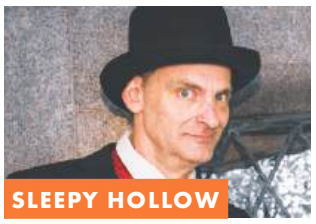
A new chapter with
The Hudson Independent



Neilsen season
One-man shows bring spine-chilling tales to life
p 13

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RIVERTOWNS Dispatch

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Local News, Locally Sourced

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



Horseman endures with many faces
Meet the riders who live the legend
p 3

Pumpkin Trail lines sidewalks with public art

43 sculptures spread among six villages

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

REGION In the footsteps of Irvington's successful bulldog and butterfly galleries along Main Street, five villages have joined Irvington for the first-ever Rivertowns Pumpkin Trail. For all of October, 43 fiberglass pumpkin statues decorated by local artists will grace the streets of Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings, Irvington, Tarrytown, and Sleepy Hollow before being auctioned off in November.

The effort was organized by Irvington Arts & Culture Committee chair Kristina Schmidt, who fabricated the molds for the pumpkins. Schmidt has done the same, and served as the lead organizer, for an annual display of fiberglass bulldogs since 2022 (the Irvington High School mascot), and fiberglass butterflies that debuted this past summer. Schmidt has been enthusiastic about the level of creativity among pumpkin trail artists, who introduced techniques she never encountered in previous displays.



Kristina Schmidt sits among the pumpkin sculptures at her home.

"When I saw the different statues coming in, I got really excited about the fact that there's so much ingenuity and local talent that exceeded my expectations once again," Schmidt told the Dispatch. "This last Bulldog Gallery was incredible, and so many people stopped me to say, 'This is the best ever.' And so I thought maybe we'd get some things at that level — but we got much more."

The statues come in two shapes: the 28-inch-tall "stacked" form that looks like three pumpkins on top of each other and the "hero" form that looks like one 24-inch-tall and 24-inch-wide pumpkin. One of the more unique statues is a "hero" pumpkin decorated by Tarrytown resident and author Lynda Fassa, who is a self-taught fine arts

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Tribute banners added for 10 veterans
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"School doesn't exist in a bubble."

Hastings High School senior Avery Euler
p 9

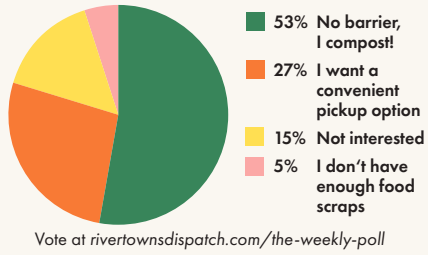


SPORTS
Panthers best Horsemen
p 20

The Poll

What's your biggest barrier to composting?

As answered by 168 readers of the Rivertowns Dispatch



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



The Blotter

ARDSLEY

Shoplifting arrest: A 27-year-old Yonkers resident was arrested for shoplifting $304 worth of items from CVS, 725 Saw Mill River Road (Route 9A), on the morning of Tuesday, Sept. 29. He was charged with petit larceny, a misdemeanor. Sgt. Jon Goldstein made the arrest.

Mischief to sidewalk and wall: A black dye was found on a sidewalk and a wall outside Ardsley Eye Care, 871 Saw Mill River Road, on the evening of Sunday, Oct. 4.

DOBBS FERRY

Suspended license: A 29-year-old Dobbs Ferry resident was arrested for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree, a misdemeanor, on Broadway (Route 9) on the morning of Wednesday, Sept. 30. Officer Robert Marron made the arrest.

Contempt arrest: A 28-year-old Yonkers resident was arrested for violating an order of protection, and for cocaine possession, in the parking lot of the Dobbs Ferry Pavillion of St. John's Riverside Hospital on the afternoon of Wednesday, Sept. 30. He was charged with criminal contempt in the second degree and criminal possession of a controlled substance in the seventh degree, both misdemeanors, as well as harassment in the second degree, a violation. Officer Henry Ramos made the arrest.

Shoplifting arrest: A 45-year-old resident of Danbury, Conn., was arrested for shoplifting $378 worth of items from the Ulta Beauty at Rivertowns Square on the morning of Thursday, Oct. 1. She was charged with petit larceny, a misdemeanor. Officer Robert Marron made the arrest.

HASTINGS

Suspended registration: A 26-year-old Yonkers resident was arrested for a suspended vehicle registration, a misdemeanor, on Main Street on the evening of Monday, Sept. 28. Officer Kevin Barry made the arrest.

Hit and run: The driver's side of a 2025 Subaru parked on northbound Farragut Avenue, near Mount Hope Boulevard, was damaged on Tuesday, Sept. 29, between 1:15–2:30 p.m.

Lewdness arrest: A 57-year-old Yonkers resident was arrested on Oct. 2 for exposing himself to a teenage girl on the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail on the morning of Wednesday, Sept. 30. He also admitted to exposing himself to a woman on the trail on April 10, 2024. He was charged with two counts of public lewdness, a misdemeanor. Det. Peter Meyers made the arrest.

Theft of bicycle: On Oct. 1, a Hastings resident reported that a bicycle, which was secured, was stolen from outside Greenleaf Pharmacy, 544 Warburton Ave., on Monday, Sept. 28.

Hit and run: The driver's-side front door of a 2017 Volvo parked on the southbound side of Warburton Avenue, near Villard Avenue, was hit by an unidentified driver after it was opened on the afternoon of Friday, Oct. 2.

Wanted no more: The Town of Kent Police Department turned over a 25-year-old homeless man who was wanted in Hastings on the evening of Friday, Oct. 2. The Hastings Village Court issued a warrant for him on July 15, after he missed an appearance related to

Continued on page 17

Fraud investigation results in arrest

IRVINGTON

A 32-year-old Bronx resident was arrested last week as the result of an investigation into a fraud scheme that targeted a 78-year-old Irvington resident. The defendant was apprehended after he collected a payment from the victim in the area of 120 North Broadway (Route 9) on the afternoon of Tuesday, Sept. 29.

He was charged with attempted grand larceny in the third degree, a felony, and released on his own recognizance. Since Sept. 24, the victim had turned over $21,200 to an unidentified male after receiving phone calls from an individual who claimed to work with the FBI. The caller stated that the victim's bank account had been compromised and the cash was needed to apprehend those responsible. The Irvington Police Department, in conjunction with the Greenburgh Drug and Alcohol Task Force, arrested the defendant.

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ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS



Leora "Lee" Dillon rides Eagle at the Sleepy Hollow Music Festival on Oct. 3.

Headless Horseman endures with many faces

Meet the riders and horses who live the legend

BY LAURA SCHILLER

REGION As a child, Leora "Lee" Dillon watched Disney's "The Adventures of Ichabod and Mr. Toad" and decided that one day, when she had her own big black horse, she would become the legendary spectral horseman of that animated film.

Today, the fantasy has become part of Dillon's real life. At 56, she trains and boards horses at her Corinthian Equestrian Center in Warwick, N.Y. She gives lessons, leads trail rides and fox hunts, and travels to riding gigs. She also works as an ER trauma nurse.

But around Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown, she is one of several people who bring the Headless Horseman to life. Dillon and her horse, Eagle — a 13-year-old former Amish cart horse she rescued in 2017 — appear at special events, Sleepy Hollow High School football games in September, and Phillipsburg Manor in October. Her son Luke, 23, plays the Horseman at Washington Irving's home, Sunnyside, riding horses named Falcon and Marley, while her friend Kristin Vaccaro portrays the Horseman aboard Marley at football games in October.

"I put on a show, you know what I mean? I don't just walk and hold a pumpkin. I'm a scary Horseman," Dillon said. "My horses are like 'Game of Thrones' horses, like very theatrical horses."

Dillon often gallops through the villages wearing the eerie black cape and headless costume. Seeing where she's going can be tricky: The collar blocks her peripheral vision, and while she can see through the veil in daylight, nighttime is another story.

Last year, that proved to be more than a minor inconvenience at Philipsburg Manor. During Twilight Village at Sleepy Hollow, which recreates the Horseman's midnight ride, Eagle ran into a smoke machine and sent Dillon into a tree branch, breaking her nose. The show went on, even with Dillon bloody under the costume.

This year, organizers asked her to add a hurdle to the routine.

"I just hope they make sure that they move the smoke machine out of the way," she laughed.

For the 2023 Halloween Parade, Dillon took over the role of the Headless Horseman from Hugh Francis, who portrayed the character for roughly two decades. Francis, who lives on a farm in Orange County, said the role combines two of his longtime passions.

"I've always wanted to be involved in things that involved horses and history," he said. "And this is a perfect combination of the two."

Playing the Headless Horseman, he said, takes more than knowing how to ride. The rider must be comfortable on horseback in the dark and around crowds, lights, sirens, and other distractions that can spook a horse.

Francis still appears as the Horseman in Sleepy Hollow, but he keeps his appearances mysterious.

"The Headless Horseman never knows when he's going to appear," he cautioned. "He sleeps in the day and at night he comes out from a hidden place in a cemetery and does whatever evil deals he has in mind that day."

For anyone hoping to spot him, Francis offered this advice: visit the cemetery, which offers guided walks, on the evenings of Oct. 24 and 25.

At this year's Halloween Parade, Dillon plans to bring a three-character cast: herself as Katrina Van Tassel, riding Eagle side-saddle; Luke as the Headless Horseman on Falcon; and Vaccaro as Ichabod Crane, on a white pony named Bitty.

Whatever her role, Dillon takes the job seriously enough to improvise when necessary.

One year, stuck in traffic, Dillon pulled off near the Mario Cuomo Bridge, unloaded Eagle from his trailer, climbed aboard, and rode him roughly 2 miles to an event in Sleepy Hollow.

Headless, of course.

But Dillon's version of the legendary figure is not the only Headless Horseman making the rounds.

Another arrives by train. He's often described as "friendly" and "goofy" — unlikely adjectives for a character whose missing head is a bloody, gory stump.

He's an ideal selfie prop, a familiar face — if that's the right word — and an unofficial ambassador for local businesses.

The Take-the-Train Headless Horseman's handler is Jessie Spellmann-Mignone, an Instagram influencer, Chamber of Commerce member, and founder of What's in Westchester, an online guide to local happenings.

The story began in 2024, when Spellmann-Mignone made an Instagram reel

Continued on page 10

Hudson Indy editor contrasts news from Beltway to Route 9

BY TIMOTHY REUTER

The Rivertowns Dispatch Podcast recently spoke with Barrett Seaman, the editor of The Hudson Independent, which merged last month with the Dispatch. Seaman was an editor and correspondent at Time magazine from 1971–2001, including four years as senior White House correspondent during the Reagan administration. He is the co-author of the book "Going for Broke: The Chrysler Story" and author of the book "Binge: Campus Life in an Age of Disconnection and Excess." The transcript excerpted below is lightly edited for clarity. You can listen to the full interview on Spotify or Apple Podcasts or visit *anchor.fm/rivertownsdispatch.*

—

Rivertowns Dispatch Podcast (RDP): Let's start by talking about the Hudson Independent. How does it fit into the news ecosystem in the Rivertowns?

Barrett Seaman: The Independent was founded in 2006 by a group of people in Tarrytown who basically were frustrated with the lack of coverage or biased coverage they saw coming out of the only other publication that was covering Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow. I won't mention its name, but suffice it to say that they thought that they would come out with a more balanced newspaper of their own. So they created a paper. It was distributed to 19,000 households in all of the villages going down, at least at that point, through Dobbs Ferry, as well as Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow to the north. And it was a monthly, it was print, and it was free…

When the Covid epidemic hit in the beginning of 2020, it really took the rug out from under our advertising revenue because a lot of the businesses were shutting down or cutting back and couldn't afford to pay for advertising. And so we decided at that point that the smart thing to do would be to give up our print edition and revert to online, which

Continued on page 4



Barrett Seaman

— THE DATA DISPATCH —

— September 2026 home sales —

Ardsley School District

	BD/BA	SQFT	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	SP/OLP%
105 Hilltop Road, Ardsley	3/3	1,488	$695,000	$757,000	108.9%
72 Hickory Hill Drive, Dobbs Ferry	3/3	1,935	$900,000	$921,500	102.4%
36 Heatherdell Road, Ardsley	4/3	1,620	$829,000	$928,000	111.9%
25 Arden Drive, Hartsdale	4/3	1,791	$999,999	$999,999	100.0%
116 Huntley Drive, Ardsley	3/3	1,796	$1,075,000	$1,200,000	111.6%
3 Johnson Place, Ardsley	4/3	2,961	$1,250,000	$1,200,000	96.0%
4 McKinley Place, Ardsley	4/3	2,241	$1,199,000	$1,250,000	104.3%
11 Overlook Road, Ardsley	5/3	2,505	$1,068,000	$1,326,000	124.2%
229 Boulder Ridge Road, Scarsdale	3/4	3,490	$1,395,000	$1,542,800	110.6%
4 Melissa Drive, Ardsley	4/3	2,160	$1,450,000	$1,740,000	120.0%
143 Euclid Avenue, Ardsley	4/3	3,678	$1,699,000	$1,825,000	107.4%
17 Hemlock Road, Hartsdale	4/4	3,076	$1,680,000	$1,900,000	113.1%
12 Birch Hill Road, Scarsdale	6/6	4,738	$1,950,000	$2,100,000	107.7%

Dobbs Ferry School District

	BD/BA	SQFT	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	SP/OLP%
110 Draper Lane #S5, Dobbs Ferry	1/1	850	$265,000	$325,000	122.6%
2 Castle Hill Close, Dobbs Ferry	5/4	4,146	$1,600,000	$1,910,000	119.4%

Hastings School District

	BD/BA	SQFT	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	SP/OLP%
751 N Broadway #1C, Hastings	1/1	650	$210,000	$215,000	102.4%
100 Clarewood Drive #2K, Hastings	1/1	744	$295,000	$295,000	100.0%
4 Ronny Circle, Hastings	3/3	1,507	$889,000	$680,000	76.5%
16 Marianna Drive, Hastings	4/5	2,056	$999,000	$1,050,000	105.1%
30 Ediths Way, Hastings	3/3	2,611	$1,195,000	$1,160,000	97.1%
119 Rosedale Avenue, Hastings	3/2	1,512	$999,000	$1,161,925	116.3%
38 Branford Road, Hastings	3/2	1,619	$1,150,000	$1,175,000	102.2%
14 Kent Avenue, Hastings	3/3	1,792	$1,350,000	$1,275,000	94.4%
44 Cochrane Avenue, Hastings	4/3	1,372	$1,250,000	$1,600,000	128.0%
22 Oxford Road, Hastings	4/4	2,731	$1,600,000	$1,600,000	100.0%
32 S Calumet Avenue, Hastings	3/3	1,955	$1,600,000	$1,610,000	100.6%
28 Rose Street #28, Hastings	4/3	2,864	$1,290,000	$1,650,000	127.9%
27 Dorchester Avenue, Hastings	4/3	2,595	$1,450,000	$1,650,000	113.8%
24 Kent Avenue, Hastings	5/4	4,160	$1,750,000	$1,750,000	100.0%

