

Charting taxes

Tax rate decreases on tap for 2026-27 p 3

Legacy of caring

Coach Mac remembered in Dobbs Ferry p 7

Revolutionary Hastings

Events to salute nation's birth and beyond p 9

Vol 2. Issue 37.

May 22, 2026

RIVERTOWNS Dispatch

Local News,
Locally Sourced

\$2⁵⁰

WWW.RIVERTOWNSDISPATCH.COM ARDSLEY — DOBBS FERRY — HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON — IRVINGTON



MorDance performs Morgan McEwen's "Unwritten," an original production about the U.S. Constitution, at 145 Palisade Street on May 15.

Land Trust supports six upgrades to open space

BY TIM LAMORTE

REGION — For a third straight year, the nonprofit Greater Irvington Land Trust (GILT) has awarded grants for projects to enhance open space throughout the Rivertowns.

The six grants total \$8,735. In February, GILT announced that it would accept applications for projects in Dobbs Ferry, Hastings, Irvington, East Irvington, and Tarrytown. The submission deadline was March 27.

GILT funded six projects totaling \$9,015.26 in 2025, and four projects totaling \$6,650 in 2024. For 2026, the recipients are:

- \$2,000 for Lisa Antonelli and Charlotte Binns of the Friends of Halsey Pond to plant native vegetation along the eastern perimeter of that pond, which is the centerpiece of a 30-acre park owned by the Village of Irvington. Binns is the sustainability director for Irvington.
- \$1,885 for CJ Reilly, the director of the O'Hara Nature Center (ONC) in Irvington, and students in its Changing Forest program, to expand ONC's native plant nursery by installing 220 linear feet of 8-foot-tall deer fence and an entrance gate.
- \$1,800 for Larry Katzenstein and

Continued on page 15

\$4.5M to fund six revitalization projects

NYS rewards mix of municipal and private proposals

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

DOBBS FERRY — New York State has approved six of the nine projects proposed as part of the \$4.5 million NY Forward grant the Village of Dobbs Ferry was awarded in March 2025. The NY Forward program aims to revitalize downtowns in small and rural communities.

The nine finalists had been picked from 14 proposals submitted by the Village, private property owners, and tenants. Gov. Kathy Hochul announced the six recipients on May 15.

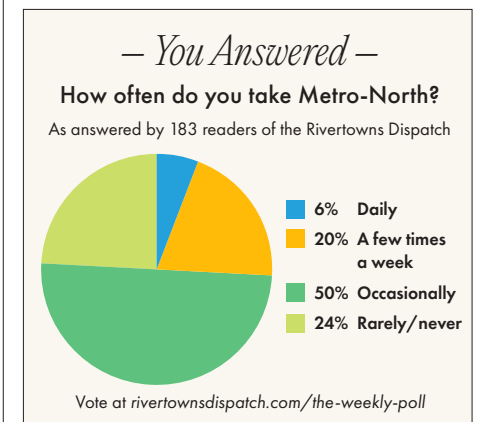
The 12-person Local Planning Committee (LPC), co-chaired by then Mayor Vincent Rossillo and former Dobbs Ferry resident Andrew Regenstreich, submitted the nine finalists last October. The LPC consisted of local business owners and village committee members. Regenstreich is a member of the New York State Mid-Hudson Economic Development Council and a regional manager at Dolphin Property Services in Yonkers. Current Mayor Christy Knell was a village trustee when the finalists were submitted.

"I don't think there's a world where I would've thought nine years ago, when we launched the Downtown Improvement Task

Force and I was a new trustee, that we'd be talking about all these grant awards today," Knell told the Dispatch. "It makes me very excited to think about what we'll be talking about nine years from now, and I'm focused on much more than the downtown."

Hochul also announced that nine projects will be funded in Nyack through the NY Forward program, and 10 projects in Poughkeepsie will be supported through the State's \$10 million Downtown Revitalization Initiative. Since being submitted in October, the finalists were reviewed by the New York Department of State, Empire State Development, the New York Division

Continued on page 4





The Blotter

ARDSLEY

Scam attempt: On May 16, an Ardsley resident received a phone call from a woman claiming to be her granddaughter and a man claiming to be a police officer, both of whom stated the granddaughter was in jail. The resident hung up the phone.

DOBBS FERRY

Thefts from vehicles: Gift cards and two phone chargers were stolen from a vehicle parked on Odgen Avenue between Friday, May 8, and Tuesday, May 12. Ten dollars was then stolen from a vehicle parked on Broadway (Route 9) between May 12–13.

Theft from Ulta: Two unidentified women shoplifted \$502 worth of items from

the Ulta Beauty at Rivertowns Square on the afternoon of Thursday, May 14.

Theft of scooter: On May 17, an Estherwood Avenue resident reported that an electric scooter had been stolen from his unsecured garage during the past week.

HASTINGS

Suspended license and registration: A 32-year-old Yonkers resident was arrested for a suspended driver's license and vehicle registration, both misdemeanors, on Farragut Avenue on the afternoon of Wednesday, May 13.

Suspended license and registration: A 23-year-

old Manhattan resident was arrested for a suspended driver's license and vehicle registration, both misdemeanors, on Farragut Avenue on the evening of Thursday, May 14.

Suspended registration: A 63-year-old New Rochelle resident was arrested for a suspended vehicle registration, a misdemeanor, after rear-ending another driver on northbound Farragut Avenue, at Mount Hope Boulevard, on the afternoon of Friday, May 15.

Mischief to vehicle: On May 15, a Pinecrest Drive resident reported that one of his vehicle's windows, and its ignition, had been damaged over the past five weeks while

parked under a car cover.

IRVINGTON

Suspended license: A 40-year-old Bronx resident with a suspended driver's license was arrested on South Broadway (Route 9) on the morning of Friday, May 8. She was charged with aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the second degree, a misdemeanor, and cited for four vehicle and traffic violations.

Solicitor without permit: A 27-year-old pest control peddler was cited for soliciting without a permit, a violation, on Field Terrace on the afternoon of Saturday, May 9.

Uber courier arrested for theft

HASTINGS — A 21-year-old Yonkers resident was arrested on May 19 for absconding with an iPad and a pair of Apple headphones he had been hired to deliver, through Uber Connect, from a home in Hastings to an office in

Manhattan on May 12. The defendant told the owner of the items that his vehicle had become disabled. He then falsely reported that he had returned the items to the owner.

He was charged with grand larceny in the fourth degree, a felony, and released without bail.

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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

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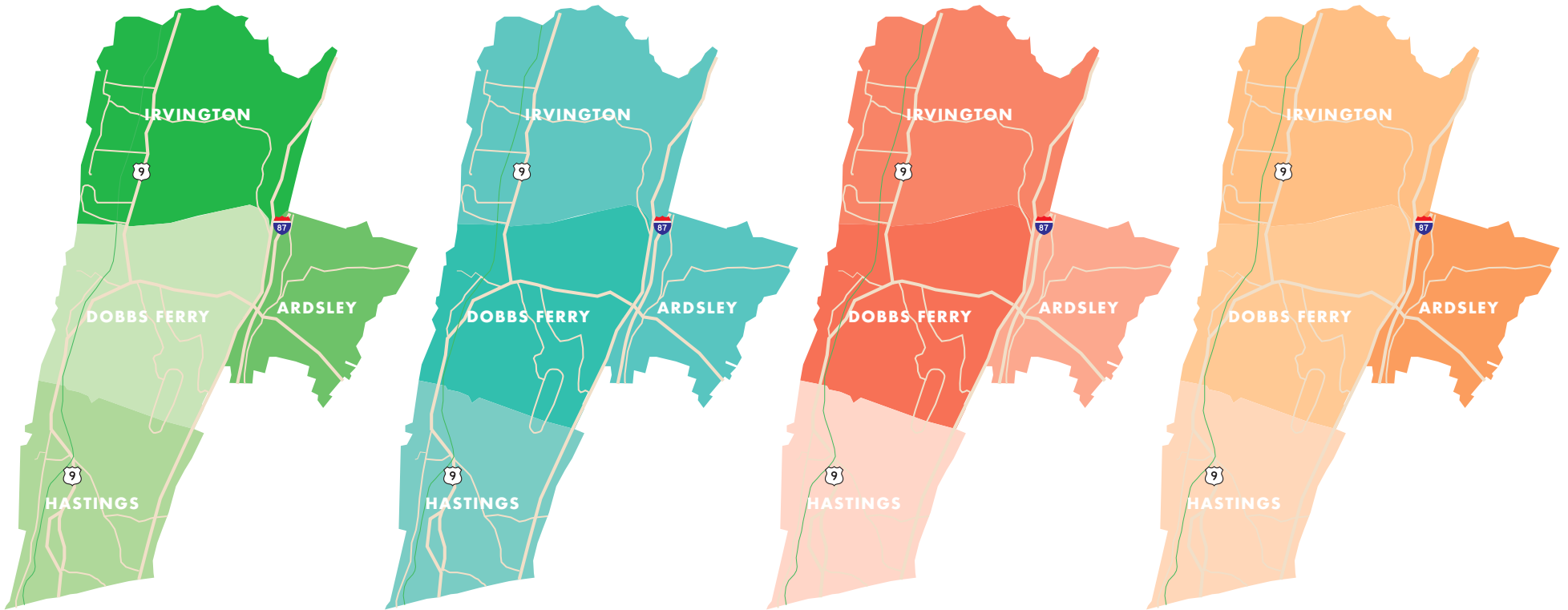
COMPASS

Local Curiosities

— THE DISPATCH GUIDE TO —

Village and School Property Taxes, 2026-27

The elections on Tuesday, May 19, yielded approved school budgets for Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings, and Irvington. The village budgets were passed in the weeks prior. Below, the property tax levies and projected tax rates are compared among the four Rivertowns.



School Property Tax (Tax Levy)

	\$45M	\$75M
Irvington	\$70,606,325	↑ 3.88%YoY
Ardsley	\$67,000,000	↑ 3.40
Hastings	\$51,729,180	↑ 3.57
Dobbs Ferry	\$47,451,668	↑ 3.49

Projected School Tax Rate*

	\$15	\$20
Dobbs Ferry	\$19.23	↓ 3.70%YoY
Ardsley	\$19.10	↓ 3.74
Irvington	\$18.70	↓ 2.35
Hastings	\$18.41	↓ 2.33

Village Property Tax (Tax Levy)

	\$10M	\$20M
Dobbs Ferry	\$18,308,276	↑ 3.49%YoY
Irvington	\$18,047,524	↑ 3.80
Ardsley	\$16,049,103	↑ 9.71 **
Hastings	\$13,743,548	↑ 3.28

Projected Village Tax Rate*

	\$5	\$11
Ardsley	\$10.37	↑ 1.03%YoY
Irvington	\$7.28	↓ 2.55
Dobbs Ferry	\$6.42	↓ 3.72
Hastings	\$5.19	↓ 2.60

Sources: Village of Ardsley, Adopted Budget Fiscal Year 2026–2027; Village of Ardsley Tentative Budget Fiscal Year 2026–2027; Village of Hastings-on-Hudson 2026–2027 Adopted Budget; Village of Irvington 2026–27 Adopted Budget; Village of Dobbs Ferry 2026–2027 Adopted Budget; Ardsley Union Free School District 2026–2027 Recommended Board of Education Budget; Irvington Union Free School District 2026–27 Proposed Budget; Hastings-on-Hudson UFSD 2026–2027 School Budget; Dobbs Ferry School District 2026–27 Superintendent’s Budget Proposal

* Estimated rate per \$1k based on existing assessments by the Town of Greenburgh
 ** Ardsley’s adopted village budget carries a 9.71% tax levy increase, overriding the NYS tax cap this year. Village officials point to four non-discretionary cost drivers that account for nearly 52% of the increase: rising health insurance premiums compounded by a wave of retirements (\$347K), mandatory principal payments on short-term debt (\$235K), police salary step increases as new officers replace retirees (\$247K), and higher pension contributions (\$77K). Had those four line items held flat, the budget would have come in just under the tax cap, according to the Village.

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NY Forward projects

Continued from page 1

of Homes and Community Renewal, and New York State Energy Research & Development Authority. The awarded projects in Dobbs Ferry are:

- \$739,000 of the \$985,000 cost to restore and reopen the former 4,253-square-foot theater at 33-39 Cedar Street, which hosted vaudeville performances as the Embassy Theatre and movies as the Pickwick Theatre. The project was proposed by Paul and Ann Scattaretico, who own 33-39 Cedar Street, including The Muzic Store and Riverworks Recording Studio. The funds will support increasing seating capacity, adding rooftop solar panels, and adding lighting and a digital screen.

- \$508,000 of the \$2,538,000 cost to renovate a vacant building at 143 Main Street to accommodate one commercial unit and five residential units, including one affordable unit, with electric heating and cooling and rooftop solar. The project was proposed by owner Nancy Palermo. Constructed around 1860, and vacant since 2019, the building fell into disrepair due to the failing health and then death of Palermo's mother, who owned it.

