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# VILLAGE OF ARDEN TOWN ASSEMBLY MARCH 25, 2024

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Town Meeting Minutes



The next Town Assembly for the Village of Arden  
June 24, 2024 at 7:30 Gild Hall |  
2119 The Highway, Arden, Delaware

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

### **2.0 Registration – Elizabeth Varley**

- Election of Officers and Committee members.

### **7.0 Town Chair's - Chair Jeffrey Politis**

- Speed Camera's update: do not have a line of site to installing speed cameras on Harvey Road.
- It has been a busy FOIA couple of months.
- Signed mosquito control from DNREC agreement.
- The Arden preparedness group, (the group has created a name – ArdensReady) continues to progress.
- As this could be my last town meeting as Chair, he reflects on the privilege we all share by being a part of this community. (Spoiler Alert: Not his last town meeting).

### **8.0 Trustee Report – Carl Falco**

- Land rent collected to date.
- New Castle County Senior School Tax Rebate programs application and requirements.
- Lease Transfers: 2227 Marsh Road transferred.

### **9.0 Treasurer's Report – Skip Bailey**

- All financial policies are posted to Village website.
- The Financial Reports are effective as of February 29, 2024

### **10.0 Advisory Committee Report – Sachin Puranik**

- Advisory Committee is collecting feedback and suggestions on how we could make the town meetings more efficient and effective.

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

- Notice of Public meetings.

### **12.0 Standing Committee Reports presented in Ascending Order**

#### **12.1 Archives – Lisa Mullinax**

- They have contracted with Catalyst Visuals to update the design and mechanics of the [ardencraftshopmuseum.com](http://ardencraftshopmuseum.com).
- Hosting 3 University of Delaware students as volunteer “mini collection aides”.
- Interviewing candidates for a summer intern.
- Next Afternoon with the Artist will feature Russ McKinney.
- Planning to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Arden School this year.

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

- Current exhibition, Woman Artists of the Ardens 1900-1960.
- 12.2 **Audit** - Cookie Ohlson
  - All was in order
- 12.3 **Budget** – Deborah Ricard
  - Update on the New Castle County Property Tax Reassessment project.
  - Preparing Arden’s 3-Year Projection for FY 2025-2028.
  - Brandywine School District School Tax Referendum approved an increase in school taxes.
  - The Ardens 3-year trash/recycle/yard waste contract with SEM (formerly Trash Tech) is up for renewal this year.
  - A line-item titled Property Tax Reassessment Contingency has been included again in the 2024 forecast.
- 12.4 **Buzz Ware Village Center** – Co Chairs Mary Young, Toby Ridings
  - Staffing - Becca Dantine has accepted the position of Rental and Event Coordinator and thanks to Pam Cohen for all of her years of service in this position.
  - Website Communications - All requests for government meetings, community events and rentals be submitted through our website at ArdenBuzz.com.
  - Maintenance/Repairs - Currently working on: Floor repair, Changing Station, Cabinetry Repair, New Water Fountain/Bottle Filler
- 12.5 **Civic** – Steve Benigni
  - The Village has been awarded a Delaware 2024 Urban & Community Forestry matching grant.
  - The stone bridge at the bottom of Meadow Lane has been damaged.
  - Establishing a Village Tree Policy.
  - Utility pole on Cherry Lane has been damaged.
  - Developing standards and procedures for future sign work.
  - Civic has partially funded the joint three village geospatial surveying and mapping project.
- 12.6 **Community Planning** Community Planning
  - Memorial Garden reports on donations and interment
  - Update on the Three Ardens Transportation Group.

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

- Status to-date of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).
  - **Motion:** For a Special ARPA Town Meeting.
  - Second Reading for the Revisions to Ordinance 15.
- 12.7 Forest– Co Chair:** Carol Larson, Bev Clendening
- Continues work clearing paths, monitoring borders and managing invasive species.
  - Water Quality Master Plan: Implementation of BMP E3 received Grant for \$75,000 from DNREC to augment our ARPA funds to restore Sherwood Forest.
  - Vegetation Inventory for the Three Ardens- Project and funding explained.
  - Invasive Species work - manage lesser celandine.
  - Tree Policy for more efficient and coordinated tree work.
  - Ardens Woods Cleanup - Naaman’s Creek and adjacent Woods.
  - Other Earth Day events
  - Arbor Day and Tree City Proclamation! For the 16<sup>th</sup> year, we qualified as a Tree City.
- 12.8 Playground – Mark Wood**
- Inspections have been made, and all equipment is in safe condition.
  - Replacement of three “non-compliant” pieces.
  - The donation of a “Gaga Pit” was accepted
  - Looking into acquiring equipment for toddlers and kindergarteners.
- 12.9 Safety – Simon Hamermesh**
- All is Well!
- 13.0 Governance Task Force -Ray Siegfried**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> readings and Motion presented and approved: Safety 1 & 2; Off Street Parking 13
  - 2<sup>st</sup> reading of Ordinance: 5,7,8,9,10 (withdrawal reading),12
- 14.0 Old Business**
- Procedural motion to review Schroeder Trust at the next town meeting.

## Motions Presented

### 12.6 Community Planning – Jennifer Borders

**Motion:** Move that a Special Town Meeting be held on Monday, April 29, 2024, at 7:30 PM, at the BWVC, for the purpose of reviewing and voting on proposals for use of the Village of Arden's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. **Motion Approved.**

### 13.0 Governance Task Force -Ray Siegfried

- **Motions:** Move to repeal **Ordinance #1 and #2** Arden Safety Code (third reading) **Motion Approved**

- **Ordinance #13** Off Street Parking (3<sup>rd</sup> reading)

**Motion:** Move that Ordinance #13 be accepted as read in the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading (Ordinance#13 Revised Off-Street Parking Adapted June 1982; Revised June 26,1995: Revised March 25, 2024).

**Motion Approved** (1opposed, 1 abstention)

## Procedural Motions

### 14.0 Old Business Schroeder Trust document.

**Motion:** Jennifer Borders - Move to adjourn and to review the Trust document at the next town meeting. **Motion approved**

Deborah Ricard presented – **Motion** Move to suspend the agenda and move the Governance Task Force to after the committee reports. **Motion Approved**

## Attendance

**Attendance:** Not signed-in: Representative Larry Lambert (district 7), Jeffrey Politis, Village Chairman, Liz Resko, Village secretary.

Attendance: Signed-in 142

First	Last Name		First	Last Name		First	Last	
Simon	Hamermesh	1	Ruth	Panella	48	Daniel	Henn	95
Shana	Pinter	2	Mary	Wong	49	Joy	Gardiner	96
Pam	Cohen	3	Sam	Panella	50	Harold	Kalmus	97
Chris	Day	4	Jess	Colgan-Snyder	51	Kristina	Montejo	98
Helen 'Cookie'	Ohlson	5	Shay	Seaborne	52	Rob	Montejo	99
Lynn	Shapira	6	Sue	Benigni	53	Mandy L	Tocco	100
Nadiv	Shapira	7	Ellie	Hansen	54	Mary L	Marconi	101
Terry	Truono	8	Katey	Scobell	55	Joan	Fitzgerald	102
Albert	Marks	9	Eliot	Levin	56	Salila	Shen	103
Tom	Wheeler	10	Bob	Erenburg	57	Toby	Ridings	104
Cscngor	Pinter	11	Carol	Larson	58	Clay	Ridings	105
Deborah M	Ricard	12	Pat	Pyle	59	Jill	Althouse-Wood	106
Rodney	Jester	13	Sally	Sharp	60	Matt	Silva	107
John	Scheflen	14	Ray	Seigfried	61	Jennifer	Peacock	108
Michael	Moran	15	Sarra V	Klimberg	62	Leah	Walker	109
Sadi	Somerville	16	William	Theis	63	David	Eubanks	110
Marianne	Cinaglia	17	Susan	Hornung	64	Barbara	Henry	111
Garrett	Colgan-Snyder	18	Tom	Hornung	65	Pam	Politis	112
Steve	Tanzer	19	David	Jones	66	Andrew	Jordan	113
Cecilia	Vore	20	Kathy	Harris	67	Ron	Ozer	114
Brooke	Bovard	21	Maria	Burslem	68	Kelly	Gillen	115
Kevin	Wray	22	Alan	Burslem	69	Paul	Nolan	116
Steve	Benigni	23	David	Gerbec	70	Maureen Barbara	Gordon	117
Tiernan	Harcourt-Brooke	24	Walter	Borders	71	Anne	Macklem	118
Stephen	Harcourt	25	Jennifer	Borders	72	Betty	O'Regan	119
Warren	Rosenkranz	26	Grace E	Ressler	73	Denis	O'Regan	120
Leslie	Carey	27	Susan	Stith	74	Larry William	Walker	121
Michael	ZuZu	28	Marcia	Scheflen	75	'Skip'	Bailey	122
Eric	Braunstein	29	Alida	Fish	76	Kathrine	Threefoot	123
Alfred (Dink)	Pompper	30	Eric	Reed	77	Ellen	Dolmetsch	124
Ed	Rohrbach	31	Carl	Falco	78	Sachin	Puranik	125

