



Protest and support
 Rivertowns residents aid
 families affected by ICE
 p 3

REGION

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RIVERTOWNS Dispatch

Local News,
 Locally Sourced

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ARDSLEY — DOBBS FERRY — HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON — IRVINGTON — SLEEPY HOLLOW — TARRYTOWN

Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow
 launch partners

E **EDGE-ON-HUDSON**
 A New View On The River

the pocantico center
 ∞ Rockefeller Brothers Fund

Tranquility Spa
 Relax. Renew. Revitalize.

Ceremony mixes remembrance with respect for those who serve

*Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow
 mark anniversary*

BY LAURA SCHILLER

REGION

“Twenty-five years after the attacks of September 11, we pause to remember a day that changed our nation and touched lives across the world,” Tarrytown Fire Chief Raymond Tuohy said.

Tuohy spoke on the morning of Sunday, Sept. 6, at a ceremony in Patriots Park marking the 25th anniversary of 9/11. Firefighters from Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow attended, along with elected officials and residents.

Tarrytown Deputy Mayor Becky McGovern recalled being at Washington Irving School, where she was PTA president and in charge of picture day on Sept. 11 2001. She stayed at the school throughout the day with children whose



Tarrytown Fire Chief Raymond Tuohy and Sleepy Hollow Fire Chief Steven Bencosme lead a salute.

parents were delayed by the attacks.

“I can’t help but wonder what our history books are going to say about this in the future,” McGovern said. “It’s so important

that we continue to have these days of remembrance for that reason, to make sure people don’t forget, that they do remember and understand.”

Sleepy Hollow Mayor Marjorie Hsu reflected on the lessons of the day and the importance of honoring those who protect others.

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9/11
 @ 25



ARDSLEY
Family still feels loss from 9/11
 p 5

“It was one of the few times in my life where I saw this country come together for the common good.”

Former FDNY Captain Jimmy Walsh
 p 7

SPORTS

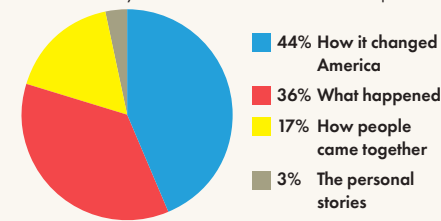
**Denike leads
 Dobbs into chase
 for championship**
 p 25



The Poll

What’s most important for younger generations to know about 9/11?

As answered by 158 readers of the Rivertowns Dispatch



Vote at rivertownsdispatch.com/the-weekly-poll



The Blotter

DOBBS FERRY

Theft from Ulta: An unidentified man and woman shoplifted \$1,188 worth of items from the Ulta Beauty at Rivertowns Square on the afternoon of Saturday, Aug. 29. The theft was reported to the police on Aug. 31.

Deposit deception: A Dobbs Ferry resident paid a \$7,000 deposit on Monday, Aug. 31, in response to an email that appeared to be from a contractor, but turned out to be fraudulent.

Theft from Ulta: An unidentified man and woman shoplifted \$3,123 worth of items from the Ulta Beauty at Rivertowns Square on the evening of

Wednesday, Sept. 2. The theft was reported to the police on Sept. 5.

HASTINGS

Suspended registration: A 25-year-old Bronx resident was arrested for a suspended vehicle registration, a misdemeanor, and cited for unlicensed operation of a vehicle, a violation, on Farragut Avenue on the afternoon of Monday, Aug. 31. Officer Thomas Wassmann made the arrest.

Coyote on Main: A coyote was reported outside the James Harmon Community Center on Main Street on the afternoon of Tuesday, Sept. 1. The animal fled into the woods behind the building.

Suspended license and registration: A 24-year-old Bronx resident was arrested for a suspended driver's license and vehicle registration, both misdemeanors, on Broadway (Route 9) on the after-

noon of Tuesday, Sept. 1. He was also cited for an uninspected vehicle, a violation. Officer Rob Simmonds made the arrest.

Suspended registration: A 36-year-old Bronx resident was arrested for a suspended vehicle registration, a misdemeanor, on Warburton Avenue on the morning of Wednesday, Sept. 2. Officer Brandon King made the arrest.

Suspended license: A 32-year-old Bronx resident was arrested for a suspended driver's license, a misdemeanor, on Saw Mill River Road on the morning of Wednesday, Sept. 2. He was also cited for running a stop sign on Ravensdale Road, a violation. Officer Brandon King made the arrest.

Stand damaged: An umbrella stand was damaged outside the Hastings Farmers Market storage shed on Cropsey Lane between late Saturday, Aug.

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Trustee James Husselbee, Sgt. Steven Bencosme, Mayor Marjorie Hsu, Sgt. Angela Martello, and Chief Anthony Buetti

Sleepy Hollow promotes two sergeants

The Sleepy Hollow Police Department celebrated the promotions of two lifelong village residents on Sept. 8. During the board of trustees meeting that evening, an overflow crowd watched as Steven Bencosme and Angela Martello were elevated to the rank of sergeant. Martello is the first female sergeant in the history of the department, while Bencosme is the second Dominican sergeant. Martello graduated from Sleepy Hollow High School in 2007. She has been a member of the village's ambulance corps

and fire department since 2003, and police department since 2015. For the ambulance corps, she was assistant chief from 2018-19, and has been chief of EMS since 2019. For the fire department, she served as lieutenant (2012-13) and captain (2013-15) of Columbia Hose Co. No. 3. Bencosme graduated from Sleepy Hollow High School in 2013. He has been a member of the fire department since 2009 and police department since 2018. For the police department, he has been the school resource officer since 2021. In 2024, he founded the annual Sleepy Hollow/Tarrytown Youth Leadership Police Academy. For the fire department, he has been chief since 2025.

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Diana Sánchez of the Yonkers Sanctuary Movement addresses attendees during a rally outside the Enrico Fermi Elementary School on Aug. 21.

ICE detentions prompt protest and support

Rivertowns residents aid families affected in Yonkers

BY AMY BOCHNER

REGION After 10 Yonkers residents were detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) last month, Rivertowns residents are collecting supplies and showing support for the families struggling — mentally and financially — in the absence of their loved ones.

The collections are being conducted by NYCD 16/15 Indivisible, a progressive organization, to benefit the Yonkers Sanctuary Movement (YSM), a grassroots organization helping families locate those who have been detained. Two of the four drop-off locations for donations are in the Rivertowns.

In addition to connecting people with legal support, YSM, led by Yonkers residents Diana Sánchez and José Cruz, provides a food pantry, hygiene supplies, diapers, and other staples to community members experiencing difficult times, like housing displacement and health issues.

According to Sánchez, the presence of ICE in Yonkers has ramped up over the past year, increasing fear and anxiety in the community.

The 10 individuals taken by ICE in August were all men, many of whom are married and have children. Most were detained while either going to or coming home from work. Sánchez shared that none of the men whose families she works with

had warrants for their arrests.

On Aug. 17, ICE detained a man on Linden Street, outside the Enrico Fermi Elementary School, after he exited a bus on his way home from work. In response, YSM organized a rally on Aug. 21 at the corner where the man was taken. The rally was coordinated with NYCD 16/15 Indivisible and progressive organizations We United, the Working Families Party, WESPAC, and ICE Watch Westchester. The rally sought to bring attention to the “accelerating kidnappings by ICE in Yonkers and to demand that our elected officials speak out and support our community,” according to a press release from YSM.

That day, attendees, many of whom are Rivertowns residents, held signs with messages such as “Immigrants are our neighbors” and “We are all immigrants.” Members of the Yonkers community shared personal experiences with ICE, including being chased by officers after exiting a bus. Sánchez told the Dispatch that she hears similar stories from residents who were pursued by ICE agents who did not identify themselves.

New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and State Senator Shelley Mayer also attended the rally. While Stewart-Cousins spoke, two attendees urged her to push for the passage of the New York for All Act, proposed legislation designed to prohibit state and local government agencies and law enforcement from colluding with federal immigration authorities like ICE.

Early this year, Sánchez said ICE targeted streets off major routes, but by August they

were making arrests deeper in neighborhoods. Several arrests happened in what she calls the “tree streets” — a residential section of six streets named after trees in a section of southwest Yonkers that is one of the poorest in the city. Sánchez believes the situation will escalate this fall, which may lead to families staying inside their homes out of fear.

In addition to the trauma of having a loved one detained, families are struggling without their primary source of income, making it difficult to pay rent and leaving them in a “very vulnerable space,” Sánchez said.

This concern prompted NYCD 16/15 to collect nonperishable goods and necessities for these families, which began on Aug. 20 and will run until Oct. 15. Irvington resident Kay O’Keeffe is hosting one of the four drop-off locations.

“Indivisible 16/15 is supporting Yonkers Sanctuary Movement to aid needy families whose main breadwinners have been detained by ICE, leaving them without a means of support,” she told the Dispatch. “[ICE is detaining] fathers of families who have lived here 10, 20, 30 years, building homes and families, and are valued members of our communities.”

The second drop-off location in the Rivertowns is in Hastings, while the other two are in White Plains and Yonkers. For information about donating, email nycd16.indivisible.group@gmail.com. Cooking oil, pinto beans, black beans, and white rice are requested. There is also a need for diapers, baby wipes, and toiletries like shampoo,

Continued on page 21

For local fire departments, volunteerism to the rescue

BY LAURA SCHILLER

REGION A fire alarm goes off. A pager or phone sounds. Someone leaves work, gets out of bed, or steps away from dinner and heads to the firehouse.

That is how the Rivertowns’ volunteer fire departments continue to answer calls — be it a burnt bagel or house ablaze — relying on people willing to give their time and energy.

Recruiting volunteers is part of the challenge; finding those with hours to spare is becoming more difficult. Many firefighters have full-time jobs, families, and sometimes second jobs.

Members don’t have to be available for every call, but departments need enough volunteers with different schedules to maintain coverage. During the workday, departments may rely on neighboring communities for mutual aid to ensure enough coverage.

“The number [of volunteer departments] is shrinking every year, because of the cost of living and housing.”

First Assistant Chief John Korzelius of Sleepy Hollow

In Tarrytown, the department has about 85 active members across its six companies, compared with around 125 a decade ago, according to Chief Raymond Tuohy. In Dobbs Ferry, about 30 members respond to calls, with daytime staffing particularly challenging, according to Chief Joseph Giuliano.

“The number has gone down over the years, and a big reason for that is that a lot of people can’t afford to live around here,” Giuliano said. “It’s a very expensive area.”

Sleepy Hollow Chief Steven Bencosme said that while his department has about 65 active members on paper, fewer than 20 are generally available to respond regularly to calls.

John Korzelius, first assistant chief in Sleepy Hollow, remembers spending time at the firehouse as a child with his father, when 30 to 40 firefighters might turn out for a regular alarm.

“I can tell you right now, these days on Monday through Friday, during working hours, we’ll pull eight or nine people. And a lot of those guys are retired guys, you know, in their 70s,” he said.

The decline has consequences beyond

Continued on page 19

— August 2026 home sales —

	BD/BA	SQFT	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	SP/OLP%
Ardsley School District					
5 Mill Court, Ardsley	3/3	2,622	\$895,000	\$935,000	104.5%
5 Hemlock Road, Hartsdale	4/3	1,730	\$889,000	\$975,000	109.7%
539 Almena Avenue, Ardsley	3/3	2,295	\$1,049,000	\$1,075,000	102.5%
3 Markwood Place, Ardsley	3/2	1,812	\$929,000	\$1,075,000	115.7%
57 Boulder Ridge Road, Scarsdale	3/3	3,490	\$1,250,000	\$1,140,000	91.2%
29 McKinley Place, Ardsley	4/2	2,045	\$880,000	\$1,175,000	133.5%
1 Arden Drive, Hartsdale	4/3	2,060	\$1,150,000	\$1,216,000	105.7%
103 Bradley Avenue, White Plains	5/3	2,750	\$1,329,000	\$1,375,000	103.5%
227 Boulder Ridge Road, Scarsdale	3/3	3,490	\$1,395,000	\$1,508,000	108.1%
9 Chestnut Street, Ardsley	4/3	2,455	\$1,479,000	\$1,550,000	104.8%
19 Clubhouse Lane, Scarsdale	5/4	5,100	\$1,950,000	\$1,887,500	96.8%
7 Windsong Road, Ardsley	3/4	2,731	\$1,578,000	\$2,250,000	142.6%

Dobbs Ferry School District					
110 Draper Lane #2DS, Dobbs Ferry	1/1	850	\$299,000	\$315,000	105.4%
79 Beacon Hill Drive #B-25, Dobbs Ferry	2/1	1,090	\$359,000	\$359,000	100.0%
150 Draper Lane #2JN, Dobbs Ferry	2/1	1,111	\$375,000	\$385,000	102.7%
110 Draper Lane #SS6, Dobbs Ferry	2/1	1,100	\$389,000	\$400,000	102.8%
100 Cedar Street #B34, Dobbs Ferry	2/1	1,112	\$489,000	\$550,000	112.5%
213 Ashford Avenue, Dobbs Ferry	2/2	1,296	\$625,000	\$620,000	99.2%
38 Oliphant Avenue #6, Dobbs Ferry	2/2	1,496	\$840,000	\$772,500	92.0%
15 Brookside Lane, Dobbs Ferry	3/2	1,380	\$849,900	\$915,000	107.7%
11 Devoe Street, Dobbs Ferry	3/3	1,975	\$925,000	\$965,000	104.3%
81 Walgrove Avenue, Dobbs Ferry	3/4	1,756	\$1,050,000	\$1,425,000	135.7%
126 Judson Avenue, Dobbs Ferry	4/3	2,508	\$1,499,000	\$1,735,643	115.8%
10 Sherman Avenue, Dobbs Ferry	4/4	2,862	\$1,875,000	\$1,825,000	97.3%
35 Landing Drive, Dobbs Ferry	4/5	3,800	\$1,950,000	\$2,200,000	112.8%

Hastings School District					
555 Broadway #5C, Hastings	1/1	685	\$425,000	\$415,000	97.6%
555 Broadway #1A, Hastings	2/2	1,043	\$610,000	\$625,000	102.5%
45 Main Street #3K, Hastings	2/3	1,464	\$979,000	\$979,000	100.0%
84 Mendham Avenue, Hastings	4/2	1,513	\$899,999	\$1,120,000	124.4%
184 Farragut Avenue, Hastings	4/4	2,025	\$1,349,000	\$1,355,000	100.4%
251 Mount Hope Boulevard, Hastings	4/4	2,535	\$1,675,000	\$1,588,000	94.8%
1 Southgate Avenue, Hastings	5/4	3,768	\$1,775,000	\$1,900,000	107.0%
2 Saunders Street, Hastings	4/4	4,500	\$1,750,000	\$2,050,000	117.1%

Irvington School District					
161 S. Buckhout Street #161, Irvington	2/1	900	\$325,000	\$400,000	123.1%
221 Buckhout Street #221, Irvington	3/1	1,000	\$449,000	\$465,000	103.6%
400 Birch Lane #400, Irvington	2/3	1,790	\$800,000	\$675,000	84.4%
199 Taxter Road, Irvington	3/1	1,150	\$695,000	\$715,000	102.9%
280 Birch Lane, Irvington	2/3	1,757	\$829,000	\$985,000	118.8%
4 Willow Lane, Irvington	3/3	2,044	\$1,040,000	\$1,175,000	113.0%
28 N Dutcher Street, Irvington	3/3	1,744	\$1,200,000	\$1,250,000	104.2%
26 Cedarlawn Road, Irvington	4/3	2,362	\$1,150,000	\$1,400,000	121.7%
9 Strawberry Lane, Irvington	4/3	2,856	\$1,500,000	\$1,410,000	94.0%
28 Sycamore Lane, Irvington	3/4	3,759	\$1,290,000	\$1,490,000	115.5%
25 Hudson Avenue, Irvington	4/3	2,626	\$1,299,000	\$1,550,000	119.3%
57 Riverview Road, Irvington	3/4	2,734	\$1,500,000	\$1,800,000	120.0%
14 Beckett Close, Irvington	4/6	5,627	\$1,950,000	\$1,850,000	94.9%
7 Dogwood Lane, Irvington	5/3	3,158	\$1,600,000	\$1,900,000	118.8%
53 Hillside Terrace, Irvington	4/5	2,809	\$1,700,000	\$1,941,800	114.2%
51 Whitetail Road, Irvington	4/3	2,837	\$1,999,900	\$2,072,000	103.6%

Tarrytown/Sleepy Hollow School District					
154 Martling Avenue #10 - T5, Tarrytown	1/1	750	\$194,000	\$194,000	100.0%
154 Martling Avenue #D2 Bldg 2, Tarrytown	1/1	750	\$249,000	\$225,000	90.4%
320 S Broadway #M12, Tarrytown	1/1	750	\$315,000	\$322,000	102.2%
402 Carrollwood Drive, Tarrytown	2/3	1,564	\$595,000	\$550,000	92.4%
217 Martling Avenue, Tarrytown	2/2	1,396	\$675,000	\$685,000	101.5%
267 Martling Avenue, Tarrytown	2/2	1,528	\$699,000	\$720,000	103.0%
369 Martling Avenue, Tarrytown	3/3	1,796	\$775,000	\$840,000	108.4%
24 Gory Brook Road, Sleepy Hollow	3/1	1,676	\$745,000	\$945,000	126.8%
170 Crest Drive, Tarrytown	3/2	1,571	\$929,000	\$1,160,000	124.9%
16 Wyldwood Drive, Tarrytown	3/3	3,000	\$1,299,000	\$1,299,000	100.0%
102 Legend Drive #202, Sleepy Hollow	2/2	1,235	\$1,395,000	\$1,358,500	97.4%
11 River Street #401, Sleepy Hollow	3/3	1,864	\$1,750,000	\$1,475,000	84.3%
11 Sarven Court, Tarrytown	3/3	2,646	\$1,395,000	\$1,590,000	114.0%
516 Bellwood Avenue, Sleepy Hollow	4/4	3,053	\$1,650,000	\$2,000,000	121.2%
4 Lighthouse Landing #225, Sleepy Hollow	3/4	1,893	\$2,895,000	\$2,926,250	101.1%

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THE FRANCIE MALINA TEAM

The Blotter

Continued from page 2

22 and early Saturday, Aug. 29. The damage was reported on Sept. 2.