Irvington School District

	BD/BA	SQFT	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	SP/OLP%
140 N Broadway #O-2, Irvington	1/1	850	$289,000	$285,000	98.6%
14 S Broadway #11-1A, Irvington	2/1	850	$325,000	$320,000	98.5%
165 S Buckhout #165, Irvington	2/1	850	$399,000	$430,000	107.8%
141 S Buckhout #141, Irvington	3/1	1,000	$475,000	$490,000	103.2%
21 N Ferris Street, Irvington	3/3	1,183	$975,000	$912,000	93.5%
13 Janet Terrace, Irvington	4/4	2,463	$1,699,000	$1,615,000	95.1%
6 W Sunnyside Lane, Irvington	4/5	5,296	$3,475,000	$2,800,000	80.6%
1 Belmont Drive, Irvington	5/6	6,213	$3,100,000	$2,850,000	91.9%

Tarrytown/Sleepy Hollow School District

	BD/BA	SQFT	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	SP/OLP%
330 S Broadway #B10, Tarrytown	1/1	750	$340,000	$335,000	98.5%
253 S Broadway #253, Tarrytown	3/2	925	$425,000	$364,999	85.9%
273 Carrollwood Drive, Tarrytown	2/3	1,564	$725,000	$800,000	110.3%
422 Carrollwood Drive, Tarrytown	2/3	1,564	$749,000	$821,000	109.6%
62 Hemlock Drive, Sleepy Hollow	4/3	2,032	$1,250,000	$1,385,000	110.8%
18 Rivers Edge Drive #211, Tarrytown	2/2	1,523	$1,499,500	$1,499,500	100.0%
12 Webb Road, Sleepy Hollow	5/4	2,762	$1,300,000	$1,500,000	115.4%
206 Legend Drive, Sleepy Hollow	4/5	2,676	$1,695,000	$1,550,000	91.4%
167 Millard Avenue, Sleepy Hollow	4/5	5,700	$3,860,000	$3,000,000	77.7%
163 W Main Street, Tarrytown	4/5	4,008	$3,500,000	$4,025,000	115.0%

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DATA SOURCED FROM ONEKEY® MLS. WHILE BELIEVED ACCURATE, THE INFORMATION IS NOT GUARANTEED. DATA REFLECTS CLOSED RESIDENTIAL TRANSACTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026 IN THE HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, DOBBS FERRY, ARDSLEY, TARRYTOWN, AND IRVINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

Pumpkin Trail

Continued from page 1

painter. For her sculpture, titled "Faerie Folk of the Hollow," Schmidt made Fassa's pumpkin with a hole in it for a miniature environment resembling a wooded area.

"Without this I never would have met Lynda, talked to her, and now we have a great relationship; she gave me advice when I was bringing my daughter to college," Schmidt said. "So I wouldn't have connected with artists from the other villages, and they're all connecting too."

Schmidt decorated five pumpkins that appear in Irvington, Dobbs Ferry, Tarrytown, and Sleepy Hollow. Schmidt's daughter, Natalia, who is a ninth-grader at Irvington High School, collaborated with IHS senior Abi Brandwein to decorate a "hero" pumpkin at the corner of Broadway and Main Street titled "Great Pumpkin." The Charlie Brown-themed pumpkin is a tribute to Natalia's late grandfather.

"My father-in-law passed away earlier this year," Schmidt explained. "Every holiday he showed all my kids, through their teens, Charlie Brown holiday specials, every single holiday. We thought that would be a really cool pumpkin to do, and a lot of people would relate to it."

Other examples of "costumed" pumpkins include Irvington resident Joana Ricou's, at the corner of Main Street and South Dutcher Street, which features the addition of ears and a nose to the "stacked" pumpkins, turning them into the "Goblins, Bats, Oh My" of the title. Irvington resident Lizzie Chan's "Apple-solutely Delicious" sculpture outside Ardsley Village Hall was inspired by Chan's love of autumn and apples.

"We have so much in common, and everybody's taking photos and saying, 'Oh my god, this was such a good idea, I wish I would've done this. I'm going to do this next year,'" Schmidt said of the artists' response to each other's sculptures.

The Irvington Arts & Culture Committee funded the installation in Irvington with money raised from the auction of the sculpture sin the previous bulldog and butterfly galleries. Each of the other participating villages funded the creation and installation of the sculptures that appear in their streets. Artists participating in the pumpkin trail will receive no less than $250 from the auction or 30% of proceeds from the sale, if that percentage is greater than $250. The rest of the money will go toward more local art initiatives.

The auction will go live online this month and will end on Nov. 1. For a map of the pumpkins' locations, descriptions of the artists and their inspiration, and bidding information, visit *rivertownspumpkintrail.com*.

Barrett Seaman

Continued from page 3

was an interesting transition. Not an easy one, but one that eventually, I think, worked, at least in terms of creating a website that was changing on a daily basis, which we couldn't do, obviously, with a monthly newspaper.

—

RDP: As I noted during the introduction, you spent 30 years at Time magazine. What's different about working in national journalism as opposed to local journalism?

BS: The breadth of coverage is one thing, but one of the things I've noticed is that in local journalism, when you were reporting on something, you're pretty close to the issues that you're talking about, and the people you're talking about, and you hear from them. When you're with Time magazine and the Washington bureau and you write something about the president or Congress, you're not likely to hear anything directly. But in a local market, somebody picks up the phone and says, "Steven, what the hell were you saying when you wrote that about us?"

—

RDP: What was it like covering the Reagan White House? And how similar or different do you think it is to covering the Trump White House?

BS: Terribly different. It was a much more civilized group. I mean, first of all, you had a president who was somewhat detached from what was going on, but amiably detached. But he was surrounded by a lot of people who knew what they were talking about. That's the one big difference you've got now. It was people like Jim Baker. George Schultz is another one who was really a top-notch professional politician and diplomat. And there was a sort of mutual respect between the press corps and the White House staff that we were going to be responsible in how we reported things and they were gonna be open in terms of how they fed information to the media.

And, of course, the other thing is, referring back to people like Schultz and Jim Baker, is that there was a competence level that you just don't see anywhere in the Trump administration, in my view. Personally, I think it's a disaster and I couldn't be happier that I'm not covering it…

But Reagan, I mean, there were so many interesting things that went on during that period. And that made it a really fun job. It was having a front row seat on history and I really enjoyed that.

—

RDP: Do you think the current style of communication requires a different kind of journalism?

BS: It requires a journalism that is much more attentive to fact checking and fact checking as quickly as possible. And it's a really hard thing to do in this climate because the lies just keep flowing, one after the other.

Panther Fest
Saturday, Oct. 10, 12:30–4 p.m. Parade begins at Concord Road School and ends at the high school. Powder Puff game at the high school, 1:45 p.m. Activities at the high school, 1–3 p.m., include crafts, bounce house, obstacle course, music, and food

—

Native Seed Gathering
Saturday, Oct. 10, 1–3 p.m. (rain date Oct. 11). Anthony F. Veteran Park. Free; register at *ardsleypollinatorpathway.org*

—

School Board Meeting
Tuesday, Oct. 13, 7 p.m. High school library

—

Planning Board Meeting
Tuesday, Oct. 13, 8 p.m. Village Hall

—

Senior Event: Music Bingo
Wednesday, Oct. 14, noon–1 p.m. Community Center

—

Volunteer Fire Department Carnival
Oct. 14–18. Opens at 5 p.m. weekdays and 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Pascone Park. Unlimited rides: $35

—

Virtual Candidate Forum
Wednesday, Oct. 14, 7–8 p.m. League of Women Voters hosts County Legislator David Imamura and challenger Laurie Press Duffalo. Register: *bit.ly/legislativedistrict12*. Send questions by Sunday, Oct. 11: *info@lwv-rivertowns.org*.



One of the 17 paintings by Orietta Scheider

'Moments in Medium'

The Ardsley Arts Commission opened a new exhibit, "Moments in Medium," featuring works by artist Orietta Schneider of White Plains, at Ardsley Village Hall on Oct. 7.

Although art has been a lifelong source of personal fulfillment, this exhibition marks Schneider's first time bringing her work into public view. She is currently the communications director at Temple Israel of New Rochelle, and previously held roles as a graphic designer. Painting brings her "into a relaxed, contemplative state where I can just enjoy the harmony of creating," she told the Dispatch.

The exhibit showcases 17 of her framed watercolor-and-ink pieces. In her artist's statement, Schneider wrote that the collection explores "subtlety and drama together in everyday life," with her subject matter including architecture, animals, botanical studies, and the ocean. Along with watercolor paint, she uses fine line markers in black and sepia to create a graphic structure. She wrote that her work intends to bring "everyday life into focus through vibrant color and tactile line work."

Schneider hopes the exhibit will cause people to "slow down for a moment and just enjoy what they're looking at."

"Whether a specific color catches their eye or a subject feels familiar, I want visitors to walk away with a sense of warmth and quiet appreciation," she continued. "To me, art is about observing, communicating, and connecting with everything around us."

There will be an opening reception on Oct. 23, at 6 p.m. Most of the art is for sale, ranging from $125 to $425. The exhibit will be on display through April 2027. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.–4 p.m., excluding holidays.

Ayo Obi Tennis Open

The Ardsley Parks and Recreation Department hosted the second annual Ayo Obi Tennis Open at Pascone Park on Sept. 26 and Oct. 2. The women's doubles winners were Frances Muskin and Frida Matute, followed by runners-up Francis Millikin and Hallie Wachen. The men's doubles winners were Timothy Park and Jungweon Park, followed by runners-up Robert and Daniel Ostrower. The mixed doubles winners were Brian Chin and Pearl Liang, followed by runners-up Steven Hemmerdinger and Christine Yu.

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS



U.S. Navy veteran Kenneth Curtin with members of his family.

Tribute banners added for 10 more veterans

BY AMY BOCHNER

At the Ardsley Fire Department Headquarters, Sharon Caraballo celebrated the fifth year of the village's military tribute banners by unveiling 10 more on Oct. 4.

Colabello, a Mahopac resident who grew up in Ardsley, began the project in 2022, inspired by her late father, Marty Engleman, who served during World War II. As of this year, Ardsley now has 152 tribute banners honoring 149 men and three women — one major general, one Pearl Harbor survivor, and 14 Purple Hearts among them. Service branches represented include the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Army Air Corps, Marine Corps, Army Air Force, Coast Guard, and Naval Air Corps, dating back to World War I.

Last year, Caraballo believed Ardsley had run out of available utility poles for more banners. However, the public works department identified more, allowing the 10 additional banners.

One of them features former Air Force Sgt. Daniel Kaminsky, who served during World War II and sat in the front row at the unveiling ceremony last Sunday. At 100 years old, he described seeing his banner as "really magnificent. Just to see it at this age. And to be able to walk and to talk and to understand — but not hear too good."

Also in the audience were descendants of two of the veterans being recognized, a result of the search for living relatives of the 14 Ardsley High School graduates who died while serving in the armed forces during World War II. In 2022, a monument honoring the men was rediscovered in the high school's basement. This prompted the idea for the Lewisohn Memorial Garden, which broke ground outside of Ardsley High School in May, and features the monument. In 2023, Ardsley Engine Company Number One sponsored banners for the 14 fallen.



WWII veteran Daniel Kaminsky with his daughters Randy Romash and Gayle Dubensky.

As part of the memorial garden project, Ardsley Historical Society president Gary Rappaport and Caraballo tried to locate these men's survivors. Two families attended the Garden's dedication ceremony this past Memorial Day, while one family sent "their best wishes from all the way in Texas," Caraballo said. At the banner unveiling on Oct. 4, the relatives of veteran Angelo L. Delmerico and David W. Longmuir were on hand.

Delmerico's nephew and his wife, Dennis and Mary Kopek, drove down from Fishkill for the ceremony. Longmuir's nephew, David Kyff, joined from Yonkers. He was named after his uncle. Kyff's daughter, Heather, shared her reaction to Ardsley's remembrance of her relative.

"It's a beautiful honor," she said. "His sister, my grandmother, would have been so touched."

Mayor Steve Edelstein offered a few words, stating that the military tribute banners have "meant so much to our community, to connect with our history."

This year, he had a personal connection to the banners, one of which honors his father-in-law, Richard Pratt Prunty, who served in the Cold War Era. The additional banners feature Edward M. Cappucci (WWII), Kenneth Curtin (Lebanese Civil War), Matthew S. Roberts (WWII), Arthur Scheublin (Cold War Era), Albert Pollack (WWII), Charles F. Wittenberg (WWII), and Robert Wilmoth Sr. (Cold War Era).

In her speech, Caraballo thanked her father, who passed away nine years prior, on Oct. 4, 2017, at the age of 91. To the families whose loved ones are honored by the project her father inspired, she said, "Please know that Ardsley has never forgotten, and never will."







DOBBS FERRY SENIOR WEEK

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OCTOBER 13, 14, 15, 16 FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL (914) 231-8565

TUESDAY, OCT. 13	WEDNESDAY, OCT. 14	THURSDAY, OCT. 15	FRIDAY, OCT. 16
9:00 - 9:30 am Coffee & Bagel Check in & Sign-up	9:00 - 9:30 am Coffee & Bagel Check in & Sign-up	9:00 - 10:00 am Coffee & Bagel Check in & Sign-up	9:00 - 10:00 am Coffee & Bagel Check in & Sign-up
9:30 - 10:30 am Chair Yoga	9:30 am - 12:00 pm Flu Shots & Blood Pressure Checks	10:00 - 11:00 am Garden Club Planting	10:00 - 11:00 am Tai Chi
10:30 am - 12:00 pm BINGO	10:30 am - 12:00 pm Painting Session with Ellen Tessitore	11:00 am - 12:00 pm Line Dancing	11:00 am - 12:00 pm Seniors in Focus
12:00 - 12:30 pm FREE Lunch & Music	12:00 - 1:00 pm FREE Lunch & Honoring Police/Fire	12:00 - 1:00 pm FREE Lunch & DOROT Senior Health Information Seminar	12:00 - 12:30 FREE Pizza Party Q&A from Tables
12:30 - 2:00 pm DJ and Dancing	1:00 - 2:00 pm Senior Trivia & Ice Cream	1:00 – 2:00 pm Laugh-a-thon	12:30 - 2:00 pm Photo Booth & Fun with DJ Joe Rooney

MONDAY, OCT. 12 CENTER CLOSED, NO LUNCH



DOBBS FERRY

Invasive Species Clearing
Sunday, Oct. 11, 10 a.m.–noon. Corner of Shady Lane and Ashford Avenue. Sign up: visit *eventbrite.com* and search for the Dobbs Ferry Conservation
—
Senior Week
Oct. 13–16. Embassy Community Center. See the Village newsletter for the list of activities. To reserve a free lunch, call 914-231-8565
—
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, Oct. 13, 6:30 p.m. for the workshop and 7:30 for the regular meeting. Village Hall
—
School Board Meeting
Tuesday, Oct. 13, 7 p.m. Middle/high school library.
—
Trivia Night
Tuesday, Oct. 13, 7 p.m. Memorial Park
—
Virtual Candidate Forum
Wednesday, Oct. 14, 7–8 p.m. League of Women Voters hosts County Legislator David Imamura and challenger Laurie Press Duffalo. Register: *bit.ly/legislativedistrict12*. Send questions by Sunday, Oct. 11: *info@lwv-rivertowns.org*.
—
Zoning Board Meeting
Wednesday, Oct. 14, 8 p.m. Village Hall. Agenda available at *dobbsferry.gov*
—
River Jam: Seeing Red
Friday, Oct. 16, 6:30–8:30 p.m. Waterfront Park

Mercy collects pet supplies

Mercy University's Veterinary Technology Program will hold a community pet-supply drive at its campus, 555 Broadway, to benefit Paws Crossed Animal Rescue in Elmsford. The "Paws & Appreciation" drive will run from Tuesday, Oct. 13, through Thursday, Oct. 22, plus a final collection celebration on Friday, Oct. 23.

