

Temple bids farewell
Rabbi reflects on 33 years
of marking milestones
p 3

A.I. in Dobbs
District sets policy as
parents express concerns
p 8

Ask the Dispatch
What's happening with
sculptor's former studio?
p 9

Vol 2. Issue 43.

RIVERTOWNS Dispatch

Local News,
Locally Sourced
~

July 3, 2026

\$2⁵⁰

WWW.RIVERTOWNSDISPATCH.COM

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



Send-off

Allan Archer holds his diploma during the Ardsley High School commencement ceremony held at the Purchase College Performing Arts Center on June 25. For a story about that graduation, turn to page 5. For more photos, turn to page 16. Photo by Rob DiAntonio.

Closings reflect challenges for owners of small businesses

BY AMY BOCHNER AND
FRANCESCA DIMARTINO BLANCO

HASTINGS — Inside the Moviehouse Mews on Warburton Avenue, a permanent “closed” sign hangs on the door of Wild Culture Waffles. To the north, Taiim Falafel Shack is locked and empty. To the south, the windows of Hudson Line, a home décor shop, are covered in brown paper. On Spring Street, a flier posted at Vanishing Ink Books announces its final day as July 3.

With these four businesses closed, or on the cusp of closing, merchants described the challenges they experience in Hastings, along with potential ways to make the environment more viable for them.

Wild Culture owners Gaby Montiel and Miguel LaCruz shuttered their shop on June 28. The couple debuted their hand-held, sourdough-based waffles at the Hastings Farmers Market in 2017 before opening their brick-and-mortar shop two years later. For seven years, the eatery garnered praise from customers. In Westchester Magazine’s “Best of Westchester” poll, Wild Culture nabbed

Continued on page 14

Village funding buoys ambulance corps

Dobbs Ferry and Irvington stay afloat with municipal support

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL
REGION — The Dobbs Ferry and Irvington village boards have approved extensions of municipal funding for their communities’ volunteer ambulance corps. On June 1, the Irvington board approved a maximum of \$124,800 through the end of May 2027, while on June 23 the Dobbs Ferry board committed up to \$45,000 for July through September. Both ambulance corps spent months last year considering a possible merger, until those

talks dissolved in November.

“I applaud the village board in continuing to support this essential service,” IVAC captain Lucas Isola told the Dispatch. “There are lots of priorities that sometimes come to local municipalities to fund or support, but Irvington’s village board making the decision to continue to support this essential service that residents count on when they call 911, I think is very commendable.”

The Irvington board had committed \$124,800 to IVAC for the previous year, and \$120,000 from June 2024 to May 2025, which was the first time in 61 years that the Village supported IVAC financially. Isola has

been captain since October 2024.

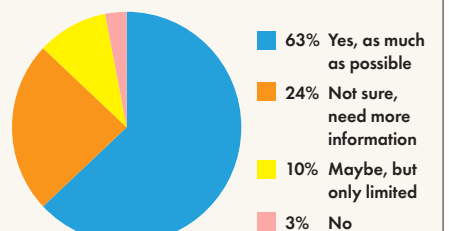
Outside of Village funding, IVAC and DFVAC operate with the help of volunteers, charitable donations, and money generated from insurance company reimbursements for ambulance calls that result in trips to a hospital. If the corps respond to a call, but don’t take a person to a hospital, then they don’t get reimbursed.

“IVAC’s goal is to continue to grow its volunteerism and grow our donations and grants to ensure that we can provide the best service possible for the village,” Isola said. “If there comes a time when we can provide

Continued on page 18

— You Answered —

Should the Rivertowns explore greater collaboration among the school districts?
As answered by 176 readers of the Rivertowns Dispatch



Vote at rivertownsdispatch.com/the-weekly-poll



The Blotter

ARDSLEY

Warrant arrest: On June 25, the Ardsley Police Department was notified that a 38-year-old Yonkers resident who was wanted for shoplifting \$287 worth of items from CVS, 725 Saw Mill River Road (Route 9A), on July 22, 2025 was in custody at the Westchester County Jail for a different crime. He appeared in Ardsley Village Court on June 29.

DOBBS FERRY

Thefts from Ulta: Two thefts from the Ulta Beauty at Rivertowns Square were reported on June 22. The first happened on the evening of Saturday, June 20, when a woman shop-

lifted items worth \$2,333. The second happened on the afternoon of Sunday, June 21, when a man and woman shoplifted items worth \$1,841.

Check fraud: On June 27, a Dobbs Ferry resident reported that a \$4,800 check he had mailed on June 14 had been altered and then cashed. The name of the payee had been changed.

Suspended license: A 19-year-old Dobbs Ferry resident with a suspended driver's license was arrested for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree, a misdemeanor, on High Street on the morning of Sunday, June 28. He was also cited for two violations — an unregistered vehicle and improper license plates.

HASTINGS

Man slaps woman: An unidentified man slapped a woman's buttocks on the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail

(OCA) at Zinsser Park on the evening of Sunday, June 21. The man stated that there was a bug on the woman. He walked southbound on the trail. He was described as 5 feet, 5 inches tall, in his 20s, with olive skin, and wearing a U.S. Soccer jersey. In March 2025, similar incidents had occurred on Broadway (Route 9) at Oak Street in Dobbs Ferry, on the OCA at West Clinton Avenue in Irvington, and on Broadway at Edgars Lane in Hastings. He was never apprehended.

Theft of tip jar: An unidentified man stole the tip jar from the counter at New China Restaurant, 531 Warburton Ave., on the afternoon of Wednesday, June 24.

Stolen vehicle arrest: A 42-year-old resident of Kingston, Mass., was arrested for driving a stolen 2026 Subaru Forester on Broadway on the morning of Thursday, June 25. The theft happened on June 24 in Plymouth, Mass. He was charged with criminal possession of stolen prop-

erty in the third degree, a felony. Officer Brandon King made the arrest.

Mischief to vehicle: A 2022 Honda CRV parked at Saw Mill Lofts, off Saw Mill River Road, was scratched between Saturday, June 27, and Sunday, June 28.

IRVINGTON

Mischief to banner: A 34-year-old New Rochelle resident cut down a Pride Month banner outside

Continued on page 23

Coyotes continue to cause a stir

The recent spurt of coyote sightings continued at the Andrus on Hudson nursing home in Hastings on the afternoon of June 23, on Chauncey Lane in Hastings, also on the afternoon of June 23, and on Hudson Road West in Irvington on the morning of June 26. In addition, howling was heard on North Broadway in Irvington on the evening of June 27.

Previous sightings were reported on Mount Hope Boulevard in Hastings on

June 14 and at the multiple locations in Irvington — West Sunnyside Lane on June 6; South Buckhout Street on June 10; Station Road, Leafwood Terrace, Lewis Road, Palliser Road, and at Dows Lane Elementary School on June 12; and on Hudson Road West and at the middle/high school campus on June 22. On Lewis Road, a coyote attacked a dog.

The Irvington Public Library will host a presentation titled "Coexisting with Coyotes" on Thursday, July 9, at 7 p.m., with a representative of the Wolf Conservation Center in South Salem.

RIVERTOWNS Dispatch

PUBLISHER Allison Schulte
allison@rivertownsdispatch.com

EDITOR Tim Lamorte
tim@rivertownsdispatch.com

SPORTS EDITOR Rob DiAntonio
rob@rivertownsdispatch.com

STAFF WRITERS
Julian Michael Caldwell
julian@rivertownsdispatch.com
Amy Bochner
amy@rivertownsdispatch.com

CONTRIBUTORS
Janine Annett
janine@rivertownsdispatch.com
Timothy Reuter
timothy@rivertownsdispatch.com
Laura Schiller
laura@rivertownsdispatch.com

LISTINGS EDITOR Jennifer Gold
jennifer@rivertownsdispatch.com

COPY EDITOR Lauren Casper

DESIGN & PRODUCTION Christy Knell

SALES/PARTNERSHIPS
Trinity Godfrey
trinity@rivertownsdispatch.com

INTERN
James Oley

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

Questions, comments, feedback:
hello@rivertownsdispatch.com
(914) 230-0739

To subscribe, go to:
rivertownsdispatch.com/membership

CELEBRATE SUMMER

KNOWING YOU'RE PROPERLY INSURED WITH
ALLAN BLOCK INSURANCE



PERSONAL & BUSINESS INSURANCE
SALES@AMBINS.COM | (914) 631-4353
WWW.ALLANBLOCKINSURANCE.COM



Rabbi reflects on 33 years of marking life's milestones

BY LAURA SCHILLER

TARRYTOWN — On a Sunday in early June, Rabbi David Holtz stood on the bimah at Temple Beth Abraham in Tarrytown doing what he had done countless times over his 33 years leading the congregation — officiating at a wedding.

This wedding, however, was the first time he presided over the marriage of one of his own children. Standing beneath the chupah was Holly, the eldest of three, and beside him was his wife, Renée, as he recited the prayers and blessings that united the couple in holy matrimony.

It was a fitting capstone to more than three decades Holtz spent celebrating life's milestones with generations of Temple Beth Abraham families before his retirement on July 1.

"It's hard to put into words," Holtz told the Dispatch. "I always feel connected to the joy of the couple and their family. But this time I was both the rabbi and the father, so I felt that much even more connected."

That sense of connection has defined the rabbi's decades leading the congregation.

During a recent Friday night service celebrating his retirement, worshippers were invited to stand if Holtz had touched their lives, whether by teaching them, presiding at a bris, funeral, or other life-cycle event, or being there to share a meaningful moment. As he looked out across the sanctuary, a swell of people rose to their feet.

"I looked out at the congregation and saw how many people I had touched," he said. "I had a good run. It was time well spent."

While he still loves being a rabbi, Holtz, 66, said it's the right time to retire. Since he arrived at Temple Beth Abraham in 1993, he has watched young families join the synagogue, raise children and, like him, send those children out into the world.

He recalled that during his first year in Tarrytown, he officiated at the bat mitzvah of twin sisters. This year, he officiated at the bar mitzvahs of both of their sons — boys whose brises he had also overseen 13 years earlier.

"Like many rabbis, I became a rabbi in part because I wanted to make the world a better place, and I think we've done that in our community," he said.

"What I didn't realize was how much spending time with so many families would impact me," he continued. "As a rabbi, you're invited into some of the most powerful moments in people's lives — when a



Rabbi David Holtz at Temple Beth Abraham

family member dies and they come to talk to you, or when someone is getting married. I knew I'd be part of those moments, but I had no idea how much they would come to mean to me."

Among Holtz's proudest accomplishments

"I became a rabbi in part because I wanted to make the world a better place."

Rabbi David Holtz

is making Beth Abraham accessible to people with disabilities. When he started, the 1956 building lacked the necessary accommodations. Over the years, the congregation upgraded the bathrooms and added a ramp to the bimah, a hearing loop in the sanctuary, and an elevator — an achievement Holtz had worked toward for years.

"I'm very, very proud of that," he said. "We

finally were able to raise the money, making the congregation fully accessible, both physically and spiritually."

Holtz said his commitment to accessibility was rooted in a memory from his teenage years. In high school, he had seen a poster showing a Jewish man in a wheelchair looking up at the steps of a synagogue, unable to get inside. Above the image was a verse from Psalms: "Open for me the gates of righteousness."

"I always thought about that," Holtz said. "That's what I've really done in this congregation. Besides all the things every rabbi does — the heart of being clergy, helping families, and all the rest — this is something I'm really proud of. I brought them along, and they're so proud of themselves for having a building that's now truly accessible."

In retirement, Holtz looks forward to spending more time with his family, returning to his woodworking hobby, traveling, continuing his work with community organizations such as the Tarrytown Rotary, and remaining active in Jewish life.

On July 1, David Z. Vaisberg began his tenure as the synagogue's new rabbi.

Holtz said his lasting message to the congregation is that Judaism should inspire people to live with purpose beyond the synagogue.

As part of their preparation for becoming a bar or bat mitzvah, when they are called to the bimah to help lead the Saturday morning service, each student at Temple Beth Abraham completes a community service project, such as raising money for the homeless, volunteering at an animal shelter, or organizing a clothing drive.

"I always tell them, if I had to pick between having the bar mitzvah service or doing the mitzvah project, I would pick the project. I don't know if you'll lead services again in your life, but I hope that you'll make the world a better place."

"Judaism is not simply about what you celebrate and how you pray," he said. "All of that is really meant to send you out into the world — to leave the world a better place than it was when you found it."

250th anniversary history hunt explores Revolutionary sites

George Washington slept in several Westchester homes. Some of them are still standing, as participants in the Westchester County Historical Society's (WCHS) "250th Anniversary History Hunt: The American

Revolution in Westchester" will discover this summer.

Beginning July 3, participants can register for the free history hunt program that features 47 locations in 30 communities, including former houses and taverns, cemeteries and churches, and sites of skirmishes and battles.

The history hunt is accessed on a mobile app, produced by Ossining-based Otocast. The app provides GPS-guided directions to each site, along with site descriptions,

images, and audio recordings. As proof of visiting a site, participants complete "challenges" that involve taking and uploading photographs to the app.

The sites are organized into geographic areas: (a) River Towns, (b) Sound Shore/Central Westchester, and (c) Northern Westchester. Prizes such as complimentary coupons for family-friendly Westchester museums, restaurants, and amusements will be awarded to all who complete a geographic area. Grand prizes, such as an annual family

membership to Historic Hudson Valley, will be awarded to those who complete challenges at all 47 sites.

To begin the history hunt, download the Otocast app for Apple or Android (www.otocast.com), or use the QR code on the WCHS website (westchesterhistory.com), where there are instructions and a list of sites and addresses. To participate in a low-tech way, email info@westchesterhistory.com or call the WCHS office at (914) 231-1401.



Rivertowns

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

Kavita Kohli, DDS

“My 3 daughters are all teenagers now and have been going to Dr. Kohli since they were toddlers. They have no fear to the dentist and, in fact, love going to their appointments!”

—Keith



training young *pilots* for lifelong dental care

Make an appointment 914-725-9620

495 Central Park Ave., Suite 208, Scarsdale | rivertownspediatricdentistry.com

Get cheese.
Every month.
Bloomy Cheese of
the Month Club



Rivertowns Rotary



Scholarship Awards

Rivertowns Rotary congratulates all 2026 High School graduates. We especially extend our best wishes to this year’s winners of our FRED J. MAIER Rotary Scholarship.

These scholarships are awarded to students carefully selected on the basis of our Rotary International Motto, “SERVICE ABOVE SELF”. They are students who have exhibited excellence in their studies, school activities, and community endeavors to help others.

Ardasley High School: **Zaire Bell**

Dobbs Ferry High School: **Katherine Baizan**

Greenburgh Graham MLK High School: **Aaliyah Gibson**

Hastings-on-Hudson High School: **Sylvie Black**

Irvington High School: **Eva Sandoval**

Rotary
Rivertowns Rotary



www.rivertownsrotary.org



ARDSLEY

— *Coming Up This Week* —

Municipal Office Closure

Friday, July 3

In observance of Independence Day

Movie Matinee: “Revolution”

Monday, July 6, 2 p.m.

Ardsley Public Library

Register at ardsleypubliclibrary.org

Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, July 6, 7:30 p.m.

Village Hall

To attend via Zoom, visit ardsleyvillage.gov for the link

World Cup Watch Party

Monday, July 6, 8 p.m.

Pascone Park

Music and food trucks begin at 6:30 p.m.

Dinosaurs and Fossils from the Bruce Museum

Tuesday, July 7, 4:15 p.m.

Ardsley Public Library

Register at ardsleypubliclibrary.org

Summer Reading Club: Magic Evan

Thursday, July 9, 5 p.m.

