbec, spreadsheet master, and Vicki Scott, secretary, as well as Bob Erenburg and

Garrett Colgan-Snyder - for their dedication in meeting regularly to review and discuss financial information needed to develop this 2024-2025 Arden Budget presented to the Town Assembly. Trustee Carl Falco, Treasurer Skip Bailey and Chair of Town Assembly Jeff Politis are also thanked for working with the Budget Committee as part of this fiscally responsible team.

A few notes:

- Please be reminded of the small terminology change from *budget/non-budget* to *discretionary/non-discretionary* introduced in 2021; this updated wording increases Arden's eligibility for government grants and other outside funding. *Discretionary* items may be voted upon for individual approval or disapproval. *Non-discretionary* items are obligations the village must meet. Numbered notes to explain Income, Non-Discretionary and Discretionary Budget items are found on page 2 of this ballot.
- American Rescue Plan Act funding in the amount of \$219,926., listed under Projected Income Note #5 and Projected Expenses Note #14, came to Arden from the federal government in 2021; unspent ARPA funds are carried forward. All ARPA funding must be committed by the end of 2024 and expended by the end of 2026.
- Some changes to discretionary budget items area explained by notes #15-28. These changes are all accomplished while keeping overall discretionary expenses at the same amount as recent years. The Civic Committee generously agreed to reduce their budget amount by \$5,000 in order to increase the budget amounts of other committee and donation line items. The BWVC budget amount remains unchanged because the BWVC is self-sustaining based on its many rentals throughout the year.

- Arden's Direct Democracy form of government means YOUR vote is needed for the 2024-2025 Budget Ballot Referendum. Please help Registration by completing your ballot according to instructions and returning it (along with the Assessors Ballot) for counting by 6 pm on Wednesday, November 8th.

At this time, your questions are welcome. If there are no questions, I make a motion to approve this proposed 2024-2025 Arden Budget for referendum.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Ricard
Budget Committee Co-Chair

Questions/Comments

- Civic Committee received the MSA funds and request Budget reflect the exact amount received.
- Jeffrey Steen wants to know who controls ARPA funds.
A large portion of those funds were allocated by a special town meeting. Because they were not spent in a previous budget year and not sure if they will be all spent in the current budget year, they have to continue to be reflected in the budget. The remaining money that was not allocated, Community Planning is responsible for running the process and part of that process is it will go to the town meeting for a vote in terms of how to spend those funds.
Jef Steen does not want funds to be allocated to those projects that he does not support. Presently there are no open proposals for ARPA funds. There are only proposals that were approved and that money has been allocated to be moved for those proposals. Those proposals are now projects and they are funded projects. Included in those projects are: Archives updated website/computer, BWVC sewer project, Playground equipment, Civic & Forest sponsored the Water Management Plan. The money for ARPA was approved at the town meeting and allocated for those projects. Part of that proposal was for committees to try to get matching grants.
- Bob Erenburg suggests that the Treasurer provide running expenditure totals for each project to show how the money is being spent. Skip has been planning on doing this.

Motion to approve 2024-2025 Arden Budget as shown in the draft ballot for referendum.

Motion Approved

**2024 -2025 Arden Budget Ballot copy end of minutes.

Budget Report – Thank you!

11.4 Buzz Ware Village Center – Toby Ridings & Mary Young Co-Chair**Building Maintenance:**

Gutter Guards: Gutter guards will be installed on the gutters around the perimeter the building to manage the leaf debris from overhanging branches that caused issues with the fascia board and paint.

The microphones for the PA system have been re-conditioned and are functioning well, many thanks to Frank Vincent.

Fire Alarm System:

We are in the process of upgrading the fire alarm system. The new contract with Securitec has been signed and work is to begin this month.

Rentals:

Event rentals have been slightly less than average since covid. The BWVC is a great venue to host all kinds of social events, so please consider a rental of the Buzz for your next get-together! Visit ardenbuzz.com to connect with Building Usage manager, Pam Cohen.

Wilmington Sudberry School: The new Lease has been signed and school is currently in session M-F.

Awakened Heart Spiritual Center: Is interested in expanding their rental usage with a new lease.

BWVC Programming Scheduling:

Fall Programing is reprised. Please check the Page and our calendar at ardenbuzz.com for complete details for programming and up-coming community events.

- Art Loop in Arden begins new season this Friday, October 4th at 5:30PM.
- Coffee House, 2nd Friday of the Month. Beginning on Friday, October 11th at 8PM
- The Buzz Ware Bookies book club is the First Thursday of ea. month at 7 PM
- Open Art Studio, 7 to 9 pm, each Monday in room 3
- Tai Chi - Monday, Wednesday & Saturday mornings 9-10AM.
- Sunday Social, Cards and Games for Adults 2-5PM each Sunday.

Upcoming Community event: Tuesday 7-9 PM Oct 30, 2023. Presented by Ardencroft resident, Don Lipari. A talk on how cell phones and other mobile devices work. Learn more about your smart phone or iPad. Topics include apps, browsers, settings, Bluetooth, WIFI, and privacy controls.

The Buzz continues to look for new ways to support the Ardens, if you have a skill to share, please contact us at the website ArdenBuzz.com for details about sponsoring a community event.

PPP Fundraiser:

BWVC committee is happy to report that this year with the efforts of many dedicated volunteers our annual fundraiser earned a gross income of \$7860.00. Total booth space income \$5330.00, Door entry \$2527.00, Raffle \$60.00. Total guests = 1265.

Many thanks to The PPP sub-committee comprised of Toby Ridings (Organizer), Clay Ridings, David Jones, Randy Hoopes, Shari Phalan with support from BWVC staff, Pam Cohen, Rachel Brown, Jeremy Sheiker and BWVC committee members Mary Young, Patrick Barry, Susan Stith, Grace Ressler, & Ken Rosenberg. The proceeds from this event

are deposited to the BWVC renovation fund for the preservation and renovation of the historic building (*Soon to be 100 years old*).

If you volunteered at Peddlers, Potions and Practitioners this year, there will be a volunteer appreciation party on November 3rd prior to Art Loop.

Again, we wish to thank all those that volunteer their time and resources to support the Buzz and the ongoing activities.

We would like to share a very special appreciation and recognition of Randy Hoopes. A conscious contributor to the community, in many ways. He was always a friend of the Buzz, for the past 20 years, he spearheaded recruitment and organization for all

the PPP fair day volunteers, making the giant fundraiser truly possible. He also has served on the BWVC committee and as a loyal Coffee House crew member. He will always be honored and fondly remembered.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Young and Toby Ridings
BWVC Committee Co-Chairs

Buzz Ware Village Center Report – Thank you!

