

CALL TO ORDER/MINUTES APPROVAL

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Village of Ardencroft was called to order at 7:05 pm on September 16th, 2024.

The minutes of the previous May 16th meeting were mailed to residents' homes along with the September meeting announcement. The minutes of the May 16th, 2024 meeting were approved with no corrections.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Councilman John Cartier attended. The Councilman has a monthly newsletter that people can sign up for. Councilman Cartier sent around the Community Venue report for the area [attached] and the Property Maintenance Code report for Ardencroft [attached]. A policy topic in New Castle County (NCC) is the property assessment. The last time it was done was 1983. It's a 15 million dollar project. Normally property owners in the county are billed, but this is paid by a property reserve account from federal COVID money. The assessment is revenue neutral. The County will propose a lowered tax rate to account for the raised value due to property reassessments. Property owners should be receiving a letter from the NCC vendor Tyler Technologies this fall. The letter will include the new assessment and a description of each property. If the description has inaccuracies, please help them correct the inaccuracies [i.e. the assessment says 2 baths but you only have 1 ½ baths]. There is a ninety-day period to appeal property assessments [resolution may take more than ninety days due to a number of variables]. There will be a firm date established for this, but the date is not established at this time. The County expects thousands of appeals between residential and commercial properties. A resident asked if those with reduced rates due to age will still have reduced rates after the reassessment—the answer is “yes.” Tax bills will still go out at the usual time period in 2025. NCC is mandated by the state code to collect property taxes, but NCC does not control the policies of school districts or dictate policies. Whatever the school districts will do in the wake of reassessment is on them. Contact the Brandywine School District to inquire about its plans, should you want to.

The Councilman is sponsoring Ordinance 24-059 which proposed modifications to the fence code in NCC. Most residentially zoned properties can have a fence up to 6ft tall in the backyard; front yards can now only have 4 ft fences. Public safety response is impaired by taller fences in the front of the property. In addition, approved materials must be used for fences.

Councilman Cartier is up for re-election in November. He pledges to remain a supporter of Ardencroft and an attendee at our Village Assembly meetings. He also pledges some small grants to help fund our Village projects, as mentioned in the Public Works report and in the attachment related to Public Works.

OFFICER'S REPORTS

Chair's Report

Ben Gruswitz reported. In July, Ardencroft had its first Elected Officials Retreat for recently elected committee members and those finishing the second year of their terms to talk about goals and visions for the year. Committees had time to plan meeting dates for the year and to talk about ways to use our new website as well as how to be compliant.

There is a Board of Adjustment meeting regarding a new sign for St. Edmond's on September 6, 2024 at 6:00pm. St. Edmond's wants to put up a sign that is closer to the road than is automatically allowable. [Ben showed a rendering of one of their signs, available [here](#).] More information can be found at nccde.org/agendacenter.

A resident shared a statement. As it turned out to be a request to the Environment Committee and was mentioned again in their report, it is mentioned below.

Secretary's Report

Jennifer Abernethy reported. Postcards were sent out with a reminder of today's meeting. We're happy to report that the ardencroft.delaware.gov website is live and updated. Please visit the site for information including events, meetings (with agendas, minutes, etc.), and reminders (i.e. trash update for how to transition from Trash Tech to Evergreen this month). Jenn is in the process of creating a system for opting into paperless minutes. We will no longer send out meeting minutes as we have been. Ardencroft residents can request meeting minutes printed and delivered to them on a case-by-case basis. All minutes will be available on our Ardencroft website and also on the Delaware Public Meeting Calendar (<https://publicmeetings.delaware.gov/#/> search keyword "Ardencroft"). Whether the upcoming reminder for opt-in/opt-out comes via postcard, email or some other combination, please keep an eye out and/or email Jenn at secretary@ardencroft.delaware.gov to let her know your name, address, and your preference for how to receive minutes. Keep in mind that mailing minutes after each meeting costs the Village hundreds of dollars each time, so going paperless will be a much more reasonable way to avoid such costs and keep everyone informed. A resident asked if they would be emailed when minutes are available. At this time, residents are encouraged to check the ardencroft.delaware.gov website for updated minutes/attachments approximately two or so weeks after meetings conclude; however, a system of emailing those who opt-in to paperless minutes as a distribution list is also being discussed. Ben has been sending general information out via email, so if you are not getting those, send an email to Jenn. The website also has email addresses for standing and special committees, should you need to reach out to them (<https://ardencroft.delaware.gov/officers-and-committees/>).

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Treasurer's Report

Don Lipari reported. Don discussed the first financial report of FY25, beginning July 1 [attached]. He discussed our current operating account, in which money is set aside for ARPA and DNREC Tree Planting (for which the Grant just came in). The rest of the operating account that we have available includes what we'll use to pay for trash. In addition, Don discussed the MSA account (for streets and signs) and interest on savings. Notable line items in the report include the Grant for tree planting, reimbursement of \$2400 for paving the trail at the end of Sunset Lane, and reimbursement of \$13,000 for cutting down the dead Ash trees in the Village last year. Don briefly discussed nominal administrative expenses and liability insurance fees.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

No report.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

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Coordinating Committee

Ben Gruswitz reported. The Coordinating Committee decided on a schedule, and most Committee meetings will fall the month ahead of the Village Assembly meetings. The Coordinating Committee will meet virtually on the first Wednesday of the months that the Village Assembly meets. The tasks include planning the agenda for the Village Assembly meetings. Most of what the Coordinating Committee talked about will be discussed this evening. The most recent Coordinating Committee meeting was September 4, 2024.

Environment Committee

Lisa Surbrook reported. Tree removal permit requests are now on the Ardencroft website. The procedure to request tree removal approval is as follows: Download a tree removal permit from the Ardencroft website <https://ardencroft.delaware.gov/tree-removal-permits/>. Send an email to environment@ardencroft.delaware.gov and notify us that you have a tree removal permit request. A representative from the Environment Committee will visit your leasehold to review the tree in question and give approval. A signed copy of the tree permit will be returned to you and a copy kept on file by the Environment Committee. Scott Bowers and Kevin Nemeth will be taking the lead on tree permits.

