A new chapter with
The Hudson Independent



Downtown designs
Village floats new ideas for square and park
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Vol 3. Issue 10.

November 6, 2026

RIVERTOWNS
Dispatch

2.75

Local News, Locally Sourced

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



IRVINGTON

Thriller night

Georgie Kovacs (right) leads a flash mob performance of Michael Jackson's "Thriller" on Main Street in Irvington during the annual Porchella event on Halloween. Porchella also featured musicians covering the songs of the Beastie Boys, the Femme Fighters, The Pretenders, and other bands. Most of Main Street and its side streets were closed to cars for the event.



Conley rides blue wave into Congress
Democrat flips seat in 17th District
p 3

Voting problem traced to village justice omission

Scanners not reprogrammed after line added to ballot

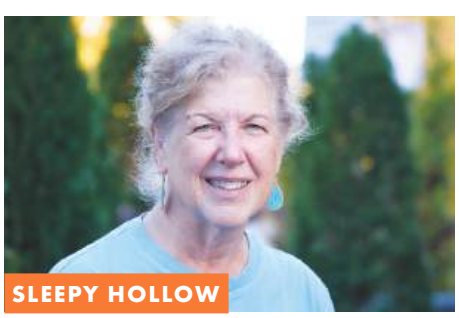
BY AMY BOCHNER

REGION An effort to fix a mistake related to the election for Ardsley village justice led to a Westchester-wide disruption on Election Day (Nov. 3), with ballot machines unable to tabulate votes.

As of Nov. 5, the results of the County's 621 races and ballot measures were considered unofficial, as they did not include a significant number of unscanned ballots. This includes the contest to represent New York's 17th Congressional District, where Democrat Cait Conley challenged incumbent Republican Mike Lawler. NY-17 also incorporates part of Dutchess County, and all of Putnam and Rockland counties. Based on the votes that had been tabulated, Lawler conceded defeat to Conley on the evening of Nov. 3.

In Ardsley, there were no candidates on the ballot for village justice. According to Kathleen McGrath, the director of public information for the New York State Board of

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SLEEPY HOLLOW

Cancer survivor supports others
p 13

"I can't tell you. I'm not going to give it away in print."

Michael Muldoon about "The Importance of Being Earnest"
p 15



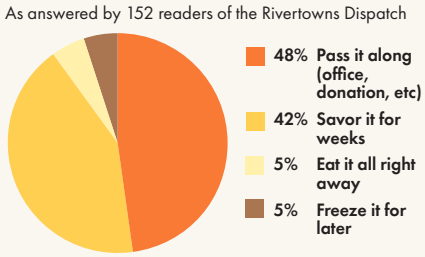
SPORTS

Eagles advance to sectional final
p 21

The Poll

What do you do with leftover Halloween candy?

As answered by 152 readers of the Rivertowns Dispatch



Vote at *rivertownsdispatch.com/the-weekly-poll*



The Blotter

ARDSLEY

Theft from mailbox: Two unidentified men looked through the mailbox of a home on Heatherdell Road on the afternoon of Oct. 26.

DOBBS FERRY

Suspended license and registration: A 46-year-old Dobbs Ferry resident was arrested for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree, and for a suspended vehicle registration, both misdemeanors, on Ashford Avenue on the evening of Oct. 25. Officer Anthony Muratore made the arrest.

Theft of diesel: Diesel fuel worth $634.95 was stolen from a backhoe, a drilling machine, and an excavator on Lefurgy Avenue between Oct. 22–26. The machines belong to a contractor from Hackensack, N.J.

Theft from account: Seventeen wire transfers were used to steal $164,220 from a Dobbs Ferry resident's checking account on Oct. 23, after he received a phone call from someone posing as a Citibank employee. The theft was reported to the police on Oct. 26.

Theft from Ulta: An unidentified man and woman shoplifted $568 worth of items from the Ulta Beauty at Rivertowns Square on the afternoon of Oct. 24. The theft was reported to the police on Oct. 26.

Assault arrest: An 18-year-old was arrested for assaulting a 16-year-old at The Children's Village residential treatment center on the evening of Oct. 28. The defendant was charged with assault in the third degree, a misdemeanor. Officer John Manzo made the arrest.

Theft of tools and more: Tools and other equipment were stolen from a business on Broadway (Route 9) between Oct. 12–27. The theft was reported to the police on Oct. 29.

Stolen vehicle arrest: A 31-year-old resident of Bridgeport, Conn., was arrested after he abandoned a stolen 2024 Hyundai Venue on Ashford Avenue on the evening of Oct. 30. The theft had happened in Bridgeport. Police located him at the Dobbs Ferry Pavilion of St. John's Riverside Hospital on the morning of Oct. 31. He was charged with criminal possession of stolen property in the fourth degree, a felony. Officers Denis Brucciani and Stephen Betz made the arrest.

Check fraud: On Oct. 31, a Dobbs Ferry resident reported that the name of the payee was changed on a $10,657.07 check he mailed to the Town of Greenburgh inside the Ardsley Post Office on Sept. 21, and that an attempt was made to deposit the check.

HASTINGS

Container unlocked: The lock to the used cooking oil container outside Amjo's Deli, 290 Farragut Ave., was missing on the afternoon of Oct. 26.

Suspended license and registration: A 59-year-old Brooklyn resident was arrested for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree, and for a suspended vehicle registration, both misdemeanors, on Farragut Avenue on the morning of Oct. 27. Officer Rob Simmonds made the arrest.

Hit and run: The driver's-side rear quarter panel of a 2022 Toyota Corolla parked at the River Edge apartment complex on Maple Avenue was damaged between Oct. 26–27.

Suspended registration: A 46-year-old Mount Vernon resident was arrested for a suspended vehicle registration, a misdemeanor, on Farragut Avenue on the afternoon of Oct. 27.

Continued on page 19

Body found in river

DOBBS FERRY

The body of an unidentified man was recovered from the Hudson River, south of the Half Moon Restaurant, on the afternoon of Oct. 31. The body was spotted by a Metro-North train operator and recovered by the Tarrytown Volunteer Fire Department Marine Unit. The Westchester County Police Marine Unit took possession of the body and turned it over to the Westchester Medical Examiner's Office. No external trauma was observed, and foul play was not suspected, as of Nov. 4.

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The Hudson Independent



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ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS



Cait Conley snaps a selfie with a supporter at Club Infinity in Pleasantville.

Conley rides blue wave into Congress

'This was a patriotic fight'

BY TIM LAMORTE

PLEASANTVILLE Under the disco ball at Club Infinity, Cait Conley started her acceptance speech with fist pumps on Nov. 3, and then followed the speech with hugs on Nov. 4.

The Westchester resident was among the Democrats who flipped seats in the U.S. House of Representatives on Election Day, as her party seized majorities in the House and the Senate. Democrats last controlled the House in 2023 and the Senate in 2015.

Conley's opponent, Congressman Mike Lawler of Rockland, will be among the Republicans swept out of office in January. Lawler was first elected in 2022, and then re-elected in 2024, to represent the 17th Congressional District (NY-17), which includes all of Sleepy Hollow and part of Tarrytown.

Though Lawler conceded on Election Night, the New York State Board of Elections had not posted the final vote totals as of Nov. 5 due to a problem with voting machines in Westchester (see story on Page 1). NY-17 encompasses parts of Westchester and Dutchess as well as all of Putnam and Rockland.

Club Infinity was opened to invited guests at 8:30 p.m. For three hours and 15 minutes, attendees cheered as TVs showed CNN reporting Democratic victories, including the majorities in the House (10:05 p.m.) and the Senate (11:35 p.m.).

Conley was preceded at the podium by Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins, State Senator Pete Harckham, and State Assemblymembers Chris Burdick, Dana Levenberg, and MaryJane Shimsky. The latter four were re-elected that evening.

"This is not a blue wave, this is a blue tsunami," Burdick declared about the Democrats' dominance.

Following a phone call from Lawler, Conley walked to the podium to the AC/DC song "Thunderstruck" at around 11:45 p.m., and then started an 11-minute acceptance speech with jumping, fist pumping, and shouts of "We did it!". In response, the audience chanted her first name.

In 2025, after she launched her campaign, Conley was one of eight candidates seeking the Democratic nomination to oppose Lawler. That field had thinned to five by this past June, when she won the Democratic primary.

"Two years ago, almost, we started this movement because we knew that this district, and our country, deserve better," Conley said during her speech at the club. "We started this because we knew that America, the land of promise and opportunity, was on the wrong path. But we knew that if we came together, and we brought people together, that we could fix it. And tonight we showed that this fight, this wasn't a partisan fight, this was a patriotic fight."

The audience responded with chants of "U.S.A."

Conley graduated from West Point and served in the U.S. Army from 2007–23. Her career in government started as director for counterterrorism on the National Security Council from 2021-23, and then continued as a senior advisor to the director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency.

Following her speech, Conley waded into the crowd and was greeted with hugs, which she reciprocated. Half an hour later, Congressman George Latimer entered the club. Latimer was re-elected to his second term that evening as the representative for the 16th Congressional District, which includes the rest of Tarrytown as well as all of Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings, and Irvington.

"Welcome to Congress," Latimer told Conley as they hugged.

'He's good at math'

BY BARRETT SEAMAN

PEARL RIVER As election night watch parties go, the one held at the Pearl River Hilton for incumbent Congressman Mike Lawler was subdued, perhaps even apprehensive — not surprising given the parade of bad news for Republicans delivered all evening by Fox News on two TVs. In critical races across the country, Democrats were winning.

Around 10:20 p.m., Lawler's preliminary numbers jumped as Putnam and Rockland counties posted all but a few thousand of their remaining votes, pushing him into the lead. The decibel level in the hotel ballroom spiked; there was hope after all.

Missing from the equation were votes from Westchester, which was assumed to be Cait Conley territory, that would counter Lawler's command of his home turf in Rockland. But no one knew when those votes would be counted. When the polls opened Tuesday, a problem was discovered in the county's electronic voting system. The paper ballots designed to feed into scanners at polling stations around the county were being spat out as "invalid."

There was, however, a back-up plan. The Westchester Board of Elections had poll workers use orange bags to collect ballots that would be scanned later, which would delay reporting the results. Democratic party leaders, including County Executive Ken Jenkins

Continued on page 23

School districts set policies about immigrant students

BY AMY BOCHNER

REGION Earlier this year, the New York State Legislature codified students' right to a free public education regardless of their perceived or actual immigration status or that of their parents/guardians. New York State Education Law 3201-B requires that all public-school districts maintain a safe environment for immigrant students.

To support the initiative, the state Education Department developed and published official model procedures on its website. Public school districts had until Sept. 21 to verify to the education commissioner that they have developed and implemented procedures that comply with the modelled ones.

All five Rivertowns school districts have taken the steps required by the State related to this law, they told the Dispatch. Of the five, the Dobbs Ferry, Ardsley, and Hastings administrations have shared their protocols with their wider communities.

The law places prohibitions on schools and school personnel related to the treatment of students and disclosure of specific information about them. There are exceptions to these rules, which include if the action is in compliance with a court order or judicial warrant; is necessary to administer a public program or benefit sought by an individual; or when registering an individual to vote.

Schools and school personnel are banned from sharing or threatening to share any information, including records about a student's actual or perceived citizenship or immigration status or that of their parental figure to immigration authorities. This also includes the disclosure of personally identifiable information, like a name, Social Security number, physical description, associated addresses, etc. Schools and school personnel cannot seek or collect information about a student or their parental figures regarding their citizenship, immigration status, nationality, or country of origin. Designating immigration status, citizenship, nationality, or national origin as directory information is prohibited, as well as employing registration and enrollment requirements or procedures that disproportionately delay or deny the enrollment of non-citizen students.

The law requires that school districts develop and verify their procedures for reviewing and authorizing requests from immigration authorities to enter school property or to take custody of a student.

According to the law, no school or personnel can grant permission or facilitate access to non-public areas of school property or facilities to any immigration enforcement unless presented with a judicial warrant or is otherwise required by law. Civil immigration warrants, immigration detainers, notices to appear, or other non-judicial documents are

Continued on page 4

Expert outlines care and housing options for senior citizens

BY AMY BOCHNER

HASTINGS Gerontologist Rebecca Lippel offered advice on navigating housing as a senior citizen during the "Should I Stay or Should I leave?" workshop at the James Harmon Community Center on Oct. 15.

The event was hosted by the Hastings Senior Council, Senior Outreach Program, and Westchester County's Livable Communities. Lippel is the director of care management at LiveWell, which is based in Larchmont.

During her presentation, she recommended seniors take into consideration various factors when deciding where they want to live. These include the chronic health problems common with aging, who they want taking care of them/making decisions on their behalf, and identifying the safest place for them.

One option is living at home with support services. To accommodate health concerns, Lippel said staying at home may involve modifications, "whether it's grab bars, stair lifts, retrofitting the kitchen so that you can still cook, making sure that your bedroom is designed functionally for what your needs are at that moment."

Lippel shared a checklist of factors to consider about aging at home, including bill paying, transportation, medication management, prescription support, groceries, housekeeping, and support such as at-home physical and occupational therapy. She suggested a company called Care to You, which is a mobile emergency room that comes to your home. Another consideration is who will coordinate these details.

Lippel compared independent living communities to apartment buildings, where you can essentially "do what you want." The apartments have in-home amenities like housekeeping and maintenance. There are on-site optional activities and meals. More and more of these communities have started to add on-site home care.

Assisted living communities, which are governed and regulated by the New York State Department of Health, offer more help with daily activities. These typically provide 24-hour nursing care. Visiting physicians are also brought in. There are meals, activities, transportation, and other services.

The support is different based on the individual, and can change if the person needs more or less assistance. Lippel clarified common misunderstandings about assisted living.