11.5 Civic – Steven Benigni

- Civic has been coordinating with the Forest Committee to work with ForeSite Associates as they develop plans for the Watershed E storm water management BMP or Best Management Practices projects funded by DNREC's Surface Water Matching Planning Grant (SWMPG) and the village's ARPA grant. The Forest Committee will report on plans to obtain memoranda of agreement with leaseholders directly affected by the three Watershed E BMPs.
- Bamboo removal is progressing on leaseholds adjoining the Clubhouse Path, and we hope to begin excavation and repaving of the path soon. The project is funded by a matching DNREC Outdoor Recreation and Trails Project (ORPT) grant.
- The village received a Municipal Street Aid allocation of \$18,331, which was combined with carryover MSA funds from last year to fund the recent street paving and pothole repair. Paving priorities are determined in consultation with our contractor. We are also searching records to put together a timeline map of past road repairs to help us in our multiyear planning. Thanks to Rick Ferrell for coordinating this ongoing work.
- The remaining MSA funds will be used for repainting the village road markings in the coming weeks. The committee voted to change from the current system of yellow triangles/diamonds on our speed humps to the mandated white chevrons

specified in the Delaware MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices).

- Aeration and overseeding of the Village and Sherwood Greens is planned for early October. Civic and Playground Committees will evaluate and repair turf damage on the Village Green due to replacement of the playground climber.
- Trash Tech has changed its name to Sustainable Environmental Management. Ironically, the village has received substantiated complaints that the company has been co-mingling yard waste with household trash. The three villages will address this issue with SEM management as we begin contract renewal discussions for 2024-2026. Residents can help by following the guidelines on the trash/recycling information sheet available here and online. For example, recycling should not be placed in plastic bags.
- A reminder that if you have trash, recycling, or yard waste service issues involving your leasehold, you should contact SEM customer service. (The number is on the trash can.) Report problems involving multiple leaseholds or repeated issues to the Civic Committee.
- An updated quarterly trash schedule has been posted on the village website. FYI: This week is a yard waste week.
- The Civic and Archive Committees are working together to place small markers/plaques/signs to indicate the locations of the Walt Whitman and Soldiers & Sailors memorials on the Village Green.
- The stockade fencing in the Frank Stephens Memorial Theater is deteriorating. The Civic Committee invites local artisans to submit design or construction suggestions that will preserve the history and significance of the theater and also add to the distinctiveness that is our village.
- For the last three fiscal years, Civic Committee expenditures have been considerably under budget. This year there are several factors, including inflation, matching grant commitments, and the possibility of significant snowfall, that may contribute to ending the year with a much smaller surplus.
- On a related note, on request from the Budget Committee, the Civic Committee has agreed to lower our next year's budget request by \$5,000 to help meet the expressed needs of other village committees.
- Elections for Village Committee members are coming up. We will need at least three candidates for the two open positions on the Civic Committee. Please consider placing

your name on the ballot and joining us in our important work of managing the village's public works tasks and projects.

- If committee membership is not for you, we can always use volunteer help with the many routine tasks and special projects that come up. Let us know if you might be willing to lend a hand.
- A reminder to keep an eye on nearby stormwater catch basins and help keep the grates cleared of debris.
- Monthly meetings of the Civic Committee are held on the fourth Wednesday at 7:30 at the Buzz Ware Village Center. Zoom access information is posted on the Civic Committee web page.
- We continue to receive suggestions and concerns through our civic@arden.delaware.gov email account. We appreciate your input and will continue to address these issues as they arise.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Benigni
Civic Committee Chair

Questions/Comments

Ed Rohrbach reminds all that the roads are not a state or county roads; therefore, you do not have to comply with state code. Also, he prefers the green paint. Steve: If there is a sense of the community that you would not like to go ahead with these standards, you can make a motion to continue with what Civic has been doing.

Simon Hemermesh would like to see more signage at Orleans Rd and Millers Rd circle indicate the correct flow of traffic. Steve says they missed painting one of the arrows which will be corrected. Adding one-way arrows at the end of Woodland and Cherry by keep people from turning onto a one-way street.

Jeff Steen is concerned about the Watershed E plan that has a series of recommendations/projects which he does not support. He suggests everyone read the report and know what is being proposed. Steve: If there is something that is proposed for a future project, the town assembly will have the ability to discuss it further, analyze it, and they will have the opportunity to revise the plan, even change the plan to a different watershed. All of that is in the future. What has been done so far is the town Watershed E has been approved by the town. Currently they are in the process and they have been

discussing this with the leaseholders who are involved and in Steve's opinion they seem very positive about what is going on. The next step is to get their formal agreement on the memorandum before they spend the money on expensive engineering drawings. Civic is trying to do this in a sequential step by step basis in the best manner that seem possible.

Civic Report – Thank you!

11.6 Community Planning – Jennifer Borders

Status of 2007 Harvey Road: The dwelling at 2007 Harvey Road has been deemed vacant under Arden's Ordinance 15 since 2012, the year that ordinance was enacted by the Town Assembly. At the last Town Meeting we were given the go-ahead to ask an attorney if it would be likely that the Town would prevail in legal action brought against the leaseholder. The Town Assembly Chair and I have been in discussion and preparing documents to provide to the attorney.

Connecting with the Ardens: A Transportation Plan was approved by all three villages this summer. The Plan was endorsed by the WILMAPCO Council on July 13, 2023. This provides a long-term planning blueprint to enhance safety and mobility throughout the Ardens. The plan's goals include managing vehicular traffic speeds, providing enhanced pedestrian crossings, developing a pedestrian/bicycle network to traverse the Ardens, and enhancing transit and school bus stops.

Introduction to the Revisions for Ordinance 15: Enforcement of the Vacant Dwellings Registration Ordinance, that was enacted by Town Assembly more than a decade ago, is one of the Planning Committee's duties each year. As the members of the Planning Committee change at each election, interpretations of how to enforce it by new committee members have changed. The revisions proposed here try to create a clearer document that provides more uniform guidance for future Planning Committees so that enforcement of the ordinance is clearly according to the wishes of the Town Assembly. These revisions will also help leaseholders understand their obligations under the law and promote compliance. Another goal is to revisit some of the provisions in the ordinance that seems unnecessarily restrictive.

The Planning Committee has put in a great deal of time and consideration, over several years, into drafting the proposed changes. We have consulted with the Governance Task Force which is also looking at revisions for this and other ordinances. The proposed changes have been voted on and approved by the Community Planning Committee.

Tonight, we would like to present our ideas for changes and get the input of the Town

Assembly before bringing to you a final draft of the proposed Ordinance 15 revisions at a future Town Meeting. This will be an opportunity for discussion and questions. You will have the ability to comment further both online and at future Town Meetings

before a final draft is brought to you to vote on.

