

CALL TO ORDER/MINUTES APPROVAL

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Village of Ardencroft was called to order at 7:04 pm on February 17th, 2025.

The minutes of the previous November 18th meeting were posted on the ardencroft.delaware.gov website. The minutes of the November 18th, 2024 meeting were approved with no corrections.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Councilman John Cartier attended. He confirmed that Ardencroft recently received \$2600 in grant support for the 75th Anniversary projects. The next stage of redeveloping the mass transit center in Claymont update: Right now there is a county-led zoning change from industrial to mixed-use development. That is going to the planning board on March 4, and then the County Land Use Committee and be voted on by Council some time in April. That site with 7 parcels is envisioned to have a riverfront park and marina. The hope is that the next few years will include progress on those plans. The federal government gives 25 million dollars each year to the County. We get funding for the Hope Center and for 1,800 Section 8 vouchers, among other things for Housing and Urban Development (HUD). That funding is in jeopardy at this time based on what's happening in Washington, D.C. Cartier urges everyone to get in touch with their federal delegation.

Newly elected Senator Ray Siegfried attended. He thanked attendees for their confidence in him. He is officially a Senator as of Sunday, February 16. The joint finance committee at the State level is presenting their formal budget before June, when it will be voted upon. That process will continue into mid-March. Senator Siegfried has been assigned his committees, like healthcare, where he plans to be vocal. The other committees are small business and other issues like economics, education. The state auditor will be auditing the port and Edgemoor.

Mike Pione from Ardentown attended. He discussed two aspects for which we are concerned regarding the Delmarva power lines. The first is the issue with lead in the soil. Two reports indicated that there is too much lead in the soil, in some places more than 10 times the EPA standard. The second issue is that Delmarva plans on building new towers, which requires heavy equipment as well as drilling into lead-contaminated soil. The biggest objection is that Delmarva wants to carve a 30-38'-wide swath in Ardentown for the new towers. Mike brought a petition for residents to sign. He pointed out that Delmarva has not communicated their plan and is no longer responding to Ardens' communication or the Villages' lawyer's communication. Mike referred to a December 2024 article in the *Arden Page* that he wrote, called "New Power Towers: What You Can Do." Ben Gruswitz referred to [WHYY's coverage](#) of the issue a few weeks ago. Delmarva had canceled on the reporter for an interview in that article. There has been no reply from Ben's notification regarding the Ordinance to ban the transmission lines and to pay an impact fee. Ben and Don will come up with a bill to send Delmarva based on the upcoming land rent calculation. Ben indicated there was at one point interest from *Spotlight Delaware* for a follow-up article about this issue and Delmarva in Delaware in general. Ray Siegfried will be at the meeting regarding the Environmental and Energy Committee and will speak about the issue and advocate on behalf of Ardentown and

Ardencroft for a possible moratorium. John Cartier suggested filing an objection to Delmarva's plan with the Delaware Public Service Commission and demanding alternatives. A lawyer might be necessary for this route. Mary Beth Whipple reported that she reached out about our protections as a Historic site; however, there is not much that can be done unless federal funds are involved. Residents interested in getting involved can reach out to Lisa Riblett from Ardentown.

OFFICER'S REPORTS

Chair's Report

Ben Gruswitz reported. Ben made a special committee appointment. There was a request from Ardentown to have an ad hoc committee formed about controlling deer in the Sunnyside Track. Scott Bowers will chair the group. Kevin Nemeth and Lisa Surbrook will also serve on that committee. Tonight one of the themes is the upcoming election. Each committee will share a snippet of what they do. We need people to step up into these roles. Much of our information about elections will be on our ardencroft.delaware.gov website this year, since our next Village Assembly meeting will be in May. As of March 12, 2025, Ben will be vacating the position of Chair due to personal reasons. Ben has loved working with the Village on the number of initiatives. Jenn Abernethy will be the Interim Chair until a new one is elected, hopefully at the May 2025 election. The new chair will serve the remainder of Ben's term, which ends in May 2026.

Secretary's Report

Jenn Abernethy reported. Jenn is planning to create an area on the website for upcoming Ardencroft elections, where those running for Officer positions or Committee positions can share a statement that can inform choice for those voting. A notice will be sent out to the Village in April when that information is up on the ardencroft.delaware.gov website. Jenn will follow up with those who are running to populate that information on the site.

