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Vol 2. Issue 27.

March 13, 2026

RIVERTOWNS Dispatch

Local News,
Locally Sourced

\$2⁵⁰

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ARDSLEY — DOBBS FERRY — HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON — IRVINGTON



Wonderland amid war

The cast of "Alice by Heart" rehearses for their performances at Ardsley High School on Friday, March 13, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, March 14, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. The production sets the story of "Alice in Wonderland" during World War II. For more information, read the story that starts on page 5.

Municipalities engage lawyer to monitor Con Edison

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL
REGION — Westchester municipalities are beginning to band together to hire legal representation to monitor Con Edison for the duration of the utility company's new three-year agreement, which is resulting in rate hikes for customers.

During the Dobbs Ferry Board of Trustees meeting on March 10, that village became the first of the four Rivertowns to pass a resolution committing up to \$1,500 per year for the next three years to hire attorney Joel Dichter to monitor Con Edison's quarterly and annual reports on capital spending, earnings, affordability metrics, investments, and safety performance for compliance with the terms in the three-year agreement with the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC).

The agreement requires Con Edison to meet annually with a group of municipalities known as the Westchester Municipal Consortium (WMC) to review planned capital projects and determine whether Westchester is receiving its fair share of infrastructure investment.

Continued on page 15

Third village considers hiring deer hunter

Hastings follows lead of Irvington and Dobbs Ferry

BY AMY BOCHNER

REGION — The Hastings Board of Trustees is considering hiring a bow hunter to reduce the village's deer population, following in the steps of Dobbs Ferry and Irvington.

During the board's meeting on March 3, Mayor Tom Drake introduced the idea of enlisting Peter Kelley of Kelley Deer Management (KDM) to hunt deer in Hillside Woods. Drake said Hastings was "recently urged by the village[s] of Irvington and

Dobbs Ferry to consider entering a culling phase" and suggested inviting Kelly to a future board meeting to review his process.

Hastings' previous attempts to manage deer include a contraception program from 2014-18, in which 69 female deer were injected with a birth control drug and tagged. In the spring of 2024, the Village had a fence installed to keep deer out of 30 acres of Hillside Woods.

Over the last three years, according to Drake, the Hastings Police Department has reports about 12 accidents involving motor vehicles and deer. In addition, there has been an increase in deer fencing in

residents' yards.

"We're fencing everything, and we're just limiting [the deer] to roadways and public areas where now you have an increase in more vehicle accidents as well," Drake said.

Because deer tend to eat 10 to 15 pounds of food per day, he continued, reducing their population would "regenerate young plant growth and tree health in our woods." The board agreed to invite Kelly to a future meeting.

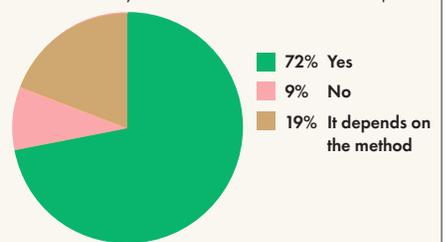
Dobbs Ferry hired Kelley last fall to hunt deer in the Juhring Preserve in an effort to encourage forest regeneration and restore ecological balance. According to the KDM

Continued on page 15

— You Answered —

Do you support culling deer to decrease their population?

As answered by 305 readers of the Rivertowns Dispatch



Vote at rivertownsdispatch.com/the-weekly-poll



The Blotter

ARDSLEY

Fence damaged: The wooden fence at the parking lot for the Ardsley Public Library was found

damaged on the morning of Monday, March 2.

Hit and run: The passenger side front bumper of a 2016 Honda parked in the lot outside 545 Saw Mill River Road was damaged on Wednesday, March 4.

Sign damaged: The Ardsley Middle School sign at the intersection of Ashford Avenue and Francis McCormack Drive was found damaged on Wednesday, March 4.

DOBBS FERRY

Theft from account: Four thousand four hundred dollars was stolen from the Dobbs Ferry resident's Chase account after he supplied personal information to a caller who claimed to be part of the Chase fraud department on Monday, March 2.

Mischief to wall: Graffiti was spraypainted on the retaining wall along the east side of Station Plaza between Tuesday, March 3

and Wednesday, March 4.

Assault arrest: A 77-year-old Dobbs Ferry resident was accused of assaulting his 40-year-old daughter at their home on Saturday, March 7. He was charged with assault in the third degree, a misdemeanor. Officer Jairo Hidalgo made the arrest.

DWI arrest: A 23-year-old resident of Pennsville Township, in New Jersey, *Continued on page 4*

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Rivertowns Dispatch (USPS 025-848) is published weekly on Fridays, except for the last week of the year, for a total of 51 issues annually by The Rivertowns Dispatch LLC, at 145 Palisade Street Suite 200 Dobbs Ferry NY 10522. Periodicals postage is paid at Dobbs Ferry, NY. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Rivertowns Dispatch at 145 Palisade Street Suite 200

For subscriptions go to: rivertownsdispatch.com/membership

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Antisemitic stickers found around village

HASTINGS — Antisemitic stickers were found on two signs and on parking pay stations on Monday, March 9.

On Hillside Avenue, alongside the Farragut Complex, which houses Farragut Middle School and Hastings High School, the stickers were on a stop sign and on a sign for Ali Marpet Way, which connects that street to Reynolds Field.

Marpet, who is Jewish, played

football at Reynolds Field for Hastings High School and won a Super Bowl with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 2021.

In response to the stickers, Hastings Mayor Tom Drake and Schools Superintendent William McKersie issued an email blast calling them “an affront to Israel and Jewish people.”

“These statements are offensive, unacceptable, and have no place in our community,” the letter continued. “The Village and school district

have a zero-tolerance stance toward hate speech and acts of bias.”

In a press release issued on March 12, Hastings Police Chief David Dosin stated that the person responsible for placing the stickers had been identified and that “Following consultation with the District Attorney’s Office, and a thorough review of the circumstances, it was determined that the facts of the case did not meet the legal threshold necessary to pursue criminal charges.”

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Former inmate shares his art, and story, at gallery show

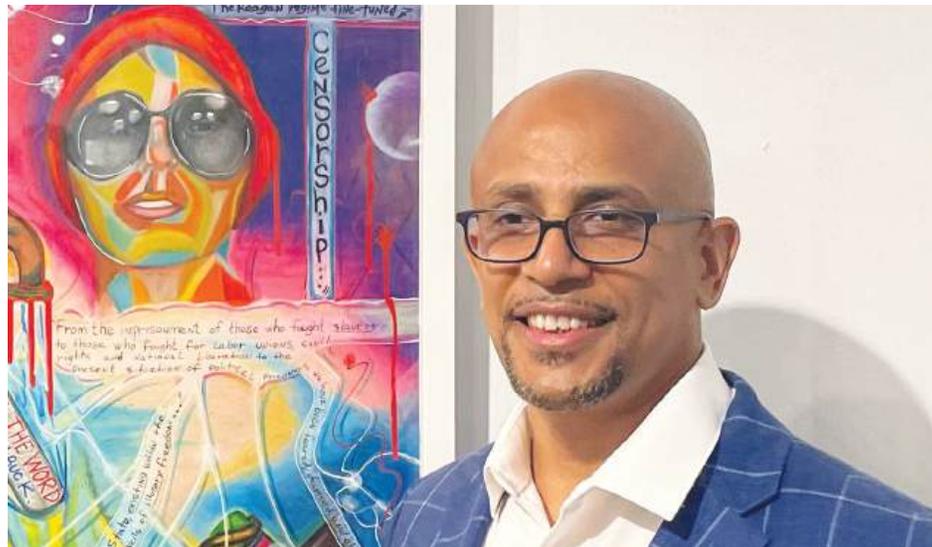
BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL
 DOBBS FERRY — The Donald Gallery at South Presbyterian Church is currently featuring the vibrant mixed media art of Hector “Bori” Rodriguez, whose work is inspired by nature, feminism, and the 27 years and two months he spent in prison. Three years after his release in February 2023, the 52-year-old, who lives in White Plains, is pursuing a master’s degree and continuing the art career he began behind bars.

Titled “Discard, Reclaim, Nurture by You,” the exhibit features mostly pieces he completed within the past year, plus a few he painted while incarcerated. Many of his paintings were made on recycled materials, like wood.

“You could walk by a pallet of wood and think nothing of it, but if I add color and meaning to it, then you’re going to give it another look,” Rodriguez told the Dispatch. “And I feel like that’s what people did for me; they gave me color and gave me meaning.”

Rodriguez began creating art regularly in 1995, at age 21, while awaiting trial for murder. Rodriguez was dealing drugs in Hempstead, Long Island, and was arrested for killing another drug dealer, for which he admits he was wrong. Art provided him an escape from the damage caused by his action.

“I wouldn’t think about the stress that I caused my family, the stress that I caused myself,” Rodriguez explained.



Hector “Bori” Rodriguez

While awaiting his punishment, Rodriguez began drawing by tracing cartoon characters like Winnie the Pooh and Betty Boop. He was ultimately sentenced to 28 years in prison, and spent time in various facilities upstate, including Green Haven Correctional Facility where he practiced leatherwork and wood-working. When those programs stopped, around 2010, Rodriguez pivoted to drawing.

“I was always scared of drawing because to me a real artist was someone who could render portraits, and I couldn’t do it,” Rodriguez said. “I used to go to the library and look at magazines and I came across Basquiat and

Salvador Dali, and I thought I could do the Salvador Dali stuff.”

The art at the Donald Gallery is inspired by nature, which he began depicting as a means of connecting to his memories of early years in the countryside of Puerto Rico with his mother. While Rodriguez was in prison, at his request, a friend of his sister’s brought him a book filled with images of hummingbirds and butterflies, which gave Rodriguez the color palette that began to appear in the majority of his work.

Rodriguez’s art is also influenced by feminism, which he learned about while

pursuing his education in prison, and made him reflect on the mistreatment of women in his family by men in his family. Rodriguez is his mother’s third child, but the only child of both his mother, who was 19 years old when he was born, and his father, who was in his early 50s at the time.

“I noticed that I was turning trees and flowers into a woman figure,” Rodriguez recalled. “It just made sense to me that the memories that I was subconsciously rendering were images of my mother in nature in Puerto Rico. And once that became clear to me, I told myself I was going to try putting the woman figure in experiences that I wished my mother would have experienced when she was younger.”

Rodriguez participated in the Bard Prison Initiative, and after being released in 2023, he completed the program, earning his bachelor’s degree in social science. Six months later, he started a two-year fellowship at Yale through Yale Prison Education Initiative, through which he networked with art professors, and had exhibitions at Yale University and the University of New Haven. He’s now a student in SUNY Purchase’s master of fine arts program.

“The highlights of my life are to go to galleries and museums because that’s all I dreamed about when I was incarcerated,” Rodriguez said. “It’s changed everything

Continued on page 15

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— THE DATA DISPATCH —

— February 2026 home sales —

	BD/BA	SQFT	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE	SP/OLP%
ARDSLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT					
29 Western Drive Ardsley	3/2	1,536	\$750,000	\$730,000	97.3%
10 Old Jackson Avenue #44 Hastings	3/4	3,293	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	100.0%
DOBBS FERRY SCHOOL DISTRICT					
63 Grandview Avenue Dobbs Ferry	3/2	1,536	\$835,000	\$850,000	101.8%
156 Palisade Street #B Dobbs Ferry	1/2	1,157	\$949,000	\$925,600	97.5%
72 Magnolia Drive Dobbs Ferry	4/3	1,858	\$1,100,000	\$1,232,000	112.0%
50 Belden Avenue Dobbs Ferry	4/3	2,270	\$1,725,000	\$1,650,000	95.7%
HASTINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT					
40 Dorchester Avenue Hastings	4/2	2,390	\$1,195,000	\$1,215,000	101.7%
IRVINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT					
120 N Broadway #21D Irvington	2/1	975	\$325,000	\$345,000	106.2%
31 Westwood Close Irvington	2/2	1,456	\$750,000	\$660,000	88.0%
272 Birch Lane Irvington	3/3	2,109	\$825,000	\$910,000	110.3%
1 Heritage Hill Road Irvington	8/9	8,167	\$1,700,000	\$925,000	54.4%
23 Gracemere Tarrytown	10/7	6,242	\$1,899,900	\$1,500,000	79.0%
6 Meadow Way Irvington	4/4	2,940	\$1,525,000	\$1,600,000	104.9%
300 Sheldon Avenue Tarrytown	3/2	2,212	\$2,500,000	\$1,800,000	72.0%
100 W Ardsley Avenue #7KL Irvington	2/2	2,000	\$1,687,000	\$2,100,000	124.5%

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THE FRANCIE MALINA TEAM

Blotter

Continued from page 2

was arrested for driving while intoxicated, a misdemeanor, on Ashford Avenue on the morning of Monday, March 9. He was also issued a summons for an open container of alcohol, a violation. Officer Steven Coradin made the arrest.