"Assisted living is seen as intermittent care," she said. "It is not one to one. It is one to like 24 or so, depending on the place. So you always want to ask, 'What is your staffing ratio?'"

Memory care is typically housed within an assisted living community. These are dedicated to people dealing with cognitive changes, and often have one-to-one staff/resident ratio. A dementia diagnosis on one's medical form is required to live in a memory care unit. Lippel said that there is an emphasis on "modification and really encouraging that autonomy and keeping people engaged in what they want to do."

The final option Lippel discussed, skilled nursing facilities (SNF), address "more acute issues." These could be short-term stays for rehab after an injury or hospitalization, or long-term stays. The emphasis, she said, is on "round the clock clinical care [for when] your needs have exceeded what an assisted living facility or memory care community can safely provide for you."

When it comes to aging in place or finding a senior community, Lippel said to "make the best decision with the information you have at the moment."

"Start looking at places now, when you're able to take the tours, ask the questions," she continued. "Do that now, so that you are armed with the knowledge before your situation changes."

Lippel also encouraged seniors to ask for help.

"Don't do it alone," she said. "[There is] power in having a support team, knowing who you're going to call, building a plan for yourself, and don't forget to advocate for yourself."

Immigrant students

Continued from page 3

not considered sufficient authority to authorize access to school property or to authorize the release, transfer, surrender, escort, or otherwise deliver a student into custody.

Schools and school personnel are not allowed to comply with immigration enforcement solely on the basis that a student has a parental figure in detention. They are also not permitted to assist immigration authorities in locating, questioning, or detaining a student unless presented with court orders.

The law also requires school districts to develop and verify procedures for when the district becomes aware that a student's parental figure has been detained and can no longer pick them up.

The minimum requirement for this is that the district shall not contact the statewide central register for child abuse and maltreatment unless the district has made "reasonable efforts to contact all known individuals authorized to retrieve the student." The district must retain the student on school premises until they are picked up by an individual authorized by a parental figure.

There are few variations among protocols released by the Ardsley, Hastings, and Dobbs Ferry school districts, which align with the model provided by the State. Both Ardsley and Hastings named their superintendents as the designated administrator with sole responsibility for reviewing and authorizing or denying any request from immigration authorities to access school property or to take custody of a student. If the superintendent is not available, both districts place this responsibility on their assistant superintendents for curriculum and instruction.

These two districts require that designated administrators be notified immediately if immigration authorities arrive at the schools. In consultation with the district's legal counsel the designated administrators would review the request to determine whether they are accompanied by a valid judicial warrant or a court order.

The Dobbs Ferry protocol states that "the district will not grant or facilitate access to non-public areas of school property for immigration enforcement purposes unless presented with a valid judicial warrant or subpoena signed by a federal District Court judge or as otherwise required by law upon consultation with legal counsel."

The three school districts also provided protocols that aligned with the ones modelled for when a parent who is detained cannot pick up their student. In Ardsley and Hastings, these protocols include encouraging parents /guardians to update and expand emergency contact information.

The Tarrytown/Sleepy Hollow and Irvington school districts have not released their protocols to the public. Both Tarrytown Superintendent Ray Sanchez and Irvington Superintendent Mara Ratesic told the Dispatch the protocols have been shared with staff members only.

Ratesic summarized her district's protocol, stating that, as the superintendent, she is designated to handle requests by immigration authorities to enter school property, obtain student information, or take custody of a student. If an incident occurred, she continued, she "will request relevant documentation and work with District counsel to review the provided documentation before proceeding."

Local advocacy group NYCD 16/15 Indivisible is working with the New York Civil Liberties Union on ensuring schools are complying with the state law. Lisa Genn of Irvington, the co-chair of Indivisible's immigration committee, told the Dispatch the organization is "pushing the schools to do more to educate the communities about what those protections are." Indivisible members have also begun handing out fliers/resources to encourage people to ask their districts about these policies.

"[It is] more transparent and more conducive to safety and to protecting the rights of students and families for people to know what the policy is, because it actually also clues people into what their rights are," Genn said. "It serves the whole community to understand what the response looks like and how the school is going to keep everybody safe."

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ARDSLEY

Pumpkin Smash
Saturday, Nov. 7, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. A.F. Veteran Park, 11 Olympic Lane.
—
Fall Foliage Family Walk
Saturday, Nov. 7, 1 p.m. Teatown Lake Reservation, Ossining. RSVP at *ardsleyheart.org/fallwalk*.
—
Speed Puzzling
Saturday, Nov. 7, 1 p.m. Ardsley Public Library. *ardsleypubliclibrary.org*.
—
Annual Honor Banner Walk
Sunday, Nov. 8, 2 p.m., rain date Sunday, Nov. 15. Meet at Ardsley Public Library.
—
Planning Board Meeting
Monday, Nov. 9, 8 p.m. Village Hall.
—
Film Screening
Tuesday, Nov. 10, 11 a.m. Ardsley Public Library. Watch and discuss "Saving the Hidden Coral." Register: *peggym@ardsleylibrary.org*.
—
School Board Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 10, 7 p.m. High school library.
—
Municipal Office Closure
Wednesday, Nov. 11. In observance of Veterans Day.
—
Senior Event: Veterans Appreciation Luncheon
Wednesday, Nov. 11, noon–1 p.m. Community Center.

Diwali festival Nov. 14

The Ardsley Diwali Festival will mark the Hindu holiday with dancing, music, and crafts on Nov. 14. Hosted by the Ardsley Multicultural, Diversity & Inclusion Committee (MDIC), the celebration will take place at the Ardsley Middle School gym from 1–3 p.m. Diwali begins Nov. 8.

Rhonda Vanadia will co-chair the event for the second year in a row, along with Ramya Gunashekar for the first time. Last year's celebration drew at least 200 people, according to Vanadia.

"People came from all over," she said. "[There was] one family — the mom told me that this is such a nice community that she might even think about moving here because they do things like this, you know, to invest, so inclusive."

The festivities will feature a diya lighting ceremony and performances by local dancers and singers. Gunashekar, who is the owner of Shake It Off in Hartsdale, which offers children's dance, music, and arts programs, will be among the performers, along with her son. Also on the program will be dances choreographed by Suraj Shaw of Naach Dance Studio in Manchester, Conn., as well as dances by choreographers Aditi Chincholi and Bhavya Shree.

Momo's Café and Calcutta Wrap 'n' Roll of Ardsley will sell food. Other offerings will include a trivia contest, raffles, and crafts, like creating your own diya holder. The activities will end with a guided dance-along.

Vanadia encourages everyone in the community to attend the festival.

"I really just hope that they take away how beautiful learning about other cultures is," she said. "It's not just for people who celebrate Diwali. It's for everybody to just learn and experience Indian culture."

Those interested in performing or hosting an activity can sign up at *forms.gle/rD49tqHKT29BtUs96*

— Amy Bochner

Area All-State Concert

Twenty-five Ardsley High School students performed at the Area All-State Music Festival Concert at New Rochelle High School on Oct. 24–25.

The band included Aarav Joshi, Jake Shin, and Jlei Tomioka on trumpet as well as Meghan Berry on French horn, and Akshara Kumar on clarinet. The string orchestra included Jonathan Hung and Erin Park on cello as well as Jake Inoue, Shawn Lin, and Robert Park on violin. The symphony orchestra included Joseph Park and Avery Xu on violin as well as Serine Lee on viola, Zion Park on bass, and Ryan Sue in cello. The treble chorus included Aaliyah Bello and Kayla Tardibono.

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS



Studio RAI's conceptual renderings of Addyman Square

Village floats new ideas for square and park

Proposal adds parking, seating, and history

BY AMY BOCHNER

The Village of Ardsley is seeking feedback about new design concepts for Addyman Square, part of an effort to revitalize the village's downtown.

Through an email blast on Oct. 27, the Village shared a conceptual site plan and two renderings posted on the Village website. According to the email, the images seek to "illustrate potential approaches to enhancing the public spaces in the area."

The Addyman Square project will be funded by a $977,827 federal grant secured by then Congressman Jamaal Bowman in 2024. The area targeted for improvement is along Saw Mill River Road (Route 9A), with the site plan focused on Addyman Square and Legion Park.

Last November, the village board of trustees began discussing the project, hiring James J. Han Engineering to create an initial concept that was shared at two February meetings, during which business owners and residents contributed their input. The most recent plan and renderings were created by Studio RAI, an architectural design firm the Village hired last month to incorporate the community's feedback.

A common thread in residents' comments included the desire for a design that connected to the village's history, Mayor Steve Edelstein told the Dispatch. Prior to construction of the New York State Thruway (I-87) in the 1950s, Ardsley and Dobbs Ferry were connected by a street. The rendering includes a wall at the back of Addyman Square, which would block the Thruway and feature a photograph of the street from 1905. The image would be lined up to create the illusion that the street is still there.



Business owners and resident also shared feedback regarding the parking configuration. There are currently 34 parking spots — 23 in Addyman Square and 11 in Legion Park, across Saw Mill River Road. In the rendering, there are a total of 37 spots, including five additional spots at Legion Park, which would continue to host holiday lighting ceremonies.

In Addyman Square, the rendering depicts 21 parking spots. The two spaces closest to the Thruway would be removed and turned into an expanded seating area called "Addyman Plaza." The northeastern part of the Square would be incorporated into a separate seating area. Combined, these would provide space for 26 tables, interspersed with trees, light poles, bollards, and landscaping. Aesthetic choices include string lights throughout the Square and decorative clocks.

According to Edelstein, the board of trustees meeting on Dec. 7 will include a public discussion about the project to gather community input.

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DOBBS FERRY

Diwali Celebration
Saturday, Nov. 7, 10 a.m.–noon. Dobbs Ferry Public Library.
—
Rivertowns Repair Café
Saturday, Nov. 7, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Embassy Community Center, 60 Palisade St.

Build a Mini-Forest
Sunday, Nov. 8, 10 a.m.–noon. Chauncey Park. To sign up, visit *eventbrite.com* and search for Dobbs Ferry.
—
Pumpkin Smash
Sunday, Nov. 8, 1–3 p.m. Gould Park.

Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 10, 6:30 p.m. for the workshop and 7:30 for the regular meeting. Village Hall.
—
School Board Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 10, 7 p.m. Middle/high school library.
—

Municipal Office Closure
Wednesday, Nov. 11. In observance of Veterans Day.
—
Veterans Day Ceremony
Wednesday, Nov. 11, 11 a.m. Waterfront Park.
—
Gardening with Natives
Wednesday, Nov. 11, 6:30 p.m. Dobbs Ferry Public Library. Register: *dobbsferrylibrary.org*.
—
Mobile Shredder
Thursday, Nov. 12, 9 a.m.–noon. Waterfront Park.

More grants for MorDance

Dobbs Ferry-based MorDance has received a $30,000 grant from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), bringing the total in grants received this year to more than $3 million as the dance company prepares to renovate its 7,000-square-foot space at 145 Palisade Street.

Earlier this year MorDance was awarded $1 million as part of Dobbs Ferry's $4.5 million NY Forward grant to help revitalize the downtown area, and a $2 million Capital Projects Fund grant from the NYSCA. MorDance's latest $30,000 grant is for the purpose of establishing a reserve fund.

The nonprofit PwC Foundation also awarded MorDance a $25,000 Reimagine grant to support initiatives like free student matinees and educational outreach programs for under-resourced communities. MorDance has also received roughly $1 million in donated theatrical equipment.

MorDance founder Morgan McEwen of Hastings plans to turn the current space in the Hudson River Landing building, which MorDance moved into at the top of the year, into a multi-purpose venue. The final result will be a 150-seat theater that converts into studios for rehearsals, classes, and community programming, while the lobby will double as a gallery for visual art installations. The total cost of design and construction is an estimated $7 million.

"This has been a remarkable year of national recognition, artistic growth, and institutional investment," McEwen told the Dispatch. "We're establishing a permanent home for professional ballet in a region that has long lacked this kind of cultural infrastructure, while expanding opportunities for artists, students, and audiences."

McEwen is aiming to complete construction by the fall of next year, and plans to continue utilizing the space until construction begins, at which point rehearsals will be moved to a location yet to be determined. McEwen aims to raise the remaining funds to complete the design for the renovation by the end of the year, before construction can begin.

Next Saturday, Nov. 14, MorDance will host a ticketed open rehearsal of a new ballet inspired by the Salem Witch Trials. The work, choreographed by McEwen, will potentially premiere in 2028. For tickets, available for a "pay-what-you-wish" fee, visit mordance.org.

— Julian Michael Caldwell

Got news?
Email staff writer Julian Michael Caldwell at *julian@rivertownsdispatch.com*

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS



Volunteers removed wood chips on Nov. 1.

Volunteers to plant mini forest at park

Plan to follow method developed in the 1970s

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

The Dobbs Ferry Conservation Advisory Board (CAB) and Sustainable Dobbs are inviting residents to help prepare and plant a mini forest at Chauncey Park, near the corner of Stanley and Danforth avenues in Rivertowns Square. The CAB is hosting its second volunteer event this Sunday, Nov. 8, from 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

In the spring, the CAB plans to plant a 6-yard-by-7-yard Miyawaki mini forest, which is named after the Japanese botanist who developed the method for growing such a habitat in the 1970s.

The method calls for a ground cover, a shrub, a short tree, and a tall tree within 1 square yard of soil. The mini forest in Chauncey Park will have within 42 adjacent squares.

"They compete with each other for the sunlight as they're growing and it accelerates their growth so they can grow, in the best conditions, up to 10 times faster than those plants would grow in a regular forest," CAB chair Matthew Scott-Hansen told the Dispatch. "Because they're right next to each other, they try to grow faster than the 'guy' next to them so they can get the sunlight."

Meanwhile, before the ground freezes, the CAB and Sustainable Dobbs need volunteers to prepare a 42-square-yard area in a portion of the park where the CAB led efforts to spread wood chips donated by tree companies, which started to decay into topsoil.