- \$1,041,000 of the \$2,041,000 cost to transform lower Memorial Park through the addition of two pickleball courts, covered bicycle parking, an informational board/kiosk, bathrooms, benches and tables, ADA accessible paths, and landscaping.

The courts will be built where the American Legion Post 1048 building stood before collapsing under the weight of heavy snow in 2014.

- \$1,000,000 of the \$3,823,000 cost to transform a space at the Hudson River Landing commercial building, at 145 Palisade Street, into a performing arts venue run by the nonprofit MorDance. The project was proposed by Hastings resident and MorDance founder Morgan McEwen. MorDance had been renting space in Yonkers before

“These projects are going to attract more people to our downtown, which will help support the small businesses...”

Mayor Christy Knell

moving to Dobbs Ferry earlier this year.

- \$350,000 of the \$462,000 cost to install a unified system of directional and information signs with consistent branding to guide people to the downtown's commercial corridors, parking facilities, recreation facilities, and other key destinations.

- \$862,000 toward enhancing the streetscape along Cedar Street (between Broadway and Main) and Main Street (between

Chestnut and Walnut streets). Improvements may include the installation of street trees, benches, lampposts, and upgraded sidewalks as well as roadway repaving and restriping. The Village requested \$1,800,000 for the \$4,490,000 project.

“These projects are going to attract more people to our downtown, which will help support the small businesses that our residents so badly want to have on Cedar and Main streets,” Knell said. “But more people visiting our downtown likely means more cars, so next we need solutions for improving the flow of traffic, encouraging alternatives to cars, and guiding cars to our available parking. The new signage will help, but we're looking at all possible ideas.”

The three proposal the State did not award were \$1,098,000 for a \$2,195,000 project to install a staircase and a viewing platform at High Street Park, located at the intersection of High Street and Station Plaza; \$149,000 for the Village to install public art throughout the downtown; and \$204,000 for a \$407,000 project expanding the plaza at the intersection of Cedar and Main streets, adjacent to the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail, into a location for public gatherings and events.

The Village will only receive the money for the public projects it proposed, while the three private projects will work with the State, and the Village will only be involved for standard building department or board approvals. The start and completion timelines vary for each project.

School election results

ARDSLEY

BUDGET

Yes — 803 No — 297

BOARD (2 SEATS)

* Mitch Kleinman — 713

* Joseph Sayegh — 491

Matthew Gonzales — 407

Andrea DeVico Smith — 401

DOBBS FERRY

BUDGET

Yes — 248 No — 101

BOARD (2 SEATS)

Disan Davis — 286

Pavithra Nagarajan — 283

HASTINGS

BUDGET

Yes — 1,127 No — 346

BOARD (2 SEATS)

* Jodie Meyer — 993

* Theresa McCaffrey — 983

Elizabeth Adinolfi — 534

IRVINGTON

BUDGET

Yes — 367 No — 120

BOARD (3 SEATS)

Dympna Kenny — 415

Brian Friedman — 408

Rachael Maglienti — 405

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ARDSLEY

— Coming Up This Week —

Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 26, 10 a.m.

The parade steps off from the corner of Park and Ashford avenues and proceeds to Pascone Park for a ceremony followed by refreshments.

Municipal Office Closure

Monday, May 26

In observance of Memorial Day

Lego Lab for Ages 5+

Tuesday, May 26, 3:45 p.m.

Ardsley Public Library

Register at ardsleypubliclibrary.org

Board of Trustees Work Session

Tuesday, May 26, 7:30 p.m.

Village Hall

Virtual Community Forum:

“What Are Your Kids Doing with A.I.?”

Wednesday, May 27, 7–8 p.m.

Visit ardsleyschools.org for the Zoom link

Zoning Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 27, 8 p.m.

Village Hall

Ardsley Makers Circle

Thursday, May 28, 5–6:30 p.m.

Ardsley Public Library

Register at ardsleypubliclibrary.org

Library Board Meeting

Thursday, May 28, 7 p.m.

Ardsley Public Library

Mitzvah Mixer

Sunday, May 31, noon–2 p.m.

Middle school gym

Celebrate Jewish Heritage Month with free crafts, activities, and music, plus food from Liebman’s Deli for purchase. Sign up and see the wish list for donations at ahs.ardsleyschools.org/familiescommunity

SEPTA Pickleball Tournament

Sunday, May 31, 3–4:30 p.m. for beginner/intermediate, 4:30–6 p.m. for advanced players

Ardsley Swim and Tennis Club

Register (\$25) by May 27 at

ahs.ardsleyschools.org/familiescommunity

Got news?

Email staff writer Amy Bochner at amy@rivertownsdispatch.com

Exhibit of art reunites mother and son

BY AMY BOCHNER

Lifelong Ardsley resident Rich Wagner describes his mother, Valda, as his first art teacher and mentor. Twenty years after her passing, he is still learning from her.

“I’ve inherited what’s left of her work,” he told the Dispatch. “I go through it, and I see things that she did, and think, ‘Oh, that’s something I could develop. That’s something I’d like to try.’”

For the first time, the mother and son will have their work displayed together, in a new exhibit at Village Hall Gallery created by the Ardsley Arts Commission. The show, “75 Years of Making Art in Ardsley,” had an opening reception on May 21.

Wagner, an only child, was raised in the village, where he continues to live in his childhood home. Wagner’s father, who worked as a travel manager, was an amateur artist. Almost all the rooms have been converted into art studios.

Throughout his childhood and career, Wagner created art and participated in amateur exhibits. He worked as an attorney for 20 years, followed by a role editing the Navy League of the United States’ magazine, which he left in 2010. He then launched Beyondships, LLC, which publishes several websites and is the legal entity for his writing and art.

Wagner’s work ranges from watercolors to charcoal drawings to oil paintings. The medium, he said, “is just a vehicle for expressing the idea.”

Wagner began selling his work after attending art school in 2020. Since then, he has exhibited throughout the country, from the Blue Door Art Center in Yonkers to the Las Laguna Art Gallery in California.

From the ’30s into the ’50s, Valda Wagner was affiliated with the Art Students League of New York, a school in Manhattan where many major artists studied and



Rich Wagner’s portrait of his mother (left) and a portrait by his mother (right).

taught. Painter Reginald Marsh served as Valda’s mentor. Initially, her work trended toward “looser realism,” her son said, along the lines of Impressionism.

After she married, in the ’50s, Valda turned her attention to her family; the G.I. Bill brought them to Ardsley. When Valda returned to the art world, she began studying with William Rubin, who later became the director of the Museum of Modern Art, and her art became more abstract.

One of Rich Wagner’s motivations for including his mother in the Ardsley exhibit is the discrimination she experienced in her lifetime.

“She did exhibitions and got commissions, but it was very difficult for women artists to do that,” he explained. “I remember being with her when she would take things to a gallery and they would say, ‘Well, it’s very nice for a woman.’ Now people will be able to see some of the work that was victim to [that discrimination] in the past.”

Twelve pieces are displayed in Village Hall Gallery, six by Rich and six by Valda. Many of the pieces share similar subjects, from baseball players to flowers, but take different stylistic approaches.

Neither mother or son “liked the idea of being typecast or confined to one style or medium,” he said, and the exhibit showcases their range. There is an abstract painting created by Valda with bright, overlapping shapes. Wagner’s Impressionist landscape shows a figure walking along a beach as the sand, wind, and water blur with motion. One portrait by Valda is a woodblock print depicting an ominous man with white eyes and a suit. In another portrait, Wagner drew his mother, who tilts her head and smiles softly.

He hopes the exhibit highlights these similarities and differences in his and Valda’s work, while also offering viewers an understanding of how art can reflect the “various chapters of our lives.”



Cultural kicks

Mateo Agüero and Grace Wang practice a Chinese folk game called jianzi during the Asian American Pacific Islander celebration hosted by the Ardsley Multicultural Diversity and Inclusion Committee at the community center on May 17.

ARDSLEY

Village airs proposals for smart growth zoning

BY AMY BOCHNER

The Village of Ardsley considered recommendations for zoning amendments that could help revitalize the downtown and streamline parking at a public work session on May 19.

The meeting was part of the Smart Growth Zoning Project, which will have a follow-up on June 1. In 2024, the Village received a \$135,000 state grant to update its zoning code to incorporate the Comprehensive Plan and the Downtown Ardsley Revitalization Implementation Strategy.

Consultants from KSCJ Consulting and the Metropolitan Urban Design Workshop presented the draft zoning recommendations.

There were three overall project goals: attract developers by increasing development potential, expand housing choices, and streamline approval/review processes. This first work session focused on district regulations and parking, while the second will discuss the streamlined review process and other guidelines.

The consultants recommended consolidating the multiple existing districts in the downtown into a single “smart growth district.” This would entail allowing for a mix of land uses, a range of housing opportunities, and increased density within the central business district, while also increasing civic space and walkability. Civic space refers to a designated

area that is meant for use by the community or the people who live in the building.

The draft included hierarchy-based regulations tied to street type and lot size. The first of the three street types are wide streets, like Saw Mill River Road (Route 9A). The maximum height for a building would be 80 feet, or 85 if the first floor is used for retail. The street wall height, or the building’s facade measured from the curb level to the point where the building must be set back from the street, would be a maximum 60 feet.

For standard streets, like Ashford Avenue, Heatherdell Road, or Revolutionary Road, the maximum height would be 60 feet or 65 if the ground floor is used for retail, and the street wall height limit would be 40 feet.

A narrow street, like American Legion Drive, would have a maximum height of 40 or 45 if the ground floor is used for retail, with a maximum street wall height of 15 feet.

The lot size categories were defined as small (up to 5,000 square feet), medium (5,000–15,000 square feet), and large (over 15,000 square feet). For all lots, the maximum building coverage, or the percentage of the lot that the building’s footprint can take up, would be 60%. For small and medium-sized developments, there’s a requirement that 10% of the lot be civic space, which could be inside, like a community room, or outside, like a plaza or a park. For

developments exceeding 30 units, 10% of the total lot area, plus an additional 275 square feet per residential unit, must be provided as publicly accessible open or civic space.

The recommendations for parking regulations applied to the whole village. There were separate parking provisions for single-family homes and multi-family homes/nonresidential buildings. For nonresidential parking, the consultants recommended modernizing the regulations and making them consistent with the Institute of Transportation Engineers’ analysis for estimating peak parking demand associated with different land uses.

They also suggested new “tools” for when a site does not fit or need the required number of spaces. This included a provision for shared parking when there are multiple uses on a site that have different peak hours. Another recommended provision was for land banking. This is when a site does not have a demand for the required number of parking spots, so instead that portion of land is preserved, rather than paved immediately.

Following the June 1 work session, the consultants will incorporate the feedback into their draft and enter the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process. In the fall, there will be a public hearing where the consultants will present and the village board will vote on the final recommendations.

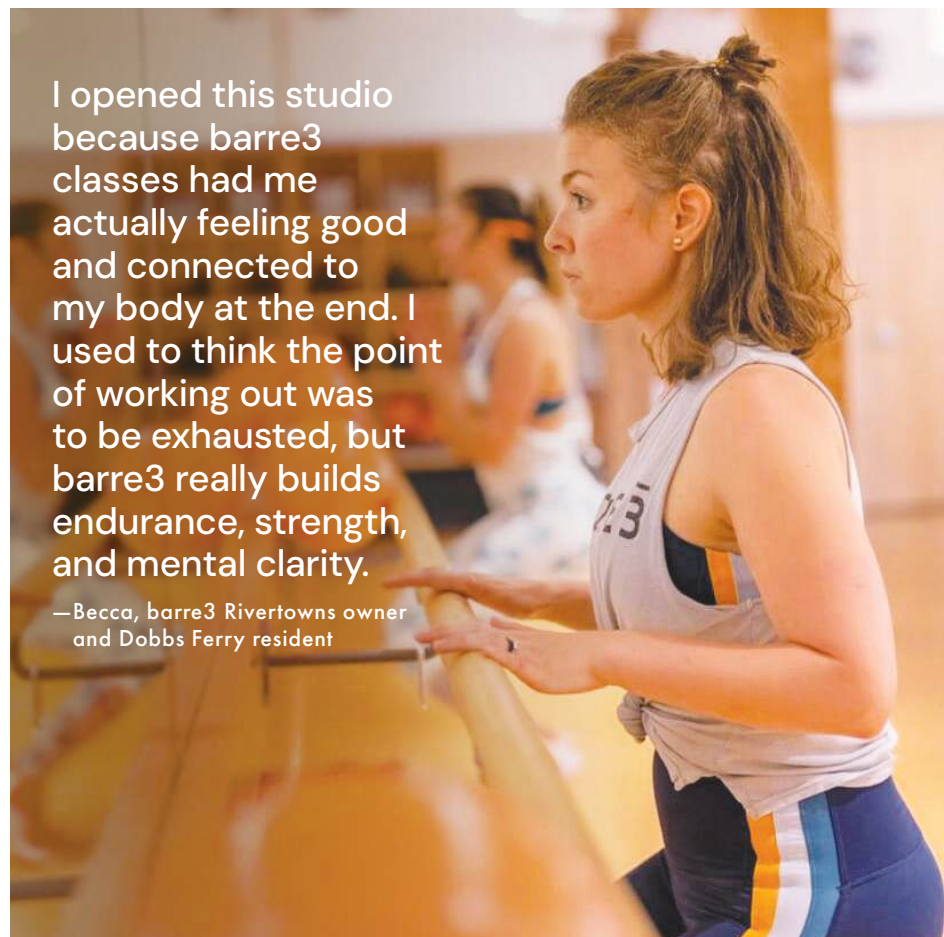
— COMMUNITY BRIEFS —

Tri-County Science Fair

Three Ardsley High School Science Research students won awards from the annual Tri-County Science and Technology Fair, a virtual competition organized by the Putnam Children’s Discovery Center for students in Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester counties. **Aditri Inamdar** placed first in mathematics and computer science; **Aira Jain** placed second in biology; and **Joseph Park** placed third in engineering and technology.