Suspended registration:

A 43-year-old Yonkers resident was arrested for a suspended vehicle registration, a misdemeanor, and cited for unlicensed operation of a vehicle, a violation, on Farragut Avenue on the afternoon of Thursday, Sept. 3.

Larceny arrest:

A 42-year-old Hastings resident was arrested for shoplifting a pair of earrings from Chelsea Dry Goods, 2 Main St., on the afternoon of Friday, Sept. 4. She was charged with

petit larceny, a misdemeanor. Officer Thomas Gunther made the arrest.

Youths in woods: Police dispersed youths from Hillside Woods on the evening of Sunday, Sept. 6.

IRVINGTON

Coyote sighting: A coyote was reported on Fieldpoint Drive on the morning of Sunday, Sept. 6.

TARRYTOWN

Fishing violation: An 18-year-old Yorktown resident and a 19-year-old Danbury resident were cited for fishing at Tarrytown Lakes Park on the afternoon of Tuesday, Sept. 1. Fishing is restricted to

Tarrytown residents with permits from the Village.

Imprisonment and endangering arrest:

A 43-year-old Tarrytown resident was arrested for two misdemeanors — unlawful imprisonment in the second degree and endangering the welfare of a child — for an incident at his home on the evening of Tuesday, Sept. 1. Officer Adam Turcotte made the arrest.

Vehicle impounded:

A 2007 Dodge with a suspended registration was impounded at the municipal parking lot along the west side of South Washington Street on the morning of Wednesday, Sept. 2. The registration had been suspended due

to \$1,100 owed for unpaid summonses. The vehicle belongs to a Tarrytown business.

Assault arrest:

A 33-year-old homeless woman was arrested at the train station on Wednesday, Sept. 2, for punching a 19-year-old woman in the back of the head on a Hudson Link bus on Friday, Aug. 28, and then exiting the bus at a stop at 35 South Broadway (Route 9). She was charged with assault in the third degree, a misdemeanor. Det. Matthew Garro made the arrest.

Wanted no more:

A 41-year-old New Rochelle resident who was wanted for an incident in 2025 was apprehended at the

train station on the afternoon of Thursday, Sept. 3. He was charged with public lewdness, a misdemeanor, for exposing himself to a woman in a park on June 12, 2025. Officer John Garro made the arrest.

Trespassing violation:

A 22-year-old Tarrytown resident and a 41-year-old White Plains resident were cited for trespassing at Tarrytown Lakes Park on Friday, Sept. 4, at 12:05 a.m. The park closes half an hour after sunset.

Permit violation:

A 79-year-old landscaper from West Harrison was cited for operating without a Village of Tarrytown permit on the morning of

Saturday, Sept. 5.

Unauthorized purchase:

On Sept. 5, a Tarrytown resident reported that 21,000 of her American Airline miles had been used to buy a \$210 gift card.

Alcohol violation:

A 32-year-old Tarrytown resident was cited for an open container of alcohol on South Broadway on the evening of Saturday, Sept. 5.

Rental scam:

On Sept. 1, a resident of Oakland, Calif., reported that she had been duped out of a \$3,800 deposit by someone posing as a realtor renting her an apartment in Tarrytown on Aug. 26.



ARDSLEY

Planning Board Meeting

Monday, Sept. 14, 8 p.m.
Village Hall.

History of Food in Art

Tuesday, Sept. 15, 11 a.m.
Ardsley Public Library. Ardsley artist, art historian, and illustrator Beverly Shipko presents

“From Cave Paintings to Bundt Cake,” exploring how artists use food to depict life, status, celebrations, and tastes. Register at ardsleypubliclibrary.org.

Architectural Review Board Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 15, 8 p.m.

Village Hall.

Senior Event: Live Animals from Greenburgh Nature Center

Wednesday, Sept. 16, noon–1 p.m. Community Center.

Library Board Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 17, 7 p.m.
Ardsley Public Library.

Green Task Force Virtual Open House

Friday, Sept. 18, 7:30–8:30 p.m. Register by emailing ArdsleyGreenTaskForce@ardsleyvillage.gov.

Ayo Obi Ardsley Tennis Tournament

Saturday, Sept. 19, 9 a.m.–noon women’s doubles, 1–4 p.m. men’s doubles. Sunday, Sept. 20, 9 a.m.–noon mixed doubles. Rain dates: Sept. 26–27. Fee: \$25 resident, \$35 nonresident. Register: ardsleyny.myrec.com.

E-bike update

The Ardsley Board of Trustees approved an amendment to the recently established regulations regarding e-bikes during their meeting on Sept. 8.

Since the regulations were approved on Aug. 3, residents shared feedback with the Village. According to Village Manager Joe Cerretani, there were “a couple inconsistencies” regarding the age of enforcement, which the amendment clarifies is 16. The violation fee for helmets is now consistent with State law, which caps it at \$50.

On Sept. 8, Police Chief John Pignatelli shared that there had been “three or four documented warnings given” since the regulations were adopted.

Bingo fundraiser for GiGi’s

GiGi’s Playhouse Westchester, the Down syndrome achievement center located at 1055 Saw Mill River Road in Ardsley, will host a bingo night fundraiser on Sept. 24, at 6 p.m., at Doubleday’s Restaurant, 83 Main St., Dobbs Ferry.

Bingo cards cost \$5 for all games except the last. For the last game, cards will cost \$10 each or three for \$25. There will also be raffle baskets available, with tickets costing \$10 each. Reservations are recommended as space is limited. To reserve a spot, call Doubleday’s at 914-693-9793.

Upgrades upcoming for Addyman Square

The Ardsley Board of Trustees declared themselves the lead agency for the Addyman Square improvement project during their meeting on Sept. 8.

The resolution also included a negative declaration under the New York State Environmental Quality Review (SEQRA), which means the project will not have an adverse impact on the environment.

The resolution states the Village decided to prepare an improvement plan after “long observ[ing] that Addyman Square underperforms economically, lacks diverse housing opportunities, and is underutilized as a community gathering place.”

During the meeting, Mayor Steve Edelstein said the board is working on who will assist in creating the final design, “but the basic configuration has been determined.”

The project includes a redesign of the parking lot “to improve vehicle mobility and pedestrian safety.” There will be new curbs and sidewalks along with new trees and a “living wall” of vegetation. Other features include the addition of an electric vehicle charging station, new benches, decorative lighting, and signs.

— Amy Bochner



Linda Pohlmann

Family still feels loss of husband and father

Pohlmann remembered for love of community and country

BY AMY BOCHNER

Linda Pohlmann wants her late husband, Bill, who died on September 11, 2001, to be remembered for his love of family, community, and country. This year, she reflected on

the past 25 years since the terrorist attacks, how the losses of that event affected her and her family, and what she would like the public to know.

For the past 15 years, Pohlmann has lived in Somers. She is currently semi-retired, working two to three days a week at the Westchester County Board of Elections. Her three sons are in South Carolina, Connecticut, and Florida, with her eight grandchildren.

Linda and Bill married in 1973 and moved to Ardsley, where they raised their boys. Bill, who was also a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve, served as village justice from 1983 through 1990, and volunteered with the fire department, while Linda was an Ardsley village trustee until shortly after her husband’s death.

In an interview with the Dispatch, Pohlmann described her husband as “loquacious” and having “no qualms about voicing his opinion or getting along with people.” He

coached soccer, Little League baseball, and attended PTA meetings.

At the time of his death, Bill, then 57, worked on the 87th floor of the South Tower as the assistant deputy commissioner of the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance. He and his wife were talking on the phone when the first plane struck.

In the face of tragedy, the Pohlmann family received an “outpouring of support from neighbors, friends, strangers, the police department, and especially the fire department,” Linda said. Bill’s name is inscribed on the 9/11 Memorial in New York City, and for years Linda attended ceremonies honoring her husband.

In 2001, Bill and Linda’s sons were in their 20s. Today, Chris is a proprietary trader who lives in Connecticut, Darren is a colonel in the U.S. Army JAG Corps based in South Carolina, and Craig works as a certified public accountant in Tallahassee, Fla.

The 25th anniversary of September 11 has been particularly difficult for Linda, who described the lapse in time as “unfathomable.”

“There’s so much publicity about it, and it’s just endless now,” she said. “I just think about it more and more. Whereas in the past there was much less notoriety about the anniversaries.”

Linda plans to begin this Friday by attending mass at St. Joseph’s Church in Somers before attending the 9/11 memorial service at Kensico Dam in Valhalla and spending the day with her son Chris.

Since Bill’s passing, the Pohlmann family has expanded. The most difficult part of living without him, Linda said, is watching their grandchildren grow up not knowing their grandfather.

“There’s sports, there’s graduations, the first day of kindergarten,” she said. “As joyful as each occasion is for me to spend time with my grandchildren, there’s always a sad

“As joyful as each occasion is for me to spend time with my grandchildren, there’s always a sad element to it.”

Linda Pohlmann

element to it. How much he would have loved it, and how it would have made him happy, to see these kids growing up.”

As she honors her husband on the 25th anniversary of his passing, Linda is also keeping in her heart all of the other families impacted that day.

“All the ones who perished on 9/11, be they here, Shanksville, in the Pentagon, on the planes, it’s just a terrible, horrible tragedy,” she said. “May God rest all their souls and help the families. It’s such a public event. I think that’s what makes it even more difficult.”

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Cult Classic Movie Night: "Faster, Pussycat! Kill! Kill!"

Saturday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m.
Dobbs Ferry Public Library.

Sensory-Friendly Read Aloud for Ages 4–6
Monday, Sept. 14, 4 p.m.
Dobbs Ferry Public Library.

Voter Registration

Tuesday, Sept. 15, 3–5 p.m.
Dobbs Ferry Public Library.

School Board Meeting
Tuesday, Sept. 15, 7 p.m.
Middle/high school library.

Readers' Circle
Wednesday, Sept. 16, noon–

2 p.m. Waterfront Park. "The Personal Librarian" by Marie Benedict. Register: reference@dobbsferrylibrary.org.

Library Board Meeting
Wednesday, Sept. 16, 7:30 p.m.
Dobbs Ferry Public Library.

Dramatized History of Westchester
Friday, Sept. 18, 7:30 p.m.
Dobbs Ferry Public Library.
Evan Pritchard presents "In the Land of the Elm Tree: Dialogues with an 11,000-Year-Old Man."

Bar crawl to benefit 7-year-old

Five Dobbs Ferry eateries will participate in a 5½-hour bar crawl tomorrow (Sept. 12) to raise money for the family of 7-year-old Walker Farrington of East Irvington, who is awaiting a heart transplant at Boston Children's Hospital.

Walker is the son of Brian Farrington, who grew up in Dobbs Ferry, and Nicole Farrington (née Schade), who grew up in Irvington. Since April, Walker has been living at the hospital, where the wait time for a heart is 12 to 18 months, followed by a three- to six-month recovery period.

Walker's parents have been renting a home near the hospital. The couple also has a younger daughter, Kennedy, and son, McCoy. The bar crawl, which costs \$150 per ticket, will help the family with living expenses.

The event starts at Piccola Trattoria, 23 Cedar St., from 12–1 p.m., followed by Sam's Ristorante, 128 Main St., from 1–2 p.m.; Climbing Wolf, 78 Main St., from 2–2:45 p.m.; Hudson Social, 11 Station Plaza, 2:45–3:45 p.m.; and Doubleday's, 83 Main St., 4–5:30 p.m.

To buy tickets, visit account.venmo.com/u/dfbarcrawl2026 or look up @DFBarCrawl 2026 on Venmo. To contribute to another fundraiser for the Farringtons, visit www.gofundme.com and search for "Walker the Warrior's Heart Transplant Journey." The goal is \$150,000.



— HIGHER ED BRIEFS —

SUNY Cortland dean's list

Jhonatan Almaras, Olivia Glogowski, and Dana Toth were named to the dean's list at SUNY Cortland for the spring semester. Almaras is majoring in physical education, while Glogowski and Toth are majoring in exercise science.

SUNY Albany dean's list

Maceo Foster, Mateo Cabert, and Anisa Cruz were named to the dean's list at SUNY Albany for the spring semester.

Rhode Island dean's list

Mia Cunningham and Sarah Hutter were named to the dean's list at the University of Rhode Island for the spring semester.

Tampa dean's list

Ana Mas Sanahuja was named to the dean's list at the University of Tampa for the spring semester. Sanahuja is majoring in criminology and criminal justice.

Tufts dean's list

Eitan Cohen was named to the dean's list at Tufts University for the spring semester.

SUNY Purchase dean's list

Lavender Bloom, Maeve Van Engen, Katharine Kunze, Isabel Taylor, Isabella Rivera, Achiraya Alamala, Summer Bock, and Zoe van der Zandt were named to the dean's list at SUNY Purchase for the spring semester.



Frank Farrington and Neil Sweeting at the 9/11 Memorial at Waterfront Park.

Former FDNY members share frontline stories

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Two decisions made by lifelong Dobbs Ferry resident Neil Sweeting, who was a paramedic for the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) 25 years ago, led to him escaping death twice on Sept. 11, 2001.

On that day, Sweeting was standing outside of his division's office in the Bronx, at Jacobi Hospital, when someone ran outside and said the first plane hit the World Trade Center's North Tower. After the second tower was hit, Sweeting's chief gave him the green light to drive to Ground Zero with his chief and three other colleagues.

"They were telling all of the chiefs to report to the command post, which was on the plaza between the two buildings," Sweeting recalled. "That's where we were heading, and if I hadn't been delayed a few minutes in the traffic, we probably would've been on that plaza, and that's where a lot of the hierarchy of the department was killed."