Treasurer's Report

Don Lipari reported. He discussed the line items in the attached financial report. The ARPA account will be closed by the end of April 2025. He pointed out that we got the Community Transportation Fund Grant and two anonymous grants for invasive growth removal from our trees. Business Administration expenses are nominal. Community contributions will come up next month. Tree planting expenses were more than we received, so we will be charging that to ARPA. We also started a down payment for half of the cost of the new swingset (in Parks and Recreation). There have been three snow removals this winter, and we have paid two so far.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

Wyn Achenbaum reported. Land rent will NOT be raised this year. A year ago, the Directors forecasted an increase for this year. Right now, the Directors feel confident that current funds will cover any increases this year. We do not know if our evaluations from Tyler Technologies would have risen more or less than those in other parts of BSD and NCC. If ours have risen faster, then we will pay more in taxes. We are waiting to hear from BSD, who settled on a new contract with teachers last week. That contract may add to the 7.2% raise in school taxes this year but the raise is capped at 10%. The Directors are keeping records of any assessments received from residents regarding the evaluations from Tyler Technologies. The deadline for a formal appeal to Tyler Technologies is March

14. The Directors are willing to help with that process if residents feel that the assessment is too high. The Village is asking Tyler Technologies to lump land evaluation into home evaluation rather than keep them separate. This request is also being made by Arden. Land rent is vital in making ArdenCROFT a great place to live. It's used to fund Village services, pay the NCC and BSD taxes, insurance coverages, and various professional services. Land rent needs to be paid in full on time and in hand. There is a 1.5% interest rate per month on outstanding land rent. There will be property reassessments every five years. The current evaluations are based on 2023.

A resident asked about the amount of money in arrears that Directors are attempting to collect. Wyn indicated there are a few leaseholders with issues that are being worked on. Some arrears have been collected, which has helped. Another resident said she hadn't received anything back from Tyler Technologies after an appeal. A parcel search can help with that. Residents can reach out to the Directors for help with this process, if needed. Ben thanked the Directors for their prudence via the Prudent Reserve, leading to the ability to maintain the same land rent this upcoming year as last fiscal year.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Coordinating Committee

Ben Gruswitz reported. The Committee last met on February 5, 2025 and put plans together for the budget and the ballot. Ben shared the attached dates for Ballot and Budget Plans [attached]. The Committee will meet on March 12, 2025 and come together with budget numbers as well as who may be running for open positions. That meeting will be the final meeting that Ben will serve as Village Chair.

Residents can add their names to the ballot as early as tonight and up until April 10, which is the cutoff date for nominations. The draft ballot and final ballot will be on the [website](#). In addition, we will have statements of intent and/or short bios of candidates to inform choice as much as possible. Our goal is to have more candidates than open positions. This ballot will have 20 different candidate spots [attached]. The draft ballot will also be on the bulletin boards (one at Sunset Lane by Pauline A. Young Park and another by the bench and entrance to the Buzz Ware Village Center) and the *Arden Page*. The FY26 budget process for next year is as follows: it will be on the website by April 2, followed by a public comment period. The final budget will be posted by May 12. The vote will take place during the next Village Assembly meeting, on May 19.

There is a FY25 Budget Amendment for a few reasons. We are amending the current budget because there has been a large funding increase since the budget adoption. We now have \$57,000+ in newly awarded grants. There have been two \$1,000 anonymous donations for controlling invasives in the forest. Ben discussed the line items in the attached FY25 Amended Budget. This is an opportunity to transparently show how obligated funds are spent. While we created this amended budget, we balanced with the latest known figures. Refer to the attachment FY25 Non-Trash, Non-MSA Obligated Funds Allocation for this transparency.

Environment Committee

Lisa Surbrook reported. The Environment Committee is planning events for Spring, including Earth Day cleanup, which is usually the same day as Ardentown and Arden as a coordinated effort. Another planned event will be for Arbor Day. Once we do that and

adopt our Forest Stewardship Policy, we can apply to be a member of Tree City, USA. That will be in April 2025. The discussed donations will be used to coordinate with Red Tail Environmental Land Management to come help us clear invasive plants around the new 240 trees we planted. Right now, the deer fencing is up, but there are invasives underneath and inside the fencing. The Forest Stewardship Policy has been written up. It will be posted on the website for residents to take a look at. It's seven pages long and includes everything from erosion control to tree management, invasive plant management, etc. It's modeled after Arden's policy. We will adopt it as a resolution at the May 2025 Village Assembly meeting. Any public comment can be sent to the Environment Committee. This policy is more about the forest and not leasehold areas.

Finance Committee

No report.