The revisions we propose are as follows (presented by CPC Member, Pam Politis):

Revision 1: Workshops, studios, guest cottages will be allowed.

Revisions clarify and allow the use of dwellings as guest cottages, workshops, studios or lawful businesses if they are in continuous use. As has long been the practice in Arden since its founding, artisans, makers and workshops have been an important part of our community. It is Planning's opinion that we should not disallow these uses within the Vacant Dwelling Ordinance.

Section III.B.1 Ardentown approved

Revision 2: Property will be considered occupied if any dwelling on leasehold is occupied, including any ADU.

Revisions allow that a property with Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's)-- is considered occupied if any one of the dwellings or ADU's has a full-time tenant. Previously, all ADU's had to be 100% occupied creating a potential burden for leaseholders, landlords, and a headache for enforcement of this ordinance.

Section III.B.2

Revision 3: Short-term use is defined as 90 days

Revisions define "short-term" use as a minimum of 90 days occupation per year. Previously, no time-frame was defined; this opened up the possibility that someone could stay in a dwelling for as little time as a week or less per year and still call it occupied.

Section III.B.3

Revision 4: Evidence of occupancy is more clearly defined

Revisions require that at least two in a specified list of four types of evidence of short-term occupation, for example the receipt of regular mail, or the usage, not just connection, of utilities. The previous list of evidence of short-term occupation stated that a long list "may include" certain evidence, but which evidence would constitute proof of occupancy was unclear.

Section III.B.3

Revision 5: Number of fee waivers increased from one to two

The number of waivers allowed for a vacant dwelling without incurring a fine, or fee,

Was increased from one to two. A waiver is only granted by a vote of the Town Assembly if the leaseholder is renovating or attempting to sell/lease their house and needs more time. It was felt that the existing one-year maximum was too strict and could make life difficult for those selling or renovating their house in a multi-year process.

Section VII

More info on Vacant Dwellings Ordinance 15:

Full text of original ordinance is on Arden.Delaware.gov at:

https://arden.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/015_VacantDwellings.pdf

Send us your comments: Planning@Arden.Delaware.gov

We want now to open the floor to answer questions, have a discussion, and get a sense of the meeting about these revisions.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Borders, CPC Chair

Pam Politis, a member of Community Planning, went through the proposed revisions. These revisions came about because they notice some recurring issues have emerged with Vacant Dwelling Ordinance #15. The committee wanted to take the opportunity, in view of what they have learned and as they delved into this, they recognize that there might be some opportunity to have input from the town assembly about some of the changes they are proposing. They are looking for substantive input rather than technical input. After Pam went through the proposed changes, Community Planning asked for guidance by having a non-binding vote for each proposed change resulting in favorable majority support.

Community Planning – Thank you!

11.7 Forest – Co Chairs; Carol Larson & Beverley Clendening

Invasive removal is ongoing, our core group works every week on Tuesdays, contact forest@arden.delaware.gov, or Bev Clendening

Bev and Lisa Wolfe have been building up the level of paths in wet areas with rock and clay near their houses off Hillside trailhead to make them passable in rainy periods. We noticed folks have been forging a new path in places which can be problematic. Please try to stay on paths. Even foot traffic causes compaction around tree roots and can compromise growth. Staying on the paths you can avoid poison ivy and keep from treading on woodland plants.

Veolia water cut through Arden property on Mill Race Road to locate a leak in a water main. They agreed to replace trees they cut to get access. Last month we planted 35 trees that Veolia supplied. We are grateful Emily Guillen of Veolia followed through with the arrangements to acquire trees – it’s a little out of the ordinary for Veolia to restore a woodland.

Watershed E: Draft design are imminently forthcoming – the next step is to get Memoranda of agreement from the leaseholders involved and then finalize construction drawings. We will apply for the implementation grant round this fall.

Scholars Gild Discussion by Dr. Roger Latham. October 17. Dr. Latham will lecture on the signs that there is degradation of the forest due to overgrazing by deer.

We had a large poplar and a dead oak removed behind 2321 Woodland Lane. The poplar had a significant lean toward a structure and was quite hollow and cracked. The oak was dropping branches so we had to remove both hazards.

Sunset Farms residents bordering the Sherwood Forest requested that we inspect the line of trees behind their houses. There was not a threat to any structures, however there are trees that are leaning and may drop large branches. We will schedule some pruning and removals at a later time.

LEAF

This is your last chance to pick up a copy of our summer edition of our Living on the Edge of Arden Forests LEAF newsletter edited by Lisa Wolfe. You'll learn about the great work of our committee and partners and the results of our study near the Cherry Lane trailhead which was supported by a grant from the Delaware Invasive Species Council; there is an article detailing efforts to save our Ash trees and a great profile on two of our favorite volunteers Stevie and Paul Nolan -- who, by the way, will be playing in the beer garden at Longwood this Thursday evening.

You'll also see our announcement for the Hunter's Moon Woods Walk on Friday, October 27 beginning at 6pm with spooky storytelling by Cecilia Vore followed by a sing-along with of our favorite Arden musicians. We hope you'll join us!

I'd also like to encourage you to look for our new publication "What's in the Woods" on the Forests of the Ardens Facebook page. Many thanks to our friend and partner Elaine Schmerling for helping us compile a listing of the nearly 250 native plants, shrubs and trees as well as the 50+ invasives that can be found in the Arden Woods, Sherwood Forest and Sunnyside Nature Preserve. It's a great document to give you ideas about what to plant in your leasehold. Contact us if you'd like a copy and are not on Facebook. We've got a few copies of this guide and lots of copies of the newsletter, so please take one -- they're on tonight's registration table.

Questions/Comments

Jeff Steen hopes that the committee informed the residents that there is no data in the report to support that Arden has a water problem. Arden is not new construction. It's been here for a long time. It doesn't need many of the proposals that are contained in this report. He suggests residents to read the report. Need to consider the environmental design and the esthetics of Arden.

Forest Report – Thank you!

11.8 Playground – Mark Wood

Larry Walker read the following report:

Since the last Town Meeting, the Committee has performed the scheduled Playground Equipment Safety Inspection, and all equipment was “adult tested.” All equipment is in

safe condition. Additional playground mulch was added to places where it was needed. On the Sherwood Green, the new “Gaga Pit” was removed for the Arden Fair, and the disassembly was done by volunteers on a Saturday morning. From that experience, reassembly later will be relatively easy.

Our Approved ARPA Project was to install a new climber on Village Green to replace the existing safety non-compliant jungle gym. The installation of the new climber has been completed today, and the work was done by Buzz Burger, Inc. which is a decades old company specializing in installing playground equipment. The new VERVE Climber was installed in accordance with the manufacturer’s specifications, as well as the CSP Playground Safety recommendations. Should there be any remaining funds from the Town’s ARPA Grant, the Committee would happily investigate the purchase and installation of additional playground equipment later.