They were driving into the area as the first tower fell, but were out of harm's way. Sweeting's second brush with death came about a half hour later.

"When the second tower fell, I was on Vesey Street, and I turned to my right and ran toward the Hudson River," Sweeting recalled. "There are people I know who were on that street with me and turned left, and were killed. Nobody told me to turn right, nobody told them to turn left."

Twenty-five years later, Sweeting, 59, has had no significant health impacts from the events, and works as the fire chief for the

Metro North Railroad. His one daughter, Colleen, was born the year after the attacks. Sweeting knew 11 first responders who died that day, including Doug Miller, who worked with the FDNY out of a firehouse on Staten Island and, like Sweeting, volunteered with the Dobbs Ferry department. He had spent roughly eight years volunteering and was preparing to move out of the village when he was killed. There's a memorial tree planted in his honor at Dobbs Ferry Waterfront Park.

"It was devastating," Sweeting said. "It just brought it home for a lot of people that it's not just a New York City thing."

Frank Farrington and Jimmy Walsh have both been volunteers with the Dobbs Ferry Fire Department for 52 years, and were both working with the FDNY when they responded on 9/11. Farrington still lives in Dobbs Ferry, while Walsh now lives in South Carolina. Farrington recalls being dispatched from his firehouse on West 100th Street in Manhattan at 9:14 a.m., shortly after the second tower was hit. He was at a command post on West Street when he and his colleagues saw glass bursting from about one-third of the way up the South Tower, due to the top floors compressing down on the lower ones.

"We felt that we were in a dangerous position even if it was just glass shards from that height," Farrington explained. "We ran into the [nearby] garage and as we ran, we heard a rumble like a freight train. That was the rest of the tower coming down. Then a cloud came into the garage after us."

Farrington and his fellow firefighters located a rear exit in the garage and escorted civilians out. Farrington retired in 2012 after 29 years with the FDNY, and was diagnosed

with prostate cancer in 2020, during an annual physical, before he showed any symptoms. The cancer was treated early and is in remission. Farrington also has related respiratory issues he treats with medication.

Walsh, who was the captain of his firehouse in the Bronx, was at jury selection in White Plains at the time of the attacks and didn't arrive at Ground Zero until after both towers had fallen. Like Farrington, he spent the entire day searching through debris before returning to his firehouse for a few hours, and went back to Ground Zero early the next morning. Through spring of 2002, firefighters like Walsh and Farrington went on 30-day details of 12-hour shifts digging through the rubble. Paramedics like Sweeting helped tend to the dozens of injuries he remembers happening every day during the recovery, including cuts by sharp objects, accidents operating heavy machinery, and heart attacks.

As a result of 9/11, Walsh, who retired in 2011 after 30 years with the FDNY, lives with respiratory problems that prevent him from fighting fires. Just as impactful for him, though, is the support he and other first responders received in the wake of the terrorist attacks.

"We did the physical labor, but we didn't do it alone," Walsh said. "It was one of the few times in my life where I saw this country come together for the common good."

While no one from either of their companies perished on 9/11, Farrington and Walsh estimated that, combined, they had crossed paths in their careers with more than 200 people who did. This past Tuesday, Sept. 8, Farrington attended the funeral of his friend and fellow responder Lt. Gerard Reilly, who died this month from cancer.

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HASTINGS

Call for Artists: RiverArts Studio Tour
Registration (\$60 per artist) is open through Saturday, Sept. 12, at riverarts.org. The tour is slated for Nov. 7–8.

Farmers Market
Saturday, Sept. 12, 8:30 a.m. —

1 p.m. Commuter Lot, Southside Avenue. hastingsfarmersmarket.org.

Hastings Flea
Sunday, Sept. 13, 10 a.m. — 4 p.m. Zinsser Commuter Lot, Southside Avenue. thehastingsflea.com.

Senior Game Day
Monday, Sept. 14, 12:30–2:30 p.m. James Harmon Community Center.

Architectural Review Board Meeting
Monday, Sept. 14, 7 p.m. Village Hall.

Emergency Preparedness Training
Tuesday, Sept. 15, 6 p.m. James Harmon Community Center. Registration required at prepare.ny.gov.

Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, Sept. 15, 7 p.m.

Village Hall.

Senior Thursday
Thursday, Sept. 17, 12:30–3:30 p.m. Screening of “Pressure” at the public library, 1 p.m., and senior discounts for dining and shopping. Pick up a free parking pass at the library.

Village seeks State grants

Village Manager Mary Beth Murphy discussed two sister grant programs Hastings is applying to for downtown investment during the board of trustees meeting on Sept. 1.

The first application is for the New York State Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI), which is for “transforming downtowns into vibrant centers,” and could “increase quality of life, development of businesses, retain visitors, [and] make it more pedestrian friendly,” Murphy said. One municipality in 10 regions is awarded \$10 million.

The program recommends including private partners that could benefit from the funding. Murphy shared her idea to include Electric Owl, the multimedia production facility approved for 1 South Broadway, which has “benefits to our downtown,” she said.

The other application is for the New York Forward grant, which is for smaller municipalities, like villages and hamlets. The Village is asking the community for ideas for public or private projects that could transform the downtown.

“Maybe someone’s got a cool idea to renovate a space. Maybe there’s a housing project that someone wants to try to undertake and they could use a little funding. So we’ll be collecting that data,” Murphy said.

If the Village is awarded, Murphy noted, the State “provides all the planning guidance,” followed by the creation of a committee with residents and Village staff.

“The State comes in and creates this strategic development plan for you to help you get moving,” she explained. “They want to see these projects actually happen.”

The Village website will create a form for residents to submit ideas. A public meeting will also take place regarding these grants, but has yet to be scheduled. Dobbs Ferry was awarded a \$4.5 million New York Forward grant in 2025.

Gender-based violence policy

The Hastings Board of Trustees will discuss adopting a gender-based violence and the workplace policy at their Sept. 15 meeting. On Sept. 1, Village Manager Mary Beth Murphy explained to the board that several grants the Village is applying for require the policy, which intends to protect victims of intimate partner violence. She said the draft is aligned with the template provided by New York State.

—Amy Bochner

Got news?

Email staff writer Amy Bochner at amy@rivertownsdispatch.com



Concerned Families of Westchester members at VFW Plaza on Sept. 5.

Concerned Families trace their 9/11 roots

Activists continue weekly vigils at VFW Plaza

BY AMY BOCHNER

Every Saturday, Concerned Families of Westchester (CFOW) hosts vigils at the VFW Plaza in Hastings, holding signs and banners expressing antiwar sentiment. Now a mainstay in the village, the group began 25 years ago, with six parents gathered in a living room the evening after the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Among the six were longtime peace activists and Dobbs Ferry residents French Conway and Frank Brodhead (now of Hastings), whose middle-school-aged sons were friends. The two men, their wives, and another couple met to share their worries about potential targets and

the likelihood of war. As the group continued to meet throughout September, more people joined them. Together they wrote a letter expressing their concerns about how the U.S. would respond, which was published by the Dispatch’s predecessor, the Rivertowns Enterprise.

In the aftermath of 9/11, an issue the group noticed was the surge in Islamophobia. After the U.S. began bombing Afghanistan in October 2001, CFOW hosted a public forum about Islam at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library with Naseem Jamali, an educational speaker. Over the next year, CFOW became more involved in activism locally and in New York City. This included attending the founding meeting for the September

11 Families for Peaceful Tomorrows.

In the fall of 2002, with the war in Iraq around the corner, CFOW held their first vigil. Approximately 20 people gathered outside Stop & Shop in Dobbs Ferry, holding up a banner that read, “No War with Iraq.” Brodhead recalled receiving a mostly supportive response from the community.

He credits this to CFOW forming at a time when there was a “critical mass” of people who had had some political experience, whether it be campaigning for civil rights or demonstrating against the Vietnam War.

“It was pushing on an open door in a sense,” he told the Dispatch. “It wasn’t uncontested, but people were more highly mobilized than now.”

Brodhead felt the “edge of the antiwar movement was blunted,” after the Democratic Party nominated John Kerry for president in 2004. Despite this, CFOW continued holding vigils, which expanded in scope to include issues like police brutality, climate change, and poverty.

Early on, the idea for CFOW, Brodhead said, was for it to be a peace group “based in the [Rivertowns] community where we saw friends and neighbors all the time.” The group technically has no list of members. Instead, the regular attendees are called “stalwarts.”

As the years progressed, CFOW created its own niche in the Westchester activism scene, particularly with regards to their advocacy for Palestinian rights. Brodhead explained where the group’s passion for this cause comes from.

“Every day, for several years, we’ve been watching this genocide live streamed, not just reading about it afterwards... [seeing] the horrendous impact, the bravery of the

people who worked in the emergency rooms and the reporters,” Brodhead said. “Every day, you just watch the rubble pile up and you say, ‘How can anybody do this to anybody else?’ That’s a deeply troubling question.”

According to Brodhead, CFOW encountered stronger pushback for its vigils related to Israel and Palestine compared to their early days protesting against the Iraq War. Stalwart Jenny Murphy described an incident where an individual tore the signs of two vigil attendees. In a separate incident, a photo of attendees holding signs was circulated in local Facebook groups. The “social media hostility” caused Murphy to feel like she “had to be brave in our own neighborhood for the first time.”

At that point, CFOW had over 20 years under their belt and was more prepared to deal with conflict, according to Brodhead. According to Conway, their perspective also had matured.

“We were more experienced at seeing how different political interests use events and calamities to their own purpose,” he told the Dispatch. “With each event — 9/11, Gaza — at first, it’s a shock, but then the political forces that prevail move in quickly and ask, ‘How can we use this to our own interests?’”

The current issues central to CFOW’s vigils are the war in Iran and the activities of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The group recycled the banner from the 2002 vigil, changing only one letter so it reads “No War with Iran.” The other banner frequently displayed at their vigils states “Demand Democracy.” Brodhead also maintains a Substack titled after the group.

Many regular attendees have branched

Continued on page 21

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IRVINGTON

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Wild Mushroom Lecture

Saturday, Sept. 12, 10:30 a.m.

Irvington Public Library.

Tech Angels

Saturday, Sept. 12, 10:30 a.m.–noon. Irvington Public Library. Assistance with phones, computers, or other devices.

Farmers Market

Sunday, Sept. 13, 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Main Street School, 101 Main St. irvingtonfarmersmarket.org.

Library Board Meeting

Monday, Sept. 14, 6 p.m. Irvington Public Library.

Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, Sept. 14, 7 p.m. Village Hall. Visit irvingtonny.gov for the link.

Thursday Evening Book Club

Thursday, Sept. 17, 7:30–8:30 p.m. Irvington Public Library. Discuss “The River We

Remember” by William Kent Krueger.

Diaper Drive

Through Sept. 28. Irvington Public Library. Drop off wipes, pull-ups, and diapers, especially sizes 4, 5, 6. irvingtonlibrary.org.

Former NYPD diver remembers response and recovery

‘It’s something that gets burned into your memory’

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2011, longtime Irvington resident Kevin Gallagher had just dropped his three children, ranging in age from 5 to 11 years old, at school, and expected to relax at home before the start of his 12-hour shift with the New York City Police Department at 7 p.m. Gallagher, who at the time had

been working with the NYPD for roughly two decades and was a diver on the department’s scuba team, received calls that morning from his mother and wife,

telling him to turn on the news.

After watching a second plane hit the Twin Towers on TV, Gallagher called his sergeant and said he was heading downtown.

Gallagher has been a member of the Irvington Volunteer Fire Department since 1995 and was in charge of a dive team that the department had at the time. With the fire chief’s permission, he took the department’s boat down the Hudson River to lower Manhattan, along with three other volunteers and a surgeon who lived in Irvington and was called into Bellevue Hospital in Manhattan.

By the time Gallagher arrived at Ground Zero, the towers were rubble, and he began what became a seven-day period away from home as he first helped evacuate survivors onto tugboats and ferries, then searched for human remains in the rubble. During that time, Gallagher and his colleagues who didn’t live close to New York City spent nights either sleeping on a cot or an NYPD boat docked at



Kevin Gallagher at the Irvington Volunteer Fire Department

their nearby base while it wasn’t being used.

“I still remember walking through the [North Cove] marina, and where the World Trade Center was, now it’s all just a pile of rubble,” Gallagher told the Dispatch. “Two hundred twenty stories combined in just this giant pile of rubble with the aluminum skin that was an iconic part of the Trade Center is still standing and fires all over the place, cars wrecked. It’s something that gets burned into your memory.”

Shortly after arriving, Gallagher and his fellow emergency responders found several bodies underneath some fencing and moved them to a makeshift morgue on site. Today

he still has the hand shovel he used to dig through the rubble.

“If you found what you thought were human remains, you put them in a red plastic bag that they provided,” Gallagher recalled. “And they had set up a huge grid map of the whole World Trade Center site, and if you found the remains, you brought them to the morgue and you logged them in, and then they asked you to pick a spot on that big grid map for where you found them.”

Gallagher retired from the NYPD in 2019 after 37 years of service, and speaks at Irvington’s 9/11 memorial event each year. In the 25 years since the attacks, Gallagher has kept

track of officers who either died on September 11, or have passed since due to 9/11-related illness. So far, he’s counted at least 19 police officers that he crossed paths with — either at the police academy or on the job — who have passed away. Gallagher’s own annual health screenings have always come back clean.

“There are 19 guys who I worked with who are dead and I’m still here, and we all did the same thing,” Gallagher said. “So, it’s a little eerie because you’re wondering, ‘Is there something inside me that’s cooking and all of a sudden the balloon’s going to pop someday?’”

Gallagher will celebrate his 70th birthday this month.

Daughter preserves legacy of her father at the Pentagon

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Next to the Scenic Hudson Park basketball court, which is dedicated to late Irvington resident Bobby Speisman, is a rock serving as a sort of headstone. Each year around 9/11, Speisman’s widow, Rena, three daughters, and, more recently, grandchildren, honor his memory by leaving his favorite candy, Necco Wafers, at that

rock. To his survivors, it’s a fitting tribute to Speisman, who was killed 25 years ago in the plane crash at the Pentagon that claimed the life of all 64 people aboard.

Speisman’s eldest daughter, who goes by her married name, Tara Allison, says their family’s annual 9/11 tradition is a light-hearted way to recognize the life of a person who had a “larger-than-life” personality and “radiated positivity.”

“It’s really nice to have that [rock and court commemorating Speisman] because we don’t have your typical cemetery to visit, so that’s where we feel him the most, more than any of the [9/11] memorials,” Allison told the Dispatch. Allison, who now lives in Stony Point in Rockland, was an 18-year-old college freshman when she lost her father. Her sisters Brittany and Hayley were 16 and

10, respectively, at the time.

Speisman, 48 when he died, was a husband of 18 years and a father who loved sports, played basketball every Sunday with friends, and coached all of his daughters in soccer, outside of school. Speisman worked in sales for a jewelry firm, which Allison noted he was perfect for because of how well he got along with people.

“My dad really had that work-life balance figured out,” Allison said. “He worked hard, he traveled a lot, but he was always there for us. He coached everybody’s teams, he was very involved with anything going on at school. So as a father and husband he was really top-notch.”

Allison was the last member of her family to see her father in person, when he paid a

Continued on page 22



Necco Wafers decorate the plaque for Bobby Speisman at Scenic Hudson Park in 2022.

9/11

@ 25

9/11

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SLEEPY HOLLOW

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TaSH Farmers Market

Saturday, Sept. 12, 8:30

a.m.–1:30 p.m. Patriots Park. tashfarmersmarket.org.

Hudson River Flash Cleanup

Saturday, Sept. 12, 10–11 a.m. Horan's Landing Park. Gloves and bags will be provided. Sign up at bit.ly/SleepyFlash.

Emergency Services Open House

Saturday, Sept. 12, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. 28 Beekman Ave. Free food, demonstrations, kids' activities, car seat installations, and volunteer recruitment.

Writers' Forum for Adults

Saturday, Sept. 12, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Warner Library. Register: warnerlibrary.org.