Public Works Committee

Chris Raia reported. Public Works is about physical infrastructure and playgrounds in the Village. Public Works works primarily with issues like paving, storm water, etc. They have to work with paving and asphalt, with a dwindling MSA fund. There are a number of initiatives right now for the 75th Anniversary Revitalization Project. Chris acknowledged how much work Ben has put into Public Works to get these projects funded.

The Public Works Committee met in January. At the Pauline A. Young and Beech Lane Parks, there are a few initiatives happening. Chris discussed the attached image of the Pauline A. Young Park projects. The funding has been green lit, but payment specifics vary. Some are checks that come in, and some are reimbursements. In general, the upgrades are green lit to move forward. There will most likely be a gap between when the old swingset is demolished at Pauline A. Young Park and when the new one is installed. Chris will create the interpretive sign for the park. The bulletin board will also be refreshed by Ken Morrison, who will also create a corral for the new trash cans at the park. Wayne Knotts will bring in an engineer to assess the structure of the Curtis Bridge and document those results. Some of the fasteners in the top boards are pulling out of the wood. The Rocky Walk Bridge will also be assessed. An engineer will look at the proposed drawings. Sanctuary Path handrails will be okay to replace now as well, thanks to funding. The Beech Lane Park will be getting a similar-but-smaller-footprint for an accessible patio and picnic table area and a trash corral. The Safety Committee may discuss a possible safety fence along a property line at the Pauline A. Young Park with the Public Works Committee. There's no current funding set aside for that. A resident asked about the basketball court. The short hoop that is currently in disrepair does not belong to the Village. Multiple people have expressed interest in a pickleball court there, which could be sought after via grant (bond bill funds) if anyone wants to pursue that as an extension of the other improvements.

Lastly, Public Works has been discussing assisting with installing new speed limit signs on Veale and Harvey. Public Works usually does not do work on public roads, but the Village is being asked to pay for the new 25mph signs within the municipal limits. Ben is waiting on a reply from DelDOT about where the signs will go specifically.

A resident brought up a concern that there were ATV tracks on the Curtis Bridge trail/bridge the last time there was snow on the ground. Anything with a motor is

prohibited on our paths. Residents can bring up issues to Safety or Public Works, especially if there's any way to identify the vehicle.

A resident requested that the waterway next to the path from Upper Greenbriar to Lower Greenbriar be cleared of leaves, pine needles, and silt, so it can function as originally designed. Residents are asked to contact the Public Works committee directly with specific issues.

Registration Committee

Linda Toman reported. On Monday, February 10, the registration committee had a meeting that was short and sweet. It began at 3 PM and ended at 4 PM. Linda was the only attendee, since other members of the committee were both out of town. My agenda included doing an inventory for welcome packet fillings. After the meeting, I made the appropriate copies, found more Arden Club calendars, etc. Jenn Abernethy provided more ACRA directories. I purchased more folders from Staples, and set about filling six welcome packs. These will be given out next week since no one was available this past weekend.

Linda mentioned specific dates for the 2025 ArdenCROFT Elections (see attached "Ballot & Budget Plans [Timeline]"). The Election will coincide with the May 19th ArdenCROFT Village Assembly. Leading up to that date, we have April 10th as our last date to get your name on the ballot for this election. That will give the Registration Committee a week or so to print and prepare for mailing eligible voter ballots by April 22nd. There will be more information available to be read in the March and April *Arden Page* as well as the ArdenCROFT website.

A resident asked if it's strictly mail-in ballots. The answer is yes, but residents can bring in filled out ballots to the Village Assembly meeting on May 19th. There will be no ballots available at the meeting.

Safety Committee

No report. See "New Business" for Safety Committee Ordinances.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

75th Anniversary/Park Dedication

Jenn Abernethy reported on behalf of Dan Rubin. ArdenCROFT is gearing up for its 75th anniversary. The Anniversary Committee is in the process of planning a community celebration with the date to be determined for the upcoming Fall. In anticipation, the Arden Craft Shop Museum (ACSM) will host a special exhibit in October 2025, featuring ArdenCROFT. We invite residents to contribute items such as photos, letters, personal memorabilia, and objects related to ArdenCROFT's history, including the Arden School and its role in racial integration. Artworks by past and present ArdenCROFT artists are also welcome and appreciated. Additionally, the Committee plans to record oral histories from residents. Written accounts detailing early life in ArdenCROFT, community engagement, and memories of its formative years are also appreciated. A similar notice is scheduled to be part of the March issue of the *Arden Page*. If you have items for the exhibit or wish to share your memories for oral history or in a written form, please contact Kathleen Jost at kathleen@josts.us or 215-605-3522. Thank you for helping us celebrate and preserve ArdenCROFT's history.