Dobbs Ferry resident Larry Katzenstein, who had the idea for adding a mini forest to the park after planting one in his yard, sent samples of that topsoil to the Rutgers Soil Testing Laboratory, and was waiting for the results to see if nutrients need to be added to make the topsoil more suitable for plant growth.

> "Because they're right next to each other, they try to grow faster than the 'guy' next to them so they can get the sunlight."
>
> Conservation Advisory Board chair Matthew Scott-Hansen

"The planting is quick, but the hard part — and most time-consuming part — is digging the hole, and then you have to fill the hole with the proper soil," Scott-Hansen explained. "So, if the soil itself is not good enough you might need to add nutrients or other types of topsoil."

The process calls for organizing the layers of soil into piles. The first layer is the decaying wood chips, the second is the topsoil, and the third is clay. Each layer will be separated into different piles, then mixed together, either as is, or with added nutrients if necessary. After completing that preparation in the fall, volunteers will plant in the spring, and add fencing to protect the plants from deer.

The $5,600 project is being covered, in part, by a $1,800 grant from the Greater Irvington Land Trust awarded to Katzenstein and Sustainable Dobbs this year. The Village of Dobbs Ferry is contributing $3,000 it won in an environmental-themed scavenger hunt held in the Rivertowns this past spring.

Scott-Hansen credited Katzenstein as the driving force behind the mini forest initiative. In addition to supporting a thriving green space in Chauncey Park, the project is meant to encourage others to create their own. Scott-Hansen emphasized that 1 square yard of turf is needed to start.

To sign up for volunteer events on Nov. 8, Dec. 6, and Dec. 13, all from 10 a.m.–12 p.m., visit *eventbrite.com* and search for "Dobbs Ferry Chauncey Park mini forest".

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TIP OF THE MONTH

As heating season begins, replace batteries and test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. It's a simple task that provides year-round peace of mind. To prepare for winter, pick up ice melt and snow shovels before the first storm arrives.

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HASTINGS

Farmers Market
Saturday, Nov. 7, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Commuter Lot, Southside Ave. Weekly through Nov. 21. *hastingsfarmersmarket.org*.
—
Rivertown Thrift Pop-up
Saturday, Nov. 7, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. James Harmon Community Center. Clothing donations accepted until noon.
—
Vine Squad Lopping
Saturday, Nov. 7, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Exit 12 on Farragut Parkway. No experience req.
—
Hastings Flea
Sunday, Nov. 8, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Commuter Lot, Southside Ave.
—
Terry Ryan Memorial Run
Sunday, Nov. 8, 11 a.m. for the 5K and 10:15 a.m. for the 1-mile Fun Run. Start and finish at the high school.
—
Pumpkin Smash
Sunday, Nov. 8, 1–3 p.m. Gould Park, Dobbs Ferry.
—
Dignity for All Students Act
Monday, Nov. 9, 7 p.m. Hastings Public Library. Visit *ptsahastings.org* to register.
—
Municipal Office Closure
Wednesday, Nov. 11. In observance of Veterans Day.
—
New Parents Club
Friday, Nov. 13, 12:15 p.m. Hastings Public Library.

HEF celebrates 30th anniversary

The Hastings Education Foundation (HEF), which offers grants to programs and initiatives in the Hastings School District, is celebrating its 30th anniversary by extending outreach to students.

Since 1997, the nonprofit has provided more than $2 million in grants. Many have gone toward programs, initiated by teachers, that were not covered in the district budget. For the 2026–2027 school year, the organization awarded over $71,715 to programs across the school district.

For the first time, this year funding included Hastings High School (HHS) Student Grants, totaling $8,189 for student-led initiatives. For the Hastings Robotics Club, $2,000 went toward a competition pit. A $1,527 grant went toward the high school's new Jam Band Club, while a $1,602 grant extended the Jam Band Club to Farragut Middle School. A student-led Women's Menstrual & Female Packaging Initiative, through Project SHARE, received a $3,060 grant.

In addition to the HHS Student Grants, $24,000 was given to initiatives that benefit the entire district, including $19,000 for the development of an equity and action plan designed to improve student outcomes, and $5,000 for the Drs. Mamie & Kenneth Clark Commemoration project, which highlights the contributions of the late Hastings couple who were pivotal in the civil rights movement.

An additional $12,212 in grants were provided to Hillside Elementary School, which allowed for expansions to the imagination playground, which is a playspace made of blocks. At the high school, $27,314 funded initiatives such as a 2D video game design course, a poster printer for the Science Research program, as well as workshops in journalism, lighting, and design.

On April 30, 2027, HEF will celebrate its 30th anniversary during its annual spring fundraiser at Events at The Mills in Yonkers. For more details, visit *hastingseducationfoundation.org*.

Metro-North Hudson Line Project

The Hastings-on-Hudson Train Station is included in a $19.7 million project to protect the Metro-North Railroad's Hudson Line from the effects of climate change.

In September, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced that the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) awarded a contract covering the design phase of a project focused on the stretch between Spuyten Duyvil and Hastings.

The project's design phase will be a joint venture between engineering consultant firms STV and WSP, with construction expected to begin in 2029.

— Amy Bochner

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS

$13M in grants to fund sidewalks and flood control

Downtown and Boutilliers Brook area to benefit

BY AMY BOCHNER

The Village of Hastings received two grants totaling nearly $13 million for infrastructure improvements, from sidewalk upgrades to flood prevention measures. Village Manager Mary Beth Murphy shared the announcement at the village board of trustees meeting on Oct. 22.

On Oct. 14, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced that over $97 million in funding had been awarded to more than 30 communities across New York State for projects promoting alternative, environmentally friendly modes of travel, like walking or biking. According to the press release, these awards were made available through the Federal Highway Administration's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and are being administered by the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT).

The Village of Hastings received $6 million for sidewalk replacement and pedestrian infrastructure upgrades in the downtown.

The Village previously received community development block grants from Westchester County to replace sidewalks on Main Street, Spring Street, and Warburton Avenue. The grant from the State will fund sidewalks for the western side of Maple Avenue/Southside Avenue, from the Municipal Building driveway to across from 153 Southside Avenue. The funding also includes the east side of Southside from Spring Street to Washington Avenue and the east side of Warburton Avenue from Main Street to Villard Avenue.

Once the contract is signed, a project design will be made, which will need approval from the DOT.

> "The current system cannot handle even minimal storm events."
>
> Village Manager Mary Beth Murphy

The Village also received a $6.85 million grant from the County for Boutilliers Brook Watershed Flood Mitigation. This project seeks to address flooding in the 163-acre Boutilliers Brook drainage basin, which spans Rosedale Avenue to the Saw Mill River, and affects residential properties on numerous streets in between.

As Murphy described, "The current system cannot handle even minimal storm events. Surcharging of the system overflows the curbs and driveway entrances and enters residents' homes."

As part of the project, a wet extended detention pond would be created to divert water around flooded areas and improve downstream drainage. According to Murphy, 44 acres of drainage from the west side of Farragut Avenue and Farragut Parkway, which currently enters Boutilliers Brook near Green Street, will be diverted to the detention pond.

As for the north side of Farragut Parkway and Farragut Avenue, the project will increase the size of the conveyance system in Boutilliers Brook by replacing undersized culverts and channels.

The project includes other drainage improvements, like upsizing and adding drainage infrastructure within and around Rosedale Avenue and Hamilton Avenue. An additional detention/water quality pond is also proposed.

The total cost for this project is $13,622,402. The Village has also received two other grants for this project. One is a $1.092 million federal Environmental Protection Agency grant, which was secured through a Congressional appropriations bill. The other is a $2.5 million Green Resiliency Grant from the New York State Environmental Facilities Corp.

With these three grants, the cost to the Village is currently projected to be $3.2 million. Murphy stated at the meeting that the Village is working on getting other grants as well.



Run for fun (and funds)
—
Children and parents participated in the Hastings PTSA's annual Hillside Halloween Fun Run, which started and ended at Hillside Elementary School on the morning of Oct. 31. The event was a fundraiser for the PTSA, which supports school district programs.

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Friday, Nov. 13: 10-2pm
Saturday, Nov. 14: 10-2pm

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IRVINGTON

Local Forest Stewardship
Saturday, Nov. 7, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Meet at the O'Hara Nature Center, 170 Mountain Road. *register.capturepoint.com/villageofirvington*.
—
Farmers Market
Sunday, Nov. 8, 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Main Street School, 101 Main St. The market convenes weekly through Nov. 22. *irvingtonfarmersmarket.org*.
—
Library Board Meeting
Monday, Nov. 9, 6 p.m. Irvington Public Library.
—
School Board Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 10, 7:30 p.m. Campus Presentation Room at Irvington High School. *irvingtonschools.org*.
—
Evening Book Club
Tuesday, Nov. 10, 7:30–8:30 p.m. Irvington Public Library. Discuss "A Man Called Ove" by Fredrik Backman.
—
Municipal Office Closure
Wednesday, Nov. 11. In observance of Veterans Day.
—
Veterans Day Ceremony
Wednesday, Nov. 11, 10:45 a.m. Memorial Plaza on Main Street.
—
"Nature's Narrative"
Through December. Martucci Gallery at Irvington Public Library. Features Dawn Leone's visual journey through the four seasons.

Police to add to network of security cameras

The Village of Irvington is spending $95,968.32 to expand the police department's public safety camera system to five new locations. The board of trustees approved the expansion through a new contract with Elmsford-based Stratagem Security during their public meeting on Monday, Nov. 2.

Additional cameras will be located in front of 120 Main Street, near South Dearman Street; at Croton Place, where it will cover school entrances; at the corner of Main Street next to the parks and recreation department building; at the corner of South Dutcher Street and Main Street; and at the entrance to Matthiessen Park.

"The police chief mentioned to me that there were several incidents in which they were able to follow and apprehend someone based upon the cameras that they have," Village Administrator Charles Hessler said during the meeting.

Police Chief Francis Pignatelli explained that the cameras are meant to cover blind spots in the police department's existing camera system, so they can better track incidents.

"The cameras will provide an additional resource to assist with investigations involving motor vehicle accidents, traffic-related incidents, and other calls for service that routinely occur in these locations," Pignatelli wrote the Dispatch. "Having access to video footage can help establish what occurred, identify involved parties, and provide valuable information during investigations."

The police chief emphasized that the cameras being installed are different from Flock cameras that have been installed in various parts of the country and have become the subject of much debate. Flock cameras have the ability to automatically scan and record license plate numbers of passing vehicles.

"The additional cameras being proposed by the Village are strictly public safety cameras," Pignatelli emphasized. "They do not utilize any specialized software or technology to read, identify, or record license plates. They simply provide video coverage of designated public areas to assist the police department with public safety and investigative needs."

The expansion is being paid for by funds from the Village's capital budget.

— Julian Michael Caldwell

Got news?
Email staff writer Julian Michael Caldwell at *julian@rivertownsdispatch.com*

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS



Brittany Fernandez at Stillroom

Stillroom offers refuge for productivity

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

A focus lounge in a century-old carriage house on North Broadway is the newest local venue to provide a quiet space in which to get work done outside a home or office.

Stillroom, which opened in August, is the brainchild of attorney Brittany Fernandez, who decided to pivot from a legal career to entrepreneurship less than a year after passing the bar exam.

New Business Opening

The 29-year-old is a lifelong resident of Westchester who grew up in Yonkers and moved to Tarrytown in 2025. She was inspired to launch Stillroom based on her own experience as a law student at Pace University, where she searched for spaces where she could concentrate at all times of the day.

"The key for me is just taking away decision fatigue — that's even why we do reservation-based, because sometimes me, myself, I'd spend 2 hours just figuring out where to go," Fernandez told the Dispatch.

At Stillroom, customers reserve where they wish to work, down to the specific seat near a window or wall. The space holds around 20-25 people. For $15 per hour, someone can reserve a spot at Stillroom, which also comes with unlimited access to coffee and snacks. A private table, which can fit two people, is $30 per hour, and the enclosed private suite, which can seat three or four people, is $45 per hour. Beyond refreshments, reservations also come with access to other amenities to help with productivity.

"Ease is in our tagline because we really want it to be at the forefront," Fernandez explained. "It's hospitality-focused, everything is there for you. We have chargers, we have highlighters, we have printing — anything that you would possibly forget."

Stillroom's hours stretch until 11 p.m. Monday through Saturday, when libraries and coffee shops are closed. The lounge also offers flexibility with its hours for people who make advanced reservations over the phone, with Fernandez recalling a time she made accommodations for nursing students who wanted a place to study from 11 p.m. until 5 a.m. Reservations during normal hours are typically made through Stillroom's online portal.

Fernandez passed the New York State bar exam in November of last year and was working as an associate attorney with an insurance defense firm in Port Chester

Continued on page 23



Ghost Light
—
Dancer Sydney Rosenberg emerges from under the curtain during the performance of "Ghost Light" at the Irvington Theater on Oct. 30. The theater's director, Katie Wong of Dobbs Ferry, produced the event, which also featured film, music, poetry, and theater.


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SLEEPY HOLLOW

TaSH Farmers Market
Saturday, Nov. 7, 8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Patriots Park. Bilingual storytime, 10:30–11 a.m. The market convenes weekly through Nov. 21. For details, visit *tashfarmersmarket.org* and follow the market on Facebook.

Jazz Vocalist Pamela Knowles
Saturday, Nov. 7, 2:30 p.m. Warner Library.
—
Sleepy Hollow Street Fair
Sunday, Nov. 8, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Beekman Avenue.
—

Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 10, 7 p.m. Village Hall. Visit *sleepyhollowny.gov* for the link to watch live.
—

Municipal Office Closure
Wednesday, Nov. 11. In observance of Veterans Day.
—
Fostering Pets: Education with SPCA
Thursday, Nov. 12, 6 p.m. Warner Library.
—

Craft Circle for Adults
Thursday, Nov. 12, 6:30–8:30 p.m. Warner Library. Registration required at *warnerlibrary.org*.