Art in the Park

Saturday, Sept. 12, 5–7 p.m. Riverwalk Park (by Pumpkin Arch). All ages are invited to make worry dolls or monsters.

Zoning Board Meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 16, 7 p.m. Village Hall.

Planning Board Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 10, 6:30 p.m. Village Hall.



Photo by Bill Golden

Living memorial continues to bloom

BY ELIZABETH TUCKER

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of 2001, monarch butterflies will be released in the peony garden at the entrance to the Rockefeller State Park Preserve on Sept. 11 at noon. The butterflies, newly emerged from their pupae, will then migrate to the Sierra Madre Mountains in Mexico where they will spend the winter. The monarchs thus

represent “both new life and perseverance,” in the words of Martha Bierut, the preserve’s director of programs and education.

The peony garden was a gift of consolation to New York from the town of Yatsuka in Shimane Prefecture, Japan, where tree peonies have been cultivated since the 18th century. The American consul in Japan, Evelyn Hadad, recommended positioning the peonies at the gateway to the Preserve. Hadad will speak at the event on Sept. 11, which is the last in a series devoted to the 250th anniversary of the U.S.

The Rockefeller family installed a Japanese garden at Kykuit in Pocantico Hills in 1908, then expanded it at midcentury, when they also founded the Asia Society in New York City. As the first chairman of the Downtown-Lower Manhattan Association, David Rockefeller was involved in planning the World Trade Center, the construction of which began in 1966. The photo essay “Building the World Trade Center in Lower Manhattan” can be found at the Rockefeller Archive Center website, rockarch.org.

In fall 2003, 1,000 plants, to be divided between the Rockefeller State Park Preserve and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, were shipped to New York. But delivery was delayed in Los Angeles during a dockworkers’ strike, so that by the time the crates arrived in New York City, all the plants had died. A second shipment made by air arrived in December. Horticulturists from Yatsuka planted the shrubs in midwinter, and then returned to

Continued on page 22

Fire chiefs look back on unity of humanity

BY LAURA SCHILLER

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, John Korzelius, then first assistant chief of the Sleepy Hollow Fire Department, was at the public works department on River Street when a phone call came in about a plane hitting the World Trade Center.

“At first, we thought, ‘You know, that’s weird,’” Korzelius recalled. “So, we ran inside and we were watching it.”

Then another plane hit.

“And then, obviously, a couple minutes later, it was a very big deal,” he said.

For then-Fire Chief Richard Gross, who has been a Sleepy Hollow volunteer firefighter for 53 years, the earliest reports were difficult to comprehend.

Gross was working as the Village’s water foreman that day when he heard a plane had struck the WTC. At first, he thought it might have been a small aircraft, like the 1945 plane that flew into the Empire State Building. But then he saw the news about the second plane.

Gross was soon summoned to village hall, where he met with the mayor, police chief, and members of the ambulance corps to coordinate the Village’s response. The fire department was dispatched to the Westchester County Department of Emergency Services, including an engine and rescue unit, as part of the countywide response.

Sleepy Hollow staged with other departments at Yonkers Raceway. From there, some Sleepy Hollow firefighters were dispatched to firehouses in the Bronx, where they filled in for FDNY firefighters who had gone to Ground Zero.

“They were more than grateful for our assistance,” Gross said.

At the Bronx firehouse where he was stationed, Gross and his Sleepy Hollow cohort helped around the firehouse as the neighborhood’s firefighters returned from Ground Zero.

“I remember seeing a lot of trucks coming back. They were pure white, completely covered with the toxic chemicals that came off the buildings,” Gross said. “The guys were coming in really down and dejected.”

But the end of those assignments did not mean the end of Sleepy Hollow’s response.

Korzelius was among those who also went to Ground Zero, where he spent weeks working on “the Pile.” Some dug through the rubble by hand, while others were sent into crevices and holes at the site to search for anything that could be recovered.

“We’re sitting down there for like three weeks digging by hand,” he said.

He described the scale of the destruction as unforgettable.

“Just total chaos, carnage. Stuff that most

people should never see in their life,” he said. “It was a very humbling experience, actually.”

For Gross, who remained in Sleepy Hollow while the firefighters rotated through assignments in the city, the days were marked by uncertainty.

“It was very somber,” he said. “It was kind of an eerie feeling.”

He said many of the firefighters who went to Ground Zero rarely talked about what they encountered there. But they kept going back, taking shifts alongside their fellow volunteers.

Korzelius recalled people lining the West Side Highway offering food, water, boots, and other supplies as firefighters traveled to and from Ground Zero.

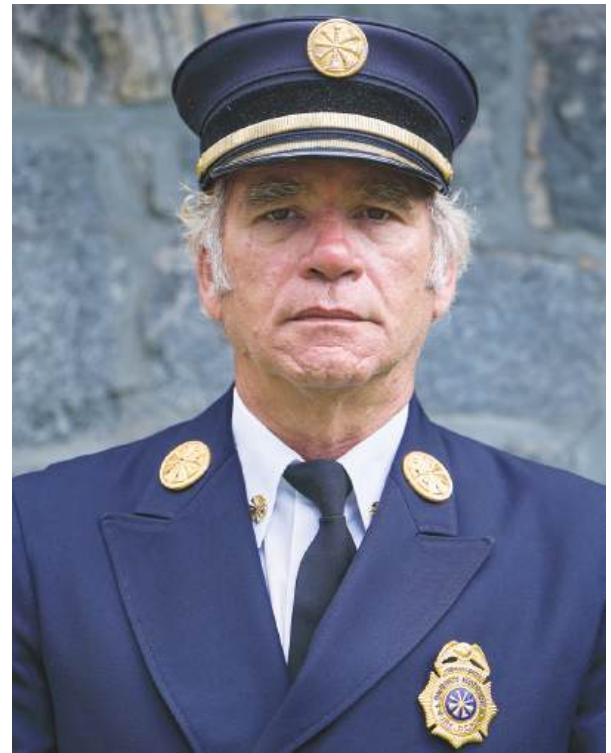
“The people around us, just supporting us, was incredible,” he said. “Giving us water. You know, ‘You guys need boots? Food? Anything?’”

Gross said the firefighters told him about those crowds.

“They told me there were people on the West Side Highway cheering them as they went down and as they came back up. They said it was very impressive to see,” Gross said.

The support continued locally. Sleepy Hollow residents responded to the department’s fundraising drive that year with its most generous donations ever, and the fire department received numerous letters of support, according to Gross.

For Korzelius, the response revealed



First Assistant Chief John Korzelius

something that extended beyond the fire service. Firefighters, police officers, and civilians worked alongside one another at Ground Zero, passing 5-gallon buckets through the debris.

“I saw ordinary people do extraordinary things that day or those following weeks,” he said. “And we were one.” Korzelius recalled making that idea the focus of his remarks at the first anniversary ceremony held jointly by Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown.

On 9/11, “no one cared who they were, where they came from, what their sexual identity was, what their race or creed was,” he recalled saying. “Jews helping Muslims, Muslims helping Catholics. Nobody had a title that day. We were all humans.”

That sense of unity remains one of the most prominent memories for Korzelius, a 42-year veteran of the fire department who is again serving as first assistant chief.

“It’s a time of reflection for me, and I just wish that the country would get back to the way they felt,” he said. “Not the horror and all that, but the unity that we had shortly thereafter, for quite a while after.”

The effects of 9/11 did not end when the debris was cleared. Some Sleepy Hollow firefighters who responded continue to be monitored for WTC-related illnesses, according to Korzelius.

“People are still dying to this day,” he said. “It keeps on giving. That’s the scary part.”

9/11
@ 25

9/11
@ 25

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TARRYTOWN

Call for Artists:
RiverArts Studio Tour
Registration (\$60 per artist)
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slated for Nov. 7-8.

—
TaSH Farmers Market
Saturday, Sept. 12, 8:30

a.m.-1:30 p.m. Patriots Park.
tashfarmersmarket.org

—
**Dogs on Parade &
Pup Pool Social**
Saturday, Sept. 12, 10:30
a.m.-12:30 p.m. Pierson Park.
Register at tarrytown.recdesk.com/Community/Home or

on-site 9:45-10:25 a.m.

—
Writers' Forum for Adults
Saturday, Sept. 12, 11 a.m.-
1 p.m. Warner Library.
Register: warnerlibrary.org.

—
Villagewide Tag Sale
Register (free) by Monday,

Sept. 14, at tarrytownny.gov.
Saturday, Sept. 19; homeowners
will set their own times.

—
Zoning Board Meeting
Monday, Sept. 14, 7 p.m.
Village Hall.

—
Board of Trustees

Work Session
Wednesday, Sept. 16,
6 p.m. Village Hall. Visit
tarrytownny.gov for the link.

—
**Architectural Review
Board Meeting**
Wednesday, Sept. 16, 7 p.m.
Village Hall.

Neighborhood House serves lunch with a side of conversation

BY LAURA SCHILLER

Two new grants totaling \$25,000 are helping Neighborhood House continue to provide free programs and services to older adults throughout the Rivertowns while also encouraging more people to join in a midday meal.

The Phelps Foundation awarded Neighborhood House \$10,000 in June to help address food insecurity, loneliness, and isolation among seniors in Westchester County. In August, the Thomas and Agnes Carvel Foundation awarded \$15,000 to help keep Neighborhood House's programming free and draw more older adults to its weekday lunch program.

Neighborhood House, located at 43 Willey Street in Tarrytown, currently serves about 300 people age 55 and older from communities throughout the Rivertowns, including Sleepy Hollow, Irvington, and Hastings. Everything it offers is free.

One of its most popular offerings is a hot, catered lunch served Monday through Friday, from 11 a.m.-noon, in the recently renovated, bright and sunny lunchroom at the Neighborhood House through the Town of Greenburgh Nutrition Program. The suggested donation is \$3.

The program isn't only for people who need help putting food on the table. Some participants come because they don't want to cook anymore; others simply don't want to eat alone. Participants can come for lunch and stay for a program or build a whole day around activities and a meal.

There's plenty to choose from. Bingo is every weekday morning at 10 a.m., while mahjong draws two tables of players on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m. The weekly calendar also includes chair yoga, music and movement, senior canteen, and an art workshop Wednesdays from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Most programs are drop-in.

The century-old organization also has a partnership with Sleepy Hollow High School. Its downstairs space is used by the school's special-needs program for an after-school program focused on apartment living and other life skills.

Neighborhood House has also received support from the Church of St. Barnabas, Kendal on Hudson Residents' Association, Rivertown Runners, and the Tarrytown Rotary Club.

To reserve a seat for lunch, call 914-330-3855 before noon the day before. To arrange a ride to and from the center, call 914-631-0205.

For a calendar of events and more information, theneighborhoodhouse.org.



Chief Raymond Tuohy's father, Raymond, and brothers Andrew and Matt at Ground Zero on Sept. 15, 2001.

Chief recalls role in recovery and rebuilding

Former WTC engineer helped build memorial and museum

BY LAURA SCHILLER

Chief Raymond Tuohy, who joined the Tarrytown Volunteer Fire Department in 1997, had a unique connection to the World Trade Center before Sept. 11, 2001. From 1990 to 1996, he worked as a stationary engineer at the complex, maintaining the mechanical systems that kept it operating.

On the morning of the terrorist attacks, he was working on a high-rise project at 17 State Street in lower Manhattan. When the planes struck the towers, the construction site was evacuated.

Tuohy, at the time a lieutenant with Tarrytown's Engine 79, began making his way out of the area, but then turned back to help because of his familiarity with the disaster scene. From his years working there, Tuohy said, "I knew the subgrade and all the tunnels."

Then the first tower collapsed.

"I was chased out by the dust cloud when the first building went down," Tuohy, 69, recalled. "I was on Broadway and Vesey."

Tuohy walked to Grand Central Station to catch a train home. That night, Tarrytown's firefighters manned the village's five firehouses. The following day, Tarrytown's Ladder 37 traveled to the Bronx to cover for

FDNY firefighters who had gone to Ground Zero. Tuohy estimates the crew spent 16 to 20 hours at the Bronx station.

Tuohy then returned to Ground Zero, where he spent several days working alongside his father, Raymond; his brothers, Andrew, Thomas, and Matt; and scores of other firefighters and rescue workers.

"My younger brother Andrew was a volunteer with me in Tarrytown. He ended up becoming career FDNY, and my father was retired FDNY," Tuohy said. "My older brother Thomas was EMS for Brewster Fire Department, and we all went down to see what we could do."

The work was largely recovery.

"It was like a bucket brigade, moving material," Tuohy said.

Nearly 50 firefighters from Tarrytown's six companies went to Ground Zero to assist with the recovery effort or were on standby manning local firehouses that week. Their names are on display outside the Main Street firehouse this Sept. 11.

For Tuohy, the attacks were also personal. His cousin, Thomas Jurgens, a State Supreme Court officer and U.S. Army Reserve medic and veteran, was among those who ran toward the WTC to help. He had been married for just six months.

"He ran down with five other court officers," Tuohy said. "Three went left, three went right. The three that went left never came back." Thomas was among those who went left.

Another cousin, Paul Jurgens, an officer

with the Port Authority Police Department, was also killed that day while trying to rescue victims.

Tarrytown lost a resident on September 11. Ivelin Ziminski, a Marsh & McLennan employee, died at the WTC.

The toll continued in the years that followed as first responders and recovery workers developed illnesses associated with their exposure at Ground Zero. Tuohy's uncle Joseph, a retired New York City firefighter, spent weeks working at Ground Zero and later died of a WTC-related illness.

"There have now been more deaths with related illnesses from the recovery than happened on that day, unfortunately," Tuohy said.

Tuohy's connection to the World Trade Center came full circle when he spent five years as a foreman with Celtic Sheetmetal, working through Sheet Metal Workers Local 28 on the construction of the 9/11 Memorial & Museum at Ground Zero.

"When my boss got the job, I told him I want in," Tuohy said. "He goes, 'Oh no, I already got you planned. You're one of the two foremen running it.'"

The project was delayed for about six months when Hurricane Sandy flooded the site with about 6 feet of water. Tuohy went back when the water was pumped out and stayed until the museum was completed. He has since returned to the memorial, including taking his father there before his death. Of all the work he has done in his long career, building the memorial meant the most to him.

"That was my proudest job," Tuohy said.

9/11 ceremony

Continued from page 1

"Some people were shaken; I was stirred," Hsu said. "The lessons from that day are to thank everyone who protects our nation, everyone who has lost someone through that tragedy. And that we can as a country and a world come back together after terrible things and emerge stronger and more unified."

This year's ceremony was held at a more prominent location for the park's 9/11 memorial, which consists of steel from the World Trade Center. For nearly 24 years, the monument stood in a more secluded area of the park, near a stream.

"We moved it [in 2025] in anticipation of the 25th anniversary, bringing the statue up onto Broadway for this new generation of people who didn't live through it, who might not remember the loss and the sacrifices that were made that day," Tarrytown Mayor Karen Brown told the Dispatch.

The Village chose the memorial's original setting as a quiet place to grieve, according to Brown.

"It was a very secluded area with a running brook," Brown said. "The vibe of it was very peaceful. You could sit, and just be alone in the horror of what happened, and really mourn."

This year's ceremony was held on Sept. 6 so it could take place on a weekend and avoid conflicting with Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year, which begins at sundown



Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow firefighters who served during Sept. 11, 2001.

on Sept. 11.

As the ceremony continued, state Assemblymember MaryJane Shinsky thanked the first responders who continue to serve their communities.

"People in our region have never forgotten how important you all are to our communities, and we thank you for that," she said.

U.S. Congressman George Latimer also praised the emergency responders who answered the call on Sept. 11.

"They make a career commitment, a volunteer commitment, to put themselves between those of us who are civilians and harm," Latimer said. "And on that day, they were put to the test, and so many of them made the supreme sacrifice."

Tuohy remembered those who died in the attacks, as well as the families and communities that continue to suffer the loss.

