

CALL TO ORDER/MINUTES APPROVAL

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Village of Ardencroft was called to order at 7:07pm on May 19th, 2025.

The minutes of the previous February 17th meeting were posted on the ardencroft.delaware.gov website. The minutes of the February 17th, 2024 meeting were approved with no corrections.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Councilman John Cartier attended. He shared highlights for the budget deliberations in County government:

- no proposed property tax increase (7th year in a row without an increase);
- slight change to the infrastructure charge for sewer fees (from \$25 to \$50 for residential water meters);
- establish a new property tax millage rate as a result of the reassessment, which is revenue neutral (existing rate is 80 cents per \$100 of assessed value, which will be dropped to 60 cents per \$100 of assessed value);
- no change in local service function rates and calculations for the Ardens.

Councilman Cartier is happy to fund some of our 75th Anniversary event with grant funds.

Cartier clarified that private utilities in Delaware are regulated through the Delaware Public Service Commission, not through the NCC government.

Cartier confirmed that SEPTA may eliminate the commuter rail line that goes into the Claymont Mass Transit Center (as well as eliminate lines in Delaware County). Ridership on SEPTA is down by almost 50% per year. Cartier hopes the General Assembly in Pennsylvania and SEPTA will reach a deal.

OFFICER'S REPORTS

Chair's Report

Jenn Abernethy reported. Ken Morrison offered to be a write-in for Chair for the remainder of the term (1 year). Looking ahead, consider running next year for open positions, including a two-year term as Chair on next year's ballot.

A resident brought up concerns that the ballot did not have more candidates running than positions available. While this is a goal of the Village, our new Charter does not require that in order for an election to be valid. Residents in the Village are encouraged to participate in committees, and the Coordinating Committee discussed this very issue at its recent meeting.

Secretary's Report

Jenn Abernethy reported. Residents are reminded to sign up for paperless communication. Next year's meetings will be scheduled and posted once the ballots have been counted and committees discuss their schedules. Keep an eye out on the website as well as the Village bulletin boards (one on Sunset Lane by Pauline A. Young Park and another next to the entrance of the Buzz Ware Village Center).

Treasurer's Report

Jenn Abernethy reported on behalf of Don Lipari. He discussed the line items in the attached financial report. We had typical expenses since the last meeting's report. Here are the notable events over these last three months: we received a check for \$21,161 from the Association to cover a year's worth of government expenses; we received a check for \$28,158 from the Association to cover a year's worth of trash/recycle/yard waste pickup service; the \$37,776 expense for Parks and Recreation are for the new swingset in Pauline A. Young park as well as the new ADA picnic bench patios at Pauline A. Young Park and the park at the end of Beech Ln.; we expect to be receiving reimbursement for most of the remaining of the costs for the swingset and patios from the DNREC ORPT grant. The \$3,148 expense for Trees/Paths Maintenance includes \$3,048 for the Ardencroft portion of a vegetation inventory that the Ardens commissioned; we depleted the remaining \$11,547 in ARPA funds to go toward the vegetation inventory as well as the swingset and patios; we sent out the yearly donations to our community services this period; and we renewed the Treasurer's bond for two years starting July 1 for \$175 instead of the typical \$100 for one year's coverage.

There has been a lot of activity over the last few months commissioned by the Public Works Committee to improve our public parks and prepare for the 75th anniversary. We have installed new ADA-accessible patios for picnic benches in Pauline A. Young Park and the park at the end of Beech Ln. We have also torn down the old swingset in Pauline A. Young Park and replaced it with a new one that conforms to current regulations.

Ben reviewed the funding for these projects in presenting the amended FY25 budget in our last Village Assembly meeting. We were able to pay for these improvements using our remaining ARPA funds, a Outdoor Recreation, Parks & Trails (ORPT) [DNREC] grant, a CTF FY25 grant [Gay, Lambert], and a County Council grant [Cartier]. Thanks to Ben Gruzwitz for applying for these grants.

The remaining projects yet to do are:

- Trash corrals for each park
- Safety and decking improvements to the Curtis Bridge
- Replacement of the Rocky Walk Bridge that has rotted at grade
- Replacement of the handrails at the Sanctuary Path stairs
- Bulletin board upgrade
- Pauline A. Young Park Sign

DIRECTORS' REPORT

Wyn Achenbaum reported. First, as you may be aware, Tyler Technologies posted "final" valuations for all parcels on February 21. It is probably better to call them "semi-final" because there are still appeals underway; appeals needed to be filed in March. We're aware of several leaseholders who filed appeals, and whose "final" valuations were less than the December ones. There are 7 homes whose assessments went down by \$100,000 or more, and 2 that rose by that much. But when I look at them individually, I find it odd that few were left unchanged. The good news is that from December's version to February's, the aggregate valuations on the homes stayed about the same, and the land value went down by 33%. We won't question it.