TEDI Tree planting in the Fall: Volunteer Clearing Day to prepare for tree planting areas [clear invasives, etc.] – Saturday, September 28th, 10am – noon. Ben shared a map of the area on the projector during this time and more specifically discussed the planting area, types of trees, and planting process. Planting will be Late October/Early November – date TBD. We are responsible for planting some of the trees (50 trees). Davey Tree will also plant 150 trees. This tree planting is from the grant we received (discussed earlier in the Treasurer's report).

Vegetation Survey that Will Ryan is working on: Late Summer/Autumn survey is underway. Will Ryan has been doing it by season.

Other Events:

- Earth Day Clean up and Arbor Day Celebration – April, 2025
- Invasive Plant Clearings – Winter 2024 and Spring 2025
- Woods Walks - Spring 2025 and Fall 2025

A resident asked if the Environment Committee has discussed a forest stewardship policy like Arden has. Lisa has talked to Carol Larson about it and the Environment Committee will discuss a policy to present to Ardencroft.

Ricardo Lebeis requested that the Environment Committee draft and the Village "institute a forest stewardship policy, like Arden did."

Regarding this, Ben mentioned that if anyone knows of ordinances passed in the past that have not been obtained, to let him know. We have all that we could find, in addition to recently passed ordinances. The exceptions the County makes for the Village regarding accessory dwelling units or property maintenance as it pertains to a forest stewardship policy they believe we approved (but probably didn't) are pertinent to this.

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Finance Committee

No report.

Public Works Committee

Chris Raia reported. Public Works has a replacement design and an estimate for work on the rotted bridge on Rocky Walk. It's pending funding from our Tacke Improvements Funding Initiative. There's also a new spring that's sprung up on Rocky Walk. The original proposal was a construction to add footings for a bridge across it. There was no uplift protection for that. The current plan is to look at $\frac{3}{4}$ " stone to spread about 12" thick to elevate the grade in that area. People can walk across and stay dry that way. More to come on that plan. We fixed a culvert repair on Beech Lane. The biggest initiative is the paving and pothole project. Public Works met with Peninsula Paving four weeks ago and walked the job. Wayne Knotts was impressed with their technical expertise. The total cost exceeds the currently available MSA funds because there is a lot of spider webbing on the cul de sacs. The proposed project repaves the April Lane and Evergreen cul de sacs and fixes spots on other cul de sacs. Public Works is working with the Village Chair on how to pay for that project. That would clear out our MSA funds for future repairs, so we want to make sure there is a plan. This year is more comprehensive than in the past. Lastly, Public Works has been addressing drainage next to Greenbriar Path. They will also powerwash the asphalt there. [There is a footpath map on the ardencroft.delaware.gov website for those who want to view it. Click on "Community" → "Visitors" → "Map: Foot Paths"].

Ben Gruswitz discussed a 75th Anniversary Revitalization Project List that Public Works will attempt to fulfill, should we receive DNREC funding and CTF funding that we're seeking. The list of projects include the following: a sign commemorating Pauline A. Young Park, a new swing structure with an accessible swing for Pauline A. Young Park, a Village bulletin board improvement, ADA accessible picnic areas for each of our two parks, trash corrals for each of our two parks [we are getting bins from Evergreen for those parks in the meantime], safety and decking improvements to the Curtis Bridge, replacement of the rotted Rocky Walk bridge, replacement of the handrails at the Sanctuary Path stairs, and Village welcome signs (2) at each Ardencroft entrance to the Ardens. If we do not get the funds, we would not get the new swing structure with accessible swing at Pauline A. Young Park, the ADA accessible picnic areas at each of our two parks, or the Village welcome signs.

A resident asked about former signs that were created for Ardencroft. Those signs are not exterior-grade signs. Another use for them can be considered at a later time. A resident pointed out that overgrowth is hiding signage on Upper Greenbriar and Upsan Downs.

Registration Committee

Annette Hearing reported on behalf of Linda Toman. Ardencroft's Village elections took place in May of 2024, with ballots submitted on or before May 16, 2024. There were fifteen open positions on the ballot. On May 24, 2024, the ballots were officially tallied. The ballot counting was advertised and open to the community. A three-person group met at the Buzz Ware Community Center - Linda Toman, Annette Hearing and Jill Emery, a resident of Ardentown. The 76 anonymous ballots were carefully counted and cross checked for accuracy. The results were calculated and the residents on the ballot were notified of the

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results. The results of the election were also reported to the Chair and to the Secretary of our Village. The Committee is discussing how to keep track of residents turning eighteen and effectively encourage them to vote in national, state, and Village elections. In August, the Committee assembled ten welcome packets. There are quite a few things in each of the packets, which need constant updating. Two packets have been delivered and a few more are set to be delivered soon.

Safety Committee

Jeff Tindall reported. The Safety Committee has been dealing with dog reports and has sent out a couple of letters to those households. The COmmittee is limited in what they can do. There is a Google form on the website for any safety concern that residents would like to report. The Committee is keeping track of those forms as documentation.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

75th Anniversary/Park Dedication

Dan Rubin reported. The Committee is planning its first meeting. Any members of the Committee should check their emails for a poll to determine meeting dates. Once a meeting cadence gets going, there will be more updates. Dan Rubin is the Chair of this special committee. Members include Kathleen Jost, Waju Christie, Kim Byarm, Pat Morrison, and Jenn Abernethy.

Aging in Place

This is a three-Ardens initiative with one liaison per Village to work with University of DE and their [Institute for Public Administration](#) regarding health and aging policy/aging in place. Sam Cocca has agreed to chair this committee, but the Committee has not yet met.