"We remember the 2,977 innocent people from all walks of life who were killed at the

World Trade Center, at the Pentagon, and aboard Flight 93 in Pennsylvania," Tuohy said. "We remember the families whose lives were forever altered, and the communities that still carry the weight of loss, grief, memory."

For Sleepy Hollow Fire Chief Steven Bencosme, that commitment to service has personal roots in 9/11. Bencosme was a child on Sept. 11, 2001, but the events of that day helped inspire him to become a firefighter.

"For me, 9/11 was a catalyst. It ignited a spark within me at 6 years old, a desire to serve, to protect, and to make a difference," Bencosme said. "Every time I put on a uniform I carry with me the memory of those brave souls who selflessly rushed into harm's way."

Bencosme also spoke about the longstanding relationship between the Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow fire departments.

"We are two departments that have a great history together, and I hope that we can continue to forge that strong relationship as we have for the last 150 years," he said.

Bencosme closed with a call to ensure that the first responders and others who stepped up on Sept. 11, and in its aftermath, continue to be recognized.

"Let us honor the memory of those heroes we lost, the heroes who emerged that day, and those who continue to serve with honor and integrity," he said. "May we carry their legacy forward, ensuring that their sacrifices are never forgotten."

The ceremony concluded with the ringing of a bell, honoring those who were lost.

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Day Two Family Svc. 10:00 a.m.

YOM KIPPUR 2026

Sun.-Mon., Sept. 20-21

Kol Nidre 7:00 p.m.

Day* 9:45 a.m.

*Children's programming and babysitting available

For more on our community serving Westchester
and Riverdale, visit mishkanhaam.org.



The Agenda

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12

Squeeze Box Music Concert

ARDSLEY

8 p.m. / No cover charge. Saw Mill Tavern, 925 Saw Mill River Road. The lineup includes members from Lords of Hawthorne, Jeremy and the Rooster, Might and the Weevils, and special guest Terry and the Flamethrowers. Reservations encouraged. smtavern.com

Music Across the Hudson

DOBBS FERRY

3–6 p.m. / Free. Waterfront Park, 25 Palisade St. Featuring live music and food trucks. The Incumbents perform at 3 p.m., followed by Funk and Disorderly at 4:30. hudsonriver.com/hhrt

Bar Crawl Fundraiser

DOBBS FERRY

Noon–5:30 p.m. / \$150. Features drinks at Piccola Trattoria, Sam's Ristorante, Climbing Wolf, Hudson Social, and Doubleday's. Proceeds support a heart transplant fund for 7-year-old Walker Farrington. The QR code is available at [instagram.com/hudsonsocialdobbsferry](https://www.instagram.com/hudsonsocialdobbsferry)

Kids' Market

HASTINGS

9 a.m.–1 p.m. The Good Witch Coffee Bar, 134 Southside Ave. Features kid entrepreneurs, artists, bakers, florists, and activists. *Destination Hastings.org*

Kids' Pasta Making

TARRYTOWN

9 a.m.–1 p.m. / \$18. TaSH Farmers Market at Patriots Park, 121 N. Broadway. Make fresh semolina cavatelli in workshops every 30 minutes beginning at 9. Registration required at flourspastabakeshop.com

Clarinetist Virginia MacDonald

TARRYTOWN

7 and 9:30 p.m. / \$35, \$30 for students. Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. jazzforumarts.org

Billy Kelly

TARRYTOWN

7:30 p.m. / \$25. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. tarrytownmusicall.org

Hybrid Open Write

SLEEPY HOLLOW

7:30–9:30 p.m. / \$10, free for members. Philipse Manor Station, 300 Riverside Drive. To join in person or via Zoom, register at writerscenter.org

Murder and Mayhem Tour

SLEEPY HOLLOW

8–10 p.m. / \$50. Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, North Gate, 540 N. Broadway. For ages 18+. Offered every Saturday in September. Register at visitsleepyhollow.com



Ardsley artist, art historian, and book cover illustrator Beverly Shipko presents "From Cave Paintings to Bundt Cake: A History of Food in Art" on Tuesday, Sept. 15, at the Ardsley Public Library.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13

Outdoor Live Music: Milton

DOBBS FERRY

2–5 p.m. / No cover charge. Hudson Social, 11 Station Plaza. hudsonsocial.com

"Shine Through"

DOBBS FERRY

9 a.m.–1 p.m. / Free. The Donald Gallery at South Church, 343 Broadway. Exhibit of watercolors and prints by Teri Siegel. Reception with the artist Sunday, Sept. 27, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. On view through Oct. 25. Hours: Tuesday, 12–6:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 2–4 p.m.; Thursday, 12–4 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. southpres.org

Shofar at the Park

DOBBS FERRY

4:30 p.m. / Free. Waterfront Park, 11 Station Plaza. All kids and families are welcome to a Rosh Hashanah celebration with Lucky Ducky Puppets and hands-on activities. RSVP: ChabadRT.org/RSVP

Hastings Flea

HASTINGS

10 a.m.–4 p.m. (rain or shine). Zinsser Commuter Parking Lot, Southside Avenue (across from train tracks). Outdoor bazaar with hand-made, vintage, and upcycled clothing plus food truck treats and live music. thehastingsflea.com

An Afternoon with David Duchovny

IRVINGTON

3 p.m. / \$35, \$25 for students. Irvington Theater, 85 Main St. Screening of "Reverse the Curse," Duchovny's film based on his novel "Bucky F*ing Dent," followed by a Q&A, moderated by Alex Barron of The New York Times, and book signing with Duchovny. irvingtontheater.com

Landscape Ramble

TARRYTOWN

10 a.m. / \$20. Lyndhurst, 635 S. Broadway. Walking tour of the historic estate. Also Sept. 27. Timed-entry tickets required. lyndhurst.org

"Cumbia for Kids"

TARRYTOWN

1 p.m. / \$10 per family. Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. Intro to music, instruments, and Jitterbugs program for ages 1–4. jazzforumarts.org

Cemetery Talk

SLEEPY HOLLOW

2 p.m. / Free. Sleepy Hollow Cemetery South Gate, 430 N. Broadway, the Delavan family plot. Hear historian John M. McMenimon discuss the Delvans' role in the American Revolution and more. Register: sleepyhollowcemetery.org

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15

History of Food in Art

ARDSLEY

11 a.m. / Free. Ardsley Public Library, 9 American Legion Drive. Beverly Shipko, above, presents "From Cave Paintings to Bundt Cake". Register at ardsleypubliclibrary.org

Broadband

HASTINGS

7–9 p.m. / No cover charge. Uncle Lefty's, 583 Warburton Ave. Featuring female-fronted classic rock. uncleleftys.com

Molly Tuttle

TARRYTOWN

8 p.m. / \$47–\$67. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. tarrytownmusicall.org

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16

Grateful To Be Alive Concert

HASTINGS

6–9 p.m. / Free. MacEachron Waterfront Park.

The Grateful Dead cover band performs.

Matinee Movie: "The Sheep Detectives"

TARRYTOWN

2–4 p.m. / Free. Warner Library, 121 N. Broadway. warnerlibrary.org

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17

Live Music: Greetings From Anywhere

DOBBS FERRY

6–9 p.m. / No cover charge. Hudson Social, 11 Station Plaza. hudsonsocial.com

Mitch's Jazz and Blues Party

DOBBS FERRY

7–9:30 p.m. / No cover charge. Mirabella Cocina Latina Restaurant & Bar, 1 Hamilton St., in Rivertowns Square. mirabellacocina.com/calendar-dobbs-ferry

Fleetwood Mac Singalong

TARRYTOWN

8 p.m. / \$40–\$53. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. Interactive show "Landslide" presented by Choir! Choir! Choir! tarrytownmusicall.org

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 18

Head First

ARDSLEY

8 p.m. / No cover charge. Saw Mill Tavern, 925 Saw Mill River Road. Classic southern rock. Reservations encouraged. smtavern.com

Gould Park Pool Dog Swim

DOBBS FERRY

3:15–5 p.m. and 5:15–7 p.m. / At Ashford Avenue and Beacon Hill Drive. Registration required at dobbsferry.activityreg.com

Dramatized History of Westchester

DOBBS FERRY

7:30 p.m. / Free. Dobbs Ferry Public Library, 55 Main St. Evan Pritchard presents "In the Land of the Elm Tree: Dialogues with an 11,000-Year-Old Man."

Two New Exhibits

HASTINGS

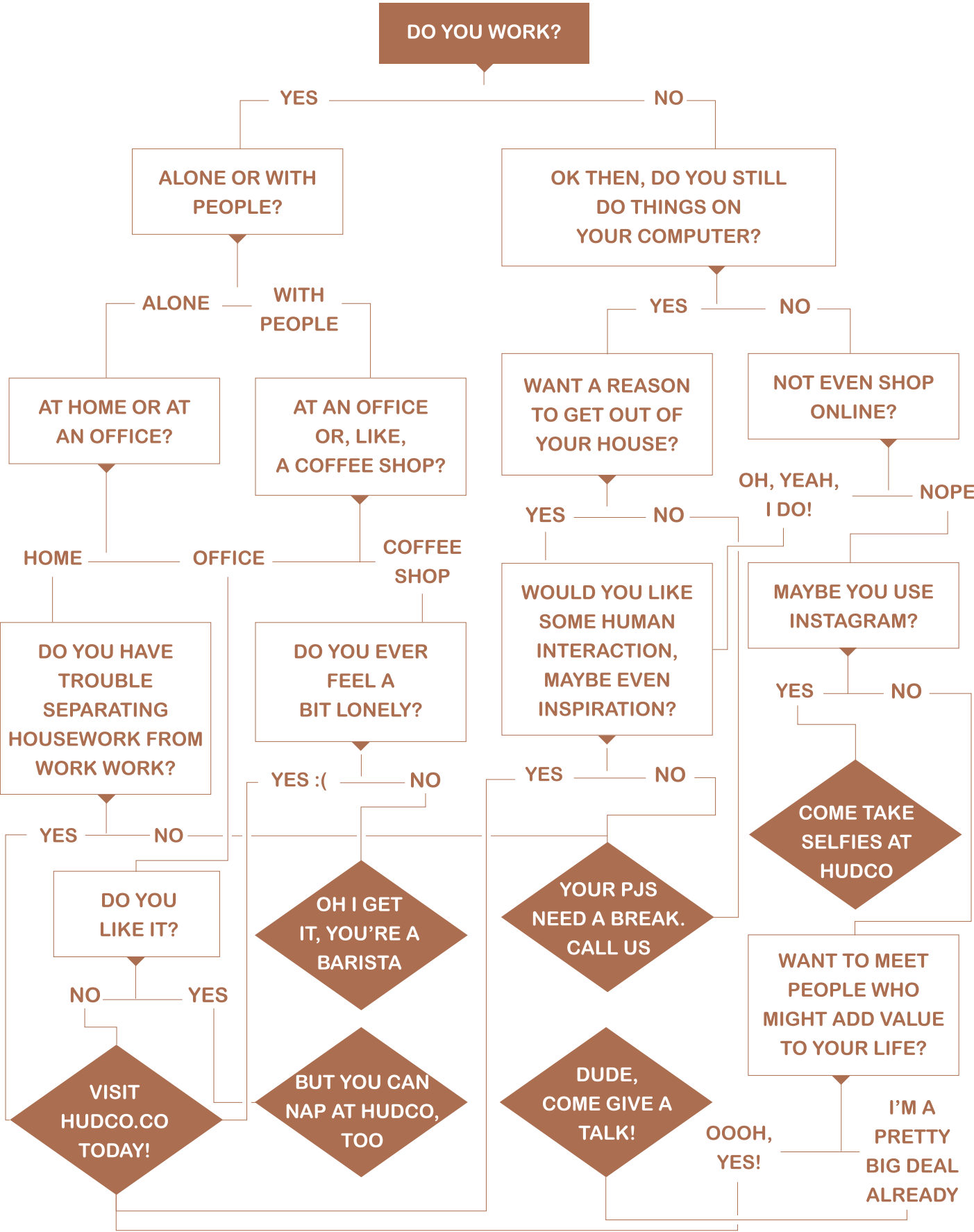
5–8 p.m. / Upstream Gallery, 8 Main St. Opening reception for TB Ward's "The Rubicon" and Susan Richman's "Crude Futures." Both artists are longtime Hastings residents. On view through Oct. 11. Hours: Thursday–Sunday, 12:30–5:30 p.m. upstreamgallery.com

Tour Washington Irving's Sunnyside

TARRYTOWN

10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. / \$16–\$20. 3 W. Sunnyside Lane. Tour the author's estate celebrating his classic tale, "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow." Timed-entry tickets required. Continues through Nov. 8. hudsonvalley.org

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Volunteer fire departments

Continued from page 3

having fewer people available to answer calls. Volunteer departments cost less than their paid counterparts. In Tarrytown, Tuohy estimates the volunteer department saves the village close to \$20 million a year.

Korzelius said it is only a matter of time before paid departments are needed.

“It’s happening all over the country,” he said. “The number [of volunteer departments] is shrinking every year, because of the cost of living and housing.”

Free training and equipment

Across the Rivertowns, volunteer firefighters receive extensive training, although specific requirements and programs vary by department. Training can include foundational firefighting courses, emergency-management, first aid, and CPR, as well as specialized instruction needed to respond to fires and other crises.

In Sleepy Hollow, for example, new members must complete New York State Firefighter I with Firefighter Survival, FEMA emergency management courses, and first aid and CPR within their first year. The department provides the training at no cost to members.

Volunteers may also be eligible for New York State training stipends upon successful completion of certain qualifying courses.

Firefighter I is a foundational New York State course covering topics including firefighter safety, protective equipment, hose lines, ladders, search and rescue, fire

suppression, and other basic fireground operations.

Volunteers do not have to complete all their training before joining. Depending on the department, new members can participate in department activities and begin training while working toward becoming fully qualified firefighters, subject to the duties they are trained and authorized to perform.

Some departments also offer opportunities for younger residents to get involved. In Sleepy Hollow, students as young as 14 can join the Junior Corps. The program can also help students fulfill their school’s community service requirements.

Bencosme, who started in the Junior Corps in 2009 and became chief in 2025, said the program has become an important pipeline for the department.

“These junior members have grown into active members who now respond to calls,” he said. “So, we’re struggling, but our numbers are steadily growing because we have junior members who are becoming active members. But by that same token, these are 16-year-olds who are soon graduating high school and going off to college.”

Tax breaks

New York law allows local governments and school districts to exempt up to 10% of the assessed value of an eligible volunteer firefighter’s primary residence from property taxes. All six Rivertowns villages have adopted the exemption at the village level, as have the school districts serving the villages.

Service requirements vary, with most

villages requiring two years and Sleepy Hollow requiring five.

New York offers volunteer firefighters a \$200 refundable state income-tax credit, or \$400 for married couples filing jointly when both spouses qualify. Legislation approved by both houses of the state Legislature in June would increase the credit to \$800 for individuals and \$1,600 for eligible married couples. The bill is awaiting the governor’s signature.

LOSAP benefits

All six Rivertowns villages offer volunteer firefighters a Length of Service Award Program, or LOSAP, a pension-like benefit based on years of qualifying service. The details vary by municipality.

In Dobbs Ferry, for example, volunteers can earn \$30 per month for each year of qualifying service, up to 50 years, with benefits beginning at an entitlement age of 65.

In Irvington, volunteers can earn \$25 per month for each year of qualifying service, up to 40 years, with benefits beginning at an entitlement age of at least 60.

Hastings is looking to expand its LOSAP benefit. The board of trustees has approved a proposal to increase the maximum service credit from 20 to 40 years, doubling the maximum monthly benefit from \$400 to \$800. The change would take effect Jan. 1, 2027, if voters approve it in a Nov. 3 referendum.

Scholarships and fitness benefits

Westchester County offers the H.E.R.R.O. program, which provides eligible volunteer

firefighters and EMS (emergency medical services) members with tuition reimbursement or student loan repayment assistance. The current program provides up to \$2,000 annually, subject to eligibility and service requirements.

Other benefits vary by village.