SHHS Students of the Month

Sleepy Hollow High School named its September Students of the Month, nominated by teachers for their progress and performance in class. The honorees were ***Isabella Kaplewicz*** (English); ***Stephany Illescas*** (World Language); ***Felipe Bamaca Cabrera*** (English as a New Language); ***Aaron Guaman*** and ***Alexsandro Berrezueta Jr.*** (Social Studies); ***Duncan Barron*** (Mathematics); ***Nicole Asmal, Sofia Balestri, Jacob Fox, Olin Keough, Ryder Hidalgo,*** and ***Nicholas Sanchez-Barranco*** (Science); ***Jaina Wong*** (Art, Multi-Media and Technology); ***Michael Walker*** (Performing Arts); and ***Robert Gonzalez*** and ***Dalia Keough*** (Health and Physical Education).

PBA to hold annual coat drive

Sleepy Hollow Police Benevolent Association, in partnership with Community Wardrobe, is collecting new and gently used winter clothing for adults and children. Donations are being accepted daily, from 8 a.m.–8 p.m., at Sleepy Hollow Police Headquarters, 28 Beekman Ave. Community members in need of winter clothing can pick up donations on the second floor of Village Hall on Friday, Nov. 13, noon–6 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 14–15, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Collection seeks hygiene products and school supplies

Neighbors Helping Neighbors is teaming up with local food pantries to collect hygiene products and school supplies for community members in need. Items include shampoo, soap, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, diapers, and deodorant, as well as school supplies for students in pre-K through 12th grade, including folders, pens, binders, notebooks, sketchpads, pencils, and markers. Donations can be dropped off at Village Hall, 28 Beekman Ave., c/o Diana Loja, through Dec. 31.

National Merit honorees

Sleepy Hollow High School senior ***Marlow Goldsmith*** was named a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist, while classmate ***Vera Freeman*** was named a commended student.

'The Path to Progress'

Sleepy Hollow High School sophomore ***Briana Ganan Encalad*** earned second place in the 2026 Benference Creative Expression Competition, hosted by the Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center. Briana paired her essay, "The Path to Progress: Dismantling Disinformation and Protecting Immigrant Families," with a visual piece, using writing and art to explore human rights issues.

—Laura Schiller

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS

VOLUNTEER of the MONTH



Linda Doughery outside Phelps Hospital

Cancer survivor supports others in treatment

BY LAURA SCHILLER

Linda Dougherty still returns for walks to the pristine overlook at Rockwood Hall, the spot where she went seven years ago after learning she had breast cancer.

The Tarrytown resident had just exited the Breast Care Center at Phelps Hospital, where she had met with an oncologist and breast surgeon following her mammogram that same day. She had suspected something was wrong after finding a lump during a self-exam in the shower. Still, nothing prepared her to hear she had Stage 2 breast cancer.

"I walked up the hill, to Rockwood — you know, that little part that's behind the hospital. And I just looked out across the river and said, 'OK, well, the mountains haven't fallen into the sea. You know, the world is still the same.' It kind of steadied me a little bit," Dougherty recalled.

Within a couple of weeks, she had met the doctors on her treatment team. Starting in February 2019, Dougherty underwent five months of chemotherapy to shrink the tumor, a double mastectomy, and radiation. She opted for the double mastectomy, as opposed to more conservative surgery, in part because genetic testing revealed a mutation that increased her risk of developing cancer in her other breast.

During treatment, Dougherty continued working part time serving diners at Lexington Square Café in Mount Kisco, learning what she could manage day by day. The support she received from co-workers and loved ones helped her through a difficult year.

Now 70 and cancer free, she remains grateful for the care she received at Phelps, the hospital that has been part of her life from the beginning. Her mother gave birth to her there the year the hospital opened. Many decades later, her mother died at Phelps from a heart condition while Dougherty was undergoing cancer treatment.

Today, Dougherty returns to Phelps' infusion center once a week as a volunteer, offering support to women facing the same protocol she did.

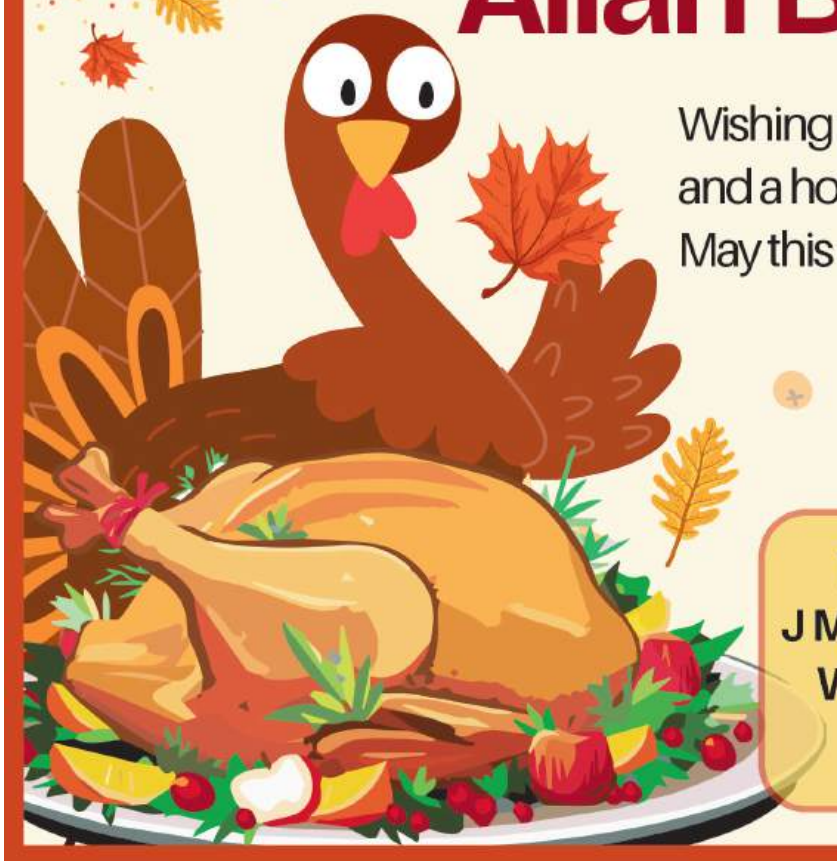
"During my treatment, there was one volunteer there. She had been a breast cancer survivor," Dougherty said, explaining that having someone beside her who wasn't family was comforting. "It's overwhelming to have cancer treatment, and you think about it all

Continued on page 23



Day of the Dead
—
Estampas Folkloricas Mexicanas perform during the annual Day of the Dead Festival held at the municipal parking lot on Beekman Avenue, across from Village Hall, on Sunday, Nov. 1. Produced by Diana Loja, the event featured dance, music, and vendors as well as an altar for remembered deceased loved ones.

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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 a 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 thats 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 drinks 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 much more manageable than drinking tons of juice!



Dr. Julia Abend
DDS | Parlor Dental



TaSH Farmers Market
Saturday, Nov. 7, 8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Patriots Park. Bilingual storytime, 10:30–11 a.m. The market convenes weekly through Nov. 21. *tashfarmersmarket.org*.
—
Jazz Vocalist Pamela Knowles
Saturday, Nov. 7, 2:30 p.m. Warner Library.
—
Board of Trustees Work Session
Monday, Nov. 9, 6 p.m. Village Hall.
—
Zoning Board Meeting
Monday, Nov. 9, 7 p.m. Village Hall.
—
Municipal Office Closure
Wednesday, Nov. 11. In observance of Veterans Day.
—
Veterans Day Ceremony
Wednesday, Nov. 11, 10:30 a.m. Patriots Park.
—
Fostering Pets: Education with SPCA
Thursday, Nov. 12, 6 p.m. Warner Library.
—
Craft Circle for Adults
Thursday, Nov. 12, 6:30–8:30 p.m. Warner Library. Register: *warnerlibrary.org*.
—
Community Donation Drive
Drop off donations of hygiene products, diapers, and school supplies at Sleepy Hollow Village Hall, 28 Beekman Ave.

Library mold remediation

Tarrytown officials are seeking estimates for mold remediation at the library after testing detected a problem in the building. During the Oct. 28 board of trustees work session, officials said they plan to obtain three quotes for the work, an unanticipated expense that could cost in the high $20,000s to low $30,000s. According to one official, the mold is expected to be stirred up primarily during the remediation work. The issue raises health concerns for library employees and the public. The cost and next steps are still being determined.

'Pizza for a Purpose'

Enjoy a slice and vote for your favorite local pizza spot while supporting neighbors in need at "Pizza for a Purpose" on Tuesday, Nov. 10, from 5:30–7:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 56 S. Broadway. Admission is free with a donation of at least one personal-care item, such as toiletries, diapers, or feminine hygiene products, to benefit local food pantries. The event is organized by the Rotary Club of the Tarrytowns, with pizza sponsored by Kendal on Hudson. Donations can also be dropped off at Allan Block Insurance, 24 S. Broadway.

Child care center fundraiser

The Elizabeth Mascia Child Care Center will hold its fall fundraiser on Thursday, Nov. 12, from 6:30–9:30 p.m. at Captain Lawrence Brewing Company in Elmsford. Proceeds will help fund activities, programs, and other opportunities for children at the center. Tickets cost $160. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit masciachildcare.org/fall-event-bash-at-the-brewery.

Painter exhibits in Ossining

Tarrytown resident and abstract painter ***Jacqueline Volkell*** is exhibiting her work in a solo show at the Ossining Public Library, 53 Croton Ave., through Nov. 25. The paintings are on view in the lower-level art gallery during library hours. Volkell's layered oil paintings draw inspiration from the natural and manmade world around her, including trees, houses, and streets, as well as abstract florals and forms.

Parking rules and Sunday fees

During an Oct. 28 board of trustees work session, Tarrytown officials discussed ways to simplify parking rules and signage for village lots to make regulations easier to understand and enforce. Trustees also discussed the possibility of charging visitors for Sunday parking at the train station lots, which have traditionally been free on Sundays and holidays. No final decision was made.

— Laura Schiller

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS



Peter Moriarty, Mari Gordon, and Rob Troiano

'Earnest' offers a playful mockery of manners

M&M to stage shows at Lyndhurst Carriage House

—

BY LAURA SCHILLER

"I think people need a chance to laugh at and make fun of other silly people, and there's no message other than don't take yourself so seriously," said Michael Muldoon, one of the founders of M&M Performing Arts and director of the company's upcoming production of Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest" at the Carriage House at Lyndhurst.

"This is an hour-and-a-half of a lot of fun with snooty characters in beautifully dressed Victorian costumes," he said.

Performances run Nov. 6–11 and Nov. 13–22, with shows at 7 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and 2 and 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

In Wilde's comedy, two men pretend to be named Ernest to win the affection of two women who insist on marrying men with that name. Both men have a talent for bending the truth to suit their own purposes. Neither is particularly earnest.

"These characters are the exact opposite of serious and sincere," Muldoon told the Dispatch. "They're deceitful, they're careless, they're playful."

Muldoon calls the play one of the greatest comedies in English-language theater. Its humor comes from Wilde's witty dialogue and sharp observations of upper-class society.

"It's people who are very serious about very trivial things," Muldoon said. The characters' self-importance, he said, is part of what makes the play so entertaining for actors and audiences.

M&M, named for Muldoon and his wife, Melinda, was founded by the couple — Yorktown natives who met in high school — in 2000. In 2012, M&M became the resident theater company at Lyndhurst, where it has presented a range of shows including its annual holiday production of "Mr. Dickens Tells a Christmas Carol."

For Muldoon, one of the pleasures of directing — and watching — "The Importance of Being Earnest" at Lyndhurst is the Carriage House itself, which places the audience on three sides of the stage, close to the actors.

"There's not a bad seat, and it's a very intimate space that I think serves the play well," Muldoon said. Lyndhurst has served as a set for the HBO series "The Gilded Age."

Wilde's play opens in the parlor of Algernon Moncrieff's London flat before moving to the garden at the country home of Jack Worthing. Algernon, played by Tarrytown resident Peter Moriarity, is a witty, mischievous bachelor who invents a fictional identity to escape his social obligations. His friend Jack leads a double life of his own, using the name Ernest when he travels to London to escape the responsibilities of his respectable country life.

Their lies and mistaken identities complicate their romantic pursuits. Jack falls for Gwendolen Fairfax, one of the young women determined to marry a man named Ernest, while Algernon becomes interested in Cecily Cardew, Jack's young ward, who is also intent upon an Ernest.

The costumes and setting reflect the late-Victorian era in which Wilde wrote the play. First staged in 1895, it makes light of the era's rigid mores and expectations around marriage.

Muldoon, who has performed in and directed "The Importance of Being Ernest" several times, says it gets funnier with each encounter.

One of his favorite moments is the famous tea scene, in which Gwendolen and Cecily discover that they each believe they are engaged to a man named Ernest. Their friendly meeting turns into a battle of polite smiles and thinly veiled jealousy as the women realize they are rivals for the same man.

"They start off as new best friends, and it turns from there," Muldoon said.

As for what happens next, Muldoon laughed. "I can't tell you. I'm not going to give it away in print."

Tickets are $49 for general admission and are available at *Lyndhurst.org*. The production is appropriate for ages 10 and up, and parking is free.

HAPPENINGS IN THE RIVERTOWNS

The Agenda

EDITED BY JENNIFER GOLD

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7

RiverArts Studio Tour

11 a.m.–5 p.m. / Free. Explore more than 80 artists' studios, galleries, and creative spaces throughout the Rivertowns. Also Sunday, noon–4 p.m. For a map, visit *2026studiotour.riverarts.org*

Pumpkin Smash

ARDSLEY

11 a.m.–1 p.m. / Free. A. F. Veteran Park, 11 Olympic Lane.