The non-compliant jungle gym and slide on the Sherwood Green are the next two pieces of old playground equipment to be replaced. The Committee is waiting for additional information from the manufacturer and shipping company before placing the order.

If anyone is interested in acquiring the old jungle gym for an artistic project or trellis, please contact the Committee.

Submitted by Mark Wood, Chairman

Playground – Thank you!

11.9 Registration – Cecilia Vore

The Registration Committee met virtually via Zoom on Sept. 26 and 28, 2023, for the purpose of reviewing the voting eligibility status of current Arden residents prior to the upcoming Election of Assessors and Budget Referendum.

The committee reviewed Arden leaseholds one-by-one to record changes in eligible voters by noting changes to leaseholds and/or rental units since the last election. They also noted the duration of residence in relation to the six-month eligibility requirement. Several new voters were added by virtue of having reached their 18th birthdays. In cases where residency was unclear, particularly where leaseholds or ADUs are rented, the committee contacts leaseholders to clarify.

The current number of eligible voters is: 367. We continue to update the list up to the voting deadline on Nov 8.

The Registration Committee will conduct the annual Budget Referendum and the election of the Arden Board of Assessors in October and November. If you are a current resident, 18 years of age or older, and have lived in the Village of Arden as your

primary residence for 6 months or more as of Nov. 8, you are eligible to vote in this election. Please notify the Registration Committee tonight if there are any changes to the eligible voters in your household, or if you are new to the village, so we can add you to the list of residents. You can see Steve Tanzer tonight or send an email to Registration@arden.delaware.gov.

A budget referendum must be passed by over 50% of all eligible residents. Failing to return your ballot has the same effect as voting “No” on the entire budget. The 7-member of Board of Assessors is elected using the Hare System of Proportional Representation, one type of ranked-choice voting. There are links to some good explanations of the Hare System on the village website: arden.delaware.gov.

You are all invited to a “Meet the Assessors Candidates” event on Tuesday, Oct. 24 from 7 to 8:30 pm at the Buzz Ware Village Center. Meet the candidates, have some refreshments, and participate in a LIVE demonstration of the Hare System as we elect Top Dog from a slate of 3 qualified canines. See more details in the Arden Page arriving at your house this weekend. Assessor’s nominees are also invited to post a statement on the town website. Information on how voters can read those statements starting Oct. 10 is included on the ballot instructions and on the website.

Ballots will be mailed around Oct. 10. Please notify the Registration Committee if you are an eligible voter and you do not receive ballots in the mail by Oct. 18. The election date will be Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023. The deadline for accepting ballots will be 6 p.m. on the day of the election, with ballot counting commencing by 7 p.m. The vote count will be held at the BWVC. We welcome observers or, better yet, helpers to assist the Committee with counting votes. Results will be posted on the bulletin boards and the Village website the day following the vote count.

Tonight, the Registration Committee will present a motion to hold a referendum on changing the standard for referendum approval from “a majority of all eligible voters” to “a majority of those participating in the referendum.

Respectfully submitted, Cecilia Vore

MOTION to hold a referendum to change an election procedure defined in the Town Charter

Motion:

The Registration Committee shall conduct a general referendum submitting the following change in election procedure to the residents of Arden for approval:

Change the requirement for passage of a general referendum from a majority of all eligible voters to a majority of the eligible votes who vote in the referendum.

If approved in the general referendum, the Town Assembly will petition the Delaware State Legislature to amend the Town Charter (Act to Reincorporate) accordingly.

Motion Approved as Amended

Hand Vote:

In favor 36

Oppose 11

** The general referendum is used to approve the annual budget, to approve the annual assessment when an alternate assessment is proposed, and whenever called for by the Town Assembly for a special issue (e.g., the purchase of the Avery property). This change to the Charter would not apply to the approval of a trustee, which is defined in the Deed of Trust of Jan. 31, 1908, rather than the Act to Reincorporate of Oct. 13, 1967.*

Jeff Politis: **Point of Clarification** – Registration Committee recommend that there is a change in the Charter to go from “majority of all residents” to “majority of all residents that vote”. The motion that will come later is simply to send that out to referendum. The floor was open since this is a public meeting, they want to give people a chance to understand why the Registration Committee is doing this and understand the details.

Comments

- The budget has never failed but it has come close to failing a number of times.
- Barbara Macklem is Against the motion.
Arden is a direct democracy. We along with Ardentown and Ardencroft are the only direct democracy in the state. She believes it is a very special part of our existence and a special part of who we are. If we are not getting sufficient votes for any referendum, then we are not doing a good enough job educating ourselves or educating our neighbors. She feels very strongly the decision on money matters should be made by the majority of the residents.
- Steve Tanzer Point of clarification: This proposal will only apply to the Budget Referendum. It will not apply to the nominating and election of Trustees. If they receive insufficient votes for the Budget, they do not have an alternative. Meaning they will not be able to fund the committees. There is no fall back.
- Brooke Bovard has several points to make:
Believes they are not voting because they do not want to be on record as oppose to, they forgot to vote.

Believes the wrong problem is being solved. If the problem is that there is not a backup system to approve the budget, then put in place a backup system to approve budget.

This group as a whole is in favor of voting and in favor of the franchise. This would serve to restrict the franchise. People need to be encouraged in a variety of ways to feel that their vote matters. This is a place where having a neighbor calling them to tell them their vote matters. In the absent of that, we lose some of the “heart” we feel for participating in the town.

It is affecting more than the Budget. The Board of Assessors is elected during the same referendum. She assumes the BOA return of ballots is a similar number to those returning the Budget Referendum. One of the outcomes of this would be that even fewer people are participating in voting for the BOA and she believes this strikes directly at the heritage and the history of Arden as having a single tax.

- Elizabeth Varley Point of clarification: Not asking to decide this question tonight. Registration is asking to send to general referendum so everyone can participate in our direct democracy.
- Ed Rohrbach says that Referendums are held all over this country and many of those are decided with less than 50% of the eligible voters participated. People are disinterested as long as things are going their way, they feel they don't need to vote. This is a practical matter for us. He believes we are way behind the times.
- Carl Falco is for the change. He believes the important thing about direct democracy refers to the town meeting. You have the opportunity to vote and the choice not to vote. If you don't vote at the town assembly, you are not counted as a no. In our referendum, those people who do not vote are lumped in with the few who vote against the whole budget. It doesn't make sense and it is not fair to them and it is not fair to the majority who actually sent in their ballots. He hopes it will go to referendum but he thinks it will be hard job to pass because it is still based on this system that everyone has to participate
- Carol DiGiovanni is against the change because she feels if this change were instituted, it would disenfranchise the non-voters. She believes it is unlawful because if it passed it would deny us a specific part of our electric freedom of choice and a right to be heard. In addition, there is not enough statistical proof that this charter change even remotely can pass the budget.
- Garret Snyder-Cohlen is against sending referendum to Village for a vote. He hears that the onerous continuously is put on the non-participants as if they have done something wrong. He believes the onerous is on us to bring other people in. The participants need to reach out and draw in the non-participants. There is no choice

but to bring people into our democracy and educate them on what is going on in the Village and to give them a seat at the table; drag them to the table if need be. Some people are expressing that their vote doesn't matter and their voice doesn't matter.