But we don't yet know what will happen with our aggregate taxes. Here's what we know and don't know (6 items):

1. We don't know the truly final valuation for ArdenCrest, but I'm guessing it won't be far off the current \$29.9 million, of which land is \$4.2 million and structures \$25.8 million. It could come down if there are appeals still pending; I doubt it will rise.
2. We don't know what the aggregate value of New Castle County (NCC) properties will be but certainly it will be in the billions.
3. We don't know what the aggregate value of the properties in Brandywine School District (BSD) will be. For the 2024-2025 school year, it was \$3.5 billion, and the average assessed valuation was \$72,701. (It is not clear whether that average includes commercial property.) ArdenCrest's average worked out to 105% of that average. (A state source tells us that non-residential taxable property is roughly 1/3 of the total in BSD.)
4. We know that NCC has pledged to be revenue neutral. That means that in total they mean to collect the same amount they collected in property taxes in 2024. But we don't know what our share of that will be. That will depend on #1 and #2 (above).
5. We know that in February, 2024, BSD had a successful referendum which called for a 2-part increase. The 2025 portion of that increase was about 10%, and the 2026 portion would be 7.2%. But in February, 2025, BSD negotiated a new contract with teachers, and we don't know the impact of that, or changes in certain other expenses that are funded from the property tax.
6. We don't know what our share of #5 will be; that depends on #1 and #3. The product of this and #5 is the most concerning number.

We think we're prepared for the worst combination of events (higher shares and a further BSD revenue increase), but we won't know for a few months.

That's the tax picture.

I'll note that in BSD's 2025 Revenue Budget, only \$74 million comes from the local property tax and \$142 million from various state funds. Federal funds are about \$9 million. Total budgeted expenses are \$257 million. Search online for the BSD Monthly Financial Report, which runs 6 pages.

Second, Evelyn Knotts, who has been our Administrative Assistant for at least 6 years, has chosen to retire. We're grateful for her active participation with us, and will miss her. Evelyn discovered her successor practically in our back yard. We're pleased to tell you that Cris Larson, whose twin sister is Carol Larson, will be our Administrative Assistant. We're fortunate to have Cris and Evelyn working together during the transition period.

Third, the Directors considered a suggestion from the Village's Finance Committee, and reached a consensus not to undertake what would be, for the first time in the Association's history, the expense of an external audit. Our annual 990 tax form with the results of our present internal audit process is part of the public record, readily available at a number of websites, such as Guidestar.

A resident asked if the Association's former secretary was a secretary in scope or helped with bookkeeping as well. Wyn acknowledged that a couple of years ago, Evelyn had

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taken over with some bookkeeping to help organize. Wyn emphasized that the 990 tax form available on Guidestar is thorough and may include answers to people's questions.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Coordinating Committee

Jenn Abernethy reported. The Committee met on May 7th. The Committee meets the first Wednesday of the month that the Village Assembly meets, sometimes more often depending if something is upcoming (i.e. budget, elections). We focused on the FY26 budget discussed later in New Business as well as other items for tonight's agenda.

Environment Committee

Lisa Surbrook reported. The trees that were planted seem to be doing very well (99% of them). There are a lot of weeds coming up in the deer fencing. The Committee is working on clearing those out, as is Red Tail Restoration a couple hours each week to help clear those areas. Residents are encouraged to adopt a tree or adopt an area to clear invasives and weeds. Send an email to environment@ardencroft.delaware.org to express interest in doing so. Earth Day Cleanup and Arbor Day events have passed. Seven people showed up to volunteer. There was not a lot of trash in the woods, which indicates we are doing a good job of keeping the woods clean on a consistent basis. The garlic mustard that's usually out at this time was not as bad either. If anyone sees trash while walking in the woods, they are encouraged to pick it up.

The Forest Stewardship Policy is written, but other issues have come up with the other Ardens that require some more time to revise it. The Environment Committee will be adding a Leasehold Stewardship Policy to go along with the Forest Stewardship Policy. These policies are being worked on with the other Ardens. The Forest Stewardship Policy is mostly about taking care of the trees, water runoff, trash, etc. The Leasehold Policy will address some of the new County codes that have been adopted. For example, gardens designated as pollinator gardens must be six feet away from the street, according to New Castle County code.