Diwali Celebration

DOBBS FERRY

10 a.m.–noon / Free. Dobbs Ferry Public Library, 55 Main St. Features stories, snacks, and henna tattoos. *dobbsferrylibrary.org*

Book Signing

DOBBS FERRY

11 a.m.–noon / Free. Picture Book at HudCo, 145 Palisade St.. Jeremiah Dine signs his new photography book, "Anne-Marie." *picturebookny.com*

Rivertowns Repair Café

DOBBS FERRY

11 a.m.–3 p.m. / Free. Embassy Community Center, 60 Palisade St. *repaircafehv.org*

Rivertown Thrift Pop-up

HASTINGS

10 a.m.–3 p.m. James Harmon Community Center, 44 Main St., lower level. Clothing donations accepted until noon.

Fall Benefit Concert

IRVINGTON

7:30 p.m. / $30–$250. Irvington Theater, 85 Main St. Broadway stars perform with Good Company Performing Arts Center's adult and youth troupes. Tickets: *irvingtontheater.com*

Jazz Vocalist Pamela Knowles

TARRYTOWN

2:30 p.m. / Free. Warner Library, 121 N. Broadway. *warnerlibrary.org*

"The Importance of Being Earnest"

TARRYTOWN

2 and 5 p.m. / $49. Lyndhurst, 635 S. Broadway. M&M Performing Arts Company presents Oscar Wilde's comedy. Performances through Nov. 22. Appropriate for ages 12 and up. *lyndhurst.org*

Magic and Cocktails with Noah Levine

SLEEPY HOLLOW

4 and 6 p.m. / $75. Philipsburg Manor, 381 N. Broadway. Recommended for ages 16+. *hudsonvalley.org*

High-Energy Modern Jazz

TARRYTOWN

7 and 9 p.m. / $35, $30 for students. Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. Saxophonist and band leader Patrick Barley performs with his quartet. Also *jazzforumarts.org*



Laurel Harris will be one of three Broadway stars who will perform at a benefit concert for the Good Company Performing Arts Center at the Irvington Theater on Nov. 7.

Comedy: Marc Maron

TARRYTOWN

8 p.m. / $56–$66. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. *tarrytownmusichall.org*

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8

Dobbs Ferry/Hastings Pumpkin Smash

DOBBS FERRY

1–3 p.m. / Free. Gould Park. Bring pumpkins for family-friendly bowling, target toss, crafts, costume swap, and candy collection.

Jewelry Trunk Show Benefit

DOBBS FERRY

1–5 p.m. / Free admission. 10 Cricket Lane. Shop the jewelry of Elyssa Bass Designs, and a portion of proceeds will be donated to Broadway Training Center. *broadwaytraining.com*

Early Childhood Center Open House

DOBBS FERRY

2–4 p.m. / Free. Greenburgh Hebrew Center, 515 Broadway. RSVP by emailing *EccDirector@ghcny.org*. *ghcecc.org*

Terry Ryan Memorial Run

HASTINGS

11 a.m. / $20. Start and finish the 5K at Hastings High School. Register at *hastingsrecreation.org*

Hastings Flea

HASTINGS

10 a.m.–4 p.m. (rain or shine). Zinsser Commuter Lot, Southside Avenue (across from the train tracks). Outdoor bazaar plus food truck treats and live music. *thehastingsflea.com*

Mahjong Tournament

TARRYTOWN

12:45–5:30 p.m. / $40, $30 for members. Shames JCC, 371 S. Broadway. *shamesjcc.org*

Modern Jazz

TARRYTOWN

4 and 6 p.m. / $25, $20 for students. Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. Featuring Cecil Alexander on guitar and Ari Alexander on vocals. *jazzforumarts.org*

Open Jam Session

TARRYTOWN

8–10 p.m. / Free. Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. Hosted by Hastings resident and jazz pianist David Janeway and his trio. *jazzforumarts.org*

Sleepy Hollow Street Fair

SLEEPY HOLLOW

10 a.m.–5 p.m. Beekman Avenue. Outdoor market with 145 vendors, food, music, and shows. *sleepyhollowtarrytownchamber.com*

MONDAY NOVEMBER 9

Behind the Scenes with Andy Cohen

TARRYTOWN

6:30–7:45 p.m. / $80–$110. Shames JCC, 371 S. Broadway. Includes a signed copy of his book, "Andy's Bravo Scrapbook: Twenty Years Behind the Scenes of the Real Housewives and the Bravoverse." *shamesjcc.org*

Line Dancing

TARRYTOWN

7:15 p.m. / $100. Senior Center, 240 Main St. Four-week series with lessons and country tunes. For ages 18+. Register: *tarrytown.recdesk.com*

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10

Picture Book: Book Club

DOBBS FERRY

8 p.m. / Free. Picture Book at HudCo, 145 Palisade St., Suite 200. Discuss "Switzy" by Emma Cline. RSVP at *picturebookny.com/calendar*

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

TARRYTOWN

5:30–7:30 p.m. First Baptist Church, 56 S. Broadway. Drop off personal hygiene items to donate, and get a slice of pizza. *sleepyhollow tarrytownchamber.com*

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11

School's Out Mini-Camp

HASTINGS

9 a.m.–noon / $80. The Maker Hive, 416 Warburton Ave. Grades K–4. : *makerhive.space*

School Holiday Drop-In

IRVINGTON

10 a.m.–4 p.m. / $80, $95 for extended day until 5 p.m. New Kawaii, One Bridge St. For grades K–8. Register at *newkawaii.com*

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12

Science-on-Hudson Lecture

IRVINGTON

7 p.m. / Free. Nevis Science Center, 136 S. Broadway. Learn about the science behind the theremin, an instrument that transforms invisible electromagnetic fields into sound. Register at *nevis.columbia.edu*

Trivia Night

TARRYTOWN

7:30 p.m. / $10. Shames JCC, 371 S. Broadway. *shamesjcc.org*

Contemporary Blues: Samantha Fish

TARRYTOWN

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

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 13

Talking Stick Song Circle

HASTINGS

4–6 p.m. / Free. The Good Witch Coffee Bar, 134 Southside Ave. *destinationhastings.org*

Married By the Mob

TARRYTOWN

7 p.m. / $150. Tarrytown House Estate, 49 East Sunnyside Lane. Immersive wedding experience with dinner and dancing. *tarrytownhouseestate.com*

Submit events: *rivertownsdispatch.com/contact-us*

BY KIDS

The Little Dispatch

FOR KIDS

Digging Back 10,000 Years at Wickers Creek: A Visit to a Native American Site

by Leon R., age 8, with additional reporting by Grey K., age 11, and the Little Dispatch team. Illustrations by Grey K., age 11



View of the Wickers Creek site from Landing Drive, Dobbs Ferry.

Did you know Native Americans used to live at a site in Dobbs Ferry called Wickers Creek?

It is located behind Mercy University near the train tracks and Hudson River. People have lived near Wickers Creek for at least 10,000 years. The people are called the Weckquaesgeek, which sounds like Wickers Creek in English. The Native Americans lived near Wickers Creek because it was a freshwater creek that was located near a saltwater river, making a lot of different resources appear there. People could get water and food from Wickers Creek and the Hudson River.

The Weckquaesgeek were semi-nomadic, meaning they sometimes would stay in the same place, and other times move to different places. They lived in wigwams and longhouses. When they had waste, they would put it into a pile. Today we call this a shell midden, a pile where people threw out stuff such as old broken spears, bows and arrows, and a lot of oyster shells. The Native Americans who lived at Wickers Creek were taken over, killed, or pushed out by the English, Dutch, and other European people.

> "The residents of Dobbs Ferry worked really hard so that the public would have the right to visit [Wickers Creek]. People signed petitions. People marched. People made signs. People voted for a different mayor. People made speeches... People went to court and argued in front of judges, and now we have the right to be here."
>
> – Alan Harris, Friends of the Wickers Creek Archaeological Site

Archaeologists and other people dug up the site many times. They found empty oyster shells and dull projectile tips, like arrowheads, in the pile. Today, these items are in an exhibit displayed at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library. To learn more, you can go to the Dobbs Ferry Public Library or attend a Friends of the Wickers Creek Archaeological Site tour.

LEARN MORE

The Oysters Came Back: A Short History of Oysters in the Hudson River

BY LUIZA P.-M., AGE 6



There used to be a lot of oysters in the Hudson River. Then a lot were killed because of pollution and over-harvesting. So, scientists protected oysters in the river. Today, at least six million oysters live in the Hudson River near the Tappan Zee Bridge. The oyster reefs protect other species of river creatures. Oysters keep the Hudson River healthy and clean.

Helmets On! Five Great Places to Bike in or near the Rivertowns

BY RILEY C., AGE 7

Biking is a great activity because you get exercise, which is good for you, and you can spend time with family, which is fun! To have a good time and stay safe, you need an adult to ride with you, a helmet, sneakers, and a good place to bike. A good place for biking will have spots to take a break, no cars, a smooth surface, and not too much water or dirt on the path. Some good biking spots near us are:



Blue Mountain Reservation in Peekskill, because it has signs so you know what trail you're on.
Tarrytown Lakes Extension, because it's short. Only go if you are a really good rider because it's near cars for some of the way.
Walkway Over the Hudson in Poughkeepsie, because it has a good view of the Catskills and the Hudson Highlands.
Bronx River Parkway, because it is good for beginner riders.
Old Croton Aqueduct Trail, because it's closest to us.

EASY COOKING FOR KIDS: HOW TO MAKE TACOS

BY STELLA N., AGE 7



INGREDIENTS

- Taco seasoning
- Shredded cheese
- Cooked beans
- Cooked rice
- Chopped lettuce
- Chopped tomatoes
- Salsa
- Cooked meat
- Taco shells

HOW TO MAKE IT

1. First, get a pan. Next, put the meat on a pan. Then, with an adult, put the pan on the stove and set it to medium. Put taco seasoning on the meat. Take the pan and meat off the stove.
2. Look at the back of the rice box to see how to make it and follow the directions.
3. Lay out the taco shell on a plate.
4. Spread the salsa on the taco shell. Add tomatoes, beans, cheese, lettuce, meat, and rice.
5. Fold it up.
6. Eat it.

THE CANDY REPORT:

Halloween Edition

Little Dispatch reporters asked customers in line at The Village Confectionary in Sleepy Hollow: What's your favorite Halloween candy?



Courtney & daughter
From: Richmond, Va.
Candy Corn





Jordan
From: Jersey Shore
Reese's Pieces





Jonathan
From: Queens, NYC
Reese's Peanut Butter Cups





Harper
From: Westchester
Candy Corn





Erin
From: NYC
Kit Kat bars

Final score: Candy corn and Team Reese's tie with two votes each!

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Classies

MARKET.RIVERTOWNSDISPATCH.COM/CLASSIES

PUBLIC NOTICES

—

Fifty-Three Thirty Productions LLC. Filed 9/29/26. Office: Westchester Co. SSNY desig. as agent for process & shall mail to: 230 S. Bedford Rd, Chappaqua, NY 10514. Purpose: Entertainment.

—

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AMENDING CHAPTER 200 OF THE ARDSLEY VILLAGE CODE TO ESTABLISH A "DOWNTOWN SMART GROWTH ZONING DISTRICT"

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Ardsley will hold a public hearing on November 16, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. or soon thereafter at Village Hall-Court Room, 507 Ashford Avenue, Ardsley, NY 10502 to discuss amending Chapter 200 of the Ardsley Village Code for the establishment of a "Downtown Smart Growth Zoning District".

Please check the calendar on the Village website for meeting details at www.ardsleyvillage.gov or email the Village Clerk at arocco@ardsleyvillage.gov.

The meeting will be able to be seen live on Channel 75 (Cablevision) or Channel 32/35 (Verizon).

Members of the public can also listen to the meeting via Zoom platform by dialing via phone+1 929 205 6099, Webinar ID: 885 1839 1638 Passcode: 965905 or Join Zoom Meeting here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88518391638?pwd=tS9MlGzvCcvvG6red8z3pbegjhXFEx.1 Meeting ID: 885 1839 1638 Passcode: 965905

Further details on this amendment is available at the Clerk's office, 507 Ashford Avenue, Ardsley, NY during normal office hours Monday through Friday 9:00 am–4:00 pm.

Written comments may be sent to the Village Clerk at arocco@ardsleyvillage.gov or sent via regular mail to 507 Ashford Ave, Ardsley, NY 10502. All comments will be shared with the Board of Trustees and questions will be answered as quickly as possible.

All residents and taxpayers are invited to attend.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF ARDSLEY, NEW YORK

Ann Marie Rocco
Village Clerk
Dated: November 6, 2026

—

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT 750 SAW MILL RIVER ROAD IN THE VILLAGE OF ARDSLEY

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Ardsley will hold a public hearing on November 16, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. or soon thereafter at Village Hall-Court Room, 507 Ashford Avenue, Ardsley, NY 10502 to consider granting site plan approval for the proposed development at 750 Saw Mill River Road in the Village of Ardsley.

Please check the calendar on the Village website for meeting details at www.ardsleyvillage.gov or email the Village Clerk at arocco@ardsleyvillage.gov.

The meeting will be able to be seen live on Channel 75 (Cablevision) or Channel 32/35 (Verizon).

Members of the public can also listen to the meeting via Zoom platform by dialing via phone+1 929 205 6099, Webinar ID: 885 1839 1638 Passcode: 965905 or Join Zoom Meeting here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88518391638?pwd=tS9MlGzvCcvvG6red8z3pbegjhXFEx.1 Meeting ID: 885 1839 1638 Passcode: 965905

Further details on this proposed development is available at the Clerk's office, 507 Ashford Avenue, Ardsley, NY during normal office hours Monday through Friday 9:00 am–4:00 pm.