Paws Crossed will accept animal-specific goods like cat and dog food, and tick, lice, and flea treatment for dogs and cats, or general supplies like paper towels, toilet paper, and large garbage bags. From Oct. 13–22, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, community members can drop off donations at collection bins in the lobbies of Victory Hall, the Main Hall, and Lecture Hall. The final collection event on Oct. 23 will take place at the Main Hall Lobby, from 12–2 p.m.

The drive coincides with National Veterinary Technician Appreciation Week, which was established by The National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America, and runs from Oct. 18–24 this year. Mercy's Veterinary Technology Program and Paws Crossed have an ongoing partnership, through which students and faculty at Mercy's spay/neuter clinical practicum lab help provide spay/neuter and vaccination services for animals with Paws Crossed. The partnership provides students with hands-on clinical experience.

For a complete list of items Paws Crossed needs, including specific brands of pet food and treatments, visit *pawscrossedny.org/donate*. Those unable to donate in person can also make cash donations or online wishlist purchases at the donation page.

'Shine Through' exhibit

Watercolor painter Teri Siegel's "Shine Through" exhibit featuring 41 paintings inspired by the Hudson Valley and Connecticut shorelines is on display at the South Presbyterian Church's Donald Gallery through Sunday, Oct. 25.

Siegel, who lives part-time in Cortlandt Manor and in Connecticut, told the Dispatch, "dramatic skies, quiet beaches, snow-covered fields, birds and flowers, reflections dancing on the water, and sunlight filtering through the trees all find their way into my paintings."

The exhibit's "Shine Through" title is meant to speak to light in the spiritual sense, as it relates to South Presbyterian Church and its congregation, as well as the way Siegel sees light as an essential part of how she sees and paints the world around her.

The Donald Gallery is free and open to the public Tuesdays from 12–6:30 p.m., Wednesdays from 2–4 p.m., Thursdays from noon–4 p.m., and Sundays from 9 a.m.–1 p.m. For more about Siegel and samples of her art, visit *terisiegelart.com*.

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS

Committee to consider IB for Springhurst

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

The Dobbs Ferry School District is considering expanding the International Baccalaureate (IB) program to grades K-5 at Springhurst Elementary School. During a school board meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 29, the board voted unanimously to establish a 25-person study committee to determine if the district should pursue the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP), which is geared toward elementary school students.

In 1998 the district was first authorized for the IB Diploma Programme (DP), which is available for high school juniors and seniors. The district adopted the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) for students in grades 6-10 in 2016. The International Baccalaureate website emphasizes that the goal of its programs is to see students "grow into internationally minded citizens who appreciate different cultures and perspectives" and strengthen students' communication and research skills.

Schools Superintendent Ken Slentz wrote a recommendation for the board of education to look into expanding Dobbs Ferry's involvement to include the PYP. That includes the establishment of a review committee consisting of four district administrators, all three school principals, six teachers, four district parents, two school board members, three counselors or social workers, a MYP and DP program coordinator, and a curriculum project coordinator.

According to Slentz, adoption of the PYP wouldn't require a drastic overhaul of the current courses, but it would call for the creation of projects to facilitate cross-disciplinary work between the reading and mathematics curricular programs. PYP would also require the establishment of foreign language courses at Springhurst.

Currently, all students at the high school, including special education students, take at least an IB English class and one of three IB math courses. The high school also offers IB language classes in Spanish, French, and Italian, as well as IB courses in history, film, music, visual art, and sciences. To earn a full IB diploma, over the course of junior and senior year a student has to complete at least three IB classes designated as "higher level," which come with 240 hours of instructional time, and at least three "standard level" IB courses, which have 150 hours of instructional time. Full diploma candidates also must complete a 4,000-word research essay and a course called "Theory of Knowledge," which the IB website described as a course on critical thinking "designed to develop student understanding of knowledge and the process of knowing."

> "It'll change the mindset of kids, it'll change the level of preparation for the kids, it won't be harder."
>
> DFHS Principal John Falino

During the Sept. 29 meeting, DFHS Principal John Falino made a presentation about the progress of the IB program over the 16 years he's been in his post. In his first year, 12 students were candidates for the full IB diploma and 11 graduated with IB diplomas. In 2025, there were 32 diploma recipients out of 46 candidates. Earlier this year, out of a class of 110 graduates, 54 were IB diploma candidates and 40 earned IB diplomas. This school year, 52 students are starting out as candidates.

In his recommendation to the board, Falino cited academic research detailing that the IB program fosters strong college preparation, and that IB diploma earners are more likely to attend college. During the meeting, Falino offered his own support for bringing IB's PYP to Springhurst.

"That'll just create another bridge up to the middle school, which is well established, and it would align our district in a singular way," Falino said. "It'll change the mindset of kids, it'll change the level of preparation for the kids, it won't be harder. It'll be perhaps different, but it will align more closely to the experience they'll have in the middle school, which will align more closely to the experiences they're having in the high school."

The district previously established a study committee during the 2018-19 school year to consider adopting the PYP for Springhurst students, and decided not to pursue candidacy, in part because of the cost. The district is expected to solidify names for the study committee by the end of this week, and the study is anticipated to wrap up in the spring.



In sync on Cedar
—
The Stolen Moments Band, led by Paul and Peter Scattaretico, performs outside the Music Complex on Cedar Street during the Ferry Festa on Saturday, Oct. 3. The annual event featured an array of vendors and musicians on Cedar and Main, as well as local businesses and organizations.

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TIP OF THE MONTH

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Farmers Market
Saturday, Oct. 10, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Commuter Lot, Southside Avenue.
hastingsfarmersmarket.org

—

Meet the Fleet: Fire Truck and Ambulance
Saturday, Oct. 10, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. The Good Witch Coffee Bar, 134 Southside Ave.

—

Hastings Flea
Sunday, Oct. 11, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Commuter Lot, Southside Ave.

—

Demystifying Medicare
Sunday, Oct. 11, 1:15–4:30 p.m. Hastings Public Library. Register at *hastingslibrary.org*

—

Family Bingo Night
Wednesday, Oct. 14, 4:30–5:30 p.m. Hastings Public Library. Register: *amanning@hastingslibrary.org*

—

Virtual Candidate Forum
Wednesday, Oct. 14, 7–8 p.m. League of Women Voters hosts County Legislator David Imamura and challenger Laurie Press Duffalo. Register: *bit.ly/legislativedistrict12*. Send questions by Sunday, Oct. 11: *info@lwv-rivertowns.org*.

—

Planning Board Meeting
Thursday, Oct. 15, 7 p.m. Village Hall

Senior housing workshop

Seniors can explore their housing options during the "Should I Stay or Should I leave?" workshop on Oct. 15 at the James Harmon Community Center in Hastings.

The event, which takes place from 12:45–2:30 p.m., is hosted by the Hastings Senior Council, Senior Outreach Program, and Westchester County's Livable Communities. Rebecca Lippel, a gerontologist and director of care management at LiveWell, will provide a presentation on navigating decisions about aging in place, downsizing, senior communities, and assisted living. There will also be small group discussions to offer seniors a chance to discuss their own situations with those in similar circumstances.

The event is open to everyone, whether they are planning for themselves or a loved one.

RSVP can be done by calling 914-478-2380 or emailing *senioroutreach@hohny.gov*. Transportation is also available.

National Merit honorees

Hastings High School seniors ***Reuben Belasco, Soren Hegley, Olivia Huang,*** and ***Maxwell Silva Steeves*** were named National Merit Scholarship semifinalists, while 16 of their classmates were named commended students — ***William Andrus, Minah Choi-Phillips, Lia Cohen, Francesca DiMartino-Blanco, Alex Emtage, Orly Fishman, Marcus Gelman, Clara Grinberg, Nickola Horozov, Tadhg McCabe, Theo McCabe, Jalen Pekkala-Bitterman, Maya Sanzel, Madeline Thomas, William Weber,*** and ***Chentian Yang.***

— Amy Bochner

— HIGHER ED BRIEFS —

Bates graduate
Alexander Duchin graduated from Bates College with a bachelor's degree in biochemistry on May 31.

Tufts dean's list
Riya Chandra, Jacob Levan, Shira Oppenheimer, and ***Julius Stephens*** were named to the dean's list at Tufts University for the spring semester.

SUNY Purchase dean's list
Gabrielle Alexandrowski was named to the dean's list at SUNY Purchase for the spring semester.

Got news?
Email staff writer Amy Bochner at *amy@rivertownsdispatch.com*

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS

School district revises eighth-grade genocide unit

Public weighs in during marathon meeting

BY AMY BOCHNER

During the Hastings Board of Education meeting on Oct. 6, more than 30 speakers shared their perspectives about the "Genocide and Mass Atrocities" unit of an eighth-grade course, and the district's decision to revise that curriculum.

"Exploring Equity" is a required class at Farragut Middle School taught once a year in grades 5–8. Following the release of the original syllabus for this year's eighth-grade curriculum, the district heard concerns from community members about the syllabus' omission of the Holocaust and inclusion of current events in Gaza.

The unit "Genocides and Mass Atrocities" had case studies the class would examine throughout September and October, including Gaza. Over the past three years, a United Nations Commission of Inquiry, the International Association of Genocide Scholars, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and other organizations have characterized Israel's actions in Gaza as genocide.

At the Oct. 6 meeting, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction Melissa Szymanski emphasized that the course complements the main social studies curriculum, "where the students study the Holocaust more comprehensively." She said that in the updated unit, which she called the "Human Rights Unit," students will focus on "exploring what human rights are and why they matter."

"They'll be using the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," she said. "They'll be introduced to the origin of the term 'genocide' and how the Genocide Convention defined it. Students also will review cases to consider how genocide has been addressed by international law. As originally intended, Gaza is addressed as a current event still debated by scholars and governments. It is not meant to be a comprehensive history of the region."

Szymanski continued, stating that students "will not be asked to make legal determinations or otherwise about a controversial topic. Instead, students will be examining multiple perspectives and evidence, and doing so in a developmentally appropriate way, which is a core tenet of the New York State Social Studies standards."

Jenice Mateo-Toledo, the district's director of equity, opportunity, and belonging, described the actions taken following the release of the original syllabus. The initial step was to review the previous course scope and sequence and develop an updated curriculum synopsis, which families were presented on Sept. 17.

District leadership held meetings to discuss board policy 4200, which is the curriculum review cycle, and met with Hastings resident Steven Goldberg, the director of education at the Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center in White Plains, who works with New York State to design resources for social studies teachers. Toledo said some teachers will participate in a workshop offered by the Center, and the district will partner with Goldberg "to support our curriculum design efforts."

The human rights unit will be taught in the latter part of the half-year course. Families will be notified the week before.

During the Oct. 6 board meeting, three members of the Hastings Police Department monitored the room, and the public comment session began with a review of policies for speakers. When a speaker went over the 3-minute mark, the microphone shut off. These measures were taken following the Sept. 9 school board meeting, where parents criticizing Gaza's inclusion in the curriculum created disruptions, including a woman who grabbed the gavel from board president David Weinstein.

Throughout the nearly 4-hour meeting on Oct. 6, there were no outbursts from the over 80 people in attendance. Because the board discouraged applauding, audience members raised and shook their hands to express agreement.

> "Is the goal to teach our children to do better...?"
>
> Hastings resident Michelle Schwartz

Thirty-three audience members commented, approximately half of them Hastings residents and the other half from outside the village.

Speakers presented a range of views, with members of Jewish Voice for Peace Westchester (JVP-W), the Westchester Jewish Council, and the Westchester Coalition for Palestine present, as well as Goldberg from the Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center.

Several advocated for the district to meet with Arab, Jewish, and Muslim students and their families. JVP-W member Jesse Dean of Hastings recommended the district consider how "non-Zionist Jewish students will feel if we frame criticism of Israel as criticism of Jews."

Hastings resident and former school board president Iris Hiskey Arno condemned the behavior of parents at the Sept. 9 meeting. She stated that the "claims that there is no famine in Gaza, that people are having many children and thriving there, are simply falsehoods that show the need for factual education of our community."

Caline Karam of Hastings, who has two children in the district, reflected on her experience as an Arab American parent born in Lebanon, and emphasized that "our children matter too."

"When you describe Palestinian suffering as exaggerated or fabricated, you are denying the lived experience of people in this community," she said.

Some speakers, like Hastings parent Neil Ardity, criticized the inclusion of Gaza and expressed a lack of trust in the district. He stated, "Leading with genocide politicizes the discussion of Gaza" and stated the word "genocide" has been "weaponized." His wife, Moheeni Arditi, shared her concern that "a new teacher is teaching a middle school class on mass atrocities, genocide, and war crimes," and questioned if the course content would be more appropriate for older students.

Other speakers supported the inclusion of Gaza, with some expressing that the curriculum should be expanded. Hastings resident Judy Leipzig said that if Gaza is relegated to a "quick drive-by, then we are missing some important opportunities to help children grow."

Hastings resident Sharon Diamond, the daughter of a Holocaust survivor and mother of a journalist reporting from Gaza, urged the district to incorporate Palestinian voices and stories into the curriculum.

"Just as everyone should know the name of Anne Frank, they should also know Hind Rajab," she said, referring to the 5-year-old Palestinian girl who was killed by the Israeli military in January 2024, while she and her family were fleeing Gaza City.

Hastings parent Michelle Schwartz criticized the curriculum, and said there are questions the district must answer before moving ahead with teaching the subject, such as "Is the goal to teach our children to do better... or are we just tokenizing Gaza to allow an inexperienced teacher to enact a political agenda and make ourselves feel good and righteous?"

Hastings High School senior Avery Euler said that "by censoring this material... we are doing a disservice to everyone."

"School doesn't exist in a bubble," she said. "The minute that social media became accessible to children was the moment that adult spaces and children spaces stopped being separated... I can do a 1-second search, and I can see firsthand the violence that is happening that people are going to deny."

Headless Horsemen

Continued from page 3

about the Sleepy Hollow Street Fair that was picked up by Secret New York.

She estimated that about 30,000 people came to Sleepy Hollow for the event, overwhelming local roads and creating traffic backups that lasted for hours.

With the village facing the challenge of managing the growing crowds, the then-mayor asked Spellmann-Mignone to promote the message "Take the Train."

"I said to myself, 'Hmm. I have a costume and I have a 6-foot-tall best friend,'" Spellmann-Mignone recalled.

She enlisted her friend, a local event planner, to wear the costume and join her at the Metro-North station for photos and video.

From there, Take-the-Train took on a life of his own.

"I thought it was going to be a one-and-done thing," said the person inside the costume. "Now he has his own Instagram page. It's really become a thing. The joy on people's faces when they see him is crazy."