- Mike Curtis has been attending town meeting for a long time and he knows the Registration Committee has a hard time and he hopes we all appreciate the amount of work that goes into this.

Approve Motion

Registration Report – Thank you!

11.10 Safety – Simon Hamermesh

Good evening,

The Safety Committee welcomes you to the Autumn season and reminds you to be considerate of the challenges the season presents. Wet leaves are slippery, buses are stopping frequently, and the sun is getting lower at peak drive times.

Village signs are being maintained and replaced. Signs have been added, removed, fixed, and cleaned. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact me.

The committee has been considering options to address issues with Village pathways and looks forward to making Arden a bit more accessible.

There are no updates from the Wilmapco steering committee yet. It should begin soon and progress will be presented.

If anyone is interested in joining a group to participate in a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. New Castle County, with federal assistance, provides a FEMA curriculum to educate people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

A general interest meeting has been held. This free training will be scheduled to be held in the upcoming months. Contact me, or better yet, Jeff Politis, to be added to the email chain. Notices will be posted and published, please consider joining us and/or mentioning this to a neighbor.

Considerations to make the Buzz Ware a better prepared resource in case of emergency have also been underway. Research has been done towards procuring a backup power system in the form of a natural gas generator. A proposal to the town for creative funding is expected to be presented at the next town assembly.

The Safety Committee has had an open position to fill for 6 months. It is with gratitude to announce three candidates for this tonight:

- Laura Wallace
- Brian Killian
- Joan Fitzgerald

Vote for Brian Killian to fill position

Comments/Questions Safety

Skip Bailey says the sign indicating Hillside Rd is a dead end. is too far down the road and people do not see it until they get to the end. Suggest maybe moving it to Hillside and Miller Rd.

Safety Report – Thank you!

12.0 Governance Task Force

The Governance Task Force has met for over 18 months, reviewing all government documents. During this time, we have spent many hours debating changes. Though we have not always agreed, we have always found a path forward. That is the making of a great committee. Let me recognize members of the Taskforce;

John Scheflen

Kate Threefoot

Beverly Clendening

Steve Benigni

Lynda Kolski

Barbara Macklem

Throughout our work, we had one guiding principle taken from our Charter in Section 1 [b]: the "All Powers Act". This clause states that Arden has authority granted by the State to approve all laws as long as they are not in conflict with the State or Federal government. Secondly, this clause allows us to prescribe laws within the Charter or at a Town Assembly meeting in an appropriate ordinance or resolution. But with this authority, every change in our Charter must be approved by the State General Assembly to be permitted. In contrast, every ordinance, resolution, or policy made by the Town Assembly meeting is final and does not need approval by the State General Assembly. Based on this clause, the Taskforce is not recommending changes to the responsibility or function of parts of our government, but descriptions of how

the parts process their function should be moved to an ordinance that the Town Assembly would have control over. Many of our changes were based on this guiding principle.

Due to the volume of work accomplished, presenting our changes at any regular Town Assembly meeting would not be possible. To explain our recommendations and address questions, we have arranged information public meetings open to all residents during

October and November. The scheduled information sessions are listed in the flyer on the table.

We encourage all residents of Arden to attend our information programs. Our goal will be to listen to the feedback from these informational sessions and regroup to finalize the charter recommendation. Our next step will be to have the charter recommendations approved at a Town Assembly meeting then sent out for a referendum approval by the residents of Arden. Once approved, it would need final approval by the State General Assembly.

Concurrent to the charter process will be recommended changes to existing ordinances, which will go to the Town Assembly for review, with three readings and a final vote.

Questions/Comments GTF the first reading of Ordinance 1,2 and 13

- Brooke Bovard points out that GTF did not consult the Safety Committee before propose changes for Ordinance #13 which is the purview of Safety Committee. Because they have not been consulted, she believes the changes will be made more difficult. Ray - that is why they will be reading the Ordinance three (3) times so everyone can voice their opinions. Bev - Ordinance 13 is about off-street parking. She believes that early on they did contact Safety Committee and contacted all committees. They will have an opportunity to ask questions at the various public meeting that are scheduled.
- Sachin Purnack wants to know how can you change the Charter and are you making a proposal on a process in the future to change the Charter? The group has a recommendation to have an ordinance for any future Charter changes. Since we are a direct democracy, we feel that not only do we need a resolution of an ordinance but we also need a referendum. Jeff clarification The Charter is granted by the General Assembly.

*NOTE: A schedule of Charter Dates and time of information public meetings is provided after TA minutes (Attachment section).

Bev Clendening reads Ordinance 1, 2 & 13

Jeff explains This will be the first of three readings of the recommendation of the Governance Task Force and there will be two more readings before it is voted on.

First reading of ORDINANCES #1 and #2 Arden Safety Code. ORDINANCE #13

ORDINANCES #1 AND #2
ARDEN SAFETY CODE

Ordinance #1 was adopted in June 1968. The full text of Ordinance #1 has been lost. There exists a three page “summary” of Ordinance #1 that describes the full Ordinance as “containing 166 sections covering more than 48 pages.” The brief summaries of sections of Ordinance #1 indicate that the ordinance is a motor vehicle code. Many of the sections summarized appear to be similar to Title 21, Motor Vehicles, of the Delaware Code.

Ordinance #2, also adopted in June 1968, consists of two lines. It revises Ordinance #1 “to adjust fines to conform with the Act to Reincorporate.” The Act to Reincorporate is a reference to the State legislation that approved Arden’s current charter.

Arden’s charter authorizes Arden to enact ordinances and to appoint a police force to enforce them. The charter grants jurisdiction of offenses against Arden’s ordinances to the Justice of the Peace Court nearest to Arden, subject to the limitation that fines may not exceed \$100 or imprisonment for more than 30 days.