The Delmarva powerline replacement currently has a lot of moving parts. There are a lot of meetings happening with the Ad Hoc group, including those with Delmarva, Historical groups, local representatives, the other Ardens, etc. More information will be forthcoming as it becomes available.

Finance Committee

Lorna Lee reported. The Association Directors were present during the fall meeting, when we discussed exploring the feasibility of having an outside accountant audit the finance for both the Village and Association. This would be done for best practices, and not because of any suspected problems.

Arden has had full audits done which cost \$10,000. There are less expensive options which include deciding ahead of time which accounting procedures we would like to have reviewed, instead of doing everything. This is what the Town of Bellefonte does annually, with the agreed-upon-procedures costing \$5000. Arden is planning to do a set of procedures for \$1000 per year.

Our Committee would need to work with the Directors to tailor our own list of agreed-upon procedures. We added a line item of \$5000 to the proposed Budget for

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FY 2025 to cover potential CPA fees.

At this point the Finance Committee feels confident in our ability to review the Village transactions ourselves without needing to pay for external review. However, we do not review any of the Ardencroft Association finances. That is up to the Directors to decide.

The Finance Committee thanks Don for making everything so easy to follow and to his support.

Public Works Committee

Scott Bowers reported on behalf of Chris Raia. Most of the report echoes Don's report in regards to project financing. The Committee is waiting on the company Thousand Hands to return and cut the playground edging (at the Pauline A. Young Playground), so they can tamp the mulch around the edge. There is a failing stormwater drain at the end of Beech Lane that requires repair. That will be scheduled to be repaired by the same person who repaired the other failing stormwater drain on Beech Lane.

A resident asked if Public Works trims limbs and branches around the street signs. Scott Bowers said he will finish trimming at the sign up by Upper Greenbriar/Upsan Downs.

Registration Committee

Linda Toman reported. If anyone has brought their ballots in the sealed envelope and would like to put them in the slot of the ballot box, now is the time. We will still be checking the mailbox for the next two weeks until our June 2 Registration Committee meeting. So if you have mailed your ballot by today and it's postmarked by May 19th, we will wait for it to arrive. We are a little behind for ballot turn in at this point. Last year we had 76. For the past four years, since we went to universal mail-in ballots, we have averaged over 70 ballots out of the 185 registered voters and while that is not 100% involvement, it's better than the years when we did not have absentee or universal mail-in ballots. I hope you'll agree that mail-in ballots are more progressive for our Village. I thank all of you who voted in this election and all of you candidates who have agreed to serve on our committees and in our offices as well as agreeing to be on the ballot for this election. (The sample ballot was on the bulletin boards and on the website.)

Discussion ensued regarding the goal of having more than one candidate per opening. Our new Charter does not require we have one more candidate than open position; however, it does echo our goal to do so. Residents are encouraged to take part by volunteering for positions as elections draw closer.

Jenn Abernethy acknowledged that the statements of interest that were originally scheduled to be posted in April were foregone for two reasons: (1) There were the same number of candidates as there were open positions and (2) Jenn's father passed away the day statements were due to be posted. The goal is to implement this process with fidelity in the upcoming years.

Another resident expressed that those who are willing to serve are committed to do so with fidelity, including attending meetings. The suggestion is to invoke a commitment from candidates in addition to items like statements of interest.

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A resident shared that she did not receive the email that Ken Morrison was willing to run as a write-in candidate for Chair. Jenn Abernethy was under the impression that she had used the same contact list for that email that she had for an earlier email. That was an error on her part, for those who did not receive it.

Safety Committee

Jeff Tindall reported. The updated draft ordinance on dog leashing represents further conversation after the February Village Assembly meeting. The Committee wants to make it clear that the spirit of that ordinance is not meant to police dogs on their owner's leaseholds but rather other areas in the Village. The Committee also discussed the parking ordinance. That will be re-done and put forth as an upcoming draft ordinance. The Committee will look at hot spots in the Village where parking should be limited or prohibited. Example areas include the County side of Willow Way, in front of any paths, and in front of the new handicap-accessible areas at our parks. The Committee also discussed street crossings and speeds. The new 25mph sign is up on Veale; however, speeding still continues to be a problem.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