Gold level leader

Thomas Sassalos earned a gold-level leadership milestone through SUNY Oneonta’s Leadership Education Development (LEAD) program. Completion of that level requires attending 19 events designated with a learning outcome (three must be diversity events), participating in four recognized organizations, completing three online courses, and serving as an officer in a club or organization for at least two semesters (average of 219 hours to complete). Sassalos is studying professional accounting.



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—Becca, barre3 Rivertowns owner and Dobbs Ferry resident

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DOBBS FERRY

— Coming Up This Week —

Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony

Monday, May 25, 11 a.m.
From the high school to Waterfront Park

Municipal Office Closure

Monday, May 25
In observance of Memorial Day

Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, May 26, 6:30 p.m. for the workshop
and 7:30 for the regular meeting
Village Hall
Agenda available at dobbsferry.gov

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 26, 7 p.m.
Middle/high school library
Agenda available at dfs.org

Romance Book Club

Wednesday, May 27, 6 p.m.
Dobbs Ferry Public Library
Discuss "Twisted Games" by Ana Huang
Register by emailing sbook@dobbsferrylibrary.org

Mobile Shredder

Thursday, May 28, 9 a.m.—noon
Waterfront Park

PTSA Flea

Saturday, May 30, 10 a.m.—2 p.m.
Springhurst Elementary School
Featuring used books, like-new kids' clothing,
baked goods, repair center, and an upcycle
and reuse station.

Storywalk on the Old Aqueduct Trail

Through June 30
Between the Keeper's House,
15 Walnut St., and Village Hall
The interactive outdoor reading experience
features "Laughing Tomatoes and Other
Spring Poems" by Francisco Alarcón

Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry

Food distribution on Wednesdays,
10:30 a.m.—noon
South Presbyterian Church, 343 Broadway
For information about donating, visit
dobbsferrypantry.org

Got news?

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



The plaque honoring James Mackenzie near the entrance to the gym at Dobbs Ferry High School.

Coach remembered for legacy of caring

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

The Dobbs Ferry community is reflecting on the legacy of beloved football and softball coach James Mackenzie, known as "Coach Mac," who passed away on May 19, 2006, at age 56. Since his death, Mackenzie has been celebrated with the annual "MAC Day," in the fall, at Dobbs Ferry High School.

Former player Brandon Brailsford remembers Mackenzie for his handlebar mustache and mullet, and the winter coat and khaki shorts he sported on the sidelines during cold days in November. Brailsford graduated from DFHS in 2008. Mackenzie was his head coach for modified football, an assistant coach during his freshman year with the varsity team, and head coach of the varsity team his sophomore year. Mackenzie led the Eagles to the state championship game during that 2006 season.

Today, Brailsford coaches youth football for seventh- and eighth-graders in Dobbs Ferry, as well as AAU basketball for teams of 11-to-13-year-olds in Elmsford.

"His [Mackenzie's] coaching style, his demeanor, his willingness to get to know the root of the person, to understand who they are under the helmet, it was a really big impact," Brailsford told the Dispatch, pausing to compose himself. "I really do owe a lot of what I do for kids and with kids to how he treated me personally, and how I got to watch him operate. He's why I came back to coach this age group, specifically."

Mackenzie was known for a phrase, "Do what I mean, not what I say," which his athletes knew was a reference to his difficulty organizing numbers and letters in his head, and would often result in mixed-up play calls. The phrase often appears on signs during MAC Day, reflecting Brailsford's belief that Mackenzie's honesty about his flaws helped make him an effective leader.

"He showed us that kind of humility, to let us in and see his human side, and say, 'Hey, I'm far from perfect, but we'll figure it out together,'" Brailsford said. "He was just a genuine person and he cared about the student and person before the athlete."

Brian Farrington was a senior and starting quarterback on the 2006 team that made it to the state championship. Though it was Farrington's first year as starting quarterback, he remembers the coach's impact. Mackenzie was more of an expert on the defensive end, and he gave Farrington the freedom and trust to make decisions on offense. Farrington and Brailsford both spoke of the empowerment players felt under Mackenzie's guidance.

"He gave us a lot of autonomy and ownership over the day-to-day and game planning," Farrington told the Dispatch. "So he made it a lot of fun, and that relationship gave me a ton of confidence as a senior coming into never starting at quarterback. The amount of confidence I got, just from that senior year, I think about that as a turning point."

Farrington played football at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, and was an assistant coach with the DFHS varsity football team for two seasons after graduating college in 2010.

"It always felt like his goal was to have fun," Farrington said. "He was very competitive — don't get me wrong — but his goal was truly to have fun."

As the coordinator of the activities branch of student government at the high school, Italian teacher Maria Addona has overseen every MAC Day since the first one, in September 2006, when it was called MAC Field Day. Addona recalls brainstorming with football player Trevor Saunders, who was a sophomore at the time, about how to pay homage to Mackenzie in a way that was upbeat. Since

then, MAC Day has grown to include a talent show and community service throughout the week, in addition to games like tug-of-war, trivia, chess, and checkers.

As the cheerleading coach, Addona worked alongside Mackenzie and his football team. She recalls a guidance counselor telling her that on the earlier on the same day Mackenzie passed, he had left a message on the guidance counselor's answering machine about his concern for a student who was going through a prolonged period of sadness.

"That's the kind of guy he was," Addona told the Dispatch. "He noticed everything. We all loved and respected him."

Each MAC Day also includes a video featuring interviews with teachers and former students who knew him best. The videos also feature current students who are too young to have known Mackenzie, speaking about the positive qualities of the coach they learned about from others.

"It makes me really proud to be one of those guys on that team that played for him," Farrington said. "They [current students] won't ever know him, but they do know he was a big enough deal and had a big enough impact for this to carry on like this. There are plenty of coaches in the storied time of Dobbs Ferry football who don't have a day where the kids go out and have fun all day in that coach's name."

"I manage a few people [professionally] and I just think about the way you can coach, mentor, and manage someone," said Farrington, who works in TV advertising sales for Fox. "You can demand that they do something a certain way or you can let that person have the freedom to do it their way while guiding them to an ultimate goal."

"From me wearing shorts coaching my kids into November, to me coming up with

Continued on page 15

DOBBS FERRY

Stern honored with ‘Starcatcher’ at theater showcase

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Dobbs Ferry sophomore Dominick Stern was one of five New York high school student performers to receive an award out of the 50 chosen to compete in the annual Roger Rees Awards theater showcase. Stern took home the Starcatcher Award on May 17 at Symphony Space in Manhattan, site of the event that pays tribute to the actor, who passed away in 2015, four years after the awards launched.

Two students won for Outstanding Performer, and two others won for Emerging Artist. The Starcatcher Award goes to the performer who, Stern told the Dispatch, “presents leadership qualities and makes a lot of strides to foster a communicative environment within the rehearsal space” during the three days of rehearsal leading up to the showcase. The award takes its name from the Tony Award-winning play “Peter and the Starcatcher,” which was written by Rees’ husband, Rick Elice.

“I’ve always liked to make people feel included,” Stern said. “Every time I’m in a production, as I did for the Roger Rees, I make everyone sit in a circle and ask an icebreaker. I always see people in split up groups, or talking to people they already know, or not talking to anybody. I don’t like not knowing everybody’s name, and what



Dominick Stern plays Pippin at Dobbs Ferry High School on April 17.

everyone’s done, because we’re going to be in the same room rehearsing.”

Stern earned the opportunity to compete in the Roger Rees Awards, a first for him, after Dobbs Ferry applied to have judges come to the school’s April production of “Pippin,” in which Stern played the title character. This year judges visited 104 schools in New York City, Long Island, and nearby counties, like Westchester, and chose two performers from each school to go to auditions.

In auditions, Stern sang a song from “Pippin,” and earned a spot in the showcase

along with 49 other student performers, who are all in high school. All 50 performers rehearsed for roughly 18 hours over three days before the showcase, and sang an opening medley of popular musical theater songs, including tunes from “The Greatest Showman” and “Dear Evan Hansen.”

“When we were singing the opening number, I was aghast,” Stern said. “Singing with people who are so dedicated and have worked their way up to these 50 people, who are the best in the state, it’s really shocking. At first, I would think everyone

would be like a diva, but I didn’t experience that at all. Everyone was so nice and everyone worked so hard to be there.”

The students also sang a closing number from the current Broadway musical “& Juliet,” which was a sponsor for this year’s event. On the day of the showcase, 12 finalists were announced and invited to sing solos, based on coaching sessions during rehearsals. The two students crowned Outstanding Performers and the two named Emerging Artists were chosen from those finalists.

While Stern didn’t make the top 12, he did fulfill a prediction made by a friend, Ardsley High School student Sophia Manalang, who made the top 50 last year.

“When I first told her I was in the top 50, she told me, ‘Oh my God, you’re going to win the Starcatcher Award,’” Stern recalled.

Stern began acting at 6 years old, when he portrayed Daddy Warbucks in a production of “Annie.” Throughout elementary and middle school he took acting and vocal “workshop” coaching classes in New York City, including voice lessons with professional actor Ric Ryder. His mother, Angela DeCicco, works as a voice actor and appeared on Broadway when she was in her 20s, and his dad, Matthew Stern, stage manages for theater productions. Stern’s ultimate goal is

Continued on page 15

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- Pregnancy-related discomfort
- Scoliosis

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HASTINGS ON HUDSON

— Coming Up This Week —

Farmers Market

Saturday, May 23, 9:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

Commuter Lot, Southside Avenue

The market resumes a weekly schedule starting June 6, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

For details, visit hastingsfarmersmarket.org

Memorial Day Parade

Sunday, May 24, 2 p.m.

On Main Street, then north on Warburton Avenue, followed by a ceremony outside the VFW building

Municipal Office Closure

Monday, May 25

In observance of Memorial Day

Water Safety for Kids 101

Tuesday, May 26, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Hastings Public Library

Register: amanning@hastingslibrary.org

Hastings Youth Council Blood Drive

Wednesday, May 27, 1–7 p.m.

James Harmon Community Center

Schedule an appointment: donate.nybc.org

School Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 27, 6 p.m.

Hillside Multipurpose Room

Agenda available at hohschools.org

Declaration Deep Dive

Thursday, May 28, 7–8:30 p.m.

Hastings Public Library

A textual analysis of the Declaration of Independence with Greg Smith, Social Studies Department chairperson at Hastings High School, and Fred Charles, chairperson of Revolutionary Hastings.

Zoning Board Meeting

Thursday, May 28, 7 p.m.

Village Hall

Senior Book Club

Friday, May 29, 12:30 p.m.

Hastings Public Library

Discuss "The Frozen River" by Ariel Lawson

Got news?

Email staff writer Amy Bochner at amy@rivertownsdispatch.com



Revolutionary Hastings members Ian and Fred Charles wash a window at 555 Warburton Avenue as Andrew Bordwin (inside) finishes hanging one of six posters that list the colonists' 27 grievances against King George III.

Events to salute nation's birth and beyond

BY AMY BOCHNER

Three upcoming events in Hastings represent the various ways the community is commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

First, on May 28, is the opening reception for "America 250: Symbols of Our Story," a showcase of student work led by Hastings High School teacher Gregory Smith in conjunction with the Hastings Historical Society and Hastings Public Library. The reception is scheduled to take place in the library's Orr Room from 6–6:45 p.m.

The second event follows the "Symbols of Our Story" reception, at 7 p.m., when Smith will facilitate a "Declaration Deep Dive" alongside Revolutionary Hastings chair Fred Charles. Revolutionary Hastings is a committee of the historical society,

The 20 students whose work will be on display are juniors in Smith's Syracuse University Project Advance (SUPA) American History class. Last fall, Smith was chosen to participate in the Smithsonian's Democracy in Dialogue Virtual Exchange Program, a national initiative designed to foster storytelling, civic dialogue, and connection among students across the country. His SUPA class was connected with a class of juniors at Spoon River Valley High School in London Mills, Illinois. Students from each school were paired up, and learned about one another through virtual meetings and projects. In one assignment, the Hastings students created "road trip" videos showing their partner places of significance in the village.

