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Independent



DOBBS FERRY

Tradition on the menu
Rosie Bella's replaces
Scaramella's
p 7

Vol 2. Issue 51.

August 28, 2026

RIVERTOWNS Dispatch

Local News,
Locally Sourced
~

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

\$2⁷⁵



HASTINGS

Bees add buzz to community garden
Family installs hives at Zinsser
p 9

Rivertowns volunteers provide aid at detention center

BY AMY BOCHNER

NEWARK, N.J.

Sun-bleached neckties hang on the fence outside of Delaney Hall, the immigrant detention facility in Newark, N.J. This past Father's Day, children of detainees decorated the metal grate in an activity organized by volunteers, several of whom are residents of the Rivertowns. Two months later, some of the fathers honored, like the ties on the fence, are still there.

When an individual is detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Westchester, they are sent to Delaney Hall, which is managed by the GEO Group under a 15-year contract with ICE valued at \$1 billion. The facility was previously used as an immigrant detention center from 2011–2017, during former President Obama's administration. Since Delaney Hall reopened in May 2025 under President Donald Trump, volunteers have gathered outside to provide mutual aid to families visiting their loved ones. Members of NYCD16|15 Indivisible, a progressive group



Members of NYCD16|15 Indivisible with Marianne Delaney (seated in a chair) on Aug. 23. Photos by Amy Bochner.

that includes the Rivertowns, regularly attend. On Aug. 23, volunteers like Hastings resident Shelli Katz and Yonkers resident Barry Graubart assembled backpacks to give families

before the school year starts.

Along the sidewalk is the "Radical Hospitality Tent," which offers hot meals, baby supplies, and children's toys. Folding chairs

provided by volunteers are spread across the pavement. According to Sally Pillay, one of the organizers and director of the

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IRVINGTON

New director forsees a cultural hub
p 11

"Every day there was something new to be discovered."

Elizabeth Bradley, vice president of programs and engagement for Historic Hudson Valley
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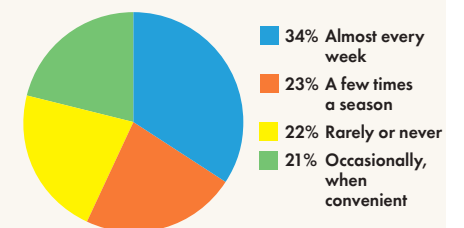
SPORTS

Fall Preview
p 14



The Poll

How often do you go to a farmers market?
As answered by 159 readers of the Rivertowns Dispatch



Vote at rivertownsdispatch.com/the-weekly-poll



The Blotter

ARDSLEY

Ring, kick, and run: Youths fled after ringing the doorbell to a home on Park Avenue on the evening of Monday, Aug. 17, and kicking the front door to that home on the evening on Wednesday, Aug. 19.

Bird aid: Greenburgh Animal Control aided a baby bird that fell from a nest on Swanston Lane on the morning of Wednesday, Aug. 19.

Stolen vehicle arrest: Ardsley police stopped a stolen vehicle on the northbound Saw Mill River Parkway on the

afternoon of Friday, Aug. 21. Westchester County police arrested the driver.

Leaf blower warning: Police warned a landscaper on Prospect Avenue about the Village’s gas leaf blower law on the afternoon of Friday, Aug. 21. The village code prohibits the use of gas leaf blowers between May 16 and Oct. 14.

Fraud attempt: On Aug. 21, an Ardsley resident received a fraudulent phone call from someone claiming to represent the fraud department at American Express, who stated the resident’s personal information had been used to open an account.

Trespass warning: A 47-year-old Yonkers resident was issued a no trespass warning from CVS, 725 Saw Mill River Road (Route 9A), after shoplifting on the afternoon of Saturday, Aug. 22.

Mischief arrest: A 40-year-old Bedford resident was arrested for damaging a room at the Ardsley Acres Hotel Court, 560 Saw Mill River Road, on the morning of Monday, Aug. 24. He was charged with criminal mischief in the fourth degree, a misdemeanor. Officer Basim Gergis made the arrest, assisted by Det. Nick Guccione.

DOBBS FERRY

Theft from Stop & Shop: An unidentified man shoplifted \$100 worth of items from Stop & Shop, 390 Broadway (Route 9), on the evening of Tuesday, Aug. 18.

Thefts from Ulta: Two unidentified men shoplifted items from the Ulta Beauty at Rivertowns Square on the afternoon of Wednesday, Aug. 19. The thefts totaled \$2,240 and \$366.

Unauthorized charge: On Aug. 23, a Dobbs

Ferry resident reported that a \$1,017.11 order was charged to her credit card on Aug. 13 after she supplied information to a caller who claimed to work for Verizon and who stated that her account had been compromised. The order was due to be delivered to a CVS, which the resident changed to Foodtown in Hastings. An unidentified man attempted to pick up the package and was turned away.

HASTINGS

Hit and run: An unidentified motorcyclist hit a vehicle’s sideview mirror on Farragut Avenue and then fled on the evening of Monday, Aug. 17. The mirror was not damaged.

Fleeing the scene: On Farragut Avenue, police attempted to stop a moped operator on the afternoon of Aug. 17, a driver on the morning of Aug. 18, and motorcyclists on the

evening of Aug. 18, all of whom fled.

Suspended license and registration: A 47-year-old Yonkers resident was arrested for a suspended driver’s license and vehicle registration, both misdemeanors, on Warburton Avenue on the morning of Wednesday, Aug. 19. Officer Wuilber Maldonado made the arrest.

Deer put down: Police put down an injured deer on Cropsey Lane on the morning of Wednesday, Aug. 19.

Mischief to fence: Damage to a chain-link fence at the former St. Matthew School on Villard Avenue was reported on the morning of Thursday, Aug. 20.

Suspended license and more: A 33-year-old Bronx resident was arrested for a suspended driver’s license, a
Continued on page 4

RIVERTOWNS Dispatch

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Historic Hudson Valley launches digital collection portal

BY LAURA SCHILLER

REGION

As he marched from Hingham, Massachusetts, to Tarrytown in 1776, a young Patriot soldier filled the blank sections of his almanac with notes about the weather, his route, and the supplies he bought along the way.

He had no way of knowing that nearly 250 years later, his words would be available to anyone with an internet connection. A student in California, a researcher in London, or a history buff in Ardsley can now read his journal with a few clicks.

That is the kind of connection Historic Hudson Valley hoped to create with its new digital collections portal, which gives anyone anywhere in the world access to around 20,000 digitized manuscripts, maps, books, and artifacts spanning nearly 500 years of Hudson Valley history. During the roughly two-year effort to digitize the items by hand, staff uncovered many stories hiding in plain sight.

The portal launches as Historic Hudson Valley marks its 75th anniversary and the nation celebrates its 250th.

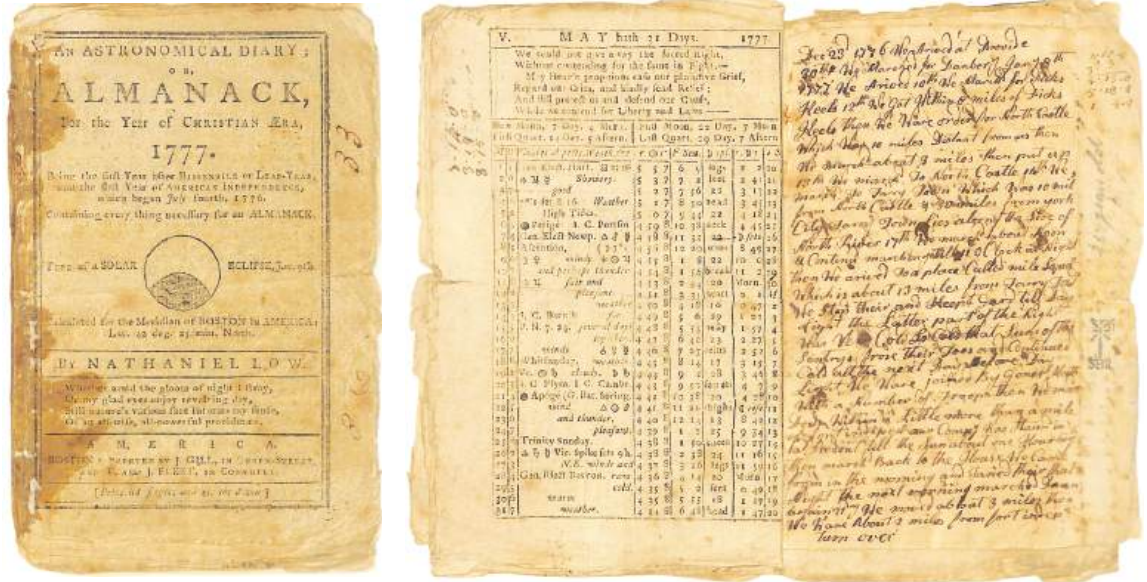
"I feel like the surprises and the excitement were just ongoing," said Elizabeth Bradley, vice president of programs and engagement at Historic Hudson Valley. "Every day there was something new to be discovered."