75th Anniversary/Park Dedication

Dan Rubin reported. The Committee has been meeting quite often—about twice a month—to work on a couple of things. One is an event to formally commemorate and dedicate the Pauline A. Young Park, followed by a reception and celebration of the Village's anniversary and the history associated with it. The folks on the committee—Pat Morrison, Kathleen Jost, Waju Christie, Lorna Lee, Jenn Abernethy, and Dan Rubin—have worked hard to uncover a lot of the history and bring the program together. We are working to iron out a budget as well as a date. Once the date is finalized, we can market the program and raise awareness. Parallel to that, there are a lot of efforts to coordinate this project with the Museum. The collection shared at this event will go with the Museum for their upcoming October exhibition. The date we are looking to confirm is Saturday, September 27, 2025. This event will be open to all three Ardens.

Dan confirmed that the Museum's initiative is to collect oral histories for this event. The Committee is helping to find willing parties to contribute to those histories.

Aging in Place

Sam Cocca reported. Sam shared the overview of the program. A couple of months ago, a small consensus group from each Village got together. The goal is to make the community more accessible and enjoyable for the elderly in our community. Obstacles include cost and insurance. The Committee met with someone from the Village Volunteer Network, which provides rides, companionship, etc. to its elderly members. The Committee is working out what is possible for the Ardens. A smaller idea is a fit program for elderly residents. More information will become available.

A resident suggested that Sam connect with the Ardens Ready group for some of these initiatives.

Archives

Mary Brent Whipple reported. There is no formal report. However, the Museum will be doing some history strolls, which was written up in the May *Page*. Residents were asking

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for tours of the Ardens. The one for Arden is in July, the one for Ardentown is in August, and the one for Ardencroft is in September. Access the *Page* for specific dates.

Buzz Ware Village Center

Ken Rosenberg reported. There is no formal report. However, the BWVC received the grant for \$173,567. The grant will cover the battery back-up system, the solar panels, and part of the roof. We will be using renovation funds (volunteer-acquired funds, no town funds) for the remainder of the roof.

Poultry/Livestock Policy

Annette Hearing reported. The Committee had been quiet due to the timing of bird flu. Annette's suggestion is that Ardencroft start small—we do not need to be exempted from all policies. A suggestion is a limited number of chickens (no roosters), with enclosures, etc. The Committee will put a proposal together for September's Village Assembly. Those in attendance expressed agreement with Annette's statement. Residents are encouraged to email feedback to the Committee at poultryliaisons@ardencroft.delaware.gov.

Transmission Lines

Jenn Abernethy reported. There are ongoing discussions with Delmarva at the moment. Some meetings are going on, with more to come. Thank you to the individuals who are tirelessly working on this and fighting for Ardencroft.

A resident asked if the Village has hired an attorney, for which there is no dedicated money. Ted Rosenthal has been assisting as the Village Attorney. There have been lead tests for the land surrounding the towers as well, which answered a resident's question. Scott Bowers clarified that DNREC is involved and holding Delmarva accountable for things like the lead in the soil.

Transportation Plan Monitoring Committee

Ben Gruswitz reported. June 4 there is an event at the Buzz for all three Ardens. There will be "heavy refreshments." The presentation will begin at 5:30pm and will give a sense of what the Committee has been up to in the last year and a half or so, including the wins (i.e. change of signage, speed limit) and current efforts for grants. A group did a concept illustration report for possible outcomes for the lanes on the 95 overpass (two lanes to one in each direction, for example). The project concepts have a lot of input from people in the Ardens, so it can represent this community rather than be a cookie cutter DelDOT project. There will be opportunities for feedback, questions, etc.

To answer a resident's question, Ben clarified that this meeting is conceptual. There are no votes at this time. Any votes on proposals would be brought to the Village Assembly. This is not a design level but rather an opportunity for concepts and feedback.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Proposed ordinance update on Leashing of Dogs

Dan Rubin read a motion for the second 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." A conversation ensued about the wording of the ordinance,

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mainly the definitions of “public property” and the concept of “permission” on any property. The following amendments were proposed:

Under “definitions”, “Running Loose” (third bullet) was changed from “A dog being on any public property within the Village without being securely restrained by a leash or other appropriate device” to “A dog being beyond its owner’s parcel without permission and without being securely restrained by a leash or other appropriate device.”