Ardsley Public Library

For kids who’ve just finished grades K–5

Register at ardsleypubliclibrary.org

Plein Air Art and History

Thursday, July 9, 6:30 p.m. (rain date July 16)

Ardsley Public Library

Register at ardsleypubliclibrary.org

Call for Muralists

Deadline: July 17

Submit designs for vibrant public art inspired by nature or local history and culture. The link for the application and details are available in the Village’s newsletter or email artscommission@ardsleyvillage.gov

Celebrate Greenburgh Day

Saturday, July 18, 10 a.m.

Anthony F. Veteran Park, 11 Olympic Lane

Admission: \$7 pool entrance fee;

free after 6 p.m.

Festivities include musical entertainment and activities

Got news?

Email staff writer Amy Bochner at amy@rivertownsdispatch.com



Members of the class of 2026 gather before the ceremony. Photo by Rob DiAntonio.

Grads urged to further define themselves

BY AMY BOCHNER

Blue caps with yellow tassels flew through the air at Purchase College’s Performing Arts Center as Ardsley High School’s Class of 2026 celebrated the closing of a chapter on Thursday, June 25.

Throughout the evening, speakers encouraged the 184 graduates to define themselves, but also to remember the experiences that bind them together. Music was performed by the high school’s bands and orchestra, with Adam Hyman and Jeffrey Kinsey conducting, while the school’s select chorus sang an a cappella rendition of Fleetwood Mac’s “Landslide.”

Senior class president Justin Jaeger looked back on his time in Ardsley and what the class of 2026 will carry with them after graduation.

“Ardsley, although 1.32 square miles, has a lot to offer. Our tight-knit community has facilitated strong relationships and bonds,” he said. “I’m sure many of you are looking forward to the future. We should take the time to appreciate all Ardsley has given us. This year has been the most fun I’ve ever had, and I have all of you to thank for that.”

Salutatorian Matthew Kraytman described the future as “uncharted,” giving the students the opportunity to “create the life we envision through purpose and connection.” As they move forward, he said, they would take their experiences in Ardsley with them.

“While we will face new challenges and evolve to confront them, the values born during our years here will not disappear. The same optimism and passion that allowed each one of us to leave a mark on this community will continue. All of us, with our experiences and aspirations, are uniquely

prepared for what is next.”

Student Council president Abel Eldho told his peers to look at failure not with shame, but as “the first step to growth.”

“People forget that the past doesn’t define who you are,” he said. “A bad grade doesn’t define you. Getting cut from a team doesn’t define you. Making mistakes, embarrassing yourself, failing a test, or having a rough year doesn’t define you. What defines you is what you do next.”

With the class of 2026 heading in different directions, valedictorian Khushi Karthikeyan contemplated the meaning of saying farewell.

“In some languages, such as Hawaiian, the same word can mean both farewell and hello,” Karthikeyan said. “We aren’t saying a final goodbye to this place or to each other. We’re creating one more moment to bond us together across time and space. Our stories are all unique and unfinished, but they all contain a common chapter from our shared time in Ardsley.”

School board president Mitchell Kleinman addressed the graduates, among them his son, Jonah. He also shared words of wisdom to their parents.

“Today, when we look at our children and we think to ourselves how much we taught them, it’s also a good idea to remember how much they taught us,” he said. “Walking bravely into elementary school for the first time, swinging a ball on a tee in front of a crowd for the first time ever, playing instruments that looked so big in their tiny hands... We watched them all from the sidelines with big smiles on our faces, and they grew, and life became more difficult, but they rose to the challenge.”

Schools Superintendent Matthew Block imparted to the students the power they have in developing a legacy for themselves.

“While your parents decided on what your name would be approximately 18 years ago, as you go out into the world, you get to shape how that name is defined and what it means to others,” he said. “As you graduate today and leave Ardsley High School, remember that each day your actions, interactions, deeds, and words define who you are and the significance of your name. I look forward to hearing and seeing each of your names in the future connected with many wonderful achievements.”

AHS Principal Danielle Trippodo recognized three faculty members who are retiring. Midge DiMaria, who has served 41 years as an aide in the district, “truly loves our students, and they truly love her,” Trippodo said. Also retiring is Rocco Russo, a member of the facilities department since 1995. Trippodo said he has been “vital in the maintenance and functioning of our building... fixing and repairing things that were not repairable, but somehow he would do it.”

The third retiree was Catherine Fuller, who has taught math for 40 years, 29 of them at Ardsley High School. Trippodo described her as a “rock star” who “truly embodies student-centered education.” For her service to the district, Fuller received an honorary diploma.

Trippodo’s final words for the class of 2026 struck a note of optimism.

“The world is in need of individuals dedicated to uplifting others, strengthening their communities, and leading with both empathy and resolve,” she said. “It is my great pleasure to announce that today 184 such individuals are entering that world.”

ARDSLEY

Scout receives applause for spearheading new dog park

BY AMY BOCHNER

Just days after the June 28 grand opening of the dog park he created, Tristen Roberts was on hand to greet a trio of canines. Tucked behind Field 4 at McDowell Park, the new facility — a first for the Rivertowns — was his Eagle Project, which is an opportunity for Scouts to demonstrate leadership through service to their community.

Among those in the park that afternoon was Patricia van Essche and her dachshund, Walter, who chased tennis balls in the section dedicated to little dogs. Van Essche appreciated the large space, the structures for the dogs to play on, and the fact that the park is “right in my backyard.”

In the big dog section, Elaine Sommer and her daughter Heather played with Sassy, a mini black Lab mix. The two described there being a lack of local dog parks, and that they hadn’t taken Sassy to one “in a while.”

“We’ve needed a space like this,” Heather Sommers said. “It’s made such a big difference.”

Another resident, John Lee, sat on a bench while his dog, Zeus, lay in the shade underneath. Lee appreciated Roberts’ dedication to bringing this project to life.

“I admire the tenacity to do this,” Lee said, “It’s a good use of property and a good use of Eagle Scout skills.”

Roberts, a rising Ardsley High School



Tristen Roberts cuts the ribbon to the dog park on June 28.

senior who has belonged to Troop 3 of Scouting America (formerly known as the Boys Scouts) since first grade, worked with the Village of Ardsley to turn his idea into a reality. The park cost \$10,000, with Roberts raising approximately \$6,000 and the Village donating the remainder. The land is owned by the Village and will be maintained by its department of public works.

The park features separate sections for small and large dogs. Scattered inside are

structures made from donated playsets, which Roberts reoriented to be more dog friendly, and benches. At the center of both sections are houses for dogs to climb through, or in which to seek shade. In the big-dog area, there are also large tires, a fire hydrant, and a water fountain with two spouts — one for pets and one for their owners.

The park’s grand opening featured raffles, giveaways, and music. The turnout surprised Roberts.

“I didn’t think that [many] people from the community were actually gonna come out and support the project,” he told the Dispatch. “It was just amazing seeing everyone have a smile on their face. I remember everyone kept coming up to me, and they were congratulating me, and they were really just impressed about how for all these years they’ve been asking for a dog park, and now it really came to life.”

Roberts is open to feedback and has ideas he wants to implement in the park. There are young trees planted throughout the park, which will eventually offer shade, but meanwhile he is planning on adding umbrellas or other structures to provide shelter from the sun.

He has also discussed with Mayor Steve Edelstein the possibility of creating a club for dog owners and hosting events at the park.

“I wish [for the park to be] a community hub,” Roberts said. “I want it to be a place where people come, relax, bring their dogs, and meet other people. I want everyone to kind of get together here and just have fun.”

Now that Roberts has completed the park, the next step is to present the project to the Scout committee’s board of review for approval. After that, he will receive his Eagle Scout award. He hopes his project shows the community how “impactful Scouting can be.”

While the dog park garnered significant

Continued on page 23



Now Open!

piccola

MARKET AND ROTISSERIE

empanadas

FRESH PASTA

saucés

READY MEALS

desserts

WITH

GLUTEN-FREE AND DAIRY-FREE

OPTIONS AVAILABLE

25 Cedar St, Dobbs Ferry

(914) 407-0014

piccolamarket.com





DOBBS FERRY

— Coming Up This Week —

Municipal Office Closure

Friday, July 3

In observance of Independence Day

River Jam and Food Trucks

Friday, July 3, 5–9 p.m.

Waterfront Park

The concert series continues with
Sounds of Valor, 7 p.m.

Movie on the Trail:

“Captain America: The First Avenger”

Friday, July 3, 8:30 p.m.

Keeper’s House

Bring your own chair/blanket and refreshments

Thomas Cullen Picnic in the Park

Saturday, July 4, 3 p.m.

Waterfront Park

The annual festivities feature music, food, and
activities. Fireworks at 9:15 p.m.

Slime Party for Ages 10–18

Wednesday, July 8, 4–5 p.m.

Dobbs Ferry Public Library

Register: childrens@dobbsferrylibrary.org

Outdoor Concert Series:

Emily Braden Quartet

Wednesday, July 8, 6:30–8 p.m.

Waterfront Park

A family-friendly Jitterbugs Jam begins at
5:30 p.m. Cancellation due to weather will
be announced by 2 p.m. at jazzforumarts.org

Virtual Town and Gown Literary Discussion Group

Wednesday, July 8, 7 p.m.

Hosted on Zoom. Planning to brainstorm new
books. Email sbramble@dobbsferrylibrary.org

Zoning Board Meeting

Wednesday, July 8, 8 p.m.

Village Hall

Storycraft: Cave Painting for Ages 2–4

Thursday, July 9, 10:30 a.m.

Dobbs Ferry Public Library

Planning/Architectural Review Board Meeting

Thursday, July 9, 7 p.m.

Village Hall

Got news?

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



Joseph Lento as his home in Dobbs Ferry

Educator honored for decades of excellence

Lento receives proclamation for his 42 years of teaching

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Educator Joseph Lento of Dobbs Ferry has been honored for a decorated 42-year career that has ranged from global studies to choral music to research into learning styles.

State Sens. Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Shelley Mayer declared May 11, 2026 as “Joseph S. Lento Day” as a testament to his longstanding commitment to the practice and theories of teaching.

Lento, 64, has taught music appreciation, Advanced Placement (AP) music theory, and developmental psychology at Maria Regina, the all-girls Catholic school in Hartsdale, since 2020, after retiring from the Yonkers school system.

Since he started in 1984, Lento has held many roles and taught various classes, among them history, English as a Second Language, and creative writing. Lento’s desire to teach music came from his own upbringing as a music lover and student living with different aunts and uncles after his parents divorced.

“We were really pretty poor, and I always wanted to play the trumpet, and that just couldn’t happen until I got to middle school,” Lento told the Dispatch. “So being able to have that opportunity and turn it into something where maybe I can help kids like myself who didn’t have the opportunity, that’s really what the driving factor is for me.”

After graduating from Lehman High School in the Bronx, Lento majored in music at Queens College’s Aaron Copland School of Music, while also taking enough liberal arts classes for a history minor. While he was initially on the trajectory to be an orchestral

musician, and studied with members of the New York Philharmonic, Lento finished his undergraduate career by studying music education at Lehman College.

Lento turned down a position at LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts in Manhattan because he wanted to teach in the Bronx. Since there weren’t many positions available for band directors in the Bronx, he started teaching global studies at his alma mater, Lehman High School. Lento also taught special education classes at Lehman, and in 1985 he put together a band from students in his special education program who didn’t have music in their schedule.

“I had no idea what I was doing, except I thought that that’s what I should do,” Lento recalled of himself at 23 years old. “There was no research that I knew — I was a kid. I just said, ‘What do you mean they have no music?’ And I just did it.”

Over the next 15 years, Lento served as band and choral director at several middle and high schools throughout New York City before earning his master’s degree in school district administration from Iona College in 1999. That degree opened up opportunities for him to work as assistant principal at Lehman High School and Yonkers’ K-5 Museum School (now closed). As part of the master’s program, Lento also completed research about the academic and social impact that learning an instrument has on students. He sees that research as central to his career.

“You see a young person come in and they’re shy, and they maybe don’t have any friends,” he shared. “They’ve never touched an instrument, they’re scared to death, and before you know it, everyone’s the same. You put those instruments in kids’ hands and it’s a real equalizer.”

In 2014, Lento sent a letter to then-President Obama explaining his research. In response, Lento received a proclamation as a National Teacher of Arts & Humanities. Over the years, Lento also received letters of recognition from Presidents Carter, George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush, and was named a New York City Department of Education Teacher of the Year in 1999.

“I think I’m very blessed, and there are millions of other people who should probably get it way before me,” Lento said of all of the attention he’s received. “I really began advocating in the late ‘90s when I began that research work and I started doing interviews here and there, and word gets around, and I think it’s really a matter of promoting what I was doing — not for self-promotion, but to get the idea out of what I and many other people believe needs to be done.”

Lento contributes online articles for the nonprofit Different Brains, which provides support and education for and about neurodivergent individuals whose brains process and learn differently from the majority of learners. As an educator, he makes it a point to meet students where they’re at, and find new ways outside of traditional testing to evaluate students’ understanding of the material.

“You just have to be willing to open up your mind a little bit, and I think that’s where my being an artist comes in,” Lento said. “We look at music and there are notes on a page, but we can interpret it many different ways.”

Lento is working on a book titled “Testing Testing 1, 2, 3” that provides a mix of anecdotal information and an overview of the history of education. He has no plans to stop teaching at Maria Regina anytime soon.

“I couldn’t imagine what I’d do if I couldn’t go to work,” Lento said. “I’d be really upset.”

DOBBS FERRY

School board sets A.I. policy as parents express concerns

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

The Dobbs Ferry Board of Education has approved the first artificial intelligence (A.I.) policy for the school district, providing a framework for more specific regulations from administrators in the near future. The school board approved the final document during a public meeting on June 23, after receiving feedback from parents on the draft policy, which the district first shared in May. During the June 23 meeting, board president Brooke Bass emphasized that the policy is a guideline, not an introduction of A.I. into classrooms.

“This policy does not mandate the use of A.I. in classrooms; rather it provides a framework that allows our teachers, particularly at the secondary level, to thoughtfully explore whether certain tools can enhance learning while using their professional judgment to determine what is and is not beneficial for our students,” Bass explained during the meeting. “As a district we strive to make decisions based on evidence and data, not assumptions. We will continue to evaluate any use of A.I. through that lens.”

Part of the policy reads that “A.I. may support teaching, learning, district operations, and decision-making, but it will not replace human judgment.”

The policy goes on to read that A.I. use will only be permitted when it “supports educational or operational goals and provides a meaningful benefit” and that “district personnel” will be responsible for decisions on when A.I. use is appropriate.

A group of parents with children in district schools concerned about the implementation of a policy that remains open to A.I. use formed in May, under the name Dobbs Tech. Brianne Lucyk, one of 230 members of the group, has a rising eighth-grader and a rising fourth-grader.

“One of the main issues I have with the policy is that the standards are very vague,” Lucyk told the Dispatch. “It says A.I. may only be used when it supports educational goals and provides a meaningful benefit, but it doesn’t say who makes those decisions and what that information is based on.”

Lucyk and fellow Dobbs Tech member Lucy Collins are both calling for any use of A.I. to be backed by independent research that shows the benefits.

“The onus is on these administrators and board of ed folks to prove to us the benefit,” Collins told the Dispatch. “They need to prove, with data and research, that this is actually a valuable contribution to our children’s education.”

During the June 23 meeting, board vice president Penny Sullivan-Nunes explained the importance of creating a policy that doesn’t shut out A.I., because she believes having familiarity with A.I. will prepare students for college and the workforce. The promotion of A.I. literacy is mentioned in the policy, and will likely be detailed further

in the administration’s regulations.

“It’s already part of the world our students live in,” Sullivan-Nunes said during the meeting. “Students encounter A.I. in multiple aspects of their lives, both in and out of their lives, both in and out of school, whether they realize it or not.”