Irene	O'Connor	32	Keri	Will-del Tufo	79	Danny	Schweers	126
Mike	Curtis	33	Joe	del Tufo	80	Mary	Young	127
David	Burslem	34	Russ	McKinney	81	Samantha	Jordan	128
Carol	DiGiovanni	35	Michael	Opelka	82	Dorinda	Dove	129
Vicki	Scott	36	Doug	Cooper	83	Heather	Baley NV	130
Elizabeth	Varley	37	Rachelle	Zazzu	84	David D	Claney	131
Patrick	Barry	38	Joann	Colameco	85	Diane	Postell	132
Mary	Vernon	39	Lynda	Kolski	86	Stevie	French	133
Maryanne	van Neerden	40	Jennifer	O'Neil	87	Stevie	Nolan	134
Shawn	van Neerden	41	Charlotte	Curley	88	M. P.	Moon	135
Margot	Altawell	42	Lisa	Mullinax	89	Iris	Roseman	136
Michael	O'Neill	43	Beverly	Barnett	90	Brian	Killian	137
Brooke	Evans	44	Terri	Lamborn	91	Jeffrey	Steen	138
Jeanne	Corman	45	Beverly	Clendening	92	Peter	Compo	139
Roberta	Perkins	46	Lisa	Wolfe	93	Vered	Nohi	140
Joad	Kazan	47	Taylor	Parrott	94	Laura	Wallace	141
						Alton	Dahl	142

**1.0 Call to Order** – Chairman Jeffrey Politis called meeting to order at 7:45p.m.

**2.0 Registration** – Elizabeth Varley

Tonight, the Registration Committee will conduct the annual election of Standing Committees and Officers. The vote is by secret ballot. All residents who have lived in the Village for at last six months and are 18 years-of-age or older are eligible to vote in this election.

The deadline for nominations from the floor was at Town Meeting on January 22, 2024. The deadline for nominations from the Advisory Committee was the March Advisory Committee meeting on Wednesday, March 6, 2024.

There are sufficient candidates for each position to be elected, with the exception of the Safety Committee. With two candidates, the Safety Committee may elect one member this evening; a second member may be elected at the June Town Assembly Meeting.

Please read your ballot carefully. For officers, you may vote for one candidate. There are differences in the number of positions to be elected.

Please check carefully, too many choices will make that committee vote ineligible to be counted. Electing one are Audit and Safety. There are six committees electing two positions, and Registration is electing three. There is also a space for write-in candidates.

Voting will continue throughout the meeting for latecomers. You must hand in your ballot by the end of the meeting. Votes will be counted tomorrow morning, Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 10:00 AM at the Buzz Ware Village Center. All are welcome to attend. Results will be posted on the bulletin board and Village website on Wednesday, March 27, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Varley, Chair

Registration – Thank you!

**3.0 Approval of Minutes** – January 22, 2024 Quarterly Town Assembly Minutes & March 4, 2024 Special Town Assembly meeting minutes  
Unanimous consent. Minutes **Approved**.

**4.0 New Residents:** Welcome! Heather Baily, Matt Silva and Jennifer Silva

### **5.0 Recognition of Departed**

Barbara Perry, Patricia Hanigan

All were welcomed to comment. A moment of silence.

### **6.0 Visitors**

- Representative Larry Lambert (7<sup>th</sup> district)

Bills that he is sponsoring:

HB 208 This Act prohibits motor vehicle lessors from including licensing, title, registration, and plate fees as a separately stated mandatory charge in a rental agreement.

HB 209 This Act prohibits rental companies, shared vehicle owners, and peer-to-peer car sharing programs from recovering damages and charging administrative fees relating to the loss of use of a rental vehicle or shared vehicle. This Act abrogates the common law of loss of use to the extent that



it applies to shared vehicle owners, peer-to-peer car sharing programs, and rental car companies and supersedes any other statute to the extent of a conflict.

**HB 227** This Act makes various amendments to the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Act to improve compliance with its testing and reporting requirements. First, this Act requires physicians to take a training program every 2 years relating to the provisions of the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Act. Second, it requires the Division of Public Health to develop electronic forms to be used at a child's 12 and 24 month well visit that record lead screening results and are shared with the Division. Third, it clarifies that laboratories and health care professionals involved in blood lead level analysis must report results to the the Division of Public Health. Finally, it requires the Division of Public Health to share data with school nurses relating to whether an enrolled student has been screened for lead poisoning.

**HB 330** This Act increases the amount of the annual appropriation to prefund future State employee retiree health insurance as recommended by the Retiree Healthcare Benefits Advisory Subcommittee of the State Employee Benefits Committee. Like other required contributions to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Fund (OPEB) Fund, this appropriation must be included in the review of and plan for proposed expenditures that the Director of the Office of Management and Budget submits to the Governor and in the Governor's Budget Appropriation Bill. This Act also revises existing law to allow the current practice of making the annual payment to the OPEB Fund of 1% of the operating budget appropriations for the prior fiscal year in a Supplementary Appropriation Bill and makes technical corrections to conform existing law to the standards of the Delaware Legislative Drafting Manual.

He continues his constituent's coffee meetings on the 2nd Friday of the month at 8:30, Java Bean Café on Philadelphia Pike.

Contact information:

[larry.lambert@delaware.gov](mailto:larry.lambert@delaware.gov)

To get onto Larry's email distribution: email him directly and he will make sure you are added to mailing list.

Cell: 302 408 0901

○ Arden Pool Representative: Drew Jordan

Updates:

AMS Pools is the new management company who is presently looking to hire some lifeguards who they will train.

Raising rate on May 1.

Rob Stigler will be returning as coach of the Arden Sharks.

Thank you, Guest!

**7.0 Town Chair's - Chair Jeffrey Politis**

Communications from the Chair.

Since the last town meeting....

- Tonight is election night. Let's take a moment to thank those who decided to run for a position tonight. It's through the commitment of each of the candidates that the Town operates. Whoever wins tonight has agreed to spend their person time in service of you and the Town. If you don't win tonight, hopefully you will find other ways to serve the community. Again, thanks to all who decided to run. While we are at it, let's thank those who are serving now who have time left on their term. Along those same lines, I want to take minute to thank our Village Secretary, Liz. Liz does a lot for the village that goes unnoticed by most. One example that reminded me of this recently was scanning town meeting minutes and getting them posted going back to 1943. All of the charter talk that has occurred had me dive into these minutes and I realize what a gift that Liz has given us to be able to easily access the history of the village as told through town assembly. Thank you, Liz.
- Speed Camera's update: After many conversations with our representatives and state police, at this point it is clear that we do not have a line of site to installing speed cameras on Harvey Road. Although, I will continue to discuss the issue with the State police, I will not actively pursue speed cameras on Harvey Road until things change. However, I am still discussing the possibility of speed enforcement on Harvey Road and will update the Village as things progress.

It has been a busy FOIA couple of months. We have received two FOIA requests – one was for minutes of the GTF which are posted online and

the other was for direct communications from the law firm who worked with the GTF. The second request was denied as those communications are privileged. Additionally, we received two FOIA complaints. One about the first “special” advisory meeting to determine the date of the special town meeting = specifically that its meeting time and agenda was not posted 7 days prior. The DOJ ruled that we had committed a FOIA violation. However, to deal with this potential violation, a fully noticed special advisory meeting was conducted a second time. The second complaint is ongoing and refers to whether this meeting was noticed properly. This meeting was noticed properly on March 11 and I will work with the Village attorney to address the complaint with the DOJ. We received the paperwork for mosquito control from DNREC. As we have agreed to spraying in recent years, I have signed and returned the agreement. Note that spraying for mosquitos does not automatically happen, but rather a request must be made to mosquito control from the Village.

- The Arden preparedness group, a group of your neighbors from all three villages and which I am a part of, continues to progress. The group of about 50 neighbors meets monthly and you are invited to join – our next meeting is Thurs April 4 at the Buzz at 7 pm. Along these lines, the group has created a name – ArdensReady and will start building a website that we hope will be useful to those looking to be more prepared. 30+ members of the group were trained by the county to be a Community Emergency response Team (CERT). As per our discussion at the last town meeting, a grant application was submitted to FEMA install back-up generators to the Buzz, Gild Hall, and Candlelight. This is a matching grant and I have submitted an ARPA proposal to cover a portion of the Match. I am also working on a state grant that would cover the entire match.
- Be nice tonight. Remember that those who are here tonight are like you focused on the community and things that are important to the community. Make sure you address ideas and not people. Remember that not everyone who speaks is comfortable speaking in public or at a microphone so try to be patient and hear their message as much as possible.