Archives

Mary Brent Whipple reported. The Archives Committee met on September 11, 2024. There was good attendance during the Arden Fair at the museum (over 60 people signed in). We are now able to take credit card payments and PayPal for purchases at the museum, the Holiday Gift Shop, and the Arden Fair. The Annual Campaign is getting underway with mailings scheduled for October 4th asking for

contributions to support the museum. The current exhibition is being decommissioned to make way for a new exhibition which will open October 20th with a reception. The new exhibit is titled "Treasures of Childhood: Growing Up in the Ardens." One of the projects this summer with ACRA was having the Summer Co-op children draw what came to mind when they thought about growing up in the Ardens and these drawings will be on display along with many other objects from the past.

There will be a new printing of the self-guided walking tour of the Ardens and the museum would like to know the full name of the renamed park in honor of Pauline Young so it can be put on the map. [Pauline A. Young Park] Also, is there a date of dedication of the marker for the playground? [Date TBA. There is a new special committee called "75th Anniversary/Park Dedication Committee" that will plan that event.]

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The 100th anniversary of the Arden School is this year, and it is unclear if anything will be planned for this by Arden. If anyone knows about this, please let me, Kathleen Jost, or the museum know. In 2025 it will be the 20th anniversary of the Arden Craft Shop Museum and ArdenCroft's 75th anniversary of its founding. The museum is asking residents of ArdenCroft if they have anything to loan to the museum for the 2025 exhibit which will focus on this anniversary. These could be pieces of art by residents, publications, photographs, etc. If you do have something to loan, please contact Abby at the museum's email ardencraftshopmuseum@gmail.com.

On November 17th, there will be an Afternoon with the Artist featuring David McClintock's photographs, many of which will be on sale. There will be a short presentation by Judith Kay followed by refreshments.

Buzz Ware Village Center

Ken Rosenberg reported. The Peddlers, Potions and Practitioners (PPP) event at the Buzz during this year's Arden Fair had a good year, grossing approximately \$7,500.00 which will be used for the building renovation fund. Toby Ridings and the planning committee thank all those from ArdenCroft who volunteered. Also, PPP would like to thank Indigo and her friends for "Chalking the Walk" in preparation for the Arden Fair.

The new ardencroft.delaware.gov site has convenient pointers to many of the other Arden links, including a link to the Buzz Ware Village Center website: (www.ardenbuzz.com).

The new water purifier (and electric) has been installed to supply clean water to the existing water fountain. This is a greener and less-costly solution than the former monthly delivery of Deerpark 5-gallon water jugs. The PA systems have been labeled and identified. They are stored in the stage closets.

Some upcoming events of interest:

- 9/22/2024 - Henry George Day - Sadie Somerville
- 10/18/2024 – First Buzz Ware Coffee House for the fall. Note that this date is on the third Friday of the month due to a Jewish holiday the previous week.
- 11/3/2024 - Over 80's Reception
- 11/2/2024 – Arden's Ready Group – Big open house will be from 1 – 5 pm. Jeff Politis reported the following to me today: Although FEMA grants were not approved for this cycle, they are working on grants through DNREC to redo and add additional solar cells and a battery system for ~200K to make the Buzz Ware self-sufficient in an emergency. More information will be discussed at this meeting.
- 11/9/2024– Alumni Reunion and Celebration of the 100th year of the "new" Arden School - hosted at the Buzz by Grace Ressler and the Buzz Ware Village Center Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1190685115519345>
- Arden Artisans Collective Fall Social – next date TBD – check the Buzz Ware online calendar.

Poultry/Livestock Policy

No report tonight. Annette Hearing shared that the Committee plans on making a proposal at our November meeting.

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Transmission Lines

Ben Gruswitz reported. This new special committee consists of Ben Gruswitz, the Directors of the Ardencroft Association, Ardentown's Trustees, Ardentown's Chair, and the general counsel/attorney all these entities share. It was formed in light of Delmarva Power's proposed 2026 capital project to replace their current transmission towers and lines with new towers and lines, along with their plans for clearing trees and vegetation in the villages forests and on leaseholds proximate to the transmission lines.

Ben previewed two items that were to be proposed later in the meeting in New Business pertaining to the transmission lines. One is a request for Delmarva to study alternate paths for its transmission lines. We are asking since the towers have been here for decades, if they will consider building something for the future that—like everyone south of us—would follow the railroad tracks instead of cutting through our residential and valuable forest areas. Ben then reviewed a case-making interactive website called a "story map" that discusses the issue and request for a feasibility study for an alternative route. It is found at bit.ly/transmission_lines. It was voted through with some abstentions at the Ardentown meeting. With an affirmative vote for a similar Ardencroft resolution it will be sent to Delmarva and CC'd to a number of elected officials from the local to federal level. The "story map" outlines where the impact is, and there's a map to swipe and see existing conditions vs. the proposed new location of the lines along the CSX tracks. Delmarva has not operated in good faith or shown knowledge of the requirements of our easement. They have not made good on what they should have done while clearing trees beyond our easement in February 2023 and compensating us for the \$500/tree fee we were owed. In saying that they can't move the line, Delmarva has insisted that CSX makes it difficult for them to use their right of way, in part by levying fees.

Another motion tonight will be for Ardencroft to be more difficult to work with by levying fees for transmission lines in our Village. Another issue with the transmission lines is that there's lead in the soil. University of DE measured lead four times higher than what's considered extremely high lead content in the location by Wilmington Montessori School. When the transmission lines are replaced, that process will disturb the soil by the towers. We've spent a lot of money and time on fixing issues related to the transmission lines and their clearing of the easement in 2023. The proposal is for just compensation for their impact and it puts pressure on Delmarva to prove why their infrastructure needs to stay in our village and to create as little impact as possible if they do.