While Lucyk and Collins agree that A.I. is pervasive on the internet, they believe the district can and should limit technology use for schoolwork, so A.I. has a limited influence on students’ work. They told the Dispatch they disagree with the idea that A.I. is unavoidable for students.

“We do not have to accept that it’s a foregone conclusion,” Lucyk said. “We can change education however we want to — that’s why we are in a small school district.”

“A.I. is in Gemini, A.I. is in Canva, A.I. is in PowerPoint, A.I. is literally in every single search engine, it’s in Word, it’s in Google Docs,” Collins explained. “You start to compose an email and you get an A.I. prompt. So until you really have the ability to monitor every single one of those mechanisms, you can’t say that you have an A.I. policy that’s going to do anything.”

Collins and Lucyk are among parents who have called for a delay on the adoption of an A.I. policy or a full moratorium on all forms of A.I. in schools until detailed research on their impact is completed.

During the meeting, Sullivan-Nunes explained that the board heard the requests for a delay in adoption, but decided that establishing “clear expectations and safeguards” were preferable to waiting.

One element of the policy that Lucyk appreciates is the ability for parents to fill out a form to exempt their child from accessing A.I. Lucyk also recalled that the district responded to her concerns about a Google Docs feature called “smart compose” that was automatically suggesting words as her daughter, who’s in sixth grade, did homework on her school-issued Chromebook. Several months later, the district told her that “smart compose” was no longer available on Chromebooks for grades K-8.

“They are making some changes and I’m very appreciative of that,” Lucyk said. “I think what people want to see is that there’s a broad policy, well thought-out, to address these issues as a whole, not just doing one-off features of a particular software, but thinking about what we want our kids to experience in the classroom.”

Lucyk and Collins also expressed appreciation for a part of the policy that instructs district personnel to consider the environmental impact of A.I. when determining which uses to allow. With the policy as a guideline, district administrators will establish regulations around classroom practice and curriculum decisions related to A.I. use which are not addressed in the policy. Those regulations will be presented to the school board, but do not require school board approval.



Stars, stripes, and Springhurst

The five classes of fourth-graders at Springhurst Elementary School celebrated the 250th anniversary of the United States on Monday, June 22. During an event open to parents, the students showed off games they had developed, as well as their projects about the 50 states, national landmarks, notable people, and past and present items. For the finale, the students performed patriotic songs while wearing star-spangled sunglasses.

Summer at THE MAKER HIVE

7 Weeks of Creative Technology & Hands-On Making

Week of:	Weekly Project
July 13	Lego Robotics Challenge (1 Spot left)
July 20	D & D Makers Camp (1 Spot left)
July 27	Merch Making Studio
Aug 3	Pinball Machine Design
Aug 10	Mini-world Architects (1 Spot left)
Aug 17	Bluetooth Speaker Engineering
Aug 24	Lego Robotics Challenge



Ages 9-14
Core Program: 9AM-12PM
Full Day 9AM-2:30PM

Max 8 students per group

Each week is a complete project from design to final build

Use maker tools: 3D printers, Laser cutters, Cricuts, electronics etc.

Outdoor breaks at Quarry Park and the Aqueduct trail (weather permitting)



www.makerhive.space
f @makerhivespace
416 Warburton Ave, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY



HASTINGS- ON-HUDSON

— Coming Up This Week —

The Introverts Book Club

Friday, July 3, 4–6 p.m.

The Good Witch Coffee Bar,
134 Southside Ave.

Email amanning@hastingslibrary.org

Municipal Office Closure

Friday, July 3

In observance of Independence Day

Farmers Market

Saturday, July 4, 8:30 a.m.–noon. (Hours
curtailed due to heat)

Commuter Lot, Southside Avenue

Hastings on Jazz

Sunday, July 5, 3–5:30 p.m.

VFW Plaza

The weekly summer series continues with the
David Janeway/Eliot Zigmund Quintet.

Rain location: Hastings Public Library

Architectural Review Board Meeting

Monday, July 6, 7 p.m.

Village Hall

Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, July 7, 7 p.m.

Village Hall

Sunset Concert Series:

NYC Ska Orchestra

Tuesday, July 7, 7–9 p.m.

MacEachron Waterfront Park. Rain location:
James Harmon Community Center

Music Time with Adam Hart

Tuesday, July 7, 10:45–11:15 a.m.

Hastings Public Library

For ages 10 months–5 years and their
caretakers

Mahjong

Tuesdays, 12:30–2:15 p.m., and

Wednesdays, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Hastings Public Library

To play, call 914-478-3307

Movin' the Mind & Groovin' the Balance

Tuesday, July 7, 1–2 p.m.

Hastings Public Library

Movement class for people with Parkinson's
disease or balance challenges

Got news?

Email staff writer Amy Bochner at
amy@rivertownsdispatch.com



The entrance to the former studio off Aqueduct Lane.

— ASK THE DISPATCH —

What's happening with the former studio of Jacques Lipchitz?

BY JANINE ANNETT

Jacques Lipchitz's sculpture "Between Heaven and Earth" is a familiar sight to Hastings residents, even if they don't know the name of the sculpture or the artist who created it. Since 1967, "Between Heaven and Earth" has stood on the sloping lawn in front of the Hastings Public Library and village hall, where the statue, which Lipchitz gave to Hastings, was rededicated in 2013 with a repaired base and the addition of a commemorative plaque.

Lipchitz lived in Hastings from 1947 until his death in 1973, and had an art studio at 22 Aqueduct Lane. The studio was donated to the Village of Hastings in 2020 by the Jacques and Yulla Lipchitz Foundation. (Managed by Lipchitz's daughter, Lolya Lipchitz, and his stepson, Hanno Mott, the foundation closed in 2024). The donation of the studio was accepted by the Village after a three-month due diligence process that was contingent upon a satisfactory review of the property's condition and soil quality. After review by Potomac Hudson Environmental, an old oil tank was removed from the site. The building was found to be otherwise in good condition.

Last month, the Hastings Board of Trustees established the Lipschitz Studio Building Use Study Committee, the purpose of which is to recommend the best repurposing of the studio to the village board. The committee will consider the historical and educational value of the building, as well as the building's location, condition, accessibility, and how the building can best meet the needs of the community.



The stenciled message on the door.

The committee will also engage with the public and the board of trustees through surveys, public forums, and presentations, which will then guide the development of a proposed master plan for the building.

The seven-member committee will include Trustee Samantha Merton (village board liaison), Village Manager Mary Beth Murphy, Recreation Superintendent Aaron Podhurst, and one person each from the Beautification Committee, Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, Arts Commission, and Hastings Historical Society, along with two members of the public. On June 9, the Village put out a call for volunteers to serve on the Lipschitz Studio Building Use Study Committee (the deadline to apply was June 30). Twelve people applied for the two positions.

"There is great interest in the community to see the building returned to a place that will support the arts and community, and to complement its surroundings. It is my hope that the committee's recommendations help guide the future of the studio," Hastings Mayor Tom Drake said.

According to Drake, Hastings is applying for a NY Forward Grant in November, and part of the application will include plans for creating a vision for the Lipschitz Studio.

"The renovation of the studio will be substantial, and there isn't one singular grant that is available to help offset the costs of the project. The NY Forward Grant is our best opportunity for funding to see the project through from beginning to end," he said. The NY Forward program is designed to "invigorate and enliven downtowns in New York's smaller and rural communities — the type of downtowns found in villages, hamlets, and other small, neighborhood-scale municipal centers," according to New York State.

Jacques Lipchitz was born Chaim Jacob Lipchitz in 1891 in Lithuania. He was the son of a successful building contractor and studied engineering in high school at his father's urging, despite his desire to be an artist. When Lipchitz turned 18, his mother, acting against his father's wishes, sent him to Paris to study art, where he dropped "Chaim" and became "Jacques."

In Paris, Lipchitz joined a circle of Cubist artists including Pablo Picasso, Georges Braque, and Juan Gris. He became a French citizen in 1924, but fled France with his then-wife in 1941 after the Germans invaded. Lipchitz lived in New York City for the duration of World War II, returning to Paris after the war. He divorced his wife and returned to New York, settling in Hastings. In 1948 he married Yulla Halberstadt, who gave birth to the couple's daughter, Lolya. The family lived on Warburton Avenue. At first, Lipchitz worked at a studio in Manhattan. When his Manhattan studio burned down in 1952, destroying much of his post-war work, Lipchitz raised funds to build a new studio on Aqueduct Lane in Hastings. Architect Martin Lowenfish, who lived in Dobbs Ferry, designed the building.

At their Hastings home, Jacques and Yulla entertained many notable artists including Henry Moore, Marc Chagall, Picasso, and Alexander Calder. Lipchitz lived there for the rest of his life.

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON

Free concerts feature an array of music down by the riverside

BY AMY BOCHNER

The Sunset Concert Series returns to MacEachron Waterfront Park on three Tuesdays — July 7, 14, and 21 — when music lovers can enjoy artists performing against a picture-perfect Hudson River backdrop.

Each of the free concerts takes place from 7–9 p.m. This is the sixth year of the series, which was first held in 2021 after being cancelled in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Hastings' downtown advocate, Barbara Prisament, finds and books the talent for the series. This is a year-round process, with Prisament preferring to present artists she's seen play live. She frequents concerts and festivals, both for her own enjoyment and also to discover musicians to bring to Hastings. She looks for performers who "put on a good show," with original music in diverse genres.

"I'm trying to find acts that are not necessarily from the immediate region, are high quality, and [ones] people don't usually get to see for free," she said. "Certainly not in a setting like our waterfront park, with the sun setting over the river and Palisades."

The first of this year's concerts, on July 7, is the New York City Ska Orchestra, which Prisament first saw at City Winery in Manhattan. The 20-person act performs Jamaican ska music and is led by arranger,



The New York City Ska Orchestra will perform July 7. Photo by Gary Dean Clarke.

trumpeter, and singer Kevin Batchelor.

On July 14, Le Vent du Nord, a progressive francophone folk band based in Quebec, will perform. Prisament heard the group play in 2025 at the Folk Alliance International conference in Montreal. Since their inception in 2002, La Vent du Nord has given more than 2,200 concerts across four continents and received two Junos, which are the Canadian equivalent of the Grammys.

Closing out the series on July 21 is singer-songwriter Dar Williams, who Prisament also met at the Folk Alliance International Conference in Montreal. Williams has written songs and toured for over 25 years. Her inspiration is drawn from her travels and the Hudson Valley, where she lives. She has recorded 11 studio albums, the most recent of which, "Hummingbird Highway," was released this past September.

In addition to being a musician, Williams is the author of four books, one being "What I Found in 1,000 Towns" (2017), which Prisament connected to the upcoming concerts, describing how the book examines "why some towns flourish," particularly ones "that support the arts and do things like free concerts on their waterfront."

Both figuratively and literally, the Sunset Concert Series takes a village to put on, with Prisament noting the involvement of the Village's public works department, recreation department, and police department. Prisament also expressed gratitude to the board of trustees, Mayor Tom Drake, and Village Manager Mary Beth Murphy for their support.

"Not every community is so prolific in the amount of events they support, and ours really does," Prisament said.

Local restaurant Bistro House will be on site selling food, while Harvest on Hudson provides the bands' dinner and a dressing room, as well as first-come, first-serve outdoor seating for attendees. The setting makes for a family-friendly environment.

"There's a playground for the little ones," Prisament said. "It's just a great place to spend an evening. The sun sets over the river while they're watching the concert."

Continued on page 23

preventative and aesthetic dentistry
prosthodontics



don't forget that you have
a beautiful smile

see a dentist to maintain it.

book your
next visit at
parlor dental



66 main st, dobbs ferry, ny 10522 • 914-750-3333 • info@parlordental.com



IRVINGTON

— Coming Up This Week —

Municipal Office Closure

Friday, July 3

In observance of Independence Day

Fireworks Display

Saturday, July 4, 9:15 p.m.

Matthiessen Park

Rain date July 5

Farmers Market

Sunday, July 5, 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Main Street School, 101 Main St.

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 7, 6:30 p.m.

High school library

Planning Board Meeting

Wednesday, July 8, 7 p.m.

Village Hall

Jazz Forum Arts Summer Concert Series

Thursday, July 9, 6:30 p.m.

Matthiessen Park Stage

Featuring vocalist Julia Danielle Smulson.

Cancellation due to inclement weather will be announced by 2 p.m. at jazzforumarts.org

Stories and Craft for Ages 4–6

Tuesday, July 7, 4 p.m.

Irvington Public Library

Listen to books about the country's founding and make a red, white, and blue parfait to eat. Registration required: irvingtonlibrary.org

Tabletop Game Night for Adults and Seniors

Tuesday, July 7, 6:30–8:45 p.m.

Irvington Public Library

Perler Bead Makerspace for Ages 7–12

Thursday, July 9, 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Irvington Public Library

Register at irvingtonlibrary.org

T-Rex Craft for Ages 8–11

Thursday, July 9, 5:15 p.m.

Irvington Public Library

Registration required at irvingtonlibrary.org

Coexisting with Coyotes

Thursday, July 9, 7 p.m.

Irvington Public Library

Presented by the Wolf Conservation Center

Got news?

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



Cast members (clockwise from center) Ari Mack, Kevin Arthur, Leslie Messina, Elizabeth Mialaret, and Will Royston.

M&M spins groovy version of 'Midsummer'

Lyndhurst hosts performances in former greenhouse

BY LAURA SCHILLER

If “the course of true love never did run smooth,” as Shakespeare famously wrote, it makes for entertaining theater. Add a cast of hippies, sprinkle in some 1960s lingo, and set it all against the backdrop of Lyndhurst at dusk, and it’s beyond entertaining — it’s groovy.

This July, M&M Performing Arts Company is bringing “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” to the grounds of the Tarrytown estate, where audiences can enjoy this timeless comedy of romance, magic, and mistaken identity. Performances run from July 9–26 at 7 p.m., and are for ages 8 and up.

M&M has been staging productions inside the mansion since 2012, and has increasingly taken advantage of the property’s scenic outdoor spaces, including its 1880s metal greenhouse frame (without glass) that serves as an alfresco performance venue.

Following the success of last summer’s outdoor production of “As You Like It,” which drew audiences across eight performances, the company has expanded this season’s run to 12 shows.

Director Melinda O’Brien said the Bard’s whimsical comedy was the obvious choice for this year’s outdoor production.

“I decided to do ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’ because, one, it’s perfect for summer outside, and two, we did it inside the mansion in March of 2020 and we had our run cut right in the middle because of Covid,” O’Brien told the Dispatch. “It was a sold-out

show. Unfortunately, a lot of people had tickets that they, of course, couldn’t use. So I was like, ‘Well, I’ve got the script. It was popular, and it’s perfect.’”

This time around, O’Brien has given Shakespeare’s classic a flower-power twist. Instead of the Victorian setting often used for productions at Lyndhurst, the play has been reimaged in the 1960s.

“It’s just a whole experience of being able to picnic and then come and sit down and watch a fun show under the stars and the moon.”

Director Melinda O’Brien

“In 2020 we had changed it to Victorian times, and we often do that with plays that are done in the mansion because it’s a Victorian mansion,” O’Brien explained. “But I thought the outside with heavy Victorian clothes would not be that good because we found that when we did ‘As You Like It,’ it was very hot.”

The company has also pushed curtain time back an hour, from 6 to 7 p.m., to take advantage of cooler temperatures and more shade. “I changed it to the 1960s so people [in the cast] can be wearing shorts and tie-dyed T-shirts,” O’Brien said. “And so the fairies, in this case, are hippies.”

The play is packed with mixed-up romances, mischievous fairies, and magical mayhem. Two young couples flee into an enchanted forest, where a misplaced love potion throws their relationships into chaos. At the same time, a quarrel between the fairy king and queen leads to one unlucky character being transformed into a donkey and the fairy queen falling head over heels for him.