- Reminder that I use an email distribution system for announcing town related information. If you have not signed up for it, you can go to the website and find the sign up on the right column.
- As this could be my last town meeting as Chair, I want to take a moment and reflect – not so much on all the things that we have done over the last 9 years, but rather on the privilege we all share by being a part of this community. Today marks my 40<sup>th</sup> town meeting as chair. Town Meetings and public discourse can be hard. But we get to come together every quarter to debate, praise, discuss things that are important to the community. Most importantly with that, we get to engage with each other. It is this type of active participation that makes us unique and makes me appreciate being here. I look forward to continuing to engage regardless my position in town as that is the privilege we all share.
- Thank you to the Playground committee for supplying refreshments and then you to Chris Day and David Gerbec to helping get the zoom set up.
- Lastly, a reminder that this meeting is being recorded and we ask that you 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.

Communications Report – Thank you!

### **8.0 Trustee Report – Carl Falco**

#### **Finances:**

Copies of the Trustees quarterly financial report available at this Town Assembly meeting; the financial report will also available when it is posted as part of the Town Assembly meeting minutes. The amount of 2024 Land Rent collected as of Friday at noon is \$555,304.46. The total to be collected is \$781,761.36. If you have any questions about your bill, please contact our assistant Rachel Kantner (475-7980 or email Trustees.of.Arden@gmail.com).

**2024 Application for New Castle County Property Tax Reductions:**

New Castle County offers a Senior School Property Tax Credit to property owners if you are over 65 or will be turning 65 by July 1st of the year you apply, and who moved here before 2018. For individuals moving to Delaware on or after 1/1/2018, you must be a resident at least ten years prior to application.

The Senior School Tax Property Tax Credit will appear on a leaseholder's New Castle County School Tax bill, which is sent to the Trustees for payment. The Trustees will rebate the amount that the Property Tax Credit reduces the tax bill to the leaseholder. This can be up to a \$500 rebate annually.

New Castle County has other programs that may reduce a leaseholder's County and School property taxes based upon income and/or disability. Any such reductions in a leaseholder's tax bill will also be rebated to the leaseholder by the Trustees. Information about these property tax reduction programs can be found online at: <https://www.newcastlede.gov/182/Tax-Exemptions>. You may also inquire about the rebates by calling New Castle County at 302-395-5520. The county personnel will help you through the application process.

Make sure you apply before the deadline of April 30th so that your tax credit and/or tax exemption can be approved and processed for the current tax year. Last year more than \$47,000 was rebated leaseholders.

**Lease Transfers:**

2227 Marsh Road transferred from David Michelson and Gary Quinton to Jonathan Imran Joseph

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carl Falco, Trustee

Trustee Report – Thank you!

**9.0 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 February 29, 2024. While the fiscal year ended March 24, there are still bookkeeping entries and end of FY activities to take place. Therefore, the report for this meeting reflects activity as end of February.

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.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Skip Bailey, Treasurer

Treasurer's Report – Thank you!

### **10.0 Advisory Committee Report – Sachin Puranik**

The Advisory Committee met in person at the Buzz Ware earlier this month to set the agenda for this meeting.

The committee's biggest task each year is to find candidates to serve the village in various capacities. Many among the residents helped with this task by reaching out to friends and strangers. I would like to thank Jess Colgan Snyder for hosting a new Meet the Committees meeting and Deborah Ricard for hosting a meet the candidates meeting. I also want to give a sincere thank you to all the residents who volunteered for our committees. Good luck to all the candidates!

As you might have noticed, these Town Assembly meetings are very long. With the blessing of the Advisory Committee, I am collecting feedback and suggestions on how we could make the meetings more efficient and effective. If you have any ideas, please reach out to me at [advisory@arden.delaware.gov](mailto:advisory@arden.delaware.gov) or you can approach me in person or find my information in the ACRA directory.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sachin Puranik, Advisory Chair

**Questions/comments Advisory**

Marianne Caniglia expressed concern about the length of the town meetings and suggest that all post their reports 3 days prior to the town meeting. She also provided a copy of the table of contents for the Charter. Copy in attachment section).

Advisory Report - Thank you!

**Procedural Motion**

Deborah Ricard presented a **Motion** to suspend the agenda and move the Governance Task Force to after the committee reports. **Motion Approved.**

**11.0 Board of Assessors – Deborah Ricard**

The 2024 Board of Assessors includes of Deborah Ricard/Chair, Brooke Bovard/Secretary, Denis O'Regan, Tom Wheeler, Shana Pinter, Steven Curley and Sachin Puranik. This Board continues to meet in person, with a Zoom option, on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 pm to work toward determining to 2025 formula for land rent assessment. These monthly meetings are open and agenda topics are listed on the BWVC Official Notice Bulletin Board as well as on the Assessors page of the arden.delaware.gov website. Upcoming public meetings are scheduled in person (with a Zoom option) at the BWVC on Monday, May 13, and Monday, June 10, at 7 pm. All interested individuals are encouraged to attend to ask questions and share concerns about how Arden's land rent will be determined for 2025.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Ricard

Board of Assessor's Report - Thank you!

**12.00 Standing Committee Reports presented in Ascending Order****12.1 Archives – Lisa Mullinax**

We have contracted with a vendor, Catalyst Visuals, to update the design and mechanics of the [ardencraftshopmuseum.com](http://ardencraftshopmuseum.com) website and are awaiting payment of the deposit from ARPA funds to commence the work, which should take about 2 to 3 months. The site will incorporate text and images already available, either on the existing site or in our collections. The new site design will emphasize images over text, be better organized, include a secure URL, and incorporate responsive design so it will display properly on

both desktop and mobile devices and multiple browsers. Once the initial work to set up the new design is completed and approved, we will contract with PastPerfect (our collection management software provider) to create an online portal to share selected collections through the updated site.

In March and April, we will be hosting 3 University of Delaware students as volunteer “mini collection aides” providing approximately 35 person-hours to help organize and update our collection. Thanks to our curator Abby Harting for arranging this.

We have been interviewing candidates for a summer intern, and have several excellent prospects. We are thrilled to have our intern program up and running again, after a hiatus during the COVID years.

Our next Afternoon with the Artist will be Sunday, May 5, 1 to 3 p.m. and is expected to feature Russ McKinney.

Committee member Barbara Macklem has been approached by folks planning to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Arden School this year. As we have a wealth of material about the school, we are looking forward to supporting this!

Thank you to Cecilia Vore for donating several copies of Connee McKinney’s wonderful book about the Arden School to the Archives.

Our current exhibition, Woman Artists of the Ardens 1900-1960 will continue through September 15. Planning has started for our new Fall show commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Arden Craft Shop Museum!

Regular museum hours are Sunday, 1 to 3 p.m. and Wednesday, 7:30 to 9 p.m. To boost attendance, we are planning to add additional open hours on Saturdays, 1 to 3 p.m. in May and June. See the Arden Page for details.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Mullinax

### **Questions/comments Archives**

The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Arden School includes acknowledgement of the Arden school integration in 1952 prior to Brown v Board of Education in 1954. One of the most treasured items in the Arden Archives Museum is the



petition that was signed by a significant portion of the Village asking that the Arden school be desegregated and residents be admitted to the school. The Arden school was among those which was designated as a white school. To admit non-whites would have been against state law. The Ardens did not agree with this and they wanted their children to be able to go to school with their friends. As far as they know, the Board of Education never responded to their petition. They probably decided that this was the Ardens, just let them go. The Ardens view this as a happy portion of their history.

Archives Report - Thank you!

### 12.2 **Audit** - Cookie Ohlson

On March 13 the Audit Committee, consisting of Laura Wallace, Debbie Ricard and Cookie Ohlson, met to audit the vouchers and statements for the past quarter. Treasurer, Skip Bailey was also in attendance. All is in order.

Audit Report – Thank you!

### 12.3 **Budget** – Deborah Ricard

First, an update on the New Castle County Property Tax Reassessment project. Tyler Technologies Data Collectors worked in Arden during the summer and fall of 2023. The data collected on Arden leaseholds was returned to Tyler Technologies who then used this information to develop “data mailers.” Tyler Technologies began sending “data mailers” to every parcel owner in March. These “data mailers” are sent in groups of 10,000 every 7 to 10 days, so it will take some time to get them all mailed. After receiving your “data mailer”, if you see errors in the data for your parcel, you should correct the “data mailer” and return it as directed. Tyler Technologies will make the corrections. This will allow Tyler Tech appraisers to consider the corrected data before they set the new value for each parcel. All property owners will then receive a mailed notice with the new proposed value of their parcel in late 2024; instructions on how to appeal the new proposed value will be included. Keep a watchful eye on your mailbox and remind your neighbors and friends to do the same.

Budget Committee members for 2023-2024 include Garrett Colgan-Snyder and Deborah Ricard/Co-Chairs, Vicki Scott/Secretary, David Gerbec/Spreadsheet Master and Bob Erenburg. Vicki Scott and David Gerbec are not returning in the new fiscal year; they are both thanked for

their dedicated service and participation. The committee looks forward to welcoming two new members following tonight's election.