The soldier's journal had long been undervalued.

"When it was originally catalogued, someone thought it was just an almanac," Bradley said. "But in fact, it is this record of the Revolutionary War from an average soldier whose story was not yet known. Now anyone can access it from anywhere in the world."

The project also uncovered letters believed to be in George Washington's hand, records documenting the history of slavery in the region, correspondence between young women living in New York City, and deeds tied to historic Hudson Valley estates.

Because many of the manuscripts are fragile, photographing and scanning them required specialized cradles and supports. But Bradley, who has a Ph.D. in English and



The soldier's journal from 1776. Courtesy of Historic Hudson Valley.

American Literature, said the real challenge was creating metadata for each one.

"The hardest part, I think, is after you've taken the digital image," Bradley said. "With a letter, you have to deduce the 'to' and the 'from,' and the subject and when it was written. Sometimes these details are mysterious."

Researchers often relied on genealogical records to identify people mentioned in the documents, particularly members of families such as the Van Cortlandts and Philipses, where names repeated across generations.

Bradley said the most valuable pieces in the collection are often the most ordinary.

"It's kind of extraordinary because these manuscript collections and objects are replete with all of these aspects of just everyday life," she said. "You and I might have little notes and laundry lists scribbled on paper around the house. But when they get passed down through history, it's our job to try and figure out their importance."

That detective work also revealed unexpected stories.

While photographing thousands of objects for the portal, Archives and Collections Manager Caitlin Monaco came across a framed dried flower that had sat in storage

for years with little documented on the initial provenance record.

When she turned the frame over, she found a handwritten note from an unidentified mourner explaining that the flower had been taken from Washington Irving's casket and sent to his young neighbor, Florence Chaffrey, who had been unable to attend the funeral.

The note concluded with a touching observation: "It does not fall to the lot of every young lady to be thought so highly of as by one like Mr. Irving."

"To turn it over and find this note, which gave so much context to the object, it felt like winning the lottery that day," Monaco said. "This one object opened the door to show how Washington Irving got along with his neighbors."

Bradley and Monaco hope the online collection will encourage people to explore history for themselves. Visitors can browse manuscripts, search for topics, or explore object collections by category, including ceramics, paintings, metalware, prints, and textiles.

"If you wanted to do something a little more targeted, say you're interested in Sir Walter Scott, you could search by that name and that'll pull up any result associated with

him," Monaco said.

Bradley hopes the collection also changes how people think about the past.

"It's quite extraordinary, just being that close to history and to the lives of both extraordinary and ordinary Americans," Bradley said.

"When people visit our historic houses, they have a sense of the grandeur or the foreignness of the past," she added. "But when you view the manuscript collections, you really see the continuity of human experience."

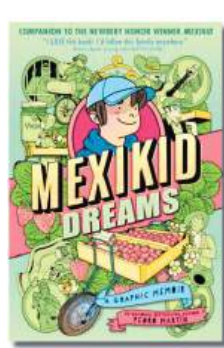
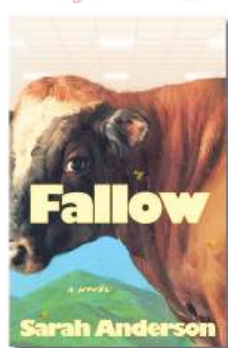
"Even just the gossipy imaginings of teenage girls are so poignant, and they feel like they could have been written yesterday," Bradley said. "That's what I hope people discover, that the past isn't actually such a different place."

While the collection can now be explored online, researchers can also view materials in person by appointment at Historic Hudson Valley's Library & Collections facility in Pocantico Hills, and many artifacts remain on display at the organization's historic sites, including Philipsburg Manor, Sunnyside, and Van Cortlandt Manor.

The digital collections portal is available at hudsonvalley.org, where visitors can browse thousands of digitized manuscripts, books and artifacts free of charge.

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New court program aims to aid those with mental illness

BY AMY BOCHNER

REGION Dobbs Ferry, Hastings, and Tarrytown are participating in the Navigator Program, a new court-based mental health program launched by Westchester County’s Department of Community Mental Health (DCMH) on Aug. 3. New York State provided \$239,500 for the service, which “will connect people with mental illness who are involved in the criminal justice system to treatment and support services while their cases are pending,”

according to a County press release from Aug. 3. This includes helping individuals access mental health care, housing, and other resources. To be eligible for the program, which is voluntary, individuals must be facing misdemeanor or felony charges and be diagnosed with a serious mental illness. According to Joseph Glazer, the deputy commissioner of the DCMH, the County utilizes various “diversion models” that work with the court system, including treatment alternatives and programs that help incarcerated individuals returning to their communities. To participate, individuals are identified through court proceedings or through their defense counsel. What is unique about the Navigator Program, according to Glazer, is that individuals with unmet needs can request assistance. Referrals can also be made by family, friends, and court staff. The program addresses unmet needs beyond mental health struggles and

substance use, according to Glazer. “It’s a housing need. It’s a community need,” he said. “It’s the things that ultimately make your life sufficiently stable that you can navigate the day-to-day problems. The goal is to allow, very early in the process, individuals’ needs to be identified, and... to help them develop the stability that they need, which will support both their recovery and a better outcome in the criminal justice system.” Along with the three Rivertowns, the Navigation Program includes Cortlandt, Mount Kisco, Mount Pleasant, North Castle, Ossining, Peekskill, and Yorktown. According to Glazer, these communities were chosen because of their “fairly substantial populations.” Two employees assist in the Navigation Program. The County expects that focusing on 10 communities will be more effective to start, according to Glazer, and that the model will expand to more municipalities if it is more successful than other court

diversion programs. According to Glazer, 15% to 20% of people in the U.S. will be diagnosed with a serious mental illness in their lifetime. The Navigator Program seeks to support these individuals through a system that was not necessarily designed with them in mind. “The criminal justice system is very good at working with the aspects of criminogenic behavior, but it’s not the place for a person who has a serious mental health or a co-occurring disorder to be having their needs met,” Glazer said. “If we want to really help those individuals, help the community, prevent recidivism, all of the important pieces that we’re discussing, getting people to the treatment and services they need is a priority.” The challenge this program hopes to address is not new, Glazer emphasized. He encouraged people to reach out to the DCMH if they know someone in the justice system who needs assistance. The office’s phone number is 914-995-5220.

The Blotter

Continued from page 2

misdemeanor, on Farragut Parkway on the afternoon of Saturday, Aug. 22. He was also cited for two violations — improper plates and an unregistered

vehicle. Officer Wuilber Maldonado made the arrest. **Hit and run:** The rear bumper of a 2026 BMW parked outside the apartment building at 445 Broadway (Route 9) was

damaged on Sunday, Aug. 23, between 12:30–4 p.m. **Unruly youths:** Youths knocked on the door of a home on Chauncey Lane, and were dispersed from Uniontown Park, on the evening

of Sunday, Aug. 23.

IRVINGTON

Warrant arrest: A 22-year-old Mount Vernon resident wanted for missing an appearance in the Irvington Village

Court in 2023 was apprehended by Yonkers police on Aug. 24. The court appearance was for an arrest, on Aug. 2, 2022, for stealing \$100 from the register at the Shell station on Broadway, where he was employed, as well as

a wallet left at the station, and then using two credit cards in the wallet. He was charged with grand larceny in the fourth degree, a felony, as well as two misdemeanors — petit larceny and identity theft in the third degree.



SUMMERS

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ARDSLEY

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—
Ardsley HEART at the Pool
Monday, Aug. 31, 4–6:30 p.m.
Anthony F. Veteran Park Pool,

11 Olympic Lane. Free for pool members, guest passes will be available for nonmembers. Visit ahs.ardsleyschools.org/familiescommunity to register.

—
Lego Lab for Ages 5+
Tuesday, Sept. 1, 11 a.m.
Ardsley Public Library.

ardsleypubliclibrary.org.