“It’s a rom-com, you know, mixed-up thing,” O’Brien said. “The fairies make a mistake and apply a magic potion on the wrong boy so that the two boys love the one girl... it keeps switching, so that’s a very cute part of it.”

Despite the mistaken identities and confusion, O’Brien said audiences can expect a happy ending. “It’s very silly and fun. That’s all resolved in the end... it’s one of those happily-ever-after things.”

According to O’Brien, picnicking is an important part of the outdoor summer theater experience. Ticket-holders receive early access, at 5:30, to a picnic area, where food is available for purchase or guests may bring their own.

“It’s just a whole experience of being able to picnic and then come and sit down and watch a fun show under the stars and the moon,” she said. “It’s a wonderful experience on a summer night.”

Tickets, available online (lyndhurst.org/events/summer-theater), cost \$59. A dinner-plus-admission option, which includes a choice of summer picnic fare, is \$84. A cash-only bar will be available offering beverages including wine and beer, as well as cheese boards.

IRVINGTON

Board extends Ratesic’s contract as Stein plans to retire

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Irvington Schools Superintendent Mara Ratesic has agreed to stay in the position for an additional four years while Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations Carol Stein will retire during the upcoming school year.

At the board of education’s public meeting on June 23, its members approved the extension for Ratesic, who was hired to lead the district in 2024, with a contract that was set to end June 2027. Her new contract ends June 30, 2030 and comes with a 2% salary increase for each year of the contract, starting with \$298,000 for the first year.

“I want to express my sincere gratitude to the board of education, faculty, staff, parents, and students for the trust you have placed in me,” Ratesic wrote the Dispatch. “Leading this district is both an honor and a responsibility that I take very seriously.”

During Ratesic’s two-year tenure, the district has finalized a new Strategic Plan for 2026-29 that aims to further align the district’s literacy program for students from kindergarten through 12th grade, increase student engagement in class and extracurricular activities, and improve communication with parents, among other goals. The district has also approved a new high school block



Schools Superintendent Mara Ratesic

schedule that will go into effect in the fall, with fewer classes and longer class time periods.

“The board is very pleased with Superintendent Ratesic’s leadership and is confident in the direction of the district under her guidance,” school board president Susan Brunenavs wrote to the Dispatch. “She has built a strong and collaborative working relationship with the board through transparent

communication and a shared commitment to our students. The board believes Superintendent Ratesic is well-positioned to lead the district through the next phase of implementing our strategic priorities, and this contract reflects our confidence in her leadership and our commitment to continuity.”

One major project the district is overseeing during the summer is the resurfacing of the Peter Oley Track and the replacement of turf at Meszaros Field, where new lights have been installed. In light of these tangible developments, Ratesic is most proud of the team she’s been working with to implement the changes.

“One of my greatest accomplishments has been developing a positive and collaborative relationship with the Irvington Faculty Association,” Ratesic wrote. “When there is trust and open communication between district leadership and our educators, we are better positioned to make decisions that benefit students.”

During the same meeting, the school board accepted the upcoming retirement of Stein, assistant superintendent for business and operations since 2016. Stein previously served as the business administrator and treasurer for the White Plains City School District, and has also worked as an adjunct professor at Manhattanville College’s School of Education,

as well as a vice president at Citibank.

“Carol ranks among the finest educators I have ever known, breaking down intricate financial matters so they are accessible to everyone,” Ratesic told the Dispatch. “This unique skill gives our board, faculty, and residents confidence in our fiscal health, while simultaneously ensuring that teachers and students have the necessary tools to attain excellence.”

Ratesic described Stein’s institutional knowledge as a key resource in understanding where the district has been and where it should go in the future. Ratesic explained that Stein has played a critical role in facilities planning, school safety, transportation, and food services, along with other important operational decisions.

“Perhaps her greatest contribution, however, is the culture she has created within the business office,” Ratesic said. “Carol has always emphasized that work is about much more than budgets, spreadsheets, or compliance. She has instilled the belief that every decision we make ultimately serves our students. That student-centered mindset has become part of the department’s identity and has influenced how the entire team approaches its work.”

Stein’s final day with the district will be Dec. 31.



JANUSZ RUDNICKI, MD
Robotic Gynecology—Obstetrician

50% LESS PAIN
100% MORE COMFORT
WITH ADVANCED ROBOTIC GYN SURGERY

St. John’s Riverside Hospital provides exceptional personal care for women before, during, and after pregnancy and beyond.

16+ YEARS OF 5 STAR AWARD-WINNING MATERNITY CARE
ROBOTIC MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGICAL EXCELLENCE
WORLD-RENOWNED SURGICAL MONTEFIORE PARTNERS



MAUREEN McEVOY, MD
Breast Surgeon



SUZANNE GREENIDGE, MD
Robotic Gynecology
Obstetrician

914.964.4DOC
RiversideHealth.org

Montefiore Einstein



The Agenda

SATURDAY JULY 4

Independence Day Festivities

DOBBS FERRY

1 p.m. Waterfront Park. The annual Thomas Cul-len Picnic in the Park begins with a fishing derby, 1–3 p.m., followed by an opening ceremony, 3 p.m.; dog and stroller parade, 3:30; lawn games, 3:30–5 p.m.; family potato sack races, 4; and fireworks at 9:15.

Fireworks Display

IRVINGTON

9:15 p.m. Matthiessen Park. Rain date July 5.

Outdoor Concert Double Bill

TARRYTOWN

1 p.m. / Free. Pierson Park, 238 W. Main St. Grammy-nominated vocalist Alicia Renee will be followed by the Jason Marshall Big Band. jazzforumarts.org

Holiday Concert: Kickstart Charlie

TARRYTOWN

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

Revolutionary Tea Party

SLEEPY HOLLOW

12–3 p.m. / \$20. Philipsburg Manor, 381 N. Broadway. Includes a grazing box, sweets, and beverages. For all ages. Also Sunday. Purchase timed-entry tickets at hudsonvalley.org

“Happy Birthday, USA”

YONKERS

4:30 p.m. / Free. Untermyer Park and Gardens, 945 N. Broadway. Untermyer Performing Arts Council opens its 51st season of summer concerts with the Dixieland Express playing patriotic songs and Americana. Rain location: Saunders High School, 183 Palmer Road. untermyerperformingarts.org

Patriotic Celebration

MOUNT VERNON

10:30 a.m. / Free. St. Paul’s Church, 897 S. Columbus Ave. Reading of the Declaration of Independence, tolling of the historic church bell, guided tours, refreshments, live music, and key-note speaker Barbara Davis, president of the Westchester County Historical Society. nps.gov/sapa/sapaprogsched.htm

SUNDAY JULY 5

PaperWorks 2026: Transformations

HASTINGS

2–5 p.m. / Free. Upstream Gallery, 8 Main St. Opening reception for the annual juried exhibit of works on paper, including drawing, collage, printmaking, and painting. On view through July 19. upstreamgallery.com



Jazz Forum Arts’ Dobbs Ferry Summer Music Series launches with the Emily Braden Quartet at Waterfront Park on Wednesday, July 8.

Hastings on Jazz

HASTINGS

3–5:30 p.m. / Free. VFW Plaza, 558 Warburton Ave. The weekly summer series continues with the David Janeway/Eliot Zigmund Quintet. Rain location: Hastings Public Library, 7 Maple Ave. destinationhastings.org

A Revolutionary Tea

TARRYTOWN

11 a.m. / \$80. Lyndhurst, 635 S. Broadway. This interactive tea blends light historical storytelling with parlor games. lyndhurst.org

William Hill III Trio

TARRYTOWN

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

Open Jam Session

TARRYTOWN

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

History Tour

YONKERS

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

TUESDAY JULY 7

Meet-up for Event & Hospitality Pros

DOBBS FERRY

10:30–11:30 a.m. / Free. HudCo, 145 Palsade St., Suite 200. Industry meet-up for people who work in events, plan parties, coordinate logistics, or provide key services like photography, florals, music, or catering. Register at hudco.eventbrite.com

Sunset Concert Series: NYC Ska Orchestra

HASTINGS

7–9 p.m. / Free. MacEachron Waterfront Park, 100 River St. Rain location: James Harmon Community Center, 44 Main St. destinationhastings.org

Trivia Night

DOBBS FERRY

7–9 p.m. / Free. Memorial Park. Up to six people per team; ages 18 and up. Also on July 21. Sign up at dobbsferry.gov/recreation-department

WEDNESDAY JULY 8

Outdoor Concert Series

DOBBS FERRY

6:30–8 p.m. / Free. Waterfront Park. The Emily Braden Quartet kicks off Jazz Forum Arts’ summer series. A pre-concert family-friendly Jitterbugs Jam begins at 5:30 p.m. Cancellation due to inclement weather will be announced by 2 p.m. on Facebook and at jazzforumarts.org

Restorative Reset

IRVINGTON

7 p.m. / \$60. The Lark, 50 S. Buckhout St., G107. Featuring a summer sound bath and Thai yoga massage. thelark.club/events

An Evening with Mo Rocca

TARRYTOWN

7 p.m. / \$40–\$55. Shames JCC, 371 S. Broadway. shamesjcc.org. The Emmy-winning journalist and bestselling author known for his work on CBS Sunday Morning, NPR’s Wait Wait... Don’t Tell Me!, The Daily Show, and the Mobituaries podcast will talk with television producer and podcaster Gideon Evans.

Astronomy for Kids

YONKERS

2 p.m. / \$23 for adults, \$16 for seniors, \$14 for ages 3–18, free for members. Hudson River Museum, 511 Warburton Ave. The planetarium show follows Jack and Annie of the “Magic Tree House” children’s book series. Recommended for ages 4–8. Reservations recommended. hrm.org

THURSDAY JULY 9

Summer Concert Series: Julia Danielle Smulson

IRVINGTON

6:30 p.m. / Free. Matthiessen Park. Parking is not permitted in the Bridge Street parking lots. Cancellation due to inclement weather will be announced by 2 p.m. on Facebook and at jazzforumarts.org

Sahaja Meditation

TARRYTOWN

5:30–6:30 p.m. / Free. Warner Library, 121 N. Broadway. warnerlibrary.org

“A Midsummer Night’s Dream”

TARRYTOWN

7 p.m. / \$59, \$84 includes dinner. Lyndhurst, 635 S. Broadway. M&M Performing Arts Company’s production of Shakespeare’s romantic comedy is set in the 1960s and performed in the Palm Court’s open-air theater through July 26. Appropriate for ages 8+. lyndhurst.org

Grateful BRO

TARRYTOWN

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

FRIDAY JULY 10

River Jam and Food Trucks

DOBBS FERRY

7–9 p.m. / Free. Waterfront Park. The summer concert series continues with the Lords of Hawthorne playing covers of classics from the 1970s and ‘80s. dobbsferry.gov/recreation-department

Movie on the Trail

DOBBS FERRY

8:30 p.m. / Free. Keeper’s House, 15 Walnut St. Screening of “Finding Nemo.” aqueduct.org

Outdoor Concert Series: Jon Beshay Quartet

TARRYTOWN

6:30–8 p.m. / Free. Pierson Park, 238 W. Main St. A pre-concert family-friendly Jitterbugs Jam begins at 5:30. Cancellation due to inclement weather will be announced by 2 p.m. on Facebook and at jazzforumarts.org

Hastings closings
Continued from page 1

the title of “Best Waffles” in 2021 and 2024. The business boasts a 4.9 out of 5-star rating on Google Reviews, based on 91 entries.

In April of this year, Montiel and LaCruz announced their plan to close their storefront. Wild Culture will continue to produce its wholesale frozen mini waffles, sold in packages of eight, at Hastings’ Pioneer Market and Foodtown for \$10 to \$12.

According to the owners, the primary issue for Wild Culture was slow foot traffic on weekdays. On an average Saturday in March of this year, the store garnered more than 100 checks. An average Thursday in the same month, however, accounted for 10 to 17 checks.

Montiel attributes the lack of foot traffic on weekdays to Hastings residents working in New York City. Other business owners also noted fewer customers than in previous years. Milton Theodoropoulos, who has owned the Center Restaurant for 36 of its 80-plus years, said businesses are still trying to dig out from the depths of Covid, when foot traffic all but dried up. As he stated, “After Covid, business went down and never really came back to the same level.”

Increasing costs for ingredients and rent also played a role in Wild Culture’s demise. The price of butter — Wild Culture used 35 pounds per week — doubled from 2024 to 2025. By June of this year, that cost had decreased, but is still 25% higher than in

2024. Another core ingredient in Wild Culture’s savory waffles is Gruyere cheese from Switzerland, which doubled in price after President Trump imposed widespread tariffs on foreign goods in 2025.

Increased food costs also plague Jeremy McLellan, co-owner of Bread & Brine, who shared that one case of hamburger patties is now \$50 more than it was in 2024. Similarly, although the cost of lobster has always fluctuated, McLellan has found that with fuel prices rising, fewer fishermen can afford staying in business, leading to the cost of lobster increasing as well. As a result, McLellan had to raise his own prices for the first time in five years.

Rent is another challenge. Wild Culture’s rent also increased and now matches market price. LaCruz described this as “unrealistic,” and making “no sense in a town that doesn’t have the foot traffic that will sustain [paying] that amount of money for rent.”

Allyson McCabe, the owner of Vanishing Ink Books, which she opened in May 2025, explained that the challenge with commercial leases goes beyond rent.

“It’s not just that the rents are high; it’s the terms,” she told the Dispatch. “Maybe it’s a very short-term nonrenewable lease, or a very long-term lease that requires a personal guarantee. Perhaps it’s the as-is clause that passes on known building defects to the unknowing tenant. I could go on and on.”

In a letter posted on social media, McCabe shared that one factor that led to the bookstore’s failure was its size. While the “modest

profit” from selling books was used to keep the lights on, the small space limited her ability to host events or offer workshops. For this reason, she said, “Even in the busiest times, I’ve never paid myself a single penny.”

McCabe continued to look for larger and more centrally located storefronts, but nothing became available, even as other businesses closed in downtown Hastings. She suggests that the Village of Hastings “establish a voluntary registry where landlords can post available spaces and lease terms, and perhaps prospective tenants can post business profiles.”

Business owners shared varying perspectives on the Village’s involvement.

Matteo Befe of DiRiso Risotto Balls, which opened a storefront in 2021, said the Village “do[es] help with small things,” such as an uneven sidewalk in front of his shop on Main Street after his father, Riccardo, who is a partner in the enterprise, filed a request.

Ellen Sledge, founder of Penny Lick Ice Cream, which opened a storefront in Hastings in 2015, pointed to Village events, and the government’s responsiveness during Covid, as examples of support.

Although events can help sales, those gains are not always felt evenly, according to business owners. For businesses outside the center of the event, street closures can create new problems, as McLellan of Bread & Brine described.

“Closing Warburton Avenue blocks off the main road and keeps people from other towns from coming in,” he said.

What many business owners agree on is how the cost of parking has hampered their profits.

Linda Angel, owner of Art Transcending Time, which opened on Spring Street in 2011, said her business dipped when Hastings installed new pay stations in place of meters.

Several owners expressed support for free 3-hour parking in the downtown, which was first proposed by Mayor Tom Drake in January. On July 7, the board of trustees will vote on whether or not to adopt this policy.

LaCruz believes free parking would have made a “huge impact” on Wild Culture, allowing people enough time to buy waffles before walking to other stores.

McCabe supports the proposal, but is doubtful that free parking will lead to more foot traffic.

“There’s no major draw in Hastings,” he said, compared to Tarrytown, which has the Tarrytown Music Hall, and Sleepy Hollow, which attracts tourists, especially during the Halloween season.

“Hastings needs more businesses downtown to make it a real destination,” he said.