In January, the Budget Co-Chairs met with Carl Falco/Senior Trustee, Skip Bailey/Treasurer and Jeffrey Politis/Chair of Town Assembly to begin gathering information needed to compile Arden's 3-Year Projection for FY 2025-2028. This 3-Year Projection is provided for guidance only and is primarily used by the Assessors who will receive this document at their next meeting. Highlights of this financial forecast are shared with the Town Assembly:

- The format of the 3-year projection is consistent with prior years.
- All committee budgets and community donations will be funded as approved in the 2024-2025 Budget Referendum.
- ARPA funds continue to be included and will remain a part of this document going forward until they are either spent on approved projects or returned to the federal government.
- A successful Brandywine School District School Tax Referendum approved an increase in school taxes of \$.45 per \$100 of assessed value. The school tax hike begins this year (2024) and will be phased in over 2 years.
- The Ardens 3-year trash/recycle/yard waste contract with SEM (formerly Trash Tech) is up for renewal this year. A significant increase in cost is anticipated; negotiations are beginning.
- As reported earlier, the New Castle County Property Tax Reassessment continues to move forward with an expected completion date of 2025. Although the new assessed values must be revenue neutral across the state and county, we cannot predict how Arden will fare. For this reason, a line-item titled Property Tax Reassessment Contingency, was included in last year's 2023 forecast in the non-discretionary portion of the projection and has been included again in the 2024 forecast. This Property Tax Reassessment Contingency is a way to save for the anticipated increase when updated reassessment values are used to determine tax bills in 2025. Any of these funds not needed for this purpose will be used to reduce Arden's land rent assessment for leaseholders.

The Arden Budget 2024 3-Year Projection FY 2025-2028 will be posted on the Budget Committee's page of the [arden.delaware.gov](http://arden.delaware.gov) website and a few copies will be available for review in the Arden Library. Interested

individuals may email [budget@arden.delaware.gov](mailto:budget@arden.delaware.gov) to request a copy of this document.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Ricard

Budget Report – Thank you!

#### **12.4 Buzz Ware Village Center**

Overall, things continue to go well at the Buzz. We have a great team among our committee members and staff and are proud to continue to host many great community and rental events.

#### **Staffing**

We are excited to announce that Becca Dantine has accepted the position of Rental and Event Coordinator. She has a wealth of experience and skills and will be an excellent addition to the BWVC team! We thank Pam Cohen for all of her years of service in this position. We are grateful for all she has contributed to the Buzz!

#### **Website Communications**

We ask your patience while Becca learns this new position. All of our staff are independent business owners with young families. Their lives are very full outside of all the work they do for the Buzz. We ask that all requests for government meetings, community events and rentals be submitted through our website at [ArdenBuzz.com](http://ArdenBuzz.com). This is an efficient way for all staff and committee members to be apprised of upcoming events.

For all government meeting cancellations or changes - please give 24-hour notice. This ensures that our paid staff does not spend unnecessary time on set-up, etc. if meeting dates are changed.

#### **Maintenance/Repairs**

We are always actively working to maintain the Buzz. Here are a few things we are currently addressing:

- Floor repair – Rooms 1&2, and Stage Area
- Changing Station – Rear Restroom
- Cabinetry Repair/Updates – Room 3
- New Water Fountain/Bottle Filler to replace the Current Bottled Water Dispenser

## **Programing**

The Buzz is host to a lot of great programming and events. Keep apprised of these amazing opportunities in the Page and on our website at ArdenBuzz.com

Buzz Ware Village Center Report – Thank you!

### **12.5 Civic – Steve Benigni**

- The Village has been awarded a Delaware 2024 Urban & Community Forestry matching grant to replace the fallen American elm trees on the Village Green with an appropriate substitute. Although the hybrid elm was bred to withstand Dutch Elm Disease, it also had a genetic weakness causing it to split.
- The stone bridge at the bottom of Meadow Lane has been damaged by an unidentified hit-and-run vehicle. Repairs will be covered by our insurance policy, minus a \$2,500 deductible.
- We have recently had to deal with several downed trees, including an eastern red cedar tree on Woodland Lane that knocked out power to residents along the Village Green, and a swamp oak that fell in the Memorial Garden overflow area.
- We are currently assessing the health and care of the Fels Oak on the Village Green. Several options are under consideration.
- The Civic Committee has been working with the Forest Committee and the Trustees to establish a village, Tree Policy. We welcome members of the community to participate in this ongoing project.
- After lengthy and tedious efforts to contact Verizon about a damaged utility pole on Cherry Lane, they inspected the pole and told us that they will fix the problem.
- Civic is currently following-through on fulfilling grant requirements and procedures for the ORPT Clubhouse Path grant, and the stormwater management SWMPG planning and CWQIG implementation grants for Watershed E.
- Thanks to the volunteers who came out to help plant flowers along the Clubhouse Path. Members of the Gardeners Gild and other volunteers planted 700 flower plugs to serve as a vegetative filtration strip along the path. Thanks to Carol Larson for coordinating this project and to Walt Borders, Jill Coghlan, Hajni Halasz, Scott Kushner, Michelle Lauer, Lee Painter, Elaine Schmerling, Susan Stith, and Elizabeth Varley for their time and dedication.

- We have repaired and replaced several damaged street and path signs and are developing standards and procedures for future sign work. Thanks to Garrett Colgan-Snyder (and sons).
- The Civic Committee voted to partially fund the joint three village geospatial surveying and mapping project that the Forest Committee will report on this evening.
- 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. Please remember to follow the guidelines listed on the trash/recycling information sheet available here and online. For example, recycling and yard waste should not be placed in plastic bags.
- An updated quarterly trash schedule will soon be posted on the village website. FYI: This week is a recycling week.
- 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 currently 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](mailto:civic@arden.delaware.gov) email account. We appreciate your input and will continue to address these issues as they arise.
- 

Respectfully Submitted,  
Steve Benigni

### **Questions/Comments Civic**

Civic is aware that several street signs posts are falling down.

Steve has decided not to run again for the Civic Committee. Thank you, Steve Benigni for the excellent job he has done for several years as Chairman of the Civic Committee.

Civic Report – Thank you!

## 12.6 Community Planning – Jennifer Borders

### **Memorial Garden Report:**

Donations received for fiscal year 2024 were \$2,175. There were two interments. Please come lend a hand at the Memorial Garden Cleanup. It will be Saturday, April 27, 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon.

-Reported by Barbara Henry

### **Three Ardens Transportation Group:**

Progress is being made on the Ardens Transportation Plan that was approved last summer by the Ardens. The new monitoring committee, consisting of members from the Ardens, Wilmapco, DelDot and others, continues to meet monthly and make progress. One result has been an agreement to lower the speed limit on Veale Road through Ardencroft from 35 to 25 mph. Other work on the Transportation Plan is in the planning and design phase. There is more information at the Wilmapco website, "Connecting with the Ardens": <http://www.wilmapco.org/ardens/>.

### **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA):**

We have about \$48,000 left to spend from our original grant of \$219K from the U.S. Treasury. Legally, we need to commit to spending the remainder before the end of 2024. We have received seven applications for using that balance. The number of proposals is larger than can reasonably and fairly be discussed at a regular Town Meeting the given time restraints, so tonight Community Planning is requesting that the Town Assembly approve a Special Town Meeting for that purpose. The Committee has been in touch with each applicant to provide feedback on their proposal. Draft proposals will be available on the Arden website by April 1st. Community Planning is shepherding the process, but continues to strive to remain impartial in the selection of projects.

**Motion:** Move that a Special Town Meeting be held on Monday, April 29, 2024, at 7:30 PM, at the BWVC, for the purpose of reviewing and voting on proposals for use of the Village of Arden's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. **Motion Approved.**

### **Second Reading for the Revisions to Ordinance 15:**

The Vacant Dwellings Registration Ordinance was enacted by Town Assembly more than twelve years ago. As the members of the Community Planning Committee have changed at each election, interpretations of how to enforce it by new committee members have varied. The revisions proposed

here try to create a clearer document that provides more uniform guidance for future Planning Committees and enforce the ordinance according to its purpose and the wishes of the Town Assembly.

Tonight, we will be doing a "second reading" of the proposed revisions to Ordinance 15. The Planning Committee has reviewed the comments made at the first reading and determined that no changes to the proposed revisions are recommended. There will be one more reading of the revisions at the June 2024 Town Meeting. At that meeting, a vote will be called for the revisions to be approved.

I will read each of the changed sections of the ordinance. If you would like to follow along, I will be reading from the left-hand side of the document. The existing ordinance is on the right for your reference. To read the document online, you can go to the Arden homepage on the website at [arden.delaware.gov](http://arden.delaware.gov) (scroll down to "Ordinance 15" and click on the "Comparison of Revisions" link). I have a few paper handouts also; and the same text will be projected on the screen. Changes have been underlined in the paper version and are highlighted in yellow on the digital version. Please raise your hand now if you would like a paper version.

[Reading of Revised Ordinance 15-- see attached.]

### **Review of clarifications and revisions**

**1. Clarification** -"Occupied" (section III.B.1): These revisions clarify that the usage of dwellings as guest cottages, workshops, studios or lawful businesses is allowed 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 penalize these uses within the Vacant Dwelling Ordinance. Historical examples of this usage are the Weave Shop and the Craft Shop where artisans had their work spaces but did not live there.