HASTINGS

More theft from account: On March 2, two Hastings residents reported that an additional \$750 was stolen from their joint bank account on Feb. 26. The residents had first reported, on Feb. 27, that an initial \$750 was stolen through withdrawals on Feb. 24 and 26. The withdrawals were all made in California.

Fence damaged:

A fence was damaged on Lefurgy Terrace over the weekend prior to Monday, March 2.

Hillside collision: An eastbound vehicle and a 9-year-old pedestrian collided on Hillside Avenue on the afternoon of Tuesday, March 3. The child was transported to the Westchester Medical Center. The 41-year-old driver, who remained at the scene, was not charged with a crime.

Bounced checks: On March 5, a Hastings landlord reported that he had received two checks from a tenant, on Feb. 2 and Feb. 10, that he cashed on Feb. 27 and that were returned on March 3 due to insufficient funds.

IRVINGTON

Theft of Range Rover: A 2020 Range Rover was stolen from an Oak Street driveway between Saturday, March 7 and Sunday, March 8. The vehicle's last known locations, based on its GPS system, were in Manhattan at 5:02 a.m. and 5:52 a.m.

THE MAKER HIVE
March Weekend Workshops

Ukrainian Style Egg Decorating Workshop

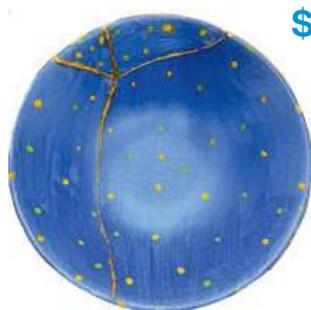
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Kintsugi Workshop

Sunday, 3/22 from 2 - 4 PM
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ARDSLEY

— Coming Up This Week —

AHS Musical: “Alice by Heart”

Friday, March 13, 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 14, 2 and 7 p.m.

Ardsley High School

Purchase tickets (\$22, \$20 for students) at cur8.com, keyword: Ardsley

Irish Music Seisiun

Saturday, March 14, 2 p.m.

Ardsley Public Library

Button accordionist Mikey Reidy plays Celtic music. Register at ardsleypubliclibrary.org

Pollinator Garden Workshop

Saturday, March 14, 1–3:30 p.m.

Greenburgh Public Library

Ardsley Pollinator Pathway presents

“Preparation for Planting and Maintaining”

Register at ardsleypollinatorpathway.org

Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, March 16, 7:30 p.m.

Village Hall

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 17, 7 p.m.

High school library

Architectural Review Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 17, 8 p.m.

Village Hall

Agenda available at ardslevillage.gov

Seniors’ St. Patrick’s Day Luncheon

Wednesday, March 18, noon

Saw Mill Tavern, 925 Saw Mill River Road

\$10 per person. For more information:

placy@ardslevillage.gov

Container Gardening with Native Plants

Wednesday, March 18, 7 p.m.

Ardsley Pollinator Pathway presents Elaine Mills talking about native plants suitable for containers and how they support wildlife.

Register for the Zoom link at ardsleypollinatorpathway.org

“The Power of Nature: Boosting Health & Happiness”

Thursday, March 19, 2 p.m.

Ardsley Public Library

Presented by Dr. Catherine Sanderson.

Register at ardsleypubliclibrary.org

Got news?

Email staff writer Amy Bochner at amy@rivertownsdispatch.com



Max Levitan (center) as the Mad Hatter.

Students dive down Carroll’s rabbit hole

Wonderland story unfolds amid World War II

BY LAURA SCHILLER

“Let me read to you... I’ll bring you to our world again,” Alice Spencer says to her best friend, Alfred, who is ill with tuberculosis, in the musical “Alice by Heart,” which the Ardsley High School Drama Club will perform three times this weekend.

Alice is trying to comfort Alfred while they shelter in an underground tube station during the London Blitz of World War II. She offers to read “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland” by Lewis Carroll. When a Red Cross nurse takes the book in her effort to keep Alfred in quarantine, Alice, determined to keep his spirit alive, declares, “I’ll bring you. I know it all by heart.” And down the rabbit hole they go.

The shelter transforms into Wonderland.

Alfred races as the White Rabbit, the nurse looms as the fearsome Queen of Hearts, and other sheltering friends take on the roles of the Mad Hatter, Cheshire Cat, and Caterpillar. As reality and fantasy blur, Alice journeys through fear and loss, ultimately finding the courage to move forward.

Steve Loftus, the show’s director, has led Ardsley High School productions for the past 10 years, including recent shows like “Footloose,” “Rent,” and “Into the Woods.” He chose “Alice by Heart” — which premiered off-Broadway in 2019 — because its themes resonate with teens.

“It’s really a story about coping with all of life’s problems, not just grief,” Loftus told the Dispatch. “Grief is the big one, but it’s about finding a way to get through all these hurdles and deal with all these emotions.”

Along with its hauntingly beautiful score by Duncan Sheik, the script — by Steven Sater and Jessie Nelson, who also created

the Tony Award-winning “Spring Awakening” — is filled with poetic lines that linger after they are spoken.

In “Alice by Heart,” reflections echo the show’s themes of resilience and hope, such as “Sometimes I’ve believed in as many as six impossible things before breakfast,” “It isn’t how much time. It’s how we use the time,” and “Sometimes we overcome, you know, just by going on.”

According to Loftus, the production is unconventional in its staging, with much of the movement and choreography developed collaboratively during rehearsals.

“I knew what I wanted it to look like and gave the students a basic blueprint,” he explained. “From there, much of the movement evolved organically, giving students the opportunity to make creative choices. The feeling and the atmosphere — that’s what we’ve

Continued on page 16



Women in focus

In honor of International Women’s Day, RiverArts hosted a concert by violinist April Johnson, pianist Tomoko Uchino, and cellist Peter Seidenberg — known at the Solace Trio — who performed chamber music by six female composers at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Ardsley on Sunday, March 8.

ARDSLEY

Ardsley Cares Days welcomes donations and volunteers

BY AMY BOCHNER

Ardsley Cares Day will return to the Ardsley High School cafeteria on March 21, and to two other locations, with a handful of new activities and ways to give back.

Every year since 2008, with the exception of 2020, the Ardsley Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) has organized Ardsley Cares Day, an all-ages volunteer event to provide goods and services to charities and organizations across Westchester. The 2026 committee is led by co-chairs Meredith Strongin, Jaya Iyer, Aimee Bamberger and Sarika Chawla, who is the PTSA's secretary.

Last year, over 300 volunteers turned out, assembling over 1,200 bags of food, toiletries, and activity kits. Strongin, a PTSA member since 2016, believes the inclusion of activities fit for all ages is why the event has been a success. Chawla described a moment from her first Ardsley Cares Day, which captures the spirit of the event.

"I remember being like, 'We need supplies, we need clothes, we need food. All this stuff has to come together,'" she said. "One of the moms I was working with, she just said, 'Ardsley always comes through,' and it's so true. When you put out a call for help, for donations or support or volunteers, there is always someone who's willing



Jennifer Brown and her 7-year-old son, Maxwell, prepare dog biscuits for the Yonkers Animal Shelter during Ardsley Cares Day on March 22, 2025.

to step up, because we're all really invested in making this a great community for our kids to grow up in."

This year, Ardsley Cares Day, which runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., will be held in conjunction with the annual Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event, which will take

place in the gym from 9 to 11 a.m. To register in advance, which is required, visit the PTSA's website (ardsleyptsa.membershiptoolkit.com).

This will also be the first time the PTSA partners with two other parent organizations — Ardsley Heart, which is hosting a

project about welcoming people to the village, and Ardsley Music Partners (AMP), which is collecting musical instruments.

The activities will include packing hygiene kits for The Sharing Shelf in Port Chester and sibling kits for Maria Fareri Children's Hospital in Valhalla. Ardsley Community Enrichment (ACE) will host a table for packing snack bags for Midnight Run in Dobbs Ferry, which helps the homeless in New York City. The PTSA posted wishlists for these activities on its website.

Attendees can also help cook dog biscuits for the Yonkers Animal Shelter, or make dog and cat toys for Paws Crossed Animal Rescue in Elmsford. Outside, people can participate in a cleanup and invasive vine cutting at Pascone Park, or a cleanup at McDowell Park.

Along with the activities, Ardsley Cares Day will host various drives, such as one sponsored by Girl Scouts Troop 1675, who will collect dance costumes for the Horace Greeley School in Queens.

Other drives include spring and summer clothing for 914 Cares, as well as equipment for Sporting Goods for Good. Among the acceptable donations are baseball, softball, and lacrosse gear, tennis rackets,

Continued on page 16

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DOBBS FERRY

— Coming Up This Week —

Pi Day Celebration for Ages 4–12

Saturday, March 14, noon–1:30 p.m.

Dobbs Ferry Public Library

Brooklyn Robot Foundry presents a mini-bot building station, tinkering station, and an open-ended screw sculpture project

Registration required by emailing childrens@dobbsferrylibrary.org

Board of Trustees Workshop Meeting

Tuesday, March 17, 6:30 p.m.

Village Hall

Romance Book Club

Wednesday, March 18, 6 p.m.

Dobbs Ferry Public Library

Discuss “The Seven Year Slip” by Ashley Poston. Register by emailing sbook@dobbsferrylibrary.org

Library Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 18, 7:30 p.m.

Dobbs Ferry Public Library

Readers’ Circle

Thursday, March 19, 2 p.m.

Discuss “Rebecca” by Daphne du Maurier

Dobbs Ferry Public Library

Register by emailing reference@dobbsferrylibrary.org

Celebrate Eid al-Fitr with Peace Play

Thursday, March 19, 4:30–5:30 p.m.

Dobbs Ferry Public Library

Outer-space-themed activities include henna art and arts & crafts

Registration required by emailing childrens@dobbsferrylibrary.org

Cult Classic Movie Night: “Barton Fink”

Friday, March 20, 8 p.m.

Dobbs Ferry Public Library

“Get Growing!”

Sunday, March 22, 1–3 p.m.

Dobbs Ferry Public Library

The Dobbs Ferry Garden Club presents an introduction to gardening basics, including plant types, tools, and soil

Register at gardenclubofdobbsferry.org

Got news?

Email staff writer Julian Michael Caldwell at julian@rivertownsdispatch.com



Morgan McEwen inside MorDance’s future home at 145 Palisade Street.

— FOUR QUESTIONS WITH —

Morgan McEwen

MorDance founder touts the power of performing arts

BY JANINE ANNETT

Morgan McEwen is the founder and artistic director of MorDance, a non-profit company dedicated to pushing the boundaries of ballet. McEwen lives in Hastings-on-Hudson with her husband and their daughter. MorDance had been based in Yonkers since 2020, but plans to move into the Hudson River Landing building at 145 Palisade Street in Dobbs Ferry. The company’s new home of nearly 6,500-square-feet, with a skylight roof, will serve as a rehearsal space and a performing arts venue. The renovation is in the design and development phase, with plans to begin construction in June and open in January 2027. The Dispatch spoke with McEwen about MorDance’s roots and future plans as well as the importance of ballet and the performing arts.