"He's not scary," she added. "He high-fives the kids and picks them up."

If a child is spooked by him, he kneels and hands over his pumpkin. That usually does the trick.

The horse he rode in on? That's a mystery, since the rider has no mouth with which to explain its whereabouts.

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Sunday, Oct. 11, 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Main Street School, 101 Main St. *irvingtonfarmersmarket.org*
—
Perler Bead Makerspace for Ages 7–12
Tuesday, Oct. 13, 4:30–5:30 p.m. Irvington Public Library. Register: *irvingtonlibrary.org*
—
Rivertowns Chamber Networking Event
Wednesday, Oct. 14, 5:30–7 p.m. Stillroom, 94 N. Broadway. Fee ($15, $25 for nonmembers). Register at *rivertownschamber.com*
—
Virtual Candidate Forum
Wednesday, Oct. 14, 7–8 p.m. League of Women Voters hosts County Legislator David Imamura and challenger Laurie Press Duffalo. Register: *bit.ly/legislativedistrict12*. Send questions by Sunday, Oct. 11: *info@lwv-rivertowns.org*.
—
YA Murder Mystery Writing
Thursday, Oct. 15, 5:30–6:30 p.m. Irvington Public Library. Register: *irvingtonlibrary.org*
—
Thursday Evening Book Club
Thursday, Oct. 15, 7:30–8:30 p.m. Irvington Public Library. "The Names" by Florence Knapp
—
October Exhibit: "Structures"
Martucci Gallery at Irvington Public Library. Watercolors by Jim Maciel

Meeting to air recommendations for municipal facilities

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Irvington residents will get the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments to Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners (BBB) about the firm's final recommendations for relocating or renovating key village facilities, such as the firehouse, police department, and department of public works (DPW) garage.

BBB's in-person presentation, with time for community feedback, will take place during a village board work session at the high school/middle school auditorium, 40 N. Broadway, on Wednesday, Oct. 14, from 7–10 p.m.

After the Village hired BBB for $444,505 last fall, the New York City-based consultants spent the last nine months touring the municipal facilities with department heads, speaking with village officials, and holding community input sessions. BBB's report, which is available on the Village's website, provides details about suggested options, as well as the estimated costs, benefits, and trade-offs for each option.

The report includes three separate potential scenarios for the Village to pursue. All three scenarios include the relocation of the DPW site to the current police firing range off of Cyrus Field Road. The report recommends consolidating the main DPW yard on South Astor Street, the transfer station in the Irvington Woods, and a salt shed at the one site off of Cyrus Field Road.

All three scenarios call for the construction of a new firehouse, with one suggesting the expansion of the current site into the adjacent Village-owned parcel at 86 Main Street. One scenario recommends relocation to the Village parking lot at Main Street and Broadway, either alone, or in a single public safety building with the police department. A third scenario calls for a combined public safety building at Broadway and Harriman Road, with the fire department, police department, and the Justice Court. In a letter to the board of trustees this summer, Fire Chief David Dowd expressed opposition to any option that moves the firehouse from its current location.

Cost estimates in the report include $21

Continued on page 17

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

Sign-up underway for future food scrap pickup

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Irvington residents who live in single-family homes can now sign up to have their food scraps picked up as part of a free composting program that will launch next year.

Beginning Jan. 8, the department of public works will pick up food scraps — fruits, vegetables, grains, and meat — every Friday morning. Paper towels, napkins, newspaper or paper bags are compostable and allowed with food scraps, but not plastic bags or biodegradable bags that aren't certified compostable. Residents have to set the food scraps out in a 5-gallon sealable bin that will be available for $20 at Irvington Hardware, 81 Main St., starting Nov. 1.

After being picked up, the food scraps will be taken to a compost facility run by Cortlandt Manor-based Sustainable Material Management, where food waste is rotated and separated so it can receive oxygen and decompose into rich soil. In a landfill, that same food waste would be sealed inside plastic trash bags and decompose in an anaerobic environment without oxygen, and produce methane, which negatively impacts air quality.

"Separating out food scraps from your waste is perhaps one of the biggest ecological services an individual household can contribute," Irvington Sustainability Director Charlotte Binns told the Dispatch. "You are taking out heavy resources that are currently being trucked to an incinerator that causes air pollution, and converting them into a black gold, which is a nutritious soil that helps build our ecosystem."

Since 2019, Irvington residents have had the option to pay for their food scraps to be picked up by Hudson Compost Services, which was founded by former Hastings High School students. Also, Irvington Green Steering Committee member Anne Jaffe Holmes has been helping run a food scrap dropoff during the Irvington Farmers Market at Main Street School. Initially,

> "My goal is to get it to a default service that happens at every single house."
>
> Sustainability Director Charlotte Binns

Holmes transported the food scraps to a dropoff location run by the Town of Greenburgh, where C.R.P. Sanitation, which runs Sustainable Material Management, picked it up and hauled it to the compost facility in Cortlandt. As of 2018, C.R.P. picks up the food scraps from Main Street School.

"It's very exciting to me that we've come to this point where there's enough commitment to the understanding of the value of reclaiming food scraps for the nutrients they can bring back into the food cycle, that our Village is actually willing to make the investment to get it launched," Holmes told the Dispatch.

DPW Superintendent Todd Smith explained that while there will be additional labor costs for picking up residents' food scraps, tipping fees, which are charged per ton of waste delivered to a facility, are typically cheaper at a compost facility than at an incinerator, like the one most local garbage goes to in Peekskill. Binns hopes to see enough food scraps shifted from regular trash to compost that it reduces the overall costs for the Village.

"My goal is to get it to a default service that happens at every single house, where you don't need to opt in," Binns explained. "The same way recycling happens now, where every household has recycling collection. It should just be the standard for everybody."

Holmes also envisions a future where all residential and commercial buildings throughout Irvington participate in composting.

"Now the Village is not in charge of the food scraps for restaurants, but the vision is that eventually the awareness of the importance of this will be informing the behaviors of all entities within our village," Holmes said.

To sign up for free, curbside food scrap collection, which will begin on Jan. 8, 2027, visit *irvingtongreen.org/waste/food-scraps*. There is no minimum or maximum number of residents who can sign up, but multifamily homes are not eligible for pickup at this time.

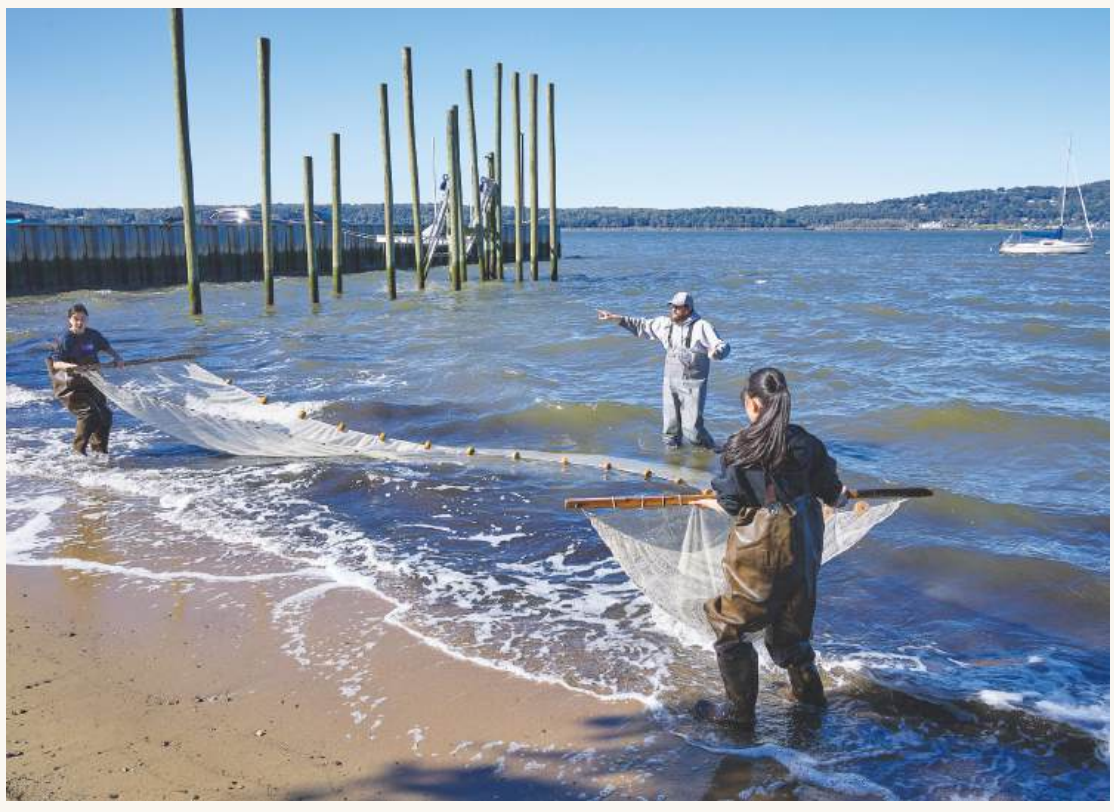


ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS

Day in the life
—
Irvington High School environmental science teacher Alex Lengers directs two students to pull in a seine net at Matthiessen Park on Tuesday, Oct. 6, as part of the 24th annual "Day in the Life of the Hudson and Harbor," during which students gathered data about the river at sites from Albany to New York City. In Irvington, sixth-graders were assisted by eighth-graders and high schoolers.



First class is free.
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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



SLEEPY HOLLOW

TaSH Farmers Market
Saturday, Oct. 10, 8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Patriots Park. *tashfarmersmarket.org*
—
Hudson River Flash Cleanup
Saturday, Oct. 10, 10–11 a.m. Horan's Landing Park. Gloves and bags will be provided

SUP Witches Festival
Saturday, Oct. 10, noon–5 p.m.; rain date Oct. 11. Kingsland Point Park. Tickets: $8–$10; paddlers must register ($35) at *supwitchfest.com*
—
Chamber Breakfast Networking
Thursday, Oct. 15, 8:30–10 a.m. Sleepy Hollow Hotel, 455 S. Broadway. *sleepyhollow tarrytownchamber.com*
—
Halloween Happening for Ages 3–10
Thursday, Oct. 15, 4 p.m. Warner Library

Planning Board Work Session
Thursday, Oct. 15, 6:30 p.m. Village Hall
—
Library Board Meeting
Thursday, Oct. 15, 6:30 p.m. Warner Library
—

Halloween StoryCraft for Ages 5–12
Friday, Oct. 16, 4 p.m. Warner Library
—
Block Party
Friday, Oct. 16, and Saturday, Oct. 17, 5 p.m.–midnight. Beekman Avenue

Broomstick, shroomstick!

The annual SUP Witches Festival returns this Saturday, Oct. 10, bringing costumed witches, warlocks, and wizards to Kingsland Point Park for a mass paddle on the Hudson River.

The "Witches Hollow" onshore will offer live music by Might & the Weevils and The Incumbents, plus about 60 vendors, including food.

Tara Scheller, festival organizer and owner of Rivertowns SUP and Yoga, sees the Witches Festival as the SUP (stand-up paddleboarding) season's finale.

"The Witches Festival is kind of the climax of the season," she said, "that is just dressing up as witches and paddling on the Hudson. It is a full-body exercise." Spectators, however, need not exercise.

The paddle route is divided into three zones, from a short course near the beach to a longer route around the lighthouse. The launch and group photo will take place around 1 p.m.

Scheller anticipates about 175 witches on the water and roughly 5,000 festival-goers, based on last year's crowd. Paddlers must register in advance, sign a waiver, and wear a witchy costume that might have to double as a swimsuit.

The festival runs from noon–5 p.m. Admission is $8 in advance, $10 on the day of; children under 8 are free with a paying adult. To purchase tickets or sign up, visit supwitchfest.com.

The rain date, "witch" won't be needed, is Oct. 11.

Old Dutch Church fundraisers

The Old Dutch Church of Sleepy Hollow will host six candlelit readings of Washington Irving's "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" this month, featuring narrator Kerin McCue and music director Jeremy Goldsmith.

Readings will take place Oct. 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, and 25 at 7 p.m. Admission is $40, with proceeds benefiting restoration of the church roof. The 300-year-old house of worship is the oldest in New York State.

The church is also presenting free organ concerts, "Raise the Roof: Tombs and Tunes," on Fridays in October at 4:30 p.m., with proceeds benefiting the roof project. The 30-minute programs feature spooky music followed by refreshments in the burying ground. A suggested donation is $20.

"The roof restoration is still one of our biggest priorities, and we're continuing to work toward raising the funds needed. We are more than a third of the way to our goal, and every ticket purchased helps us get a little closer," said Renee Chillemi, president of the Friends of the Old Dutch Church and Burying Ground.

— Laura Schiller

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS



David Neilsen at the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. *Photo by Jim Logan.*

One-man shows bring spine-chilling tales to life

BY LAURA SCHILLER

There's something fitting about hearing a scary tale in the dark, particularly when it is more than a century old and the setting has a few ghost stories of its own.

This month, storyteller and author David Neilsen will bring some of those tales to life in a series of performances at the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery and Rockwood Hall. His program includes H.G. Wells' "The Time Machine," Bram Stoker's "Dracula," Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein," and works by Edgar Allan Poe.

His performances are theatrical rather than traditional readings. He appears in costume, moves around the room, and uses different voices and mannerisms for the characters, with the book nearby as a reference.

"It's as if you're listening to an audiobook, but you're seeing me acting this stuff out as well," he said. "I'm not just sitting in a chair. I'm standing up. I'm pacing, and I'm acting all over the place."

"It's a one-man show," he added.

Neilsen has been performing since childhood. He studied theater at UC Santa Barbara and spent years working in the internet industry before returning to theater and storytelling after moving back East. He lived in Tarrytown for about 20 years before moving across the river to Valley Cottage in May.

About a dozen years ago, after performing at the Warner Library, he was invited to bring his act to Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. He has been playing his favorite spine-tingling parts there ever since.

Neilsen is also a Gothic horror writer, with several books to his name, including books for middle-grade readers. But October is when he gets to return to the classics.

"In October, we want 'The Legend of Sleepy Hollow.' We want 'Dracula.' We want the meat that we all know," he told the Dispatch. "And I love presenting them so much."

The series begins Friday, Oct. 9, with

Continued on page 17



Walking and rolling
—
Elementary school students throughout Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow used their feet and bicycles to participate in National Walk and Roll to School Day on Wednesday, Oct. 7, which encompassed events in 46 states and Washington, D.C.

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TARRYTOWN

TaSH Farmers Market
Saturday, Oct. 10, 8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Patriots Park. *tashfarmersmarket.org*

—

Board of Trustees Work Session
Wednesday, Oct. 14, 6 p.m. Village Hall

Zoning Board Meeting
Thursday, Oct. 15, 7 p.m. Village Hall

—

Chamber Breakfast Networking
Thursday, Oct. 15, 8:30–10 a.m. Sleepy Hollow Hotel, 455 S. Broadway. *sleepyhollow tarrytownchamber.com*

—

Frightful Feature Film: "The Nesting"
Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2 p.m. Warner Library

—

Halloween Happening for Ages 3–10
Thursday, Oct. 15, 4 p.m. Warner Library

—

Library Board Meeting
Thursday, Oct. 15, 6:30 p.m. Warner Library

—

Halloween StoryCraft for Ages 5–12
Friday, Oct. 16, 4 p.m. Warner Library

—

Trunk or Treat & Movie Night
Friday, Oct. 16, 4:30–6:30 p.m.; rain date Oct. 23. Parking Lot E next to Pierson Park. Screening of "Addams Family Values" in Pierson Park

— OBITUARY —

Robert Kimmel

Former Tarrytown resident Robert "Bob" Kimmel passed away on Oct. 1, at age 93, leaving behind a family who loved him and a community that benefited from him.