Architectural Review Board Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 1, 8 p.m.
Village Hall. Agenda available at ardsleyvillage.gov.

Senior Event

Wednesday, Sept. 2, noon–1 p.m. Community center. Screening of “Legacy,” Tod Lending’s documentary about four generations of an African-American family.

—
**Call for Artists:
RiverArts Studio Tour**

Registration (\$60 per artist) is open through Sept. 12 at riverarts.org. The tour is slated for Nov. 7–8.

—
“Humans of Ardsley”
Sign up and/or share personal experiences. Visit instagram.com/villageofardsley for info.

Food scraps survey

Ardsley is taking the next step toward offering a curbside food scraps collection program “to reduce waste, lower disposal costs, and support sustainability efforts,” according to the Village website.

In November 2025, a \$100,000 study by civil engineering firm VHB outlined how seven villages could implement curbside pickup of compostable food waste. The Rivertowns Food Scraps Study was funded in part by a \$25,000 grant from the Hudson River Valley Greenway, with Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings, Irvington, Elmsford, Tarrytown, and Sleepy Hollow collectively contributing the other \$75,000.

On Aug. 20, the Village of Ardsley posted a survey on its website to gauge interest in the program. Mayor Steve Edelstein told the Dispatch that the goal is to “make composting more accessible and available to our residents and to reduce the amount of Ardsley’s organic waste that goes to landfills.”

The Village will use the data to develop a pilot program. “We want to understand what resources may be necessary,” Edelstein explained, “and how to proceed in the most cost-effective [way] possible.”

The survey is available at tinyurl.com/bkzjfarp.

U.S. News ranking

Schools Superintendent Matthew Block sent out a message to the Ardsley School District on Aug. 20 regarding U.S. News & World Report’s 2026–27 ranking of New York State public high schools, which was released earlier that week.

Over the past three years, Block wrote, Ardsley High School’s ranking “moved very quickly from 82nd to 67th in the state.” For 2026–27, however, AHS ranked 140th.

Block noted that this year, the ranking omitted Advanced Placement (AP) test participation and performance from its calculation.

According to the U.S. News website, the New York State Education Department withheld AP score data from U.S. News this year due to privacy concerns. Scores from the International Baccalaureate (IB) program, however, were provided to U.S. News. Block wrote, “This discrepancy disproportionately affected Ardsley and many other high-achieving districts in NY who participate in the AP program (and not IB).”

Block told the Dispatch on Aug. 25 that the AP scores will be compiled for a presentation to the board of education, and posted on the district’s website.

While the specifics will be shared during the presentation, Block said that “our scores either maintained or improved in nearly all subjects, and our participation rate for students taking AP exams rose significantly. There will be good news to share.”



The Lewisohn Memorial Garden at Ardsley High School

Scout caps career with hometown history lesson

Teen tells stories of 14 who died serving during WWII

BY AMY BOCHNER

For Abigail Lew of Ardsley, community connection is at the heart of what it means to be a Girl Scout. She gave credence to that belief with her Gold Award project, which brought residents closer to local history by sharing the stories of the 14 Ardsley High School graduates who died while serving in the armed forces during World War II.

While brainstorming for her Gold Award during the summer of 2025, Lew, a Scout for eight years and a rising senior at the time, reached out to the Ardsley Historical Society. Peter Marcus, the former president, told her about the Lewisohn Memorial Garden, which would feature a long-lost monument honoring the servicemen at Ardsley High School. The monument was unveiled this May.

Lew’s project, titled “Remembering Hometown World War II Heroes” sought to further spread awareness. The high school’s history curriculum is “so structured,” Lew told the Dispatch, that it leaves few opportunities to explore the village’s own past. Lew worked with U.S. History 11 and AP U.S. History teachers, hosting presentations for the entire junior class in May and June. These focused on two of the 14 servicemen: George H. Hauptman Jr. and Kenneth D. Wood.

Hauptman graduated from AHS in 1941 before joining the U.S. Army. He trained in anti-aircraft gunnery at Camp Haan,



Abigail Lew

Calif. While waiting for a new assignment at Camp Cooke, he passed away from meningitis in 1943.

Kenneth D. Wood was a member of AHS Class of 1942 who joined the Army Air Corps. He served as a pilot for the 641st Bombardment Squadron of the 9th Air Force in support of the Normandy Invasion, and won the Air Medal for bravery flying a Douglas A-26 Invader. After volunteering for a dangerous bombing mission, Wood was shot down over the Ardennes, passing away in 1945.

Lew described her experience teaching these stories in the classroom.

“I kind of realized how the soldiers were basically the same age as me and the students I was teaching, all the juniors,” she said. “I wanted to emphasize that, and so it

also made it more personal to me.”

Lew created an Instagram account for her project (@algold2300). She also shared the stories at events with younger Girl Scout troops in Ardsley, including a Military Tribute Banner Walk this May, organized by Sharon Colabello, the former Ardsley resident who launched the tribute banner project in the village in 2022.

Colabello connected Lew to Judith Geis Hoffman, the daughter of Daniel R. Geis, who graduated from AHS in 1937 and passed away while serving in the army in 1942. This allowed Lew to write a more personal description of the soldier, including “his time at home, who he was before the war, and what he did during it.”

Westchester County Legislator David Imamura, who Lew interned for this summer, shared Lew’s project on Facebook on Aug. 19. In addition to Marcus, Colabello, and Imamura, Lew expressed gratitude to her troop leader, Nicole Tine, for her guidance. Lew received her Gold Award on July 21.

Now a freshman at George Washington University, Lew plans to study political communication, driven by the same goals she had while completing her Gold Award.

“What I would like to do in the future is really connect with other community members and constituents,” she said. “They’re people that you have to work with and understand better to create changes. Going into classrooms, connecting with students and understanding [local] history makes it easier for community members to connect with the leaders in their town.”

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DOBBS FERRY

Children's Book Nook
Saturday, Aug. 29, and
Sunday, Aug. 30, 1–4 p.m.
Keeper's House, 15 Walnut St.
Explore a special selection of
books and interactive displays
in a new cozy space.

— **Baby Songs and Stories**

Monday, Aug. 31, 10:30–11
a.m. Dobbs Ferry Public
Library. Register: childrens@dobbsferrylibrary.org.

— **Drop-in Mahjong**
Monday, Aug. 31, 1–3 p.m.
Dobbs Ferry Public Library.

**Planning/Architectural
Review Board Meeting**
Thursday, Sept. 3, 7 p.m.
Village Hall.

— **Ferry Festa**
Register for sponsorships and
vendors at ferryfesta.com. Late
fee after Friday, Sept. 4. The

annual street fair on Main
and Cedar streets is slated
for Saturday, Oct. 3, 1–8 p.m.
(rain date Oct. 4).

— **Call for Artists:
RiverArts Studio Tour**
Registration (\$60 per artist)
is open through Sept. 12 at

riverarts.org. The tour is
slated for Nov. 7–8.

— **Dog Swim**
Friday, Sept. 18, 2–3 p.m. (for
small dogs only), 3:15–5 p.m.,
and 5:15–7 p.m. Gould Park
Pool. Registration required at
dobbsferryactivityreg.com.

Cedar Commons

The Village Board of Trustees is deferring to the planning board for a decision about changes made to Cedar Commons, the 16-unit condominium building under construction at 41 Cedar Street.

During the village board meeting on Aug. 11, architect Christina Griffin of Hastings shared recent changes from what was approved by the village board two years ago, including a 5-foot-7-inch increase in height for an elevator bulkhead. Other changes were more minimal.

During the meeting, Griffin stated the height was increased due to a need for more space above the elevator. Assistant Building Inspector John Stone explained that the building department found out about the change six months ago, after it was constructed, because it was not highlighted in the amended plan for the project.

Dobbs Ferry Mayor Christy Knell and members of the village board agreed that the change was a significant issue, but not enough to warrant demolishing part of the building.

"It seems like now we're just coming in at the end, when we would be holding up the completion of a project that has been going on for five, six years, and the drawings have been with the building department with the height being 5 feet over, and it's just now coming to us," Knell said at the meeting. "I think it's probably a general issue that we would have, but I feel like that is something internal. That's something we should have had to discuss when they [the amended plans] were submitted."

The overall height of the building is still within the height allowable by village code.

Double utility poles

On Tuesday, Sept. 8, at 7:30 p.m., the Dobbs Ferry Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing about a proposed local law clarifying the conditions under which utility companies must remove a utility pole. This comes in response to complaints from residents about double poles left by utility companies after they install one behind another without removing the original.