Rivertowns Dispatch: What is the story of how MorDance came to be?

Morgan McEwen: The company was founded in 2014. I was dancing for the Metropolitan Opera at the time, and it was a twofold thing. One, professional dancers were often laid off over the summer. Every major U.S. ballet company (with the exception of a handful of them) lays off all of their artists over the summer. So in

an effort to create more work, MorDance was born. Also, I really wanted to have an opportunity to choreograph more. There are very few female choreographers in the ballet industry. Last year, only about 23% of ballets in the country were choreographed by women. Women are the majority of the workforce in ballet, but we’re not given opportunities in leadership and at the creative table.

RD: What’s on the horizon for MorDance in the coming months?

MM: On March 20, we have our Women’s History Month panel discussion (“In Her Hands: Women Driving Change”). We started that event last year, and it was so well-received.

As an arts organization, we’re often centering our art around environmental stewardship, civic engagement, and social justice. So for us to be able to host things like panel discussions, it’s just furthering the mission. It’s giving people an opportunity to really have meaningful civic discourse around things that matter to us all. We always incorporate a little performance aspect into the evening as well.

We also have an open rehearsal in April that we might potentially be holding in Yonkers as part of Yonkers Arts Weekend. Even though we’ll be in Dobbs Ferry, we will still always have very deep ties with all of our community partners in Yonkers.

Our biggest event this spring will be the weekend of May 14–16. We’ll be premiering a new evening-length work. We’re going to hold that performance at 145 Palisade in its raw, industrial glory that currently exists. That’ll be the last exciting thing that

happens before the doors are officially closed again [after the renovations].

RD: Recently, you had a strong reaction to a statement made by actor Timothee Chalamet about ballet and opera. What did he say, and how did you respond?

MM: He made a comment that ballet and opera are things no one cares about. As a former ballerina who finished her career dancing for an opera company, like everyone in our industry, I was a bit taken aback by it. For someone to use their platform to punch down at another art form felt like a really low blow, and I disagree with what he said.

I think that the performing arts have the capacity to do things that are truly tremendous. When you open a large theater to the community, and you have all sorts of people from all sorts of backgrounds and all sorts of places, I think real magic can happen. I think at MorDance, we’ve seen that.

A huge example of this was our most recent ballet called “Trees.” It was inspired by the research of scientist Dr. Suzanne Simard, about how trees communicate via mycorrhizal connections and how trees live in a community of mutual support. After every performance last year, we had talkbacks with the audience, and we saw that about 95% of the audience remained in their seats to have these conversations after the performance. Every single night, we had to wrap up the conversation that could have gone on for hours. It was incredible to sit in a theater and have conversations about forest ecology and about how humanity could model itself better around trees and what they’re doing

Continued on page 15

DOBBS FERRY

E-bike program aims to expand in Dobbs Ferry and nearby

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

The Village of Dobbs Ferry plans to continue free 15-minute parking downtown, and may expand its electric bikeshare program to six new locations, according to the board of trustees meeting on Tuesday March 10.

E-bikeshare expansion

During the meeting, the board met with representatives of a Westchester County partnership called Project MOVER, to discuss e-bike usage in Dobbs Ferry and neighboring municipalities, as well as the future of the program.

Thirty-six bikes across six stations were installed in the village last July via Project MOVER, which is being funded in Dobbs Ferry, Tarrytown, Sleepy Hollow, Croton, and the Town and Village of Ossining, through a \$7 million grant from the New York State Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

The program is run by multiple partners, including Drop Mobility, which provides the e-bikes, and Shared Mobility Inc., which operates the program. While the program has come with no operating costs for municipalities through 2026, continuing the bikeshare in 2027 and 2028 would require Dobbs Ferry to spend \$20,000 each year.

Riders can either pay \$20 per month for a pass that comes with 30 minutes of riding per day, and costs 20 cents per minute after the 30 minutes, or use the “pay as you go” option that costs \$1 to unlock a bike and 20 cents per minute to ride.

Users need to first download the Project MOVER app on their phone to unlock the bikes. The bikes require riders to pedal, but assist them to go faster, expend less energy, and ride up hills with more ease than traditional bicycles. The Project MOVER bikes are made to not accelerate beyond 15 mph.

Project MOVER has 230 bikes deployed at more than 40 stations across the six municipalities. During the 2025 operating season from March through December, there were 9,419 total trips among 2,394 unique users, who spent an average of 15.6 minutes per ride.

The 759 trips that started and ended in Dobbs Ferry accounted for 8.2% of the total. The village was not a part of the program for the first four months. Another 24 trips started in Dobbs Ferry and ended in another municipality. Most intermunicipal trips (89.5%) took place between Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown.

Dobbs Ferry has e-bike stations at Waterfront Park, Gould Park, Memorial Park, the

library, Cedar Street, and the intersection of Main and Cedar Street. Most bike pickups started in Dobbs Ferry (62%) happened at Waterfront Park or Gould Park.

Project MOVER representatives shared that they are nearing the finalization of an agreement to bring bikes to Mercy University, which straddles Dobbs Ferry and Irvington. They’re also working with the Dobbs Ferry Transportation Advisory Committee to identify five more locations on the eastern side of village, and in more residential areas.

Project MOVER representatives want to expand to Irvington and Hastings, and made a presentation to the Irvington Board of Trustees on Jan. 15.

The \$20,000 per year commitment being requested of Dobbs Ferry for 2027 and 2028 is contingent upon NYSERDA providing a no-cost extension to partially cover costs for 2027-28. Project MOVER representatives told the board that that extension should be finalized no later than the third quarter of this year. NYSERDA’s initial commitment was for a pilot phase that began with the launch in the Village of Ossining in 2024, and ends at the end of 2026.

The total projected two-year cost of operating Project MOVER in the current six

municipalities is \$812,000. Smaller municipalities like Dobbs Ferry and the Town of Ossining would pay \$20,000 per year for 2027-28, while the larger four municipalities would pay \$40,000. The rest of the operating costs would be covered by NYSERDA and revenue from ridership, which Project MOVER projects will reach roughly 25,000 trips in 2026.

Free 15-minute parking

During the workshop portion of the meeting, the board decided to continue providing free 15-minute parking downtown via the ParkMobile app or the parking kiosks. The option was initially offered in November 2020, when the Village first began using ParkMobile. While the option cost the Village nothing for the first five years, by continuing the option under a new five-year contract, the Village is forfeiting additional funds it could collect, at drivers’ expense.

Mayor Christy Knell explained during the meeting that “Because of the budget, we have to make sure that we’re all just recognizing that if we keep the 15-minute parking, there is a transaction fee associated with that, so whatever money ParkMobile collects will

Continued on page 16

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HASTINGS- ON-HUDSON

— Coming Up This Week —

PTSA Used Book Fair

Friday, March 13, 5–7 p.m.
Saturday, March 14, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
Hillside School
Books for all ages: \$3 for hardcovers,
\$1–\$2 for paperbacks

Defensive Driving Course

Saturday, March 14, 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
James Harmon Community Center
Fee: \$35
Register by calling 914-478-2380

Farmers Market

Saturday, March 14, 9:30 a.m.–1 p.m.
Commuter Lot, Southside Avenue
The winter market convenes every other
Saturday through May

Sundays at the Library

Sunday, March 15, 2 p.m.
Hastings Public Library
Veteran journalist Billy Altman, in conversation
with Spike Barkin, discusses the inside story of
the New York music club The Bottom Line

St. Patrick's Day Luncheon for Seniors

Tuesday, March 17, 12:15 p.m.
James Harmon Community Center
RSVP (\$5): 914-478-2380, ext. 644

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 17, 6 p.m.
Hillside Multipurpose Room

Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, March 17, 7 p.m.
Village Hall

Library Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 18, 6:30 p.m.
Hastings Public Library

Senior Thursday

Thursday, March 19
Screening of "CODA" at the public library,
1 p.m. Foodtown, restaurants, and shops offer
discounts for residents over 65. Free parking
pass available at library or community center.

Planning Board Meeting

Thursday, March 19, 7 p.m.
Village Hall

Got news?

Email staff writer Amy Bochner at
amy@rivertownsdispatch.com



Billy Altman sits at his dining room table.

Book tells story about famed music club

BY LAURA SCHILLER

Steps from Washington Square Park, at 15 West 4th Street between Mercer and Greene, stood one of New York's most cherished music venues: The Bottom Line. From 1974 to 2004, the eclectic club helped define the city's music scene.

"It was a special place — not only in Greenwich Village, but in New York City, and it shaped music culture and history. A terrific, terrific place," said journalist Billy Altman of Hastings, the co-author of "Positively Fourth and Mercer: The Inside Story of New York's Iconic Music Club, The Bottom Line" (Backbeat, December 2025). His co-author, Allan Pepper, was the club's co-founder with Stanley Snadowsky.

On Sunday, March 15, at 2 p.m., Altman will speak at the Hastings Public Library about the legendary venue and share the stories he uncovered over two years of research. He will be joined in conversation by fellow

Hastings resident Spike Barkin, a longtime friend and music producer and promoter. "Spike and I always talk music, so it seemed a natural for the two of us to sit down and talk about the book," Altman said.

During its run, The Bottom Line hosted two shows a night and maintained a steady weekly schedule. "Over the course of 30 years, well over 3,000 different acts played at the club," Altman said. "It was a 400-seat club. By conservative estimates, several million people passed through its doors."

What set The Bottom Line apart was its programming. "It appealed to a very wide range of listeners," Altman recalled. "They had rock, folk, blues, and country acts, as well as comedians, theater, and cabaret. It cut across genre lines, which made it so special."

"The room itself was really something special," Altman added. "They built it from the ground up — impeccably designed, with a terrific sound system and seating so everyone could see the stage. People loved playing there."

One of the club's most famous moments came in 1975, when Bruce Springsteen played nearly a week of shows just before the release of "Born to Run." "Those shows were a game changer for his career," Altman said, noting that Springsteen credits the venue for helping launch him

into superstardom. The book devotes an entire chapter to those performances.

Altman described the book as "really an oral history. I interviewed well over 100 people, so I'll be sharing stories from a wide range of acts. It's countless stories from the

Continued on page 16



Chili champ

Jeremy Prout won the inaugural chili cook-off fundraiser hosted by the Yellow Jackets Booster Club at the James Harmon Community Center on Saturday, March 7. Nine teams competed. Three judges selected Prout, while the people's choice winners were Hastings High School sophomores Jake Chen and Joseph Sbraga. The proceeds will support the Hastings School District's athletic programs. Prout is pictured with his wife, Christina McCarthy, their 8-year-old daughter Isabel, and their 3-year-old son Teddy. The family moved to Hastings this past December.



HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON

District contends with incident involving student-athletes

BY AMY BOCHNER

An incident that took place this past December involving members of the Hastings High School varsity wrestling team, as well as the Hastings School District's response to that incident, were the subject of a discussion during the Hastings Board of Education meeting on March 2.

According to high school Principal Andy Clayman, the "significant incident" led to the varsity wrestling program being paused. In the aftermath, Clayman said at the meeting, "It was apparent that there were some students who struggled to take ownership of their behavior and understand the severity of the incident and the possible ramifications."

Between Jan 5-20, Clayman continued, the district, school leadership, and athletic department implemented a restorative support program to "address the misconduct, repair the harm, support the student-athletes, and restore the integrity of the program while maintaining accountability."

Clayman described this program as a series of meetings with individual students, the team as a whole, coaches, and parents. The program included academic monitoring and intervention, behavioral plans and progress reviews, discussions, and counseling support.