Bob was born in Philadelphia, raised his children in Rye, and then lived in Tarrytown until his recent move to The Knolls in Valhalla.



Bob's love of journalism began as editor-in-chief of his high school newspaper and later as sports editor of the Temple News at Temple University. After being drafted in 1955, he broadcast news and sports for the American Forces Network in Germany and later worked as its Paris correspondent.

Back in the U.S., Bob's career included WCAU, ABC, WINS, and eight years as NBC's director of network radio news. He travelled on presidential press trips with Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford and met figures including Muhammad Ali and Robert Kennedy. He later devoted three years to a documentary about Raoul Wallenberg.

As co-founder and editorial director of The Hudson Independent, Bob brought decades of experience and a belief in fairness, balance, and accuracy in reporting. He cared about helping residents understand their communities and the decisions affecting their lives. His coverage of politics and civic affairs earned the trust of public officials, business owners, and community leaders. The newspaper's early voicemail greeting bore his warm, deep baritone, welcoming callers with the voice of a seasoned broadcaster.

That same voice became part of a beloved community tradition. A longtime member of the Rotary Club of the Tarrytowns, Bob served as master of ceremonies for its annual Duck Derby in Patriots Park. With Bob at the microphone, even a field of rubber ducks received professional commentary.

In 2020, Bob was inducted into the Westchester County Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, recognizing his contributions to the community.

Bob is survived by his children, Jeffrey Kimmel (Liat) and Julie Kimmel (Leigh Pedersen); his grandchildren, Sienna, Cameron, Gavin, Ethan, and Sophia; and his stepchildren, Kathy, Jennifer Harter (David Smellson), Amy Pedula (Jimmy), and David Harter (Olga Tsoy), and their children, Ethan, Matthew, Rebecca, Luke, Emily, and Charlotte.

A family service was held in Philadelphia, where he was laid to rest beside relatives. A celebration of life will be held Oct. 11, at 1:30 p.m., at Riverside Memorial Chapel, 100 Saw Mill River Road, Hawthorne.

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS

Headless Horseman–inspired author leads panel

BY LAURA SCHILLER

When author J.W. Ocker takes a shower — or engages in any of the common day-to-day bathroom activities — he sees the Headless Horseman galloping across a field.

The legendary figure is emblazoned on the shower door, which Ocker designed, and the walls are painted a deep black, reflecting the spooky Sleepy Hollow atmosphere he has long appreciated and now explores in his new travelogue, "Chasing the Headless Horseman: The History, Hijinks, and Halloweens of the Real Sleepy Hollow."

Ocker, a New Hampshire resident, will bring that research to Tarrytown Music Hall on Saturday, Oct. 10, for "Sleepy Hollow Fact & Fiction with J.W. Ocker," presented in partnership with Transom Bookshop. Shop owner Chris Steib will host a panel discussion with Ocker and other horror-ish authors — Christina Henry, Nichole Louise, and Jude S. Walko — whose work incorporates or riffs on Sleepy Hollow history and legends, including the Headless Horseman. The event begins at 1 p.m. Each $35 ticket includes an autographed copy of Ocker's book; tickets without a signed book are $25.

On Instagram, Ocker described his research. He watched 82 hours of Sleepy Hollow-inspired movies and TV shows; visited relevant sites, from Sleepy Hollow Cemetery to Washington Irving's home, Sunnyside, where the "Legend of Sleepy Hollow" author died; attended touristy events, including Twilight Village at Philipsburg Manor and the Halloween Parade; and interviewed local residents, historians, and others familiar with the area's lore.



J.W. Ocker

"There's a strong argument that 'The Legend of Sleepy Hollow' belongs to Tarrytown, where most of Irving's story actually takes place. So for Tarrytown to host this event dedicated to 'Chasing the Headless Horseman' and other Headless Horseman-inspired books is fitting and exciting," Ocker said.

Steib is no stranger to selling books at author and literary events, although hosting the evening represents a new kind of appearance for him.

About eight months ago, he saw Ocker's book-jacket reveal and began thinking about an evening around the book. Not quite knowing if it would fly, he reached out to The Music Hall, Ocker's publisher (Countryman Press), and a selection of other authors whose books sell well this time of year.

"Everybody said 'Yes!'" he told the Dispatch.

"The whole thing's just coming together, and I think it's going to be a really unique Sleepy Hollow-Tarrytown Halloween thing," Ocker said. "It's going to be the most 'Sleepy Hollow' event of the Halloween season."

The panel will explore the legend, the many ways writers have adapted it, and, Steib said, likely some of the authors' least favorite film adaptations.

"Why is this story such a blank canvas for people?" he wondered. "You know, I would have to look pretty far to find, like, eight books about the mummy. Obviously, vampires and werewolves show up… but is there a singular monster like the Headless Horseman who people have wanted to rewrite so many times?"

The authors on the panel have approached the legend in different ways, from contemporary horror and period Gothic fiction to romance and historical research.

For Steib, the event is also an opportunity to draw attention to the area's literary history beyond the Halloween season.

"It's not just a place to come get your pumpkin-spice latte and get your spooky vibes on," he said. "It's also a wonderful place that a lot of amazing people live in."

He hopes the event will highlight the area's "rich historical and cultural and literary history" while reminding visitors that Sleepy Hollow is an actual community.

"I'm hoping people walk away feeling that sense of, yes, this is not a theme park, this is not Orlando [Disneyworld]," Steib said. "This is a real place and it's steeped in culture. And I can love that and I can respect it. I can have a lot of fun with it, and I can sort of revere the people who live here and who make it happen."



Silver steps

—

Joseph Harrington performs during Rivertown Dance Academy's "Silver Fest" fundraiser on Sunday, Sept. 27, at Silver Pro Music in Hartsdale. Founded in 2016 by Jessica Horgan, Rivertown Dance Academy is located at 69 North Broadway in Tarrytown. For more info, visit *rivertowndanceacademy.org*.

HAPPENINGS IN THE RIVERTOWNS

The Agenda

EDITED BY JENNIFER GOLD

SATURDAY OCTOBER 10

Author Visit
DOBBS FERRY
1 p.m. / Free. Dobbs Ferry Public Library, 55 Main St. Celebrate the release of local author Mina Elwell's graphic novel, "Undercover Monster," for ages 8–12. *dobbsferrylibrary.org*

Closing Reception
HASTINGS
3–6 p.m. / Free. Upstream Gallery, 8 Main St. Celebrate TB Ward's "The Rubicon" and Susan Richman's "Crude Futures." Both are longtime Hastings residents. *upstreamgallery.com*

Local Lore Fact & Fiction
TARRYTOWN
1 p.m. / $35 (includes signed book), $25. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. With J.W. Ocker, author of "Chasing the Headless Horseman: The History, Hijinks, and Halloweens of the Real Sleepy Hollow." *tarrytownmusichall.org*

Jazz Pianist Christian Sands
TARRYTOWN
7 and 9 p.m. / $35, $30 for students. Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. *jazzforumarts.org*

Comedy: Kevin Nealon
TARRYTOWN
8 p.m. / $46–$63. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. *tarrytownmusichall.org*

Fright Fest
SLEEPY HOLLOW
5–9:45 p.m. / Free. Sleepy Hollow High School, 210 N. Broadway. Sleepy Hollow Cinema launches a short-film competition for young horror filmmakers with a showcase at 7:30. *sleepyhollowcinema.org/events*

SUP Witches Festival
SLEEPY HOLLOW
Noon–5 p.m. / For paddlers: $35, $50 includes equipment; for festival tickets: $8 in advance, $10 at the event; free for kids under 8. Kingsland Point Park. *supwitchfest.com*

Live Performance: Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde
SLEEPY HOLLOW
6:30 and 8:30 p.m. / $45. Washington Irving Memorial Chapel, 540 North Broadway. Register at *sleepyhollowcemetery.org*

SUNDAY OCTOBER 11

Hastings Flea
HASTINGS
10 a.m.–4 p.m. (rain or shine). Zinsser Commuter Parking Lot, Southside Avenue. *thehastingsflea.com*

Sound Bath
HASTINGS
4:30–5:45 p.m. / $60. Amanda Kupillas Dance, 44 Main St. *amandakupillas.com*



SUP Witches Festival features costumed witches on paddleboards and in kayaks on the Hudson and a shoreline celebration at Kingsland Point Park in Sleepy Hollow on Saturday, Oct. 10.

Art Reception: "Finding Light"
TARRYTOWN
2–4 p.m. / Free. Shames JCC, 371 S. Broadway. *shamesjcc.org*

Mediums Daisy & Arlene
TARRYTOWN
5–7 p.m. / $35, $0 for nonmembers. Shames JCC, 371 S. Broadway. *shamesjcc.org*

Live Performance: Dracula
SLEEPY HOLLOW
6:30 and 8:30 p.m. / $45. Washington Irving Memorial Chapel, 540 N. Broadway. Register at *sleepyhollowcemetery.org*

MONDAY OCTOBER 12

"I Heart Pickles"
DOBBS FERRY
10–11 a.m. / $5 (tickets can be redeemed for a $5 gift card). Picture Book at HudCo, 145 Palisade St., Suite 200. Celebrate the publication of Suzy Ultman's board book with story time and coloring. RSVP at *picturebookny.com/calendar*

Dance Intensive
DOBBS FERRY
10 a.m.–3:45 p.m. / $150. MorDance, 145 Palisade St. (lower level). One-day training for advanced, pre-professional, and professional dancers ages 15+. Register at *mordance.org*

School's Out Mini-Camp
HASTINGS
9 a.m.–Noon / $80. The Maker Hive, 416 Warburton Ave. For grades K–4. Register at *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*

TUESDAY OCTOBER 13

Trivia Night
DOBBS FERRY
7–9 p.m. / Free. Memorial Park. Up to six people per team; ages 18+. Sign up at *dobbsferry.gov/recreation-department*

Americana: Colin McGrath
HASTINGS
7–9 p.m. / No cover charge. Uncle Lefty's, 583 Warburton Ave. *unclelefty s.com*

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14

Volunteer Fire Department Carnival
ARDSLEY
Opens at 5 p.m. weekdays and 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, through Oct. 18. Pascone Park, 507 Ashford Ave. Unlimited rides: $35.

Poetry Open Mic
HASTINGS
6–10 p.m. / Free. Moviehouse Mews, 579 Warburton Ave. The Hudson Valley Arts Collective presents poet Francy Stoller. *instagram.com/hudsonvalleyartsco*

Rivertowns Chamber Networking Event
IRVINGTON
5:30–7 p.m. / $15, $25 for nonmembers. Stillroom, 94 N. Broadway. Includes light bites and drinks. Register at *rivertownschamber.com*

THURSDAY OCTOBER 15

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

"The Masque of the Red Death"
TARRYTOWN
6–9 p.m. / $45. Lyndhurst, 635 S. Broadway. Irvington Shakespeare Company presents an immersive experience based on Edgar Allan Poe's story about Prince Prospero. For ages 12+. Also Oct. 16, 18, 22–25, and 29–30. *lyndhurst.org*

Chamber Breakfast Networking
TARRYTOWN
8:30–10 a.m. / Free for members. Sleepy Hollow Hotel, 455 S. Broadway. Register at *sleepyhollowtarrytownchamber.com*

"Peek-a-Boo"
OSSINING
7:30 p.m. / $37, $27 for seniors and students, $47 for VIP table seating. Bethany Arts Community, 40 Somerstown Road. This immersive show, written by Ardsley resident Meghan Covington of River's Edge Theatre Company, takes the audience to a little club in Tarrytown in the 1920s. For mature audiences. Also Oct. 16–18 and 22–25. *riversedgetheatre.com, bethanyarts.org*

FRIDAY OCTOBER 16

Live Music: Lucky Bastards
ARDSLEY
9 p.m. / No cover charge. Saw Mill Tavern, 925 Saw Mill River Road. Reservations encouraged. *smtavern.com*

River Jam
DOBBS FERRY
6:30–8:30 p.m. / Free. Waterfront Park. The fall concert series features live music with Seeing Red and a food truck. *dobbsferry.gov/recreation-department*

"Lady in White" Tour
IRVINGTON
4 and 5:45 p.m. / $58. The Armour-Stiner Octagon House, 45 W. Clinton Ave. The immersive tour is based on a ghost story. Recommended for ages 12+. Various times through Nov. 1. Advance tickets required. *armourstiner.com*

Kids' Clothing Swap
TARRYTOWN
2–6 p.m. Shames JCC, 371 S. Broadway. Also Oct. 17, 9 a.m.–noon. *shamesjcc.org*

Continued on page 17

The Agenda

Trunk or Treat and Movie Night
TARRYTOWN
4:30–6:30 p.m. Parking Lot E next to Pierson Park. Register your vehicle at *tarrytownny.gov/parks-and-recreation-department/events/40891*. Screening of "Addams Family Values" begins at dark. Rain date Oct. 23.

"Home for Horror" Film Series
TARRYTOWN
5, 7:15, and 9:15 p.m. / $16 for adults, $13 for kids. Lyceum Club, 39 N. Broadway. Through Sunday, Oct. 18, for the first of three weekends of seasonal classics presented by Sleepy Hollow Cinema. *sleepyhollowcinema.org/events*

Vocalist Champian Fulton
TARRYTOWN
7 and 9 p.m. / $35, $30 for students. Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. Also Oct. 17. *jazzforumarts.org*

The Magic of Motown
TARRYTOWN
7:30 p.m. / $37–$87. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. *tarrytownmusichall.org*

Block Party
SLEEPY HOLLOW
5 p.m.–midnight / Free. Beekman Avenue. Also Saturday, Oct. 17. *visitsleepyhollow.com*

Live Performance: Frankenstein
SLEEPY HOLLOW
7:15 and 9:15 p.m. / $45. Washington Irving Memorial Chapel, 540 N. Broadway. Register at *sleepyhollowcemetery.org*

Hybrid Open Mic
SLEEPY HOLLOW
7:30–10 p.m. / $5 per performer. Philipse Manor Station, 300 Riverside Drive. Hybrid performance hosted by the Hudson Valley Writers Center. Registration required. *writerscenter.org*

Classies

PUBLIC NOTICES

Please be advised that on October 5, 2026, the Board of Trustees adopted Local Law #5 of 2026 amending the Zoning Code with respect to traffic standards in special permit requirements for Multi-family/Office (MFO) District.

A copy of the full text of this Local Law is available in the office of the Village Clerk, 85 Main Street, Irvington, NY or on the Village website at http://www.irvingtonny.gov.

Katie Bugna, Clerk-Treasurer

October 6, 2026
Irvington, NY

—

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

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The Blotter
Continued from page 2

his arrest for two counts of assault in the third degree and one count of resisting arrest, both misdemeanors, on July 12.