During the Aug. 11 board of trustees meeting, where the public hearing date was set, Village Attorney Lori Lee Dickson emphasized that any current obligation to remove the second pole has to be based on a public safety issue and not for aesthetic reasons.

The Sept. 8 public hearing will consider updating a part of the village code titled "Streets and Sidewalks." Currently, the only reference to utility poles in the code says that "no poles for electric or other wires shall be erected on any public street, sidewalk or public ground, and no wires or other lines, ropes or conductors shall be strung under, over, upon or in public streets or grounds, except by permission granted by the board of trustees."



John Greco at Rosie Bella's

At Rosie Bella's, Italian tradition is on the menu

BY LAURA SCHILLER

When you see fettuccine Alfredo on a menu, you might expect a rich, cream-based sauce. At Rosie Bella's, the new Italian restaurant at 1 Southfield Avenue (former site of Scaramella's), there's a more authentic way to achieve that velvety texture. Here, the house-made pasta is tossed with butter, Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, and pasta water, following the traditional Roman preparation.

Johnnie and Rosie Greco, who live in Hartsdale and have family roots in Calabria and Naples, have spent the past 30 years serving Italian-American food at their Yonkers restaurant, Louie & Johnnie's. They opened the Dobbs Ferry restaurant on July 29 — Rosie's birthday — where the menu takes a more modern approach rooted in Italian tradition. Johnnie's affectionate nickname for his wife, Rosie Bella, gives the restaurant its name.

"The place in Yonkers is more old-school Italian," said their son, John Greco, 30, who grew up working in the restaurant alongside his brother, Nick, 28. "Like, take a fettuccine carbonara or Alfredo — an Italian-American way is adding cream to it. If you were in Italy, they use egg yolks and a bunch of grated cheese, and it almost becomes its own natural cream. So this is more authentic Italian-Italian — fresh ingredients, and everything from the flour to the olive oil is imported from Italy — whereas our place in Yonkers is more traditional Italian-American, you know, large portions, heavy cream..."

The Greco brothers are hands-on at Rosie Bella's, helping with everything from management to mixing drinks at the bar. For the new restaurant, they wanted a smaller menu, house-made pastas, and a focus on quality. The pasta-making — fettuccine from only flour, egg yolks, water, and olive oil — is part of the dining experience. An open section of the kitchen gives diners a view of the action.

"If you're having dinner here at 5 or 6 o'clock, you can watch them make the pastas and pizza from scratch," Nick said. "Our pasta maker is here for 3 or 4 hours making all the pasta for that night, probably making 20 pounds an hour, which is probably 30 to 40 orders."

"You can watch them make the pastas and pizza from scratch."

Nick Greco

The restaurant has an open layout, with cushioned bench seating along the walls and tables that can be rearranged to accommodate everything from larger family gatherings to date nights. An outdoor patio provides additional seating.

The Grecos bought the Southfield Avenue business from Sal and Patti Triarsi, who had operated the restaurant for about seven years. The Triarsis had purchased it from Vincenzo and Nilde Scaramella, who founded Scaramella's in 1992 and ran the family restaurant for 25 years. The Grecos gutted and renovated

the space before opening Rosie Bella's.

Among the pizzas are margherita, capriciosa, funghi, hot honey, and spicy Calabrese. Entrées include chicken piccante with a spicy vodka sauce, chicken Milanese, and veal chop Parmesan. A seafood option is wild flounder fillet crusted with Parmigiano-Reggiano.

Appetizers include pastina cakes (baby pasta with cheese and flash-fried breadcrumbs), calamari fritti, and vongole oreganata (baked clams).

One dish the brothers agreed had to be on the menu is bucatini cacio e pepe.

"It's just a simple classic," John said. "In Italy, a lot of things are simple, and they overcomplicate them here in America. That dish is literally just — you need a good pasta, a good pecorino Romano that we grate fresh, and fresh black pepper, and the starch from the pasta water. It makes a great three-ingredient cream sauce without cream."

For carb-conscious diners, there are four salads — casa, Cesare, rughette, and walnut pear — with add-on choices such as shrimp or grilled chicken.

Rosie Bella's also makes all its desserts in-house, including cheesecake with fresh strawberries, tiramisu, Nutella pizza, and zeppole.

Pasta dishes range from \$26–\$33, meat and fish entrées from \$34–\$49, and personal pizzas from \$21–\$24. Desserts are \$9–\$16. Valet parking is available, and delivery orders can be placed through Toast.

Rosie Bella's is open Monday through Thursday, from noon–9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from noon–10 p.m., and Sunday from 1–9 p.m.

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Tooth be told

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

When do you actually need your wisdom teeth out?

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

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

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

the only tooth replacement option that's actually alive.

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

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



Dr. Julia Abend
DDS | Parlor Dental



HASTINGS

Farmers Market

Saturday, Aug. 29, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Commuter Lot, Southside Avenue. For details, visit hastingsfarmersmarket.org and follow the market on Facebook.

— **Movin' the Mind & Groovin'**

the Balance

Tuesday, Sept. 1, 1–2 p.m. Hastings Public Library. Movement class for people with Parkinson's disease or balance challenges.

— **Kindergarten Playground and Popsicles**

Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2:30–4 p.m. Hillside School. RSVP at ptsahastings.org.

— **Board of Trustees Meeting**
Tuesday, Sept. 1, 7 p.m. Village Hall. Agenda available at hohny.gov.

The Introverts Book Club

Friday, Sept. 4, 4 p.m. The Good Witch, 134 Southside Ave. Email amanning@hastingslibrary.org for details.

— **Call for Artists: RiverArts Studio Tour**
Registration (\$60 per artist)

is open through Sept. 12 at riverarts.org. The tour is slated for Nov. 7–8.

— **Grateful To Be Alive Concert**
Wednesday, Sept. 16, 6–9 p.m. MacEachron Waterfront Park. The Grateful Dead cover band gives a free concert.

Four-way stop to be installed at Rosedale and Ravensdale

BY AMY BOCHNER

After months of deliberating, on Aug. 18 the Hastings Board of Trustees approved a local law adding a four-way stop at the intersection of Rosedale Avenue and Ravensdale Road.

At previous board meetings, residents expressed concern over pedestrian safety at the busy crossing, and urged the board to consider a four-way stop. The board received a study in April conducted by T.Y. Lin International Engineering and Architecture, which stated that the intersection did not meet the minimum requirements for a four-way stop. The board decided to get a second opinion from Creighton Manning, the firm that's leading a project creating continuous sidewalks along both sides of Rosedale between Ravensdale and Mount Hope Boulevard. These engineers recommended a push-button crossing mechanism, as opposed to stop signs.

According to Trustee Douglass Alligood at the Aug. 18 meeting, Creighton Manning also provided a response explaining how the Village could implement stop signs at the intersection in “a safe manner.”

Prior to the vote, Trustee Morgen Fleisig suggested that the board leave the public hearing open so they could get “documentation from our engineer that actually supports [the four-way stop] design.” He referred to “at least two engineers over the last 20 years saying that this intersection does not warrant stop signs.”

Alligood explained that the stop signs could serve as an interim measure before the upcoming Ravensdale redesign project, for which the Village received plans, by James J. Hahn Engineering, last year. The roadway's \$2.4 million upgrade includes the addition of bike lanes, as well as new and replaced sidewalks.

Implementing stop signs before the school year is “much faster and less expensive” than a push-button system, Alligood said. This could be an opportunity to evaluate the efficacy and safety of stop signs and determine whether the Village should include a push-button system in the full Ravensdale project. Alligood said that instead of “waiting years” on the push-button signs, which requires new infrastructure, “we could actually put the stop signs in now as a safety measure that [the engineers] did not disapprove of. They just said that there are better safety measures.”

Trustee Malaika Sundberg agreed, saying

Continued on page 10



Molly Roberts and her hives at the Zinsser Community Garden.

Bees add buzz to Zinsser Community Garden

Family installs hives and enclosure

BY AMY BOCHNER

Hastings resident Molly Roberts visits the Zinsser Community Garden every day to tend to her bees, which live in a “honeybee habitat” designed by her daughter, Seren Zamore.

In April 2025, Zamore, then a junior at Hastings High School, received a grant of \$3,000 to build the structure with her family.

The funds were provided by the Village of Hastings, which received \$100,000 from Bloomberg Philanthropies in the second round of Youth Climate Action Fund grants. This program offered teens and young adults microgrants to design and produce local climate initiatives.