A phased reinstatement process for each

of the student-athletes was conducted on a case-by-case basis over a four-week period. As of Jan. 30, almost all varsity wrestlers had been reinstated.

Clayman said, "We had some students who did not participate [in the incident]... Because of the unique nature of wrestling, they could be reinstated, while the students who had participated to a larger degree, they were still engaged in more of the restorative work."

Clayman added that this was a "tricky situation to navigate because we had a serious incident... that we needed to make sure we communicated very clearly and unequivocally that we took very seriously. At the same time, we had a ripe opportunity for young folks to learn from poor decisions and to repair the harm that they had done and to grow from that experience."

Clayman said he is "proud of the progress" the students made academically and behaviorally.

Athletic Director Drew Wendol provided more context for the incident and the decisions made by the district.

"This group of student-athletes are not bad kids, although they made some poor choices, especially on school property," he said. "The incident was not hazing, bullying, or abuse.

Immature and inappropriate, yes, but this was done without any malicious intent."

"After getting to know the student-athletes better," Wendol continued, "learning everyone's involvement and the lack thereof, and the intent behind the incident, it was clear that ending the season was not the best course of action. It was a perfect time to help these student-athletes learn and grow from their mistakes."

Board of Education trustee David Weinstein questioned the language being used to describe the incident.

"I know the initial response to this incident was quite serious and quite severe, and that was back in December," he said. "What I'm trying to put together is, how did we get from a situation... that was quite severe, to now, not calling it hazing, and kind of alluding to an incident of somehow fooling around?"

Board of Education trustee David Barone emphasized the need for consistency.

"I think part of the acknowledgement of what occurred is not changing the language," he said. "This was an event of hazing, this is the outcome, this is what occurred, because we're washing away the incident if we start calling it something else as time passes."

Wendol said the investigation found that there was not a culture of hazing on the

varsity wrestling team, and that, aside from this incident, "they never had an issue."

"That's not excusing their behavior, but it's just giving you a context that they were doing it with their friends," Wendol said. "I don't like saying it like that... but it wasn't done maliciously like hazing would be."

During the public comment portion of the meeting, students and parents shared their perspective on the school's response to the incident.

Kelly Vulpone, a parent of a student on the wrestling team, stated that she was "deeply disappointed in how this situation was handled."

"Decisions were made that characterized an entire team as responsible, and those statements had real consequences... My son called me at the end of the school day, Friday, Dec. 19, understandably very upset, [saying] the season has been canceled. When I asked him how he knew, it was apparent that the teachers had received an email and were telling all the students in class that their season was over... When mistakes happen, students deserve guidance and support, not collective blame."

Joseph Drake, who is on the wrestling team and did not attend practice the day of the

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RESERVATIONS





IRVINGTON

— Coming Up This Week —

Community Sports Equipment Swap

Through March 19 at the Irvington Public Library
 March 22 at the Irvington Farmers Market
 Drop-off lightly used equipment and take donated gear

Stewardship at O'Hara & Irvington Woods Park

Saturday, March 14, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
 Meet at O'Hara Nature Center, 170 Mountain Road
 Help with tree planting and maple syrup boiling. Pizza for volunteers at noon
 Register at irvingtonny.gov/25/recreation-and-parks

Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, March 16, 7 p.m.
 Village Hall
 To attend via Zoom, visit irvingtonny.gov for the link

Virtual Cooking Class: Chicken a la King

Wednesday, March 18, 11 a.m.
 Register at irvingtonlibrary.org for the Zoom link

Thursday Evening Book Club

Thursday, March 19, 7:30 p.m.
 Irvington Public Library
 Discuss "So Far Gone" by Jess Walter

The Living Forest Speaker Series

Saturday, March 21, noon
 O'Hara Nature Center
 David Orwig presents "Changing Forest Dynamics: Told Through Plots and Tree Rings," followed by a Q&A and guided walk to the old-growth remnant area
 Register at irvingtongreen.org/events

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Email staff writer Julian Michael Caldwell at julian@rivertownsdispatch.com



Six-year-old Jonah Veras Hilario guards his 9-year-old brother, Jacob.

Hoops net funds for blood cancer charity

Event features 9-year-old leukemia survivor

BY RITA WALTON

Though the winning team received medals, the Bulldogs Beat Cancer 3v3 Basketball Tournament was about more than accolades on Saturday, March 7, at Irvington High School.

"It doesn't matter who wins," said Irvington High School sophomore Isabelle O'Reilly, one of the organizers. "We're trying to have fun and to raise money for a good cause. And we're just so happy to see our hero."

The cause was the nonprofit Blood Cancer United. The hero was 9-year-old Jacob Veras Hilario of Sleepy Hollow, a leukemia survivor. While high school students competed in the tournament, Jacob was putting up shots, passing to teammates, and playing defense with five other children off the side.

Jacob was diagnosed with leukemia at age 6. Now in remission, he underwent treatment for 2½ years while he and his family received support and guidance from Blood Cancer United.

"They are a great organization," Jacob's mother, Masiel Hilario, said as she watched him play along with his 6-year-old brother, Jonah Veras Hilario.

"It's been 2½ years battling leukemia, and they really helped us. They helped us financially and in other ways. And now Jacob is here, raising money. He couldn't do sports before. This is the first time I've seen him play freely like this," Hilario said. "I am so happy to see how [Blood Cancer United] pushes for getting financial help for families going through cancer. They are advocating and educating the public about the matter as well. Cancer is a terrible thing and not everyone survives. I'm so thankful to still

have my son with me. He beat leukemia!"

Blood Cancer United sponsors 28 student campaigns across Westchester and Fairfield counties. The team that raises the most money will be awarded the title of "Student Visionary of the Year" at the Blood Cancer United gala in Stamford, Conn.

Blood Cancer United (formerly The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society) is, according to its website, the largest global nonprofit focused on blood cancer patient support, research, and advocacy. The organization funds blood cancer research around the world, provides free information and support services for patients and their families, and advocates for those seeking access to quality, affordable, coordinated care.

This is Bulldogs Beat Cancer's fourth year raising money as part of the Student Visionaries program for Blood Cancer United, and

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Gems on strings

Flutist Janet Arms and guitarist Chris Ladd perform "Monhegan Suite" by John Kusiak during the free "Modern Gems" concert held on Sunday, March 8, as part of the Riverview Chamber Series at the Church of St. Barnabas, where Arms' daughter, pianist Jesse Goldberg, is the music director. The next free concert, "Viola Fairytales" with Rosemary Nelis, will be Sunday, April 19, at 2 p.m.

IRVINGTON

Hastings artist aims for ‘wow’ with science illustrations

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Longtime Hastings resident Nicoletta Barolini is exhibiting her science-based artwork for the first time in “Visualizing Science,” currently on display at the Irvington Public Library’s Martucci Gallery.

Barolini, who has lived in Hastings for 33 years, is an art director and science visualizer at Columbia University, where she creates illustrations, digital paintings, animations, and infographics that support and enhance research by Columbia faculty. Barolini’s exhibit includes images she created to illustrate articles for online publications, or as cover art for medical journals.

“It’s extremely competitive, and they [scientists] all want to get the cover,” Barolini told the Dispatch. “So they need good artist renderings of conceptual ideas for the cover work.”

While Barolini often uses her art and graphic design skills to create visual explainers for medical journals that are more literal in their depictions, her exhibit features more abstract pieces like “Dance of the Transcripts,” which illustrates the translation of genetic information into cellular function by depicting messenger RNA as dancers in various poses along a DNA helix passing information along in the form of colored balls. The



“Science, Engineering, and the Human Senses,” promotional art for the Columbia University School of Engineering & Applied Science

images are a cross between a page in a science textbook and a scene from Cirque Du Soleil.

“The scientists tell me what the vision is of their research, and these art examples are conceptual, more poetic renderings of what’s going on,” Barolini explained. “They [scientists] are very focused on their science in a very detailed way, and the art kind of

disseminates that science out into something bigger and more abstract.”

Barolini, 64, majored in art as an undergrad at Sarah Lawrence College, and then studied graphic design, illustration, and animation at the School of Visual Arts before being hired as an art director for Columbia’s newspaper, The Record, in 2007. She has

had exhibitions featuring her oil painting and sculptures, but has never exhibited her science artwork.

Rivertowns residents may be familiar with the large mural showing people of all ages talking in a park that Barolini painted on the north side of Hastings Paint and Hardware on Warburton Avenue. Her mother, Helen Barolini of Hastings, was a writer who passed away in May 2023 at age 97.

“I always loved science,” Barolini said. “I took a lot of science in school, I was very drawn to it, but I didn’t have the confidence for it, specifically because of how uncreative they made it. I have a very strong creative part of me, so it was very hard for me to move completely into a science logic kind of person.”

Before joining Columbia, Barolini worked as a staff illustrator and graphic designer at Raven Press, Wolters Kluwer Health, and Oxford University Press, where she often worked on medical publications. Barolini believes creating artistic scientific renderings is an unexplored job opportunity for young artists to consider.

“If you are an artistic person, your creativity can be applied in so many different ways. So be creative about how you can use your creativity,” Barolini explained. “I started out

Continued on page 16



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- Scoliosis
- Stress-related tension and fatigue
- Gymnastic, dance, sports injuries
- Recovery from injuries or surgery
- Rheumatologic and connective tissue disorders
- Pediatric conditions (feeding difficulties, colic, torticollis, plagiocephaly)

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The Agenda

SATURDAY MARCH 14

Irish Music Seisiún

ARDSLEY

2 p.m. / Free. Ardsley Public Library, 9 American Legion Drive. Young accordionist Mikey Reidy will be joined by Brenda Dowling on flute to play traditional Celtic music. Register at ardsleypubliclibrary.org

Used Book Fair

HASTINGS

9 a.m.–3 p.m. / \$3 for hardcovers, \$1–\$2 for paperbacks; cash preferred. Hillside School, 120 Lefurgy Ave. ptsahastings.org

Farmers Market

HASTINGS

9:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Commuter Lot, Southside Avenue. The winter market convenes every other Saturday. For details, visit hastingsfarmersmarket.org and follow the market on Facebook.

Pollinator Garden Workshop

GREENBURGH

1–3:30 p.m. / Free. Greenburgh Public Library, 300 Tarrytown Road. Ardsley Pollinator Pathway presents “Preparation for Planting and Maintaining.” Register at ardsleypollinatorpathway.org

“Othello”

TARRYTOWN

2 and 5 p.m. / \$49. Lyndhurst, 635 S. Broadway. M&M Performing Arts Company presents Shakespeare’s tragedy in the main-floor parlor of the Lyndhurst mansion. Performances run through March 22 at various times. Appropriate for ages 12 and up. lyndhurst.org

Steffi Nossen Benefit Concert

TARRYTOWN

5:30 p.m. / \$68–\$108. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. The performance features pre-professional dancers in the Master Class Program and the Steffi Nossen Dance Company. tarrytownmusichall.org

Midnight at the Masquerade

TARRYTOWN

5:30–8:30 p.m. / \$60, \$50 for members. ShamesJCC, 371 S. Broadway. Murder mystery dinner and interactive theater. shamesjcc.org