Aging in Place

Mary Brent Whipple reported. The Ardens Helping Hands was created to support neighbors in the Ardens who need temporary assistance with meals, errands, rides, etc. If you would like to be on the help list, sign up and indicate what you are willing to provide. If you are not in the directory, include your phone number. If you or someone you know needs assistance, numbers to call are in *The Arden Page*.

Archives

Mary Brent Whipple reported. The Archives Committee participated in the Centennial of the Arden School with Barbara Macklem giving a history of the Buzz Ware Village Center and coordinating the display of photos. Our own Annette Hearing will be the next Afternoon with the Artist, which will be a mixed media and watercolor exhibition on Sunday, March 23rd.

This year's annual exhibition will be focused on ArdenCROFT's 75th anniversary and the museum will be closed for a few weeks in September while that show is mounted. Phil Fischer's donated sculpture was installed in December.

Sadie Sommerville suggested that guided history strolls in each of the Ardens be held on a Wednesday in June, July, and August/September for residents as a part of Arden's 125th Anniversary and ArdenCROFT's 75th. A number of residents asked about this after seeing outside groups having tours, and it was thought it would get residents interested in their own history with different themes for the walks.

Walter Borders from the Arden Civic Committee talked about plans for historic markers for the Whitman Memorial and the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial on the Arden Green. Wording and information on the markers would be coordinated with Archives. General results of several public meetings will be sent to the committee. Discussion was held about wording as some of Arden's founders were not willing to go to war and how to keep this apolitical.

The proposal was raised about having the museum open for the Art Loop on first Fridays in June, July, and August.

Plans for the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence next year include every state house to display lanterns and to have a day of service April 18th and 19th with museums and municipalities across the country asked to participate. ArdenCROFT might want to think about if and how we should participate.

Buzz Ware Village Center

Ken Rosenberg reported. BWVC Emergency Resilience Hub: The DNREC Grant funding with additional money for efficiency upgrades has been approved for the battery back-up power systems designed to make the Buzz self-sufficient in an emergency. The \$200,000 grant has been approved for \$174,000. The original grant included upgrades for LED ceiling lighting and possibly a new refrigerator, but with the reduction ceiling lighting cannot be included. Rachel Brown is the liaison working with Jeff Politis as the primary contact for the project. The roof will need to be replaced and a new flat roof installed which will be paid through the BWVC renovation funds, these funds come from volunteer work and the Peddlers, Potions and Practitioners event profits at the Arden

Fair, so no town money is being used for this project. The Buzz will also receive an additional \$15,000 Delmarva grant representing advance payment for solar credits, which can also be used to support this project. Buzz Ware Village Committee meeting notes are posted monthly to the following location: <https://arden.delaware.gov/committees/buzz-ware-village-center-committee/>. Note that minutes are posted a month later because each meeting's minutes need to be approved at the following BWVC meeting. As a liaison, Ken is an attendee at the meetings but does not vote.

Amy Pollock noted that the Ardens Ready Community Emergency Response is part of what Jeff Politis was working with to get the Grant for the solar panels.

Poultry/Livestock Policy

No report.

Transmission Lines

Ben Gruswitz reported. Much of the report was included earlier, during Mike Pione's report as a guest.

A resident asked if there can be a Go Fund Me for a lawyer to help with this issue. Ben suggested that the resident bring that to the Transmission Line Committee.

Transportation Plan Monitoring Committee

Ben Gruswitz reported. DelDOT did update a resolution for our speed limit on Veale Rd to be 25 mph. Right now we're working on signage for this and where 25mph signage should be at the start of 25mph on Harvey CSX overpass. Ben applied for a Transportation Alternatives Grant for furthering six crosswalk designs and construction of one or two of them after public process and vote. Ben will explore any funding that we would need to have, should we get the grant.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Executive Session

Authorization for Village Chair to negotiate legal settlement with SEM/TrashTech. ***The authorization was approved.***

NEW BUSINESS

A. FY25 amended budget resolution proposal

Jenn Abernethy made a motion: "I move that the current FY25 budget be amended according to the handout." ***The motion passed unanimously.***

B. Proposed ordinance update on Leashing of Dogs

Jenn Abernethy made a motion for the first time on behalf of the Safety Committee: "I move that the current ordinance on Leashing of Dogs be replaced with the proposed ordinance in the handout." This motion will be read for a second time and voted on at the May 2025 Village Assembly meeting. A conversation ensued about the wording of the ordinance, mainly the definitions of "running loose" and the contexts of "running loose" on private property. The spirit of this ordinance is to focus on unaccompanied dogs and irresponsible dog owners. Residents are encouraged to email

info@ardencroft.delaware.gov with feedback, as our current safety@ardencroft.delaware.gov email appears not to be working as intended.

