



## **VILLAGE CHAT - ARDSLEY, September 10, 2024**

**10:00am Zoom**

*In attendance: Joe Cerretani (Ardsley Village Manager), Sheila Narayanan (Village Trustee), Connie Gallo (Rand Realty/ Chamber Village Rep), Jena Schneider (True North Financial/Chamber Village Rep), Danielle Centofanti-Davidson (Chamber President/Main Street Business Strategies, LLC), Shari Rosen-Ascher (Westchester County Director of Policy & Programs for Small Businesses and Chambers of Commerce), Frederick Childs (MVR Agency), Lydia Akinyemi (Puro Clean of Southern Westchester); Sophia Johnson (Independent Consultant); Mark Crosskey (Sustainable Westchester); Valon Nikci (Link NY Realty)*

### **Meeting Notes:**

#### County Update: Program and Events

- Partnered with Tourism Dept on Tuesday, September 17th for virtual program called "Reel Ready" so businesses can learn how the filming industry can be profitable for them, i.e how to become vendors, etc
- Workshop on Friday, September 20th on Succession Planning - Employee ownership and worker-owned co-ops as a way to keep your business going
- Job Fairs for workforce development
  - Diverse Abilities job fair on 10/9 at Westchester County Convention Center
  - Virtual workshop for job readiness on 9/23 for attendees and a separate one for employers
  - Clean Energy job fair in November; encouraging those impacted by social justice to attend.
  - Anyone with questions or ideas for the Westchester County business community can reach out to Shari Rosen Ascher directly at [sascher@westchestercountyny.gov](mailto:sascher@westchestercountyny.gov)

#### Chamber Update:

- 2nd Annual Chamber Golf Open taking place on September 16th at Sprain Lake Golf Course
  - 19th hole opportunity for non-golfers from 5:30-8:30pm
  - Partnered with Gigi's Playhouse in Ardsley
- 9/25 Chamber Networking & General Meeting at Atria Woodlands in Ardsley
- 9/25 Ribbon cutting ceremony for Club Car Grill
- 9/27 Chamber Classroom Session - SEO 101 for Small Business w/Rich Lamendola from Brandbliss; Series is for members only and they usually take place on Fridays at 10am or 1pm (may look to keep them for 10am moving forward); Stay tuned for Chamber Classroom Series announcements for October and November

- 10/18 Chamber Halloween Block Party in Irvington; taking place at the OCA parking lot by the Main Street School. Businesses will set up tables; will include a beer garden, food, costume contests, and theater performances by Rivertowns Payhouse (Rain date 10/19 from 5-7pm);
- 12/14 Chamber Holiday Trolley - Ardsley not currently slated to participate due to funding. If that doesn't change, Ardsley Chamber members are able to pop up in another village
  - Logistically difficult to get to Ardsley
  - Cost of trolley is an issue
  - Will reconsider Ardsley participation due to an increase in new Ardsley Chamber membership; possibility of focusing on downtown area only instead of all of Ardshaverhillley; Needs to be decided ASAP, especially because Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow are having their events on the same day.
- Women's Social - Date TBD
- Ongoing Village Chats and Chamber meetings thru the end of 2024

#### Village Update:

- Expanding Bridge Street parking lot from 26 spaces to 52 or 54; Will update lighting, signage, etc.; Board extended no-fee parking until end of year
- Grants for Addyman Square revitalization
- Looking at crossing issue on saw mill river road, which is dangerous
- Another gas station is coming to the village; Traffic studies have already been conducted.
- Approved a teen hangout venue and other teen-based small businesses
- Chamber requested Village share info on new businesses so that the Chamber can properly welcome them to the business community and introduce them to the work of the Chamber.
- Old Riviera building is still on sale.
- Pedestrian improvement - Village met last month with consultant engineers to improve safety on Center Street and Route 9A. Recommendation is to amend the road from 3 lanes to 2 lanes; adding a crosswalk at Haverhill intersection to cross 9a to V.W.Macy Park's south entrance; Will draft recommendation to DOT this month for their review
- Open grant application for pump, for storm water
- Grant from federal government to redesign and improve Addyman Square.
- Public Arts Commission created last week for Village (3 members thus far). Please keep Chamber informed.
- Sophia Johnson, political economist, was offered volunteer opportunity with village to speak at one of the Trustee work sessions
- Mark Crosskey may host a classroom chamber series session on sustainability; Offered the village and businesses help to lower energy bills and heating/cooling