Saxophonist Camille Thurman

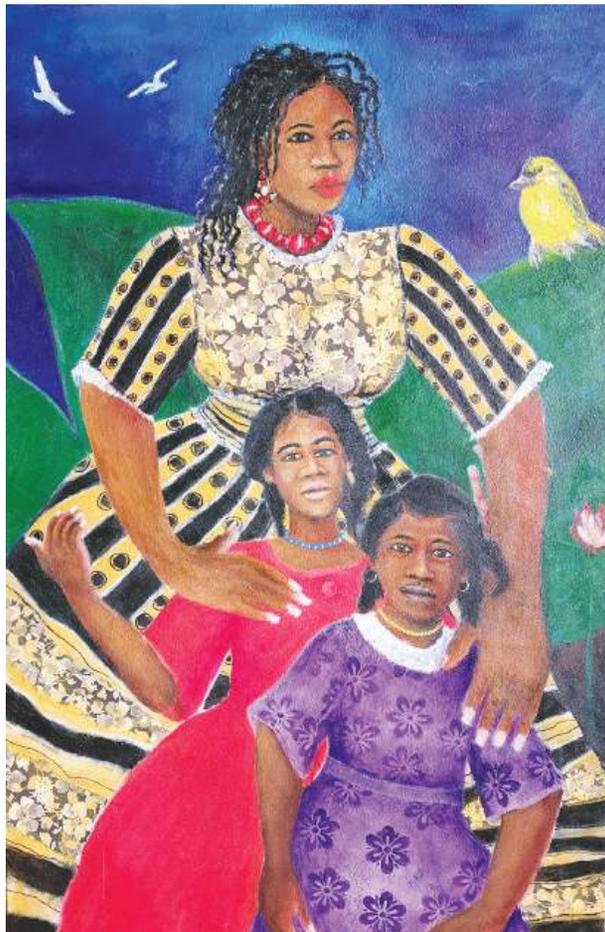
TARRYTOWN

7 and 9:30 p.m. / \$35, \$30 for students. Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. Performs with the Darrell Green Quartet. jazzforumarts.org

Irish History Walking Tour

YONKERS

10:30 a.m. / \$10. Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site, 29 Warburton Ave. Learn how the Irish shaped the culture of Yonkers by exploring



“Eternal Verities, Felt Thoughts,” an exhibition of Madge Scott’s latest work, opens with a reception on Sunday, March 15, at Upstream Gallery in Hastings.

the Old Croton Aqueduct and historic churches on a 2.5-mile urban hike. philipsemanorhall.com

Juried Members Exhibition

YONKERS

1–6 p.m. / Free. Blue Door Art Center, 13 Riverdale Ave. On view through April 11. Thursday and Friday, 3–6 p.m.; Saturday, 1–6 p.m. bluedoorartcenter.org

Women and the American Revolution

MOUNT VERNON

1 p.m. / Free. St. Paul’s Church, 897 S. Columbus Ave. Historical reenactors portray Martha Washington, Abigail Adams, Peggy Shippen Arnold, Phoebe Ward, and Anna Ward. nps.gov/sapa/sapaprogsched.htm

SUNDAY MARCH 15

Sundays at the Library

HASTINGS

2 p.m. / Free. Hastings Public Library, 7 Maple Ave. Veteran journalist Billy Altman, in conversation with Spike Barkin, discusses the inside story of the legendary New York music club The Bottom Line. hastingslibrary.org

“Eternal Verities, Felt Thoughts”

HASTINGS

2–5 p.m. / Upstream Gallery, 8 Main St. Opening reception for an exhibit of Madge Scott’s latest works. On view through April 5. Hours: Thursday–Sunday, 12:30–5:30 p.m. upstreamgallery.com

A Gathering for Calm and Clarity

IRVINGTON

4 p.m. / \$50, discount for members. The Lark, 50 S. Buckhout St., G107. thelark.club/events

Modern Women with a Modern Vision

YONKERS

12:30–2 p.m. / \$15 for adults, \$9 for seniors and students, \$8 for ages 3–18, free for members and children under 3. Hudson River Museum, 511 Warburton Ave. Panel discussion with Masha Turchinsky, Shanae Williams, Linda Fears, Morgan McEwen, and Annie Willis. Register at hrm.org

Brazilian Vocalist Kerry Linder

TARRYTOWN

4 and 6 p.m. / \$25, \$20 for students. Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. jazzforumarts.org

“All You Need Is George”

TARRYTOWN

7 p.m. / \$47–\$73. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. George Harrison tribute concert. tarrytownmusichall.org

MONDAY MARCH 16

Monday Meetup for Wellness Pros

DOBBS FERRY

10–11 a.m. / Free. HudCo, 145 Palisade St., Suite 200. hudco.eventbrite.com

TUESDAY MARCH 17

Bluegrass and Irish Tunes

HASTINGS

7–9 p.m. / No cover charge. Uncle Lefty’s, 583 Warburton Ave. Featuring the Hudson Line String Band. uncleleftys.com

WEDNESDAY MARCH 18

Container Gardening with Native Plants

ARDSLEY

7 p.m. / Free. Ardsley Pollinator Pathway presents Elaine Mills to discuss which plant species are suitable for use in containers and how they can support wildlife. Register for the Zoom link at ardsleypollinatorpathway.org

Women in the Neutral Zone

YONKERS

7 p.m. / Free. Sarah Wassberg Johnson of Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site discusses how women of all backgrounds survived the Revolutionary War in Westchester County and New York City. Register for the link at philipsemanorhall.com

THURSDAY MARCH 19

Hudson Valley Makers’ Happy Hour

DOBBS FERRY

5:30–7:30 p.m. / Free admission. HudCo, 145 Palisade St., Suite 200. Cash bar, light bites, and jewelry designer Melissa Panszi Riebe. RSVP at hudco.eventbrite.com

Sip & Script Fundraiser

DOBBS FERRY

7–8:30 p.m. / \$75. HudCo, 145 Palisade St., Suite 200. Girls on the Run offers a modern calligraphy workshop. Purchase tickets at sipandscript.com/event/private-event-girls-on-the-run-sip-script-fundraiser

Jazz & More

DOBBS FERRY

7–9:30 p.m. / No cover charge. Mirabella Cocina Latina Restaurant & Bar, One Hamilton St. in Rivertowns Square. Featuring Tom Christensen, Scott Latzky, David Janeway, and Don Falzone.

Continued on page 14

Opinion

The Dispatch welcomes letters to the editor about subjects related to the Rivertowns. Letters must be no more than 350 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/submissions

Lobby federal officials to support research into Parkinson's

To the Editor:

I am blessed to teach dance weekly at the Hastings Public Library to members of the community, many of whom suffer with Parkinson's disease. Parkinson's is the fastest-growing neurological condition in the U.S. Over 1 million Americans live with Parkinson's and related conditions, including 110,000 U.S. military veterans. Parkinson's is a progressive neurodegenerative disease with no known cure.

This is why I am heading to Capitol Hill on March 15, to carry the voices of the people from Hastings who are living with PD. In the PD Policy Forum 2026, I will join hundreds of people living and working with Parkinson's nationwide to urge Congress to increase federal investment in research at the National Institutes of Health and

protect Americans from exposure to Parkinson's-linked chemicals, such as the herbicide paraquat.

Throughout the forum, advocates will share their experiences, underscoring the importance of patient-informed policymaking and the power of the unified Parkinson's community. We are hosted by the American Parkinson Disease Association, the Michael J. Fox Foundation, the Parkinson's Foundation, and PMD Alliance to raise awareness of this growing disease.

Our Hastings program, "Movin' the Mind and Groovin' the Balance," is supported by the Village of Hastings through the Field Hall Foundation and ArtsWestchester. I travel from Brooklyn to Hastings to guide this free movement class, customized to the balance, gait, and mobility challenges specific to Parkinson's. These local folks I teach are some of the bravest and most creative people I have ever met and are a driving force to my advocacy with PMD Alliance as a global ambassador.

I will be hitting the Hill driven by the dynamic energy of the people in Hastings, with determination and enthusiasm to meet the impact of Parkinson's disease on

Americans.

Call to action:

www.schumer.senate.gov

www.gillibrand.senate.gov

www.latimer.house.gov

Call Congress at 202-224-3121

Thank you for your support in gathering momentum for solutions to Parkinson's disease.

Julie Worden

BROOKLYN

Offer free housing for volunteer emergency responders

To the Editor:

We all know that there is a big affordable housing shortage in Westchester. Many volunteer fire departments and volunteer ambulance corps are facing difficult times attracting and keeping their volunteers.

I recently read some stories about communities in Connecticut and around the state that offer free housing at ambulance

corps and fire departments to students in exchange for volunteer work.

If an empty space at a volunteer fire or ambulance corps could be converted into an affordable housing unit, and offered to a college student in exchange for a commitment to answer calls at night, weekends, and when they are not in school, we could create a win-win opportunity.

This initiative could help the volunteer companies survive without having to pay first responders for their efforts. I'm interested in hearing residents' thoughts on this suggestion.

This is the link to a story about one community that has initiated this program (wnyt.com/top-stories/fire-ems-service-offers-free-housing-to-recruit-college-students/)

I think that if any volunteer departments in the river villages are interested, we could reach out to state officials and try obtaining grants to offset some of the costs of converting an empty space into an affordable housing opportunity.

Paul Feiner

GREENBURGH TOWN SUPERVISOR

The Agenda

"Your Roots Are Showing"

TARRYTOWN

6:30–8:30 p.m. / \$15, \$10 for members. Shames JCC, 371 S. Broadway. Documentary film screening about the rise of silver hair, followed by a discussion led by director Ilise Harris of Dobbs Ferry. shamesjcc.org

FRIDAY MARCH 20

"In Her Hands: Women Driving Change"

DOBBS FERRY

6:30–8 p.m. / \$35, \$25 for students. Hudson River Landing, 145 Palisade St. MorDance hosts a panel discussion, dance performance, and reception. RSVP at mordance.org

Cult Classic Movie Night: "Barton Fink"

DOBBS FERRY

8 p.m. / Free. Dobbs Ferry Public Library, 55 Main St. dobbsferrylibrary.org

"Amélie: Teen Edition"

IRVINGTON

7 p.m. / \$25, \$20 for students and seniors. Irvington Theater, 85 Main St. Broadway Training Center presents a musical adaptation of the romantic comedy film. Also on March 21 at 7 p.m., and March 22 at 3 p.m. irvingtontheater.com



16-year-old accordionist Mikey Reidy performs a traditional Irish Seisiún on Saturday, March 14, at the Ardsley Public Library.

UPCOMING

Ardsley Cares Day

ARDSLEY

March 21 / 9 a.m.–1 p.m. Ardsley High School and throughout the village. Sign up at ArdsleyPTSA.org/events/ardsley-cares-day

Live Band Karaoke

ARDSLEY

March 22 / 5 p.m. / \$20 for registered performers, \$25 for general admission, \$10 for kids under 18. Saw Mill Tavern, 925 Saw Mill River

Road. Fundraiser hosted by Ardsley Music Partners includes one complimentary drink and light bites. Purchase tickets or register with your song selection at ardsleymusicpartners.org/other-events

"Get Growing!"

DOBBS FERRY

March 22 / 1–3 p.m. / Dobbs Ferry Public Library, 55 Main St. The Dobbs Ferry Garden Club presents an introduction to gardening basics, including native plants, tools, and soil, featuring Ardsley Pollinator Pathway chair Carol Sommerfield. Register at gardenclubofdobbsferry.org

A Revolutionary Tea

DOBBS FERRY

March 22 / 2–3:30 p.m. / \$55. Dobbs Ferry Historical Society, 12 Elm St. Interactive tea with historical storytelling and parlor games. For ages 16 and up. Purchase tickets at eventbrite.com

The Living Forest Speaker Series

IRVINGTON

March 21 / Noon / Free. O'Hara Nature Center, 170 Mountain Road. Harvard ecologist David Orwig discusses "Changing Forest Dynamics — Told Through Plots and Tree Rings," followed by a Q&A and guided walk to the old-growth remnant area. Presented by the Village of Irvington and the O'Hara Nature Center. Register at irvingtongreen.org/events

Toast 250! Tavern Nights

ELMSFORD

March 21 / 3–7 p.m. / No cover charge. Captain Lawrence Brewing Co., 444 N. Saw Mill River Road. Features re-enactors, 18th-century table games and music, plus a trivia game at 5 p.m. Hosted by Revolutionary Westchester 250. rw250.org, captainlawrencebrewing.com

Friends of Music: Spring Season Opener

OSSINING

March 22 / 3 p.m. / \$40. Ossining High School, 29 S. Highland Ave. The Calidore String Quartet performs works by Haydn, Shostakovich, and Beethoven. friendsofmusicconcerts.org

Deer management

Continued from page 1

report attached to the agenda for the March 10 meeting of the Dobbs Ferry Board of Trustees, 19 deer were “harvested,” which spared approximately 38,000 pounds of vegetation.