### **Questions/Comments "Occupied"**

Note from the Arden Chair -This is a suggestion of an update to an existing Ordinance that has been in place for approximately ten years. Community Planning is trying to clarify some areas that were grey but not change the ordinance. It is not a new Ordinance. This is the second reading of the ordinance with no changes from the first reading.

Referring to lawful business the concern is that houses that could be residents are being taken off the market and being used as non-residents. The current home base business means that you can have a business in your home if you live there. The Planning Committee did not include requirement of living on the premises because New Castle County code allows for homebase business in the Village of Arden. This does not overrule the code. Meaning, you could not have an empty house and run it as a business by New Castle County code. This has more to do with multiple domicile units. Someone is living there and they have a second domicile that they are using as an office or as a business. it's still a home base business but they have a secondary unit without getting charged. There is no change since this vacant housing ordinance was established. Requesting that Community Planning consider whether the use of lawful business is something they want to continue?

Could a contractor purchase a leasehold and set up a contractor's operations business with equipment? The confusion is that what is presented here is a Vacant Housing Ordinance and its being mixed with New Castle County Zoning. The existing Vacant Housing Ordinance already allows business uses. That is not new. It is a huge clarification from what we had before. The way New Castle County Zoning works is there is no restriction on use whether it is guest cottages, workshops, studios or lawful businesses, unless, you fall into a category of actually running a business that include employees, or engage in selling and manufacturing, etc. They fall into a different category. If you fall into a home business category, you do not fall into one of these categories. You're not restricted in using your property for a business. Home occupation is described as any service, profession or occupation or trade that is conducted within a residential dwelling in which it does not change the essential character of the residential use. People have rights with the existing Ordinances to use their property the way they want. The main point is if you are renting a studio on your property and you have no employees or any restrictions of the Zoning Ordinances, you are not subject to it. Simply this is a Vacant Housing Ordinance not a Zoning Ordinance.

Note There is a bill before legislation right now that could affect ADUs.

Remedial fees are not always used for vacant dwelling issues. That's because when this ordinance was created it did not give a pathway for spending it. It was only a collection. A spending policy was created



(September 2016) on how it could spend the vacant housing fund. This policy was on how to spend these funds. This ordinance is not about how it could spend the vacant housing funds but is on why and how to collect them.

FYI (~ September 2016)

**11.6 Community Planning – Motion: Policy Establishing Expenditures from the Registration of Vacant Dwellings Ordinance #15**

**Purpose**

**Motions/Resolutions Presented**

This policy is designed to define both the purpose and process for use of funds collected from the *Annual Registration of Vacant Dwelling and Registration Fees Ordinance #15*. Use of this fund is restricted to the indented purpose of the Ordinance which is to protect the public health, safety and welfare of Arden and to encourage civic engagement throughout the Village.

**Process**

- All collected money from the Ordinance will be accounted for as a separate Village fund in perpetuity.
- Any resident of Arden can submit a project to spend this fund by presenting it before a committee. If the Committee accepts the project it will send the project to Community Planning Committee for their review and incorporate it in their report at the next Town meeting.
- Community Planning Committee will review the project to ensure that it meets the purpose of the fund and if so present it to the Village Officers for final approval.
- The Village Officers will review the project and have the final approval for the expenditure of this fund.

Motion Questioned called

Policy to establishing expenditures from Registration of Vacant Dwelling Ordinance #15  
**Motion Passed Unanimously.)**

[NCC Code - Section 40.33.221: **Accessory uses, residential home uses.** "*Home occupation.* Home occupation means any service, profession, occupation or trade which is conducted within a residential dwelling and which does not change the essential character of the residential use..... the term "dwelling" shall be synonymous with the term "structure" when applying home occupation regulations in the Ardens."

**2. Revision** -(section III.B.2): Property will be considered occupied if any dwelling on leasehold is occupied, including any ADU. These revisions allow that a property with one or more Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's)-- is considered occupied if any one of the dwellings or ADU's has a full-time tenant. In the existing Ordinance15, all ADU's need to be 100% occupied creating a potential burden for leaseholders, landlords, and a headache for the enforcement of this ordinance. The Committee reasoned that as long as

the property is kept up, we didn't feel that the Town should restrict how people manage their leaseholds. In addition, we are already governed by New Castle County Code. New Castle County adopted the International Property Maintenance Code that states occupants are already responsible for keeping property in a clean, sanitary and safe condition regardless of occupation.

**3. Clarification** (section III.B.3): Our revisions define “short-term” use as a minimum of 90 days occupation per year. In the existing ordinance, no time-frame is defined. This opened up the possibility that someone could stay in a dwelling for as little time as a few days per year and still claim that it was occupied. The revised ordinance will not penalize legitimate "snow-birds" for example who live here for months but go elsewhere for part of the year; and it will help the Committee distinguish what leasehold is or is not legitimately occupied under the ordinance.

**4. Clarification** (section III.B.3): These revisions state that at minimum two in a list of four types of evidence of short-term occupation are required. For example, two of the following are required: the receipt of regular mail, the consistent usage, not just a connection to, utilities, proof of tax residence at the address, etc. In the existing Ordinance 15, evidence of short-term occupation stated that the list "may include" certain evidence, but what evidence would constitute proof of occupancy was unclear.

**5. Revision** (section VII): The number of registration fee waivers allowed for a vacant dwelling without incurring a fine, or fee, was increased from one to two. A waiver is typically granted by a vote of the Town Assembly if the leaseholder is renovating or attempting to sell/lease their house and needs more time than one year. It was felt that the existing one-year maximum set in the existing ordinance was too strict and could make life difficult for those selling or renovating in a multi-year process.

More info on Vacant Dwellings Ordinance 15:

Full text of original ordinance and the proposed revised ordinance are on [Arden.Delaware.gov](http://Arden.Delaware.gov) at the Community Planning Committee page. You can also send us your comments via email at [Planning@Arden.Delaware.gov](mailto:Planning@Arden.Delaware.gov)

--Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Borders, CPC Chair

Attachment:

**DRAFT REVISIONS** Ordinance # 15  
**REGISTRATION OF VACANT DWELLINGS AND  
ANNUAL REGISTRATION FEES**

I. Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to require the registration of all vacant dwellings and the payment of registration fees to assist the Village of Arden in protecting the public health, safety and welfare, as well as to encourage occupancy for civic engagement in the Village of Arden; to monitor the number of vacant dwellings, to assess the effects of the condition of those dwellings on the Village, particularly in light of fire safety hazards and possible unlawful, temporary occupancy use of vacant dwellings, including illicit drug users and traffickers, and to require of the leaseholder of such vacant dwellings their registration and the payment of related fees, and to promote substantial efforts to rehabilitate such vacant dwellings. The provisions of this ordinance are applicable to the leaseholder of such vacant dwellings as set forth herein.

II. Administration. The administration of the registration of vacant dwellings and the registration fee shall be facilitated by the Village Secretary and the Community Planning Committee.

III. Definitions. The following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them as follows:

A. Dwelling: A single unit providing complete, independent living facilities for one or persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation. ADU's [Accessory Dwelling Units] are considered dwellings.

B. Occupied: Any dwelling, including ADUs, shall be deemed to be occupied if

1. one or more persons resides in all or any part of the dwelling, uses the dwelling as a guest cottage, workshop, studio, or lawful business under New Castle County Code, as the legal or equitable leaseholder/occupant(s) or tenant(s) on a permanent, non-transient basis, or any combination of the same or,

2. the ADUs on a leasehold shall be deemed occupied if any dwelling on leasehold is occupied as described in section B.1 above, or,

3. a leaseholder who maintains a dwelling for short-term residential use shows evidence of periodic occupancy that exceeds, in the aggregate, ninety (90) days per year, such as leases, affidavits, or proof of insurance; and evidence offered to prove that a building is so occupied must include, but shall not be limited to at least two (2) of the following:

- i. the regular receipt of mail through the U.S. Postal Service;
- ii. proof of continual usage of standard residential utilities – electricity, water/sewage;
- iii. a valid business license;
- iv. the most recent federal or state income tax statements indicating that the subject property is the official business or residence address of the person or business claiming occupancy.

C. Vacant: A dwelling shall be deemed to be vacant if it is not occupied as described in section III. B.

D. Leaseholder: A leaseholder of the premises or any lesser estate therein, a mortgagee, a vendee-in-possession, assignee or rents, receiver, executor, trustee, lessee, agent or any other person, firm or corporation that is directly or indirectly in control of a building subject to the provisions of this section and as set forth below.