A resident asked if we have the ability to make a further argument based on the damage from the lead. We are gathering evidence and experts on any number of different things including lead. Other residents pointed out that federal money cannot be spent to negatively impact the Ardens while we are on the National Register of Historic Places, which might be a powerful deterrent. Councilman Cartier applauded the mapping overview and how compelling it is. Private utilities in DE are regulated through the DE Public Service Commission. Councilman Cartier urges the Villages to get on the docket with that Commission and offer testimony as well as request a ruling about it in whatever capacity they have to affect Delmarva's plans. Another resident asked if, as a municipality, we have power to do more. Councilman

Cartier said our Charter would dictate that. Ben pointed out that our ability to set local law through ordinances is the advantage we have over surrounding unincorporated areas, which is why we are putting forward an ordinance draft. See “New Business” for the discussed ordinance proposals.

Transportation Plan Monitoring Committee

Ben Gruswitz reported. There is an effort to get the speed reduced to 25 mph on Veale Rd between St. Edmond’s and Marini’s all the way to Harvey. We are getting letters of support from: Arden, Ardentown, Ardentown Trustees, Arden Club, ACRA, Marini Produce, St. Edmond’s Academy, Councilman Cartier, Sen. Gay, Rep. Lambert, and Council of Civic Organizations of Brandywine Hundred (CCOBH). Ben will send the package of letters out soon with the resolution we already passed supporting the reduced speed limit.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Trash Transition from Trash Tech/SEM to Evergreen

Last pickup for Trash Tech/SEM is 9/17 and 9/24. Please leave bins out until retrieved by the company. Our new trash company Evergreen is distributing new bins. Once distributed, residents can call the company to alter sizes. The first pickup is Friday, 9/27. Every week on Friday mornings, Evergreen will pick up trash, recycling, and yard waste. See flyer sent to homes [and emailed for those who get Ben’s emails] for details.

There is a current contract dispute and both parties are working with counsel on a resolution.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Safety Committee Vacancy Nomination.

Tiffany Stigler has resigned from the Safety Committee. We thank her for her service to ArdenCROFT through that committee and through the many other things she does for the Village. Annette Hearing made a motion to “nominate Vaughn Byarm to fill the current vacancy on the Safety Committee, filling the remainder of the term, until June 30, 2026.” Vaughn Byarm was on the ballot during the last election and received a lot of votes. **31 votes in favor. None opposed. 3 absentions. The motion passed.**

B. Resolution proposal: DNREC 2024 ORPT Grant Support

Jenn Abernethy made a motion “that the Village Assembly adopt the Resolution in Support of the ArdenCROFT Public Works Committee’s 2024 Outdoor Recreation, Parks, and Trails (ORPT) Grant Application as written in the handout” [attached]. **The motion then passed with unanimous support.**

C. Resolution proposal: Alternative transmission line/tower route feasibility study

Jenn Abernethy made a motion: “that the Village Assembly join Ardentown in sending a letter requesting Delmarva conduct a feasibility study to explore alternative routes to their planned transmission line/tower capital project slated for 2026.”

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Wyn Achenbaum proposed an amendment to the motion's language, replacing "...explore alternative routes..." with "...fully consider our proposed alternative route, in addition to any others...". The motion to amend was passed unanimously.

The motion requesting the feasibility study passed with unanimous support.

D. Ordinance proposal: ban on new transmission line/tower infrastructure, impact fee for existing infrastructure

Jenn Abernethy made a motion "...that Ardencroft adopt the draft ordinance in the handout banning new transmission line/tower infrastructure near village housing and forests and levy an impact fee for their existing infrastructure" [attached]. Charging them for land rent based on the square footage is roughly \$9,000 - \$10,000 per year as far as an impact fee is concerned. A short discussion ensued. This was the first reading of the ordinance. It will be voted upon at the November 2024 meeting.

E. Ordinance proposal: remove names of empowered committees across ordinances

Jenn Abernethy made a motion "that various ordinances identified in the handout be updated to remove references to committees empowered to perform various tasks and that appropriate committees be assigned according to internal policy or by resolution" [attached]. This was the first reading of the ordinance. It will be voted upon at the November 2024 meeting.

F. Resolution proposal: temporary authority to Environment Committee for tree removal permits

Jenn Abernethy made a motion "that the Environment Committee have authority to approve tree removal permits, despite the current ordinance giving that authorization to Public Works, until such time as the Public Works specification is removed from the current Tree Removal ordinance."

The motion passed with unanimous support.

GOOD AND WELFARE

- The Village sent its condolences to Tobi and Jeromy Sheiker on the passing of Debbie Sheiker on September 9, 2024.
- The Village thanks Frank Vincent for his years of trash pickup at the Pauline A. Young Park.
- The Village recognizes Ricardo Lebeis as the inspiration for its proposal regarding moving the transmission lines from Ardencroft to the railroad tracks.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm.

Submitted,

Jennifer Abernethy

Jennifer Abernethy, Village Secretary

ATTACHMENTS

Page(s)	Item
11	9/16/24 Village Assembly Meeting Attendance
12	Ardencroft Financial Report - 7/1/2024 - 9/16/2024
13-16	Ardencroft Code Violations
17-18	Ardencroft County Police Incident Report 5/3/24-9/16/24
19-20	Public Works 75th Anniversary Revitalization Project List and Map
21	Resolution in Support of the ... Public Works ... (ORPT) Grant Application
22-23	Draft Ordinance: Transmission Line Infrastructure
24-27	Draft Changes Removing Empowered Committees

9/16/24 VILLAGE ASSEMBLY MEETING ATTENDANCE

Residents

1. Jenn Abernethy
2. Joe Achenbaum
3. Wyn Achenbaum
4. Kirsten Anderson Kimberg
5. Scott Bowers
6. Cathy Brown
7. Polly Brown
8. Waju Christie
9. Nick Cocca
10. Sam Cocca
11. Ben Gruswitz
12. Bruce Hamilton
13. Annette Hearing
14. Bill Hulton
15. Mary Lebeis
16. Ricardo Lebeis
17. Lorna Lee
18. Jan Lewis
19. Don Lipari
20. Kirsten Kimberg
21. Ken Morrison
22. Jeanne Orr
23. Amy Pollock
24. Bob Pollock
25. Chris Raia
26. Ken Rosenberg
27. Dan Rubin
28. Carol Saxby
29. Jim Schwaber
30. Lisa Surbrook
31. Jeff Tindall
32. Frank Vincent
33. John Wenderoth
34. Mary Brent Whipple
35. Janet Williams
36. Michael Wood