During that meeting, the board approved a \$37,500 agreement with KDM to continue the deer management program this year, from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31. The agreement includes one or more hunts per week at the Juhring Preserve and Bramley Park, along with scouting,

mapping of deer activity, deployment of trail cameras, environmental and data analysis, and management planning.

For the past two years, Irvington hired Kelley to manage the deer population in the Irvington Woods. During an Irvington Board of Trustees work session on March 11, Kelley shared that 26 deer were harvested in 2024 and 21 in 2025. Kelley donates the meet to a program called Hunters for the Hungry.

In 2023, prior to implementation of the deer management program, there was an estimated population of 141 deer per square

mile in the Irvington Woods. That estimate was reduced to approximately 65 deer per square mile as of 2025. The cumulative browse spared from 2024-2025 is approximately 94,000 pounds.

A challenge Kelley experienced during his hunts were off-leash dogs chasing away deer. The long-term impact of this, he said, is deer staying permanently on private property, where they aren’t being chased. The board discussed posting signs with rules at seven official and unofficial entrances to the woods, and discussing enforcement

with the police department.

The board also discussed two proposals from ecologist Danielle Begley-Miller of Forest Management Solutions to monitor the impact of deer management on vegetation for the third straight year. The first proposal costs \$3,600, and would use volunteers to collect data from the woods. The second costs \$8,400 and would hire Begley-Miller to conduct the survey. Both proposals include Begley-Miller’s analysis of the data and a written report. The board shared a preference for the lower cost option.

Con Edison monitoring

Continued from page 1

In April of last year, faced with potential steep rate increases, 40 Westchester municipalities, including all four Rivertowns, formed the WMC and collectively spent \$100,000 to hire Dichter to challenge the initial rate increases. At the time, Con Edison was requesting delivery rate hikes of 25.1% for electricity and 20% for natural gas for residential customers. Ultimately Con Edison and the PSC agreed to smaller increases. Over the next three years, beginning this past January, delivery costs will rise 4.3%, 5.0%, and 3.3% for electricity, and -0.3% (a slight decrease), 7.2%, and 3.7% for natural gas.

The new monitoring agreement with Dichter is being considered by the same municipalities that were a part of the WMC. Dichter

has agreed to provide monitoring services for a total of \$60,000 per year for the next three years. If 40 municipalities participate, the cost would come out to \$1,500 per municipality, or less if more municipalities join the effort.

“With that agreement, we’re continuing our work through the consortium of Westchester municipalities to hold Con Ed accountable for the rates they agreed to,” Dobbs Ferry Mayor Christy Knell told the Dispatch. “The way everyone worked together on the municipal side to advocate for the taxpayers through these negotiations, and are continuing to do so with this — it was such a great example of how productive this kind of collaboration can be, and how cost-effective it is to share in the expenses that benefit us all.”

During their March 3 meeting, the Hastings Board of Trustees agreed to include a resolution about the monitoring agreement

on the agenda for their meeting on Tuesday, March 17. Hastings Mayor Thomas Drake supports the agreement.

“It was vitally important that the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson participate in the original rate case lawsuit that so many other municipalities participated in,” Drake told the Dispatch. “We have since seen that Con Edison is still attempting to raise their rates and it is equally important for Hastings and other municipalities to have a voice in utility decisions and help to continue protecting residents’ interests, controlling costs, and maintaining reliable service.”

Though the agreed upon increases are lower than Con Edison’s initial proposal, members of the WMC, Westchester Board of Legislators, and state legislators representing Westchester contend that rates should not increase for Westchester customers. They argue that Con

Edison wanted more money to pay for infrastructure costs in New York City, not in Westchester. County Legislator David Imamura, who represents District 12, which covers all four Rivertowns, was one of the legislators who challenged Con Edison’s proposed increases.

“I’m thrilled that these municipalities are continuing the effort to ensure that Con Ed rate payers have a fair shake in Westchester County,” Imamura told the Dispatch. “As a lawyer, I’ve been part of monitorships, and they are an essential tool to ensuring that parties are complying. With Con Ed we’ve seen that they have not always been a player that is actively trying to keep costs down, so I think that’s something that’s critical here.”

The Irvington and Ardsley boards of trustees plan to discuss contributing to hiring Dichter during their meetings on Monday, March 16.

Rodriguez

Continued from page 3

because now I’m looking for details, I’m looking for brush strokes, I’m looking to see how whoever created the artwork created it.”

When he was 5 years old living in Patillas, Puerto Rico, Rodriguez’s mother left him. Two years later he moved to Philadelphia after the aunt who was taking care of him died of breast cancer. He’s never lived with his father. In Philadelphia, he lived with an uncle who made him and his young cousin help sell drugs. Rodriguez was seven years old. He recalls a pivotal moment in his life when he was 11 years old, and a group of his uncle’s friends were in the house plotting to get revenge on a group of adversaries.

“I was going to the kitchen, and one guy stopped me and told me, ‘When somebody threatens your family, you shoot them in the head so they don’t come back,’” Rodriguez recalls.

That lesson stuck with him, as did the influence of six years living in a community where nearly all of the neighbors on the block sold drugs. At age 13, Rodriguez went to live with one of his father’s children, Felicita, who at the time was working as a professor at Hofstra University. Despite her best efforts, Rodriguez’s previous experiences continued to influence him.

“My sister’s doing everything in her power to get me into school and get me tutors, but I still found the streets,” Rodriguez said. Felicita passed away in 2000. “So now I’m

selling drugs and one of my good friends had a problem with another drug dealer, and he got kidnapped, and so when he got kidnapped, my mind went into the mode of, ‘If you’re going to kill somebody who’s close to me, I’m going to kill you.’ So I wound up taking the life of the person who was responsible for my friend being kidnapped.”

That incident landed Rodriguez in prison. He credits his turnaround to the artist volunteers inside prison who complimented his artwork and told him “I love you, you’re a good human being.” Rodriguez hopes his exhibit helps audiences realize that he’s not an exception, but an example of what can happen when society invests in people who have succumbed to negative influences.

“There are people like me who could do

way more than I can if they’re given an opportunity,” Rodriguez said. “We need to find better ways to deal with people, who like me grew up in a drug-infested community and abusive household. There’s a better way than just to throw them away for the rest of their lives in prison. We need to find something where we can contribute back to our community.”

“Discard, Reclaim, Nurture by You” at the Donald Gallery at South Presbyterian Church (343 Broadway) is on display through May 24. Rodriguez’s artist talk and reception will be Sunday, April 19, from 3-5 p.m. The gallery is open to the public on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. For gallery hours, visit southpres.org/donaldgallery.

Morgan McEwen

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for one another.

These two art forms have been around for 400 years, and I think the most incredible thing is that the art form is constantly evolving.

—
RD: How do you get ideas for

choreography?

MM: A lot of times, ideas sit in a notebook for a very long time and wait for a funding opportunity to come around — that’s just the reality of being an artist. There’s a ballet that we’re making for this spring (“Unwritten”), and it’s centered around the Constitution as a living document. We started applying for funding for that two-and-a-half years ago. Another

piece that has been in the works for a long time involves a lot of historical research. It’s going to be a ballet about the Salem Witch Trials.

A lot of the works that I’ve made recently have come from me reading a book, like reading Suzanne Simard’s “Finding the Mother Tree.” I couldn’t put it down, and I remember finishing the book and thinking, we’ve got to make this ballet about

trees. I also read Jill Lepore’s “We the People,” and the work about the Constitution came out of that. The Salem Witch Trials ballet started when I read a book about Anne Hutchinson. So many ideas come from research and life, and really thinking about how I can make an impact as an artist.

—
For more information, visit mordance.org.

Wrestling incident

Continued from page 10

incident, shared his experience.

“I went to school in my Hastings wrestling sweatshirt. I was told that I was horrible, that this was no place in Hastings for this,” Drake said. “Yet I didn’t do a thing. I was told I’m an embarrassment to the program... The district’s blanket approach, instead of singling out the

people who did wrong, made us all guilty in everyone’s eyes, and I think is very unfair.”

Shameeza Hatim, a parent of a student on the team, described the consequences of applying the season.

“The program was reinstated, but it came at a heavy price, where [my son] had to catch up on practice, and get a lot of the matches condensed into a short period of time in order to participate in tournaments and sectionals,

which he did,” she said. “But through it all, it has been a tremendous struggle for us, for him as a student, in navigating him through the process, and we feel that there was a lack of transparency and a lack of proper communication.”

Ryan Vulpone, a sophomore and a captain of the wrestling team, offered his perspective, saying, “The speed of the decision gave the impression that the program itself was not valued, nor were the players of the team.”

After the public comment, Barone suggested the board have an executive session on the matter.

“We had Drew and Andy come up and talk to us about how harm was restored, and then we had families and students come up who are very much so still harmed by the situation,” he said. “I think that in a district that is really growing restorative practices, these are the bumps in the road that you don’t realize...”

Alice by Heart

Continued from page 5

been playing with, how we move through it.”

Loftus brings years of professional theater experience to the production. He is joined by choreographer Melissa Hanson, who is working with Ardsley for the first time. The show’s striking set design benefits from Loftus’s day job as owner and head designer of Scene Works Inc. in Ossining, a full-service scenic company for theaters.

When asked what he enjoys about working with the Ardsley High School drama students, Loftus highlighted their sense of community.

“This is no pun on ‘Alice by Heart,’ but generally it’s the heart that these kids have...

Ardsley Cares Day

Continued from page 6

basketballs, soccer balls, footballs, and volleyballs. They are not collecting shoes, bowling balls, football pads, or swimming, wrestling, and ski gear.

Gently used children’s books will be collected at the library on March 21 between noon and 2 p.m.

People are also encouraged to donate non-perishable food for Feeding Westchester up until March 20. The food can be placed in bins at Concord Road Elementary School (by the vestibule), Ardsley Middle School (by the cafeteria), Ardsley High School (by the library entrance), and the Ardsley Police Department.

Strongin encouraged all residents, especially newer ones, to attend saying “It’s a great way... to become involved and learn about different organizations within Ardsley while doing community service.”

Altman

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artists we spoke with.”

He was also struck by the club’s thoughtful management. “I was surprised by how carefully the owners ran the place. They had so much respect for performers and patrons alike. In club circles, that was pretty unique.”

“There wasn’t anything really close to The Bottom Line,” Altman said. “[Midtown] New York had Studio 54 for disco, CBGB for punk, and the Lone Star Café for country, but no place presented all kinds of

Bulldogs Beat Cancer

Continued from page 11

its second year with a 3-on-3 basketball tournament.

Bulldogs Beat Cancer is fundraising on behalf of patient support which, as noted on the team’s fundraising page, allows Blood Cancer United to provide free education and support for patients and families through one-on-one support, assistance with identifying and enrolling in clinical trials, and more.

Austin Jasienski, a campaign development manager with Blood Cancer United who helped Bulldogs Beat Cancer, was in attendance at the basketball fundraiser.

it’s a very supportive, caring, talented group of kids.”

The lead role of Alice is meaningful to senior Sophia Manalang, who relates to her character. Manalang plans to attend a musical theater college program in the fall.

“Alice is a young girl, learning to cope with the grief of losing people she loves,” Manalang explained. “The way she gets through it is by holding on to something she knows by heart — the story of Wonderland — and using that to navigate her pain.”

“It’s kind of crazy thinking about having to let the Ardsley High School Drama Club go after I graduate and say goodbye to all these people I’ve grown close to,” she continued. “I’m really seeing it with every single scene that I get to do with everyone.”

E-bikes and ParkMobile

Continued from page 8

be minus that transaction fee.”