Dobbs Ferry recently adopted a pilot program reimbursing eligible volunteer firefighters up to \$100 a month for gym memberships. Sleepy Hollow offers members free use of a gym facility and a Mount Pleasant Pool pass, while Tarrytown offers volunteer firefighters free annual memberships at the recreation department’s fitness center.

Community and camaraderie

For most firefighters, the biggest rewards aren’t financial.

“It’s a great way to feel a part of the village,” Tuohy said. “You get to know your village officials on a first-name basis. You get to know the police and the ambulance corps because you’re at so many scenes with them. We’re all working together.”

He said one of the most gratifying parts of volunteering has been leading fire-prevention programs for children.

“We did it with the special needs kids from BOCES, and they just have a special place in my heart,” he said.

“We’re not too gung-ho about how many fires we fight a year or how charred our helmet is,” Bencosme said. “I think it’s more about a sense of community, the bonds we build, and just making the fire department better for the next generation of people.”



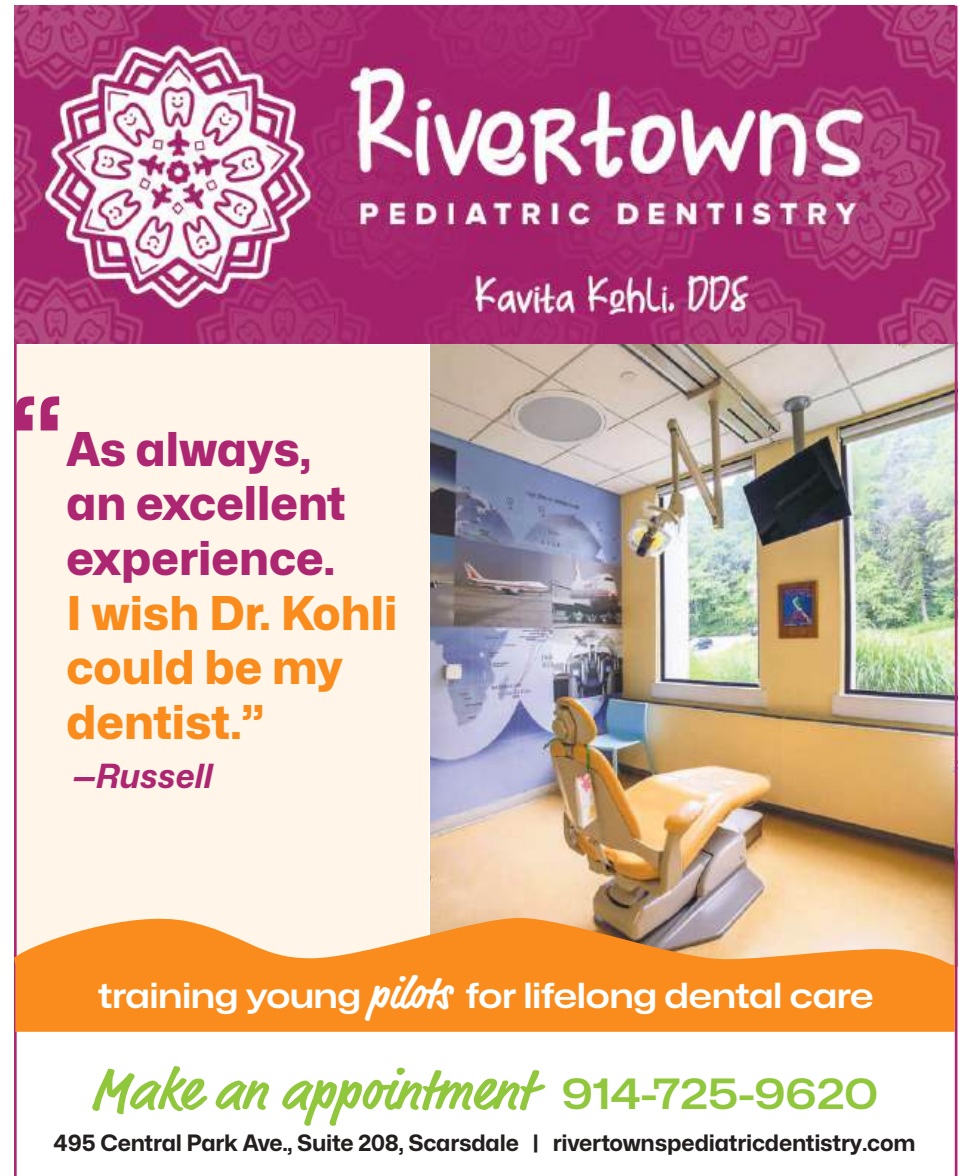
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Share your news — either here in Announcements or on the Photo Wall: market.rivertownsdispatch.com/classies

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF HEARING BEFORE THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS OF THE VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
—
2 FAIRMONT AVENUE
Pursuant to the provisions of Section 295-143B of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson Zoning Code, Notice is hereby given that:

A Public Hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals on Thursday, September 24, 2026, at 7:00 P.M., in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue, Hastings-on-Hudson, New York.

The Hearing will be held on the application of Snehal & Shubie Patel for relief from the strict application of the Village Code Sections 295-68F.1(a&c) w/295-20F for the construction of a

new covered front entry, and side yard deck & Pergola, at their single-family dwelling located at 2 Fairmont Avenue. Said property is located in the R-10 Zoning District and is known as SBL: 4.120-125-21 on the Town of Greenburgh tax maps.

Non-conformity details are as follows:

1) Front yard setback to Covered Entry; Existing — 14.8’; Proposed — 14.1’; Required — 30’ {295-68F.1(a)} Variance required 15.9’
2) Side yard setback on a corner lot to Deck & Pergola; Existing — NA; Proposed — 8.7’; Required — 30’; {295-68F.1(c) w/295-20F} Variance required 21.3’

The Zoning Board of Appeals will, at this time and place, hear all persons in support of such matter and any objections thereto.

Plans will be made available for review at the Building Department and on the Village web site on or about the Friday prior to the meeting date: www.hohny.gov

Josh Heitler, Chair, ZBA

CASE NO.: 11-26
PUBLISH: RIVERTOWNS DISPATCH
—
NOTICE OF HEARING BEFORE THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS OF THE VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
—
61 ROSEDALE AVENUE
Pursuant to the provisions of Section 295-143B of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson Zoning Code, Notice is hereby given that:

A Public Hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals on Thursday, September 24, 2026, at 7:00 P.M., in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue, Hastings-on-Hudson, New York.

The Hearing will be held on the application of Jonathan & Lauren Ide for relief from the strict application of the Village Code Sections 295-69F.1(a) w/295-20F for the construction of a new Garage at their single-family dwelling located at 61 Rosedale Avenue. Said property is located in the R-7.5 Zoning District and is known as SBL: 4.80-71-1

on the Town of Greenburgh tax maps.

Non-conformity details are as follows:

1) Front yard setback on a corner lot to the Garage; Existing — NA; Proposed — 13’; Required — 25’; {295-69F.1(a) w/295-20F} Variance required 12’

The Zoning Board of Appeals will, at this time and place, hear all persons in support of such matter and any objections thereto.

Plans will be made available for review at the Building Department and on the Village web site on or about the Friday prior to the meeting date: www.hohny.gov

Josh Heitler, Chair, ZBA
CASE NO.: 12-26
PUBLISH: RIVERTOWNS DISPATCH
—
NOTICE OF HEARING BEFORE THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS OF THE VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK
—
4 BURNSIDE DRIVE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 295-143B of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson Zoning Code, Notice is hereby given that:

A Public Hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals on Thursday, September 24, 2026, at 7:00 P.M., in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue, Hastings-on-Hudson, New York.

The Hearing will be held on the application of Andrew Rubinstein for relief from the strict application of the Village Code Sections 295-68F.1(a,b&c), & 295-68F.2(a)(1&2) for a proposed Front Covered Porch, New Rear Decks, and New Side Covered Stair & Deck at their single-family dwelling, located at 2 Burnside Place. Said property is located in the R-10 Zoning District and is known as SBL: 4.110-108-10 on the Town of Greenburgh tax maps.

Non-conformity details for the proposed work is as follows:

1) Covered Porch Front Yard Setback; Existing — 31.7’; Proposed — 25.9’; Required — 30’ {295-68F.1(a)} Variance re-

quired 4.1’
2) Rear Decks Rear Yard Setback; Existing — 38.5’; Proposed — 20’; Required — 30’ {295-68F.1(b)} Variance required 10’
3) Covered Stair & Deck Side Yard Setback; Existing — 12’; Proposed — 8.1’; Required — 12’ {295-68F.1(c)} Variance required 3.9’
4) Building Coverage; Existing — 21.65%; Proposed — 25.72%; Required Maximum — 30% {295-68F.2(a)(1)} Variance required .72% (79 sq. ft.)
5) Development Coverage; Existing — 45.75%; Proposed 47.12%; Required Maximum — 35% {295-68F.2(a)(2)} Variance required 12.12% (1322 sq. ft.)

The Zoning Board of Appeals will, at this time and place, hear all persons in support of such matter and any objections thereto.

Plans will be made available for review at the Building Department and on the Village web site on or about the Friday prior to the meeting date: www.hohny.gov

Josh Heitler, Chair, ZBA
CASE NO.: 13-26

PUBLISH: Rivertowns Dispatch
—
LEGAL NOTICE
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the Village of Ardsley Zoning Board of Appeals, 507 Ashford Ave., Ardsley, NY, will conduct a public hearing at 8:00 p.m., September 23, 2026, on the application of Gregory G. & Lisa M. Donato, 86 Hilltop Rd. (Lots 6.60-38-14, 15 & 16, in an R-1 District), for a variance from the 30 ft. minimum side yard width requirement of Ardsley Village Code § 200-10B, for a proposed second-story addition to the existing non-conforming, one-story dwelling, where the north side yard width is 5 feet to the existing house, and 5 feet to the proposed second story addition. All wishing to be heard are invited to attend, and may email comments to: kledy@ardsleyvillage.gov. Application materials may be viewed in the Village Clerk’s office during office hours (Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-4 p.m.). Meeting information also is posted at: www.ardsleyvillage.gov/calendar.

Tasha Macedo
Zoning Board Secretary
Village of Ardsley

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128 ASHFORD AVENUE, DOBBS FERRY



Opinion

The Dispatch welcomes letters to the editor about subjects related to the Rivertowns. Letters must be no more than 300 words, submitted by Monday at noon for that week's issue, and include the names, home addresses, and phone numbers of their writers. No letter is guaranteed publication. To submit a letter, visit rivertownsd Dispatch.com/contact-us

Please mask up if you feel unwell

To the Editor:

It's beautiful out. Yet viruses are still around, and they will become more common in the following months.

We learned a lot about how respiratory viruses spread during the pandemic. Might I remind us: If you have symptoms, you are likely contagious. You are exhaling viruses as you cough, sneeze, or just breathe. People who breathe in that air will likely get sick. Just being outdoors isn't enough protection if you are close. Remember 6 feet? I've gotten sick several times from 10-minute outdoor conversations, and my immune system tests perfect.

We never know the overall health, stress levels, or underlying conditions people around us have. It's on us to protect them.

Covid is now endemic and can be contagious even when it's asymptomatic. Covid still affects the cardiovascular and nervous systems. It's not just a cold. It's also hard to be certain just when a cold is over. The first day of no symptoms isn't necessarily an all-clear to breathe on people. Who hasn't gotten sick off someone who "just got over something"?

It's also not accepted to tell someone that they made you sick, so we never know the damage we are causing. It's simple: Please mask up. There are great disposable

skin-tone masks on Amazon. A small inconvenience on the part of one person will save the well-being, and possibly long-term health, of dozens of people.

Maria Petrova

IRVINGTON

Join job club to help find work for recent college graduates

To the Editor:

I plan to organize a job club for unemployed recent college graduates who are facing difficult times finding work, especially as artificial intelligence is rapidly changing the job market.

This job club will help young people stay connected, build skills, and transition into careers instead of becoming discouraged by a difficult hiring environment.

I decided to form the club after speaking to recent graduates and their parents this summer. Seems like there is a need. We will provide peer support during the job search, and offer workshops on civil service exams using A.I. tools productively, understanding what skills are in demand.

Many jobs are found through personal connections. We can bring together local employers, alumni, entrepreneurs, and professionals to meet graduates. We can share

tips on résumés, LinkedIn profiles, and help with interview techniques.

Businesses may need qualified entry-level employees. Our club can serve as a bridge between employers and recent graduates. Extended unemployment is isolating; a structured networking program will give recent graduates a place to discuss opportunities.

This job club will bring together graduates, employers, nonprofits.

Looking for volunteers who can help the unemployed by participating in workshops, helping coordinate this initiative. Also looking for participants who can benefit from the program.

Please email me at pfeiner@greenburghny.com

Paul Feiner

GREENBURGH TOWN

SUPERVISOR

Bias incident spurs call to speak out

To the Editor:

I wanted to send an open letter to my neighbors about something I recently experienced and about what it means for our community.

I was waiting for my sandwich in a Rivertowns deli when a customer entered and began a tirade directed at no one in particular, or maybe at all of us in the room. For 2 or

3 minutes, he loudly described his dislike of Muslim immigrants and lamented the lack of "men" who might do something about it. He said he hoped the mayor of NYC would be assassinated. He finished by clarifying that he was not Islamophobic.

I, like most everyone else in the deli, responded with silence, with one exception: another patron meekly added, "Yeah, and Friday is 9/11." The owner, working at the register a few feet away, put up no resistance. The speaker paid for his food and left.

The episode was one of the strangest things I have ever experienced, regardless of my personal revulsion toward his speech. Given the current political climate, many of us will find nothing novel in his sentiments, but it's the response of the community that I want to address.

First, I wish the owner — who I believe was in the most reasonable position to interfere, and who I hope this will reach — would have done so. But I want to encourage my fellow residents, starting with myself, to prepare for an encounter like this, and if you disagree with him, consider how you might respond. I'm ashamed of my silence.

I'm sure we all remember the adage about Nazi Germany ("Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out — because I was not a Jew"), and I hope, in the future, you will speak out in support of your neighbors.

Matthew Wiecha

HASTINGS

ICE protests

Continued from page 3

deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and feminine products.

In addition to donations, Sánchez shared other ways for Rivertowns residents to help impacted families in Yonkers. She urged people to "show up at meetings with their elected [officials] and assure that there are policies in place that protect the

undocumented community."

"We need to make sure that all of our government branch[es] including public servants such as police, elected officials, schools, hospitals, public spaces and employees have regulations that they won't cooperate with ICE," Sánchez said. "We need people to show up for their community because in every town we have workers who, even while traveling to work or walking their kids to school, are taking many risks of being stopped and detained."

Concerned Families

Continued from page 9

out into their own projects based on issues they are passionate about. For the past five years, CFOW regular Sue McAnanama has organized a protest in the Greystone section of Yonkers, where she lives, honoring Black Americans killed by police. Steven Seibert of Hastings connects CFOW with organizations dedicated to prison reform. Several attendees

are active members of Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), a Jewish, pro-Palestine organization.

After 25 years, many of the stalwarts are grandparents now, like Brodhead. While he continues to attend vigils every week, protesting new wars and lasting conflicts, he is thinking about the next generation of activists, the ones CFOW will be passed down to.

"We have a 4-year-old grandson," he said. "When he is my age, what will his world be like?"

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Speisman

Continued from page 11

visit to Washington, D.C., on Sept. 9, to visit her at Georgetown University, where she was feeling homesick. Speisman fit in the two-day trip to spend time with his daughter before flying to Los Angeles on business.

"We had the normal, tumultuous teenage-daughter-and-father relationship where we weren't always kind to each other, but during those two days we were really connecting on an adult level where we were just friends," Allison remembered. "So I am really glad that I got those two days, and of course I sit with the guilt every single day that I begged him to come, and I wanted

him to stay an extra night. I know it's not rational, but of course you sit with that."