Guests

37. John Cartier (County Council)
38. Ruth Panella (Arden)

Ardencroft Financial Report 7/1/2024 - 9/16/2024

CASH				
Operating Acct	62,096			
Restricted ARPA Funds	19,885			
Restricted DNREC Tree Planting Grant	15,351			
Available Operating Funds	26,860			
MSA Acct	65,944			
Interest on Savings	2,140			
Arden B&L	788			
Total Funds	130,967			
			FY25	
	This Period	Year to Date	Budget	Remaining
INCOME:				
Arden B&L	0	0	0	0
Ardencroft Directors	0	0	21,161	21,161
Directors for Trash Collection	0	0	27,300	27,300
Comcast Franchise Fees	477	477	2,054	1,577
MSA	0	0	6,020	6,020
Other Grants & Contributions	15,450	15,450	7,250	(8,200)
Tree Planting Grant (DNREC)	14,352	14,352	28,703	14,352
GoFundMe for Tree Planting (private donations)	999	999	1,000	1
Verizon Franchise Fees	148	148	620	472
TOTAL INCOME	31,425	31,425	94,108	62,683
ADMINISTRATION				
Administrative Expenses	(872)	(872)	1,600	728
Chair's Discretionary	(30)	(30)	1,500	1,470
Delaware League of Local Governments Dues	(525)	(525)	525	0
D&O Liability Insurance	(3,198)	(3,198)	3,250	52
Secretary Stipend	(250)	(250)	1,500	1,250
Treasurer's Bond	0	0	100	100
Treasurer Stipend	0	0	1,500	1,500
Website / email support	0	0	500	500
TOTAL ADMIN	(4,875)	(4,875)	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	0	0	29,703	29,703
Miscellaneous - Environment	0	0	500	500
Finance Committee	0	0	100	100
<i>Public Works Committee</i>				
Miscellaneous - Public Works	0	0	500	500
Park Mowing	(1,200)	(1,200)	2,700	1,500
Parks & Recreation	0	0	2,000	2,000
Snow Removal (MSA)	0	0	3,000	3,000
Streets & Signs (MSA)	(560)	(560)	5,000	4,440
Trash/Recycling Collection	(4,302)	(4,302)	27,300	22,998
Trees/Paths/Maintenance	(490)	(490)	7,000	6,510
Registration Committee	0	0	800	800
Safety Committee	0	0	50	50
TOTAL COMMITTEES	(6,552)	(6,552)	78,653	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	(11,427)	(11,427)	94,108	
NET	19,999	19,999	0	

Cases by Council District

Report Run: 9/20/2024 9:09:56 AM

Cases Added From 5/1/2024 To 9/20/2024

District	Development	Address	Case	Problem	Added	Resolved
LD08	ARDENCROFT	1602 HARVEY RD	202404094	INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINT	6/12/2024	7/29/2024
			SERVICE # 202403291			INVOL
		#1 CODE ENFORCEMENT INSPECTION		06/14/2024	FAILED	
		ABATEMENT NOTIFICATION		06/14/2024		
		VIOLATION NOTICE SENT		06/17/2024		
		#2 CODE ENFORCEMENT INSPECTION		07/01/2024	FAILED	
		WORK ORDER REQUESTED		07/01/2024		
		TICKET ISSUED		07/02/2024		
		WORK ORDER ISSUED		07/02/2024		
		WORK ORDER ISSUED-VENDOR		07/03/2024		
		#3 CODE ENFORCEMENT INSPECTION		07/11/2024	FAILED	
		WORK PERFORMED		07/12/2024		
		#4 CODE ENFORCEMENT INSPECTION		07/29/2024	PASSED	
		CLOSED		07/29/2024		
		CLOSED LETTER SENT		07/29/2024		
		DEMAND LETTER SENT		08/14/2024		
		1512 HARVEY RD	202404263	INSECT INFESTATION	6/18/2024	6/21/2024
			SERVICE # 202403252			NVF
		#1 CODE ENFORCEMENT INSPECTION		06/21/2024	PASSED	
		NO VIOLATION FOUND		06/21/2024		
		1601 SUNSET LN	202404360	INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINT	6/21/2024	9/3/2024
			SERVICE # 202403290			INVOL

Cases by Council District

Report Run: 9/20/2024 9:09:56 AM

Cases Added From 5/1/2024 To 9/20/2024

District	Development	Address	Case	Problem	Added	Resolved
		#1 CODE ENFORCEMENT INSPECTION		06/24/2024	FAILED	
		ABATEMENT NOTIFICATION		06/25/2024		
		NOTE TO FILE		06/25/2024		
		VIOLATION NOTICE SENT		06/25/2024		
		FIRST INSPECTION LETTER SENT		06/28/2024		
		#2 CODE ENFORCEMENT INSPECTION		07/09/2024	FAILED	
		WORK ORDER REQUESTED		07/09/2024		
		WORK ORDER ISSUED		07/09/2024		
		WORK ORDER ISSUED-VENDOR		07/10/2024		
		TICKET ISSUED		07/10/2024		
		#3 CODE ENFORCEMENT INSPECTION		07/29/2024	FAILED	
		#4 CODE ENFORCEMENT INSPECTION		08/12/2024	FAILED	
		ABATEMENT NOTIFICATION		08/12/2024		
		TICKET ISSUED		08/13/2024		
		#5 CODE ENFORCEMENT INSPECTION		09/03/2024	PASSED	
		CLOSED		09/03/2024		
		CLOSED LETTER SENT		09/03/2024		
		1604 W GREENBRIAR RD	202404361	INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINT	6/21/2024	7/29/2024
			SERVICE # 202403292			VOL
		#1 CODE ENFORCEMENT INSPECTION		06/24/2024	FAILED	
		ABATEMENT NOTIFICATION		06/24/2024		
		VIOLATION NOTICE SENT		06/25/2024		
		FIRST INSPECTION LETTER SENT		06/28/2024		
		EXTENSION REQUESTED		07/03/2024		
		EXTENSION GRANTED		07/03/2024		
		#2 CODE ENFORCEMENT INSPECTION		07/19/2024	FAILED	
		#3 CODE ENFORCEMENT INSPECTION		07/29/2024	PASSED	
		CLOSED		07/29/2024		
		CLOSED LETTER SENT		07/29/2024		
		2120 WILLOW WAY	202404449	INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINT	6/25/2024	7/29/2024
			SERVICE # 202403426			VOL