McCabe of Vanishing Ink shared a similar sentiment, describing the Hastings business environment as a “chicken-and-the-egg situation.”

“Nothing happens downtown, so no one comes downtown,” she said. “No one comes downtown, so nothing happens downtown. We need a comprehensive vision and an actionable plan.”



7/10



7/17



7/24



7/31



8/7



8/14

HUDSON
RIVER
MUSEUM

2026 Free Summer
Amphitheater Series

Friday, July 10, 8pm
**Hamilton and Broadway Favorites:
A Performance and Sing-Along**

Friday, July 17, 8pm
**Dom Flemons Presents The Bronze Buckaroo
Film and Songster Show**

Friday, July 24, 8pm
Big Mamou

Friday, July 31, 8pm
Vincent Hsu & Soy La Ley Afro-Cuban Jazz Band

Friday, August 7, 8pm
Afro Dominicano

Friday, August 14, 8pm
Dueling Pianos by The Flying Ivories

[Learn more at hrm.org/amphitheater](https://hrm.org/amphitheater)

The 2026 Summer Amphitheater Series is sponsored by Bank of America. Generous support for the series is also provided by the City of Yonkers, Mayor Mike Spano. Additional support provided by Art Bridges and Sax LLP.

Opinion

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

Monopolists and financiers are to blame for crushing property tax bills

To the Editor:

Peggie and Larry Blizzard are right that something is rotten in our property tax system (Letter to the Editor, June 26). But they've fingered the wrong suspects.

Taxing based on home value isn't the problem — it's one of the few progressive features we have left. And every child being entitled to the same quality education isn't a bug; it's the entire point of public schools. Pitting neighbor against neighbor over who "deserves" what services for what tax bill is a recipe for dismantling the things that make our villages so great.

The right question isn't who we're paying for. It's why everything costs so much.

Consider fire trucks. As Basel Musharbash reports in the newsletter BIG, private equity rolled up the major American manufacturers into a cartel, and prices exploded. That cost lands on your tax bill. Now consider the biggest line item in any school budget: employee compensation, and the health insurance attached to it. As Chris Griswold argues in Commonplace Magazine, the wave of healthcare mergers in recent decades has consolidated hospitals and insurers into a handful of oligopolies and caused premiums to skyrocket. When district health costs climb, so does your school tax levy.

Everywhere costs are highest, you'll find these "economic termites" — monopolists and financiers levying a private tax on every public service, then passing the bill to the rest of us.

We can't fix affordability by blaming our neighbors or public servants. We fix it by fighting the people quietly taxing all of us. Subscribe to Matt Stoller's newsletter, BIG,

on Substack to learn more. And tell the New York State Assembly to pass the 21st Century Antitrust Act (A2015) — already through the Senate — so New York can finally take on monopoly power.

Gary Bethea

DOBBS FERRY

Readers react to preview of podcast interview with dispensary owner

The following letters respond to the Q&A excerpt published last week from the Rivertowns Dispatch Podcast interview with Jake Reinus, co-founder of The Highline in Hastings, who stated that "We try to remain positive when we face the critics. Fortunately, we've learned that although it's a kind of a loud bunch, it is a pretty small group and so we do our best to just be the good neighbors that we've insisted that we're gonna be."

To the Editor:

A clarification. I was recently made aware of your article claiming that people in Hastings support having a cannabis shop in our town. While I fully support people's rights to enjoy cannabis if they like, I, and basically everyone I know in Hastings, are opposed to having the shop on the main street of Hastings. It is out of character with the town, ties up a storefront that could be a community-oriented business, and is far too close to our town's community center and several churches. It has also caused common areas in our apartment building to smell like their inventory, which is a most unwelcome development. This kind of shop should be out on Saw Mill River Road or otherwise not in the center of our town.

Tim Cerino

HASTINGS

To the Editor:

I think you underestimate how many Hastings residents were appalled to discover that, without consultation or discussion with constituents, our village government opted to permit a cannabis dispensary to open in our town. To have one open in that location added insult to injury. Its presence reflects poorly on us all.

Suzanne Page

HASTINGS

Gratitude for community's embrace of a gentle Great Dane

To the Editor:

If you've spent any time in Hastings, chances are you've met Apollo, a gentle Great Dane who never missed an opportunity to make a new friend. Apollo loved people, welcomed every pat, and happily accepted the attention, kind words, and occasional treat from those he met along the way.

On June 22, Apollo passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family. While our hearts are heavy, we are deeply grateful for the kindness and affection this community showed him throughout his life. Thank you to everyone who stopped to say hello, shared a smile, offered a scratch behind the ears, or slipped him a favorite treat.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to the Draper Park crew for helping create such a wonderful gathering place for our four-legged friends and the people who love them. The friendships and memories made there meant so much to Apollo and our family.

Apollo brought joy to countless people, and we will miss him dearly. We are thankful that he was able to spend his life in a community that embraced him so warmly.

Sam Mansour

HASTINGS

Feiner credits McGoe's campaign with strengthening democracy

To the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Barry McGoe, my opponent for Greenburgh town supervisor, for providing voters with a meaningful choice in the recent primary. Our democracy depends not only on those who win elections, but those like Barry who are willing to participate, present differing ideas, and offer voters meaningful choices.

Barry gave voters an alternative and offered the electorate the opportunity to think about different ideas and visions for the future. He raised important issues like affordability, financial management controls, consolidation of services, drainage and sewer matters, bringing additional attention to them. I will reflect on his suggestions and know that I will be a better supervisor because of the campaign.

His campaign encouraged civic engagement — motivated people on both sides to learn about their town government, to volunteer and vote. The turnout in this primary was higher than ever.

Barry devoted lots of time, effort, and personal sacrifice to his campaign and was dignified and classy when he lost the election, supporting the outcome.

I was a friend of Barry before the primary and hope to be a friend in the future. I wish Barry great success in his future endeavors and welcome his input, involvement, and help in the future. Contested elections are important. Good people like Barry sometimes lose an election. They should be proud of their contributions to democracy.

Paul Feiner

GREENBURGH TOWN
SUPERVISOR

Ask the Dispatch.

Have a burning question about our community, local issues, or something you've always wondered? Our team of journalists is ready to dig deep and find the answers you're looking for. Just ask the Dispatch.

We'll Do the Research.

rivertownsdispatch.com/contact-us/



— MOMENTS —

Ardsley High School Graduation

Purchase College Performing Arts Center, June 25

Photos by Rob DiAntonio



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.rivertownsdispatch.com/classies



PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE — 82 ROSEDALE AVENUE
VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON
7 Maple Avenue
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706
Zoning Board of Appeals - Case No. 08-26
Pursuant to the provisions of Section 295-143B of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson Zoning Code, Notice is hereby given that: A Public Hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals on Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 7:00 P.M., in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue, Hastings-on-Hudson, New York. The Hearing will be held on the application of Gabriel Smedresman for relief from the strict application of the Village Code Sections 295-69F1(a) w/ 295-55A for a front yard addition on his single-family dwelling located at 82 Rosedale Avenue. Said property is located in the R-7.5 Zoning District and is known as SBL: 4.80-73-11 on the Town of Greenburgh Tax Maps. Non-conformity details for the addition are as follows: 1) Front Yard Setback: Existing & Proposed – 19.3 ft.; Required – 25 ft. { 295-69F1(a) }; Variance Required - 5.7 ft.; 2) Extension of an Existing Non-conformity { 295-55A }. The Zoning Board of Appeals will, at this time and place, hear all persons in support of such matter and any objections thereto. Plans will be made available for review at the Building Department and on the Village web site, www.hohny.gov, on or about the Friday prior to the meeting date. Josh Heitler, Chair, ZBA

—

NOTICE TO BIDDERS — TOWN HALL FIRE ALARM SYSTEM
IRVINGTON TOWN HALL FIRE ALARM SYSTEM
WESTCHESTER COUNTY NEW YORK
CONTRACT NO 2026-10

1. Sealed bids will be received by the Village Clerk of Irvington until 11:00 AM on July 15, 2026 at the Village Hall, 85 Main Street, Irvington, New York 10533 for Contract No. 2026-10. The envelope containing the bids must be sealed and addressed to the Secretary of the Village Administrator, Karen Bucheri, at the above address and shall be designated as “Contract No. 2026-10 Irvington Town Hall Fire Alarm System” The work consists of the installation of a fire alarm system in accordance with the plans and

specifications

2. Prior to submission of bid, a walk-thru will be held at 11:00AM on July 1, 2026. Attendance of the pre-bid walk-thru is highly recommended.

3. No bid security is required. Attention of bidders is called to the requirements as to conditions of employment to be observed and minimum wage rates to be paid under the contract. No performance and payment bonds will be required, however, a retainage of 5% will be withheld from all payments until final acceptance of the work.

4. Plans, specifications and all information relative thereto may be secured at the Village Administrator’s Office of said Village or downloaded from www.irvingtonny.gov. There is no cost for the plans and specifications. The Village will not be responsible for full or partial sets of contract documents, including any addenda obtained from any other source.

The Village of Irvington reserves the right to waive any informalities in the bids; or to reject any or all bids. No bidder may withdraw his bid within forty-five (45) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

All design questions should be directed to James Englishby at (914) 591-7870 or via email at jenglishby@irvingtonny.gov.

Katie Bugna
Village Clerk-Treasurer
June 24, 2026

—
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR FEDERAL FOOD SERVICE PROGRAMS

The Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, 505 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522, invites sealed bids for providing the services to operate the Breakfast and Lunch Child Nutrition Programs for the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District.

Bids will be received at the Office of the Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities, and Operations, Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, 505 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522, until 9:00am on Monday, July 20, 2026 at which time all bids will be opened and read aloud. Specifications may be obtained at the Office of the Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities, and Operations, located at the above-mentioned address. The Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District Board of Education reserves the right to reject all bids and the right to waive any informality in bids.

It is strongly suggested that all prospective bidders attend a pre-bid conference and site visitation to be held on Friday, July 10, 2026 at 9:00am in the Business Office, 505 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522.

Submitted By:
Elizabeth Saperstein
District Clerk

—
HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON LEGAL NOTICE OF ESTOPPEL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the resolution, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Westchester County, New York, on June 2, 2026, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which said Village is not authorized to expend money, or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution. Such resolution was subject to a permissive referendum and the period of time has elapsed for the submission and filing of a petition for a permissive referendum and a valid petition has not been submitted and filed.

A summary of the aforesaid resolution is set forth below. The resolution provides as follows: that the faith and credit of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Westchester County, New York, are irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such obligations becoming due and payable; that an annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such obligations becoming due and payable in such year; that the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance and sale of the bonds authorized by such resolution, including renewals of such notes, is delegated to the Village Treasurer; that all other matters, except as provided in such resolution, relating to the bonds authorized, including the date, denominations, maturities and interest payment dates, within the limitations prescribed in such resolution and the manner of the execution of the same and also including the consolidation with other issues, and the au-

thority to issue such obligations on the basis of substantially level or declining annual debt service, is delegated to and shall be determined by the Village Treasurer; and that this LEGAL NOTICE shall be published.

A summary of the bond resolution follows:

BOND RESOLUTION DATED JUNE 2, 2026.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$500,000 BONDS OF THE VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK, TO PAY THE COST OF RECONSTRUCTION OF ROADS, IN AND FOR SAID VILLAGE.

The period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid class of objects or purposes is fifteen years pursuant to subdivision twenty of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law.

THE FULL TEXT OF THIS BOND RESOLUTION IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AT THE OFFICE OF THE VILLAGE CLERK LOCATED AT 7 MAPLE AVENUE, HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK, DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS.

Dated: Hastings-on-Hudson, New York
July 3, 2026

—
HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON LEGAL NOTICE OF ESTOPPEL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the resolution, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Westchester County, New York, on June 2, 2026, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which said Village is not authorized to expend money, or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution. Such resolution was subject to a permissive referendum and the period of time has elapsed for the submission and filing of a petition for a permissive referendum and a valid petition has not been submitted and filed.

A summary of the aforesaid

resolution is set forth below. The resolution provides as follows: that the faith and credit of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Westchester County, New York, are irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such obligations as the same respectively become due and payable; that an annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such obligations becoming due and payable in such year; that the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance and sale of the bonds authorized by such resolution, including renewals of such notes, is delegated to the Village Treasurer; that all other matters, except as provided in such resolution, relating to the bonds authorized, including the date, denominations, maturities and interest payment dates, within the limitations prescribed in such resolution and the manner of the execution of the same and also including the consolidation with other issues, and the authority to issue such obligations on the basis of substantially level or declining annual debt service, is delegated to and shall be determined by the Village Treasurer; and that this LEGAL NOTICE shall be published.

A summary of the bond resolution follows:
BOND RESOLUTION DATED JUNE 2, 2026.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$445,000 BONDS OF THE VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK, TO PAY THE COST OF THE PURCHASE OF HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLES AND MACHINERY FOR CONSTRUCTION OR MAINTENANCE PURPOSES, IN AND FOR SAID VILLAGE.

The period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid class of objects or purposes is fifteen years, pursuant to subdivision twenty-eight of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law, as the cost of each item is over \$30,000.

THE FULL TEXT OF THIS BOND RESOLUTION IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AT THE OFFICE OF THE VILLAGE CLERK LOCATED AT 7 MAPLE AVENUE, HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK, DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS.

Dated: Hastings-on-Hudson, New York
July 3, 2026

—
HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON LEGAL

NOTICE OF ESTOPPEL
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the resolution, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Westchester County, New York, on June 2, 2026, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which said Village is not authorized to expend money, or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

A summary of the aforesaid resolution is set forth below. The resolution provides as follows: that the faith and credit of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Westchester County, New York, are irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such obligations as the same respectively become due and payable; that an annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such obligations becoming due and payable in such year; that the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance and sale of the bonds authorized by such resolution, including renewals of such notes, is delegated to the Village Treasurer; that all other matters, except as provided in such resolution, relating to the bonds authorized, including the date, denominations, maturities and interest payment dates, within the limitations prescribed in such resolution and the manner of the execution of the same and also including the consolidation with other issues, and the authority to issue such obligations on the basis of substantially level or declining annual debt service, is delegated to and shall be determined by the Village Treasurer; and that this LEGAL NOTICE shall be published.

A summary of the bond resolution follows:
BOND RESOLUTION DATED JUNE 2, 2026.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$445,000 BONDS OF THE VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK, TO PAY THE COST OF THE PURCHASE OF HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLES AND MACHINERY FOR CONSTRUCTION OR MAINTENANCE PURPOSES, IN AND FOR SAID VILLAGE.

The period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid class of objects or purposes is fifteen years, pursuant to subdivision twenty-eight of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law, as the cost of each item is over \$30,000.

THE FULL TEXT OF THIS BOND RESOLUTION IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AT THE OFFICE OF THE VILLAGE CLERK LOCATED AT 7 MAPLE AVENUE, HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK, DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS.

Dated: Hastings-on-Hudson, New York
July 3, 2026

POLICE EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING POLICE FIREARMS, TRAINING SIMULATOR AND LICENSE PLATE READER, IN AND FOR SAID VILLAGE.

The period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid class of objects or purposes is five years pursuant to subdivision thirty-two of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law.

THE FULL TEXT OF THIS BOND RESOLUTION IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AT THE OFFICE OF THE VILLAGE CLERK LOCATED AT 7 MAPLE AVENUE, HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW, DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS.

Dated: Hastings-on-Hudson, New York
July 3, 2026

—
HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON LEGAL NOTICE OF ESTOPPEL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the resolution, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Westchester County, New York, on June 2, 2026, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which said Village is not authorized to expend money, or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution. Such resolution was subject to a permissive referendum and the period of time has elapsed for the submission and filing of a petition for a permissive referendum and a valid petition has not been submitted and filed.