Under “Prohibition”, the statement was changed from “No owner shall permit such a dog to run loose on any public property within the Village” to “No owner shall permit such a dog to run loose beyond the owner’s parcel within the Village.” ***The motion with the amended language above passed unanimously.***

B. 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.’” ***The motion passed unanimously.***

NEW BUSINESS

A. FY26 Budget Proposal

Jenn Abernethy made a motion, “I move that the current FY26 budget be adopted according to the handout.”

The discussion of line items in the FY26 budget proposal included the following points: There are some substantial differences between the approved FY25 and the proposed FY26 budget.

Income: We will not receive the \$28,703 tree Planting Grant (DNREC) grant for FY26; Similarly, we will not be receiving the \$7,250 carry-over we listed last year for the big tree cutting expense of November, 2023; We added as income the \$12,833 that we have invoiced Delmarva for use of our land to run their power lines; Delmarva has so far ignored our invoice; and we now include under “Income” the interest we accrue for our Fulton Bank savings account.

Expenses: We have added \$2500 to start a legal representation reserve to be used to pay for legal counsel should there ever be a need. It is wishful thinking to continue to expect the pro-bono services of our current lawyer will exist in perpetuity; the \$29,703 tree planting expense of last year does not appear for FY26 (corresponding to the DNREC grant above); the \$700 ESRI - ArcGIS Creator Subscription fee moved from “Chairs Discretionary” to its own line item. It’s gone up \$150 since the proposed budget was prepared; we have added a stipend for the Chair position to equal that of the Secretary. While the amount per meeting has increased, with the number of Assembly meetings reduced from six to four, the annual payout remains the same; the Finance Committee is

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asking for \$5000 to conduct a professional audit of our finances for FY25; the Environment Committee is asking for an increase from \$500 to \$2000 to cover the costs for controlling invasive growth; and the trash fees have gone up in \$1,840 FY26.

Take-Away: All of the remaining line items have nominal changes or additions from FY25. However, we will be asking the Association for \$5,851 more this year than last. If Delmarva continues to ignore our Impact Invoice, we will need an additional \$12,833 from the Association for a total of \$18,684 to balance the budget as proposed. What are the reasons for such an increase in Government Expenses from FY25 to FY26? Here are the reasons: The \$7500 reimbursement for our 2023 tree cutting expense does not appear in FY26; the \$5000 for an audit is new this year; the \$2500 to start a legal funds reserve is new this year; the \$1500 stipend for the Chair's position is new this year; the \$1500 75th Anniversary celebration expense is new this year; and the Environment Committee is asking for \$1500 more this year for invasive control. These differences total \$19,500.

The FY26 Budget was amended to remove the \$5,000 line item from the Finance Committee regarding a partial audit. ***The amended motion passed unanimously.***

GOOD AND WELFARE

- The Village sends its deepest sympathy to Jenn Abernethy and her family on the passing of her father back in April.
- The end of the meeting represents the last call for 2025 election ballots.
- The ACRA House and Garden Tour on May 18, followed by the reception was a huge success. Thank you to Mary Brent Whipple and Beverley Fleming.
- Thank you to Jenn Abernethy for ACRA Solicitations week.
- There is a list of Ordinances on our website for those who want to see what we have. Any older ordinances on paper can be cross checked to see if they are still relevant (according to our new Charter) or still relevant missing from digital records.
- The Village sends condolences to the family of Shirley Sampson, a longtime ArdenCROFT resident, who passed away earlier this month. Services are May 24th.
- The Village sends condolences to the family of Eleanor Morrow, who passed away in March. She had lived in the barn on Sunset and Veale. Her obituary reflects her accomplishments.
- On May 31st, there will be a Beatles singalong at the amphitheater by the big Green in Arden. Check the *Page* for further information.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9: 30pm.

Submitted,

Jennifer Abernethy

Jennifer Abernethy, Village Secretary

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ATTACHMENTS

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5/19/25 Village Assembly Meeting Attendance

Residents

1. Jenn Abernethy
2. Polly Brown
3. Ken Rosenberg
4. Lorna Lee
5. Dan Rubin
6. Cathy Brown
7. Ken Morrison
8. Linda Toman
9. Roberta Brandão
10. Annette Hearing
11. John Wenderoth
12. Kirsten Kimberg
13. Jon Kimberg
14. Lisa Surbrook
15. Scott Bowers
16. Jeff Tindall
17. Mary Brent Whipple
18. Amy Pollock
19. Bob Pollock
20. Nick Cocca
21. Sammie Showell
22. Janet Williams
23. Waju Christie
24. Jeanne Orr
25. Wyn Achenbaum
26. Cris Larson
27. Ben Gruswitz
28. Pat Toman