Title 21 of the Delaware Code, relating to operation of motor vehicles, provides that, “local authorities [includes Arden], except as expressly authorized by law shall not enact or enforce any rules or regulations contrary to this chapter. [Title 21, Chapter 41 Rules of the Road]. Traffic ordinances and regulations adopted by local authorities, and substantially conforming to the sections of this chapter, shall have the same force and effect as the traffic laws of this title.” Section 4101. Presumably, the reasons for these limitations on local authorities include promoting uniformity of traffic laws in different jurisdictions to help motorists to comply and law enforcement agencies to enforce traffic laws.

Because we do not have the text of Ordinance #1, it will be necessary to repeal Ordinances #1 and #2. There is no need to replace Ordinances #1 and #2 because Title 21 provides Rules of the Road that apply in Arden and are enforced by State and New Castle County Police. If Arden were to adopt an ordinance with rules different from Title 21, there might be doubt about whether Arden’s ordinance is “substantially conforming” to Title 21. In addition, conformity with Title 21 promotes compliance and enforcement.

Title 21, Chapter 41, Section 4169, provides for a 25-mph speed limit in a residential district. Arden has adopted a 20-mph limit everywhere except on Harvey Road. See the summary of Ordinance #1, Section 408.1. Chapter 41, Section 4170 provides:

“Whenever local authorities within their respective jurisdictions determine upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that the absolute speed permitted under this chapter is greater than is reasonable or safe under the conditions found to exist, such local authority, subject to subsection (c) of this section, shall determine and declare a reasonable and safe absolute speed limit, which shall be effective when appropriate signs giving notice thereof are erected.”

It would be appropriate for Arden to adopt an ordinance establishing the 20 mph speed limit, if the stipulated conditions are met.

Ordinance #13
Off-Street Parking

Adopted June 1982; Revised June 26, 1995

Section 1. Purpose: Arden Has had a policy of encouraging leaseholders to provide off street parking ON their leaseholds. The ordinance makes this policy a requirement.

Section 2. Every leaseholder in Arden shall provide a parking place on the leasehold and off the roads and right-of-way of Arden to accommodate every vehicle regularly used by persons living on the leasehold.

Section 3. All residents must Park On the leasehold and not on the streets or right-of- way in Arden.

Section 4. Habitual overnight parking, such as three times a week, on Arden streets or rights-of-way is prohibited.

Section 5. The Safety Committee shall administer this ordinance and shall, issue up to three warning to violators of the ordinance prior to notice of prosecution. A copy of this ordinance shall be issued with the first notice of violation.

Section 6. The Safety committee with the advice of the community planning Committee may grant an exception from the requirement of this ordinance to any leaseholder the committee determines is unable to comply because of lack of land or road frontage. Such exemptions shall be in the form of a written statement to be filed with the Secretary of The Town Assembly and the Administrative Assistant to the Trustees.

Section 7. Violation of this ordinance shall be punishable by a fine of \$100.00 due within fifteen days From Notice of prosecution, payable to The Village of Arden.

Section 8. Appeals to this ordinance should be made prior to the third notice of Violation. Appeals to this ordinance after the third notice of violation will not waive the imposition of fines and costs.

GTF Recommendations

1. *Section 4 is vague; “habitual overnight parking, such as three times a week” should be changed to a specific limit. Recommendation: change Section 4 to limit overnight parking to no more than two times in one week.*
2. *The Safety Committee should be given authority to adopt additional policies for the administration of this ordinance.*
3. *Fines should be reviewed.*

Proposed Amendment to Ordinance #13

**Ordinance #13
Off-Street Parking**

Section 1. Purpose: ~~Arden has had a policy of encouraging~~ Leaseholders **are required** to provide off street parking ON their leaseholds. ~~The ordinance makes this policy a requirement.~~

Section 2. Every leaseholder in Arden shall provide a parking place on the leasehold and off the roads and right-of-way of Arden to accommodate every vehicle regularly used by persons living on the leasehold.

Section 3. All residents must park on the leasehold and not on the streets or rights-of-way in Arden.

Section 4. ~~Habitual~~ Overnight parking, ~~such as three times a week,~~ **for more the two days in one week** on Arden streets or rights-of-way is prohibited.

Section 5. The Safety Committee shall administer this ordinance and shall issue up to three warning to violators of the ordinance prior to notice of prosecution. A copy of this ordinance shall be issued with the first notice of violation.

Section 6. The Safety committee with the advice of the Community Planning Committee may grant an exception from the requirement of this ordinance to any leaseholder the committee determines is unable to comply because of lack of land or road frontage. Such exemptions shall be in the form of a written statement to be filed with the Secretary of The Town Assembly and the Administrative Assistant to the Trustees.

Section 7. The Safety Committee has the authority to develop policies that govern the administration of this ordinance.

Section ~~7~~ 8. Violation of this ordinance shall be punishable by a fine **that does not exceed the limits prescribed by State law** of ~~\$100.00~~ due within fifteen days From Notice of prosecution, payable to The Village of Arden.

Section ~~8~~ 9. Appeals to this ordinance should be made prior to the third notice of Violation. Appeals to this ordinance after the third notice of violation will not waive the imposition of fines and costs.

Governance Task Force – Thank you!

13.0 Old Business

14.0 New Business

Simon reminds all about Emergency Preparedness Training they are working on a schedule and brochures are available.

15.0 Good & Welfare

- Deborah Richard covid testing information can be found at covidtest.gov. Allow to order four per household and they have new expiration dates
- Pam ACRA announces the Arden Halloween party will be at the Gild Hall on Sunday Oct 29. It starts with a parade on the Green at 5:45 for all ages.
- Jeffrey Congrats to new residents who are 18 and now eligible to vote.

16.0 Motion to Adjourn

Adjournment meeting at 10:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Resko, Town of Arden Secretary

All are welcome Hither

Postcard reminders and agenda will be mailed prior to next Town Assembly meeting

Please note: Those attending Town Meetings are eligible to vote are 18 years of age *or older.

Attachments Follow next page

**Financial Report
Town Meeting October 2, 2023**

Current Assets as of September 30, 2023

Schroeder Bequest (Arden B&L)	\$	21,243
Schroeder Bequest (Vanguard)		225,680
Trust Reserve (Arden B&L)		103,428
Trust Reserve (Vanguard)		32,780
M & T Checking Account		<u>219,414</u>
Total Cash & Equity	\$	602,544
Accounts Receivable	\$	54,139
Total Current Assets	\$	<u>656,683</u>

Income & Expenses

Income Mar 25, 2023 - August 24, 2023		
Land Rent	\$	777,922
Other Income-All Sources		16,198
Total 2023-24 Income	\$	794,120

2024 – 2025 ARDEN BUDGET BALLOT

for the expenditure of Town funds for the fiscal year beginning March 25, 2024, and ending March 24, 2025.
See accompanying Notes to Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Arden Budget Ballot on the back of this form.