Written comments may be sent to the Village Clerk at arocco@ardsleyvillage.gov or sent via regular mail to 507 Ashford Ave, Ardsley, NY 10502. All comments will be shared with the Board of Trustees and questions will be answered as quickly as possible.

All residents and taxpayers are invited to attend.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF ARDSLEY, NEW YORK

Ann Marie Rocco
Village Clerk
Dated: November 6, 2026

—

NOTICE TO PROPOSERS — ELEVATOR DESIGN SERVICES

The Village of Irvington requests proposals from qualified New York State licensed architectural and engineering firms for feasibility evaluation, design, bidding assistance and construction administration for a proposed new passenger elevator at Village Hall, 85 Main Street, Irvington, New York. This is a professional services solicitation; construction will be procured separately.

Proposals shall be received by Karen Buccheri, Secretary to the Village Administrator, via email (KBuccheri@irvingtonny.gov) or U.S. mail no later than 10 AM on Friday, November 20, 2026. Clearly mark submissions "Project No. 2026-44 – Irvington Village Hall Elevator Design Services."

A pre-proposal walkthrough is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 2026 at 10AM. Attendance is optional. Written questions are due by Tuesday, November 17, 2026 and sent to Karen Buccheri at KBuccheri@irvingtonny.gov. Addenda will be issued through the Village website. The Village reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive informalities where permitted, and negotiate with the firm deemed most advantageous to the Village.

Katie Bugna
Village Clerk-Treasurer
October 28, 2026

—

NOTICE TO BIDDERS CONTRACT #2 REBID CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AT HILLSIDE

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Contract #2 Rebid: Capital Improvements at Hillside Elementary School
(NYSED #66-04-04-03-0-002-028)

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that sealed bids shall be received by the Board of Education, Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District, 27 Farragut Avenue, Hastings-on-Hudson, New York 10706 for the following bid packages:

Refer to the Bid Documents for a detailed description of the work.

Bid proposals shall be received by Thursday, December 10, 2026, by mail or in person, at Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District Office, 27 Farragut Avenue, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706 until 11:00 a.m. prevailing time at which time they shall be publicly opened and read aloud.

All envelopes containing bids shall bear on the face of the sealed envelope the words "Contract #2 Rebid - Capital Improvements at Hillside Elementary School" AND the prime contract number and suffix being bid on, as well as the name and address of the bidder. No Bids shall be accepted after 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 10, 2026. Please be reminded that USPS, UPS and FedEx delivery schedules may be limited. Please allow enough time for your proposal to arrive on or before the due date and time.

Complete digital sets of Bidding Documents, drawings, and specifications may be obtained online as a download at the following website: LAN.BIDDYHQ.COM under 'public projects'.

Complete sets of Bidding Documents, Drawings and Specifications, may be obtained from Biddy c/o Lohrius Blueprint, 226 Newtown Road, Plainview, NY 11803, Tel: 516-465-2880, upon depositing the sum of $100 (One Hundred Dollars) for each combined set of documents beginning on Monday, November 16, 2026. Checks or money orders shall be made payable to Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District. Plan deposit is refundable in accordance with the terms in the Instructions to Bidders to all submitting bids. Any bidder requiring documents to be shipped shall make arrangements with the printer and pay for all packaging and shipping costs.

Please note REVplans (revplans.biddyhq.com and lan.biddyhq.com) are the designated location and means for distributing and obtaining all bid package information. Only those Contract Documents obtained in this manner will enable a prospective bidder to be identified as an official plan holder of record. The Provider takes no responsibility for the completeness of Contract Documents obtained from other sources. Contract Documents obtained from other sources may not be accurate or may not contain addenda that may have been issued.

All bid addenda will be transmitted to registered plan holders via email and will be available at revplans.biddyhq.com and lan.biddyhq.com. Plan holders who have paid for hard copies of the bid documents will need to make the determination if

Continued on page 19



Classies

hard copies of the addenda are required for their use and coordinate directly with the printer for hard copies of addenda to be issued. There will be no charge for registered plan holders to obtain hard copies of the bid addenda.

All technical questions, comments, and inquiries should be directed to LAN (Attention Mr. Christopher Bechtler at telephone number 845-615-0350, or email christopher.bechtler@lanassociates.com).

Hastings-on-Hudson UFSD/ Cont. #2 Rebid

Capital Improvements at Hillside ES NYSED #66-04-04-03-0-002-28 000113-1 #4.1716.05.01

There will be a pre-bid meeting at 3:30 p.m. on November 24, 2026, starting in the main entrance to Hillside Elementary School, located at 120 Lefurgy Ave, Hastings-On-Hudson, NY 10706. Bidders are urged to attend the pre-bid meeting. Knowledge of the site is crucial to obtain a proper understanding of the Work. All laborers, workers and mechanics working on the site of this project must be certified as having successfully completed the OSHA 10-hour construction safety and health course. No bidder shall withdraw his bid within sixty (60) days after the formal bid opening. The Board of Education reserves the right to waive any informality in any proposals, or to reject any or all proposals and to advertise for new proposals. Dated: 11/5/2026 By Order of: Board of Education Hastings-on-Hudson Union School District Hastings-on-Hudson, New York 10706

—

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON PUBLIC HEARING — PROPOSED LOCAL LAW H OF 2026

To Consider Proposed Local Law H of 2026, a Local Law to Amend the Code of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson to Repeal Chapter 91, Entitled "Amusement Devices".

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
That the Mayor and Board of Trustees schedule a public hearing for Tuesday, November 17, 2026 at 7:00 PM or shortly thereafter to consider Proposed Local Law H of 2026, a Local Law to Amend the Code of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson to Repeal Chapter 91, Entitled "Amusement Devices".

The full text of the Proposed Local Law is available at www.hohny.gov.

The meeting will be conducted in-person at the Village Hall Meeting Room, 7 Maple Avenue, Hastings-on-Hudson, New York.

The meeting will be able to be seen live on Channel 75 (Cable), or Channel 43 (FIOS), or streaming live on www.whoh-tv.org.

The Board at such time and place will hear all persons in support or opposition to such matter.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ANTHONY P. COSTANTINI
Village Clerk/Treasurer

For information regarding access for persons with disabilities, please visit www.hohny.gov or call 914-478-3400 Ext. 610.

Publish: The Rivertowns Dispatch
November 6, 2026

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HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON PUBLIC HEARING — PROPOSED LOCAL LAW I OF 2026

To Consider Proposed Local Law I of 2026, a Local Law to Amend the Zoning Map of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson to Rezone Certain Properties on Warburton Avenue From the MR-C Zoning District to the MR-1.5 Zoning District.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
That the Mayor and Board of Trustees schedule a public hearing for Tuesday, December 8, 2026 at 7:00 PM or shortly thereafter to consider Proposed Local Law I of 2026, a Local Law to Amend the Zoning Map of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson to Rezone Certain Properties on Warburton Avenue From the MR-C Zoning District to the MR-1.5 Zoning District.

The full text of the Proposed Local Law is available at www.hohny.gov.

The meeting will be conducted in-person at the Village Hall Meeting Room, 7 Maple Avenue, Hastings-on-Hudson, New York.

The meeting will be able to be seen live on Channel 75 (Cable), or Channel 43 (FIOS), or streaming live on www.whoh-tv.org.

The Board at such time and place will hear all persons in support or opposition to such matter.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ANTHONY P. COSTANTINI
Village Clerk/Treasurer

For information regarding access for persons with disabilities, please visit www.hohny.gov or call 914-478-3400 Ext. 610.

Publish: The Rivertowns Dispatch
November 6, 2026

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PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY
Kavita Kohli, DDS

"As always, an excellent experience. I wish Dr. Kohli could be my dentist."
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Make an appointment 914-725-9620
495 Central Park Ave., Suite 208, Scarsdale | rivertownspediatricdentistry.com

The Blotter

Continued from page 2

Officer Wuilber Maldonado made the arrest.

Suspended license and registration: A 28-year-old resident of Harrisburg, Pa., was arrested for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree, and for a suspended vehicle registration, both misdemeanors, on Farragut Parkway on the afternoon of Oct. 28. Officer Wuilber Maldonado made the arrest.

Youths dispersed: Youths were dispersed from Hillside Woods on the evening of Oct. 30 and from Reynold's Field on the evening of Oct. 31.

Suspended license: A 42-year-old Yonkers resident was arrested for a suspended vehicle registration, a misdemeanor, on Farragut Avenue on the morning of Nov. 1. Officer Kevin Barry made the arrest.

IRVINGTON

Stolen credit card arrests: A 31-year-old Irvington resident and a 35-year-old Peekskill resident were arrested for attempting to use a stolen credit card to pay a taxi driver on Main Street on the evening of Oct. 19. Both were charged with two misdemeanors — petit larceny and criminal possession of stolen property in the fourth degree. Officers Charles Girven and Robert Spatafore made the arrest.

Harassment arrest: A 33-year-old Bronx resident was arrested on Oct. 22 for sending threatening text messages to an Irvington resident on Oct. 16. He was charged with aggravated harassment in the second degree, a misdemeanor. Dets. Anthony DiNardo and Ryon Burnett made the arrest.

Suspended license: A 28-year-old Yonkers resident was arrested for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree, a misdemeanor, on South Broadway (Route 9) on the evening of Oct. 28. Officer Daniel Burke made the arrest.

TARRYTOWN

Burglary arrest: A 27-year-old homeless man was arrested on Oct. 30 for shoplifting $1,331.22 worth of items from the CVS at 51 North Broadway (Route 9) on Oct. 12. He was charged with burglary in the third degree and grand larceny in the fourth degree, both felonies. Det. Matthew Garro made the arrest. The Yonkers Police Department had released him to Tarrytown, which then released him to the Bedford Police Department. The burglary charge resulted from the fact that he was banned from CVS.

Fishing summons: A 29-year-old Brooklyn resident was issued a summons for fishing without a permit at Tarrytown Lakes Park on the morning of Oct. 31.

Leaf blower summonses: Landscapers were issued summonses for using gas leaf blowers on Gunpowder Lane and Crest Drive on the morning of Oct. 31. The landscaper on Crest Drive was also cited for not being registered with the Village of Tarrytown.

Suspicious incident: A 2021 Honda Pilot parked on Franklin Court on the evening of Oct. 31 was found moved, and with its windows down, on the morning of Nov. 1.

Obstruction arrest: A 31-year-old resident of Milwaukee, Wis., was arrested after leading police on a foot chase on the morning of Nov. 2. Police located the defendant on the H Bridge after a report that he was involved in a dispute with his girlfriend at the River Plaza Shopping Center. He was charged with obstructing governmental administration, a misdemeanor. Officers Steven Amaro and Peter Delmonaco made the arrest. The defendant is a former resident of Sleepy Hollow who was wanted by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. He was remanded to the Westchester County Jail.

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Sports

EDITED BY ROB DIANTONIO

Dobbs Ferry's seniors go out in style at Gould Park

— FOOTBALL ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

For Dobbs Ferry's seniors, their final game at Gould Park was one to remember.

Led by a dominant performance from senior Killian O'Connor, the fourth-seeded Eagles rolled to a 66–37 victory over No. 5 Albertus Magnus in the Section 1 Class C quarterfinals on Oct. 30.

O'Connor rushed for 330 yards and five touchdowns on just 16 carries as Dobbs Ferry's offense scored early and often to extend its season. The Eagles totaled 604 rushing yards.

The victory was especially meaningful for a senior class led by five captains in O'Connor, Jackson Kearns, Andrew Zendel, Matt O'Leary, and Kola Rukaj.

Many of the players have spent most of their lives playing football at Gould Park.

"I think I've played here since I was probably 5 years old," Kearns said. "To play my last game on the field is very emotional. I thought a lot about it, and I'm just thankful to have gotten to play at such a special place like this."

Eagles coach Joe Cox understood what the opportunity to play one final home game meant to his seniors.

"They love playing here," Cox said. "They've been rolling around in the dirt and the mud since they were little kids. It's been their home forever. For us, it's a special place."

The Eagles wasted little time taking control against Magnus. Senior Camilo Cruz opened the scoring on a 31-yard touchdown run with 9:24 left in the first quarter. Freshman Joseph Salerno followed with a 71-yard scoring run less than 2 minutes later and Zendel's extra point made it 14–0.

After Albertus Magnus cut the deficit to 14–7 late in the quarter, Kearns answered with a 94-yard kickoff return for a touchdown.

"I kind of misread it in the air and it went over my head," Kearns said. "But when I turned back, I was thinking, these are usually the ones that go for touchdowns. I looked up, saw an opening on the left side, broke a tackle, and that was it."

O'Connor scored his first touchdown on a 42-yard run early in the second quarter. Dobbs Ferry's defense then came up with a goal-line stand at its own 1-yard line before Kearns connected with Cruz on an 84-yard touchdown pass to give the Eagles a 33–7 halftime lead.

O'Connor broke free for an 80-yard touchdown run less than a minute into the third quarter and added scoring runs of 2 and 16 yards before closing out his huge night with a 58-yard touchdown run late in the fourth.



Dobbs Ferry's Joseph Salerno fights for extra yardage while a pair of Magnus defenders go for the tackle. *Photos by Rob DiAntonio.*

"My O-line did a great job blocking," O'Connor said. "Lots of thanks to my linemen, coaches, everyone. It means everything, playing for the fans and my hometown."

Cox was impressed with how O'Connor turned ordinary gains into explosive plays.

"Our guys did a great job up front for him," Cox said. "He's pretty good when he sneaks out to the second level. For a big kid, he's got just enough shake to make somebody miss."



Jackson Kearns returns a kickoff for a touchdown.