Guests

Councilman John Cartier

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Ardencroft Financial Report - 2/17/2025 - 5/18/2025

Ardencroft Financial Report 2/17/2025 - 5/18/2025					
CASH					
Operating Acct	21,896				
Restricted ARPA Funds	0				
Restricted DNREC Tree Planting Grant	0				
Available Operating Funds	21,896				
MSA Acct	69,036				
Interest on Savings	4,820				
Arden B&L	803				
Total Funds	96,555				
			FY25		
	This Period	Year to Date	Budget	Remaining	
INCOME:					
Arden B&L	16	16	0	(16)	
Ardencroft Directors	21,161	21,161	21,161	0	
Directors for Trash Collection	28,158	28,158	27,300	(858)	
Comcast Franchise Fees	417	1,757	2,054	297	
MSA	0	5,868	6,020	152	
Other Grants & Contributions	0	20,104	7,250	(12,854)	
Tree Planting Grant (DNREC)	0	28,703	28,703	0	
GoFundMe for Tree Planting (private donations)		999	1,000	1	
Verizon Franchise Fees	169	492	620	128	
TOTAL INCOME	49,921	107,257	94,108	(13,149)	
ADMINISTRATION					
Administrative Expenses	(289)	(1,495)	1,600	105	
Chair's Discretionary	(1,854)	(1,884)	1,500	(384)	
Delaware League of Local Governments Dues	0	(525)	525	0	
D&O Liability Insurance	0	(3,198)	3,250	52	
Secretary Stipend	(375)	(1,125)	1,500	375	
Treasurer's Bond	(175)	(175)	100	(75)	two year renewal
Treasurer Stipend	0	0	1,500	1,500	
Website / email support	0	0	500	500	
TOTAL ADMIN	(2,693)	(8,402)	10,475		
COMMUNITY					
ACRA	(880)	(880)	880	0	
Arden Craft Shop Museum	(800)	(800)	800	0	
Arden Library	(400)	(400)	400	0	
Arden Page	(400)	(400)	400	0	
Buzz Ware Village Center	(2,000)	(2,000)	2,000	0	
Fire/Ambulance	(500)	(500)	500	0	
TOTAL COMMUNITY	(4,980)	(4,980)	4,980		
COMMITTEES					
Environment Committee					
Tree Planting	0	(32,836)	29,703	(3,133)	
Miscellaneous - Environment	0	(308)	500	192	
Finance Committee	0	0	100	100	
Public Works Committee					
Miscellaneous - Public Works	0	0	500	500	
Park Mowing	(300)	(2,200)	2,700	500	
Parks & Recreation	(37,776)	(42,981)	2,000	(40,981)	swingset and park patios
Snow Removal (MSA)	(725)	(2,775)	3,000	225	
Streets & Signs (MSA)	0	(560)	5,000	4,440	
Trash/Recycling Collection	(6,998)	(25,665)	27,300	1,635	
Trees/Paths/Maintenance	(3,148)	(3,868)	7,000	3,132	
Registration Committee	(394)	(394)	800	406	
Safety Committee	0	0	50	50	
TOTAL COMMITTEES	(49,341)	(111,586)	78,653		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	(57,015)	(124,968)	94,108		
NET	(7,094)	(17,711)	0		

Connecting with the Ardens: A Transportation Plan [June 4 Event]



**CONNECTING WITH
THE ARDENS
A TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

**A Transportation Plan's Monitoring
Committee invites you to join us to
learn more about our work.**

**June 4, 2025
5:00 p.m. - Refreshments
5:30 p.m. - Presentation
at the Buzz Ware Village Center**

The mission of the Ardens Transportation Plan Monitoring Committee is to guide the implementation of Connecting with the Ardens: A Transportation Plan ("Plan"). The Plan defines a shared vision for transportation improvements that addresses the unique character and needs in the Ardens. This mission is pursued through collaborative dialogue among committee members, including Village leaders from Arden, Ardencroft, and Ardentown, implementing agencies, and other key stakeholders.