C. Proposed ordinance update on Street Parking

Jenn Abernethy made a motion for the first time: "I move that the current ordinance on Street Parking be replaced with the proposed ordinance in the handout." After further discussion, this motion was withdrawn. The general consensus seems to be that there is not a need for such a prescriptive ordinance at this time but rather a look at what areas are dangerous for parking and what areas need to be limited. Some residents emphasized a need for further discussion regarding the non-Ardencroft side of Willow Way. The Safety Committee will discuss this issue further and present an Ordinance at another time, should they need one to address this issue. Residents are encouraged to email info@ardencroft.delaware.gov with feedback, as our current safety@ardencroft.delaware.gov email appears not to be working as intended.

D. Proposed update on Finance Committee

Jenn Abernethy made a motion for the first time: "I move that the language regarding Finance Committee meetings be updated as follows: '...The Finance Committee will make an annual recommendation as to the rental value of the lands in Ardencroft and to report in writing the same to the Directors of the Ardencroft Association and to the Village Assembly with all substantive data on which their recommendations are based. ~~...Two (2) public hearings shall be held before such recommendations are submitted, and due notice of such meetings shall be given to all eligible voters by mail or delivery at least seven (7) days before such meetings.~~ One (1) public hearing shall be held before such recommendations are submitted, and due notice of the meeting, consistent with other village public meetings, shall be given.'" This motion will be read for a second time and voted on at the May 2025 Village Assembly meeting.

GOOD AND WELFARE

- Peg Shaw is now in assisted living around Elkton, Maryland. The Village will send a card to her, letting her know that she is in our thoughts.
- ACRA Solicitation Day is now ACRA Solicitations. Keep an eye out in the *Arden Page* and via email/website for the changes. Rather than being one day, Solicitations will be from May 1 until the House and Garden Tour Reception on Sunday, May 18, 2025, where we will commune as a community and Solicitations volunteers are encouraged to return their bags/collected donations. This change will allow more flexibility with volunteers' schedules. Jenn Abernethy is coordinating this on behalf of ACRA.
- The Village would like to thank Ben Gruswitz for being a tremendous Village Chair and a positive instrument of change.
- Amy Pollock shared that the Citizens Emergency Response (Ardens Ready) is still open for volunteers and is offering a CPR course next week for those interested.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:07pm.

Village Assembly Meeting Minutes

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Submitted,

Jennifer Abernethy

Jennifer Abernethy, Village Secretary

ATTACHMENTS

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17	Public Works Park Upgrades
18-19	Ordinance Proposal: Leashing of Dogs
20-21	Ordinance Proposal: Street Parking

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2/17/25 Village Assembly Meeting Attendance

Residents

1. Jennifer Abernethy
2. Ben Gruswitz
3. Lorna Lee
4. Ken Rosenberg
5. Linda Toman
6. Don Lipari
7. Bob Pollock
8. Joe Achenbaum
9. Wyn Achenbaum
10. Chris Raia
11. Scott Bowers
12. Lisa Surbrook
13. Ken Morrison
14. Amy Pollock
15. Mary Brent Whipple
16. Cathy Brown
17. Kirsten Kimberg
18. Janet Williams
19. Jeanne Orr
20. Vaughn Byarm

Guests

Councilman John Cartier
State Senator Ray Siegfried
Ardentown resident Mike Pione

Village Assembly Meeting Minutes

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Ardencroft Financial Report - 11/18/2024 - 2/16/2025