By continuing with 15-minute free parking, ParkMobile will withhold 40 cents per transaction that would otherwise be paid to the Village. The Village will also not collect the 25-cent fee that 15 minutes of parking would cost. By allowing the 15-minute free parking, the Village loses out on about \$18,000 in annual revenue.

“We wanted to make it easy for people to come to the downtown, run a quick errand, and not have to fumble around with their phone,” Trustee Matt Rosenberg said during the meeting. “So it was helping the merchants with people coming in and doing quick transactions.”

While drivers don’t have to pay for free 15-minute parking, they still need to register their parking session via ParkMobile, or at a kiosk, to avoid being ticketed.

music, night after night. That variety created a unique energy and sense of community you didn’t find anywhere else.”

“Positively Fourth and Mercer” features new interviews with stars including Bruce Springsteen, Rosanne Cash, Paul Shaffer, Suzanne Vega, Roger McGuinn, Darlene Love, and Buddy Miller. It also includes backstage stories about such legends as Dolly Parton, Bob Dylan, Mick Jagger, Carly Simon, David Bowie, Patti Smith, Pete Seeger, and Lou Reed.

Altman draws on decades of music journalism experience. His writing has been featured in publications such as The New

Jasienski, who lives in Stamford, is a survivor of Hodgkins Lymphoma who has been in remission for 14 years.

Jasienski explained that students choose the fundraiser they want to sponsor and the pillar they want the funds to support. Jasienski noted that Blood Cancer United sponsors high school fundraising campaigns throughout the country.

“This is a seven-week campaign,” Jasienski explained. “I give the students pointers, and they build out the teams. It’s really rewarding to do this work. Having cancer really changes you. So it feels so good to work for [Blood Cancer United] now and give back. They saved my life.”

Performing alongside Alan Archer, who plays Alfred and has been her friend since they were 10, has made the experience even more emotional for Manalang.

“Every rehearsal, I end up crying because our friendship feels so much like the story of Alice and Alfred,” she said. “We’ve literally grown up together, like siblings, and saying goodbye in the show hits so close to home.”

Though she has held lead roles in other productions — including Cinderella in last year’s AHS production of “Into the Woods” and Éponine in “Les Misérables” at Sandbox Theatre — this role has been the most challenging, in part because Alice is in every scene and musical number. She never leaves the stage.

“It’s hard for me to say goodbye and I like taking initiative, just like Alice does, which

Barolini

Continued from page 12

before computers, then the computers came and I learned how to do that, and now we’re going into the next step with A.I. [artificial intelligence]. So I think it’s a bit of a reaction to that too, to show that genuine human creativity and talent doesn’t disappear with these technological advancements.”

One of Barolini’s earliest pieces in the exhibit is an image that was used as a promotional poster illustrating the human senses that was hung up in the hall of Columbia’s School of Engineering & Applied Science. The piece is separated into segments depicting a human eye, ear, mouth, nose, heart, and brain overlaid by medical diagrams and terms, and a myriad of colors.

“That was my favorite one to make because it was the most poetic, I thought,” Barolini said, adding that it received positive response while it was on display. “Scientists

York Times, The New Yorker, and Rolling Stone. He served as a senior editor at Creem, an American rock music magazine, and was a founding curator of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. In addition, he has worked as a consultant for the Grammy Museum, the National Blues Museum, and the National Museum of African American Music.

A Grammy nominee and winner of the ASCAP-Deems Taylor Award, Altman wrote “Laughter’s Gentle Soul: The Life of Robert Benchley” (W.W. Norton & Company, 1997) and teaches music history and writing at the School of Visual Arts in New York City.

Isabelle O’Reilly and Ally Nghiem, both sophomores at Irvington High School, are the co-leaders of Bulldogs Beat Cancer. The team also includes Alex Barth, Joey Brandstaedter, Henry Jaeger, Roger Jee, Sashia Jiang, Bayla Mohan, Vahn Nghiem, Sang Hee O’Reilly, Eli Sirulnik, Navin Vasudev, and Teann Wong. Each team member has a fundraising page on Blood Cancer United’s website. For the basketball tournament, spectators and participants were charged a fee that went towards the proceeds.

“Ally and I were nominated by last year’s candidates,” O’Reilly said. “Each year two new sophomores are nominated and take over. This is a well-known event in Irvington.

makes some of the acting easier,” Manalang said. “But the challenge is staying energized, remembering all the lines, and not being sad all the time.”

The cast also includes Taye Ahn, Dustin Aitcheson, Matthew Allen, Arianna Baviello, Aaliyah Bello, Leah Breen, Alessandra Ciriello, Melanie Davis, Lea Federman, Chris Golio, Piya Karthikeyan, Tiernan Kenny, Max Levitan, Seggy McGinty, Sarah Morcello, Gabi Mueller, Kayla Tardibono, and Dorian Williams.

“Alice by Heart” will be performed Friday, March 13, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, March 14, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$22 for general admission and \$20 for students at the door. To buy them in advance, visit cur8.com, and use the keyword: Ardsley.

are so analytical and logical, that to see something in that very creative, colorful way, it makes them say ‘wow.’”

Barolini hopes that besides providing a “wow” moment for the audience, her “Visualizing Science” exhibit serves to expose people to a lesser known medium that she believes deserves more attention from artists and scientists.

“In these days when so much of communication and content and promotion is online and on social media, the need for science media has increased,” Barolini explained. “But there is a disconnect because the scientists have a hard time reaching out to the artists, and when the artists reach out to them, they tend to ignore them.”

“Visualizing Science” is on display through March 31, with an artist reception on Saturday, March 14, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. The library is open Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., as well as Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

He also covers sports and serves as an official scorer for Major League Baseball at Mets and Yankees games.

Before moving to Hastings in 1998 with his wife, Joyce, and daughter, Emma, he spent years in New York City attending hundreds of performances at The Bottom Line.

Decades later, the venue might be gone, but its stories live on.

Buy your copy of this local author’s
book at Picture Book:
www.picturebookny.com

Our team is focusing on the pillar of patient support because that helps people right now. Patient support feels immediate and something to help people who are dealing with cancer right now.”

On her fundraising page, Nghiem wrote that she chose to participate because she understands the impact funds can make on the cancer community, and she wants to help make a change.

Bulldogs Beat Cancer has a goal of raising \$60,000 for Blood Cancer United. So far, the team has reached about 25% of that goal. Tax deductible donations will be accepted through March 26 at www.bloodcancerunited.org.

Classies

The Dispatch Classies are for person-to-person ads and notices to the community. Submissions are due by 12 p.m. Monday for that Friday's paper. To purchase a classified notice, go to market.rivertownsdspatch.com/classies



ANNOUNCEMENTS

COUPLES THERAPY — 3 FREE SESSIONS

Licensed psychotherapist seeking couples for recorded zoom sessions, for certification in Relational Life Therapy. ostergaardb@aol.com



PUBLIC NOTICES

INVITATION TO BID — REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District is accepting proposals from qualified agencies to provide Pre-Kindergarten Services for eligible four (4) year old children from Dobbs Ferry for the 2026-2027 school

year, with an option to renew for four additional one-year periods (2027-28, 2028-29, 2029-30 and 2030-31). These services shall be provided pursuant New York State Education Law Section 3602-ee, Grant Funded Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) Programs awarded to School Districts. The Pre-K curriculum proposed is expected to align with the district's standards and NYS PK-12 educational standards.

To be considered, the Business Office must receive the proposal in the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District by April 9, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. The Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted.

During the selection process, the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District reserves the right, where it may serve at their best interest, to request additional information or clarifications from those submitting a proposal, or to allow corrections, errors or omissions in this request. At the discretion of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, agencies submitting

proposals may be requested to make oral presentations as part of the evaluation process. Prior to entering into a contract with a collaborative Pre-Kindergarten provider, the district will conduct a minimum of one on site visit to evaluate the site and the facility of the proposer(s). A proposer who does not currently have an operating facility must provide a site that can be visited as part of a site visit as evidence of his/her potential to lead a high-quality UPK program. The proposer must be able to provide access to the proposed site for the District's representatives conducting the site visit.

It is anticipated the selection of any agency or agencies will be completed by May 22, 2026.

The following is a list of key dates up to and including the date Pre-Kindergarten services are to commence:
Request for Proposals Issued 3/09/2026
Due Date for Proposals 4/9/2026
Selected Agency/Agencies Notified 5/22/2026
Date Services to Commence (estimated) 9/1/2026

Inquiries concerning the request for proposals should be addressed to:

Lisa Raymond, Business Office
Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District
505 Broadway
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

LEGAL NOTICE — 7 EDMARTH PLACE

VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON
7 Maple Avenue
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - Case No. 03-26

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 295-143B of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson Zoning Code, notice is hereby given that: A Public Hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals on THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026, at 7:00 P.M., in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue, Hastings-on-Hudson, New York. The Hearing will be held on the application of Dan Burnstein & Juliet Ross for relief from the strict

application of the Village Code Sections 295-70E.1(b) w/295-20B.6, 295-70E.3(a) (1) and 295-70E.3(a)(2) for the construction of a new rear wood deck on their single-family dwelling located at 7 Edmarth Place. Said property is located in the 2R Zoning District and is known as SBL: 4.30-20-21 on the Town of Greenburgh Tax Maps.

Non-conformity details for the Rear Deck are as follows: 1) Rear-Yard Setback: Existing - 28.17 ft.; Proposed - 18 ft.; Required - Maximum 19 ft., {295-70E.1(b) w/295-20B.6} (Additional 6 ft. allowed to encroach); Variance Required - 1 ft.; 2) Building Coverage: Existing - 38%; Proposed - 43%; Required - Maximum 30%, {295-70E.3(a)(1)}; Variance Required - 13%; 3) Developmental Coverage: Existing - 45%; Proposed - 48%; Required - Maximum 40%, {295-70E.3(a)(2)}; Variance Required - 8%

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

available for review at the Building Department and on the Village web site, www.hohny.gov, on or about the Friday prior to the meeting date. Josh Heitler, Chair, ZBA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Zoning Board of Appeals
Village of Irvington
Westchester County
New York

NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to Section 224-98 of the Code of the Village of Irvington, that a public hearing will be held in Village Hall, 85 Main Street, Irvington, New York, on March 24, 2026 at 7:30 p.m., upon the application of

John Mihaly & Yasmin Rodriguez - 9 Meadowbrook Road (2.20-4-31) is seeking a variance of section 224-11 (encroachment into the front yard) of the Village Code in order to document an unapproved electrical panel and meter at the above referenced property.

All papers are on file at the office of the Irvington Village Clerk-Treasurer and the Irvington Library, open to public inspection during their business hours. All submissions can also be viewed online through the Village website, www.Irvingtonny.gov. All persons interested are invited to attend in person or join via Zoom

By order of the Zoning Board of Appeals, Village of Irvington.

Signed,
Dated: March 10, 2026
Sarah Gardner, Chairperson
Katie Bugna, Clerk-Treasurer
Village of Irvington, New York

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Zoning Board of Appeals
Village of Irvington
Westchester County
New York

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will be held in Village Hall, 85 Main Street, Irvington, New York, on March 24, 2026 at 7:30 p.m., upon the application of

Jill Foley - 3 Langdon Avenue (2.20-4-31) is seeking variances of sections 224-11 (encroachment into the front yard) and 224-13 (exceeds allowable coverage) of the Village Code in order to construct an addition and document an existing rear patio at the above referenced property.

All papers are on file at the office of the Irvington Village Clerk-Treasurer and the Irvington Library, open to public inspection during their business hours. All submissions can also be viewed online through the Village website, www.Irvingtonny.gov. All persons interested are invited to attend in person or join via Zoom

By order of the Zoning Board of Appeals, Village of Irvington.