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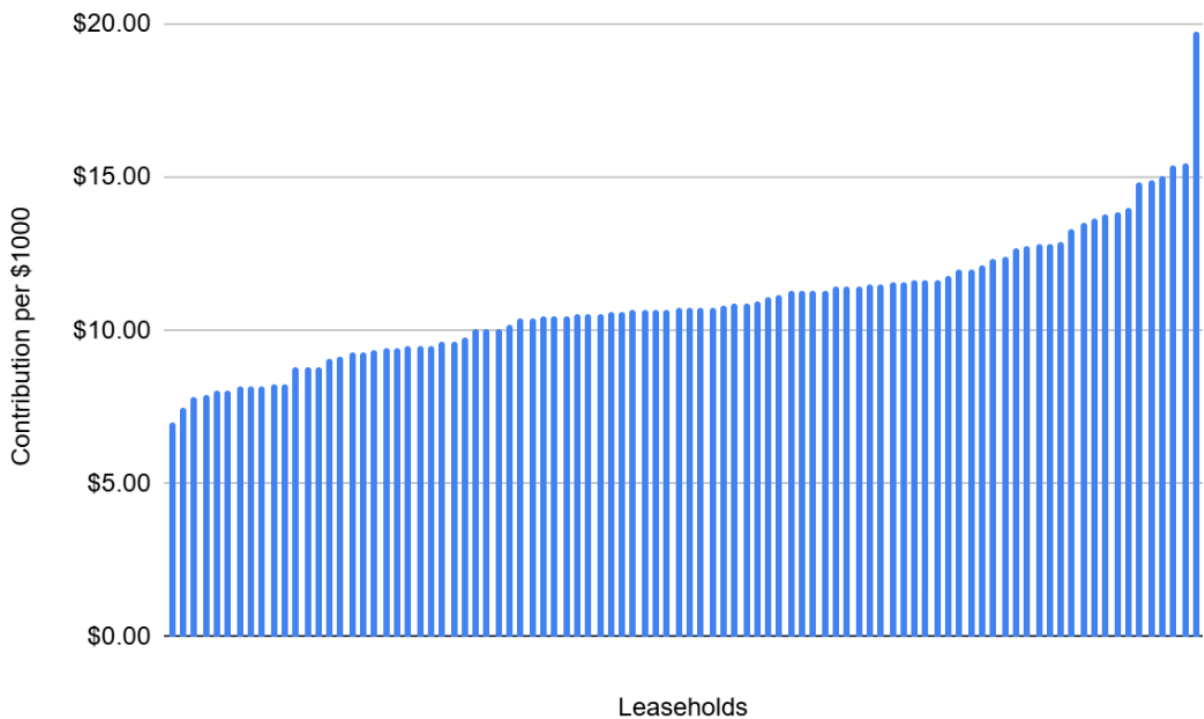
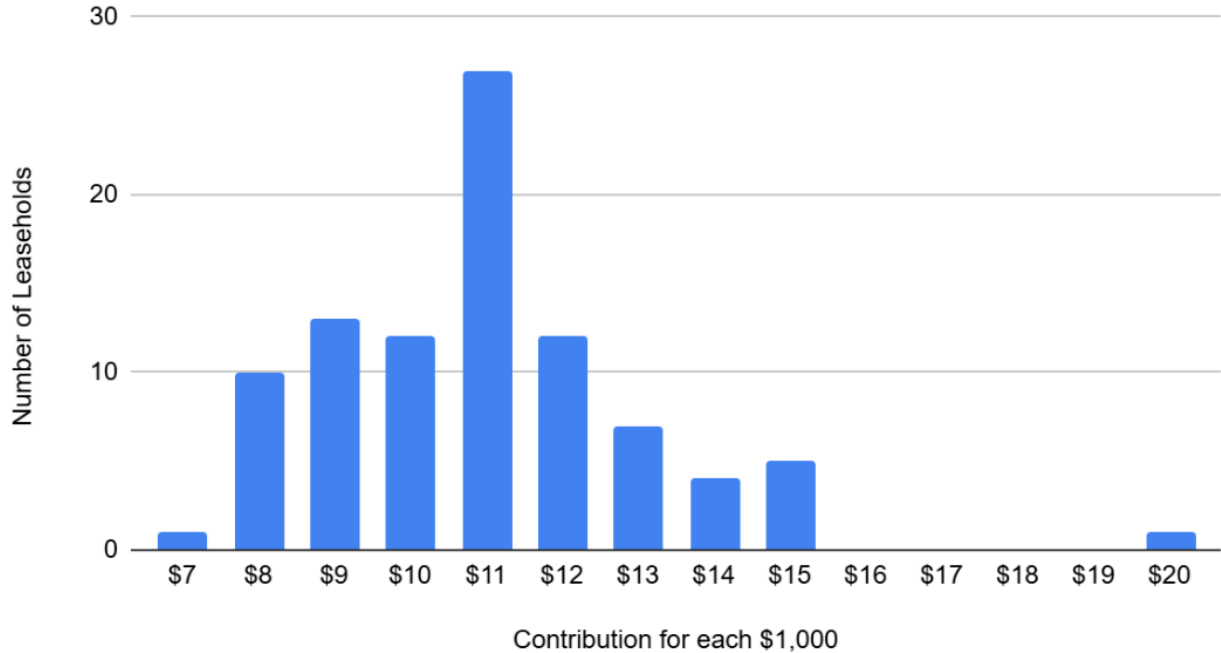