Throughout the exchange program, Smith said, he watched the students identify with one another despite their differences and distance. For the Hastings class, this work culminated in projects where they researched local figures, events, and objects

that shape the American experience.

Among the personages chosen were Billy Burke, the Zinsser Family, Margaret Sanger, and Kenneth and Mamie Clark. For the significant events, students highlighted the electrification of the railroad, the history of immigration, and even the school district's 2025 bond proposal. The historical society gave the students the opportunity to look through its archives to find objects that connect Hastings to the idea of what it means to be American.

These projects will be exhibited at the public library for the evening, taken down for the Friends of the Hastings Library gala (on Sunday, May 31), and then be back on display for two weeks.

In the Orr Room, Smith and Charles will conduct a textual analysis of the Declaration of Independence, with a focus on what it meant at the time of its signing and what it means today.

According to Charles, the deep dive is "one of the most timely things I've ever done."

"Some of the ideals were ahead of the reality and [it] became a living document, both in the United States and around the world," he said. "It was the foundational modern longing for liberty, freedom, democracy, that became the key to so many freedom-looking movements throughout the world to this day."

On June 5, Revolutionary Hastings will also host "The Declaration of Independence Live," an immersive evening celebrating the document to be held on the grounds of the library and village hall.

The event will feature reenactors portraying Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Gen. George Washington, patriots, loyalists, soldiers, and civilians. Attendees can interact with the actors, who will share their characters' stories relating to the American Revolution. There will be demonstrations in

woodworking, spinning, and weaving, as well as 18th-century music, crafts, and games.

At 8:45, the evening will culminate in a theatrical reading of the Declaration by Melanie Hoopes, Ramsey Faragallah, Lee Aaron Rosen, and April Armstrong, under the direction of Rachel Wineberg, who also directs the fall plays at Hastings High School. Eileen Charles, who is on the Revolutionary Hastings committee, explained that she and Wineberg chose "powerful voices who could communicate the document in a way that portrays the passion and how bold it was for the time."

"We've all learned about the Declaration in elementary and high school, but I think we've read it in a way that's very flat and authoritarian," she said. "When you read it with the passion of the history and what was going on in the day, that's what we're trying to communicate through this dramatic reading."

Historic documents will be on display at "The Promise of Liberty" exhibit in Village Hall Gallery. These will be provided by Seth Keller, an expert in acquiring, authenticating, and appraising American historical documents and artifacts. The materials will include one of the original copies of the Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, and Emancipation Proclamation. Following the "Live" event, the authentic documents will be replaced with replicas, which will be on display until June 10 and then return later in the summer.

This show, Eileen Charles said, "brings together other pieces of our history and how we're moving forward with these bold ideas of the Declaration."

She continued, "What we're trying to do is have people read our founding document, and think about how far we've come, but also how far we still have to go to achieve a lot of these ideas that our founders started 250 years ago."

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON

Friends of the Library's fundraiser gets into Americana spirit

BY AMY BOCHNER

The Friends of the Hastings Library (FOL) will host its annual gala on May 31, which the organization's president, Sharon DeLevie, described as "a party for the village."

"We know that the village loves the library," she told the Dispatch. "The library wants to love the village back."

Since 2014, the Friends have hosted a gala every year (2020 excepted) to raise money for library programs, resources, and community initiatives. The gala will take place at the library from 5:30–8 p.m. Weather permitting, much of the event will take place on the library's grounds overlooking the Hudson and Palisades.

In honor of the 250th anniversary of the United States, the festivities will have a homey, Americana theme, DeLevie said. The evening begins with a cocktail hour from 5:30–6:30. The buffet of appetizers, and unlimited wine, beer, and soft drinks are included in the cost of a ticket.

During this hour, a silent auction with over 100 items donated by local businesses will take place. Bidding began on May 15, and will close at the end of the cocktail hour.

After six years of hosting Broadway singers, the Friends decided to change up the evening's entertainment. Keeping with the Americana theme, the Rivertown Ramblers



The Rivertown Ramblers will headline the gala.

will perform for 45 minutes. They are an old-timey string band focused on traditional Americana music, which includes fiddle tunes, early country classics, and ballads. The band features Roy Blumenfeld on banjo, Ethan Abbott on mandolin, Colin McGrath on guitar, and Ian Moore on fiddle.

Last year, the gala raised \$13,000 from admission tickets and the silent auction. Funds raised by the gala and other events — like used book sales and the holiday Giftique

— as well as FOL membership dues, support the library in a number of endeavors. This past year, the Friends contributed \$30,000 toward new carpeting in the library, a third of the overall cost that was shared with the Village and the Library Board. Future Friends-funded projects include replacing the ceiling tiles and lighting in the Orr Room, the venue for talks, presentations, and activities ranging from the innovative Dance for Parkinson's program to RiverArts' figure drawing evenings.

Ongoing support from the Friends funds teen and toddler programming, the Summer Reading Club for school-age kids, a knitting circle, and some of the library's more unexpected offerings, like ukulele lessons.

DeLevie explained that, although the library receives money from taxes, this does not cover all of the expenses for "everything we would like to provide." She hopes that the gala will encourage more people to join the Friends of the Library, which costs \$30 a year. Of the 8,000 residents in Hastings, only 300 are currently contributors.

DeLevie emphasized the library's role as a third space, or a social gathering place separate from home and work/school, for the community.

"It's a place where you don't have to buy anything," she said. "You don't have to be any particular kind of a person to be there. Our library is so eclectic. We have the Introverts Book Club, two notaries, these extraordinary river views. We have quiet rooms where kids can come and study together or by themselves. We have a lot of different spaces for people to be in... Anyone can go and feel comfortable."

Tickets purchased in advance are \$40 for FOL contributors and seniors and \$50 for the general public at www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/annual-gala-2661. On the day of the gala, admission for all attendees is \$60.



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Memorial Day Ceremonies and Parade

Monday, May 25, 10 a.m.

Main Street memorials

—

Municipal Office Closure

Monday, May 25

In observance of Memorial Day

—

Zoning Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 26, 7:30 p.m.

Village Hall

To attend via Zoom, visit irvingtonny.gov

—

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 26, 7:30 p.m.

High school library

Agenda available at irvingtonnschools.org

—

Borscht Belt Artifacts

Wednesday, May 27, 11 a.m.

Irvington Public Library

Historian Alex Prizgintas discusses the Catskills resort region and its unique relics.

—

Architectural Review Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 27, 8 p.m.

Village Hall

To attend via Zoom, visit irvingtonny.gov

—

“This is My Country — Songs for Today’s America”

Friday, May 29, 1–2 p.m.

Irvington Public Library

Musical gathering with Francine and Joel

—

Irvington Shabbat Club

Friday, May 29, 5:45–6:30 p.m.

Irvington Public Library

—

Stewardship at O’Hara & Irvington Woods Park

Saturday, May 30, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Meet at O’Hara Nature Center, 170

Mountain Road

Register at irvingtonny.gov

Got news?

Email staff writer Julian Michael Caldwell at

julian@rivertownsdispatch.com



Evil Eckar performs behind the old and new utility poles on May 17.

Porch concert protests utility pole placement

BY LAURA SCHILLER

When Neil Young sang “Keep on Rockin’ in the Free World,” he probably meant freedom in the broad political sense. When Irvington resident Adam Stein sang it from the porch of his home at 25 North Eckar Street before an audience of neighbors and supporters on May 17, he meant something far more local — freedom from the utility pole Con Edison erected without notice outside his front door.

“Purge the pole!” a neighbor shouted from across the street after Stein thanked the crowd for their support.

Stein closed the set with Young’s anthem after performing mostly Pearl Jam covers with his band Evil Eckar, which transforms that porch into a stage every Halloween. Evil Eckar is among the bands that participate in the annual “Porchella” concerts throughout downtown Irvington on Oct. 31.

The performance on May 17, however, served a different purpose. Stein organized the event as a protest and a public demonstration aimed at raising awareness about the fact that Irvington’s historic district lacks formal safeguards that require review or public assessment of utility infrastructure projects before they move forward.

The issue became impossible to ignore on April 27, when North Eckar — a dead-end street in the historic district — was closed to traffic while workers excavated a hole for the new pole, temporarily knocking out power. The new pole towers above the pre-existing pole, located 3 feet away.

When Stein, who has lived at the property for 22 years, opened his front door, the new pole stood directly in his line of sight, altering the view and character of his home.

He filed a formal complaint with Con Edison and, with assistance from village

officials and local representatives, reached an agreement with the utility company to relocate the pole. Con Edison moved the new pole into the footprint of the original on May 19. As of that day, Stein’s Change.org petition, “Save the Porch / Protect the Irvington Historic District,” had garnered 167 signatures toward a goal of 200.

“I’m standing behind the pole on purpose,” Stein told the neighbors and supporters who gathered to listen to music and rally around the cause.

“I really want to thank the Village and Con Edison for working with me to remove this utility pole from in front of our house because, as you can see, you can’t see the house — and you can’t see me!” Stein said, referring to the girth of the obstruction.

As the band played, the scene unfolding on Eckar Street captured much of what makes historic Irvington — and this block — feel distinctive.

Next door, three Girl Scouts from Troop 2185 sold cookies and lemonade from a folding table on the sidewalk. Nearby, children wearing protective earphones munched popcorn on a swing bench as others zipped up and down the block on scooters. Across the street and next door, neighbors clapped and sang along on a warm afternoon that felt more like early summer than mid-May.

“I’ve been focusing almost all my energy on getting the pole removed,” Stein told the Dispatch. “I was told there was a very small window to get it to happen because of the primary and secondary power lines. Once the telephone and cable companies moved those lines, I would never have been able to get them to move this pole.”

Stein was surprised by the cooperation he received from local officials and Con Edison.

“All the government officials and Con Edison were very supportive,” he said. “They were like, ‘Oh, yeah, we can move the pole.’ I almost dropped dead.”

He said the experience highlighted a broader concern about oversight of utility work in Irvington’s historic district.

“Right now, Con Edison files a permit with the department of public works, and they come in and do whatever they want,” Stein said. “I’m trying to create more oversight so that when a utility applies for a construction permit, an architectural review board — or someone with a preservation perspective — can review the plans and work collaboratively to minimize disruption and protect the character of the neighborhood.”

Stein said preserving Irvington’s historic identity is important to residents and the broader community.

“It’s a pretty special place,” he said. “Irvington is home to one of the few nationally recognized historic districts in Westchester. We’re held to high standards when it comes to changes to our own property, and I believe in that. I feel like I’m a steward of this property.”

While most attendees were Eckar Street residents, musicians Kirsten and Jon Kleinman from Dobbs Ferry saw Evil Eckar’s Facebook post announcing the pop-up concert and showed up to hear the music and support Stein’s effort.

“We’re friends with a couple of guys in the band, and as fellow local musicians you want to support each other,” Kirsten said.

“They do such an incredible show at ‘Porchella,’ and we wanted to support the cause,” Jon added.

Kirsten continued, “And make sure we still have a good view of the band on Halloween.”

IRVINGTON

Half Moon residents push back against plan for EV chargers

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Members of the Half Moon Co-op community on South Buckhout Street voiced their concerns about the proposed addition of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations near their property at the May 18 meeting of the Irvington Board of Trustees. Eleven residents spoke at the meeting, the majority of them advocating for the Village to either reduce the number of ports or not install the charging stations.

Using a grant from Con Edison and Westchester County, which is covering most of the costs to install EV chargers throughout the village, Irvington is planning to add three dual-port EV chargers with a total of six ports at 230 South Buckhout Street, adjacent to the Half Moon North units.

The project also includes the installation of four chargers with eight ports at the municipal Fieldpoint Parking Lot off Broadway; four chargers with eight ports at Scenic Hudson Park; two chargers with four ports at the O'Hara Nature Center; and one charger with two ports at the public library, along with the replacement of an existing charger there. The chargers at Fieldpoint Parking Lot and Scenic Hudson Park have been installed.

The total cost of hardware and installation is \$712,746, with \$360,000 from Con Edison, \$332,909 from the County, and \$19,837 from the Village. The grant was approved in

2022, but, according to Village Administrator Charles Hessler, who was not in his current post at that time, the installation plans were paused for a number of reasons. The plans resumed in 2025, and the Village signed off on an intermunicipal agreement with the County in the fall of last year. Hessler told the Dispatch that he was made aware of a survey — commissioned by the Half Moon Co-op leadership in 2022 — about the installation of EV chargers, which led the Village to pursue plans to install chargers on the South Buckhout Street.