Ardencroft Financial Report 11/18/2024 - 2/16/2025				
CASH				
Operating Acct	27,663			
Restricted ARPA Funds	11,547			
Restricted DNREC Tree Planting Grant	0			
Available Operating Funds	16,116			
MSA Acct	69,761			
Interest on Savings	4,087			
Arden B&L	803			
Total Funds	102,314			
			FY25	
	This Period	Year to Date	Budget	Remaining
INCOME:				
Arden B&L	16	16	0	(16)
Ardencroft Directors	0	0	21,161	21,161
Directors for Trash Collection	0	0	27,300	27,300
Comcast Franchise Fees	407	1,340	2,054	714
MSA	0	5,868	6,020	152
Other Grants & Contributions	4,654	20,104	7,250	(12,854)
Tree Planting Grant (DNREC)	14,352	28,703	28,703	0
GoFundMe for Tree Planting (private donations)		999	1,000	1
Verizon Franchise Fees	176	323	620	297
TOTAL INCOME	19,604	57,353	94,108	36,755
ADMINISTRATION				
Administrative Expenses	(236)	(1,206)	1,500	394
Chair's Discretionary	0	(30)	1,500	1,470
Delaware League of Local Governments Dues	0	(525)	525	0
D&O Liability Insurance	0	(3,198)	3,250	52
Secretary Stipend	(250)	(750)	1,500	750
Treasurer's Bond	0	0	100	100
Treasurer Stipend	0	0	1,500	1,500
Website / email support	0	0	500	500
TOTAL ADMIN	(486)	(5,709)	10,475	
COMMUNITY				
ACRA	0	0	880	880
Arden Craft Shop Museum	0	0	800	800
Arden Library	0	0	400	400
Arden Page	0	0	400	400
Buzz Ware Village Center	0	0	2,000	2,000
Fire/Ambulance	0	0	500	500
TOTAL COMMUNITY	0	0	4,980	
COMMITTEES				
<i>Environment Committee</i>				
Tree Planting	(32,836)	(32,836)	29,703	(3,133)
Miscellaneous - Environment	0	(308)	500	192
Finance Committee	0	0	100	100
<i>Public Works Committee</i>				
Miscellaneous - Public Works	0	0	500	500
Park Mowing	(300)	(1,900)	2,700	800
Parks & Recreation	(5,205)	(5,205)	2,000	(3,205)
Snow Removal (MSA)	(2,050)	(2,050)	3,000	950
Streets & Signs (MSA)	0	(560)	5,000	4,440
Trash/Recycling Collection	(6,913)	(18,667)	27,300	8,633
Trees/Paths/Maintenance	(100)	(720)	7,000	6,280
Registration Committee	0	0	800	800
Safety Committee	0	0	50	50
TOTAL COMMITTEES	(47,404)	(62,245)	78,653	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	(47,890)	(67,954)	94,108	
NET	(28,286)	(10,601)	0	

Ballot and Budget Plans [Timeline]

Ballot & Budget Plans

2025 Ballot

- Feb. 17 Open nominations start
- Mar. 19 Draft ballot on web
- Apr. 10 Nominations close
- Apr. 22 Ballots mailed & candidates' statements of interest on web
- May 19 Vote
- Jun 2 Results

FY 2026 Budget

- Apr. 2 Draft budget on web (public comment period starts)
- Apr. 30 Public comment period ends
- May 12 Final posted
- May 19 Vote

2025 Ballot Candidate Openings

Seeking 20 Candidates for 2025 Ballot _____

At least one more than number of seats available

Officers

- (2) **Chair** [to 2026]
- (2) **Secretary** [to 2027]
- (2) **Treasurer** [to 2027]

Committees

- (3) **Environment** [to 2027]
- (2) **Finance** [to 2027]
- (4) **Public Works** [to 2027]
- (3) **Registration** [to 2027]
- (2) **Safety**[to 2027]

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FY25 Amended Budget

FY 2025 Budget

Fiscal Year Period 7.1.24 to 6.30.25

Approved (\$)

INCOME & CARRYOVER

Ardencroft Association	
Land Rent (portion collected for Village Budget)	21,161
Residential Trash Fees*	27,488
Bank Interest	
Cable Provider Franchise Fees	
Comcast	2,054
Verizon	620
DelDOT Municipal Street Aid (MSA)	
FY25*	5,868
<i>Prior Years' Carryover*^</i>	65,943
Other Grants & Contributions	
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Carryover*	19,885
CTF Remaining FY24 Grant: Ash Tree Cutting Reimburs. [Gay]	7,250
Tree Planting Grant (TEDI) [DNREC] FY24 Carryover + FY25*	28,703
GoFundMe for Tree Planting (private donations) Carryover*	1,000
Anonymous Donations to Environment Committee*	2,000
Outdoor Recreation, Parks & Trails (ORPT) [DNREC]: 75th Revit. Proj.*	35,000
CTF FY25 Grant: 75th Anniv. Revitalization Projects [Gay, Lambert]*	17,697
County Council Grant: 75th Revitalization Projects [Cartier]*	2,654
Arden B&L	0
TOTAL INCOME & CARRYOVER	171,380