The morning after they spent their last day together, Allison woke up to the news on her clock radio that a plane had hit the World Trade Center in New York City. She went to class, and when a siren went off telling her and her classmates to shelter in place, Allison thought her father was long past the D.C. area. It wasn't until she resumed watching the news on TV that worry began to set in.

"I could see the crawl on the bottom of the screen that said 'American Airlines Flight 77 missing,' and that's where my memory kind of cut out for a while," Allison explained. "I guess I made the connection that that was his flight. It wasn't even confirmed that it

crashed at that moment, but I think that's when it all became real."

Allison was able to reach her mom on the phone, and then connect with her cousin and friend from high school who were at universities within walking distance of Georgetown. The three of them were driven back to New York in a car with diplomatic plates, as the city was locked down.

After returning to Irvington, Allison took the rest of the semester off before returning to Georgetown to earn her bachelor's degree in psychology, and then earned a special certificate in Georgetown's first round of a program centered around homeland security and counterterrorism. She's now on the board of directors for the Pentagon Memorial Fund,

and for the first time, she's bringing her 11- and 7-year-old sons to the Pentagon Memorial for the groundbreaking of a visitor education center on Saturday, Sept. 12.

"In general, I live every day to make him proud in my interactions with other people, in my efforts toward the visitor education center and the Pentagon Memorial Fund, just to work to preserve his legacy and make him proud of myself and my family," Allison said.

Speisman is survived by his wife, three daughters, and five grandchildren — Liam, 11, twins Hadley and Finn, 10, Trevor, 7, and August, 6. Rena Speisman still lives in the same Irvington home where their children grew up.

For more information about the Pentagon Memorial Fund, visit pentagonmemorial.org.

Peonies

Continued from page 13

monitor their progress for three years.

Paula Sharp, a nature photographer and writer who photographed the Rockefeller peonies in bloom, notes on her website that "Tree peonies can live as long as 90 years, reach more than 5 feet in height, and sport flowers the size of dinner plates. They do not die back to the ground each winter, but instead grow slowly throughout the year, supported by sturdy stems covered with bark. They tend to blossom for a period of 10 days in mid-May, when a chill is still in the air, a full two weeks before their herbaceous peony counterparts... The Peony Monument now harbors hundreds of well-established tree peonies of 50 different varieties, many rarely seen in the United

States: they include snowy whites, all shades of pink and red, deep maroon, candy-striped, and unusual butter-yellow flowers."

A year before the peonies came to New York, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund supported "Listening to the City," the largest town hall in the history of the U.S., in which more than 5,000 New Yorkers came together to discuss the plans for the 9/11 Memorial & Museum. A documentary film about the process, "9/11: Reclaiming Ground Zero," which was screened at the Pocantico Center in March, will be available for streaming this week on Amazon Prime.

The stories shared by interviewees will resonate with Rivertowns residents who were touched by the tragedy.

Sleepy Hollow resident Pam Bruce, then 26 years old, was heading to work at Blue Cross Blue Shield on the 17th floor of the North

Tower when she and her fellow subway passengers were made to exit their train one stop early — at City Hall instead of Fulton Street.

"The first plane had already hit," Bruce recalled. "Then the second plane hit. A lot of people, like myself, didn't know what was happening and were close by trying to figure out what to do."

Standing in the streets, according to Bruce, "you could see people jumping from the buildings. And when the first tower came down it was like a tsunami blowing through the streets. We all ran toward the East River." That is when Bruce broke the heel off one of her shoes, a shoe she still keeps.

"Myself and some folks I didn't know all went into a building by the water and stayed there listening to a radio to hear what was going on," Bruce continued. "Then

collectively we all decided to start walking north. Some were hurt and covered with dust. We kept together until we all got to someone we knew or to a safer space."

Terrified and grieving, New Yorkers also cared for one another, for strangers, ensuring their safety as best they could. The peony garden celebrates that spirit of mutual aid as well as the fleetingness of the beauty of its flowers.

The butterfly release is the eighth and final at the Preserve this season. Monarchs that emerge earlier in the summer stay local to breed and increase their population, while those that emerge in mid-to-late September make the Herculean flight to Mexico. The idea for this last group to begin their journey on 9/11 is owed to park manager Peter Iskenderian.

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Tooth be told

Dobbs Ferry's main street dental practice welcomes **oral surgeon Dr. Abend**—and she's answering the wisdom teeth questions that always erupt!

When do you actually need your wisdom teeth out?

Not everyone needs them out. What I look for is space and position—when there isn't enough, the tooth gets stuck, presses on its neighbor, and becomes a trap for food and bacteria. Those come out, and sooner is better because younger patients heal faster, with fewer complications. But a wisdom tooth that came in straight and stays clean? That's just an extra molar. You keep it.

What is the coolest thing about wisdom teeth that people don't know?

If a teen has a failing molar tooth, under the right conditions, we may be able to do a procedure called an auto-transplantation, where we replace the failing tooth with a wisdom tooth. This is the

the only tooth replacement option that's actually alive.

What is your favorite question that a patient has asked you?

I've been asked by hundreds of patients—is it helpful to drink gallons of pineapple juice prior to tooth removal? **Short answer:** Kind of. The *Bromelain* enzyme in the juice can help with swelling but you would need to drink about 200 cans. Pineapple juice is also quite sugary, acidic and may be harsh on a fresh wound—instead, I tell patients: consider Bromelain supplements which are taken short-term for about a week. Many will find capsules much more manageable than drinking tons of juice!



Dr. Julia Abend
DDS | Parlor Dental

Sports

EDITED BY ROB DIANTONIO

Valhalla wears down Ardsley in season opener

— FOOTBALL ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Ardsley showed plenty of offensive firepower in its season opener, but Valhalla star running back Luke Foisset proved too much to contain for four quarters.

The Panthers held a 15-point lead late in the first half before Valhalla rallied for a 56-34 victory on Sept. 3 in Phil Treglia's debut as head coach. Treglia took over for Dan DiFalco, who guided the program for the previous decade.

Foisset finished with 278 rushing yards and five touchdowns and caught a touchdown pass. Ardsley limited him reasonably well early, but Foisset became increasingly difficult to slow as the game progressed.

"He's a great back," Treglia said. "He runs low to the ground, he keeps his feet moving. He's a hard-working kid, so it's a challenge for any team to stop him."

Valhalla struck first on Foisset's 88-yard touchdown run, but Xavier Estime immediately answered with an 85-yard kickoff return for a touchdown to give Ardsley a 7-6 lead following Conor Lenihan's extra point.

After Valhalla regained the lead, Ardsley senior quarterback Jack Calkins connected with Jonah Goldberg for a 90-yard touchdown early in the second quarter. Tristen Roberts added a 3-yard touchdown run before Calkins broke loose for a 65-yard score, giving Ardsley a 27-12 advantage.

Valhalla cut the deficit to 27-18 on a touchdown pass with 1:29 left in the first half and continued its comeback in the third quarter.

Calkins found Tommy Bennett for a 55-yard touchdown to put Ardsley ahead 34-26, but Foisset answered with a touchdown and two-point conversion to tie the score.

The Vikings then recovered an onside kick, a play Treglia viewed as the game's turning point. Foisset scored again shortly afterward to give Valhalla the lead for good as the Vikings closed the game with 30 unanswered points. "That was momentum," Treglia said. "And that momentum rolled them into the fourth quarter."

Calkins completed eight of 14 passes for 200 yards and two touchdowns while rushing eight times for 130 yards and a score. Goldberg had two receptions for 110 yards and a touchdown, while Bennett added the 55-yard score.

"We spread the ball around to multiple players, and that's great to see in week 0 for a new team," Treglia said. "We do have a lot of athletes and have some potential here. We've got to just keep working on executing. There's a lot of positives from today's game. We're going to watch the film, show them the positives, and where we can get better."



Ardsley quarterback Jack Calkins tries to elude Valhalla defenders. Photos by Rob DiAntonio.

Ardsley was scheduled to host Putnam Valley on Sept. 10.

Irvington falls to Edgemont/Blind Brook

A young Irvington football team showed some fight in the second half of its season opener, but missed opportunities in the red zone and a late surge by Edgemont/Blind Brook proved costly.

The Bulldogs trailed by just five points midway through the fourth quarter before host Edgemont/Blind Brook pulled away for a 30-12 win on Sept. 5.

Irvington coach James Madison was encouraged by his team's effort, particularly on defense, but pointed to the Bulldogs' inability to finish drives as a difference in the game.

"The effort on defense was amazing today," Madison said. "They did their job and what we asked them to do. Offensively, we were there. You saw us in the red zone five times. We just have to improve a few things."

Edgemont/Blind Brook

took a 10-0 lead into halftime after scoring on a touchdown pass with 9:14 remaining in the second quarter and adding a 25-yard field goal in the closing seconds.

Irvington's defense kept the Bulldogs within striking distance, including a goal-line stand in the second quarter. Junior Bobby Estrada also intercepted a pass in the first quarter.

The Bulldogs' offense came alive after halftime. Adrian Aybar helped move Irvington down the field with several productive runs before quarterback Julian Peres connected with Estrada on a 13-yard touchdown pass with 9:15 left in the third quarter, trimming the deficit to 10-6.

Edgemont/Blind Brook answered with a 21-yard touchdown pass to make it 17-6. Irvington drove into the red zone again, aided by a 38-yard completion to Estrada, but an interception in the end zone ended the threat.

Irvington got another opportunity early in the fourth

Bobby Estrada of Irvington looks to stay in bounds.

when Vontre Harris intercepted a pass following a bad snap on a punt attempt. Peres found Estrada for 18 yards to the 7 before Aybar scored on a 7-yard run, cutting the deficit to 17-12 with 10:45 remaining.

Edgemont/Blind Brook responded with a touchdown pass and later recovered a squib kick, which led to another touchdown with 4:40 to play.

Estrada finished with 10 receptions for close to 100 yards and a touchdown to go along with his interception. "He runs his routes well," Madison said. "He knows what he's doing and he knows the system very well."

Aybar rushed for 52 yards and a touchdown on 12 carries, while Josh Tatz led the defense with six tackles.

Irvington was scheduled to host Pleasantville on Sept. 10.

Horsemen drop opener to Byram

Defending Section 1 Class B champion Sleepy Hollow lost its opener to visiting Byram Hills 23-7 on Sept. 3.

The Horsemen trailed 8-0 at halftime, but Olin Keough started the second half by returning the kickoff 75 yards for a score to cut the deficit to 8-7. Byram Hills, however, scored 15 unanswered points to close the game.

Sleepy Hollow was scheduled to host Hendrick Hudson on Sept. 10.



Sports

Ardsley finishes strong in shutout victory over Dobbs

— GIRLS' SOCCER ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Last season, Ardsley learned the hard way that a two-goal lead against Dobbs Ferry wasn't necessarily safe.

The Panthers made sure there would be no repeat this time around.

Ardsley struck early and then put the game away with two late goals in a 3-0 victory over visiting Dobbs Ferry on Sept. 8. Last season, the Panthers built a 3-1 advantage against their rival before the Eagles stormed back to salvage a 3-3 draw. That result was fresh in Ardsley's mind heading into the rematch.

"We brought it up in the locker room many times before because that was a game that we were really upset about," Ardsley senior co-captain Alexis Fitzsimmons said. "Dobbs Ferry is obviously a rival for us. I think we always have had that idea where you just continue to go for all 80 minutes. Even when you're losing, it's still really important to always have that energy and keep going offensively and defensively."

Ardsley wasted little time jumping in front. Just over 2 minutes into the game, Helene Dillon sent a corner kick into the box and the Panthers grabbed a 1-0 lead on an own goal.

"Super important," senior co-captain Ava Santavicca said of scoring early. "I think it helped us lift the energy a lot, and I also think that we were able to build really well off of it and make our own chances after that."

Dobbs Ferry nearly found the equalizer late in the first half when Clara Power got loose on a breakaway, but the Eagles were unable to capitalize. Ardsley took its one-goal advantage into halftime and its defense largely kept Dobbs from generating dangerous chances over the final 40 minutes.

The Panthers created some separation with 11:33 remaining. Hazel McGourty put a shot on goal and Teagan Kenny pounced on the rebound to make it 2-0. Dillon delivered another corner with 6:14 remaining and Riley Osborne finished it to seal the win.

"We sometimes struggle with energy, but I think once we got the [second] goal, we were able to lift that energy fully," Fitzsimmons said of the second-half breakthrough. "It just helped keep the momentum going offensively. It helped everybody feel better, and then we were able to attack and also get back defensively."

The way Ardsley finished was particularly satisfying after what happened against the Eagles last season.

"We were really thinking about that game when we were playing today," Santavicca said. "That game did not end well because we kind of gave up, but I think that in this game, we worked really hard to finish the game."

Ardsley coach Beau Thompson said last year's result was a frequent topic leading up to the game.



Ardsley's Alexis Fitzsimmons and Dobbs Ferry's Phoebe Walker battle. Photos by Rob DiAntonio.

"Every single day this week, we reminded them of that," Thompson said. "Just stressing the importance of finishing the job, giving it your all and really making any team that steps on the field with us earn it. I think our girls did that today."

Goalie Elise O'Brien made five saves and Emily Sanders added one as the duo combined for the shutout.

"They were ready for what Dobbs had brought to them," Thompson said. "We lost our keeper last year, so they had big shoes to fill. They've done a great job battling each other in preseason, and they've been really good."

Juliet Curanovic made 11 saves for Dobbs Ferry, which was playing its season opener.

"Credit to Ardsley," Dobbs Ferry coach Mark DeGaetano said. "They played really well. Very athletic, strong, physical, technical team. They just wanted it more today."

The victory was also an important response for Ardsley after opening the season with a 3-0 home loss to Clarkstown South on Sept. 5, when O'Brien made seven saves.

Thompson felt a challenging preseason and the matchup with a strong South squad helped prepare the Panthers for their rivalry game.

"I think we're just moving at another level

and another gear," he said. "The girls getting that early goal was a little bit of a relief, but I also liked the fact that we didn't take our foot off the gas."

Irvington earns a win and a draw

Irvington (1-0-1) played to a 0-0 draw with visiting Edgemont in its opener on Sept. 3. Goalie Emma Reilly stopped seven shots.

Behind three goals from Skylar Coyne, the Bulldogs defeated visiting Rye Neck 5-2 on Sept. 8. Shea Pressman and Alexis Im scored one goal each. Emma Ecklund dished out three assists and Ruthie Liang had one assist. Reilly made seven saves.

Sleepy Hollow splits a pair

Sleepy Hollow (1-1) lost to host Hendrick Hudson 5-2 in its opener on Sept. 3 but rebounded with a 5-0 win over host Ossining on Sept. 5.

In the loss to Hen Hud, Meghan McMahon and Layla Igbara scored a goal each. Samantha Marvin and Siena Spataro each notched an assist. Sabrina Graham made seven saves. Marvin scored three goals against Ossining. Corina Armster had a goal and two assists. McMahon and Spataro tallied two assists each, while Evelyn Mackey had one assist.

Hastings falls to White Plains

Visiting Hastings lost its opener to White Plains 3-1 on Sept. 2. Alyssa Schlacter netted the lone goal and Rory McKinnon made nine saves.



(Left) Helene Dillon of Ardsley. (Right) Bridget Turner of Dobbs Ferry.

Denike leads Dobbs Ferry into one more chase for a championship

— Q&A —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Dobbs Ferry senior Taylor Denike is a team captain and outside hitter on the Eagles' varsity volleyball team. Denike was an all-state selection as a junior and has committed to Franklin & Marshall College, where she will continue her volleyball career. The Eagles return the majority of a team that lost to Putnam Valley in the Section I Class B championship game last season. The Rivertowns Dispatch caught up with Denike regarding her aspirations for the season, favorite memories during her time playing at Dobbs, role as a team captain and more.

Rivertowns Dispatch: What has been your favorite memory from your time playing volleyball at Dobbs Ferry?