The project idea originated with Zamore wanting to combine her love of animals with her interest in building, and she and Roberts decided to take the lead together. Zamore, who will study architecture at Wesleyan University beginning this fall, wanted to design and build the structure, while her mother wanted to take care of the bees. Roberts is an 18-year Hastings resident and a professor of product design at Pratt University. Her interest in beekeeping began almost two years ago, when she joined the Pratt's “Bee Club.”

After receiving the Youth Climate Action Fund grant, the family created a 15-by-18-foot enclosure containing two wooden hive

stands. They consulted with Brooks Ballard, who manages the community garden, and recreation leader Nicole Higgins to find an ideal spot on the southeast side of the community garden, away from other plots.

A beehive is best started in the early spring, according to Roberts. A year after receiving the grant, the first batch of pollinators arrived. Since then, Roberts has maintained the hives with Nathaniel Solares, who joined the project during his senior year internship and continued after graduating.

Roberts visits the bees every day to observe “their behavior to see if anything is new and different.” She opens the hives once a month to make sure the hive's queen is still there and laying eggs. In total, Roberts spends at least five hours a week tending the bees.

Working with two hives, she's discovered that they have distinct personalities. “One is super docile, kind, and sweet,” she said. “The other one is really spicy... They're calm, but there's something about them that gets them a little bit agitated, like if I do something a little differently when I'm opening the hives... It's just funny. It's just like having kids; they're never the same.”

The question Roberts is considering now is: What's next?

As a professor, she hopes to continue educating high school students and to bring more awareness to the project. Another consideration is how to keep the honeybee habitat manageable.

In April, she had 10,000 bees and one

hive. As of this month, this has increased to 80,000 bees and two hives.

According to Roberts, “Once you have two hives, you tend to keep adding.”

“After a while, they'll start to split and swarm,” she said. “Not now, but in the spring, so I probably will need an extra hive in case that happens.”

The additional costs for the project beyond the grant have come out of Roberts' own pocket. While working on ways to ensure the project is financially sustainable, she is also learning from other beekeepers. The experience, she believes, has made her a better teacher.

“One of the first steps in teaching design is pure observation, training your eye to notice details, from light to color to form to material to surfaces,” she said. “When I open up the hives, I'm training my observation skills on a new set of principles, where I'm having the bees teach me what to observe.”

By having this project in a public space, Roberts hopes to bring awareness to the benefits of honeybees, while making people less afraid of them.

“These honeybees are so gentle and sweet,” she said. “The only time they bite or are angry is if they think that you're gonna hurt one of their bees, or you're gonna take their honey away... But you always work slowly and thoughtfully, and you always observe first before you go into the hive. It's a really beautiful practice. It's trying to [make] people aware of the beauty of having these honeybees in the community.”

Rosedale and Ravensdale
Continued from page 9

that her understanding is that while the engineers said the stop signs weren't warranted, that is "very different than them advising against it."

"If this is something we can try out for a period of time and then commit to something different, if we feel it is insufficient, then at least we're taking steps toward increasing safety... I get the desire to make sure that we do it right, but I worry about not doing [anything] while we figure out what the best thing is."

Fleisig questioned how the board would evaluate the outcomes of the stop signs.

"Every other time we've implemented a traffic study," he said, "we've actually set up a test. We've been very clear what the criteria are. We've employed a traffic engineer to measure it and provide data. We have no criteria or data."

Alligood stated that measuring the efficacy of stop signs is difficult, and uses qualitative over quantitative data.

"It's people who show up, or write letters, show up to the Safety Council meetings, show up to these meetings, or write letters," he said. "It's also just purely a visual or lived experience trying to cross."

Four board members voted to close the public hearing and approve the law, while Fleisig opposed both motions.



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IRVINGTON

Tech Angels

Saturday, Aug. 29, 10:30 a.m.–noon. Irvington Public Library. Drop in for assistance with your phone, computer, or other device.

Historical Society Exhibit

Saturday, Aug. 29, 1–4 p.m.

McVickar House, 131 Main St. Opening of “Neither Bought Nor Conquered” — The Revolutionary War and the Tenant Farmers of Philipsburg Manor,” curated by Char Weigel.

Farmers Market

Sunday, Aug. 30, 9 a.m.–

1:30 p.m. Main Street School, 101 Main St. irvingtonfarmersmarket.org

1776 “Capitol for a Day”

Sunday, Aug. 30, 12:30–4 p.m. Memorial Park, at Dows Lane and Broadway. Free living-history experience.

1876 Centennial Garden Party

Sunday, Aug. 30, 4–7 p.m. The Armour-Stiner Octagon House, 45 W. Clinton Ave. Purchase tickets (\$150; 50% off for Irvington residents with code IRV250) at armourstiner.com.

Chair/Mat Pilates

Tuesday, Sept. 1, 1 p.m. Irvington Public Library.

Tabletop Game Night for Adults and Seniors

Tuesday, Sept. 1, 6:30–8:45 p.m. Irvington Public Library.

Votes postponed about Varma

During their meeting on Aug. 25, the Irvington Board of Trustees put off decisions on two resolutions regarding Varma Development’s proposal for the 4.2-acre property at 76 North Broadway.

The votes were postponed because only two of the board’s five members — Mayor Arlene Burgos and Trustee David Zweibel — were present in person. Trustees Kent Kleinman and Larry Ogradnek attended via Zoom, while Trustee Josie Bloom was absent. The board plans to vote on the resolutions during a special meeting on Thursday, Sept. 3, at 7 p.m.

The resolutions would exempt Varma’s proposal from review under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and allow for an additional 5% in lot coverage and an additional .05 in floor area ratio in exchange for a sixth moderate-income housing unit, which is one more than required by code.

Varma wants to demolish the existing mansion, called Woodcliff Manor, and construct 53 residential units, including six moderate-income units and six affordable units, as well as an early-education facility with 13 classrooms for between 155 and 176 children.

Lot coverage is the sum of all areas covered by principal and accessory buildings, while floor area ratio is the gross floor area of all buildings on a lot divided by the gross site area of the lot.

During the meeting, objections to the resolutions were made by attorney Rhea Mallet on behalf of an unspecified number of Irvington residents and by Peter Budeiri, who read a letter signed by himself and fellow architects Arthur Chabon, Earl Ferguson, Kenneth Lewis, Joseph Pell Lombardi, and Michael Lombardi.

In their letter, the architects point out that an earlier proposal by Varma, for 57 units, repurposed Woodcliff Manor, which they support, and could include a sixth moderate-income unit.

Cyrus Field opposition

Ten letters from residents about the proposal to relocate the public works department from South Buckhout Street to the police department firing range off Cyrus Field Road were attached to the agenda for the board of trustees meeting on Aug. 25. The letters ranged from concerns to opposition.

Got news?

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



Katerina Wong at the Irvington Theater

New theater director foresees a cultural hub

Village venue welcomes Dobbs Ferry resident

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Dobbs Ferry resident Katerina (Katie) Wong has taken the helm of the Irvington Theater, filling a key position that has been vacant for almost six months.

For the past 15 years, Wong has worked as a freelance dancer and choreographer, and she spent almost four years as a co-artistic director leading a San Francisco-based contemporary dance company called RAW-dance, before moving back to the East Coast in 2023.

Growing up in New Jersey, Wong watched her mother, Robin Gerson Wong, who appeared on Broadway in a musical called “Good News,” run her own theater school, and Katie helped out as a young choreographer.

A 2010 graduate of Princeton University, Wong also sits on the board of trustees of the Triangle Club, which is the university’s student-run musical theater organization.

“I loved all of the conversations I had with the Irvington Theater Commission and the [village] board of trustees and everyone who was a part of the hiring experience,” Wong told the Dispatch. “I feel like it only built up my excitement and interest in stepping into this role.”

Wong started on July 28. Chad Austin had served as artistic director of the Village-owned venue for 26 days before resigning on Jan. 31. Austin’s title differed from

Wong’s — theater director — and from the “theater manager” title Greg Allen held for 11 years prior to Austin’s arrival.

“We’re thrilled to welcome Katie and have already started to collaborate on some exciting projects for the upcoming season,” theater commission co-president Shana Liebman wrote the Dispatch. “She will be a great addition to the theater, helping us move forward on this next chapter.”

Wong and family — husband Dennis Zollo, and their daughter, 4, and son, 2 — moved to Dobbs Ferry in 2025 after one year living on Main Street in Irvington, down the block from the theater. Before the theater reopened in 2024, all four visited an open house there that had an impact on Wong.