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FY25 Amended Budget (Continued)

EXPENDITURES	
Administrative Expenses	1,600
Chair's Discretionary	1,500
Delaware League of Local Governments Dues	525
D&O Liability Insurance	3,250
Secretary Stipend	1,500
Treasurer's Bond	100
Treasurer Stipend	1,500
Website / email support	500
Administration	10,475
ACRA	880
Arden Craft Shop Museum	800
Arden Library	400
Arden Page	400
Buzz Ware Village Center	2,000
Fire/Ambulance	500
Community	4,980
Environment Committee	
Tree Planting	32,836
Open Space/Forest Vegetation Inventory	3,048
Invasives Control	2,000
Miscellaneous	500
Finance Committee	100
Public Works Committee	
Miscellaneous	500
Park Mowing	2,700
Parks & Recreation	1,231
Snow Removal (MSA)	3,000
Streets & Signs (MSA)	2,868
Residential Waste Services	27,488
Trees/Paths/Maintenance	7,250
75th Revitalization Projects	71,554
Registration Committee	800
Safety Committee	50
Committees	155,925
TOTAL EXPENDITURES*	171,380
NET	0

* Obligated funds (\$206,237 total)

▲ Unspent DelDOT Municipal Street Aid (MSA) funds from a given fiscal year carryover as reserve in the Village's MSA account. Roadway and pavement projects often require sums much greater than the State's annual allotment. The MSA funds received continue on a downward trend and maintenance is getting more expensive. This budget presents the MSA available in reserve in the Income & Carryover section in order to monitor whether or not our accumulated funds may be great enough to invest in planned maintenance needs, and/or whether outside funding should be pursued, such as Community Transportation Funds (CTF) via our state legislators.

Village Assembly Meeting Minutes

February 17th, 2025



FY25 Non-Trash, Non-MSA Obligated Funds Allocation

FY25 Non-Trash, Non-MSA Obligated Funds Allocation

			Sources							Total Expenses		
			Obligated									
Item	Contractor		US Gov. ARPA	DNREC TEDI	Ardens GoFund Me	Annon-ymous	DNREC ORPT	Lambert / Gay CTF25	Cartier County Council		General	
Enviro.	Tree Planting	Davey Tree	3,133	28,703	1,000						32,836	
	Vegetation Inventory	Will Ryan	3,048								3,048	
	Invasives Control	Red Tail				2,000					2,000	
Expenses	1. Pauline A. Young Park (PAYP) sign		TBD					1,250			1,250	1,250
	2. PAYP New Swings, Spinner	Demolition	1000 Hands Hort.							625		625
		Equipment	Rec. Resource	9,000						929	480	9,929
		Installation	Buzz Burger					10,000			520	10,000
	3. PAYP bulletin board improvement		Home Remedies					250			250	250
	4. Accessible picnic areas at each park		1000 Hands Hort.	4,704				10,500	5,796			21,000
	5. Trash corrals for each park		Home Remedies					1,100		1,100		2,200
	6. Curtis Bridge repair		Home Remedies					6,398	6,398			12,796
7. Rocky Walk bridge replacement		Home Remedies					3,090	3,090			6,180	
8. Sanctuary Path handrail replacement		Home Remedies					2,412	2,413			4,825	
Total Sources			19,885	28,703	1,000	2,000	35,000	17,697	2,654	2,500	106,939	

Public Works Park Upgrades



Ordinance Proposal: Leashing of Dogs

Ordinance Proposal
Leashing of Dogs

Purpose

The purpose of this ordinance is to protect the safety, health, and welfare of the residents, visitors, and pets within the Village of Ardencroft (Village) by prohibiting dogs from running loose within the Village limits and establishing penalties for violations of this ordinance.

Definitions

For the purpose of this ordinance, the following terms shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them:

- Dog: Any member of the species *Canis lupus familiaris*.
- Owner: Any person who owns, keeps, harbors, or has control or custody of a dog.
- Running Loose: A dog being on any public or private property within the Village without being securely restrained by a leash or other appropriate device.

Prohibition

No owner shall permit such a dog to run loose within the Village.

Penalties

1. Any person found to be in violation of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine according to the Penalty Table below.
2. Each instance of a dog running loose shall be considered a separate violation.