Taylor Denike: My favorite memory has to be our semifinal game against Valhalla last year. It was a game that meant a lot to us, considering we lost to them the previous year in the semifinals. Being able to put the loss in the back of our minds and come back stronger for the rematch was our focus that day. I remember on the bus we were laughing and just preparing ourselves to have a fun game no matter what happened and give everything we had. The surreal feeling of knowing we were going to the finals after winning was incredible. We were on a high for the rest of the week, and it helped us gain confidence for the County Center match.

RD: Last year's sectional final loss to Putnam Valley was obviously heartbreaking. Looking back now, what do you think the team learned from that match, and how much are you using it as motivation heading into this season?

TD: Knowing how close we were to winning, I think it's going to push us more than anything to compete and give everything we have. The match just showed us that we are capable of beating teams that may seem unbeatable because we've lost to them before. This season, I think a lot of us want to make a reappearance at the County Center and actually take it home. Especially with a lot of our team

being made up of seniors, it would mean a lot to go as far as we can and prolong our last season at Dobbs Ferry.

RD: As an outside hitter, what do you think is the most important part of playing that position?

TD: The most important part of playing outside is being an all-around player. Being able to not only have shot selection when attacking, but passing, serving, and defense are a big part of the job, too. I made the mistake of defining my play on whether or not I was hitting well. As important as it is, hitting is not the only job of an outside. I learned to figure out where else I could contribute if a certain aspect wasn't quite there, and do the best I could to help my team wherever I could. That could also come from energy and celebration, which are two of my biggest things when I'm on the court. I love being in a match where you can just scream at the top of your lungs because your teammate made a great play. It really brings out my love for the game.

RD: With almost the entire team returning from last year, how much confidence does that give you heading into this season?

TD: It definitely gives us a sense of comfort knowing that we will pretty much be playing with the exact same people. Connections are able to grow stronger than they were rather than having to rebuild. We are going to have a lot of fun this season and just continue to grow together so that we can make it even farther than we did last year.

RD: You've committed to Franklin & Marshall. What about the school and its volleyball program made you know it was where you wanted to continue your athletic and academic career?

TD: Franklin & Marshall has been on my list of schools since my freshman year, so it felt very familiar when I stepped onto campus for the first time. Meeting the coaches, I immediately felt so welcomed and comfortable, and meeting the team kind of solidified that feeling. I remember watching the way the team interacted when I visited this summer, and they are all so close with each other and honestly just the nicest people I've ever met. I was really able to picture myself walking on campus to classes and practicing in their gym. Not only that, but they have great academic opportunities, too. A lot of the team is majoring in a science, which is also what I plan to do, so I was able to talk to them about what their academic workload looks like and how F&M is helping them to start their careers. It really just made

me even more excited to start there next fall, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to play somewhere I love.

RD: Is there a particular part of your game that you're determined to improve before you graduate?

TD: I really just want to try and take this last season to be the best teammate I can be. I want to show up wherever I can and support everyone so that our team can stay strong and together. The memories that I have made with each of the people on this team mean so much to me, and I just want to keep making those memories as long as we can. I want to focus on being strong for my team and able to be used wherever and whenever I am needed.

RD: Being a senior means younger players are going to look to you for leadership. What kind of example do you want to set for them?

TD: I want to show them that DFHS volleyball is competitive and, of course, we want to win, but it is also fun, silly, and lively. We laugh and dance during practice, and we celebrate and jump up and down when we win a point in games. We're there for each other, and we are better because of it. Anyone can come up to anyone for whatever they may need, and we'll be there. I have always loved that about playing at Dobbs Ferry.

RD: When your high school career is over, what do you think you'll miss most about playing volleyball at Dobbs Ferry?

TD: It's hard to choose a single thing I will miss the most because there are just so many little moments that I love. The excitement when tryouts are just starting and we all see each other again since the summer, the thrill of playing a tough game when we are fighting for every point, Saturday practices where we all take a group trip to Dunkin' beforehand — I mean, there are just so many. Not only the memories I've made, but there are so many people who make DFHS volleyball so special. The people over the years who have helped with fundraising, the parents who come out to support every game even if it's a 45-minute drive away, and of course Coach [Patty] Duane, who helps to make us the bubbly but competitive team that we are. Volleyball at Dobbs Ferry has always been something I look forward to every year, and it will definitely be weird not having it next year, but I am so grateful to everyone who has made these last four seasons so special and memorable.



Dobbs Ferry senior outside hitter Taylor Denike. Photo by Rob DiAntonio

Sports

Ardsley edges Dobbs Ferry in dramatic four-set thriller

— VOLLEYBALL ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

In an early-season match filled with momentum swings, long rallies, and narrow margins, Ardsley and Dobbs Ferry were tested in ways that should benefit both teams down the road.

For Ardsley, the test ended with a dramatic victory. The Panthers outlasted host Dobbs Ferry, 3-1 (25-22, 24-26, 25-23, 31-29), on Sept. 4, bouncing back from a season-opening loss to Horace Greeley and prevailing in a fourth set that neither team seemed willing to concede.

The final point was a fitting conclusion. With Ardsley holding a 30-29 lead, Zaniya Bell made a diving save to keep the rally alive before junior Sophie Young eventually put down the match-winning kill.

"I think it has a lot to do with energy and a lot to do with being together as a team," Young said. "I think that it's very important to work together and to communicate with your teammates. You have to trust your ability and your skill physically, and mentally. You have to just check yourself, lift yourself up, and try your best to lift up your teammates and reset."

Young finished with 12 kills, four aces, and 10 digs, while Serena Emanuele contributed six kills, five aces, and 16 digs. Sophia Pecora anchored the defense with 19 digs.

Ardsley coach Dave Ponterio made an early-season adjustment after the Panthers'



Morgan Macri, Sophie Young, and Katherine Cai of Ardsley celebrate a win over Dobbs Ferry. Photos by Rob DiAntonio.

opening loss to Greeley. Young started the season at setter, but Ponterio moved her back to outside hitter against Dobbs Ferry and inserted Katherine Cai at setter. Cai responded in her first match in the role with

behind its outside hitters. Natasha Mansfield delivered several key kills as the Eagles pulled even at 23-23. After Emanuele briefly put Ardsley back in front, Dobbs Ferry scored three straight points, with Mansfield finishing the 26-24 win with a kill.

"Our energy was very low, and we were questioning our skill and our ability," Young said. "I think that's why we started to crumble a little bit. But I think that after speaking to our coaches and reconvening as a team, we were able to work together much better and push through."

The third set was another battle. Dobbs Ferry led 23-21 late, but Ardsley scored the final four points to escape with a 25-23 victory and take a 2-1 lead.

That set the stage for a marathon fourth set. Dobbs built a 15-10 advantage, but Ardsley gradually chipped away. Young helped lead the comeback with several kills, and the Panthers eventually went ahead 21-19.

Ardsley had match point at 24-22, but Dobbs responded and eventually went ahead 25-24 on a Taylor Denike ace. Emanuele answered with a kill, and the teams continued trading points. Denike put the Eagles ahead 29-28 with a kill, but Young answered to tie it.

A Dobbs Ferry attack went out of bounds to give Ardsley a 30-29 lead before Bell's diving save and Young's kill finally ended



Zaniya Bell of Ardsley spikes the ball.

the match.

"It was a rollercoaster," Dobbs Ferry coach Patty Duane said. "There were so many momentum changes and comebacks. For both teams, the players showed resilience and poise in coming back from deficits.

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Dobbs Ferry's Kayla Rukaj passes.

Sports

Volleyball roundup

Continued from page 26

There was a high level of play. I want my players to remember what they're capable of and be consistent in their play. If they're behind in the score, they can remember this match and know that they can come back from a deficit and trust each other."

Denike led the Eagles with 19 kills, 23 digs, and three blocks, while Mansfield had 16 kills and 22 digs. Kayla Rukaj added six kills, Hollen Peet had seven kills, and Grace Demitrovic finished with 30 assists, 10 digs, and three aces. Layla Wilbekin contributed 16 assists and 11 digs.

"I was pleased to see more offense from our middle hitters," she said. "Kayla Rukaj had a strong match from the middle. This is critical if we are to run a balanced attack and keep the opponent's blockers busy. Hollen Peet also had a strong game at the net from the right side, while Natasha and Taylor contributed with their passing and kills."

For two teams with postseason aspirations, the four-set battle provided an unusually stern test this early in the schedule.

"I think it's very important to start playing challenging teams early because we have to prepare ourselves for playoffs and for the rest of the season," Young said.

Ardsley (2-1) defeated visiting Rye 3-0 (25-23, 25-16, 25-20) on Sept. 8. Young (6K, 11D, 4A), Emanuele (8K, 5D), Bell (6K, 10D), Pecora (23D), Morgan Macri (5K), Claire Herrod (2B), and Cai (23A, 9D, 2A) led the Panthers.

Dobbs Ferry (1-1) swept host Pearl River 3-0 (25-23, 25-22, 26-24) on Sept. 3. Demitrovic (8K, 15A), Denike (10K, 5A), Mansfield (6K, 4A, 17D), Brielle Jean (3B), and Wilbekin (14A, 7D) led the way.

Hastings tops Sleepy Hollow

In its season opener, host Hastings bested Sleepy Hollow 3-1 (25-22, 25-16, 18-25, 25-21) on Sept. 8. The Yellow Jackets were led by Sara Dehgan (28A), Roxy Griffin (19K, 4B), Kylie Deklin (18K, 10D), and Emmy Dehgan (22D).

Sleepy Hollow (0-3) endured a 3-0 (19-25, 25-27, 10-25) loss to visiting Nyack on Sept. 4.

Irvington drops three games

Irvington (0-3) lost to host Putnam Valley 3-0 (14-25, 8-25, 13-25) on Sept. 3 and fell to visiting Walter Panas 3-0 on Sept. 8. Against Put Valley, Alice Kamin (5D, 2B), Piper Keltz (8D), and Paige Swift (4A, 10D) were the main contributors. In the loss to Panas, Alice Schneider (5K, 2A, 6D), Swift (8A, 7D), and Brooke Lee (8D) led the team.

In a season-opening 3-0 loss to host Pleasantville on Sept. 1, Isabella Dhanoolal (14A, 7D) and Piper Keltz (7D, 3K) sparked the squad.

Horsemen top Ardsley, but fall in final of River Cup

— VARSITY ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Boys' soccer

Sleepy Hollow coach JP Ospina wanted his team to be tested early this season, and the Horsemen have gotten exactly that with their first three games.

Sleepy Hollow sits at 1-2 after splitting two games at Ossining's River Cup tournament, defeating Ardsley 3-1 in the opening round on Sept. 5 before falling to host Ossining 2-1 in the championship game the following day.

Junior Samuel Quezada Pesantez provided an early offensive spark, accounting for all four of the Horsemen's goals at the tournament.

Quezada Pesantez recorded a hat trick in the victory over Ardsley and followed with Sleepy Hollow's lone goal against Ossining.

"He's got a lot of talent," Ospina said. "He's also got a great mentality, and he's relentless. He keeps working hard and won't stop until they blow the whistle. When you've got a guy like that who's going to capitalize on other people's mistakes and impose himself in the game, I think that's a big asset."

Ossining took control in the first half of the championship game, scoring with 16:49 remaining before adding another goal with 5:23 left to take a 2-0 lead into halftime.

The Horsemen, however, continued to battle. Quezada Pesantez converted a penalty kick with 11:36 remaining to cut the deficit to 2-1. Sleepy Hollow nearly found the equalizer with 2:30 left when Quezada Pesantez sent a free kick into the box, but Denis Suqui's ensuing shot was saved.

"I think it was a pretty even game," Ospina said. "It was pretty back and forth. We fell asleep on two different plays and they capitalized on our mistakes. We tried to come back, and shoutout to the boys. They really fought hard."

Goalkeeper Jason Espinoza made six saves for the Horsemen. Ospina also praised Dylan Robles' work defensively, along with the play of Quezada Pesantez and Suqui.

Despite the 1-2 start, Ospina has been encouraged by how Sleepy Hollow has handled a challenging opening stretch.

"I'm proud of how our effort is there, and I'm proud of how the boys come with the right mindset to these games," he said. "I think that's something we're going to



Sleepy Hollow's Gavin Ferriss fights for possession. Photo by Rob DiAntonio.

continue to build on. Hopefully, we can excel at that during playoffs."

For Ardsley, Anthony Giambrone scored the Panthers' goal off an assist from Nico Franco against Sleepy. Ardsley responded with a 4-1 victory over Croton-Harmon in the consolation game on Sept. 6. Sebastian Chacon sparked the Panthers with three goals and an assist, while Franco added a goal. Giambrone, Lewis Schoenberg, and Gabe Martinez each recorded an assist, and goalie Henry Brumm was strong in net. Ardsley (1-2) lost to host Pelham 4-1 on Sept. 8. Eshan Kapoor scored the goal on a feed from Lucas Chacon. Aaron Bonner made five saves.

Irvington (2-0) recorded shutout road wins over Woodlands (7-0, Sept. 2) and Blind Brook (2-0, Sept. 4). Griffin Warner and Joseph DeNardo tallied two goals and two assists each against Woodlands. Dennis Sasso, Conner Gredick, and Karsten Yamamoto added one goal each. Josh Diamond had an assist. Against Blind Brook, Warner and Sasso scored one goal each, while DeNardo added an assist. Owen Brunenavs (2S) and Ethan Otto (1S) helped keep the sheet clean.

Hastings is off to a 2-1 start. The Yellow Jackets defeated host Edgemont 4-1 in their opener on Sept. 2, with Kai Ghalib (1G, 2A), Louis von Rege (2G), Joaquin Toledo-Chae (1G), and Justin Wilmot (7S) sparking the squad.

Hastings fell to host Pearl River 3-2 on Sept. 4. Von Rege and Ghalib scored a goal apiece, with Eli Sundheim adding an assist. Wilmot made five saves. In a 5-1 win over host Gorton on Sept. 8, Charles Baer (2G, 1A), Ghalib (2G), Felix Casey (1G, 1A), Ricardo Garcia (1A), and Wilmot (6S) led the way.

Cross country

Irvington kicked off the season by hosting a five-team meet including Dobbs Ferry and Sleepy Hollow on Sept. 8. On the boys' side,

the Bulldogs won the team competition with 23 points, with Dobbs Ferry in second. Glen Feng led Irvington with a first-place finish in 18:34. Sleepy Hollow's Matt Bartolacci was second (18:59).

Irvington had seven finishers in the top 10 in a 41-man field, including Emmet Ansari (third, 19:02), David Toeman (fifth, 19:26), Ian Kwon (19:27), Levent Sarayli (eighth), Paul Van Haetsdaele (ninth), and Derin Sarayli (10th).

Dobbs Ferry was led by Patrick Ryan in fourth place (19:09), with Reed Wilford taking seventh.

On the girls' side, the Bulldogs placed first in the team standings again, with the Eagles in second. Sleepy Hollow's DeLila Iovachini won the race in a clocking of 23:31. Irvington's Julianna Flamm (23:52) and Lily Korb (23:53) were second and third, respectively. Liliana Brandwein was fifth for the Bulldogs in 24:52, with teammates Greta Davis and Olivia Mineo in sixth and seventh, respectively.

Dobbs Ferry's top finishers were Bianca Cardozo (eighth), Bianca Ambrosi (ninth), and Alessia Ambrosi (10th).

Girls' tennis

Host Ardsley bested visiting Rye Neck 4-1 on Sept. 4. Summer Lopez (8-6) and Ellisyne Ladha (8-3) won in singles action with the doubles teams of Avery McCormack and Hayden Weiss (8-1), Alexandra Herzog and Keira Hayden (8-6), Yana Chopra and Juliette An (8-6), and Jayleen Reyes and Maya Lubell (8-5) earning wins.

Field hockey

Irvington dropped its opener to host Clarkstown 5-1 on Sept. 4. Zoya Bhandari had a busy day in net with 21 saves and surpassed 200 career saves. Hazel Kwon netted the lone goal for the Bulldogs.

Sleepy Hollow/Briarcliff lost its opener to host Harrison 1-0 on Sept. 4.

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