Suspended registrations: A 58-year-old Bronx resident and a 33-year-old Mount Vernon resident were arrested for suspended vehicle registrations, a misdemeanor, on Broadway (Route 9) on the afternoon of Saturday, Oct. 3. Officer Wuilber Maldonado made both arrests.

IRVINGTON

Suspended license and registration: A 68-year-old Yonkers resident was arrested for a suspended driver's license and vehicle registration, both misdemeanors, after she collided with another driver while southbound on Broadway (Route 9) at Main Street on the morning of Sunday, Oct. 4. Officers Charles Girven and Robert Spatafore made the arrest.

TARRYTOWN

Unleashed dogs: A 75-year-old Tarrytown resident was issued a summons for walking two unleashed dogs on the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail on the morning of Monday, Sept. 28.

Suspended license: A 34-year-old Bronx resident was arrested for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the second degree, a misdemeanor, on Neperan Road on the afternoon of Tuesday, Sept. 29. Officer Claudio Liranzo made the arrest.

Unauthorized charges: On Sept. 29, a Tarrytown resident reported that unauthorized charges were made to his credit card for $1,077 on Aug. 11 and $1,687 on Aug. 12.

Wanted no more: A 39-year-old White Plains resident surrendered to police on Sept. 30 in response to a warrant issued on May 26, 2010, after he missed an appearance in Tarrytown Village Court. The appearance was for his arrest for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree, a misdemeanor, on May 11, 2010.

Theft from account: On Sept. 30, a Tarrytown resident reported that his cellphone was hijacked and $600 was stolen from his checking account.

Lodging complaint: On Oct. 1, the Sleepy Hollow Hotel and Conference Center reported that a family of three adults, three children, and one dog owed $2,173 for stays in June and September, the cost of which they disputed.

DWI arrest: A 56-year-old driver from Irvington, N.J., was arrested after he rear-ended a vehicle stopped at a red light on southbound Broadway (Route 9) and then fled east on White Plains Road (Route 119). He was apprehended in Elmsford and charged with two misdemeanors — aggravated driving while intoxicated and leaving the scene of a property damage accident. He was also issued a summons for an open container of alcohol, a violation. Officer Kevin Aguilar made the arrest.

David Neilsen
Continued from page 13

readings of "The Time Machine" at 7:15 and 9:15 p.m. in the chapel at the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. Wells' 1895 vision of a future in which technology has taken over so much of human life feels especially relevant today, according to Neilsen.

"The whole point of 'The Time Machine' is that mankind has become so dependent on technology that they have de-evolved into pretty much nothing," he said. "They can't do anything because technology does everything for them. And then the technology breaks down, and they can't fix it."

On Oct. 10 and 11, he will perform "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," by Robert Louis Stevenson, and "Dracula", respectively, with readings at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. each night. On Oct. 16, he returns to the chapel for performances of "Frankenstein" at 7:15 and 9:15 p.m.

Neilsen sees a contemporary connection in Shelley's tale as well.

"The story is timely with the man creating his own creation and the consequences of that," he said. "A lot of it connects to the horrors of A.I., to be honest."

Neilsen moves to Rockwood Hall in Rockefeller State Park Preserve on Oct. 17 and 18 for "Tales of Edgar Allan Poe" at 6 p.m. each night. He will perform stories including "The Tell-Tale Heart" and "The Raven" amid the remains of the historic estate overlooking the Hudson.

For eight nights from Oct. 22 to Nov. 1, at Rockwood Hall, he will turn to local lore, including the Storm Ship, Spook Rock, and the White Lady of Raven Rock, before arriving at Washington Irving's "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow." The performances will start at 6 p.m.

Of all the stories he performs, Neilsen said "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" remains especially meaningful. After doing the piece in various forms for more than a decade, he has it memorized.

"We know where the manor house was supposed to be, where the tree was, where the bridge was," he said. "And it's so fun to perform."

On Oct. 28, Neilsen will also present "The Poetry of Francis Saltus Saltus" at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. Saltus, who is buried there, was a 19th-century bohemian poet whose work explored subjects including alcohol, women, and death. The evening will begin in the chapel and end at his gravesite.

Whatever the story or setting, Neilsen is not trying to scare his audience.

"I'm not interested in slasher flicks or gory stuff," he reflected. "I'm interested in what really makes us afraid and how does that make us react as people?

"I'm reading and hopefully you are getting chills and you're, like, really into the story," he added, "and, you know, there's some creepy stuff that happens…

"I'm doing voices, I'm doing characters, I'm giving you everything. I'm putting you into it."

Tickets for the cemetery events cost $48 at *sleepyhollowcemetery.org/special-events*. Tickets for "Tales of Edgar Allan Poe" cost $23.18, while tickets for "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow and Local Lore" cost $28.52, at the Eventbrite page for Rockefeller State Park Preserve.

Irvington facilities
Continued from page 11

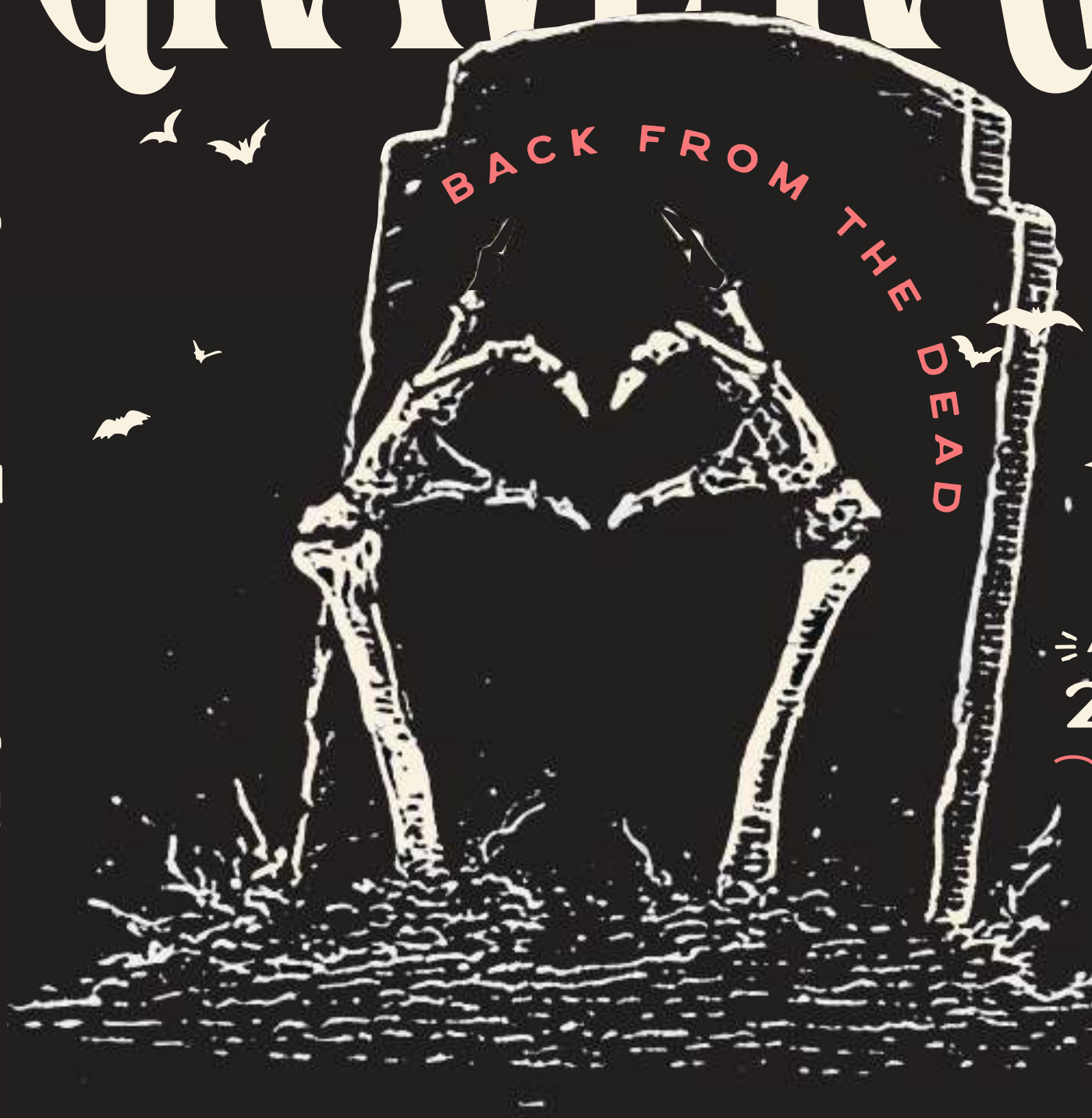
million for a new DPW facility and $47 million to $49 million for a combined public safety building at Broadway and Harriman Road. The cost of constructing a brand-new firehouse alone is estimated at $25.5 million.

The Village plans to take the report, community input, the Village's ongoing Fiscal Impact Analysis, and Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) District planning and zoning study into consideration before making a decision on courses of action. Any options the Village decides to pursue will then have to go through design, engineering, environmental, and financial analysis before being finalized. If and when the village board opts to pursue borrowing money to complete any of the projects, it would be up to that future village board to decide whether or to hold a public vote similar to the bond referendum that was voted down in 2023.

For more details of BBB's report, visit *irvingtonny.gov/827/Facilities-Planning-Project*.

A HUDCO HALLOWEEN BALL

THE GRAVE RAVE



COSTUME CONTEST

DANCING AND COCKTAILS

AGES 21+

SATURDAY 10.24

7:30P –11P

— Ye Must Show Up —

Opinion

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

Communities should coordinate calendar

To the Editor:

I would like to suggest an idea that could benefit residents throughout the Town of Greenburgh — creating a coordinated annual calendar for key community events among Greenburgh's six villages and the unincorporated area of Greenburgh.

Each of our villages has wonderful traditions, celebrations, concerts, festivals, fairs, and community programs. These events are an important part of what makes our communities special. However, when multiple events are scheduled on the same day or weekend, residents are often forced to choose which event they can attend. This also makes it more difficult for organizers to attract volunteers, performers, vendors, and strong attendance.

A coordinated annual calendar would give the villages and unincorporated Greenburgh an opportunity to work together and, whenever practical, avoid scheduling major community events on the same dates. This does not mean that every event needs to be on a different day. Another benefit: it could help restaurants, shops, vendors, and other businesses because there would be increased turnout at each event.

This past weekend activities highlighted the need. The villages of Ardsley and Hastings had fireworks the same evening. Ardsley had a fantastic Latino program on Saturday — same day as Dobbs' Ferry Festa. There are other examples during the year. If these programs were not world-class activities I would not care, but the quality of the programs offered to residents is exceptional and, speaking personally, I hate to miss anything.

Paul Feiner

GREENBURGH TOWN SUPERVISOR

Teach students about all forms of prejudice

To the Editor:

I watched the video of the Sept. 9 Hastings Board of Education meeting with increasing alarm and dismay over the behavior of my fellow residents. Their abuse of the board — culminating in one woman ranting and cursing and another rushing at the board president and grabbing his gavel — was astonishing and appalling. It hardly needs saying that these parents set an absolutely terrible example for the children they claim to be protecting.

I commend the district for speaking publicly about the difficult issues raised by the new eighth-grade social studies course syllabus, for acknowledging and taking responsibility for mistakes made along the way, and for discussing steps going forward. I hope that our schools will not shy away from addressing the pressing issue of Gaza (and the West Bank), and that the aggressive harassers who embarrassed us all will not succeed in intimidating the district.

I am a Jewish Hastings resident and 10-year school board member who has lived here for over 35 years and sent my two sons through our school system. I believe we must educate our students and our community about antisemitism and do everything in our power to prevent it. But the same must be said equally strongly about Islamophobia. I know Muslim residents whose children have experienced this prejudice here, and I worry how they feel in a community where such vitriol is spewed at the board of education. I hope the school district will address the concerns of these families as well as those of Jewish families.

Lastly, some of the irate commenters at the Sept. 9 meeting presented gross misstatements as fact. Their claims that there is no famine in Gaza and that people are thriving there are falsehoods demonstrating the need for education of our students and our entire community.

Iris Hiskey Arno

HASTINGS

Pumpkin Trail inspires wonder

To the Editor:

Imagine going out to start your daily routine and seeing a bright, handmade, festive pumpkin. Someone is admiring it next to you. They say, "Have you heard of the Pumpkin Trail?" This is the purpose of the Rivertowns Pumpkin Trail; getting people together. There are a total of 43 original pumpkins across the Rivertowns.

I spoke to Joana Ricou, the artist who made the "Kraken" pumpkin from Dobbs Ferry, by the exit of the Aqueduct. She said the best part of being an artist was displaying your art to make people happy and get them together.

I also talked to Jennifer Andrews, the chair of Dobbs Ferry's public art committee, who told my friend Clementine and me about the process. The artists were given two weeks to submit their design, and, if chosen, another month to decorate their pumpkin model. They were given the option of either one big pumpkin ("hero" pumpkin) or a pumpkin stack as their base.

Not being an artist, I think that what Joana said is beautiful, and cannot believe the work everyone did to make this happen. In my opinion, I hope this tradition continues, because every pumpkin was a wonder.

More work than anyone can believe went into this, and the result was stunningly awesome.

The pumpkins will be auctioned to make money for the artists and to save to do this next year. If you see one you like, consider going to the auction. It is open from Oct. 20 to Nov. 1. You can visit the website by going to *rivertownspumpkintrail.com*.

Astrid Bomash

DOBBS FERRY

The writer is a sixth-grader at Dobbs Ferry Middle School

Candidate wants to build community

To the Editor:

With election season underway, I wanted to introduce myself: My name is Meghan Raderstrong, and I'm running for the Sleepy Hollow Board of Trustees. I hope to earn your vote on Nov. 3.

I grew up in the Town of Mount Pleasant and moved back home over a decade ago. My husband and I chose Sleepy Hollow because we wanted to raise our family in a place where neighbors know and look out for one another. That sense of community is one of the things I love most about living here.

I've worked in education for more than 15 years, first as a classroom teacher and now as a reading specialist and English as a New Language teacher in White Plains, supporting students as they develop their English speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills.

Our children are 5 and 8, and we've tried to involve them in our community as much as possible. You can often find us on the soccer field, in the Taekwondo studio, or volunteering. My husband and I teach Sunday School at the Dutch Reformed Church, and I've been a class parent at JP, Morse, and Washington Irving. I volunteer because I love being part of our community, and I want my kids to see what it means to contribute to the place we call home.

I also serve as secretary and a volunteer ambulance driver with the Sleepy Hollow Ambulance Corps. That experience has shown me firsthand how important our local volunteer institutions are — and how crucial it has become to keep them staffed.

I'm running for trustee because I want to strengthen those institutions. Connecting residents with meaningful opportunities to volunteer will be a priority for me.

Sleepy Hollow has captured the world's attention, especially this time of year. Let's harness that energy to keep building the community we all want to live in — and that means each of us doing our part.

Please vote Nov. 3 for me and my fellow TAG candidates, Rodolphe Boulanger and Patrick Sheeran.