Half Moon resident Kay O'Keeffe started off the May 18 hearing by lamenting the lack of community involvement in the decision to put chargers in the residential area. She noted that she wasn't aware that the installation was happening until she saw paint on the sidewalk marking the future location of the chargers. O'Keeffe said a letter about the chargers was sent to Half Moon North residents only after a May 4 public meeting where she and another resident asked the village board to stop the project.

"It doesn't make any difference that you're giving us this information now, when they already started painting and marking where they're going to install the chargers," O'Keeffe told the village board. "I'm on the village email list and I get notices about anything that will

be disruptive to residents, yet Half Moon North received no notification about this."

O'Keeffe's frustration over what she perceives as inadequate communication from the Village was echoed by her neighbors. O'Keeffe and others, like Half Moon resident Carlyn Bochicchio, emphasized that Half Moon North is the only residential location included in the charger installation project.

"While this project may have been presented as something that benefits the wide neighborhood, for us it feels like something much different," Bochicchio said. "Imagine if someone arrived to install EV charging stations on your front lawn and allowed cars to park directly in front of your home."

The project would make six of the current public parking spots next to the chargers "EV-preferred" spots, but non-electric cars would also be permitted to park there. During the hearing, Mayor Arlene Burgos explained that the grant requires the chargers to be accessible to the public.

O'Keeffe and other residents also expressed concern that the digging and trenching necessary to install the chargers would create dust that would affect residents vulnerable to unhealthy air quality. Both O'Keeffe and Bochicchio, along with other residents, advocated for there to be no chargers installed at Half Moon North.

During the hearing, Hessler shared there were other locations, such as Main Street, that were eliminated from consideration by Con Edison. He shared that the location near Half Moon North was meant to be ideal for residents of that area to charge their cars, without traveling far.

"It was the intent, I believe, to try to provide equitable access and remove barriers to purchasing and paying for EVs in an area, historically, where there's not been that opportunity to have EV chargers," Hessler said.

Hessler also explained that changing the plan and reducing the number of chargers at 230 South Buckhout Street or relocating the chargers would cost the Village more money. He added that beyond this round of funding, Con Edison will no longer be a part of the program with the County that's supporting the installation, so any significant delay would result in the Village losing Con Edison's contribution.

"The concept of relocating in this grant process means that the Village will have to pay the full cost of a change order, re-engineering, and the like," Hessler said.

Half Moon resident Kahmai Martin-Kirkland told the board that the Village should pay the extra money to move the chargers.

"I think that it's important that the Village recognize that your lack of taking the community into account, your lack of transparency,

Continued on page 15

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The Agenda

SATURDAY MAY 23

Farmers Market

HASTINGS

9:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Commuter Lot, Southside Avenue. The market resumes a weekly schedule starting June 6, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m. For details, visit hastingsfarmersmarket.org.

Jewish American Heritage Month Celebration

TARRYTOWN

8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Patriot's Park, 121 N. Broadway. Temple Beth Abraham will have a booth at the TaSH Farmers Market with Jewish treats, including kugel and rugelach, and information about the history and culture of Jews in Tarrytown.

An Audience with Poe

TARRYTOWN

3, 5, 7 p.m. / \$65 (includes drinks and snacks). Historic Hudson Valley's Library, 639 Bedford Road. Immersive retelling of four classic Edgar Allan Poe tales. On Saturdays through June 27. Recommended for ages 16+. Advance tickets required. hudsonvalley.org

Rip Van Winkle's Journey

TARRYTOWN

6 and 8 p.m. / \$65. Washington Irving's Sunnyside, 3 W. Sunnyside Lane. Immersive outdoor theater experience with live music and curated drinks. Through July 26. Recommended for ages 10+. Advance tickets required. hudsonvalley.org

"Murder, I Do" Mystery Dinner

TARRYTOWN

6 p.m. / \$135. The Carriage House at Lyndhurst Mansion, 635 S. Broadway. Featuring a cocktail hour, three-course dinner, and campy immersive theater. Purchase tickets at lyndhurst.org

Jazz Pianist Ted Rosenthal

TARRYTOWN

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

Archaeology ABCs

YONKERS

10 a.m. / Free. Nature Center at Lenoir Preserve, 19 Dudley St. instagram.com/lenoir_preserve

SUNDAY MAY 24

Outdoor Live Music: Train of Thought

DOBBS FERRY

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

Jazz Bassist Gili Lopes

TARRYTOWN

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



"An Audience with Poe" opens on Saturday, May 23, at Historic Hudson Valley's Library in Tarrytown with a retelling of four classic Edgar Allan Poe tales.

VIP President's Garden Tour

YONKERS

10 a.m. / \$50. Untermyer Park and Gardens, 945 N. Broadway. Register at untermyer.gardens.org

Waterfront Walking Tour

YONKERS

1 p.m. / \$6, \$3 for seniors and students. Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site, 29 Warburton Ave. Learn about the daylighted Saw Mill River and the Hudson River waterfront on a 1-mile walk. philipsemanorhall.com

MONDAY MAY 25

Memorial Day Commemoration

MOUNT VERNON

11 a.m.–2 p.m. / Free. St. Paul's Church, 897 S. Columbus Ave. Guided tour of the historic cemetery, 11 a.m., and live performance and sing-along of songs of the American Revolution, 1:30 p.m. nps.gov/sapa/sapaprogsched.htm

TUESDAY MAY 26

Jazz, Funk & Sultry Blues

HASTINGS

7–9 p.m. / No cover charge. Uncle Lefty's, 583 Warburton Ave. Featuring Bianca Grooves and Sammy Wags. uncleleftys.com

WEDNESDAY MAY 27

Borsht Belt Artifacts

IRVINGTON

11 a.m. Irvington Public Library, 12 S. Astor St. Historian Alex Prizgintas discusses the Catskills resort region and showcases five of its unique relics. irvingtonlibrary.org

Matinee Movie

TARRYTOWN

2 p.m. / Free. Warner Library, 121 N. Broadway. Screening of the 2021 romantic drama "Romeo and Juliet." warnerlibrary.org

The Peregrine Falcon: A Comeback Story

YONKERS

7 p.m. / Free. Lenoir Nature Preserve, 19 Dudley St. Jim Wright, longtime hawk watcher and author, discusses how this species was pulled back from extinction. hras.org

THURSDAY MAY 28

Rivertowns Death Café

DOBBS FERRY

6–7:30 p.m. / Free. HudCo, 145 Palisade St., Suite 200. Informal group discussion about death with tea and baked goods. Facilitated by death doula and end-of-life planner Elizabeth Knell. RSVP to elizabeth@gofromthere.co

Outdoor Live Music:

Train of Thought

DOBBS FERRY

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

Jazz & More Trio

DOBBS FERRY

7–9:30 p.m. / No cover charge. Mirabella Cocina Latina Restaurant & Bar, 1 Hamilton St., in Rivertowns Square. Featuring Sarah Cion on piano, Bob Gingery on bass, and Mitch Shornick on drums. mirabellacocina.com/calendar-dobbs-ferry

Declaration Deep Dive

HASTINGS

7–8:30 p.m. / Free. Hastings Public Library, 7 Maple Ave. A textual analysis of the Declara-

tion of Independence with Greg Smith, Social Studies Department chairperson at Hastings High School, and Fred Charles, chairperson of Revolutionary Hastings.

Virtual Candidate Forum

GREENBURGH

7–8 p.m. Ahead of the Democratic primary for town supervisor, the League of Women Voters of the Rivertowns presents incumbent Paul Feiner and challenger Barry McGoey. Register for the Zoom link at bit.ly/GreenburghTS. Submit questions to info@lww-rivertowns.org by Monday, May 25, 5 p.m. A recording of the event will be available on youtube.com (search LWW Rivertowns) and at lww-rivertowns.org

Grateful Dead Tribute

TARRYTOWN

7–11 p.m. / \$30. RiverMarket Bar & Kitchen, 127 W. Main St. Featuring Shakedown Citi. rivermarketbarkitchen.com/events

FRIDAY MAY 29

Rock, Blues & Pop

ARDSLEY

8 p.m. / No cover charge. Saw Mill Tavern, 925 Saw Mill River Road. Featuring One Good Deed. Reservations encouraged. smtavern.com

Book Signing

DOBBS FERRY

1 p.m. / Free. Picture Book at HudCo, 145 Palisade St., Suite 200. Rory Mulligan celebrates his debut monograph, "Freddie." picturebookny.com/calendar

Movie on the Trail: "Zootopia"

DOBBS FERRY

8:30 p.m. / Free. Keeper's House, 15 Walnut St. Bring your own chair or blanket and refreshments. aqueduct.org

"The Tempest Unpacked"

HASTINGS

7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 4 p.m. Sundays / \$37, \$27 seniors and students. River's Edge Theatre Studio, 546 Warburton Ave. Imaginative adaptation of Shakespeare's play. For ages 8+. Performances through June 7. riversedgetheatre.com

James Carter Organ Trio

TARRYTOWN

7 and 9:30 p.m. / \$45, \$40 for students. Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. Also on May 30. jazzforumarts.org

Heroes Off Duty Comedy Tour

TARRYTOWN

7:30 p.m. / \$38–\$58. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. First responders entertain with their wild and funny stories from the line of duty. tarrytownmusichall.org

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 rivertownsd Dispatch.com/submissions

Try again, with plain language, regarding artificial turf fields

To the Editor:

A recent writer opposed to reopening debate on turf in Hastings writes, "This issue has already been decided through a democratic process" ("Synthetic materials are embedded in everyday life," May 15, 2026).

Not exactly.

Perhaps you've heard of the "plain language" movement? It's a movement in government and corporate America aimed at increasing trust by avoiding jargon, legalese, mumbo-jumbo, and words that say one thing but mean another.

For instance, simple warnings ("trespassing prohibited") and simple health claims ("zero sugar"), plain language proponents argue, must be understood according to their simple sense. In the examples above, "prohibited" must continue to mean not allowed. "Zero" must continue to mean completely absent.

When words no longer mean what they say we lose the possibility of informed

debate, a bedrock of democracy. When words are no longer conveyors of meaning they become more like instruments of war. Distressingly, that's where Hastings finds itself today in the midst of its latest "turf war."

As school board candidate Elizabeth Adinolfi said last week, "The board needs to be sure that its language is clear, that in trying to simplify we are not stepping over a line" (Rivertowns League of Women Voters Candidates Forum, May 14).

Many in the Hastings community feel the board stepped over a line. Signs around tell the story: that many feel there was a "bait and switch." An important point not to be overlooked is that the district's "zero PFAS" promise (June 13, 2025 email blast) and the "PFAS prohibition" in the final specifications do not apparently even mean the same thing to all of the trustees. Trustee McCafrey cited the board's "PFAS-free promise" as reason for voting against awarding the contract on April 8.

I suggest we try again. This time, open discussion, back and forth, face to face — with plain language intended for comprehension by plain-speaking citizens.

Rabbi Mark Sameth

HASTINGS

Move forward with construction of reliable fields

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of our student athletes and the turf fields approved by a majority of Hastings voters after extensive research, debate, and public review. Accusations against the school board distract from the real issue: Hastings athletes and recreational sports programs continue to lack reliable playing fields. Our teams are at a clear disadvantage compared with all other districts.

The regular cancellation of daily physical activity and practices has a significant impact on our kids. I would argue that this results in more screentime, which could be considered more detrimental than exposure to turf.

The position that grass fields are better than turf is obvious. If the taxpayers would pay for properly drained and maintained athletic-grade fields to rotate among all of the sports teams, I am sure there would be

no opposition. Unfortunately, additional land is unavailable, and the cost to build and maintain enough high-quality grass fields would far exceed the approved turf project.

Our community accomplished a feat that is rare in today's polarized world: We reached a compromise. We voted to install the most environmentally sensitive and most expensive turf available, for only two of six fields, and the lights were eliminated. The product meets state requirements and environmental regulations, and the contract was bid and procured lawfully and transparently.

It is disappointing that the project now risks delay because of community members citing inapplicable laws, referencing cherry-picked data, and obtaining petition signatures from outside our zip code. I would expect these tactics from Washington rather than the inclusive and forward-thinking community that we all call home. Those petitioning want to "undo the contract... and cast a revote." If that happens the only losers in this fight will be the kids. It's time to be pragmatic and move forward with the construction.

Daniel Wrzesinski

HASTINGS

Continued on page 15

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Classies

MARKET.RIVERTOWNSDISPATCH.COM/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.rivertownsd Dispatch.com/classies



PUBLIC NOTICES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS SEASONAL LANDSCAPING SERVICES VILLAGE OF ARDSLEY, NEW YORK

The Village of Ardsley, located in Westchester County, is requesting proposals from qualified contractors to provide seasonal landscaping services ("Plant Work"), including planting, watering, weeding, mulching, debris removal, general upkeep, and related maintenance at various village-owned properties. Respondents should demonstrate experience with similar municipal landscaping and horticultural maintenance projects and be familiar with seasonal planting practices, landscape maintenance standards, and working in public spaces.