“We looked around the spaces, we met with some of the people on the commission and the staff at the time, we met with people who had history performing on the stage,” Wong recalled. “I watched my daughter jump onstage and twirl around, and I felt so grateful that we lived so close to such a great cultural center.”

In her role as theater director, Wong plans to explore opportunities for partnerships with existing local organizations, commissioned work from local and outside artists, festivals that bring together several acts, and performances that are touring regionally. Her vision includes promoting local talent to open for touring artists. Wong is also focused on finding unique ways to provide a platform for children in local school districts to perform and partner with arts organizations that are either affiliated with

the Rivertowns, or passing through for an event at the theater.

Around the time of Austin’s departure Irvington Theater’s former marketing manager, Brad Ogden, and former technical and operations manager, Ryan Frame, also stepped down. Owen Mannion has since taken over as technical and operations manager, while the job of marketing manager is still open. Wong praised the work of Mannion, box office manager Eduardo Balbuena, and the dozen other technical, box office, and front of house staff, while admitting there’s still more infrastructure to put in place.

“Some of the logistical things that I think will make a pretty quick impact is building our staffing structure so that we feel like there are the people here to support all of the operations and programming that we hope to be flowing through in a really sustainable way,” Wong explained.

Wong is looking forward to a future where the theater is a frequent destination for local audiences and programming represents a wide variety of disciplines.

“All of the different modes and genres we can bring here, I feel like allow for more opportunities and entry points for people to feel curious, invested, and welcomed into this space,” Wong said. “And then we can create that sense of momentum where we can become a facet of people’s everyday lives, where they think about what they want to do this weekend and one of the things they do is come to our website and see what’s going on.”

The Agenda

SATURDAY AUGUST 29

Concert in the Park

ARDSLEY

6–8 p.m. / Free. Pascone Park, 507 Ashford Ave. The summer concert series continues with Gil Parris and Friends. Bring a blanket or chair for lawn seating. ardsleyvillage.gov/parks-recreation

Femme Fighters

ARDSLEY

8 p.m. / No cover charge. Saw Mill Tavern, 925 Saw Mill River Road. Featuring female-fronted rock covers. Reservations encouraged. smtavern.com

Children's Book Nook

DOBBS FERRY

1–4 p.m. / Free. Keeper's House, 15 Walnut St. Explore a special selection of books and interactive displays in a cozy space. Also on Sunday. aqueduct.org

New Exhibit

IRVINGTON

1–4 p.m. / Free. McVickar House, 131 Main St. The Irvington Historical Society presents "'Neither Bought Nor Conquered' — The Revolutionary War and the Tenant Farmers of Philipsburg Manor." Meet curator Char Weigel. On view Saturdays and Thursdays, 1–4 p.m., through January 2027. irvingtonhistorical.society.org

Screening: "The Scarlet Coat"

TARRYTOWN

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

Vocalist Ann Hampton Callaway

TARRYTOWN

7 and 9:30 p.m. / \$40, \$35 for students. Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. The Tony-nominated singer-songwriter showcases her pop-jazz style in her show, "Here's to Life." jazzforumarts.org

Summer Saturdays: "Preserves and Pickles"

SLEEPY HOLLOW

11 a.m.–3 p.m. / \$18, \$15 for ages 18–25 and 65+, \$13 for children. Philipsburg Manor, 381 N. Broadway. Explore historic food preservation methods, and learn about drying, canning, and smoking while pickling radishes and making sachets. Purchase timed-entry tickets at hudsonvalley.org

SUNDAY AUGUST 30

Outdoor Live Music: Milton

DOBBS FERRY

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



Gil Parris and Friends perform at Pascone Park in Ardsley on Saturday, Aug. 29.

1776 "Capitol for a Day"

IRVINGTON

12:30–4 p.m. / Free. Memorial Park, at the intersection of Dows Lane and Broadway. Living history experience with re-enactors, storytelling, and crafts commemorating the one day in 1776 when Irvington's Odell Tavern served as the seat of the new New York State government. irvingtonhistoricalsociety.org

1876 Centennial Garden Party

IRVINGTON

4–7 p.m. / \$150; 50% off for Irvington residents with code IRV250. The Armour-Stiner Octagon House, 45 W. Clinton Ave. The summer soirée honors America's semiquincentennial with master storyteller Jonathan Kruk, re-enactors, croquet, sleight-of-hand magic, silhouette art, and 1876-inspired food. Includes two complimentary tickets for beer and wine. Recommended for ages 12+. Advance tickets required. armourstiner.com

Lighthouse Swim

SLEEPY HOLLOW

8 a.m. / \$100, free for spectators. Kingsland Point Park, 299 Palmer Ave. Three-mile swim across the Hudson River from Nyack to Sleepy Hollow in support of Feeding Westchester and other local charities. For ages 14+. Register at thelighthouseswim.org

Guitarist Andy Bianco

TARRYTOWN

4 and 6 p.m. / \$35, \$30 for students. Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. jazzforumarts.org

History Tour

YONKERS

11 a.m. / \$15. Untermyer Park and Gardens, 945 N. Broadway. Purchase tickets online. untermyergardens.org

"Playdates with Po'Jazz"

YONKERS

2–4 p.m. / Free. Blue Door Art Center, 13 Riverdale Ave. Features poetry and jazz performances and an art table for kids. bluedoorartcenter.org

Sonnambula: Renaissance and Baroque Music

YONKERS

6 p.m. / \$35. Untermyer Park and Gardens, 945 N. Broadway. The Minnie Untermyer Concert Series continues with artistic interpretations of jazz classics. untermyergardens.org

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 2

Musiquita

TARRYTOWN

11 a.m. / Free. Warner Library, 121 N. Broad-

way. The bilingual musical duo gives an interactive performance for all ages. warnerlibrary.org

Astronomy for Grown-ups

YONKERS

2 p.m. / \$23 for adults, \$16 for seniors, \$14 for ages 3–18, free for members. Hudson River Museum, 511 Warburton Ave. Learn the surprising reality behind some common misconceptions about space in a planetarium show, followed by a Q&A. Reservations recommended. hrm.org

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 3

Roberta Piket Organ Trio

DOBBS FERRY

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

Waterfront Concert: Steel Passion

TARRYTOWN

7–9 p.m. / Free. Pierson Park, 238 W. Main St. Presented by the Tarrytown Recreation Department. tarrytownny.gov

Movie on the Lawn: "E.T."

TARRYTOWN

Sunset / \$5. Tarrytown House Estate, 49 East Sunnyside Lane. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. tarrytownhouseestate.com

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 4

Sirens of Song

ARDSLEY

8:30 p.m. / No cover charge. Saw Mill Tavern, 925 Saw Mill River Road. The female-fronted band pays tribute to the music of the 1990s Lilith Fair era. Reservations encouraged. smtavern.com

Davis Stryker Quartet

TARRYTOWN

7 and 9:30 p.m. / \$35, \$30 for students. Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. Also on Sept. 5. jazzforumarts.org

Waterfront Concert: The Saints

TARRYTOWN

7–9 p.m. / Free. Pierson Park, 238 W. Main St. Presented by the Tarrytown Recreation Department. tarrytownny.gov

Mariachi Music and Dance

YONKERS

5–8 p.m. / Free. Hudson River Museum, 511 Warburton Ave. Celebrate the start of Hispanic Heritage Month with live music in the museum's courtyard. hrm.org

Opinion

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

Thanks to pastor for seven years of service in Dobbs Ferry

To the Editor:

On Sunday, Aug. 30, at 11:30 a.m., members of Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Pompeii Parish will come together to celebrate mass at Our Lady of Pompeii Church. This will be a farewell celebration to honor Fr. Christopher Monturo and to express gratitude for his outstanding service to the parish and to the community for the past seven years.

Father Chris will begin a new appointment

as pastor of the Church of the Resurrection in Rye on Sept. 1. During his years in Dobbs Ferry, his faith and leadership have brought tremendous vitality to the parish and to the wider community.

I am deeply grateful for all that Father Chris has done for so many in our village. His compassion and wisdom have touched the lives of countless people, and his presence among us will be greatly missed.

As he begins this new chapter in his ministry, I offer heartfelt prayers and best wishes. May his new appointment be filled with the same fulfillment, grace, and joy that he has so generously shared with all of us.

Donald P. Marra

DOBBS FERRY

Delaney Hall

Continued from page 1

Mami Chelo Foundation, benches that had been beside Delaney Hall's entrance were removed this past May following the month-long hunger and labor strike by detained individuals protesting the facility's conditions. The issues, Pillay said, include mold, lack of clean drinking water, poor air circulation, and a lack of proper medical treatment.