Cases by Council District

Cases Added From 5/1/2024 To 9/20/2024

Report Run: 9/20/2024 9:09:56 AM

District	Development	Address	Case	Problem	Added	Resolved
		#1 CODE ENFORCEMENT INSPECTION	07/03/2024	FAILED		
		ABATEMENT NOTIFICATION	07/03/2024			
		VIOLATION NOTICE SENT	07/08/2024			
		CALL RECEIVED	07/16/2024			
		#2 CODE ENFORCEMENT INSPECTION	07/19/2024	PASSED		
		CLOSED	07/29/2024			
		1507 UPSAN DOWNS LN	202406218	DEBRIS	9/3/2024	
		SERVICE # 202404998				
		#1 CODE ENFORCEMENT INSPECTION	09/11/2024	FAILED		
		ABATEMENT NOTIFICATION	09/11/2024			
		VIOLATION NOTICE SENT	09/12/2024			
		CALL RECEIVED	09/17/2024			
		#2 CODE ENFORCEMENT INSPECTION		SCHEDULED		
		4 LOWER GREENBRIAR RD	202406628	VACANT PROPERTY INVENTORY	9/19/2024	
		SERVICE #				
		#1 VACANT PROPERTY INSPECTION		SCHEDULED		
		2122 WILLOW WAY	202406653	INOPER UNREG VEH. PRIVATE PROP	9/19/2024	
		SERVICE # 202405342				
		#1 CODE ENFORCEMENT INSPECTION		SCHEDULED		

Cases Per Development: 8

Resolved: 5

Cases Per District: 8

Resolved Per District: 5

Cases by Council District

Cases Added From 5/1/2024 To 9/20/2024

Report Run: 9/20/2024 9:09:56 AM

Total Cases: 8

Total Resolved: 5

New Castle County Police Community Venue Reporting

* Note: Rows displayed in bold font are Officer initiated items

Create Date Time	Location	Venue Name	Sector	CAD Type	Final Incident Type	Source
5/3/2024 1:29 PM	2100 Block WILLOW WAY	Ardencroft	NCC 13	Suspicious vehicle	Suspicious vehicle	CAD
5/4/2024 12:02 AM	2100 Block WILLOW WAY	Ardencroft	NCC 13	Abandoned Vehicle	Abandoned Vehicle	CAD
5/4/2024 10:40 AM	2100 Block WILLOW WAY	Ardencroft	NCC 13	Abandoned Vehicle	Abandoned Vehicle	CAD
5/4/2024 12:07 PM	2100 Block WILLOW WAY	Ardencroft	NCC 13	Added Information	Added Information	CAD
5/31/2024 6:15 AM	1500 Block EVERGREEN LN	Ardencroft	NCC 13	Assist Fire/EMS	Assist Fire/EMS	CAD
5/31/2024 10:41 AM	Unit Block APRIL LN	Ardencroft	NCC 13	Abandoned Vehicle	Abandoned Vehicle	CAD
5/31/2024 4:15 PM	1500 Block EVERGREEN LN	Ardencroft	NCC 13	Mental patient	Check on Well Being	FSR
6/20/2024 4:38 PM	2100 Block WILLOW WAY	Ardencroft	NCC 13	Disorderly person	Disorderly person	CAD
7/9/2024 9:14 AM	2100 Block WILLOW WAY	Ardencroft	NCC 13	Civil Matter	Non Criminal	LEISS
7/9/2024 5:47 PM	1500 Block BEECH LN	Ardencroft	NCC 13	Alarm Burglary	Alarm Burglary	CAD
7/11/2024 9:46 AM	2100 Block WILLOW WAY	Ardencroft	NCC 13	Civil Matter	Civil Matter	CAD
7/12/2024 2:33 PM	2100 Block WILLOW WAY	Ardencroft	NCC 13	Domestic - In Progress	Domestic - In Progress	CAD
7/29/2024 4:03 PM	1400 Block HARVEY RD	Ardencroft	DSP RECOM 11	Traffic Violation	Traffic Violation	CAD
8/2/2024 11:45 AM	1500 Block BEECH LN	Ardencroft	NCC 13	Alarm Burglary	Burglar/Robbery Alarms	FSR
8/2/2024 12:16 PM	1500 Block BEECH LN	Ardencroft	NCC 13	Alarm Burglary	Alarm Burglary	CAD

8/2/2024 5:24 PM	2100 Block WILLOW WAY	Ardencroft	NCC 13	Alarm Burglary	Burglar/Robbery Alarms	FSR
8/22/2024 1:23 PM	1600 Block SUNSET LN	Ardencroft	NCC 13	Fraud	Fraud / Criminal Impersonation	LEISS
8/28/2024 6:37 PM	1500 Block UPSAN DOWNS LN	Ardencroft	NCC 13	Harassment	Harassment	CAD
8/29/2024 10:13 PM	1500 Block UPSAN DOWNS LN	Ardencroft	NCC 13	Harassment	Harassment	CAD
8/30/2024 11:23 AM	1500 Block UPSAN DOWNS LN	Ardencroft	NCC 13	Trespass	Trespass	CAD
9/2/2024 8:11 PM	2100 Block VEALE RD	Ardencroft	DSP RECOM 11	Terroristic Threatening Weapons	Terroristic Threatening Weapons	CAD
9/3/2024 2:07 PM	1500 Block UPSAN DOWNS LN	Ardencroft	NCC 13	Trespass	Trespass	CAD