A summary of the aforesaid resolution is set forth below. The resolution provides as follows: that the faith and credit of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Westchester County, New York, are irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such obligations as the same respectively become due and payable; that an annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such obligations becoming due and payable in such year; that the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell bond anticipation notes in anticipation of

the issuance and sale of the bonds authorized by such resolution, including renewals of such notes, is delegated to the Village Treasurer; that all other matters, except as provided in such resolution, relating to the bonds authorized, including the date, denominations, maturities and interest payment dates, within the limitations prescribed in such resolution and the manner of the execution of the same and also including the consolidation with other issues, and the authority to issue such obligations on the basis of substantially level or declining annual debt service, is delegated to and shall be determined by the Village Treasurer; and that this LEGAL NOTICE shall be published.

A summary of the bond resolution follows:

BOND RESOLUTION DATED JUNE 2, 2026.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$293,046 BONDS OF THE VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK, TO PAY THE COST OF THE ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION OF POLICE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM, IN AND FOR SAID VILLAGE.

The period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid class of objects or purposes is ten years pursuant to subdivision twenty-five of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law.

THE FULL TEXT OF THIS BOND RESOLUTION IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AT THE OFFICE OF THE VILLAGE CLERK LOCATED AT 7 MAPLE AVENUE, HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK, DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS.

Dated: Hastings-on-Hudson, New York
July 3, 2026

—
HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON LEGAL NOTICE OF ESTOPPEL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the resolution, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Westchester County, New York, on June 2, 2026, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which said Village is not authorized to expend money, or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially com-

Classies

plied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

A summary of the aforesaid resolution is set forth below. The resolution provides as follows: that the faith and credit of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Westchester County, New York, are irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such obligations as the same respectively become due and payable; that an annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such obligations becoming due and payable in such year; that the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance and sale of the bonds authorized by such resolution, including renewals of such notes, is delegated to the Village Treasurer; that all other matters, except as provided in such resolution, relating to the bonds authorized, including the date, denominations, maturities and interest payment dates, within the limitations prescribed in such resolution and the manner of the execution of the same and also including the consolidation with other issues, and the authority to issue such obligations on the basis of substantially level or declining annual debt service, is delegated to and shall be determined by the Village Treasurer; and that this LEGAL NOTICE shall be published.

A summary of the bond resolution follows:

BOND RESOLUTION DATED JUNE 2, 2026.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$300,000 BONDS OF THE VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK, TO PAY THE COST OF THE PURCHASE OF POLICE VEHICLES, IN AND FOR SAID VILLAGE.

The period of probable usefulness of the class of objects or purposes is three years pursuant to subdivision seventy-seven of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law.

THE FULL TEXT OF THIS BOND RESOLUTION IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AT THE OFFICE OF THE VILLAGE CLERK LOCATED AT 7 MAPLE AVENUE, HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK, DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS.

Dated: Hastings-on-Hudson, New York
July 3, 2026

—
HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON LEGAL NOTICE OF ESTOPPEL
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the resolution, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Westchester County, New York, on June 2, 2026, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which said Village is not authorized to expend money, or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this

notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution. Such resolution was subject to a permissive referendum and the period of time has elapsed for the submission and filing of a petition for a permissive referendum and a valid petition has not been submitted and filed.

A summary of the aforesaid resolution is set forth below. The resolution provides as follows: that the faith and credit of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Westchester County, New York, are irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such obligations as the same respectively become due and payable; that an annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such obligations becoming due and payable in such year; that the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance and sale of the bonds authorized by such resolution, including renewals of such notes, is delegated to the Village Treasurer; that all other matters, except as provided in such resolution, relating to the bonds authorized, including the date, denominations, maturities and interest payment dates, within the limitations prescribed in such resolution and the manner of the execution of the same and also including the consolidation with other issues, and the authority to issue such obligations on the basis of substantially level or declining annual debt

service, is delegated to and shall be determined by the Village Treasurer; and that this LEGAL NOTICE shall be published.

A summary of the bond resolution follows:

BOND RESOLUTION DATED JUNE 2, 2026.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$500,000 BONDS OF THE VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK, TO PAY THE COST OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SALT SHED, IN AND FOR SAID VILLAGE.

The period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid specific object or purpose is fifteen years, pursuant to subdivision eleven of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law.

THE FULL TEXT OF THIS BOND RESOLUTION IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AT THE OFFICE OF THE VILLAGE CLERK LOCATED AT 7 MAPLE AVENUE, HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK, DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS.

Dated: Hastings-on-Hudson, New York
July 3, 2026

—
HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON LEGAL NOTICE OF ESTOPPEL
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the resolution, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Westchester County, New York, on June 2, 2026, and the validity of the obligations

authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which said Village is not authorized to expend money, or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of publication of this notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution. Such resolution was subject to a permissive referendum and the period of time has elapsed for the submission and filing of a petition for a permissive referendum and a valid petition has not been submitted and filed.

A summary of the aforesaid resolution is set forth below. The resolution provides as follows: that the faith and credit of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Westchester County, New York, are irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such obligations as the same respectively become due and payable; that an annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such obligations becoming due and payable in such year; that the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance and sale of the bonds authorized by such resolution, including renewals of such notes, is delegated to the Village Treasurer; that all other matters, except as provided in such resolution, relating to the bonds authorized, including the date, denominations,

maturities and interest payment dates, within the limitations prescribed in such resolution and the manner of the execution of the same and also including the consolidation with other issues, and the authority to issue such obligations on the basis of substantially level or declining annual debt service, is delegated to and shall be determined by the Village Treasurer; and that this LEGAL NOTICE shall be published.

A summary of the bond resolution follows:

BOND RESOLUTION DATED JUNE 2, 2026.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$342,000 BONDS OF THE VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK, TO PAY THE COST OF VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS TO THE VILLAGE HALL AND LIBRARY, IN AND FOR SAID VILLAGE.

The period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid class of objects or purposes is twenty-five years pursuant to subdivision twelve of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law.

THE FULL TEXT OF THIS BOND RESOLUTION IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AT THE OFFICE OF THE VILLAGE CLERK LOCATED AT 7 MAPLE AVENUE, HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK, DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS.

Dated: Hastings-on-Hudson, New York
July 3, 2026

—
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the Ardsley Village Planning Board, 507 Ashford Ave., Ardsley, New York, will hold public hearings at an 8 pm meeting, July 13, 2026, on applications for special permit approval, allowing increases in floor area above basic permitted amounts (Village Code 200-83B), submitted by: (1) Sandra O. Nyanor, 538 Almena Ave. (Lot #6.70-51-2), for a proposed two-story addition with basement, including Accessory Dwelling Unit; and (2) Kun Yang & Jing G. Wang, 42 Concord Rd. (Lot # 6.10-1-10.4), for a proposed new Accessory Dwelling Unit in the existing basement. All wishing to be heard are invited to attend and to email comments to: ltomasso@ardsleyvillage.gov. Application materials may be viewed in the Village Clerk's office during office hours (Mon.-Fri., 9 am-4 pm). Meeting information also is posted at: www.ardsleyvillage.gov/calendar. Tasha Macedo
Planning Board Secretary
Village of Ardsley

—
LEGAL NOTICE - 65 WASHINGTON AVENUE

VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON
7 Maple Avenue
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706
Planning Board
Pursuant to the provisions of Section 295-143B of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson Code, Notice is hereby given that: A Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 7:00 PM, in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue, Hastings-on-Hudson, New York. The Hearing will be held on the application of Max Noto & Lindsay Kirschner for

the View Preservation Advisory, as per Section 295-82 of the Village Code, for a rear 2nd story addition on their current two-family dwelling at 65 Washington Avenue. Said property is located in the MR-1.5 Zoning District and is known as SBL: 4.70-51-11 on the Town of Greenburgh Tax Maps. The Planning Board will, at this time and place, hear all persons in support of such matter and any objections thereto.

Zoning Board of Appeals - Case No. 09-26
Pursuant to the provisions of Section 295-143B of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson Code, Notice is hereby given that: A Public Hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals on Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue, Hastings-on-Hudson, New York. The Hearing will be held on the application of Max Noto & Lindsay Kirschner for the View Preservation Approval, as per Section 295-82 of the Village Code, for a rear 2nd story addition on their current two-family dwelling at 65 Washington Avenue. Said property is located in the MR-1.5 Zoning District and is known as SBL: 4.70-51-11 on the Town of Greenburgh Tax Maps.

The Zoning Board of Appeals will, at this time and place, hear all persons in support of such matter and any objections thereto. Plans will be made available for review at the Building Department and on the Village web site, www.hohny.gov, on or about the Friday prior to the meeting date. Eva Alligood, Chair, PB, & Josh Heitler, Chair, ZBA

Volunteer ambulance corps

Continued from page 1

this essential emergency service with less or no Village funding, we'll certainly do so."

EMTs work in 12-hour shifts, for a total of 14 shifts per week and 56 shifts per four-week cycle. An ambulance is required to have a driver and qualified EMT on board to be considered fully staffed for that shift. The Village pays IVAC on four-week cycles, for a maximum of \$9,600 each cycle, which IVAC receives in full, or in part, depending on how many shifts are fully staffed. Over the past year, every shift was fully staffed.

In addition to volunteers, a shift can be staffed by professional EMTs paid per diem at a rate ranging from \$20 to \$23.50 per hour, based on experience. Village funding goes toward ambulance equipment, medical supplies, and helping to staff shifts with per diem EMTs. IVAC has 50 volunteers, up from 30 at the end of 2025.

"It takes time for new volunteers to acquire an EMT certification or to gather enough experience to be able to drive an

ambulance," Isola explained. "So just like every other organization, as volunteerism surges, it takes months, sometimes a year or more, for all new volunteers to gather the experience needed to become primary crew members."

The Dobbs Ferry Village Board's recent commitment to support DFFVAC is the second three-month extension, after an initial agreement approved in December to fund the nonprofit with \$15,000 per month. The Village first began supporting DFFVAC financially during the Covid emergency declaration, and provided the ambulance corps with \$10,000 per month from late 2020 through 2024. The Village stopped that subsidy after being told by attorneys that since the emergency declaration was no longer in effect, continued funding of the nonprofit could be considered a gift, and as such, illegal under state law.

Last year the Dobbs Ferry Village Board encouraged DFFVAC to pursue a merger with IVAC that would create a new nonprofit, since the Village believed that would be the only way it could continue to legally

fund DFFVAC. While the two organizations began conversations, DFFVAC leadership expressed concern that a merger would result in less efficient coverage for Dobbs residents, and IVAC's board voted to pause

“If there comes a time when we can provide this essential emergency service with less or no Village funding, we’ll certainly do so.”

IVAC captain Lucas Isola

discussions. After further clarification from attorneys, it was determined that it would only be illegal for Dobbs Ferry to fund DFFVAC on a consistent basis without an appropriate contract.

The December agreement was meant

to provide short-term funding while the Village and DFFVAC negotiate a permanent one-year contract, which has yet to happen. That new contract will replace an indefinite contract that has been in place since 1987 and prohibits the Village from funding DFFVAC on a permanent basis. The agreement also created a plan to restructure the ambulance corps' board of directors by appointing a new five-person board. After interviewing potential additions, that number was expanded to seven.

The board of directors now includes the addition of Dobbs Ferry residents Jon Hagstrom, Heather Morrison, and Elisabeth Stock, who were appointed by the village board in June, and three previous members of DFFVAC's board, appointed by DFFVAC leadership. A seventh member will be elected unanimously by the other six. DFFVAC had its first private board meeting on Tuesday, June 30, to begin deliberation on a new long-term contract and other ways to pursue financial support outside of Village funding, which will inform the details of a new contract.



— A LOCAL PEDIATRICIANS GUIDE TO —

Summer in the Rivertowns

Dr. Nitin Gupta of Rivertowns Pediatrics shares with the Rivertowns Dispatch his guide to keeping local kids happy and healthy this summer — from splash pads to Pokémon tournaments to that pharmacy that actually answers the phone.

Matthiessen Park
1 Bridge St., Irvington
Waterfront parks like this one are perfect for a low-key afternoon of biking, scootering, or just running around.

New Kawaii
1 Bridge Street, Irvington
This games and collectibles shop runs a Friday night Pokémon tournament that's actually educational—kids use complex rules, read closely, and do math. Drop them off and have a date night at Red Hat, MP Taverna, or Sambal.

Bliss Bakehouse
94 Main St., Irvington
You can bike or walk directly to Bliss along the Old Croton Aqueduct trail. It's a great bakery with pastries, custom cakes, and gluten-free and vegan options.

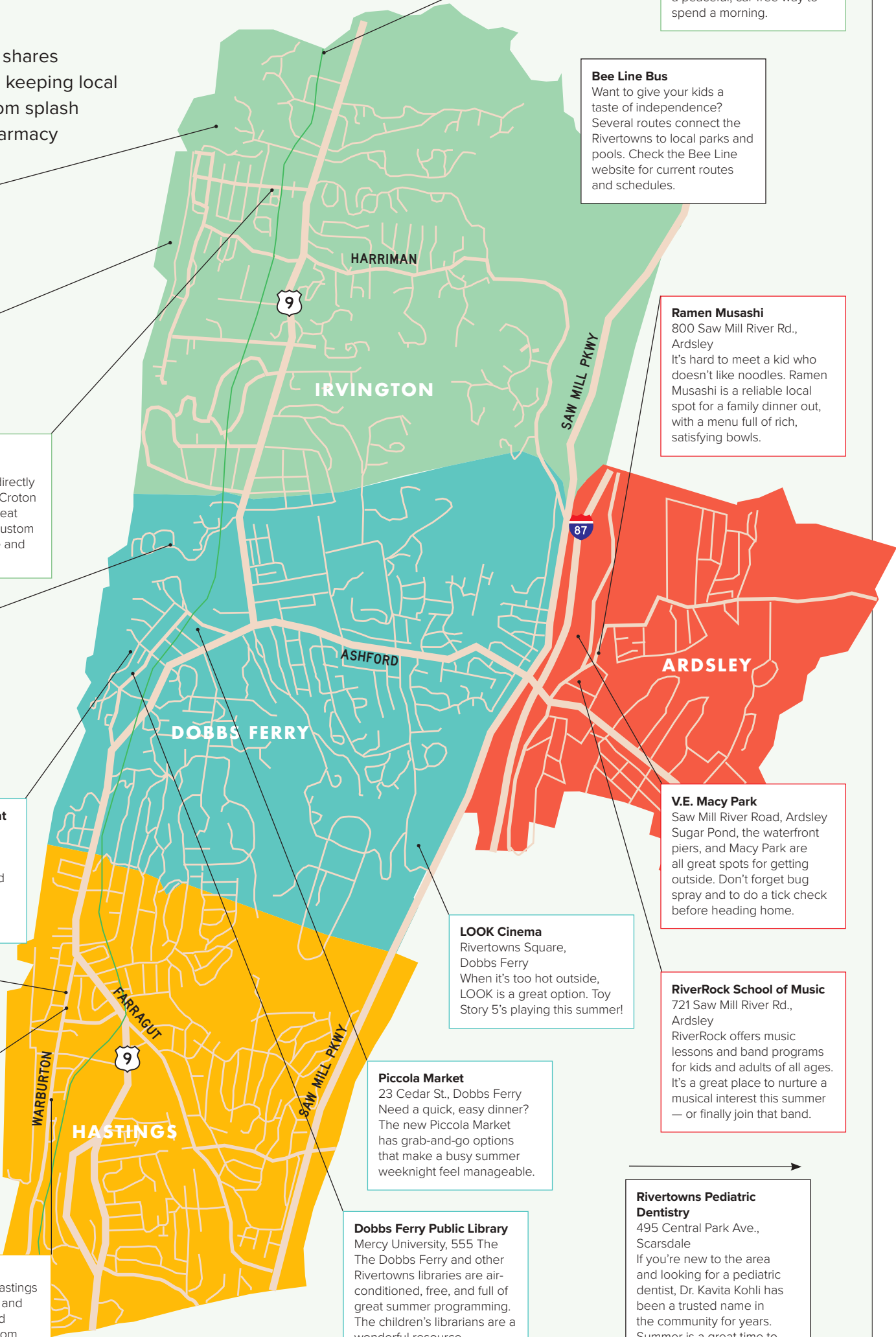
Camp Oasis
Mercy University, 555 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry
Camp Oasis has a little something for everyone: swimming, sports, arts and crafts, and more, for kids ages 3 through 15.