IV. Applicability: The requirements of this ordinance shall be applicable to each leaseholder of residential property consisting of one or more vacant dwellings that shall have been vacant for more than one (1) year. Each such leaseholder shall cause to be filed a notarized registration statement, which shall include the street address and parcel number of each such vacant building, the names and addresses of all leaseholders. The registration fee(s) as required by subsection IV of this ordinance shall be billed by the Village Secretary in November and shall be paid by January 31 of each year. For purposes of this section the following shall also be applicable:

(A) If the leaseholder is a corporation the registration statement shall provide the names and residence addresses of all officers and directors of the corporation and shall be accompanied by a copy of the most recent annual franchise tax report filed with the secretary of state;

(B) If an estate, the name and residence address of the executor of the estate;

(C) If a trust, the name and address of all trustees, grantors and beneficiaries;

- (D) If a partnership the names and residence addresses of all partners with an interest of ten percent or greater;
- (E) If any other form of unincorporated association the names and residence addresses of all principals with an interest of ten percent or greater;
- (F) If an individual person, the name and residence address of that individual person.

V. Registration statement and fees; local agent. If none of the persons listed, as above, is shown at an address within the state, the registration statement also shall provide the name and address of a person who resides within the state and who is authorized to accept service of process on behalf of the owners and who shall be designated as a responsible, local party or agent, both for purposes of notification in the event of an emergency affecting the public health safety or welfare and for purposes of service of any and all notices or registration statements as herein authorized and in connection herewith.

Registration shall be required for all vacant dwellings and shall be required whenever any dwelling has remained vacant for more than one (1) year. In determining the one-year period of vacancy, the dwelling shall be considered vacant if periods of short-term use do(es) not exceed 90 days in the aggregate. In no instance shall the registration of a vacant building and the payment of registration fees be construed to exonerate the owner, agent or responsible party from compliance with any other building or housing code requirement.

One registration statement may be filed to include all vacant buildings of the owner so registering. The leaseholder of the vacant property as of November 1 of each year shall be responsible for the payment of the non-refundable registration fee. Said fee shall be billed by the Village and based on the duration of the vacancy as determined by the following scale:

- (i.) No fee for properties that are vacant for less than one year;
- (ii.) \$500.00 for properties that are vacant for at least one year but less than two years;
- (iii.) \$1,000.00 for properties that are vacant for at least two years but less than three years;
- (iv.) \$2,000.00 for properties that are vacant for at least three years but less than five years;
- (v.) \$3,500.00 for properties that are vacant for at least five years but less than ten years; and

(vi.) \$5,000.00 for properties that are vacant for at least ten years, plus an additional \$500.00 for each year in excess of ten years.

VI. Appeal rights. The leaseholder shall have the right to appeal the imposition of the registration fees to the Village upon written notification to the Town Secretary no later than 30 calendar days from the date of the billing statement. On appeal, the leaseholder shall provide satisfactory evidence of occupancy, as defined in section III.

VII. Waiver of registration fee. The leaseholder shall have the right to apply for a waiver of the imposition of the registration fees to the Village upon written notification to the Town Secretary no later than 30 calendar days from the date of the billing statement for the registration fee. A waiver of the registration fee may be granted by the Village through a majority vote at the next regular Town Assembly meeting upon application from the leaseholder within 30 calendar days from the date of the bill for the registration fee. Waivers may be granted by the Village if the leaseholder:

(i.) Demonstrates with satisfactory proof that he/she is in the process of demolition, rehabilitation, or other substantial repair of the vacant dwelling; and

(ii.) Objectively demonstrates the anticipated length of time for the demolition, rehabilitation, or other substantial repair of the vacant dwelling; or

(iii.) Provides satisfactory proof that he/she is attempting to sell or lease the property during the vacancy period.

(iv.) Has paid all past due vacant registration fees and all other financial obligations and debts owed to the Village which are associated with the vacant property.

With regard to an extension of a waiver only, the time period of the extension shall commence on the date of the written decision granting the extension. **A leaseholder may receive up to two waivers of registration fees for the same property.**

VIII. Delinquent registration fees as a lien. After the leaseholder is given notice of the registration fee due, except for those leaseholders that have properly perfected an appeal pursuant to subsection VI and VII above, and the owner fails to pay the amount due, said amount shall constitute a debt due and owing to the Village, and shall constitute a lien in accordance with Title 25, Section 2901 of the Delaware Code and the Village may commence a civil action to collect such unpaid debt.

IX. Duty to amend registration statement. If the status of the registration information changes during the course of any calendar year, it is the responsibility of the leaseholder, responsible party or agent for the same to contact the Town Secretary within 30 days of the occurrence of such change and advise the Town Secretary in writing of those changes.

X. Violations; penalties. The failure or refusal for no reason of any leaseholder, or agent of a leaseholder acting on behalf of the leaseholder, to register a vacant dwelling or to pay any fees required to be paid pursuant to the provisions of this ordinance, within 30 days after they become due shall constitute a violation and will be fined in the amount of \$100.00 for each failure or refusal to register, or for each failure or refusal to pay a required vacant dwelling fee, as applicable.

[Comparison: arden.delaware.gov/planning](https://arden.delaware.gov/planning)

Community Planning Report – Thank you!

#### **12.7 Forest – Co Chair: Carol Larson, Bev Clendening**

Forest Committee continues work clearing paths, monitoring borders and managing invasive species. Our volunteer work group continues to meet every Tuesday at 10:00 with some changes if the weather is bad. In this fiscal year the committee and its volunteers clocked 620 volunteer hours (equivalent to \$19,500 in matching dollars for grant-funded projects). In addition to many hours spent clearing invasive species, we cleared paths of large trees blocking paths in both Sherwood Forest and the Arden Woods and mulched the path near St. Martin's to make it more passable. We want to thank our regular volunteers: Paul and Stevie Nolan, Michael O'Neill and Laura Wallace.

#### **Water Quality Master Plan: Implementation of BMP E3**

In partnership with the New Castle Conservation District, Arden received a Community Water Quality Improvement Grant for \$75,000 from DNREC to augment our ARPA funds. The project is administered by the Conservation District; they will conduct the formal bidding process and administer funds, Foresite Associates will oversee installation. Bidding process will take place in April.

For those who don't know: Conservation Districts were established across the country in 1937 in response to catastrophic soil erosion of the Dust Bowl. Delaware has separate conservation districts for each county.

Conservation Districts do many projects throughout the county such as refitting the overpass on Marsh Road that we all drive by. The Forest Committee worked with the District in 2018 on the grant we received to restore Sherwood Forest where it had eroded from the Buckingham Greene outfall.

### **Vegetation Inventory for the Three Ardens**

In 2002-4, Arden commissioned Natural Resources Inventories for Sherwood Forest and the Arden Woods. Some of you here were involved and recall that the discoveries of rare mosses and a carnivorous caterpillar were important for our receiving funds from the county and state to purchase the 5 acres of woodland known as the Avery tract. Will Ryan, an ecologist trained at University of Delaware with Doug Tallamy as his advisor is an Ardentown resident, proposed that we have an inventory done for all three Ardens, given the ecological continuity of the woodlands and creeks running through them. Janet Ebert, the lead author of the 2002-4 Inventory, is collaborating with Will.

The Civic and Forest Committees both voted to commit \$1500 in funds to this project. The remainder will be requested from the remaining ARPA funds.

A full description the inventory will be presented on April 29 at the special meeting for second round ARPA funding. If you would like advance information about the project please contact me at the forest email address.

### **Invasive Species work.**

Invasive species control is a year-round event for the Forest Committee. This is the season for Garlic mustard and lesser celandine. Bev Clendening is working on a controlled study to find the most effective way to manage lesser celandine.

### **Tree Policy**

The Forest Committee voted to support the development of guidelines for tree work that would link Forest with the Civic Committee and the Trust for more efficient and coordinated tree work. We welcome any input from the community.

**Ardens Woods Cleanup. SAVE THE DATE!** Our Save the Earth Day Cleanup this year is Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> (Rain date April 14<sup>th</sup>) and we



partner with the Naamans Creek Watershed Association to work on our section of Naamans Creek and adjacent Woods. Last year, we collected 400 pounds of trash! Meet at the Buzz at 9:00 to get coffee and treats before heading out! We'll have free native and vegetable plants for those who participate.

**Other Earth Day events:** In addition to our annual clean-up, there are lots of ways to celebrate Earth Day this year! Please see the poster of Earth Day Events on the table. The Arden Artisans Collective is hosting a month-long exhibit of earth-oriented artwork entitled, "Rooted in Arden, Reaching the World" at the Delaware Center for Horticulture – please join them for their opening on Friday, April 5. Ardentown's Elaine Schmerling will lead us on a Wild Wildflower Walk on Saturday, April 6. We'll be helping Jill Althouse-Wood cook the special vegan dinner, "Flowerburger-palooza" on Saturday, April 20 and then the Arden Club Gardeners Guild will be touring the Scott Arboretum at Swarthmore College on Earth Day, Monday, April 22. Please see the poster and watch for the special edition of the LEAF newsletter for details.

**Arbor Day and Tree City Proclamation!** For the 16<sup>th</sup> year, we qualified as a Tree City. Congratulations for caring about trees in Arden. For our Arbor Day Celebration, we will be planting a Serviceberry on April 26 at 5:00 along the Fire Lane. Come for refreshments and tour this little traveled area of the woods.

Forest Report – Thank you!