FY26 Proposed Budget

	FY 26 7/1/25 - 6/30/26 Proposed Budget	FY 25 7/1/24 - 6/30/25 Approved Budget	Difference	Notes
INCOME:				
ArdenCROFT Association				
Government Expenses	27,012	21,161	5,851	What we'll need to balance budget
Trash Service	29,140	27,300	1,840	\$310/set x 94 residential sets
Cable Provider Franchise Fees				
Comcast	1,600	2,054	(454)	\$400 x 4 quarters
Verizon	660	620	40	\$165 x 4 quarters
DeIDOT Municipal Street Aid (MSA)	5,700	6,020	(320)	\$5,868 is what we received in 2024
Other Grants & Contributions				
Remaining '24 Ash Tree Cutting Reimburs. (Sen. Gay)	0	7,250	(7,250)	
Tree Planting Grant (DNREC)	0	28,703	(28,703)	
GoFundMe for Tree Planting (private donations)	0	1,000	(1,000)	
Arden B&L	0	0	0	Interest is reinvested, not distributed
Interest from Fulton Bank Accounts	1,200	0	1,200	
Delmarva Impact Fee	12,833	0	12,833	Impact Fee for Transmission Lines
TOTAL INCOME	78,145	94,108	(15,963)	
ADMINISTRATION				
Administrative Expenses	1,600	1,600	0	\$1206 spent so far in FY25
Chair's Discretionary	1,500	1,500	0	\$30 spent so far in FY25
Delaware League of Local Governments Dues	525	525	0	
D&O Liability Insurance	3,250	3,250	0	Old carrier dropped us for FY26. Our agent is shopping for a new carrier
ESRI - ArcGIS Creator Subscription	700	0	700	
Chair Stipend	1,500	0	1,500	\$375 x 4
Secretary Stipend	1,500	1,500	0	\$375 x 4
Treasurer's Bond	100	100	0	July 1, 2025 -> June 30, 2026
Treasurer Stipend	1,000	1,500	(500)	\$250 x 4
Website / email support	500	500	0	??
Legal Advice / Representation	2,500	0	2,500	
TOTAL ADMIN	14,675	10,475	4,200	
COMMUNITY				
ACRA	880	880	0	
Arden Craft Shop Museum	800	800	0	
Arden Library	400	400	0	
Arden Page	400	400	0	
Buzz Ware Village Center	2,000	2,000	0	
Fire/Ambulance	500	500	0	
TOTAL COMMUNITY	4,980	4,980	0	
COMMITTEES				
Environment Committee				
Tree Planting	0	29,703	(29,703)	
Miscellaneous	2,000	500	1,500	Ongoing Invasive Control
Finance Committee	5,000	100	4,900	Financial Audit
Public Works Committee				
Miscellaneous	500	500	0	\$308 spent so far in FY25
Park Mowing	2,700	2,700	0	\$1900 spent so far in FY25
Parks & Recreation	2,000	2,000	0	Yearly Mulching Needs?
Snow Removal (MSA)	3,000	3,000	0	\$2775 spent so far in FY25
Streets & Signs (MSA)	5,000	5,000	0	\$560 spent so far in FY25
Trash/Recycling Collection	29,140	27,300	1,840	Average \$310/set x 94 residential sets
Trees/Paths/Maintenance	7,000	7,000	0	\$720 spent so far in FY25
Registration Committee	600	800	(200)	FY24 expenses were 600
Safety Committee	50	50	0	
75th Anniversary Committee	1,500	0	1,500	
TOTAL COMMITTEES	58,490	78,653	(20,163)	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	78,145	94,108	(15,963)	
NET	0	0	0	

Leasehold Contribution per \$1,000 in Village Expenses

Leasehold Contribution per \$1,000 in Village Expenses



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

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 as 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