Dobbs Ferry Splash Pad at Memorial Park
105 Palisade St.
On the hottest days of summer, this free spray pad is a great way to keep kids cool and active. It's open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Penny Lick Ice Cream
580 Warburton Ave., Hastings
Penny Lick is a nut-free, sesame-free ice cream shop with vegan options — a rare find, and a reliable stop for families with allergies.

Greenleaf Pharmacy
544 Warburton Ave., Hastings
It's an independent pharmacy that will actually answer the phone and deliver directly to your door. A genuine lifesaver when kids get sick in summer.

The Maker Hive
416 Warburton Ave., Hastings
Offers summer camps and workshops for kids and adults on everything from watercolor to knitting to 3D printing. Try something new!



Old Croton Aqueduct
The OCA trail runs through all the Rivertowns and is perfect for biking or a leisurely stroll between the downtowns. It's a peaceful, car-free way to spend a morning.

Bee Line Bus
Want to give your kids a taste of independence? Several routes connect the Rivertowns to local parks and pools. Check the Bee Line website for current routes and schedules.

Ramen Musashi
800 Saw Mill River Rd., Ardsley
It's hard to meet a kid who doesn't like noodles. Ramen Musashi is a reliable local spot for a family dinner out, with a menu full of rich, satisfying bowls.

V.E. Macy Park
Saw Mill River Road, Ardsley
Sugar Pond, the waterfront piers, and Macy Park are all great spots for getting outside. Don't forget bug spray and to do a tick check before heading home.

RiverRock School of Music
721 Saw Mill River Rd., Ardsley
RiverRock offers music lessons and band programs for kids and adults of all ages. It's a great place to nurture a musical interest this summer — or finally join that band.

LOOK Cinema
Rivertowns Square, Dobbs Ferry
When it's too hot outside, LOOK is a great option. Toy Story 5's playing this summer!

Piccola Market
23 Cedar St., Dobbs Ferry
Need a quick, easy dinner? The new Piccola Market has grab-and-go options that make a busy summer weeknight feel manageable.

Dobbs Ferry Public Library
Mercy University, 555 The
The Dobbs Ferry and other Rivertowns libraries are air-conditioned, free, and full of great summer programming. The children's librarians are a wonderful resource.

Rivertowns Pediatric Dentistry
495 Central Park Ave., Scarsdale
If you're new to the area and looking for a pediatric dentist, Dr. Kavita Kohli has been a trusted name in the community for years. Summer is a great time to knock out appointments!

BY KIDS



Dispatch



FOR KIDS

Speaking Truth: The Story of

Sojourner Truth

BY: SIENNA L.-E., 10



Sojourner Truth was an abolitionist. An abolitionist is someone who tried to end slavery. She also fought for the rights of African-Americans and women. She was born in Swartekill, New York in 1797 and was enslaved.

Her original name was Isabella Baumfree, but she changed it in 1843. It was important for her to change her name because Sojourner means a traveler, and Truth represents her mission to speak God's truth, which shows how devoted she is to making things right.

In 1826 Sojourner Truth escaped to freedom. However, according to Ulster County Historian Anne Gordon, "she didn't know where to go, or who would help her. She had no guarantee that she would succeed. But, she

set off, carrying her infant daughter, and found helpful people who were not afraid to give aid and advice to a runaway."

After receiving news that her son Peter had illegally been sold to someone in Alabama, she took it to court to recover her son and in 1828 she became the first Black woman to win a case against a white man.

She spoke everywhere. Around 1829, Sojourner Truth traveled to New York City, not too far from the Rivertowns, to give speeches to end

slavery or to encourage others to act. One of her most famous speeches was given in 1851 in Akron, Ohio. In her speech she spoke of the strength and capabilities of women.

In 1872 she tried to vote, but was turned away. Eventually, she settled in Battle Creek, Michigan. She married a guy named Thomas who was also enslaved. She sadly died in 1883, November 26. Through all of this she never stopped being brave, smart, and persistent.

TRUE OR FALSE!

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION HAPPENED HERE!

By: Ayla K., 10

Famous events in Revolutionary War history happened here in the Rivertowns. Test your knowledge by playing the game... TRUE OR FALSE?

1. American local guide Isaac Odell helped the Americans win at the Battle of Edgars Lane. [T/F]
2. The town that the Battle of Edgars Lane took place in is Hastings-on-Hudson. [T/F]
3. The Battle of Edgars Lane took place in 1776. [T/F]
4. British spy Major André was carrying Benedict Arnold's treasonous plans and got caught in Ardsley. [T/F]
5. Benedict Arnold's plot was discovered about 100 yards east from the John Paulding monument in Tarrytown. [T/F]
6. Peter Post was a tavern owner who lied to help the Americans at the Battle of Edgars Lane. Peter Post's land became the center of Hastings-on-Hudson. [T/F]

THE STATUE OF LIBERTY: WHAT IT STANDS FOR

By Jimena B., 7

The Statue of Liberty stands tall in the New York Harbor. It is there to greet everyone that comes to America. It represents freedom like America. And it's strong like America. France gave it to America for their friendship. Do you notice her right foot? Her right foot is up. It looks like she's walking. She is walking to freedom.

Imagine that you just arrived in America from a crowded, rocky ship. You see the Statue of Liberty! How would you be feeling? Maybe you would be feeling seasick, tired, dirty, hungry, dizzy, sleepy, hot, cold, sweaty, wet, excited, surprised, thirsty, mad, sad, or relieved. So relieved that you might say: finally. Or, it's about time.



"True or False" Answer Key

1. True
2. True
3. False. It took place on September 30, 1778.
4. False. He was caught in Tarrytown.
5. True.
6. True.

CREATE A CARNIVOROUS PLANT

By Grey K., 11

grab a paper and start drawing!

What is a carnivorous plant?

A carnivorous plant is a plant that has adapted to poor soil conditions forcing it to learn how to digest insects and other things. Now see if you can make one!

Make sure your leafy demon has:

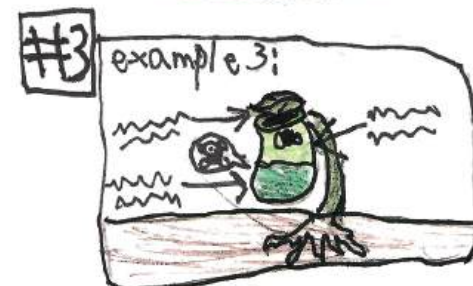
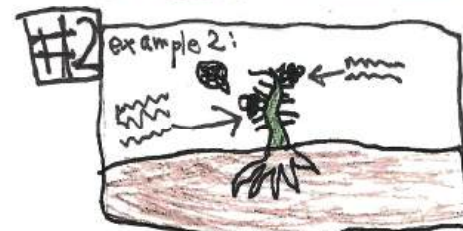
- a way to trap bugs
- an explanation on how it traps bugs
- an attribute shown below

Now you can choose if:

- your plant can bite at prey #1
- your plant can lure prey into a sticky trap #2
- your plant can have a pool of poison #3

CHALLENGE!

Maybe try using two or more of the optional attributes!



Backyard Birds of the Rivertowns: A Spotter's Guide

By Sammy W.-P., 8

Birds are amazing animals and you can find them around the world, and even in your backyard! This guide will help you look for birds and where to find them. Grab your binoculars and go outside or look out a window. And then watch, listen, and have fun!



American Robin

Turdus migratorius

SIZE: medium

HABITAT: open space

DIET: worms, berries, spiders

The robin has a red body and jumps around looking for worms. They use their feet, their hearing, and eyesight to search for worms. They are the first bird you see in spring.



House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

SIZE: small

HABITAT: forests, cities, plains, swamps
DIET: forages for seeds

The house sparrow flies with all its friends eating seeds. It has a small brown body.



Bald Eagle

Haliaeetus leucocephalus

SIZE: large

HABITAT: Hudson River
DIET: geese, fish, carrion (dead things), snakes

Bald eagles are large birds with white heads. More and more bald eagles inhabit the Hudson River each year because we stopped using DDT, which harmed eagle eggs.



Mourning Dove

Zenaida macroura

SIZE: medium

HABITAT: woods
DIET: seeds

Doves mate for life - really! So you will see two together. They look like pigeons. They have a beige color.

THE LITTLE
Dispatch



Sports

EDITED BY ROB DIANTONIO

Top sports stories of the 2025–26 school year

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Every school year produces memorable moments and milestones, but this one delivered no shortage of historic achievements across the Rivertowns. From state championship appearances and record-breaking performances to legendary coaching retirements and championship teams, local athletes and coaches continued to raise the bar.

Here is a look back at 12 notable sports stories from the 2025–26 season.

Dobbs Ferry softball team reaches first-ever state championship game

Few expected such a young Dobbs Ferry softball team to accomplish what it did this spring. With just two seniors — Kamryn Addis and Gianna Stone — and one junior, Nicolette Giorgio, the Eagles captured the Section 1 Class B championship with a 4–1 victory over Haldane before advancing all the way to the first state championship game in program history.

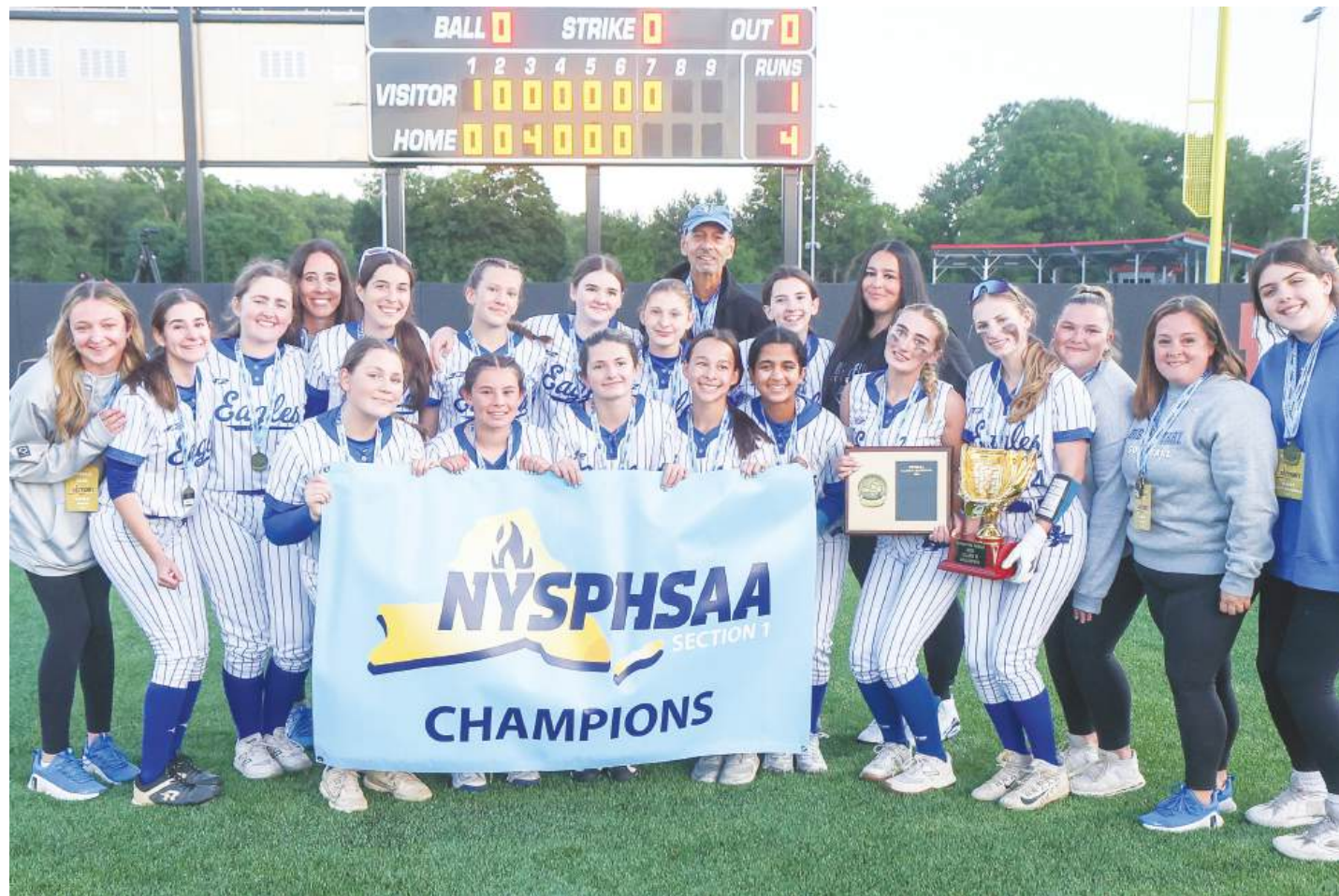
The Eagles' youth never showed. Eighth-grade pitcher Victoria Baron emerged as one of Section 1's best arms, earning all-section honors after consistently shutting down opposing lineups. Emily Marron developed into one of the area's premier third basemen and was also named all-section, while Addis and Giorgio earned all-section honorable mention recognition. Although Dobbs Ferry fell to defending state champion Chatham in the Class B title game, the Eagles finished one of the finest seasons in school history while laying the foundation for a bright future.

Anthony Ficarrotta becomes Section 1's all-time leading scorer

Anthony Ficarrotta cemented his place among the greatest basketball players in Section 1 history by breaking Todd Scott's long-standing career scoring record. The Dobbs Ferry senior surpassed Scott's mark of 2,055 points on Feb. 6 before finishing his remarkable career with 2,280 points.

Ficarrotta averaged an eye-popping 37.8 points and 13 rebounds per game while leading the Eagles to another outstanding season as they reached the Section 1 Class B championship game. His scoring ability, versatility, and consistency made him one of New York's premier players, and he capped his career by earning first-team all-state honors. He will continue his career at St. Thomas Aquinas College.

Irvington boys' cross country captures Class C championship



Dobbs Ferry's softball team won the Section 1 Class B title and advanced to their program's first state final. File photo by Rob DiAntonio.

Irvington's boys' cross-country team put together one of the finest seasons in program history, winning the Section 1 Class C championship behind a dominant team effort to edge second-place Bronxville.

Senior Ethan Gartlan led the way by winning the individual sectional title in a time of 17:02.10, while the Bulldogs showcased impressive depth by placing seven runners among the top-20 finishers to secure the team championship. Declan Lyons (sixth), Michael Carron (eighth), Noah Brenner (10th), Glen Feng (12th), Zach Milun (15th), and Luke Calabrese (19th) finished in the top 20 for the Bulldogs. The victory highlighted years of steady program growth and sent Irvington to the state championships, where Gartlan capped his outstanding senior season with an all-state finish after placing ninth in Class C.

Ciszewski throws first perfect game in program history

Hastings senior Drew Ciszewski tossed the first perfect game in the program's 117-year history during a 2–0 victory over Rye Neck on May 8. The right-hander retired all 21 batters he faced while striking out 11 over seven flawless innings. Perfect games remain among the rarest accomplishments

in baseball, requiring not only dominant pitching but also lights-out defense behind the pitcher. Ciszewski finished an all-section



Hastings' Danee Morgan had a dominant senior season in throwing events. File photo by Rob DiAntonio.

season with a 1.71 earned run average, striking out 74 batters and allowing just 34 hits over 49 innings.