Kathy O'Leary, an organizer as well as the coordinator of Pax Christi New Jersey, told the Dispatch that the volunteers' primary goal is to get the visiting family members access inside, which can be a challenge. Family members are often turned away due to the facility's dress code, she said. Among its rules are no open-toed shoes, no tight clothing, and no sleeveless tops. The volunteer-run compliance table offers clothing and shoes to visitors whose attire doesn't align with the dress code.

O'Leary also described a lack of communication between the facility and families. There are six units inside Delaney Hall, five for men and one for women, each of which has different visiting schedules. Often, according to O'Leary, those detained are switched from one unit to another without their families being notified. She frequently sees families arrive at Delaney Hall only to discover that their loved one is now in a unit with visiting hours on a different day.

Families are also not informed when or if their loved one is transferred to a different facility. O'Leary recalled one family who drove from Georgia to pick up their loved one, who was supposed to be released that day. However, while the family was standing in the driveway, their loved one was transferred to Texas.

One of the volunteers, Sandra, who withheld her last name for privacy purposes, found herself in a similar circumstance nine months ago. Her husband, Letif, has lived

Ties that children of detainees tied to a fence outside Delaney Hall this past Father's Day.

in the United States for 38 years and was picked up by ICE in August 2025. He was taken to Delaney Hall before being moved among various facilities across the country, without his wife knowing where he was. After being sent back to Delaney Hall for a period of time, Letif was put in solitary confinement.

"They tortured him while he was in solitary," Sandra said. "They made it ice cold. They didn't give him a blanket. They didn't give him anything to stay warm. He still has a pinched nerve in his neck because of how much he was shivering."

After four months in detention and nearly being deported multiple times, Letif returned home that November, but Sandra said he has "not been the same since." Both struggle with PTSD.

"I know that they tortured him more, but he's not telling me everything because he doesn't want me to be upset," Sandra said. "I'll get episodes of shaking, for no reason. I just sit there and start crying."

Typically, a handful of people are released each day, according to O'Leary. She recalled how, a few weeks prior, the volunteers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FURNISHED APARTMENT WANTED, IRVINGTON AREA

Former Head of School, quiet, self-employed, no pets, looking for a furnished place in the Rivertowns starting mid-October or November. A guest house, cottage, in-law apartment, or a house-sit for someone away for the winter. Two to four months, flexible on longer. Local references. 617.823.8213 or yonibinus@gmail.com.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE — SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Irvington will hold a special meeting on Thursday, September 3, 2026 at 7PM at Village Hall, 85 Main Street, Irvington.

Katie Bugna, Clerk-Treasurer
Irvington, NY
August 26, 2026

Classies

Submissions are due by 12 p.m. Monday for that Friday's paper. To purchase a classified notice, go to market.rivertownsendispatch.com/classies

PHOTO WALL



CAT OF THE WEEK

Umberto is one of the Paws Crossed

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the detainees to close it down."

Currently detained in Delaney Hall is 36-year-old engineer and New Jersey resident Amro Seham, who is experiencing a worsening medical issue. His wife, Enas Mahmoud, told the Dispatch that ICE detained Seham, who has lived in the U.S. for 20 years, 10 months ago. Seham had a history of abdominal issues that required a strict diet and colon surgery, which, according to Mahmoud, he was still awaiting while in detention. As a result, Seham's condition has deteriorated, with his spleen, kidneys, and liver affected.

Along with worrying about her husband's health, Mahmoud is now the sole breadwinner for her three children, all American citizens. Her mother used to help her, but is now battling cancer. Mahmoud struggles with her mental health, as do her children.

"My daughter keeps asking when our lives will go back to normal," she said. "[My older son] has trouble speaking... [My younger son] doesn't really understand yet, since he's still a baby, but he cries for his dad when he sees his picture."

Much of the volunteers' work centers on these children. Beneath the shade of a tree is a makeshift garden, planted with the children's help on Aug. 4 to honor Edwin Lopez-Cornejo. The 39-year-old died in Delaney Hall from a "medical emergency" on Aug. 1, according to ICE's website. While O'Leary told the Dispatch about the memorial service, a 9-year-old girl, who helped with the garden and whose father has been detained inside the facility for five months, asked where her flower was planted.

Witnessing the financial and emotional toll on these families, O'Leary often feels like a part of "a disaster response."

"We are putting all these families, these children, in a huge crisis," Pillay said. "Our work here, which has grown fundamentally from last year, is that we are here to support the families, walk alongside them, to show them they're not alone."

cheered when a 39-year-old Newark resident was released after a year in detention. The man, who chose to remain anonymous, visited the volunteers on Aug. 23. He told the Dispatch that he had come to the U.S. from Ghana four years ago, has a work permit, and is in the process of claiming asylum. Despite having no warrant, he said ICE agents took him from his home in July 2025.

While at Delaney Hall, he became ill, developed severe hemorrhoids, and lost 30 pounds. His condition worsened for six months before officers took him to the hospital, where he received multiple blood transfusions.

Also present on Aug. 23 was Marianne Delaney, the niece of the woman for whom the facility is named. Geraldine Delaney, who passed away in 1998, was a pioneer in substance misuse treatment. Delaney Hall opened in 2000 as a drug rehabilitation center.

"It was all about lifting people up and saving lives, giving them hope in recovery, which is the opposite of what this is," Marianne Delaney told the Dispatch. "It's very painful to see her name on it, our family name. We are deferring to the demands of

Sports

EDITED BY ROB DIANTONIO

FALL SPORTS PREVIEW

— PART 1 —

New season, new goals for Rivertowns teams

BY ROB DIANTONIO

As the fall varsity sports practices got underway on Aug. 24, the Rivertowns Dispatch caught up with some local teams heading into the 2026 season. Look out for more fall sports previews in our Sept. 4 edition.

GIRLS' SOCCER

ARDSLEY

After a 9-6-2 season that saw Ardsley finish second in its league before falling to Pelham in the opening round of the Class A playoffs, the Panthers enter the 2026 season looking to take another step forward.

Second-year coach Beau Thompson believes the team has the talent and chemistry to compete for a league championship while also making a deeper postseason run in a strong Class A field.

"Our expectations are to build off of the successes of last season," Thompson said. "We are aiming this season to challenge for the league title."

Ardsley returns a strong core of players, including several who earned all-league honors. Sophomore defender Ariana DiBlasi is fast, physical, strong defensively, and brings confidence on the ball, according to Thompson. Junior defender Helene Dillon, an all-league selection, netted nine goals last season while establishing herself as a confident and composed presence in the back.

Senior midfielder Alexis Fitzsimmons is a versatile piece who filled several roles last season and contributed five goals. Her high work rate and tidy play make her an important part of Ardsley's midfield, Thompson noted.

Senior forward Hazel McGourty will provide a dangerous attacking presence. Quick and intelligent, McGourty has a proven nose for the goal and scored seven goals last season. Junior midfielder Riley Osborne, an all-league selection in 2025, gives Ardsley versatility in the middle of the field, with the ability to impact the attack.

Senior midfielder Ava Santavicca returns and is a dangerous forward who is willing to put in the defensive work. Sophomore midfielder Katharine Toth, another all-league pick last year, brings technical ability and tactical flexibility after contributing six goals in 2025.

With that returning group, Thompson sees one of Ardsley's biggest strengths as



Ardsley senior midfielder Alexis Fitzsimmons. File photo by Rob DiAntonio.

its collective chemistry.

"Our team plays well together and has great team chemistry and spirit," he said. "Our team is selfless and cares deeply about one another both on and off the field."

Ardsley's goals are to challenge for the league title, finish in the top half of Section 1 Class A, earn a home playoff match, and advance at least to the quarterfinal or semifinal round.

"We will no longer catch any team by surprise and will get every team's 'A-game,'" Thompson said. "We have to continue to work hard day in and day out to continue to grow as a program."

VOLLEYBALL

DOBBS FERRY

The Dobbs Ferry Eagles enter the 2026 volleyball season with unfinished business — and nearly their entire roster back to finish it.

The Eagles graduated just one player from last year's team, which went 18-5 overall and reached the Section 1 Class B championship match. Dobbs jumped out to a 2-0 lead against Putnam Valley and was one point away from winning the third set,

but Putnam Valley rallied to force a fourth set and then took the next two for a heartbreaking championship loss.