To obtain project details and specifications, please email Village Clerk, Ann Marie Rocco

at arocco@ardsleyvillage.gov or visit the office of the Village Clerk, Ardsley Village Hall, 507 Ashford Avenue, Monday through Friday 9:00am – 4:00pm. A copy of the RFP document will also be posted on the Village's website www.ardsleyvillage.gov.

Please review the RFP and request clarification or additional information no later than Friday, June 5, 2026. All inquiries and responses will be posted on the Village's website.

Responses must be submitted by Friday, June 12, 2026 at 10:00am in a sealed package or electronically to: arocco@ardsleyvillage.gov.

Mailing Address:
Village Clerk, Ann Marie Rocco
507 Ashford Avenue
Ardsley, NY 10502
Dated: May 22, 2026

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ON-CALL CONSULTING LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE SERVICES VILLAGE OF ARDSLEY, NEW YORK

The Village of Ardsley, located in Westchester County,

is requesting proposals from qualified consulting firms or individuals to provide professional services in landscape architecture, tree biology, soil science, limnology, botany and ecosystem dynamics. Respondents should demonstrate experience with similar municipal and environmental consulting projects and be familiar with ecological assessment, landscape planning, regulatory coordination, and sustainable management practices.

To obtain project details and specifications, please email Village Clerk, Ann Marie Rocco at arocco@ardsleyvillage.gov or visit the office of the Village Clerk, Ardsley Village Hall, 507 Ashford Avenue, Monday through Friday 9:00am – 4:00pm. A copy of the RFP document will also be posted on the Village's website www.ardsleyvillage.gov.

Please review the RFP and request clarification or additional information no later than Friday, June 5, 2026. All inquiries and responses will be posted on the Village's website.

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Mailing Address:
Village Clerk, Ann Marie Rocco
507 Ashford Avenue
Ardsley, NY 10502
Dated: May 22, 2026

NOTICE TO BIDDERS — ON-CALL HVAC FOR VILLAGE-OWNED FACILITIES

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
VILLAGE OF IRVINGTON
ON-CALL HVAC FOR
VILLAGE-OWNED FACILITIES
PROJECT #2026-19
WESTCHESTER COUNTY,
NEW YORK
Telephone: (914) 591-4356;
Fax: (914) 591-4072

Sealed proposals for performing the work herein described will be received at the office of the Village Administrator, Village Hall, 85 Main Street, Irvington, NY 10533, until Wednesday, June 3, 2026 at 11:00 A.M. and immediately thereafter the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud in the Court Room in Village Hall at 85 Main Street, Irvington, NY.

No bids will be received or

considered after the date/time stated above.

Specifications may be secured at the Office of the Village Clerk, 85 Main Street, Irvington, New York during regular business hours or downloaded from the Village's web-page www.irvingtonny.gov. The Village will not be responsible for full or partial sets of contract documents, including any addenda obtained from any other source.

Proposals shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the name and address of the Bidder, addressed to the Village of Irvington, Office of the Village Administrator, 85 Main Street, Irvington, NY and clearly marked:

ON-CALL HVAC FOR
VILLAGE-OWNED FACILITIES
(BID #2026-19)

Bidders must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations, including but not limited to prevailing wage requirements where applicable. Bids that do not comply with submission requirements will not be considered.

No bidder may withdraw

their bid within forty-five (45) days after the actual date of the opening thereof. The Board of Trustees of the Village of Irvington reserves the right to waive any informalities in and/or to reject any or all bids, or to make such award as it deems to be in the best interest of the Village.

Katie Bugna, Village Clerk/
Treasurer
Irvington, NY
May 13, 2026

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON PUBLIC HEARING

To consider Proposed Local Law C of 2026, a Local Law Amending the Zoning Map of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson to Rezone the Parcel Known as 1 North Street to the MR-C Zoning District.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

That the Mayor and Board of Trustees schedule a public hearing for Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 7:00 PM or shortly thereafter to consider Proposed Local Law C of 2026, a Local Law Amending the Zoning Map of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson to Rezone the Parcel Known as 1 North Street to the MR-C Zoning District.

PHOTO WALL



CONGRATS, TRIN

Mercy University Grad — we are all so proud of you

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

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

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

The Board at such time and

place will hear all persons in support or opposition to such matter.

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

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

Publish: The Rivertowns Dispatch
May 22, 2026

Honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice

To the Editor:

On this Memorial Day weekend, hopefully we all can take a moment to honor the brave men and women who gave everything for our country, especially the 14 young men from Ardsley High School who answered their nation's call to serve in a faraway land, gave their lives in combat, and returned home under a flag of stars and stripes during World War II. Our mission is to keep the promise that they, and all those who gave their lives for our country, will not be forgotten. I wish that any U.S. president or Congress in the future, should they have to send our troops into harm's way, do it standing in Arlington Cemetery, surrounded by thousands of white crosses to remind them of the possible consequences of their actions. Lest we forget.

Stephen Wittenberg, LEWES, DELAWARE
The writer is a former resident of Ardsley and a member of Ardsley American Legion Post 458

Coach Mac

Continued from page 7

funky names whenever I can, I copied him," Brailsford said.

Mackenzie is survived by his three children, Michael, Ryan and Lauren; his wife, Patricia; daughter-in-law Jessie; and grandchildren Kinsley and Michael, who were born after

GILT grants

Continued from page 1

Sustainable Dobbs to plant a mini-forest, inspired by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki, at the 6.4-acre Chauncey Park in Dobbs Ferry, north of Rivertowns Square. The mini-forest would measure 21-by-21 feet and contain about 180 native plants surrounded by an 8-foot-tall fence with two gates.

- \$1,700 for Joseph Benedetto to restore a pollinator garden at the 76-acre Juhring Nature Preserve in Dobbs Ferry for his Eagle Scout project.

- \$700 for Daniel Werges and The Knoll Neighborhood Group to plant a red oak on property owned by the Village of Dobbs Ferry at the corner of Ashford Avenue and Shady Lane, which was done on May 17. The group will next install a sign that explains the benefits of trees, open space, and green responses to climate change such as bioswales and rain gardens.

- \$650 for Suzy Allman to plant a native garden along Neperan Road in Tarrytown, which passes through the 72-acre Tarrytown

Mackenzie's death.

"The Dobbs Ferry community really rallied around my family, offering the support we needed most," his daughter, Lauren, wrote the Dispatch. "Even now, events like MAC Day keep his memory alive and bring us comfort and pride. Dobbs Ferry is such a special place, and we're forever grateful for this incredible community."

Lakes Park.

For 2026, GILT also purchased 16 sets of waders, eight magnifying glasses, and eight binoculars for the ONC, along with a Haikubox Birdsong Identifier, a BirdWeather PUC (Portable Universe Codec) to record bird-song, and an Ambient Weather WS-2000 weather station. As of May 19, the Haikubox had detected 174 avian species.

The equipment was installed near a wet meadow planted in October 2025 and then surrounded by a deer fence between the ONC and the Hermit's Wetland. The meadow features hundreds of plants that attract pollinators, including swamp milkweed, on which monarch butterflies lay their eggs.

The meadow was funded by a \$16,000 grant GILT obtained from the New York Pollinator Conservation Fund, \$3,500 from community members, \$3,000 from GILT, and \$2,500 from the Village of Irvington.

Chet Kerr serves as chair of GILT's board of directors, which consists of Jan Blaire, Jon Elwyn, Neil Maher, Hugh Sandler, Phil Whitney, and Paula Veale. Kerr and his wife, Heather Thomas, donated two computers to the ONC this year.

EV chargers

Continued from page 12

has created this issue in the first place, and you shouldn't punish the residents of Half Moon North and South by putting it in, and you shouldn't punish the village as a whole by missing out on this grant," Martin-Kirkland said. "What you should do is take your

Stern

Continued from page 8

to develop a career as a theater director. Last year he formed his own theater company, Pond Players, and directed the musical "Next to Normal," which raised roughly \$8,000 for the National LGBTQ+ Cancer Network.

"I rented out a theater, I got the rights, I got the venue and sets," Stern explained. "It was really tumultuous, but after the end of the show I felt so proud and accomplished because I took a script and score and made my vision come to life."

Stern is planning to direct a production of "Spring Awakening" this summer, and share details about the performance on Pond Players' Instagram page (@pondplayers). He also aims to spread the message of the importance of student theater.

"I think the community, the people that you meet, and the support and continual funding and viewing and overall encouragement of high school theater is the most crucial thing that a high school can do," Stern said. "Local arts and local performances and productions are the backbone of the arts in the community."

medicine, pay the difference to move it somewhere else so that our residents still have access to EV chargers, so that we still have the environmental benefits [of electric vehicles], but we don't hurt the trees, impact parking, or impact residents."


The hearing ended without the village board making a decision on whether or not to change course.

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE LIVE!

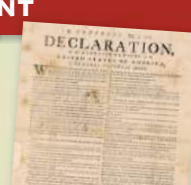
FRIDAY, JUNE 5TH • 5PM-9:30PM

Hastings Village Hall & Library Grounds • 7 Maple Ave, Hastings-on-Hudson

HASTINGS CELEBRATES 250 YEARS OF OUR NATION'S FOUNDING DOCUMENT




Thomas Jefferson (*Jonathan Kruk*)
leads the way with Ben Franklin, George Washington and the many voices of the Revolution.




**MUSIC ★ 18TH CENTURY GAMES ★ PATRIOTS ★ LOYALISTS
NATIVE LIFE ★ COLONIAL CRAFTSPEOPLE ★ MORE!**


THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE of the DECLARATION
@ 8:30 PM!

Directed by Rachel Wineberg with Lee Aaron Rosen, Ramsey Faragallah, Melanie Hoopes and April Armstrong




SEE THE REAL DECLARATION!
In The Promise of Liberty Exhibit in Hastings Village Hall Gallery 5pm-8pm





Monday, May 25, 2026
2:30 PM
Ardsley High School
500 Farm Road, Ardsley

All are welcome.



LEWISOHN MEMORIAL GARDEN

DEDICATION

In celebration of America's 250th anniversary, the Ardsley Historical Society invites you to the dedication of the Lewisohn Memorial Garden.

At the heart of the Memorial Garden stands a long-lost World War II memorial tablet bearing the names of fourteen Ardsley students who gave their lives in World War II, now restored- on this Memorial Day - to a place of public honor.

Monday, May 25, 2026
2:30 PM
Ardsley High School
500 Farm Road, Ardsley

All are welcome.

Eagles clear Bronxville hurdle for first playoff win

— FLAG FOOTBALL ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

For the second-straight season, Dobbs Ferry matched up with Bronxville in the quarterfinals of sectionals.

This time, though, the Eagles made sure there was a different ending.

Sixth-seeded Dobbs Ferry earned the first playoff win in the two-year history of its program with a hard-fought 13-6 victory over No. 3 host Bronxville in the Section 1 Class C quarterfinals on May 16. The Eagles defeated Bronxville for the third time this spring after losing to the Broncos three times last season, including in the quarterfinal round of the playoffs.

“It means a lot to us,” Dobbs Ferry senior quarterback Mya Ustares said. “It’s our second year and it was kind of the same circumstance last year. We had to give it back to them this year.”

The victory marked another milestone for a Dobbs Ferry team that has rapidly developed in just two seasons under coach Vinny Garofalo. Last year, the Eagles were still learning the basics of the game. This spring, they walked off the field with a postseason victory on the road.

“It’s a big accomplishment,” Garofalo said. “Really proud of the girls. They’ve worked really hard over the last two years to be able to get to this point.”

Dobbs Ferry stayed composed when the pressure mounted late.

“We made sure to keep calm,” Ustares said. “We remembered our game. We’ve been in these situations before and we just had to play our football.”

That composure showed during the decisive fourth-quarter drive. Mimi Phillips came up with an interception to give Dobbs possession, and the Eagles quickly capitalized. Ustares connected with Phillips for a 15-yard gain. A pass to Brooke Perri brought the Eagles to the 7-yard line. With 5:27 remaining, Ustares found Perri on a 7-yard touchdown pass over the middle to give Dobbs Ferry the lead for good. The Eagles then converted the extra point when Ustares connected with Jane Bolger, extending the advantage to 13-6.

Bronxville mounted one final drive and advanced inside the Dobbs Ferry 20-yard line in the closing minutes, but the Eagles came up with one last defensive stand. On fourth down, Bronxville threw incomplete into the end zone with Leia Brandon in coverage, sealing the historic victory.

After a scoreless first quarter, Dobbs finally broke through late in the second. Ustares connected with Bolger for a 35-yard gain down the right sideline to move the ball



Dobbs Ferry’s Mya Ustares passes against Bronxville. Photos by Rob DiAntonio.

inside the Bronxville 20-yard line. Dobbs methodically kept the drive alive with short completions to Phillips and Brandon before one final chance remained.