Meghan Raderstrong

SLEEPY HOLLOW

District should preserve trees

To the Editor:

I was lucky enough to go to Climate Week last week and hear many inspiring speakers, including Al Gore giving an update on "An Inconvenient Truth." Yes, we are still in a climate crisis and we need to do everything we can to reduce our impact on our planet. In a landmark 2015 study by Thomas Crowther published by Nature, approximately 15 billion trees are cut down every single year, 28.500 every minute, or 1.7 million every hour.

It was deeply disappointing, therefore, to hear that the Hastings Board of Education endorsed chopping down two trees in front of the high school as part of the capital bond project. What was even more concerning is that the architects initially said the trees were "at the end of their life span," but after questioning from Trustee Barone, they admitted their removal was really needed due to the architects' design. In other words, the trees are inconvenient. While the architects said they were unable to design the project to allow for increased accessibility while preserving the trees, it is difficult to trust this statement given the inaccuracies included on their own slides regarding the reason for removing the trees.

Our school needs accessibility and the trees. The architects need to go back to their drawing board and develop a design that preserves the trees, which, as Trustee Barone pointed out, are probably only halfway through their life span of 200 years.

Ariella Gastel

HASTINGS

DiJusto made a lasting impact

To the Editor:

Ardsley lost a titan, Andy DiJusto, a former village trustee and deputy mayor, who passed away on Sept. 25. Andy became a fixture of the village as a small business owner running the laundromat for years on Route 9A and as the head of the Ardsley-Secor Volunteer Ambulance Corps. He always went the extra mile for people, and was a friend and advocate for so many, never looking for anything in return. He represents everything we are lacking in politics right now. I am proud to have called him a loyal friend whose dedication and heart knew no bounds. While he left us too soon, his impact in the Village of Ardsley was and will be felt by many for years to come.

Andy Laub

ARDSLEY

Sports

EDITED BY ROB DIANTONIO

Ardsley stays hot with win over Sleepy Hollow

— GIRLS' SOCCER ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Ardsley didn't have to wait long to face some adversity against Sleepy Hollow, and didn't take long to respond, either.

After surrendering an early goal, the Panthers scored four of the next five and earned a 4–2 road win over the Horsemen on Oct. 5. The victory extended Ardsley's winning streak to six games, now at 8–3.

Their last loss came against the same Sleepy Hollow team, a 2–0 setback on Sept. 17.

"I feel like all season our team has been really good at responding any time we've been down," Ardsley senior Hazel McGourty said. "Our mentality is we never give up and we're never out of the game. We always try our hardest to fight back."

The Horsemen struck first when senior Sami Marvin got loose on a counterattack and scored off a feed from fellow senior Meghan McMahon with 28:48 remaining in the first half.

The Panthers, though, began generating chances and eventually found the equalizer. McGourty set up junior Teagan Kenny for a goal with 8:10 left in the half to make it 1–1.

Ardsley took the lead with just 1:13 remaining before halftime. Katharine Toth delivered a through ball that sent McGourty in behind the defense, and the senior finished to give the Panthers a 2–1 advantage.

"We don't really drop our heads," Ardsley coach Beau Thompson said. "We're going to fight for one another and fight for the result because we know the quality of our team collectively. The girls have really bought in and they're believing."

Thompson also credited the defensive efforts of center backs Helene Dillon and Ariana DiBlasi for helping contain an explosive Sleepy Hollow team. "They're really up for the challenge, and these are competitors that really want to win," he said.

The Panthers kept up the pressure in the second half. Horsemen goalkeeper Sabrina Graham stopped early chances from Kenny and Morgan Hamlet, but the Panthers eventually broke through again. With 33:34 remaining, Dillon sent in a corner kick and Kenny pounced on the rebound for her second goal of the game, extending the lead to 3–1.

Sleepy answered less than 8 minutes later. Marvin found freshman Evelyn Mackey, who scored to trim the deficit to 3–2 with 25:56 remaining.

The Horsemen couldn't find the equalizer, and Ardsley added an insurance goal with 12:26 left. McGourty set up senior Alexis Fitzsimmons on a break for the final goal of the afternoon.





(Top) Ardsley's Hazel McGourty pushes the attack as Sleepy Hollow's Breanne Rodriguez defends. (Bottom) Sleepy Hollow's Rachel Richardson passes as Ardsley's Riley Osborne defends. *Photos by Rob DiAntonio.*

McGourty finished with a goal and two assists, while Kenny scored twice. Fitzsimmons had a goal, Toth and Dillon each added an assist, and Elise O'Brien made three saves.

Graham made 10 saves for Sleepy Hollow.

"Sabrina has been just the rock in the back for us," coach Brian Amaya said. "She's kept us in so many games. She's turned ties into wins, and she's turned losses into wins. We're blessed to have her."

The Panthers were much more successful finishing their opportunities than they were in the first meeting with Sleepy Hollow.

"The last time we played them, we got a lot of shots and they weren't really falling for us," McGourty said. "This game, we tried to keep our composure more and utilize every chance as best as we could and not just fire random shots."

That composure has been a theme during Ardsley's six-game winning streak.

"I feel like we've been playing more like a team," Kenny said. "We've all been passing a lot more and just playing together."

McGourty pointed to the Panthers' chemistry away from the field as another reason for their recent success.

"We're all best friends off the field," she said. "I feel like that really contributes on the field and how everyone is selfless. They're always willing to let the other person score. They put the team first, before themselves."

Ardsley rallied to defeat visiting Hendrick Hudson 3–2 on Oct. 3. Fitzsimmons (1G), Kenny (1G), Riley Osborne (1G), Ava Santavicca (1A), McGourty (1A), Toth (1A), and O'Brien (3S) contributed.

The Panthers edged host Irvington 3–2 on Oct. 1. Hamlet scored twice and Osborne had one goal. Santavicca, Kenny, and Dillon each had one assist.

Skylar Coyne and Emma Ecklund each tallied a goal and an assist for the Bulldogs. Emma Reilly made seven saves.

Irvington (4–4–2) blanked visiting Nanuet 3–0 on Oct. 3. Shea Pressman (1G, 1A), Ecklund (1G), and Taylor Coyne (1G) led the way. The visiting Bulldogs fell to unbeaten Pleasantville 8–0 on Oct. 5.

Sleepy Hollow (5–5–1) picked up a pair of wins over Westlake, defeating the Wildcats 6–0 on the road on Oct. 1, and 8–4 at home on Oct. 3. In the road win, Marvin (2G, 1A), Siena Spataro (2G, 1A), McMahon (1G), Olivia Montolio (1G, 1A), Corina Armster (3A), and Graham (5S) led the way. In the home win, Marvin (2G, 2A), McMahon (2G, 1A), Armster (2G), Spataro (1G, 2A), Mackey (1G), Rachel Richardson (1A), Lauren Taub (1A), and Graham (5S) sparked the squad.

—

Eagles defeat Yellow Jackets

Dobbs Ferry (7–3) bested visiting Hastings 5–3 on Oct. 1. The Eagles were led by Clara Power (2G), Odessa Verhoff (1G, 2A), Bridget Turner (1G, 1A), Phoebe Walker (1G, 1A), Chella Galletta (1A), and Juliet Curanovic (8S).

Alyssa Schlacter scored twice for the Yellow Jackets. Kaya Israel added one goal. Sage Wrzesinski dished out three assists.

In a rematch of last year's Class B semifinal, Dobbs blanked visiting Blind Brook 1–0 on Oct. 3. Walker scored the game-winner on a feed from Power.

The Eagles edged host Rye Neck 3–2 on Oct. 5. Power scored twice while Walker netted one goal. Ivana Vuletic, Verhoff, and Turner had one assist each. Curanovic made 10 saves.

Hastings (4–7) lost to host Blind Brook 6–3 on Sept. 5. Schlacter and Maddie Crowely scored a goal apiece and Wrzesinski had two assists. The Yellow Jackets received a 1–0 forfeit win over Scarsdale B on Oct. 3.

Sports

Eagles get back on track with sweep of rival Yellow Jackets

— VOLLEYBALL ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

After a challenging week that included a pair of losses, Dobbs Ferry bounced back with a straight-set victory over host and rival Hastings on Oct. 7.

The Eagles rolled through the opening set before holding off the Yellow Jackets in the next two for a 25–11, 25–22, 25–23 victory. Dobbs improved to 9–3 after dropping matches to Ursuline and Croton-Harmon during a busy four-match stretch the previous week.

"I think the Ursuline match was a good match and was very competitive," Eagles coach Patty Duane said. "I think the Friday match against Croton, people thought that we didn't show what we were capable of. I think having this win tonight was very much what we're capable of."

The Eagles dominated the first set, building a 17–7 lead and never allowing Hastings to get within striking distance. Dobbs Ferry senior Taylor Denike delivered a pair of late kills before Jocelyn Jakasal had consecutive aces to finish it.

"I think we were very down on ourselves after the losses," Denike said. "So this week, we really just wanted to remember to have fun, celebrate, cheer, and do all of the fun things that make us love the sport."

Hastings put up a stronger fight in the second set, taking a 12–11 lead on a Kylie Deklin ace. The Eagles responded with a 10–4 run to go ahead 21–16, but the Yellow Jackets battled back to pull within 23–21 on a Josie McLaughlin kill. After a Roxy Griffin block cut the deficit to 24–22, Natasha Mansfield delivered a kill to give Dobbs Ferry a two-set advantage.

The Eagles appeared headed for another comfortable win in the third set, jumping out to a 14–9 lead. Hastings, however, rallied to tie the score at 16 on a Griffin ace.

The teams continued trading points before Dobbs took a 24–21 lead on a Hollen Peet kill. Hastings fought off two match points, but the Eagles were able to close it out for the win.

Denike led Dobbs with 12 kills and 13 digs. Senior setter Grace Demitrovic contributed 21 assists, five kills, eight digs, and three aces. Mansfield, another senior, finished with six kills, 11 digs, and two aces, while Jakasal added eight digs and four aces. Peet chipped in four kills.

For Hastings, McLaughlin recorded eight kills, Sara Dehgan had 13 assists, and Griffin added six kills and two blocks. Deklin (5K), Poppy Soeiro (4K), and Emmy Dehgan (6D) contributed.

Demitrovic said the Eagles benefited from having the weekend to regroup.

"After our Croton game, we just kind of took a step back and recollected ourselves after a tough week," she said. "We came back and we were ready to play."

Dobbs Ferry returned the majority of the experienced group that reached last season's Section 1 Class B championship match before falling to Putnam Valley in five sets. The Eagles are determined to make another deep postseason run and take the final step this fall.

"We really want to go back," Demitrovic said of the section final. "It would be really disappointing if we did not, so that kind of fires us up. Every game matters to us, so we just use that to push us through every point."

Denike believes the Eagles have improved in several areas since last season but knows their success will depend on maintaining the right approach.

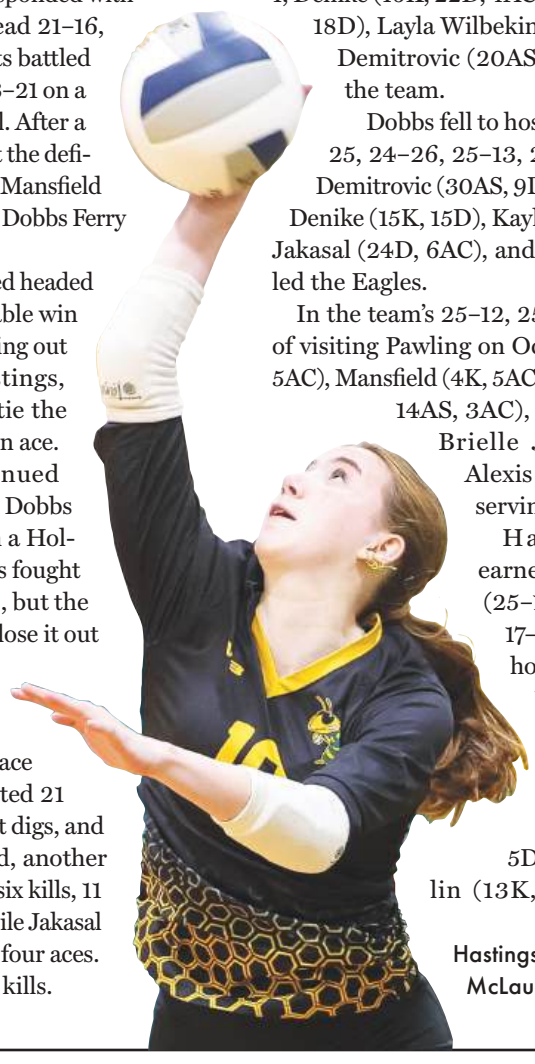
"I do want us to stay sort of humble, though, especially because anything can happen," she said. "We just want to fight our hardest and hopefully do even better than we did last year."

In the Eagles' 3–1 loss (25–21, 21–25, 24–26, 26–28) to visiting Ursuline on Oct. 1, Denike (16K, 22D, 4AC), Mansfield (15K, 18D), Layla Wilbekin (15AS, 11D), and Demitrovic (20AS, 4K, 19D) paced the team.

Dobbs fell to host Croton 3–1 (18–25, 24–26, 25–13, 25–27) on Oct. 3. Demitrovic (30AS, 9D, 9K), Peet (10K), Denike (15K, 15D), Kayla Rukaj (9K, 4B), Jakasal (24D, 6AC), and Wilbekin (15AS) led the Eagles.

In the team's 25–12, 25–2, 25–10 sweep of visiting Pawling on Oct. 6, Denike (7K, 5AC), Mansfield (4K, 5AC), Demitrovic (4K, 14AS, 3AC), Wilbekin (4AC), Brielle Jean (3K), and Alexis Daroczy (strong serving) were key.

Hastings (8–3) earned a thrilling 3–2 (25–18, 25–23, 17–25, 17–25, 15–9) win over host Croton on Oct. 16. Griffin (13K, 5AC, 4B), Deklin (18K, 7D, 3AC), Soeiro (22AS, 4AC, 4K, 5D), and McLaughlin (13K, 7D) paced the team. The Yellow Jackets netted a straight-set 25–17, 25–11, 25–16 win over visiting Edgemont on Oct. 2. Hastings fell to visiting Putnam Valley 3–1 (22–25, 25–19, 18–25, 16–25) on Oct. 1.



Hastings' Josie McLaughlin serves.



Dobbs Ferry's Taylor Denike sends it over Hastings' Roxy Griffin. *Photos by Rob DiAntonio.*

—

Ardsley has 2–1 week

Ardsley (7–5) defeated visiting Nanuet 3–1 (23–25, 25–19, 25–17, 25–23) on Sept. 30. Serena Emanuele (8K, 5AC, 15D), Katherine Cai (30AS, 9D, 5AC), Morgan Macri (7K, 6D), Sophie Young (10K, 13D), and Sophia Pecora (28D, 4AC) led the way.

In a 25–18, 25–22, 25–22 sweep of visiting Port Chester on Oct. 1, Young (13K, 24D), Cai (42AS, 21D, 3AC), Emanuele (12K, 16D), Macri (8K, 7D), and Pecora (26D, 4AC) paced the Panthers. In a 3–2 loss to host Pearl River on Oct. 6, Cai (44AS, 14D, 4AC), Maddison Polanco (14K, 20D), Macri (6K, 9D), and Pecora (37D) sparked the squad.