Kearns added a 45-yard touchdown run in the final quarter. The Eagles received contributions throughout their backfield, with Cruz, Salerno, and Kearns all finding the end zone. "They've been a well-rounded backfield and I think they complement each other well," Cox said. "It's obviously great to see them all touch it and all have success."

Although Magnus scored 30 second-half points, Dobbs continued to answer offensively and never allowed the Falcons to get within striking distance. "Our offense was clicking today the whole game," Kearns said. "Had our offense not been clicking, this game might have gone a lot differently."

Kearns led the defense with seven tackles. Mike Kingston and Cruz each had an interception, while Dion Biberaj and Leo Jaundoo recovered fumbles.

Now the Eagles turn their attention to a familiar opponent in top-seeded Bronxville, the defending Class C state champion. Dobbs Ferry travels to Bronxville for the semifinals on Nov. 7. The Broncos defeated Dobbs in last year's sectional championship game and earned a 28–0 victory over the Eagles on Sept. 25. That regular-season meeting was much closer than the final score indicated, with Dobbs Ferry trailing 7–0 at halftime.

Despite an up-and-down season, the Eagles (5–4) remain confident they can compete with the section's best.

"We know that we're right there in every game that we've played this season," Kearns said. "We can compete with anybody if we play our best football. It's just a matter of if we bring our best football on that day."

—

Panthers, Horsemen fall in Class B

No. 3A Ardsley lost to No. 2B Pearl River 42–7 in the Section 1 Class B quarterfinals on Oct. 30. Ardsley's lone score came on a 31-yard touchdown run by Conor Lenihan. Jack Calkins passed for 66 yards and ran for 65 yards. Tommy Bennett had an interception. The Panthers ended their season with a record of 4–6.

No. 4B Sleepy Hollow (3–7) saw its season conclude in a 48–7 loss to No. 1A Westlake in the Section 1 Class B quarterfinals on Oct. 30. Olin Keough rushed for 86 yards on 16 carries and a score. He finished the season with over 1,000 rushing yards.

—

Irvington routed by Valhalla

Sixth-seeded Irvington (4–5) lost to No. 3 Valhalla 54–6 in the Section 1 Class C quarterfinals on Oct. 30. Irvington's lone touchdown came on a 42-yard pass from Julian Peres to Bobby Estrada. Peres finished the season with over 1,000 passing yards. Estrada ended the season with over 500 receiving yards.

Sports

Dobbs Ferry sweeps Hastings to return to sectional final

— VOLLEYBALL ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

For Dobbs Ferry, the opportunity to return to the Westchester County Center and finish what it started last season has been a driving force all year.

The top-seeded Eagles took another step toward that goal on Nov. 3, sweeping visiting No. 4 Hastings 25–14, 25–19, 25–15 in the Section 1 Class B semifinals. Dobbs Ferry (16–3) will face No. 2 Blind Brook in the championship match on Nov. 7 in White Plains.

"This is what we've been working for all year and this is our chance to redeem ourselves after last year," senior outside hitter Taylor Denike said. "We have something special together, and I think taking that back to the County Center is just exciting."

The Eagles return most of a team that came agonizingly close to winning a sectional title last season. Dobbs Ferry held a 2–0 lead and was one point away from the championship before Putnam Valley rallied to win in five sets.

"It's somewhat of a sensitive subject, but I think subconsciously, it's what's been driving us the entire season," senior outside hitter Natasha Mansfield said. "We're just really excited to go back."

Dobbs Ferry had defeated Hastings twice during the regular season but wasn't about to overlook its rival with a championship berth on the line.

The Eagles jumped out to a 15–5 lead in the opening set behind the strong play of Denike, who finished with 10 kills, four aces, and 13 digs. Dobbs maintained control the rest of the way to take the set 25–14.

Hastings responded in the second set, building a 13–8 advantage. Dobbs Ferry coach Patty Duane called a timeout, and the Eagles responded with six consecutive points to take a 14–13 lead.

"It was basically to trust each other and to communicate," Duane said of her message during the timeout. "A lot of times, teams get quiet when things are going wrong. You have to do the opposite. You have to communicate more."

Hastings battled back to even the score at 18–18, but Dobbs Ferry closed the set on a 7–1 run. Mansfield and Grace Demitrovic came through with key kills before Jocelyn Jakasal finished it with an ace.

"We were playing frantic, and what we really wanted to do was calm it down," Mansfield said. "We made sure to take it back to the basics. We knew that they were going to come out with fire and energy and they wanted to win it. But so did we, and we needed to make sure that we controlled the pace of the game."

The Eagles carried that momentum into the third set. After the teams were tied 6–6, Dobbs pulled ahead and gradually extended its lead. Brielle Jean and Demitrovic combined for two late blocks, and Demitrovic delivered the match-winning kill.



Dobbs Ferry's Grace Demitrovic, Natasha Mansfield, Layla Wilbekin, and Taylor Denike celebrate the win. *Photos by Rob DiAntonio.*

Mansfield finished with five kills and 10 digs, while Demitrovic contributed five kills, nine assists, and two blocks. Kayla Rukaj had three blocks, Jean added two blocks, and Jakasal recorded five digs.

For Hastings, Kylie Deklin finished with seven kills, five digs, and two blocks. Poppy Soeiro had nine assists, Josie McLaughlin added four kills, and Emmy Dehgan recorded 11 digs.

The Yellow Jackets completed a successful 12–5 season under first-year coach Matt Cochenour. Hastings will graduate just two players, senior co-captains McLaughlin and Sara Dehgan.

"What I will remember most from this season is how encouraging and supportive my team was," McLaughlin said. "These girls have given me so many memories and I will always be grateful to be a part of this team. Watching my teammates improve throughout the season was amazing."

She continued, "My team became very close this year and I think that helped us a lot during stressful games. We had a lot of trust in each other."

Hastings cruised past host Westlake 3–0 (25–11, 25–23, 25–8) in the quarterfinals on Oct. 30. McLaughlin (14K, 9D, 3AC), Roxy Griffin (10K, 5B), and Soeiro (18AS, 5D) sparked the squad.

For Dobbs Ferry, the focus now shifts to earning the sectional championship that narrowly eluded it a year ago.

"We have pretty much the same exact team, and a lot of us got better in the offseason," Denike said. "We've just been hungry for it, literally since the day we lost. We all just want it really bad."

The host Eagles defeated No. 9 Pleasantville 3–0 (25–11, 25–14, 25–17) in the quarterfinals on Oct. 30. Demitrovic (20AS), Denike (11K, 4AC, 9D), Hollen Peet (5K), Jean (3K, 3B), and Mansfield (12K, 9AC) led the way.

—

Ardsley falls to Rye in semifinals

For the second consecutive season, Ardsley traveled to Rye for the Section 1 Class A semifinals on Nov. 4. And for the second straight year, the Panthers came away with a loss, falling 3–2 (25–20, 26–24, 22–25, 20–25, 11–15) after jumping out to a 2–0 lead.



Ardsley's Serena Emanuele serves.

After cruising to a win in the first set, the Panthers closed out the second set behind a Sophie Young kill and Serena Emanuele ace. The third set was tied at 21–21 but Rye closed on a 4–1 run, seizing some momentum heading into set four. Following an Emanuele kill, Ardsley held a 14–9 lead. Two kills by Young extended the lead to 18–12 but the Garnets came roaring back to tie it up at 18. It was then tied at 20, but Rye scored the next five points to force a final set.

The Panthers jumped out to a 9–6 lead in set five behind Morgan Macri and Young. Katherine Cai and Emanuele each tallied a kill as Ardsley went up 11–9. But Rye scored the final six points to close out the match and end the Panthers' season.

"I think the thing that hurt us most was that we stopped attacking like we know how to attack," Ardsley coach Dave Ponterio said. "We relied on tipping the ball and it's not going to do it in this situation. I'm not going to take anything from Rye. They kept on swinging and they put balls down. We couldn't make the digs nor the blocks when we needed to. That's the difference."

Young (19K, 9D), Emanuele (8K, 3AC, 18D), Maddie Polanco (8K, 4AC, 7D), Macri (6K), Sophia Pecora (30D, 2AC), Cai (46AS, 23D), and Zaniya Bell (6K, 2B) led the team.

Visiting Ardsley edged No. 4 Nanuet 3–2 (25–20, 22–25, 25–21, 22–25, 15–5) in the quarterfinals on Oct. 31. Young (21K, 6AC,

Continued on page 23

Sports

Irvington and Hastings ousted in sectional semifinals

— BOYS' SOCCER ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Irvington's season ended on Oct. 29 as the second-seeded Bulldogs lost 2–0 at home to third-seeded Pleasantville in the Section 1 Class B semifinals.

The Bulldogs struggled to generate scoring opportunities against a fast, aggressive Panther squad that took the lead late in the first half and added an insurance goal in the second.

"We came out trying to execute our standards and principles of play and it was just one of those times where things were not connecting for us as consistently as they have in the past," Irvington coach Chris Lombardi said. "Frustration set in and we did our best to work through it."

Irvington had an early opportunity when Griffin Warner sent a cross to Joseph DeNardo, whose shot went wide right six minutes into the game.

Irvington goalie Owen Brunenavs made a diving stop midway through the first half. The Bulldogs later threatened when Josh Diamond sent a ball into the box that DeNardo headed out of bounds.

Pleasantville broke through with 5:24 remaining in the first half after Irvington was called for a handball in the box. Jonah Aghen converted the ensuing penalty kick to give the Panthers a 1–0 lead. Danny McInerney doubled Pleasantville's advantage with 29:15 remaining in the second half.

Irvington's best opportunity to get back into the game came with 10 minutes left when DeNardo found Conner Gredick, who blasted a shot toward the left side of the net, but the shot was stopped with a diving save.



Hastings' Kai Ghalib chases against Panas.

"They're a very fast and aggressive team with a lot of talent," Lombardi said of Pleasantville. "They are very organized in their defense and how they counter. We knew they would be dangerous in the air and on corners and set pieces and to our credit we didn't allow any of those."

Despite the disappointing finish, Irvington had plenty to celebrate this fall. The Bulldogs finished 14–3–1, captured the league championship and earned their first playoff victory since 2022 with a 1–0 quarterfinal win over Bronxville. Irvington also overcame significant injuries during the season, including the loss of senior Dennis Sasso to a torn ACL.

"This team should be very proud of themselves in what they accomplished," Lombardi said. "This group has raised the bar and have moved this program forward. They've overcome setbacks and showed a great amount of grit and resiliency throughout the season."

The Bulldogs will graduate eight seniors in Warner, Sasso, DeNardo, Diamond, Navin Vasudev, Nicco Uccellini, Karsten Yamamoto, and Nate Moshan.

"The majority of our seniors have been with us for three years and Griffin all four," Lombardi said. "I've only really known a team with them on it. After that semifinal game came that sobering moment when you realize that the guys who've been there from the start and helped to change the climate and culture will no longer be there physically going forward. They have made a lasting impact and helped to create the foundation that we will continue to build upon."

—

Hastings blanked by Panas

Hastings' impressive season came to an end with a 2–0 loss to host Walter Panas in the Section 1 Class A semifinals on Oct. 28. The third-seeded Yellow Jackets, who had consistently generated scoring opportunities throughout the season, struggled to find the same quality chances against the No. 2 Panthers.

Panas used its speed and skill in the attacking third to put pressure on Hastings, scoring once in each half to advance to the sectional final.

"They just had wingers and forwards that were all over the place in the attack," Hastings coach Joe Callagy said. "A lot of speed, a lot of skill moves, and they just beat us."



Irvington's Joseph DeNardo tries to get a head on the ball. *Photos by Rob DiAntonio.*

The Panthers broke through with 16:09 remaining in the first half when JC Ortiz converted a penalty kick to give the hosts a 1–0 lead. Hastings looked to answer a little more than a minute later, but Zack Brower's shot was saved. Yellow Jackets goalie Justin Wilmot made two saves in the final eight minutes of the half to keep the deficit at one.

Panas doubled its lead with 31:51 remaining in the second half on a goal by John Alvarado. Hastings continued to push forward but couldn't find the back of the net. Kai Ghalib sent a shot wide right with 29:35 left, and Louis Von Rege missed wide with 22:20 remaining. Ghalib had another opportunity with 10:40 to play, but his shot went wide left.

Despite the limited scoring opportunities, Callagy felt his team had chances to make it a different game. "I think we could have scored," Callagy said. "I think we'll look back at it and say, 'Yeah, we should have had a couple.'"

The loss ended a breakthrough season for Hastings, which finished 14–2–3 and captured a league championship. The Jackets also earned their first postseason victory since 2019 after moving up to Class A this fall.

"It's a really good progression season," Callagy said. "We had a really good core group of seniors this year and we'll have a larger group of seniors next year. So this is hopefully the start of a run for us."

Hastings graduates four seniors in co-captains Baz Van Der Sande and Joaquin Toledo-Chae, along with Alex Litvinenko and Gabe Nacht.

Callagy credited the group for helping establish a stronger foundation for the program through its commitment over the years.

"They stuck with the program all four years, six years from modified up," Callagy said. "They've been leading this uptick in taking the program seriously and all the work that's been done by a couple groups of seniors ahead of them."

Ardsley/Dobbs Ferry captures merged league championship

— GIRLS' SWIMMING ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Ardsley/Dobbs Ferry continued its banner season by capturing the Section 1 Merged League girls' swimming and diving championship on Oct. 31 at EF International in Tarrytown.

The combined squad finished atop the eight-team field with 338 points, ahead of runner-up John Jay/North Salem (294) and third-place Mahopac/Putnam Valley/Carmel (293).

The championship added to an impressive season for Ardsley/Dobbs Ferry, which went undefeated in its seven regular-season meets. Coach Jackie Cordero credited the squad's "talent and depth" for its success. "The team is just very well-rounded," she said.