Maier retires after legendary coaching career

Legendary coach Gina Maier retired after 50 seasons as the winningest girls' basketball coach in New York State history with 814 career victories. Maier guided countless players through successful careers while winning championships and establishing Irvington as a perennial contender. She finished her career with 18 Section 1 titles and six state championships.

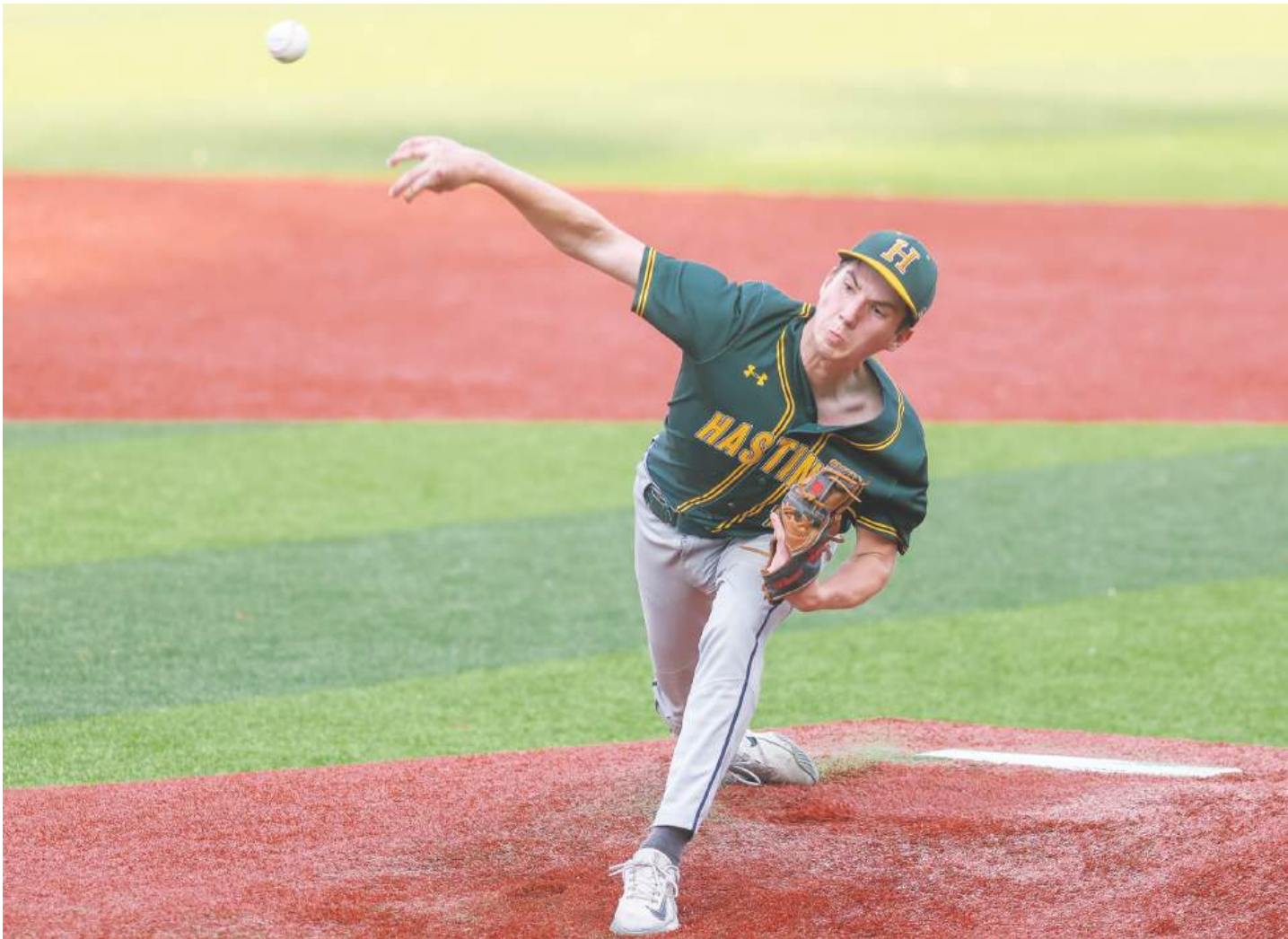
The program remains in familiar hands, however, as former Irvington standout Kaitlin Degnan was chosen to succeed her mentor. Degnan inherited a proud tradition while looking to begin the next chapter of Bulldogs basketball.

Danae Morgan establishes herself among nation's elite throwers

Hastings senior Danae Morgan enjoyed another spectacular year, proving herself as one of New York's premier throwers across both the indoor and outdoor seasons.

Continued on page 23

Sports



Hastings' Drew Ciszewski pitched a perfect game against Rye Neck. File photo by Rob DiAntonio.

Top sports stories

Continued from page 22

Morgan qualified for national competition during the winter after surpassing 54 feet in the weight throw and later represented Hastings on one of the sport's biggest stages. She earned All-American with a seventh-place finish in the weight throw at Nationals and was also second at States. During the spring, she continued to dominate by winning Section 1 Class C titles in both the shot put and discus. She posted a personal best of 39-3 in the shot put at the Loucks Games. Morgan will continue her athletic and academic pursuits at Texas Christian University.

Mitev captures second-straight sectional wrestling title

Ardasley junior Ethan Mitev continued to establish himself among Section 1's elite wrestlers by winning his second-straight sectional championship.

He earned the 175-pound Division 2 title by pinning Pearl River's Joseph Cooney in just 1:11. With another sectional title secured before his senior season, Mitev enters next winter with an opportunity to add even more accolades to an already decorated career.

Ambotas dominates Section 1 swimming championships

Dobbs Ferry junior Nikita Ambotas

delivered one of the most impressive individual performances of the winter sports season at the Section 1 boys' swimming championships.

Ambotas captured sectional titles in both the 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard freestyle while also helping lead two relay teams to championships. Winning four sectional events in a single meet is an extraordinary accomplishment and highlighted one of the finest performances ever by a Rivertowns swimmer.

Ardasley boys' squad wins sectional fencing title

Ardasley's boys' foil team earned a thrilling Section 1 championship with a dramatic 5-4 victory over Woodlands on Feb. 7.

Matt Kraytman, Robert Sanchez, Chase Kwon, Jeevan Kadaplackal, and Bryan Hsiao combined to bring home the sectional crown, displaying remarkable composure in one of the closest championship matches of the season. Their teamwork and resilience helped deliver one of the school's signature accomplishments of the winter sports season.

Softball pitchers rewrite the record books

Two of the area's premier softball pitchers closed out remarkable careers by rewriting their respective school record books.

Ardasley senior Sofia Haber surpassed

700 career strikeouts before finishing with a school record 714, cementing herself as one of the greatest pitchers in program history while leading the Panthers to another successful season. Across town, Hastings senior Siri Rosenberg established a new school record for career strikeouts and finished her career with 338.

Grados reaches 300 career points

Reaching 100 career goals is a substantial milestone in lacrosse, but tallying 300 career points is a step or two ahead. Irvington senior Nick Grados piled up goals and assists over his career on his way to the milestone. He reached 300 career points in a 14-4 rout of rival Dobbs Ferry in the Lax for Lupus game on May 2. Grados guided the Bulldogs to a sectional semifinal appearance in Class D.

Balkin nets a milestone on ice

Similar to Grados, Irvington senior Aidan Balkin filled up the net with goals while also finding teammates consistently with deft passes on his way to 200 career points. What made it even more impressive is that Balkin was a defenseman for the Legends, a position not usually known for lighting the lamp. Balkin rarely left the ice during his senior season, leading the Legends to a semifinal appearance in Division 1.

The Blotter

Continued from page 2

the Church of St. Barnabas, 15 North Broadway (Route 9), on the morning of Thursday, June 25. The culprit was confronted by a witness and then apprehended by police. The church declined to press charges. Police reported the incident to the Westchester County District Attorney's Office. The banner read "Pride Month; Be Yourself; All are Welcome Here."

Correction

A 42-year-old Yonkers resident was not arrested for burglarizing Hudson Social, 11 Station Plaza, Dobbs Ferry, as reported last week. The only person arrested was a 45-year-old Brooklyn resident who arrived via train and left the scene in a taxi driven by the Yonkers resident. \$5,800 in cash was stolen. The Brooklyn resident was charged with four felonies and one misdemeanor.

Dog park

Continued from page 6

local buzz, Roberts credited his mom, Troop 3 leader Jackie Roberts, for bringing more attention to the Scouts in Ardsley.

"She has done an amazing job bringing Scouting to life in the town, and supporting everyone in the troop to reach their full potential," he said. "I know that any kid, both boys and girls, is definitely gonna be in good hands with my mom."

Because Roberts does not have a dog of his own, he joked that he hopes the project is enough to convince his parents to get one, preferably a pit bull.

Sunset Concert Series

Continued from page 10

People bring blankets and chairs, they can bring their picnics from home if they prefer, they can bring their pets."

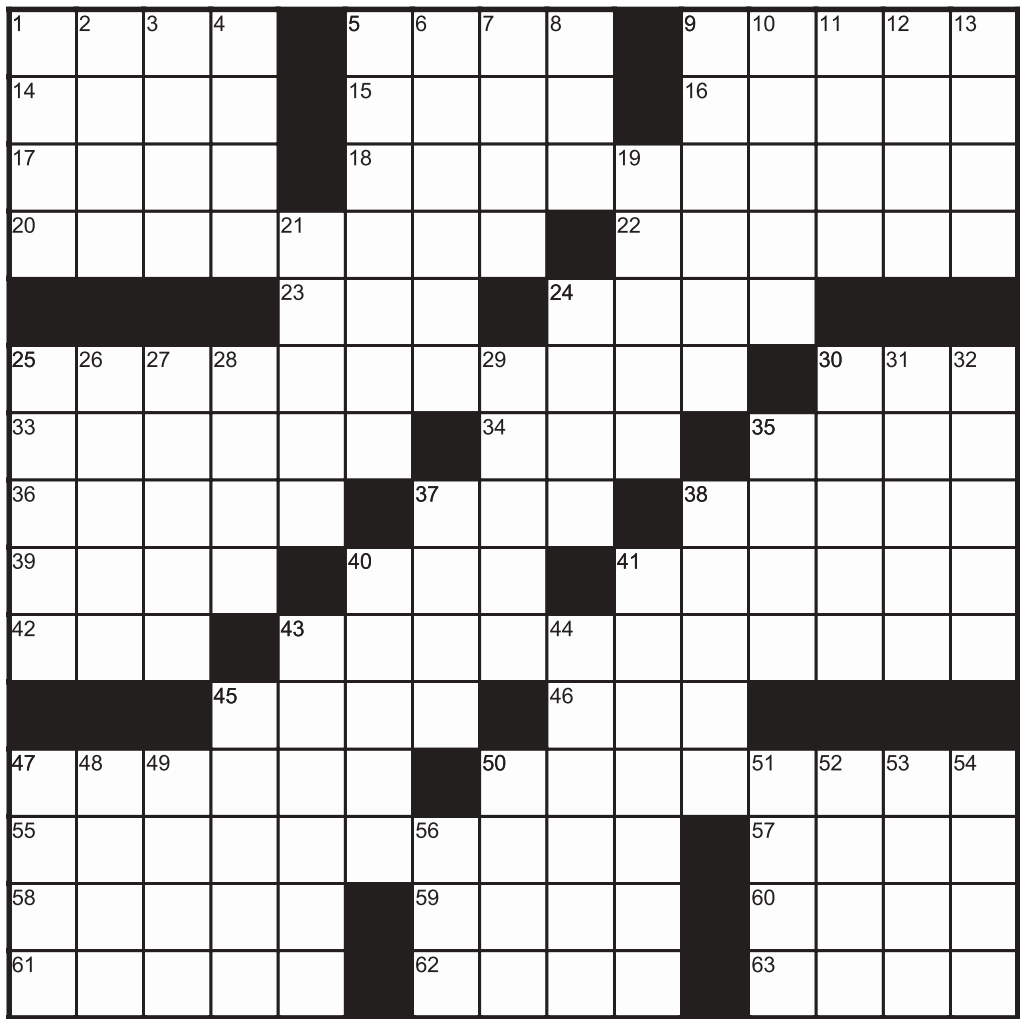
In addition to the series, the annual Grateful To Be Alive concert will take place on July 28 from 6-9 p.m. at the same spot. Though not affiliated with the series, the concert has become a tradition since 2023.

Grateful To Be Alive is a band that performs covers of the Grateful Dead, while bringing in elements of blues, jazz, folk, country, bluegrass, and reggae. Three of the performers are from Hastings: Rich Lobovsky (keys and vocals), Shannon Rooney (vocals), and Erik Blicher (guitar and vocals). Also featured are Scarsdale resident Vincent D'Agostino (drums), and New York City residents Charlie Caldarola (drums) and Dave Hamburger (bass).

Other musical events this summer include the Hastings on Jazz concert series, which takes place every Sunday, from 3-5:30 p.m., at VFW Plaza through Aug. 9.

Looking ahead at a full slate of concerts, Prisament reflected Williams' sentiment on the power of music in a small community like Hastings.

"It's a real unifying force," she said. "It brings people out of their homes and into community, enjoying something together. Experiences like that are irreplaceable."



- ACROSS**

 - 1. Mend socks
 - 5. Iridescent gem
 - 9. Region
 - 14. Off-Broadway theater award
 - 15. Motion picture
 - 16. Shout of exultation
 - 17. Pause
 - 18. Inexperienced person (Colloq)
 - 20. Excess
 - 22. Anthems
 - 23. Government broadcaster
 - 24. Decades
 - 25. Public assembly
 - 30. Miles per hour
 - 33. Optic
 - 34. Aged
 - 35. The Pentateuch
 - 36. Bay window
 - 37. Chop
 - 38. Engine
 - 39. Dispatch
 - 40. Pressure symbol
 - 41. Bargain
 - 42. Superlative suffix
 - 43. Surgical cutting of the windpipe
 - 45. Broth
 - 46. Otic organ
 - 47. Irrational
 - 50. Supply with water
 - 55. Condensed
 - 57. Having wings
 - 58. Habituate
 - 59. Tennis star, - Natase
 - 60. Hardens
 - 61. Remove harmful vapours from
 - 62. Hang
 - 63. High temperature
- DOWN**

 - 1. Hamlet
 - 2. Cain's victim
 - 3. Stand
 - 4. After deductions
 - 5. A month
 - 6. Penetrate
 - 7. Indian currency
 - 8. Captained
 - 9. A multitude of people
 - 10. Floating platforms
 - 11. Agave
 - 12. Congeal
 - 13. Small children
 - 19. Revise
 - 21. Porter
 - 24. Roofing slate
 - 25. Elk
 - 26. Land measures
 - 27. Natural grease of sheep wool
 - 28. Toboggan
 - 29. Poisonous
 - 30. Slogan
 - 31. Introduction
 - 32. Annoy
 - 35. Misdeed
 - 37. As soon as possible
 - 38. New Zealand aboriginal
 - 40. Extremely modest person
 - 41. Bewhiskered
 - 43. Spanish navigator
 - 44. In this
 - 45. Above
 - 47. Etching fluid
 - 48. Skeletal part
 - 49. Complacent
 - 50. Small island
 - 51. Wide slash
 - 52. To the sheltered side
 - 53. Good-bye (2-2)
 - 54. Former
 - 56. Small drink

This crossword is brought to you
by your local coworking club.

*If you want another one next week, email us at info@hudco.co
so we know you're reading this.*

HUDCO

Flexible memberships available! 914 - 479 - 0011 www.hudco.co Happy birthday, Jason!