Penalty Table

Category	Incident	Penalty for Offenses		
		First	Second	Each Subsequent
Owner Causes Harm	Dog harms human, pet, or property while running loose	Warning	\$50	Double prior offense, (not exceeding the Municipal Fine Structure maximum)
Negligence: Owner Causes Potential Harm	Dog with no harm history repeatedly running loose without owner present	Warning	\$25	
	Dog with history of harm is off leash/running loose	n/a	\$50	

Ordinance Proposal: Leashing of Dogs (Continued)

Enforcement Procedures

1. At first offense the Village will deliver to the dog owner a formal warning letter with a web link to this ordinance, along with links to relevant Delaware and New Castle County code
2. With second or subsequent offenses, the Village will send a formal letter listing prior offense(s) and latest offense, as well an invoice for a fine consistent with the Penalty Table.
3. For all violations, the Village will explain the above procedures for the municipality to any victims or witnesses, as well as advise them of relevant state and county codes and their ability to report violations to Delaware Animal Services.

Severability

If any section, clause, provision, or portion of this ordinance is found to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the ordinance shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect.

Empowered Committees/Officials

Separately from any ordinance, Village policy empowers committees or relevant officials to perform functions associated with an ordinance. This meets the needs of ordinances, while avoiding the procedural hurdle of amending the ordinance for simple text changes if there is ever need for reassignment of responsibilities to a new party, or if a committee or title is formally changed.

For the ordinance above, the empowered committees/officials are:

Function	Empowered Party
Receiving violation reports	Safety Committee
Enforcement	Safety Committee
Maintenance of violation records	Safety Committee

Ordinance Proposal: Street Parking

Ordinance Proposal

Street Parking

Purpose

The purpose of this ordinance is to keep the streets of the Village of Ardencroft (Village) clear, thereby reducing pinch points that impede two-way traffic, pedestrian movement, and bicyclist safety. Additionally, this ordinance aims to prioritize swift and unobstructed access for service trucks and emergency vehicles. By regulating parking within the Village, we seek to enhance the overall safety and functionality of our roadways for all users.

Prohibition

Parking on the streets of the Village is to be minimized for all vehicles, regardless of the residency status of the vehicle owner or operator. Driveways are the preferred parking place for residents and visitors to homes along Ardencroft streets, particularly for vehicles remaining longer than an hour.

Procedures to Address Temporary Needs

1. Those hosting events or visitors should alert the Village if they anticipate street parking will be needed, indicating potential magnitude or issues.
2. The Village will contact hosts if there is concern.

Procedures for Ongoing Need Exemptions

1. Those with ongoing individual needs for street parking at their homes can seek exceptions to this restriction via written request to the relevant empower committee or official.
2. Empowered committees/officials will
 - a. Notify requester of receipt and expected timeframe for decision
 - b. Consider exceptions and reply with a decision.
 - c. Maintain records of exemption decisions.
3. Exemptions will apply to the requesting party if that address and abide by the provisions of the exemption.

Enforcement and Penalties

1. Violations will be tied to individual vehicles.
2. For a first-time violation the Village will deliver to the vehicle owner a formal warning letter with a web link to this ordinance.
3. A second violation will be subject to a \$25 fine and will receive an invoice with a formal letter listing the current and prior violation.

Ordinance Proposal: Street Parking (Continued)

- 4. The fine for each subsequent violation will increase by \$25 (not exceeding the Municipal Fine Structure maximum). Invoices will be accompanied by a formal letter listing current and prior violations.
- 5. Repeated violations of this ordinance may result in the towing of the vehicle at the owner's expense.

Special Events

During special events, such as the Arden Fair, all vehicles parked within the Village must abide by any temporary signage and directions issued by the Village. Violators of these temporary regulations are subject to fines and immediate towing at the owner's expense.

Appeals

Decisions of the empowered committees or officials can be appealed, however the decision regarding appeal will be final.

Empowered Committees/Officials

Separately from any ordinance, village policy empowers committees or relevant officials to perform functions associated with an ordinance. This meets the needs of ordinances, while avoiding the procedural hurdle of amending the ordinance for simple text changes if reassignment of responsibilities to a different party is needed, or if the Village renames a committee or title.

For the ordinance above, the functions and empowered committees/officials are:

Function	Empowered Party
General enforcement	Safety Committee, County Police
Special event enforcement	Public Works Committee, Safety Committee, County Police
Temporary needs review	Safety Committee
Exemption request review	Safety Committee
Maintenance of violation records	Safety Committee
Appeals	Village Assembly