75th Anniversary Revitalization: Celebrating Inclusivity Through Community Development

Map Key	Location	Project #	Project Description	Description	Estimated Total Cost	Village Funds	CTF or Other	DNREC ORPT Grant
A	Pauline A. Young Park	1	Sign commemorating Pauline A. Young Park	Interpretive sign for our park recently renamed for former resident, Pauline A. Young . Ms. Young was a prominent and revered resident and her choice of Ardencroft as a home is an opportunity to not only highlight her, but the Village's historic efforts to desegregate Northern Delaware.	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$0	\$1,250
A	Pauline A. Young Park	2	New Swing Structure with Accessible Swing	To replace current decades-old structure that doesn't meet safety standards. New structure with mulch spread at ample distance in front and back of it, proper distance between swings and a swing for children of all physical abilities will be built.	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
A	Pauline A. Young Park	3	Village bulletin board improvement	Replacement of ineffective pushpin backing material and addition of cover so community flyers don't blow away.	\$500	\$250	\$0	\$250
A&E	PAY Park & Beech Ln Park	4	ADA accessible picnic areas at each of our two parks	Install curb ramp to hard surface patio picnic areas to access picnic tables so all are welcome.	\$21,000	\$4,704	\$5,796	\$10,500
A&E	PAY Park & Beech Ln Park	5	Trash corrals for each of our two parks	Corrals like those on Arden's greens built to house new public trash and recycling cans that are coming this Fall.	\$2,200	\$0	\$1,100	\$1,100
B	Curtis Bridge	6	Safety and decking improvements to the Curtis Bridge	This footbridge connecting Ardencroft with Arden needs railings to be strengthened and new surfacing to decrease slipping. It is along a key path designated for safe bicycle and pedestrian travel through the Ardens in our recent transportation plan and needs to live up to the safety we promote.	\$12,795	\$0	\$6,398	\$6,398
C	Rocky Walk	7	Replacement of the Rocky Walk bridge that has rotted at grade	Small footbridge on Rocky Walk path has rotted and needs full replacement.	\$6,180	\$0	\$3,090	\$3,090
D	Sanctuary Path	8	Replacement of the handrails at the Sanctuary Path stairs	Hand rail posts were already rotting and needing replacement, then a tree fell and knocked down more than half the railing of this 52-step stairway into our forest paths.	\$4,825	\$0	\$2,413	\$2,413
TOTAL					\$70,000	\$16,204	\$18,796	\$35,000

Reference Map of Project Locations (Black Letters Correspond to Map Key Column in Table)





Ardencroft Village Assembly Resolution in Support of the Ardencroft Public Works Committee’s 2024 Outdoor Recreation, Parks, and Trails (ORPT) Grant Application

Whereas DNREC’s 2024 Outdoor Recreation, Parks, and Trails (ORPT) Grant Application requires applicants to submit a signed resolution from the local governing body acknowledging the funding request, assigning a project manager, identifying financial investments, and committing to maintain the property; now therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Ardencroft Village Assembly:

1. acknowledges that the Ardencroft Public Works Committee is submitting a 2024 ORPT Grant Application to new and improved parks and trails facilities;
2. assigns the Ardencroft Public Works Committee (Chris Raia, Chair) to manage the project;
3. authorizes the Public Works Committee to expend funds from its annual budget appropriation, ARPA funds, and other funds secured in the amounts requested in the ORPT application’s Local Match Sources and Budget and Timeline sections; and
4. commits that the village’s Public Works Committee will be responsible for maintaining the new and improved facilities.

Motion passed and adopted by the Ardencroft Village Assembly at its regularly scheduled meeting held on Monday, September 16, 2024.

Ben Gruswitz, Village Assembly Chair

Date

Ordinance 12

Transmission Line Infrastructure

Purpose

High voltage electrical transmission lines and towers are, at least for now, a critical component of modern infrastructure that supports our way of life. However, the current alignment of transmission lines has caused years of unnecessary harm and avoidable risk in our municipality.

Findings

1. Environmental Impact:

- The construction and maintenance of transmission lines bisecting our forest ecosystem invite non-native and invasive species.
- The use of pesticides by power companies can be harmful to the ecosystem and the health of residents and pets.
- Existing transmission lines have contributed to extremely high levels of lead in surrounding soil, and new construction may disturb these contaminated areas.
- Materials used in the new towers may have unforeseen harmful impacts similar to the use of lead paint on the existing towers.

2. Health and Safety:

- Due to the proximity of existing transmission lines, residents are exposed to electromagnetic fields with intensities far above typical background levels, potentially harming their health.

3. Financial and Maintenance Costs:

- The proximity of transmission lines and towers to residences can depress property values due to associated risks.
- Maintenance costs for the village increase due to the presence of these transmission lines.

4. Legal and Compliance Issues:

- Delmarva Power has demonstrated willful disregard of their existing transmission line easement agreement in the village and backpedaled on prior agreements in a neighboring village.

5. Alternative Routes:

- Alternative routes exist consistent with nearly all the transmission line siting along the former B&O railway alignment that minimize proximity to residences and impact only the edges of low-quality forest areas already bisected by the railway clearing.
- Other alternative routes may also exist.

Ordinance

Now therefore, in order to protect residents along with our treasured forest ecosystems, it is hereby ordained by the Village of Ardencroft as follows:

1. Prohibition

- No new electrical transmission lines and tower infrastructure are permitted within the corporate limits of the Village of Ardencroft.
- Additionally, no new electrical transmission lines and tower infrastructure are permitted within 500 feet of Ardencroft residential housing units.

2. Definitions

- "Transmission lines" refer to high voltage electrical lines designed to transport electricity over long distances.
- "Tower infrastructure" refers to the supporting structures, including poles and towers, for transmission lines.
- "Residential housing units" refer to any buildings or structures used for residential purposes within the village boundaries.