With just 1 second left before halftime, Ustares delivered a 6-yard touchdown pass to Phillips in the left corner of the end zone



Mimi Phillips picks up yards after the catch.

to give the Eagles a 6-0 lead at the break.

Phillips continued her standout season with another strong all-around effort. The senior finished with four catches for 29 yards and a touchdown while also making a major impact defensively with an interception. “Samira had an amazing game,” Garofalo said. “She came up with a lot of really big catches. Defensively, she was always in the right place.”

Dobbs appeared in control entering the second half, but the Broncos finally found a spark midway through the third quarter. At the 5:27 mark, Bronxville returned a punt 65 yards for a touchdown to tie the game at 6-6. The Broncos attempted a one-point conversion that would have given them the lead, but Yendri Zweibon Quiroz came up with a crucial interception to keep the game even.

“Considering that Bronxville hadn’t scored on us yet this season, the girls definitely stepped up, continued to play hard and make big plays,” Garofalo said. “It showed that when things get tough, they’re able to rise.”

Dobbs Ferry’s defense continued to swarm throughout the afternoon. Brandon recorded eight flag pulls while both Ustares and Zweibon Quiroz added seven each. Zweibon Quiroz, Phillips, and Olivia Nunez each had an interception.

The Eagles also had to adjust to a Bronxville team that looked much sharper than in the regular-season meetings.

“Playing them a third time was definitely going to be even more difficult because their coach really knows what we do,” Garofalo said. “They had a really good game plan. Hats off to Bronxville.”

Ustares finished 17 for 29 passing for 123 yards and two touchdowns. Perri caught five passes for 30 yards and a score while Bolger added two catches for 42 yards.

The Eagles (8-6-2) were scheduled to host No. 7 Byram Hills in the semifinals on May 20. A win there would land them in the finals on May 23 at Lakeland High School.

“When we first started two years ago, we struggled to even catch and throw the ball,” Garofalo said. “Now everything’s working. We catch and throw it well, the commitment’s there from all the girls, they work really hard in practice, and they just continue to improve every day.”

Panthers fall in quarterfinals

No. 8 Ardsley (5-10-2) lost to top-seeded Westlake/Briarcliff 42-0 in the Section 1 Class C quarterfinals on May 16. The visiting Panthers were led by Elise O’Brien (81 passing yards), Morgan Macri (37 receiving yards), and Ava Santavicca (INT).

Sports

Hastings' Morgan and Irvington's Schimmel capture county titles

— TRACK & FIELD ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Led by county champions Danae Morgan and Brody Schimmel, Rivertown athletes delivered several standout performances at the Westchester County Championships on May 15-16.

Day 1 of the meet was held at Somers before competition concluded on Day 2 at Hendrick Hudson. Hastings' girls team finished seventh overall in the county standings with 33.5 points, while also placing first among Class C schools. Ardsley's girls were 12th with 28.5 points. On the boys' side, Irvington finished the highest among the Rivertown schools, placing 15th with 12.75 points.

Morgan, a Hastings senior, captured the county title in the shot put with a throw of 37 feet, 10 inches, while also placing second in the hammer throw at 142-2 and fourth in the discus at 102-11.

"Honestly, going into the meet my main goal was to score points in every event I was in," Morgan told the Dispatch. "I didn't want to take any safe throws and risk the chances of PR'ing, so I just really locked in and trusted my technique."

Morgan's county championship highlighted a strong overall meet for Hastings' girls' squad, which piled up points across distance events, field events, and throws. Claire Grushko delivered a pair of top-five finishes for the Yellow Jackets, placing third in the 3,000-meter run in 10:34.87 and fifth in the 1,500 in 4:52.24. Hazel Kuniholm placed sixth in the 800 meters (2:25.20)



Ardsley's Czarina Adewunmi competes in the 100-yard dash.



Ardsley's Zaniya Bell clears a hurdle. Photos by Rob DiAntonio.

and 10th in the 1,500 (4:59.32).

In the field events, Prita Berry cleared 4-9 to finish fifth in the high jump, while Alyssa Schlacter placed fifth in the javelin with a throw of 83-5.

"I was really happy to see the results of the team because many people may think that it's only one person doing the heavy lifting, but there's really just so much young talent developing on our team," Morgan said. "I'm super proud to see they were able to show up and show out when it mattered the most. When I leave, I'll definitely be looking forward to seeing what this team blossoms into. There's so much diversity on the team in the throws, jumps, and sprints."

Hastings also received a strong sprint showing from Kai Ghalib on the boys' side. Ghalib placed ninth in both the 100 (11.27) and 200 (22.88).

Ardsley's girls' 4x100-meter relay team continued its standout season by placing second in 49.76 seconds while breaking the school record yet again. Mioko Martin, Czarina Adewunmi, Sarah Lenihan, and Zaniya Bell made up the relay. "Overall, I think the girls did a fantastic job at counties, and we are incredibly proud of them," Ardsley coach Henry Leone said.

Adewunmi helped lead the way for Ardsley with a second-place finish in the triple

jump at 35-7.25. She also placed third in the prelims of the 100-meter dash (12.63) to qualify for the final, but missed it while competing in the triple jump.

"She was having a great day at the triple jump pit, though — one of her fouls was an absolute monster jump that would have easily put her in first place," Leone said. "It's all going to come together for her in that event very soon."

Bell placed third in the 400-meter hurdles in 1:09.70 and sixth in the 100 hurdles after running 16.42. Claudia Strum added a fifth-place finish in the 400 hurdles at 1:13.25.

Martin placed fifth in the long jump at 17-7¼, Julia Berlin took sixth in the triple jump, and Maya Laglenne finished fifth in the high jump.

On the boys' side, Ardsley's top performances came from Lou Baousson and Xavier Estime. Baousson placed fourth in the 400 hurdles in 56.64 while Estime took fourth in the 110 hurdles in 15.94. The Panthers also had a fifth-place effort in the 4x400 (3:32.22) and sixth place in the 4x100 (43.91). John Bonney, Estime, Baousson, and Andrew Herceg made up the 4x400, with Zaire Bell, Estime, Baousson, and Herceg on the 4x100.

Irvington senior Brody Schimmel

delivered one of the meet's biggest moments for the Bulldogs by winning the county championship in the javelin with a throw of 159-6.

"He's worked hard all season with Mike McQuillan, our throws coach, on his form and technique," Irvington coach Chris Barry said. "He's also committed to improving and we are thrilled that his hard work culminated in a win at the county championship meet."

Michael Carron placed eighth in the 1,600 meters in 4:36.74, Theo Segerstrom placed fifth in the high jump, and Harrison Gredick took seventh in the pole vault.

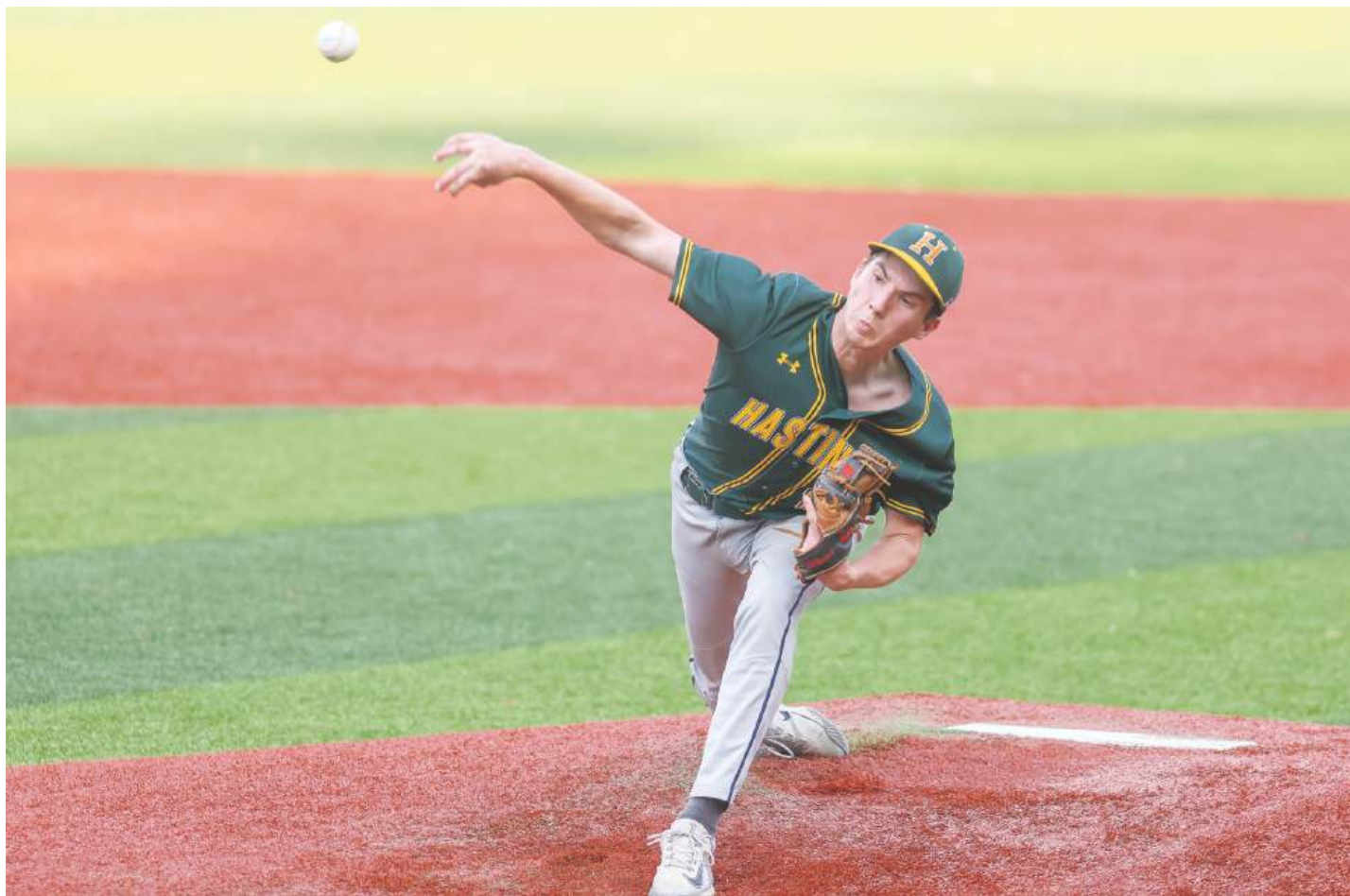
On the girls' side, Abigail Brandwein placed third in the javelin with a throw of 92-5, while Ruthie Liang finished 10th in the 400-meter dash and Liliana Brandwein placed 10th in the 800.

Dobbs Ferry's distance runners also turned in impressive efforts against elite county competition. Christopher Doherty placed second overall in the 1,600 meters in 4:24.91, while teammate Seamus Fitzpatrick finished ninth in the same race before later taking fifth in the 3,200 meters in 9:38.76.

For the Eagles' girls, Bianca Cardozo Romani earned an eighth-place finish in the 1,500-meter race walk and Chloe Runge placed ninth in the shot put.

Sports

Blind Brook walks off Hastings in quarterfinals



— BASEBALL ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

For six innings on May 19, Hastings had every reason to believe its season would continue. The Yellow Jackets had their ace on the mound, had already survived two weather delays, and had put together multiple late scoring threats in a tightly contested Section 1 Class B quarterfinal at Blind Brook.

But in playoff baseball, one swing can erase an entire afternoon of resilience. With two outs in the bottom of the seventh inning, Blind Brook's Matt Ebenstein lined a walk-off RBI single to give the host Trojans a 3-2 victory and end Hastings' season in heart-breaking fashion.

Hastings appeared poised to steal the momentum early behind senior ace Drew Ciszewski and junior catcher Theo Suniewick. Suniewick wasted little time giving the Yellow Jackets the lead in the top of the first inning, blasting a towering solo home run that put Hastings ahead 1-0.

An inning later, Hastings extended the advantage to 2-0 when Andrew Rizzo drove in Julian Carnavali.

Behind Ciszewski, that looked like it might be enough. The senior right-hander, who tossed a perfect game against Rye Neck late in the regular season, battled through 6.2 innings. He scattered seven hits, allowed three earned runs, struck out six, and threw 106 pitches in a gritty postseason effort.

"Drew battled all game," Hastings coach Scott Stampfl said. "I'm very proud of him. In that last inning, they saw him a lot of times, so they were able to put a good bat on the ball there."

Blind Brook answered in the bottom of the third inning, plating two runs to even the score at 2-2 and setting the stage for a tense finish.

In the top of the sixth inning, Hastings' Aidan Curtis led off with a double to immediately put the go-ahead run in scoring position. But after a Carnavali strikeout, Curtis was picked off, quickly erasing the threat.

"It's frustrating. I don't know if it's deflating," Stampfl said of Hastings' missed late opportunities. "I don't look at it that way. Maybe the kids do, but it's just frustrating, and that's baseball."