PROJECTED INCOME			PROJECTED EXPENSES		
	Notes		Non-Discretionary Expenses	Notes	
Land Rent	1	\$ 733,890	County Taxes	7	\$ 124,007
Delaware Municipal Street Aid	2	\$ 19,500	School Taxes	7	\$ 490,016
Interest and Other Income	3	\$ 15,300	Prop. Tax Reassessment Cont.	8	\$ 11,380
Buzz Ware Village Center	4	\$ 31,827	Treat. Service	9	\$ 71,359
American Rescue Plan Act	5	\$ 210,925	Trust Administration	10	\$ 25,041
			Village Non-Discretionary	11	\$ 61,237
			Buzz Ware Operations	12a	\$ 31,827
			Buzz Ware Renovation Fund	12b	\$ 2,000
			Delaware Municipal Street Aid	13	\$ 18,500
			American Rescue Plan Act	14	\$ 219,526
Total Projected Income		\$ 1,072,443	Total Non-Discretionary Expenses		\$ 1,029,692
Reserve Funds	6	\$ 296,218	Proposed Discretionary Expenses		\$ 98,100
TOTAL Funds Available		\$ 1,337,659	TOTAL Expenses		\$ 1,127,692

DIRECTIONS FOR VOTING: Please choose one of the following - either #1 OR #2:

#1. Approve or disapprove the entire budget by marking an X in the box next to your choice.

I approve of the entire budget.....

I disapprove of the entire budget.....

OR

#2. Disapprove individual items by marking an X in the accompanying box (X).

Any items not marked will be counted as approved.

If you choose to disapprove individual items below, DO NOT mark either of the items in #1 above.

	NOTES	Disapprove		NOTES	Disapprove		
Advisory Committee	15	\$ 125	<input type="checkbox"/>	Safety Committee: General	24	\$ 4,200	<input type="checkbox"/>
Archives Committee	16	\$ 2,500	<input type="checkbox"/>	Safety: State Roads	25	\$ 1,200	<input type="checkbox"/>
Board of Assessors	17	\$ 125	<input type="checkbox"/>	Buzz Ware Support	26	\$ 5,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Budget Committee	18	\$ 125	<input type="checkbox"/>	Donations – ACRA	27a	\$ 2,200	<input type="checkbox"/>
Civic Committee	18	\$ 53,000	<input type="checkbox"/>	Donations – Arden, Page	27b	\$ 750	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Planning Committee	20	\$ 700	<input type="checkbox"/>	Donations – Arden Library	27c	\$ 1,375	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest Committee	21	\$ 9,200	<input type="checkbox"/>	Donations – Fire Companies	27d	\$ 1,750	<input type="checkbox"/>
Playground Committee	22	\$ 4,750	<input type="checkbox"/>	Donations – Arden Club	27e	\$ 600	<input type="checkbox"/>
Registration Committee	23	\$ 400	<input type="checkbox"/>	Contingencies	28	\$ 10,000	<input type="checkbox"/>

TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET EXPENSES: \$ 98,100

Policies below are for information only. Policy adoption is addressed at town meetings.

1. The total approved expenditure limits the fiscal year (FY) expenditure to that amount unless additional funds are approved by referendum. Funds may be shifted between line items with approval of the committees involved and the Town Treasurer.
2. There are funds that are available to the Village and its committees that are outside of the scope of this budget and are governed by policies set up by the Village.
3. Income received by a committee outside of this budget will be earmarked for that committee to spend above the budgeted money approved by referendum. In addition, those monies can be carried over year over year for that committee with approval of the Town Treasurer.

***Notes to 2024–2025 ARDEN BUDGET BALLOT • Prepared September 2023**

INCOME:

1. **Land Rent** – Based on Assessors' report from June 2023 Town Meeting. Note that Trustees will transfer money to the town to cover Town's budget.
2. **Delaware Municipal Street Aid** – Annual street aid. The State of Delaware is providing funds for the FY 2025.
3. **Interest and other Income** – Income from the following sources:
 - a. Rights-of-way: cable and antenna
 - b. Investment income.
4. **Buzz Ware Village Center (BVWC)** – Estimated income for 2024/2025 based on projected revenues from rentals, programs, grants, and donations.
5. **American Rescue Plan Act** – Funds from federal grant. Subject to legal restrictions.
6. **Reserve** – Combination of Trustees' Prudent Reserve \$157,216 and Town's Prudent Reserve \$78,000 and accrued capital fund of \$30,000. As per 2023 Assessors Report, \$50,000 of stated Town's Prudent Reserve to be applied to 2024 NCC taxes.

NON-DISCRETIONARY EXPENSES:

7. **Property Taxes** –New Castle County property and school taxes are grossed up to include rebates paid to qualifying leaseholders. The projected amount for property taxes reflects a one-time 5% tax credit. Property taxes are anticipated to increase after the reassessment has been completed. New rates go into effect July 2025. School taxes are expected to change in conjunction with the county taxes.
8. **Property Tax Reassessment Contingency**–A contingency was added to help offset the anticipated increase in County and School Taxes; to be held as separate fund by Trustees.
9. **Trash/Recycle Service** – 3-year contract with Trash Tech, signed in 2021, includes a 3% annual increase.
10. **Trust Administration**
 - a. Audit – \$5,647
 - b. Professional/Legal – \$6,738
 - c. Administrative/Operations – \$14,184
 - d. Office Rent – \$2,472
11. **Village Non-Discretionary Expenses**
 - a. Operation and Legal Fees – \$27,250
 - b. Insurance – \$13,287 (Trust and Village)
 - c. Salaries - \$18,150 (Secretary, Treasurer, and Bookkeeper)
 - d. Payroll taxes – \$2,550

**BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 6:00PM
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH**

12. **Buzz Ware Village Center**
 - a. **Operations** – Estimated expenses for operating the facility and running programs. This entry includes all utilities, payroll, licenses and fees to operate the building. Entry does not include insurance expenses for operating and maintaining the facilities (note 10).
 - b. **Renovation Fund** from Arden of \$2,000 matches other villages' recent annual contributions.
13. **Delaware Municipal Street Aid (MSA)**– Annual street aid is decided in the actual fiscal year, so this is an estimate. MSA is a pass-through expense and the village will spend only what the state provides.
14. **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** – Some expenditures approved in the 2022-2023 FY. Additional expenditures subject to approval at town meeting in accordance with ARPA program guidelines. Not to exceed remaining balance.