3. Annual Impact Fee:

- An annual impact fee shall be levied by the Village of Ardencroft on Delmarva Power's, or their successors', existing transmission line facilities based on the total square footage of area 40 feet from the center of their easement within the corporate limits of the Village of Ardencroft, 50,267 square feet.
- The fee will use the current base rate for the first 10,000 square feet and an additional 70% of the base rate for any additional square footage charged by the Ardencroft Association or their successors as land rent to leaseholders in the village, subject to annual change.
- Impact fees are due by June 1st of each year.

4. Enforcement:

- This ordinance shall be enforced by the Village Assembly and any designated officers or agents.
- Any violation of this ordinance shall be subject to monthly penalties according to the village's ordinance on municipal fine structure.

5. Severability:

- If any provision of this ordinance is found to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

6. Effective Date:

- This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and publication as required by law.

Ordinance 4

Vehicles, Equipment, & Parking

...

Motor Vehicles

Motor Vehicles, with the exception of assisted mobility devices, are prohibited from Village paths and parklands ~~and the playground~~ of the Village of Ardencroft except by permission of the empowered committee ~~Public Works Committee~~...

...

Trucks And Heavy Equipment

No commercial vehicles or heavy equipment as described by County Code are permitted to park longer than twelve (12) hours period, without consent from an empowered committee ~~the Safety Committee~~ in the Village of Ardencroft...

...

Provision of Parking Spaces for Persons with Disabilities

...

An empowered committee of the Village of Ardencroft ~~The Safety Committee~~ shall enforce the requirements of this ordinance. ... If, after thirty (30) days from the date of the warning, the individual or entity has still not complied, the empowered committee ~~Safety Committee~~ may apply for a warrant in the name of the individual or artificial entity...

Ordinance 5

Leaseholder & Village Street Frontage Maintenance Obligations

1) Overview

...

Maintenance of other village land, including cul de sacs, park land, paths, and forests, are the responsibility of the Village and its empowered committee(s) ~~Public Works Committee (PWC)~~. Unless otherwise approved by the empowered committee ~~PWC~~, altering or destroying vegetation and other features on non-street frontage public land is not permitted and subject to fine.

2) Definitions

- a) ...To determine the extent of street frontage beyond leaseholds, the Village ~~PWC~~ uses the following calculations:

...

- i) Removal of dead, dying, invasive or other nuisance trees greater than 4 inches in diameter on street frontage land is the responsibility of the Village ~~PWC~~. Per *Tree Removal* ordinance, contact a member of the empowered committee ~~PWC~~ to request removal.
- ii) ...

3) Oversight, Process, and Enforcement

Specific committees The Safety Committee (SC) and PWC are empowered to determine which leaseholds have plants or permanent objects that need trimming, cutting, cleaning, or clearing to comply with this ordinance and shall inform leaseholders and tenants, in writing, of their determinations.

In the event such notice from the empowered committee(s) the SC and PWC does not result in the required action within 30 days, the committee(s) is SC and PWC are empowered to have the work done...

Ordinance 6

Tree Removal

Section 1.: To balance the needs of the environment, safety, and other considerations, the Village of Ardencroft (Village) ~~the Ardencroft Public Works Committee (PWC)~~ oversees the removal of trees on public and leaseholder lands. The ~~Village of Ardencroft (Village)~~ prohibits any person causing the destruction or death of any tree, meeting the criterion below, by any means, including, but not limited to cutting; bulldozing, timbering, landfilling or debarking, without having prior written permission from the Village PWC.

Section 2.c.: ...To determine the extent of street frontage beyond leaseholds, the Village PWC uses the following calculations:

Section 2.c.ii.: ...DelDOT is the authority to contact for tree removal on state roads, but the Village PWC can assist leaseholders in seeking DelDOT aid, if alerted to an issue.

Section 2.c.iii.: ...Fourteen feet from the street gutter is the general starting place for assessing street frontage boundaries along village roads, but for all areas, including cul de sacs, the Village PWC will use available information in lieu of survey markers to determine whether or not a subject tree is on a leasehold or within public street frontage.

Section 3.: The Village will PWC is empowered to oversee, and approve or deny, requests for tree removal through its empowered committee(s).

Section 3.a.: ...Permits are accessible on the Village Ardencroft Association website page, or by contacting any PWC member of an empowered committee. Permits require the signatures of 2 PWC members of an empowered committee.

Section 3.b.: For trees on non-leasehold Village land, defined above, contact the empowered committee PWC member concerning problems with trees that are not on your leasehold. The Village PWC will address trees that are dead, dying, impeding visibility, or relate to other safety concerns.

Section 3. (continued): For trees on the boundary of leaseholds and public land, the Village PWC will work with leaseholders to share costs as appropriate.

Ordinance 7

Change in Leasehold Grade

1. Any change in leasehold grade in excess of one (1) foot (.3048 m) in depth and covering one thousand (1,000) sq. ft. (92.9 m²) in area or one thousand (1,000) cubic feet (28.3 cubic meters) shall not be permitted without written permission from the Village of Ardencroft Public Works Committee that has been signed by majority four (4) members of the empowered committee.
2. Any change in leasehold grade within twenty-five (25) feet (7.62 m) of an existing creek edge shall not be permitted without written permission from the empowered committee Public Works Committee that has been signed by a majority four (4) members of the committee.

The penalty for breach of this ordinance shall be a fine conforming to the Village's municipal fine structure, plus restoration of the affected area within thirty (30) days of citation of violation by the empowered committee Public Works Committee.

Ordinance 10

Hunting & Trapping

... Trapping of rats, mice, and moles may be permitted on parklands, rights-of-way, and paths only after written permission is secured from an empowered committee the Safety Committee. Humane trapping of other animals may be permitted by residents or leaseholders on their property with permission grants in writing by the empowered committee Safety Committee.