### 12.8 Playground – Mark Wood

Since the last Town Meeting, the required playground committee inspections have been made, and all equipment is in safe condition. Additional playground mulch was added to places where it was needed.

This past year has been eventful for our committee, with the replacement of three "non-compliant" pieces: The climber on the Village Green, and the climber and siding board on the Sherwood Green. Mats have been placed under all of the swings, and this has minimized the scattering of playground mulch by kids dragging their feet. At this point, all of the Village's Playground Equipment is safety compliant according to the Guidelines for Playground Safety from the Consumer Product Safety Commission. The donation of a "Gaga Pit" was accepted, and it was installed near the

basketball court behind the BWVC. The Committee Members have all pitched in with the mandated Equipment Safety Inspections, equipment repainting, spreading playground mulch, and other routine maintenance, so it has been a very successful year.

There presently are few items of playground equipment that had been designed for children aged 3-6 years old, and the Playground Committee in the future will be looking into acquiring some equipment for toddlers and kindergarteners.

Submitted by Mark Wood, Chairman

Playground Report – Thank you!

12.9 **Safety** – Simon Hamermesh

All is well!

Safety Report – Thank you!

13.0 Governance Task Force -Ray Siegfried

- 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinances: 1,2,13;
- 2<sup>st</sup> reading of Ordinance: 5,7,8,9,10 (Hold: withdraw to read), and 12

Note: Registration confirmed there was a quorum

**Motions to Repealing of Ordinance #1 and #2** Arden Safety Code (third reading) **Motion Approved**

- A new ordinance will be created recommending a 20-mph speed limit. When writing this ordinance suggest to consider pedestrian rights- of -way like the City of Newark has in place. If it is a part of the Delaware code, then you don't need to write it into Arden Ordinance but will investigate

<b>GTF Recommendations for Ordinances- Town Assembly Meeting 3/25/2024</b>			
<b>Ordinance</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Ordinances # 1 and #2: Arden Safety Code	3rd reading	Repeal Ordinances #1 and #2 and enact an ordinance for 20 mph speed limit	The full text of these two ordinances is not available;  Title 21 of Delaware code covers the content of original Ordinances 1 and 2; the 20-mph speed limit is more restrictive than Title 21 specifies
Ordinance #13: Off-street Parking	3rd reading	revise; see separate sheet	
Ordinance # 5: Noise	2nd reading	Repeal Ordinance #5	Ordinance # 5 The New Castle County has a noise ordinance which is comprehensive. Arden is covered by the county's ordinance.
Ordinance # 7: Discharging Rifle, Etc., or Other Explosives	2nd reading	Repeal Ordinance #7	New Castle County has an ordinance, which applies to  Arden, that prohibits discharge of a firearm in northern Delaware within 200 yards of a dwelling. For Arden that would mean that discharge of a firearm is unlawful anywhere in Arden (New Castle Code Section 22.032.00). If Arden's ordinance were to be retained it would have to be amended to add the justification defenses referenced in the State law and to clarify some of the definitions used in the Ordinance. Rather than amend Ordinance #7, it would be better to repeal it and instead to rely on the New Castle County ordinance.

<p>Ordinance # 8: Dog Control</p>	<p>2nd reading</p>	<p>Repeal Ordinance #8</p>	<p>Delaware State law, Title 16, Section 3048F is part of a broader law that deals with dog licensing, welfare and control and dangerous and potentially dangerous dogs. Section 3048F applies to all of Delaware, including Arden. The State law and Arden ordinance are similar. The primary difference is that the State law is a mandatory leash law. Arden’s ordinance does not have a leash law, but Arden's ordinance cannot override the State law.</p>
<p>Ordinance #9: Mini-Bikes</p>	<p>2nd reading</p>	<p>Repeal Ordinance #9</p>	<p>There appears to be little or no value to an ordinance that merely incorporates state laws or other Arden ordinances.</p>
<p>Ordinance #10: Public Utilities</p>	<p>2nd reading</p>	<p>Real Ordinance #10</p>	<p>State and county regulation and laws govern this topic.</p>
<p>Ordinance #12: Use of Commons</p>	<p>2nd reading</p>	<p>Repeal Ordinance #12, add Sept 2010 revision date to Ordinance #4</p>	<p>Ordinance #12 was meant to be an amendment of Ordinance# 4. The link for this ordinance on the Arden website is the text of Ordinance #4. Ordinance #4 states the revision date of September 27, 2010. Ordinance #12 is superfluous and should be removed from the list of Ordinances.</p>

**Ordinance #13** Off Street Parking (3<sup>rd</sup> reading)

Newly added section 4 per the request of last town meeting two wheels off the road, it should not prevent safety vehicles from entering.

**Motion:** Move that Ordinance #13 be accepted as read in the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading (Ordinance#13 Revised Off-Street Parking Adapted June 1982; Revised June 26,1995: Revised March 25, 2024. **Motion Accepted** (1 opposed, 1 abstention)

**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.

**Ordinance #13 - Revised  
Off-Street Parking**  
Adopted June 1982; Revised June 26, 1995; Revised March 25, 2024

Section 1. Leaseholders are required to provide off street parking ON their leaseholds.

Section 2. Every leaseholder in Arden shall provide a parking place on the leasehold and off the roads and rights-of-way of Arden to accommodate every vehicle regularly used by persons living on the leasehold. The rights-of-way on Arden streets are defined in Section 7, Ordinance 11.

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

Section 4. Daytime parking with two wheels off the road surface is allowed except where such parking is specifically prohibited or where such parking would prohibit the passage of emergency vehicles. Occasional overnight parking with two wheels off the road surface, to accommodate guest or business vehicles, is allowed with permission from the Safety Committee.

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 8. Violation of this ordinance shall be punishable by a fine that does not exceed the limits prescribed by State law due within fifteen days from notice of prosecution, payable to the Village of Arden.

Section 9. Appeals related to violations of 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.

**Ordinance #5** – Noise (repeal) (2<sup>nd</sup> reading)

Propose to repeal Arden Ordinance #5 Noise because NCC has a comprehensive noise ordinance. Arden is covered by this Ordinance. Arden does not have a mechanism to enforce this ordinance.

**Ordinance #7** discharging rifle, etc., or other explosives (repeal) (2<sup>nd</sup> reading) because NCC has an ordinance that applies to Arden that prohibits the discharge of fire arms. Note it does include bow and arrow and other projectiles. Its not 200 yards but it is 50 yards that you can't use your bow and arrow within any dwelling, etc. Fireworks not sure but when they revisit Ordinance #4 The use of the Greens, they will note fireworks.

**Ordinance #8** – Dog control (repeal) (2<sup>nd</sup> reading)

The Ardens ordinance is less restrictive than the Delaware law and a municipality cannot have an ordinance that is less restrictive than the state law.

**Ordinance #9** – Mini bikes (repeal) (2<sup>nd</sup> reading)

It incorporates state law again.

**Ordinance #10** – Public Utility (repeal)(withdraw 2nd reading) Withdrawing reading of the Ordinance because the Civic Committee to date has not recommended repeal. Per the ordinance information that is currently posted on line “The Civic Committee should review relevant statues along with typical interactions with utilities to determine whether or not Ordinance #10 is needed. The Civic Committee is to recommend repeal or revision of ordinance #10”.

**Ordinance #12** Use of Commons (repeal) (2<sup>nd</sup> reading)

Ordinance #12 is identical to Ordinance #4. Ordinance #4 has been updated and they are the exact wording. Suggest repeal.

**Questions/Comments**

Are these Ordinances worth having even if they are redundant with the county or state because they express something specific the municipality wants. The difference between a policy and an ordinance is the ability to enforce. We do not have a police force to enforce some of these policies. We can enforce the use of commons because there is no state law on use.

Request to keep dog ordinance. The Arden Ordinance would have to be made stronger.

Warren Rosenkranz: **Point-of-order** Roberts Rules says if you lose a quorum, the meeting is over.

Chairman, Jeffrey Politis - When discussing this with the town lawyer and the parliamentarian about doing things different than Robert's Rules, they said the customs of the meeting overtake Robert's Rules. Our custom has been that we allow the business to continue to be conducted as long as no voting occurs.

Next Special Charter Town Assembly May 23 (Update: Changed to May 20<sup>th</sup>, BWVC, 7:30 p.m.).

Governance Task Force – Thank you!

#### **14.0 Old Business** Schroeder Trust document.

Due to the long meeting, there are few people present and they would like to adjourn at this point. The goal was to vote on the Trust Document in June with the idea that we would take the money transfer to the Trust through a referendum in September. Jennifer Borders presented a **motion: Move to adjourn** and review the Trust document at the next town meeting. **Motion approved.**

#### **15.0 New Business**

#### **16.0 Good & Welfare**

#### **17.0 Motion to Adjourn**

Adjournment meeting at: 10:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Resko,

Town of Arden Secretary

Pease note: Those attending Town Meetings are eligible to vote who are 18 years of age, or older.