DISCRETIONARY BUDGET EXPENSES:

Changes from 2023-2024 levels noted below:

15. **Advisory Committee:** \$25 increase
16. **Archives Committee:** \$800 increase

17. **Board of Assessors:** \$25 increase
18. **Budget Committee:** \$25 increase
19. **Civic Committee:** \$5,000 decrease
20. **Community Planning Committee:** \$200 increase
21. **Forest Committee:** \$1,200 increase
22. **Playground Committee:** \$750 increase
23. **Registration Committee:** \$100 increase
24. **Safety Committee:** \$800 increase
25. **Safety: State Roads –** Signage, upkeep, and speed enforcement on Harvey and Marsh: \$200 increase
26. **Buzz Ware Support:** No change
Village support for BWVC based on prior years' experience in Maintenance & Operations. These funds would only be used in case of budget income shortfall from rentals.
27. **Town Expenses**
 - a. ACRA Donations: \$200 increase
 - b. Arden Page Donations: \$250 increase
 - c. Arden Library Donation: \$175 increase
 - d. Fire Companies Donation: \$150 increase
 - e. Arden Club Donation: \$100 increase
28. **Contingencies –** This is a pass-through expense, it is not funded using money collected for land rent. Expenses occur only when the contingency fund is not fully funded.

Charter Date and time of Information public meetings

Date time	Location	Charter Topic
October 5, Thursday 7:30	Buzz Ware	Preamble Section 1 Name & General Powers Section 2 Territorial Limits Section 3 Definitions
October 12, Thursday 7:30	Buzz Ware	Section 4 Structure of Government Section 5 Meetings of the Town Assembly
October 17, Tuesday 7:30	Buzz Ware	Section 6 Committees of the Town Assembly Section 7 Board of Assessors
October 26, Thursday 7:30	Buzz Ware	Section 8 Budget Committee Section 9 Registration Committee
November 2, Thursday 7:30	Buzz Ware	Section 10 Vacancies Section 11 Powers & Ordinance Section 12 Enforcement, Fines & Penalties
November 9, Thursday 7:30	Buzz Ware	Section 13 Police Force Section 14 Contracts of the Town Assembly Section 15 Fire, Zoning & Housing Code Section 16 Saving Clause Section 17 Severability Section 18 public act

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Special Village Funds

	3/25/23 - 8/31/23	Buzz Ware	Buzz renovation	J. Schroeder Bequest	Memorial Garden	MSA	Capital Maint Repair Fund	Vacant Dwelling Fund	Playground Grant	Total ARPA Funds	ARPA Buzz Sewer Upgrade	ARPA Playground Equipment	ARPA Archives Internet Upgrade	ARPA Stormwater Management
Revenue														
4000 - General Funds - Village		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4010 - Donations		231	330	-	1,155	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4100 - Program Donations		1,913	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4300 - Grants		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4400 - Rentals		10,571	2,825	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4520 - Vacant Property Registration Fees		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4900 - Interest & Dividend Income		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SREC		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9900 - Unrealized loss on investments		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Revenue		12,715	2,955	-	1,155	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Expenses														
6000 - Payroll & Payroll Taxes		9,619	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6300 - Administrative Expenses		228	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6310 - Janitorial Supplies		13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6920 - Professional Fees - Other		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18,620
7020 - Utilities (gas, electric, water, telephone)		1,717	2,855	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7090 - Licenses/Permits/Fees/AlarmMonitoring		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7800 - Renovations		169	2,794	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7800 - Repairs & Maintenance		583	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8000 - Program Expenses		3,463	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,475	-	-	-	-
Total Expense		15,792	5,649	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,475	-	-	-	18,620
Surplus (Deficit)		348	(2,694)	-	1,155	-	-	-	-	(1,475)	-	-	-	(18,620)
Carried forward fund balance			48,049	475,863	9,778	10,829	30,000	32,481	27,997	208,053	-	-	-	-
Fund balance			48,397	475,863	10,933	10,829	30,000	32,481	27,997	186,578	(1,475)	-	-	(18,620)

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Village of Arden
Statement of Financial Position
As of August 31 2023

		Notes
Checking/Savings		
TD/FCCB Banks Checking Account	94,373	includes \$500.96 TD bank Buzzware Debit Card
1010 - TD Bank Municipal Street Aid Checking Account	20,329	
1010 - TD Bank Money Market Account	407,529	
1032 - Arden Building & Loan	31,131	
1050 - Fidelity Investments - net value @ 8-31-23	450,364	Schroeder Bequest - initial investment \$301,002
Total Cash	1,003,726	
LIABILITIES		
2000 - Accounts Payable, Current Liabilities, PR Tax Payable	-	
FUND BALANCES		
Buzz Ware Renovation Fund	45,355	
J Schroeder Bequest	475,663	
Memorial Garden	10,933	
Municipal Street Aid	10,829	
Capital Maintenance Fund	30,000	
Village - cash available to meet budgeted expenses @ 8-31-23	165,889	
Vacant Dwelling Fund	32,481	
Delaware Invasive Species Council Grant	-	
Playground Grant	27,997	
ARPA Funds	204,578	

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Village of Arden
Statement of Financial Activity
As of August 31, 2023

	<u>3/25/23- 8/31/23</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% to Budget</u>	
Revenue				
4000 - Transfer from Trustees - Land Rent	100,000	201,878		
4100 - Donations, grants, rentals	18,855	200		
4510 - Franchise Fee Receipts	4,538	18,000		
4900 - Interest Income	103	150		
Total Revenue	<u>123,495</u>	<u>220,228</u>		
Expenses				balance left in budget
6000 - Payroll & Payroll Taxes	9,388	20,700	45.35%	11,312
6300 - Administrative Expenses	16,285	40,150	40.56%	23,865
8000 - Committee Expenses - see detail below	33,941	84,300	40.26%	50,359
8010 - Contributions & Donations	0	5,800	0.00%	5,800
Contingency Fund	0	10,000	0.00%	10,000
8030 - Trash Service	29,202	69,278	42.15%	40,076
Total Expense	<u>88,817</u>	<u>230,228</u>	<u>38.58%</u>	<u>141,411</u>
Surplus (deficit)	<u>34,679</u>	<u>(10,000)</u>		
Committee	<u>Actuals YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>		balance left in budget
Advisory	0	100		100
Archives	886	1,800	49.23%	914
Board of Assessors	0	100	0.00%	100
Budget	0	100	0.00%	100
Buzz Ware - Renovation Fund	5,649	2,000	282.45%	(3,649)
Buzz Ware - general operating support	15,792	5,000	315.84%	(10,792)
Civic	10,675	58,000	18.40%	47,325
Community Planning	0	500	0.00%	500
Forest	694	8,000	8.67%	7,306
Playground	246	4,000	6.15%	3,754
Registration	0	300	0.00%	300
Safety	0	4,400	0.00%	4,400
	<u>33,941</u>	<u>84,300</u>	<u>40.26%</u>	<u>50,359</u>