Signed,
Dated: March 10, 2026
Sarah Gardner, Chairperson
Katie Bugna, Clerk-Treasurer
Village of Irvington, New York



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Eagles rally before overtime loss in sectional final

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Second-seeded Dobbs Ferry battled back from an early double-digit deficit, and pushed top-seeded Woodlands into overtime, before falling 56-53 in the Section 1 Class B boys basketball championship on March 8 at the Westchester County Center.

The Eagles erased a 13-point deficit, tied the game in the closing minute of regulation, and grabbed their first lead in overtime before Woodlands answered with the final

blows in a dramatic finish that ended Dobbs Ferry's season.

Dobbs Ferry 53

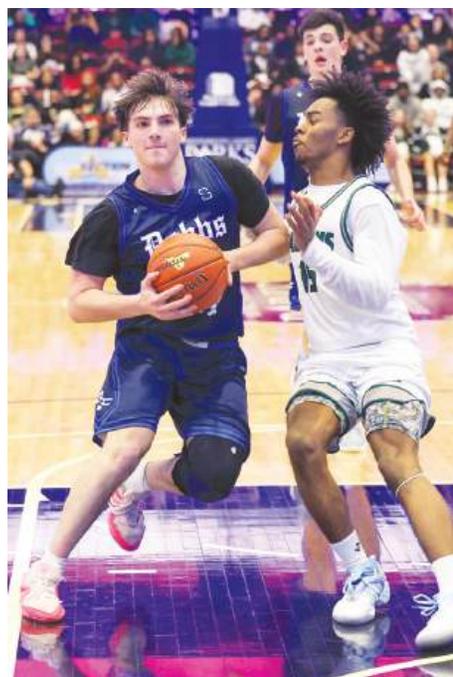
Woodlands 56

Despite the heart-breaking result, the Eagles capped an outstanding season

that included a league championship and an 18-5 record, while closing the careers of one of the most accomplished senior classes in program history.

"Anytime you lose in overtime is a tough game," Dobbs Ferry coach Scott Patrillo said. "Not just overtime, but to lose in the County Center in a sectional championship game in overtime. It's really, really difficult. It's hard on the guys, but they played their hearts out. The incredible toughness they showed tonight, the grit, the tenacity — it was all there. We couldn't have asked for anything more from them."

Senior Anthony Ficarrotta delivered another standout performance in his final high school game. The Section 1 career scoring leader poured in a game-high 32 points and was named to the all-tournament team. Ficarrotta scored 2,280 points and grabbed 779 rebounds at Dobbs Ferry.



Dobbs Ferry's Andrew Zendel drives the lane as Woodlands' Jaden Gatson defends.

He will continue his career at St. Thomas Aquinas College.

"It hurts right now," Ficarrotta said. "It hurts bad. Making it to this game is huge. To go out there as a team and compete with the No. 1 team in the state like we did shows who we are as a team, but it also shows who we are as kids and as people. We have tough kids one through 12 on this team."

Senior guard Mateus Hertz-Bird added 10 points and joined Ficarrotta on the all-tournament team. Hastings senior Dylan Heilakka also made the all-tourney team.

The Eagles had to dig out of a hole early. Woodlands built momentum in the first half, jumping out to a 16-7 lead late in the first quarter. Ficarrotta helped keep Dobbs Ferry within striking distance, knocking down a corner three and attacking the basket to draw fouls.

Hertz-Bird added an acrobatic finish late in the quarter, but Woodlands continued to build their advantage in the second quarter. A three-pointer by Sebastian Benitez pushed the lead to 26-13 before Ficarrotta answered again with an old-fashioned three-point play and later two free throws to trim the deficit to 26-18 heading into halftime.

The Eagles were down, but far from out. Hertz-Bird opened the half with a jumper and Ficarrotta followed with a strong drive to the basket as Dobbs Ferry began chipping away at the deficit.

Midway through the quarter, Ficarrotta converted another three-point play to bring the Eagles closer. Moments later, Andrew Zendel finished inside off a pass from Ficarrotta as Dobbs Ferry continued its push.

Hertz-Bird then came up with a key defensive play, picking off a pass and racing coast-to-coast for a layup to bring the Eagles within five late in the third quarter.

By the time the fourth quarter began, the Eagles had all the momentum.

Ficarrotta continued to carry the offense in the final period, scoring on a drive and knocking down two free throws to keep Dobbs Ferry within reach. With just over four minutes remaining, he drilled a three-pointer from the top of the key to cut the deficit to 47-43 and ignite the Dobbs Ferry crowd.

Nastiek Smith converted a steal into a layup, Zendel added a free throw, and Hertz-Bird drove to the basket to pull Dobbs Ferry within a single point, 49-48, with 1:34 to play.

Then came the biggest shot of regulation. With 49 seconds remaining, junior Calvin Higgins knocked down a right-wing three-pointer to tie the game at 51-51 and send the Eagles bench into a frenzy.

"We hit some big shots down the stretch,"



Dobbs Ferry's Anthony Ficarrotta elevates for a shot in the paint. Photos by Rob DiAntonio.

Patrillo said. "That's just being that veteran team and never panicking. They know we can take some punches and bounce off the ropes."

Dobbs Ferry had a chance to win in regulation, but Hertz-Bird's last-second three-point attempt from the left wing missed the mark, sending the game into overtime.

Twelve seconds into overtime, the Eagles suffered a blow when Smith fouled out. Moments later, Ficarrotta attacked the basket and finished through contact to give Dobbs Ferry its first lead of the night at 53-51.

The teams traded empty possessions, but Woodlands answered with a Noah Cherubin drive and finish to tie the game at 53-53 with 1:10 remaining. With 28 seconds remaining, Aaron Woodberry hit a difficult jumper

over the outstretched arm of Evan Ommen to give Woodlands a 55-53 lead.

Dobbs Ferry still had time, but a turnover with 11 seconds remaining proved costly. Woodlands split a pair of free throws moments later to extend the lead to three. The Eagles were unable to get a clean look at the basket as the final seconds expired.

Even in defeat, Dobbs Ferry received a strong defensive effort from Smith, who spent much of the night guarding Woodberry despite giving up significant height. Woodberry was held to five points.

"He was recognized as an all-league player this year solely for his defense because that's how good of a defender he is," Patrillo said.

Continued on page 19

Sports

Morgan, Doherty, and Ardsley relays excel at state meet

— TRACK AND FIELD ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

The indoor track and field season reached its pinnacle as the top athletes gathered for the New York State championships at the Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex on Staten Island from March 6-7. Among them were standout competitors from the Rivertowns.

Hastings senior Danae Morgan highlighted the local efforts with a runner-up finish in the girls' weight throw, while Dobbs Ferry senior Chris Doherty produced a personal-best performance in the boys' 1,000 meters. Ardsley also made its mark with its boys and girls 4x200-meter relay teams placing in the top four.

Morgan nearly captured a state title in the weight throw on the meet's second day. The Hastings senior launched a throw of 50 feet, 9 1/4 inches to secure second place. She finished behind Pittsford Mendon's Avery Brunner, who won the event with a throw of 53-3 1/4. Despite the podium finish, Morgan felt there was still more left in the tank.

"I am proud of myself to have finished second place at states, but I am not satisfied with my performance at all," Morgan said. "It was a great experience, and I am super grateful to have made it this far, but my execution was completely off."

Morgan competed in the shot put on the first day of the meet and used the event as an opportunity to loosen up before her signature discipline. She placed seventh with a throw of 36-9 1/2, entering the competition with a relaxed mindset.

"My key to success for Day 1 was really to just have fun," Morgan said. "I saw where I was seeded and already knowing that shot put wasn't my main event, I didn't really expect much. I went into the competition with a light heart and free mind space but made sure that my technique was there because even if I didn't get on the podium I wanted to PR [personal record]."

Boys' basketball

Continued from page 18

"He's one of the best defenders I've ever coached. His quickness and athleticism are unbelievable, but he takes such pride in his defense."

The loss marked the final game for seven seniors who helped shape the program's culture. Along with Ficarrota and Hertz-Bird, the Eagles will graduate Smith, Parker Medlin, Ommen, Thomas Joslin, and Obafemi Joshua.

Patrillo said the group's commitment and leadership left a lasting mark on the program.

"These guys have done an unbelievable job for us," he said. "They bought into everything we asked them to do — the offseason work, the summer leagues, the fall leagues,



(Left) Dobbs Ferry's Chris Doherty placed fifth in the 1,000 meters. Photo by Matt Doherty. (Right) Hastings' Danae Morgan placed second in the weight throw and seventh in the shot put. File photo by Jim MacLean.

With the shot put behind her, Morgan shifted her focus to the weight throw and opened the event with a strong effort.

"For Day 2 in the weight throw, I was completely locked in, and I really was just looking to finish the way I wanted and start off the competition strong, which I did," Morgan said. "I ended up opening with 50 feet and by the end I had a really big throw, but I was unable to stay in the circle which was very unfortunate."

Morgan's season is not over. She will compete at both National meets this weekend and has a clear target in mind. "My general goal is getting that 55-foot mark," Morgan said of the weight throw.

Doherty also enjoyed a standout performance at the state championships. The senior placed fifth in the boys 1,000 meters, finishing with a personal-best time of 2:29.13 in a competitive race where he embraced the moment.

the meetings, and just everything we asked of them. We spend a lot of time building our culture and these guys were huge in that. They embraced it and really ran with it."

For Ficarrota, the memories from his final game — and final season — will center on the fight his team showed on the biggest stage.

"Just the heart that we played with, especially today," Ficarrota said. "We gave everything we had for 32 minutes plus overtime and we came up just short."

"It hurts right now," he concluded, "but at least we can look back at this game and know we gave it all we had."

Mateus Hertz-Bird dribbles past Woodlands' Noah Cherubin.

Photo by Rob DiAntonio.



"Competing at the state championships was an amazing experience," he said. "It was my first time qualifying during the indoor season, and it felt great to be able to represent Dobbs among the best athletes in New York."

After battling through injuries earlier in the season, Doherty was satisfied to finish the indoor campaign on a high note.

"After a long season with some ups and downs in terms of injury and performances, it was very validating to end with this result," Doherty said. "But coming fifth does make me super excited to see how much further I can go when outdoor states come around."

Doherty credited his preparation and mindset for helping him deliver a personal best in the championship race.

"The main key to success on the day was to treat it like almost any other competition," he said. "It was important to be excited and motivated before the race, but trusting my

training and my ability to compete with the other athletes helped me relax and focus on executing. Positive visualization is also something very important for me that I make sure to do before every race."

Ardsley also turned in a memorable showing in the relay events. The Panthers' boys and girls 4x200-meter teams both finished among the top squads in the state.

The Ardsley boys' team of senior Ahmady Dolcine, senior Peyton Francis, senior Zaire Bell, and sophomore Andrew Herceg placed fourth overall in the Federation and second among public schools with a time of 1:33.67.

"The boys had a little handoff mistake and were a little disappointed, but were still able to secure the number two spot," Ardsley boys' coach Scott Pollard said.

The Ardsley girls relay also produced a historic performance. The quartet of senior Mioko Martin, sophomore Czarina Adewunmi, freshman Sarah Lenihan, and sophomore Zaniya Bell finished fifth in the Federation and fourth among public schools, breaking the school record with a time with of 1:47.01.

"Our girls had an excellent run, shattering the school record by knocking three tenths off their season best," Ardsley girls' coach Henry Leone said. "We worked on the hand-offs all week and it paid off."

He continued, "We're very happy with their performance on a young team of one freshman, two sophomores, and only one senior. We're hoping for more record-breaking performances in the coming years."

Hastings sophomore Claire Grushko also competed at the meet and delivered a strong performance in the girls 1,500 meters. She placed 16th in a field of 30 runners while setting a personal-best time of 4:30.40.

Several local athletes will now turn their attention to National competition. The New Balance Nationals in Boston and the Nike Nationals at the Nike Track & Field Center at the Armory in Manhattan are scheduled for March 12-15.



Bride: @ glambygabriella Photo: @ jesse_rinka



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