That experience has given the Eagles plenty of motivation, with coach Patty Duane entering her 23rd season as the program's varsity head coach.

Dobbs Ferry will again face a challenging Class B field that includes Croton-Harmon, Hastings, Irvington, Pawling, and Putnam Valley.

"We have a tough Class B group again," Duane said. "I expect many of the same teams to be vying [for the title] at the end."

The Eagles return a veteran group that includes several players with multiple years of varsity experience. Senior outside hitter Taylor Denike was named all-section and all-state in 2025. She is a strong attacker and server who plays all six rotations, giving Dobbs Ferry an experienced

Dobbs Ferry senior Grace Demitrovic. File photo by Rob DiAntonio.

presence in serve-receive and defense as well as at the net. Denike has committed to Franklin & Marshall College.

Senior Natasha Mansfield also returns as an experienced six-rotation player. A 2025 all-section and all-state selection, Mansfield is a strong attacker and smart server who brings strong passing skills and a high level of game awareness.

Senior Grace Demitrovic returns at setter after earning all-conference honors last season. Duane describes her as a talented and consistent setter who also loves to attack and is a strong passer.

Senior Hollen Peet, an all-league selection in 2025, gives the Eagles versatility at outside hitter. "She has all the skills and game IQ to play in multiple positions," Duane said.

Senior Layla Wilbekin returns at setter/defensive specialist after an all-league season. She provides another talented option at setter while also making plays defensively and scoring points

Continued on page 15



Sports

from the service line, Duane noted. Sophomore libero Jocelyn Jakasal will be counted on to lead the backcourt. “Quick, consistent defender who can also score points on her serve,” Duane said.

The Eagles also return juniors Brielle Jean at middle blocker and Kayla Rukaj, who can play middle blocker or outside hitter.

With so much experience returning, Dobbs Ferry’s goal is straightforward.

“Our goal for the season is to return to the sectional finals,” Duane said. “Being so close to winning that last year left an easy goal for us. We return many of the same players as last year who have even more experience and the hunger to get it done.”

The Eagles’ established strengths are serving and passing, while the team will look to take another step offensively and continue improving defensively.

“We would like to advance our offensive system,” Duane said, “and defense is always an area for improvement — at the net and in the backcourt.”

Dobbs Ferry’s depth and versatility should allow Duane to use different combinations while keeping experienced players on the floor. “Our players have strong all-around skills which allow for flexibility in our line-ups,” she said.

But the biggest advantage may simply be how long this group has played together.

“Our top strength is our experience playing together,” Duane said. “We are excited to welcome our new players and merge their talents into the program.”

BOYS’ SOCCER

ARDSLEY

Coming off a one-win season that ended without a Section 1 playoff berth, Ardsley enters the new campaign with a reshaped roster and renewed expectations. The Panthers are in the second season of coach Luis Lewis’ tenure, and he believes the program is in the midst of a “cultural reboot.” With 10 players returning and 11 newcomers, Ardsley will look to blend a promising young core with a handful of veterans.

“We have had a tremendous amount of turnover from last year’s squad,” Lewis said.

The Panthers expect their biggest strength to be in the back, where senior defenders Ethan Menezes, Brendan Berlin, and Lewis Schoenberg will anchor the defense. Menezes, an all-league selection in 2025, will also serve as one of the team’s captains.

Junior defensive midfielder Eshan Kapoor, another all-league selection, is entering his second season as a starter and will be an important presence in front of the backline. Sophomore Ryan Yazdanbakhsh also returns after starting on defense as a freshman last season.



Hastings junior midfielder Charles Baer. *File photo by Rob DiAntonio.*

Yazdanbakhsh earned all-league honors in 2025 and will join Menezes and Kapoor as a team captain.

“We should be competitive in a tough and well-balanced league,” Lewis said.

Ardsley junior midfielder Gabe Martinez is expected to be the team’s primary playmaker and is considered by Lewis to be the squad’s most skilled player. Senior winger Ryan Erfani and senior striker Sebastian Chacon will form the Panthers’ veteran attacking combination.

Several players will step into first-year starting roles, including junior goalie Henry Brumm, junior midfielder Jiseok Oh, junior forward Anthony Giambrone, and junior defender Lucas Chacon.

The Panthers have already put considerable work into building chemistry. The team finished third in the winter league, third in the spring league, and advanced to the semifinals of the Ossining Varsity Summer League. “That has been an excellent experience and has molded them into a stronger unit,” Lewis noted.

Ardsley also expects to benefit from a much more favorable home schedule. The Panthers have seven home matches this season after playing just two at home last year, when turf was under construction.

When it comes to team goals, Lewis has his team aiming for a sectional playoff berth while also contending for the league title.

Ardsley will get additional opportunities to test itself early, competing in the Ossining River Cup on Sept. 5-6 before hosting the inaugural Rivertowns Varsity Cup on Sept. 17 and 19.

HASTINGS

Hastings enters the season looking to build on a 7-8-2 campaign that ended with a first-round sectional exit. Now, with the Yellow Jackets moving up to Class A competition, the challenge — and the opportunity — is even greater.

Joe Callagy is entering his third season as head coach and will rely on a solid group of returning players. Junior goalkeeper Justin Wilmot, senior defender Baz Van Der Sande, and junior midfielders Charles Baer, Zack Brower, and Felix Casey give Hastings experience throughout the field.

Junior forward Louis von Rege is an impactful newcomer who could provide a boost to an attack that will need to become more productive this season.

Hastings’ biggest strength should come on the defensive end. Callagy said that “goalkeeping, defensive stability, and depth” are expected to be the team’s strengths.



The biggest question will be whether Hastings can consistently turn that defensive stability into goals. “Goal-scoring volume and consistency” will need to improve, particularly with the move up to Class A, according to Callagy.

The Yellow Jackets have set a clear post-season objective after last year’s early exit. “Win a playoff game and put ourselves in position to make a run,” Callagy said.

FIELD HOCKEY

IRVINGTON

After finishing 3-12-2 last season and falling in the first round of the Class C sectionals, the Bulldogs return with a strong focus on continued growth, development, and building a positive team culture.

Among the team’s key returning players are senior goalkeepers Zoya Bhandari and Sophia Quinio, both of whom earned all-league honors last season. Junior forward Sadie Kilbury, an all-section honorable mention selection, also returns to provide an important presence offensively.

While those players bring notable experience, many players on the team have

stepped into key roles and made significant contributions to the team’s success, according to coach Arielle Rodriguez. That continued development throughout the roster will be an important part of Irvington’s season.

“As always, our goal is to acclimate new players to the high school level while continuing to build our program’s culture, skills, and knowledge of the game,” Rodriguez said. “Additionally, we look forward to recognizing and celebrating our growth and successes, both big and small throughout the course of the season.”

One of Irvington’s biggest strengths is its commitment to learning and developing, both individually and collectively.

“We are dedicated to continuously learning and developing both individual skills and knowledge, while also growing together as a team,” Rodriguez said. “While we have players across all grade levels, the team does a great job of balancing their voices, supporting one another, and contributing to a positive team environment.”

SLEEPY HOLLOW/BRIARCLIFF

After a 3-12-1 season a year ago, Sleepy Hollow/Briarcliff enters the season looking to take a step forward, led by a veteran group that has grown together throughout its time at the varsity level.

While the roster includes players from both schools, Sleepy Hollow will be looking to its own experienced core to help set the tone. Seniors Eliza Boozer and Ruby Wild Arons are two of six players who make up the team’s leaders, joining Briarcliff seniors Lila Fenimore, Courtney Isola, Ava Golczewski, and Sydney Weiss. All six have been with the program since their freshman seasons.

“We have a strong core of seniors who have been with us since their freshman year,” said coach Michael Marchese, who enters his eighth season. “Those six seniors make up our team’s leadership council.”

Boozer and Wild Arons will be counted on to provide leadership for a Sleepy Hollow group that hopes to turn its experience into results on the field. The team will also welcome another Sleepy Hollow senior, Jana Reimer, who is new to the program and will take over in goal. Another Sleepy Hollow senior, Joselyn Loza, is an anchor of the defense.

The team’s identity, according to Marchese, will be built around qualities that go beyond the scoreboard. “Our team’s biggest strengths are support of one another, sportsmanship, and tenacious competitiveness,” he said.

The roster also features several younger, less experienced players who will be making the adjustment to varsity field hockey.

“It will take some time to get them adapted to playing at the varsity level,” Marchese said, “though I expect they will start to make a positive impact on the field around midseason.”



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