Senior Fiamma Cioffi led the way with two individual first-place finishes. She won the 200-yard individual medley in 2:12.68 and the 500 freestyle in 5:15.94. Cioffi has qualified for states in both events and has now accomplished that feat for three consecutive seasons.

Ardsley/Dobbs Ferry also took first in the 400-freestyle relay behind Emma DeFilippis, Daphne Green, Isla Harris and Cioffi. The team placed second in the 200-medley relay as Green, Mackenzie Cabello, Cioffi, and DeFilippis combined for a time of 1:55.91.

Green, a freshman, placed second in the 100 butterfly (1:01.18) and third in the 100

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Voting machines

Continued from page 1

Elections, this position was mistakenly left off the original ballot file, which was used to program voting machines. A position must be on the ballot even when there are no candidates so that voters can write in an individual of their choice.

When the mistake was discovered after the initial preparation and testing of Election Day voting equipment, the village justice position was added and the file was updated.

Although the ballots were printed using this new file, the Election Day scanners were programmed with the old file. This meant that the affected scanners rejected ballots they could not recognize rather than incorrectly tabulating them. Different machines are used for early voting and Election Day, so the votes cast during early voting were not affected, County Executive Ken Jenkins said during a press conference on Election Day.

Shortly after the polls opened on Nov. 3 at 6 a.m., voters noticed issues with the machines. During his press conference, Jenkins said the first text message he received about the problem was at 6:05, when an individual told him that a scanner rejected their ballot.

Jenkin's office issued a press release at 8:16 a.m. stating the Westchester Board of Elections was aware of an issue involving the ballots. Initially, the problem was attributed to the thickness of the paper ballots, which Jenkins said was incorrect during his press conference. The press release encouraged voters to remain in line at polling stations, and emphasized that "every eligible vote will be counted."

According to a press release from Jenkin's office at 10:44 p.m., emergency ballot procedures were implemented after the problem was discovered. The completed ballots were placed into orange bags, and maintained under bipartisan oversight. By law, Jenkins said at his press conference, these emergency ballots could not be counted until after the polls closed.

To address the issue, the County reprogrammed the Plan B voting machines, which are designed for people with handicaps like visual impairment or deafness. Every polling station has one of these machines, Jenkins said during his press conference. One part of the machine is a ballot marking device and the other is a scanner. The Plan B scanners were reprogrammed with the updated file at every polling station. Ballots cast after these scanners were reprogrammed could be inserted into the machines and tabulated.

In the 10:44 p.m. statement, Jenkin's office reported that following the polls closing at 9 p.m., the ballots were "secured and are being transported under police supervision from polling locations to the Westchester County Board of Elections facility in Ardsley." Upon arrival, these ballots remained "under continuous police protection" until counting began the following day at 11 a.m.

During his press conference, Jenkins stated the situation was "completely unacceptable." County officials, he said, were working to monitor the voting process and ensure "every vote is properly counted and accurately counted."

"Today is the immediate focus," he said, "but after today, we're going to convene a bipartisan team to conduct a thorough review of the decisions and failures that led to this debacle… determine where accountability lies, and ensure that this never happens again."

Conley vs. Lawler

Continued from page 3

and State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, urged voters to the polls — even if it took extra time.

Westchester had certified ballots collected through the early voting period. When some 60,000 of them were posted, Conley wrested back the lead in the overall count.

At the same time, the two state party committees petitioned the courts to order that all the unscanned ballots be assembled in a secure place and counted, beginning no later than Wednesday at 11 a.m. That timeline suspended resolution of the election.

Then, just as the attending journalists were revising their closing statements, Lawler came to the podium. The crowd of supporters fell to a hush. Fifty-six percent of the votes had been counted and yet there was Lawler telling the crowd that it was over.

"When all of the votes are counted tomorrow in Westchester," he said, "it's going to be pretty clear that we will be short. It's something that I have never been afforded in any of my elections, a concession on election night. I fundamentally believe it's the right thing to do."

An examination of the voting confirmed that Lawler's decision was right both practically and mathematically. To overcome the lead the partial Westchester vote had given to Conley, he needed to win about two-thirds of the uncounted votes. As one of his followers stated after Lawler's concession, "He's good at math."

Stillroom

Continued from page 11

earlier this year, with no concrete plans to launch Stillroom. Late in the spring, while waiting for her licensing paperwork to be finalized, Fernandez instead leaped at the opportunity to launch her own business.

"When I was sitting at my law firm reading medical records in a basement in June and I had three months to kill and I saw the location of Stillroom, I just sort of jumped," Fernandez recalled. "I quit my firm, did all of the build out in a month or two, and it's just been a crazy experience."

Stillroom shares the carriage house building with Glow By Mary skin studio and Next Level Mental Health Counseling. Fernandez is intentional about keeping health and wellness central to her business as well through Stillroom-sponsored community events. In September, Stillroom collaborated with its Next Level neighbor for a sex therapy talk that is part of a conversation series called "The More You Know," which Fernandez plans to continue.

"With 'The More You Know' series I want to be able to introduce interesting topics and interesting ideas to the community, because not everybody has access to certain classes and college," Fernandez said.

On Sunday, Nov. 1, Stillroom hosted an event called "Moss & Matcha," which invited visitors to craft moss artwork while drinking matcha, which Fernandez explains is the type of activity that helps people unplug from work and live in the moment.

Stillroom is located at 94 N. Broadway. For business hours and to reserve a spot, visit *stillroom.work*.

Volunteer of the Month

Continued from page 13

the time. And then if you bring your own person with you, you know, you feel bad for them because they're worrying about you."

Near the end of her treatment, Dougherty asked a social worker if she could volunteer, too. She was told to wait a year to give herself time to recover emotionally. Then the Covid-19 pandemic delayed her plans further.

She began volunteering in 2021 and has been there ever since. Today, she is one of three cancer survivors who volunteer in the infusion center. Sometimes, that means bringing a patient a blanket. Other times, it means sitting down for a chat, if the patient is up for it.

"I just feel it out," Dougherty said. "Often people could use a little normalcy."

One woman who had been receiving treatment later returned to tell Dougherty how much their conversations helped her through that year. Dougherty barely recognized her, as the woman's hair had grown back and she looked healthy.

"You don't really know what you're doing for somebody unless you hear that," Dougherty said.

Dougherty also remains involved with Phelps' breast cancer support group, which moved to Zoom during the pandemic. She wasn't ready to talk about her experience with others while she was undergoing treatment, she said, but later found support helpful. Now, she attends the group to encourage women who are going through her same ordeal.

"I think people need to know that you can get through it," she said.

Dougherty also stays connected to the hospital through community initiatives, including the annual "Phelps Goes Pink" bra drive, which gives women recovering from surgery access to the comfortable, often expensive, garments designed to accommodate healing. This year's drive met its goal of collecting 500 new and gently used bras.

Amy Ferraro-Martin, senior manager of community health and wellness at Phelps, said volunteers are an important part of the hospital's work, whether they are longtime community members or former patients looking to give back.

"Our volunteers are often the first people our patients and other community members speak with, and they can become the face of the hospital," Ferraro-Martin said. "We're so grateful to have volunteers like Linda as part of our Phelps family."

As Dougherty said, "I'm just glad that I could help."

Volleyball

Continued from page 21

13D), Emanuele (11K, 17D, 2AC), Polanco (11K, 14D), Macri (6K), Bell (3K), Pecora (30D), and Cai (51AS, 13D, 2AC) paced the Panthers.

In the opening round, host Ardsley defeated No. 12 Byram Hills in straight sets (25–15, 25–15, 25–11) on Oct. 28. Polanco (10K, 5D), Young (9K, 3AC, 4D), Macri (4K, 4B), Emanuele (3K, 5AC), Bell (2B), Pecora (11D), and Cai 24AS, 2B, 2AC, 5D) sparked the squad.

After opening with some impressive early wins over Rye and Dobbs Ferry, Ardsley (14–7) endured some struggles in the middle of the campaign before winning five of its final six regular-season matches. The Panthers carried the momentum into the postseason, avenging a regular-season loss by defeating Nanuet in the quarterfinals. "I was happy to see us wake up and really make some noise at the end of the season," Ponterio said. "The match against Nanuet was spectacular."

Ardsley will graduate five seniors in Emanuele, Macri, Addy King, Cassandra Sassalos, and Joelle Reid.

"They're great people. Some of them didn't start but they busted their butts every day in practice," Ponterio said. "They tried hard, made their best efforts, and made it so everybody else got better. I think that's one thing that other players need to remember — that they have an important role to make a team great."

Swimming

Continued from page 22

breaststroke (1:11.81). Harris added a third-place finish in the 200 freestyle (1:59.19), while Cabello took fourth in the 200 IM (2:19.77). DeFilippis, also a freshman, finished fourth in the 50 freestyle (26.08).

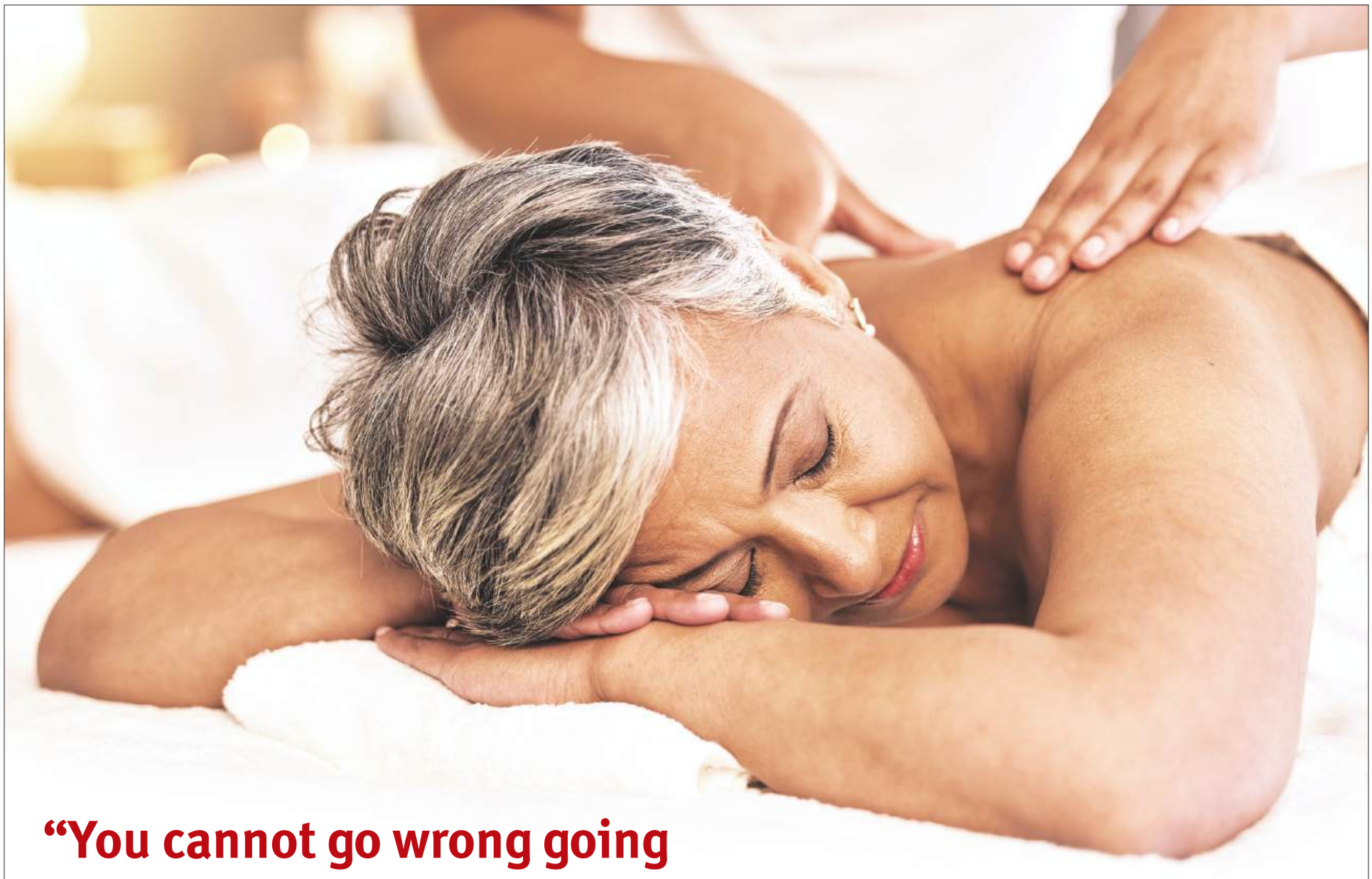
Cordero credited the team's senior leadership and influx of younger swimmers for helping Ardsley/Dobbs Ferry put together such a successful season. The coach pointed to the contributions of seniors Cioffi, Cabello, Harris, and Alba Iacobazzi, along with newcomers and club swimmers who strengthened the lineup.

"The impact was noticeable," Cordero said. "The flexibility I had as a coach to make up a lineup was like completing a puzzle. No missing pieces."

Ardsley/Dobbs Ferry will look to carry its momentum into the Section 1 championships at Felix Festa Middle School in West Nyack. The preliminaries are scheduled for Nov. 9, followed by the finals on Nov. 10.

"Looking forward to sectionals," Cordero said. "We are close to [qualifying] two relays and sealing some individual state cuts."

Sleepy Hollow/Hastings/Edgemont/Irvington also had two top-four finishes at the merged league championships. Emilia Huang won the diving competition with 273.7 points. Violet Campanelli placed fourth in the 100 backstroke (1:04.86).



“You cannot go wrong going to Tranquility. I have brought my children and grandchildren and we have all enjoyed a fun, relaxing experience.”

—Joan B., Dobbs Ferry

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