—

Horsemen top Bulldogs

Sleepy Hollow (4–7) defeated visiting Irvington 3–1 (25–20, 25–16, 23–25, 25–16) on Sept. 30. The Horsemen were led by Charlotte Pacheco (11K, 15D, 6AC), Sam Taylor (7AC, 17D, 6K), and Melody Rodriguez (18AS, 13D).

Irvington was sparked by Paige Swift (19AS, 10D, 6AC), Chloe Swift (15D, 5K), Piper Keltz (12D, 4K), and Brooke Lee (14D).

In Irvington's 25–11, 25–21, 25–8 sweep of visiting Pawling on Oct. 1, Paige Swift (20AS, 5AC, 6D), Alice Kamin (10K), Chloe Swift (7D, 5K), and Alice Schneider (5K, 4AC) were key contributors for the Bulldogs (4–9).

Sports

Swim team stays perfect as tennis teams share league title

— VARSITY ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Girls' swimming

Ardsley/Dobbs Ferry has plenty of talent at the top of its lineup. Its depth has made the team even tougher to beat. The hosts continued their unbeaten start with a convincing 107–61 victory over SHEDI (Sleepy Hollow/Hastings/Edgemont/Irvington) on Sept. 30, improving to 4–0.

"This is one of the strongest combined groups of swimmers I have had in years," Ardsley/Dobbs Ferry coach Jackie Cordero said. "Talent and depth — a coach's dream team."

A/DF won 10 of the 11 events, including all three relays. Senior Fiamma Cioffi and freshman Emma DeFilippis each won two individual events and were part of two winning relays.

Cioffi touched first in the 200-yard freestyle in 2:07.15, ahead of SHEDI's Emily Xie (2:14.10). She later won the 100 butterfly in 1:04.35, with teammate Mackenzie Cabello taking second in 1:07.50.

DeFilippis swept the sprint freestyle events. She won the 50 freestyle in 26.82, edging SHEDI's Gavina Gottlebe (27.38), and won the 100 freestyle in 59-flat. Gottlebe was second in 1:01.26.

Freshman Daphne Green gave Ardsley/Dobbs Ferry another victory in the 200 IM, finishing in 2:19.90. Cabello followed in second at 2:24.40.

Sophomore Lucca Broccoli led an A/DF one-two finish in the 100 backstroke, winning in 1:10.89. Sara Moy was second in 1:12.50. Senior Isla Harris won the 100 breaststroke in 1:15.65, narrowly ahead of Green, who finished in 1:15.94.

SHEDI sophomore Barbara Chang earned her team's lone individual victory, taking the 500 freestyle in 5:42.48. Ardsley/Dobbs Ferry's Alba Iacobazzi placed second in 5:51.52.

Cioffi, Cabello, Green, and DeFilippis opened the meet by winning the 200 medley relay in 2:01.63. Harris, Ella Diab, Cabello, and Iacobazzi combined to take the 200 freestyle relay in 1:51.72. DeFilippis, Cioffi, Green, and Harris closed out the meet with a victory in the 400 freestyle relay in 4:02.71.

The fast start has Cordero optimistic about what the team can accomplish as the season progresses.

"With over 10 club swimmers on our roster and the new freshmen added, we are in a really good place," she said. "We can only get stronger."

The team will get a better indication of where they stand as the schedule gets more difficult.

"We will be facing some of our top competitors mid-October," Cordero said. "I'm looking forward to seeing how fast we get as a team and individually."

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Football

Sleepy Hollow (2–3) crossed the bridge to Rockland County and defeated host Tappan Zee 20–7 on Oct. 2. Jeremiah Bowen completed eight of 12 passes for 102 yards and two touchdowns. He also rushed for a score. Olin Keough rushed for 99 yards on 25 carries and caught a 15-yard touchdown pass from Bowen. Jack Marvin had six receptions for 60 yards and a touchdown catch.

Dobbs Ferry (3–2) traveled to Long Island and defeated St. Dominic's 34–13 on Oct. 2. Killian O'Connor rushed for 130 yards on 14 carries and two touchdowns. Jackson Kearns (seven carries, 85 yards), Camilo Cruz (7/80), and Joe Salerno (8/75) each rushed for a touchdown.

Ardsley (3–2) had its three-game winning streak snapped in a 45–17 loss to host Pearl River on Oct. 2. The Panthers led 17–16 at halftime but were outscored 29–0 in the second half. Jack Calkins rushed for 75 yards on 15 carries and completed 13 of 16 passes for 176 yards including a 20-yard touchdown pass to Dom Carpenito. Xavier Estime returned a kickoff 85 yards for a score and had four catches for 85 yards. Tommy Bennett caught four passes for 45 yards. Conor Lenihan kicked a 35-yard field goal.

Irvington (2–3) lost to visiting Albertus Magnus 29–20 on Oct. 2. Julian Peres (8/17, 114 yards passing, TD), Adrian Aybar (18 carries, 131 yards, TD), Zach Surchin (eight carries, 76 yards, TD), and Bobby Estrada (three catches, 58 yards, TD) paced the Bulldogs' offense. Josh Tatz, Vontre Harris, Grant Malakoff, and Harrison Malakoff were defensive leaders.

Hastings (0–5) lost to host Pelham 42–20 on Oct. 2. Avi Rothstein completed nine of 13 passes for 94 yards and a touchdown. He also rushed for 76 yards on eight carries and a score. Lucas Seelye caught six passes for 87 yards and a touchdown. Levi Rosenman returned an interception 100 yards for a score.



(Top) Ardsley/Dobbs Ferry's Daphne Green swims the breaststroke portion of the 200 IM. (Bottom) Fiamma Cioffi won the 200-yard freestyle. *Photos by Rob DiAntonio.*

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Girls' tennis

Hastings and Irvington secured a share of the League C title, with each squad finishing with a 9–1 league mark.

The Yellow Jackets cruised past host Somers 5–0 on Oct. 6. Singles star Jenny Schofield stayed undefeated on the season with an 8-0 win. Elissa Huang won the other singles match, 8-5. The winning doubles teams were Olivia Huang and Hajeong Lee (8-4), Niamh Lynch and Aine Lynch (8-3), and Lara Faraghi Ahrabi and Emma Cheung (8-1).

Hastings edged visiting Dobbs Ferry 3–2 on Oct. 8. Schofield was the 8-0 victor in singles while the Eagles' Nola Bass-Weiss won the other singles match, 8-6.

The match came down to doubles, with two of the Yellow Jackets' teams pulling out wins in Lila Husovsky and Lynch (8-3), and Elissa Huang and Kaitlyn Constantine (8-1). Dobbs' winning doubles team was Maia Kim and Chloe Hogan (8-2).

Irvington bested Nanuet 4–1 on Oct. 5. Sophia Orton won in singles (8-5) with the following teams winning in doubles: Marina Foley and Anya Foley (8-2), Annabelle Wang and Sadie Weiss (8-1), and Mackenzie Lee and Jordan Henry (8-0).

The Bulldogs cruised past Dobbs Ferry 5–0 on Oct. 6. Orton (6-2, 6-2) and Abigail Brandwein (6-2, 6-3) won in singles, with the same doubles teams from above picking up wins.

Ardsley edged visiting Blind Brook 3–2 on Oct. 6. Summer Lopez won in singles (6-1, 6-0), with Kimaya Sood and Hayden Weiss (7-5, 6-0) and Aditri Inamdar and Keira Hayden (6-2, 6-3) earning doubles wins.

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Field hockey

Sleepy Hollow/Briarcliff cruised past host Edgemont 5–0 on Sept. 30. Ruby Wild-Arons scored twice, while Sydney Weiss (1A), Eliza Boozer, and Courtney Isola (first varsity goal) had one goal each. Lila Fenimore added an assist and Jana Reimer made six saves.

The team tied visiting Irvington 1–1 on Oct. 2. Wild-Arons scored the team's goal, with Reimer making eight saves. Sadie Kilbury scored for the Bulldogs on a corner inserted by Sophia Quinio. Zoya Bhandari had a big day in net with 19 saves.

Sleepy Hollow/Briarcliff (3–6–1) lost to visiting Ursuline 4–1 on Oct. 6. It was a 2–1 game late into the fourth quarter before Ursuline added insurance goals. Lark Goldsmith scored the goal on a feed from Fenimore. Reimer made 12 saves.

Behind four goals from Kilbury, Irvington (4–4–1) blanked visiting Edgemont 7–0 on Oct. 5. Lucy Brutto, Hazel Kwon, and Zoe Gonzalez (1A) netted one goal each. Jordan Friedman passed for two assists. Chloe Annicharico and Sophia Quinio each had one assist.

Hastings (3–5–2) blanked visiting Valhalla/Westlake 3–0 on Oct. 5. Caroline Emilio scored her first two varsity goals while Trinity Wiese added a goal and an assist. Zelda Weitzman had an assist.

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Cross country

Ardsley competed in the League I championships on Oct. 6 at Eastchester High School. The Panthers' boys' team finished second and was led by Christian Adler, who placed fifth (18:15.3) in a 50-runner field. Daniel Lee was seventh (18:34), with Ilan Kleinman and Jonah Londin in 11th and 12th, respectively. The girls' team was led by Layla Kunjukutty in ninth (21:34.3). Kayla Kenny placed 14th.

Sports

Irvington bounces back with wins over Dobbs Ferry, Woodlands

— BOYS' SOCCER ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Irvington didn't dwell on a disappointing loss; the Bulldogs made sure they learned from it.

After a 1–0 setback at Rye Neck on Oct. 2, Irvington responded with a pair of convincing victories, defeating rival Dobbs Ferry 4–1 the following day on the road before rolling past Woodlands 5–0 on Senior Day on Oct. 6.

The two wins improved the Bulldogs to 8–2–1 and kept them among the contenders in a competitive Section 1 Class B field.

"We say a loss isn't a failure, it's a learning moment," Irvington coach Chris Lombardi said. "We took that into Dobbs and we had a good outcome with that."

The Bulldogs had plenty of chances against Rye Neck but were unable to find an equalizer against Panthers goalkeeper Tom Schmuck, who made nine saves. For senior Griffin Warner, the loss served as a reminder that Irvington can't afford to take anything for granted as the postseason approaches.

"We can't ever get complacent, and nothing is ever going to be given to us," Warner said. "That loss to Rye Neck really showed us that every single game we have to come with the same intensity and the same mindset. Even a lapse in concentration for 5 minutes can really change the entire game. That taught us a lot and it'll really help us going into the final stretch of the season."

The next day, the Eagles struck first when Chase Colyer scored in the opening 5 minutes on a feed from Max Arellano, but Irvington didn't allow the early deficit to linger. The Bulldogs answered about 10 minutes later and controlled the game from there.

Warner led the way with two goals and an assist. Dennis Sasso added a goal and an assist, Navin Vasudev scored once, and Joseph DeNardo contributed an assist. Dobbs Ferry goalie Elijah Burns made 11 saves.



Hagai Frechter crosses midfield.



Irvington's Dennis Sasso pushes the attack. *Photos by Rob DiAntonio.*

"We played together against Dobbs," Lombardi said. "Our energy was up, our body language showed that we were confident. We didn't let one play or one goal define us. We fed off each other's energy, and I think that was important."

Three days later, Irvington's seniors took center stage. The Bulldogs honored Warner, DeNardo, Vasudev, Sasso, Josh Diamond, Nicco Uccellini, Karsten Yamamoto, and Nate Moshan, along with team manager Jacob Turner.

Warner, DeNardo, and Sasso each scored in the first half to send Irvington into the break with a 3–0 advantage. David Rus and Moshan added second-half goals to complete the victory. Hagai Frechter finished with two assists, while DeNardo, Rus, and Paxton Kitcharayothin each had one.

The final goal was particularly memorable. Moshan, a first-year varsity soccer player, scored the first goal of his varsity career on Senior Day.

"He's been my best friend since I was probably 5 years old," Warner said. "He's my neighbor. So, to finally play on the same team for our senior year and to see him bag one on Senior Day, it was special."

Senior Day gave Warner a chance to reflect on his career with the Bulldogs.

"It really makes me look back … all the memories and all the other senior classes I've experienced," he said. "It's been the best four years of my life, and I wouldn't change anything."

Lombardi credited this year's senior class with helping establish the standards that Irvington's younger players now follow.

"They really set the tone and the precedent for the program," he said. "They've been through the highs and lows with us. The team really looks to them — their work ethic and just how they bring everyone together."

Behind two goals from Conner Gredick, Irvington edged host Leffell School 2–1 on Sept. 30. Warner and George Miles had assists. In the loss to Rye Neck, Owen Brunenavs made seven saves.

The Eagles (6–5–1) defeated host Leffell 3–1 on Oct. 6. Colyer scored twice, with Jake Malinowski netting the other goal. Yoni Cohen, Evan Todd, and James Vuletic had one assist each.

Dobbs cruised past host Woodlands 8–1 on Oct. 2. Colyer (4G), Rassul Assanov (2G), Cohen (1G), Felipe Betancourt (1G), Vuletic (1A), Arellano (1A), Declan Cho (1A), and Luka Wood (1A) helped stuff the stat sheet. Colyer scored on a feed from Kyle Hung in a 3–1 loss to host Blind Brook on Sept. 30. Burns stopped nine shots.

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Hastings nets two wins and a tie

Hastings (8–1–2) recorded road wins over Westlake (3–1, Sept. 30) and Keio Academy (4–0, Oct. 6) and battled to a 1–1 tie with visiting Pelham on Oct. 5.

In the win over Westlake, Kai Ghalib netted a hat trick. Eli Sundheim and Zack Brower each had an assist. Justin Wilmot made six saves. Against Keio, Louis Von Rege tallied two goals and an assist. Brower registered a goal and an assist while Ghalib had one goal. Gabe Nacht and Ricardo Garcia had one assist apiece. Brower scored the Yellow Jackets' goal against Pelham.

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Horsemen cruise to two wins

Sleepy Hollow (5–3–2) registered league wins over host Nanuet (5–0, Oct. 2) and visiting Pearl River (7–1, Oct. 6) and had a 1–1 tie with visiting Byram Hills on Sept. 30.

Against Nanuet, Denis Suqui (1G), William Oliveira (1G), Jayden De La Cruz (1G), Rodrigo Figueroa (1G, 1A), Matt Zuzhingo (1G, 1A), Nico Barbosa (1A), Samuel Quezada Pesantez (1A), and Cameron Maroney (1A) led the way. Joaquin Rodriguez (4G), Figueroa (1G), Quezada Pesantez (1G, 1A), Dhary Suqui (1G, 1A), Denis Suqui (1A), Rodrigo Dias (1A), and Justin Lazo (1A) paced the Horsemen against Pearl River. In the tie with Byram, Rodriguez scored the goal on a feed from Hanover Gottlock.

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Ardsley earns two victories

Ardsley (4–7) picked up home wins over Nanuet (5–2, Oct. 3) and Suffern (3–1, Oct. 6). Against Suffern, Gabe Martinez had a goal and an assist. Danny Cardoso and Sebastian Chacon scored once. Ronald Chen and Jiseok Oh added an assist apiece.

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