In the seventh, Hastings loaded the bases and looked ready to reclaim the lead, but Blind Brook escaped the jam and kept the game tied heading into the bottom half of the inning.

"This is baseball," Stampfl said. "One little mistake here, one little mistake there against a worthy opponent, they can change your luck in a second."

Ciszewski returned to the mound in the seventh and initially looked poised to push the game into extra innings. He induced a ground out and a pop out for two quick outs. A hit batter and a walk suddenly put the winning run in scoring position and brought Ebenstein to the plate. With Hastings bringing the outfield in to try to cut down a potential run at the plate, Ebenstein delivered the decisive hit.

"I had just brought my outfield in so they could make a play at the plate in case of a single," Stampfl said. "We were selling out, hoping they didn't hit it to the wall. But they hit it to the wall."

As difficult as the ending was, Stampfl made sure his message afterward centered

Drew Ciszewski pitches in the quarterfinals.

Photo by Rob DiAntonio.

on pride and appreciation for a veteran group that helped guide him through his first season leading the program.

"I'm very proud of this team," Stampfl said. "It could have been a section or state championship team. I do believe that."

The Yellow Jackets finished the year 12-9.

"We had a lot of great memories. We went to Disney this year," he said. "There were just a lot of great memories with this team."

The loss also marked the end for a large senior class that played a major role in helping Hastings remain competitive throughout the spring. The Yellow Jackets will graduate nine seniors in Ciszewski, Rizzo, Carnavali, Curtis, Johnny Sbrega, Matt Corbo, Dylan Heilakka, Jacob Kessman, and Colin Sexton.

"I couldn't have done it without them," Stampfl said. "Their leadership, teaching the younger guys what to do on a day-in and day-out basis, is priceless."

Eagles clipped in quarters

No. 8 Dobbs Ferry (8-13) lost to top-seeded Putnam Valley 6-0 on the road in the Section 1 Class B quarterfinals on May 19. The Eagles were paced by Anthony Ficarrota (4IP, 4H, 1ER, 6K), Andrew Zendel (2IP, 1H, 1ER, 2K), and Jake Evan (2-3, 2B).

Irvington falls to TZ

No. 16 Irvington lost to top-seeded Tappan Zee 19-0 in the opening round of the Class A sectionals. The Bulldogs ended the season with a 15-4 record.

Eagles earn top seed in Class B softball sectionals

— VARSITY ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Dobbs Ferry's softball team finished the regular season 15-3 and secured the No. 1 seed in the Section 1 Class B playoffs. The Eagles will host the winner between No. 8 Blind Brook and No. 9 Valhalla in the quarterfinals on May 27.

The Eagles closed the regular season with a 14-0 rout of host Pawling on May 15. Nicolette Giorgio (2-4, 5RBIs), Ella Rizzo (win, CG, 5K), Kamryn Addis (3-4, 2B, 2RBIs), Gianna Stone (2-3), Lucy Logan (2-4, 3B, RBI), Bela Abraham (2-4), Emma DeFilippis (2-5), Emily Marron (2-5, 2B, 2RBIs), and Victoria Baron (2-5, RBI) led the team.

Hastings (12-8) is the No. 5 seed in the Class B playoffs and travels to No. 4 Rye Neck for the quarterfinals on May 27.

The Yellow Jackets edged host Yonkers Montessori Academy 4-2 in eight innings on May 14. Siri Rosenberg earned the win, striking out 13 while allowing four hits and one earned run. Lexie Schur, Lola Norlander (2-4), Leni Gagliano, and Kaitlyn Constantine each had one RBI. Izzy Doherty added two hits.

Hazel Sabella recorded her 100th career strikeout and fanned 14 in a 17-2 win over host Blind Brook on May 15. She also had three hits and an RBI. Doherty (4-6, 2RBIs), Rosenberg (3-6, 2RBIs), Catherine Rice (2-4, 2RBIs), Schur (2RBIs), and Abby Weiss (2RBIs) aided the offense.

Ardslley (15-5) received the No. 4 seed in the Class A sectionals and hosts No. 13 Nanuet in the opening round on May 22.

In their final three games of the regular season, the Panthers defeated host Edgemont (17-1, May 15) but lost to host Somers (14-1, May 13), and visiting Pearl River (4-1, May 18).

In the win over Edgemont, Sofia Haber (win, 5IP, 7K, 4H, 3-4, 3B, 2RBIs), Tessa Guernah (3-3, RBI), Kayla Marx (2-3, 2B), Mia King (3-3, 2RBIs), Summer Lopez (2-3, 3B), Haley Albano (2-3, 2RBIs), and Samantha Morganello (2-2, 2RBIs) led the team. Against Pearl River, Haber (7IP, 7K), and Bella Feldman (HR) led the way.

Irvington (6-13) is the No. 15 seed in Class A and travels to No. 2 Pearl River for the first round on May 22. The Bulldogs edged visiting Pelham 7-6 on May 15 but lost to host Byram Hills 5-4 to end the regular season on May 18.

Girls' lacrosse

Ardslley (9-7) lost four out of five to end the regular season. The Panthers fell to host Haldane (21-16, May 14) and visiting Blind Brook (12-8) in their final two games.

Against Blind Brook, Mairead Gowran (4G, 4GB), Krista Kelly (1G, 2A), Liliana

Continued on page 19

Sports

Ardsley ends season with rivalry win over Dobbs Ferry

— BOYS' LACROSSE ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

The Ardsley Panthers made sure their season ended on a high note.

In a rivalry game that meant plenty to both teams despite neither qualifying for the postseason, the Panthers closed with a strong fourth quarter to defeat host Dobbs Ferry 12-9 on May 18. Ardsley snapped a lengthy losing streak against its rival and sent its seniors out with a memorable win.

"It means the world because in my four years of playing, we've actually never beat Dobbs Ferry," Ardsley senior captain Liam Gallante said. "It's a great way to end my career, and for all the seniors to beat a rival from across the bridge."

The game was tightly contested throughout and was deadlocked at 8-8 entering the fourth quarter before Ardsley seized momentum with three goals in less than 2 minutes. Gallante, who led the Panthers with six goals and an assist, started the decisive surge when he finished a feed from Brodi Kessler just 69 seconds into the quarter to give Ardsley a 9-8 lead.

Moments later, Gallante struck again in transition after another Panthers faceoff win pushed the advantage to 10-8. Only 8 seconds after that goal, Gallante scored his third-straight goal on a feed from Kessler as Ardsley suddenly opened an 11-8 lead with 10:20 remaining.

"Our coach said straight from the get-go that we needed the momentum," Gallante said. "Our FOGO Robbie [Miele] did an amazing job just winning the faceoffs, and our attack, when we got the ball, we moved it well and the chemistry was there. We were able to get a couple quick goals."

Miele was dominant at the faceoff X for Ardsley, winning 19 of 24 draws while also scoring two goals. His control of possession proved especially important during



From left: Ardsley's Tristen Roberts works his way to the goal as Dobbs' Ryan Mohl defends. Tyler DeCosta handles the ball for Ardsley. Photos by Rob DiAntonio.



the fourth-quarter run.

Ardsley first-year coach Bryan O'Loughlin said the message entering the final quarter was simple.

The message was very easy: Everything you've got stays on the field."

Dobbs Ferry answered when Nick Ficarrotta backed in and scored with 9:41 remaining to cut the deficit to 11-9, but Ardsley responded again when Tyler DeCosta bounced home a goal with 8:20 left to restore the three-goal cushion at 12-9.

From there, Ardsley's defense and goalie Jackson Rosenfeld shut the door. Rosenfeld finished with 19 saves and repeatedly came up with key stops throughout the second half. "He's a brick wall in there," O'Loughlin said. "He makes timely saves and really gets the momentum going."

Kessler added two goals and two assists for the Panthers, while DeCosta finished

with one goal and two assists. Jack Lepore scored once and Conor Lenihan had two assists. Tristen Roberts chipped in three assists and Mason Slater added two helpers.

Dobbs Ferry was paced by Ryan Mohl, who scored three goals and added two assists. Peter Kilroe also scored three times, while Dylan Ravage had a goal and an assist. Jake Shemonoski added a goal and an assist. Kola Rukaj made 16 saves.

Dobbs Ferry led 3-2 after one quarter and 6-5 at halftime. The teams continued trading goals throughout the third quarter. Mohl's deep shot gave Dobbs Ferry a 7-6 lead before Ardsley answered again. Miele scored from straightaway with 3:40 left in the third to give the Panthers an 8-7 edge, but Mohl tied the game with just 5.5 seconds remaining in the quarter.

The Panthers finished 6-9 overall and 5-2 in the Developmental League, where only

the league champion advances to sectionals. Dobbs Ferry ended its season at 4-12 and missed qualifying for the Class D playoffs. The Eagles were without dynamic attackman Jackson Kearns, who missed the final few games of the season due to illness.

Despite missing the postseason, O'Loughlin said finishing with a rivalry win provided a fitting conclusion to the year.

"Lacrosse season is very similar to the way a game goes — it's a game of runs," O'Loughlin said. "You get hot, you get cold, and it's really important to keep your head up and keep playing. We had that great run in the middle of the season."

"This was a lot of guys' last 12 minutes of playing high school lacrosse," O'Loughlin added. "It was just so important to send them off the right way."

Ardsley narrowly lost to host Eastchester 8-6 on May 15. Gallante (2G, 1A), Kessler (2G), Miele (15/18FO), Roberts (1G, 2A), Jacob Kowalsky (1G), and Rosenfeld (24S) paced the Panthers.

Bulldogs ready for sectionals after winning league title

Irvington (11-5) captured the League H title with a 14-7 win over visiting Haldane on May 13. Nick Grados sparked the Bulldogs with six goals and five assists. Saxon Frank tallied three goals and two assists. Harrison Malakoff made 17 saves in net.

The third-seeded Bulldogs now enter the Class D sectionals where they will host No. 6 Westlake in the quarterfinals on May 26.

Hastings handles Keio

Behind six goals from Luca Chen, Hastings (2-13) ended its season on a positive note, defeating visiting Keio Academy 12-7 on May 15. Paul Consorte had two goals while Romeo Casano-Antonellis, Anthony Laboy, Ian Lee, and Bobby Reynolds netted one goal each.

girls competed at The Links at Union Vale.

On the boys' side, Ardsley senior Lucas Kaplan tied for 15th with an 80 to advance to the second day, which is May 26 at Centennial in Carmel.

Dobbs Ferry freshman Zach Steel shot an 89 but did not make the cut for the second day.

For the girls, Irvington's Anya Foley had a strong showing on the first day of sectionals, shooting a 90 to finish tied for 12th. Foley advanced to the second day, which will take place at Whippoorwill Club in Armonk on May 27.

Boys' tennis

Hastings' Andre Forrest won his first match in the Section 1 singles tournament, which began on May 16 at Harrison High School. Forrest bested New Rochelle's Liam Briscoe 6-0, 6-0. He lost his next match to Sidharth Krishnan of Suffern, 6-1, 6-1.



Ardsley's Lucas Kaplan hits an iron shot at sectionals. Photo by Jim MacLean.

Varsity roundup

Continued from page 18

Champion (2G, 1A), Hazel McGourty (1G, 1A), and Sienna Kay (11S) paced the team. In the loss to Haldane, Gowran (5G, 9DC), Kelly (5G, 3GB), McGourty (3G, 1A), 4GB), Anna Gallante (2G), Lily Tiernan (3A), and Lyla Vega (1G, 1A) led the way.

The Panthers received the No. 7 seed in the Class C sectionals and will host No. 10 Nanuet in the first round on May 22.

Irvington (5-11) also dropped four out of five to conclude the regular season. The Bulldogs lost to host Scarsdale (8-5, May 14), visiting Pearl River (11-5, May 16), and host Fox Lane (17-1, May 18) in their final three games.

Against Scarsdale, Federica Ricciardella (2G), Lillian Isom (1G), Sophia Im (1G), Lizzie Villa (1G), and Sadie Kilbury (8S) sparked the Bulldogs. Villa scored three goals against

Pearl River. Leila Schneider (1G, 2A), Ricciardella (1G), and Kilbury (9S) contributed. Villa had the lone goal against Fox Lane.

No. 14 Irvington travels to No. 3 Rye Neck for the Section 1 Class D opening round on May 23.

Dobbs Ferry (9-7) lost five out of six games to conclude the regular season. The Eagles fell to visiting Albertus Magnus 14-5 on May 14. Hollen Peet (2G), Juliet Curanovic (2G), Scarlett Kilroe (1G), and Claire Coughlin (7S) paced the Eagles.

No. 9 Dobbs will travel to No. 8 Croton-Harmon for the Section 1 Class D opening round on May 23.

Hastings (3-12) dropped its final game of the season, falling to host Rye Neck 18-8 on May 13.

Golf

The first day of golf sectionals took place on May 18 with the boys teeing off at Tamarrack Country Club in Greenwich while the



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