Attachments Follow next page

<b>Trustees of Arden</b>	
<b>Financial Report</b>	
<b>Town Meeting March 25, 2024</b>	
<b>Current Assets as of February 24, 2024</b>	
Schroeder Bequest (Arden B&L)	\$ 21,671
Schroeder Bequest (Vanguard)	236,632
Trust Reserve (Arden B&L)	105,513
Trust Reserve (Vanguard)	83,310
M & T Checking Account	<u>119,007</u>
<b>Total Cash &amp; Equity</b>	<b>\$ 566,133</b>
Accunts Receivable	<u>731,101</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,297,234</b>
<b>Income &amp; Expenses</b>	
<b>Income Mar 25, 2023 - February 24, 2023</b>	
Land Rent	\$ 777,922
Other Income-All Sources	36,841
<b>Total 2023-24 Income YTD</b>	<b>\$ 814,763</b>
<b>Expenses Mar 25, 2023 - February 24, 2023</b>	
Village of Arden	\$ 200,000
Trust Administration*	22,737
New Castle County and School Tax	481,966
Tax Rebates to Leaseholders	47,158
<b>Total 2023-24 Expenses YTD</b>	<b>\$ 751,861</b>
<b>Surplus or (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 62,902</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 Activity  
As of December 31, 2023**

	<u>3/25/23- 12/31/23</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% to Budget</u>	
<b>Revenue</b>				
4000 - Transfer from Trustees - Land Rent	200,000	201,878	-	
4100 - Donations, grants, rentals	51,804	30,000		
4510 - Franchise Fee Receipts	17,006	15,100		
4900 - Interest Income	9,157	1,500		
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<u>277,968</u>	<u>248,478</u>		
<b>Expenses</b>				balance left in budget
6000 - Payroll & Payroll Taxes	18,503	20,700	89.39%	2,197
6300 - Administrative Expenses	20,905	40,150	52.07%	19,245
8000 - Committee Expenses - see detail below	47,314	84,300	56.13%	36,986
8010 - Contributions & Donations	5,800	5,800	100.00%	-
Contingency Fund	0	10,000	0.00%	10,000
8030 - Trash Service	63,841	69,278	92.15%	5,437
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>156,363</u>	<u>230,228</u>	<u>67.92%</u>	<u>73,865</u>
<b>Surplus (deficit)</b>	<u>121,605</u>	<u>18,250</u>		
<b>Committee</b>	<u>Actuals YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>		balance left in budget
Advisory	0	100		100
Archives	1,759	1,800	97.75%	41
Board of Assessors	0	100	0.00%	100
Budget	0	100	0.00%	100
Buzz Ware - Renovation Fund	0	2,000	0.00%	2,000
Buzz Ware - general operating support	0	5,000	0.00%	5,000
Civic	38,233	58,000	65.92%	19,767
Community Planning	0	500	0.00%	500
Forest	5,241	8,000	65.51%	2,759
Playground	1,484	4,000	37.11%	2,516
Registration	0	300	0.00%	300
Safety	596	4,400	13.55%	3,804
	<u>47,314</u>	<u>84,300</u>	<u>56.13%</u>	<u>36,986</u>

UNAUDITED  
FOR DISTRIBUTION  
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PURPOSES ONLY  
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TOWN ASSEMBLY

**Village of Arden**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**As of February 29, 2024**

		Notes
<b>Checking/Savings</b>		
TD/FCCB Banks Checking Account	110,837	includes \$401.05 TD bank Buzzware Debit Card
1010 - Municipal Street Aid Checking Account	15,660	
1010 - FCCB Money Market Account	281,203	
1010 - TD Bank Money Market Account	996	
1010 - FCCB 9 month CD	126,621	
1032 - Arden Building & Loan	32,310	
1050 - Fidelity Investments - net value @ 2-29-24	490,393	Schroeder Bequest - initial investment \$301,002
<b>Total Cash</b>	<b>1,058,020</b>	
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
2000 - Accounts Payable, Current Liabilities, PR Tax Payable	-	
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>		
Buzz Ware Renovation Fund	50,373	
J Schroeder Bequest	490,393	
Memorial Garden	11,183	
Municipal Street Aid	5,160	
Capital Maintenance Fund	30,000	
Village - cash available to meet budgeted expenses @ 2-29-24	226,745	
Vacant Dwelling Fund	32,481	
Playground Grant	7,108	
ARPA Funds	204,578	

UNAUDITED  
FOR DISTRIBUTION  
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Special Village Funds

	3/25/23	2/29/24													
	Buzz Ware	Buzz renovation	J. Schroeder Bequest	Memorial Garden	MSA	Lapins Main Repair Fund	Vacans Dwelling Fund	Playground Crane	Total ARPA Funds	ARPA Buzz Sewer Upgrade	ARPA Playground Equipment	ARPA Archives Internet Upgrade	ARPA Somers Management		
<b>Revenue</b>															
4000 - General Funds - Village	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4010 - Donations	-	8,227	-	1,405	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4100 - Program Donations	8,145	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4300 - Cranes	-	-	-	-	18,331	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4400 - Rentals	35,517	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4520 - Vacans Property Registration Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4900 - Interest & Dividend Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SREC	854	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>44,526</b>	<b>8,227</b>		<b>1,405</b>	<b>18,331</b>										
<b>Expenses</b>															
6000 - Payroll & Payroll Taxes	23,098	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6300 - Administrative Expenses	335	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6310 - Janitorial Supplies	562	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6320 - Printing Expenses	438	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6500 - Equipment Purchases	225	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,889.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6920 - Professional Fees - Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,275
7020 - Utilities (gas, electric, water, telephone)	5,175	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7060 - Licenses/Permits/Fees/Alarm/Monitoring	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7070 - Alarm monitoring	3,275	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7500 - Renovations	2,572	2,855	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7600 - Repairs & Maintenance	833	2,794	-	-	-	-	-	-	459	-	-	-	-	-	-
8000 - Program Expenses	4,100	255	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,475	6,921	-	-	-	-	-
8010 - Contributions & Donations	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8030 - Trash Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8040 - Tree Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8050 - Road Maintenance	-	-	-	-	24,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8060 - Ground Maintenance (mowing, etc)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>40,515</b>	<b>5,904</b>			<b>24,000</b>			<b>20,889</b>		<b>1,934</b>	<b>6,921</b>				<b>20,275</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>3,911</b>	<b>2,324</b>		<b>1,405</b>	<b>(5,669)</b>			<b>(20,889)</b>		<b>(1,934)</b>	<b>(6,921)</b>				<b>(20,275)</b>
Carried forward fund balance	0	48,049		9,778	10,829	30,000	32,481	27,997	211,128	9,110	7,875	15,000	135,400		
<b>Fund balance</b>		<b>50,373</b>	<b>490,393</b>	<b>11,183</b>	<b>5,160</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>32,481</b>	<b>7,108</b>	<b>150,982</b>	<b>7,175</b>	<b>954</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>106,124</b>		

TOWN CHARTER – ACT TO REINCORPORATE THE VILLAGE OF ARDEN  
 Volume 56, Chapter 125

Section 1: Name and General Powers	Section 13. Police Force Appointment of Police Force Powers and duties of police
Section 2: Territorial Limits	
Section 3: Definitions (a) Resident (b) General referendum (c) Trustee (d) Leaseholder	Section 14. Contracts of the Town Assembly
Section 4: Structure of Government	Section 15. Fire, Zoning and Housing Codes
Section 5: Meetings of the Town Assembly (a) Regular Meetings (b) Special Meetings (c) Quorum (d) Voting (e) Ordinances (f) Rules of the Meeting (g) Chairman of Town Assembly * (h) Town Secretary	Section 16. Savings Clause
Section 6: Committees of the Town Meeting (a) Officials (b) Continuing Service	Section 17. Severability
Section 7: Board of Assessors (a) Members (b) Length of Service (c) Duties (d) Oath of Office (e) Assessment Rate (f) Differential Factors (g) Record of Proceedings	Section 18. This Act shall be deemed and taken to be a public Act Approved October 13, 1967
Section 8: Budget Committee (a) Members (b) Preparation (c) Report and Approval	<b>Amendments:</b> Volume 58. change voting age from 21 to 18 (1971) Volume 63. Exception from keeping individual voting records (1982) Volume 69. Registration Committee membership from three members to five members (1993)
Section 9: Registration Committee (a) Members (Amended) (b) Return of Residents (c) Supervision of Referenda (d) (e) Section 10. Vacancies	<b>*Addition to correct:</b> Section 5: Meetings of the town Assembly Add (g) Chairman of Town Assembly Change former (g) entry to (h) Town Secretary
Section 11: Powers and Ordinances Powers under the Constitution and laws of Delaware Powers with states, civil division or agencies thereof Duty of Town Assembly and Town Secretary regarding ordinances, codes, orders and rules	<b>ordinance</b> - a piece of legislation enacted by municipal authority; <b>resolution</b> - a firm decision to do or not to do something;
Section 12: Enforcement, Fines and Penalties (a) Jurisdiction of the Justice of the Peace Court (b) Limits of fine or imprisonment (c) Appeal of conviction of ordinance violation	