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Dispatch

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



IRVINGTON

Roadside cleanup

Miran Phipps of Dobbs Ferry, Sarah Sichel-Outcalt of White Plains, Ananya Shukla of Ardsley, and Sheri Aronowitz of Mamaroneck were among the volunteers who picked up trash from a section of the Irvington Woods along Cyrus Field Road on the afternoon of Monday, Aug. 17. The cleanup was organized by the Greenburgh Teen Task Force and the staff of the O’Hara Nature Center in Irvington.



REGION

New Chamber director offers support  
p 3

“We wanted the history to be threaded throughout the celebration.”

Scott Mosenthal, president of the Irvington Historical Society  
p 11



SPORTS

Senior to lead disciplined squad  
p 14



ARDSLEY

Common threads  
Textile artist weaves community connections  
p 5

Proposed law  
aims to rein in  
electric bikes  
and scooters

Board of Trustees to hold  
public hearing on Sept. 8

ARDSLEY

Electric bicycles, or e-bikes, have been a persistent source of resident concern this summer, leading the Ardsley Board of Trustees to propose new restrictions and enforcement measures.

“People may think of them as bikes, but they’re riding vehicles, and they must obey the rules of the road,” Mayor Steve Edelstein said at the board’s meeting on Aug. 3.

Although there have been no accidents that the Village is aware of, Edelstein told the Dispatch, “many residents have expressed concerns about e-bikes being ridden in side-walks, e-bikes being ridden at high speeds, e-bike riders without helmets, and the risk this behavior is causing for both the riders and pedestrians.”

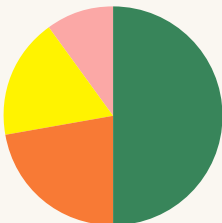
During the meeting, Trustee Michael Wiskind shared that the Village’s Traffic,

*Continued on page 4*

The Poll

What do you read the most?

As answered by 130 readers of the Rivertowns Dispatch



50% Books

22% Short articles & posts

18% Long-form articles

10% I mostly scroll

Vote at [rivertownsdispatch.com/the-weekly-poll](http://rivertownsdispatch.com/the-weekly-poll)



The Blotter

ARDSLEY

**Suspicious duo:** Two unidentified people were recorded by a security camera outside a home on Cross Road on Saturday, Aug. 15, at around 4:30 a.m.

DOBBS FERRY

**Ultra thefts:** Three thefts from the Ulta Beauty at Rivertowns Square were reported on Aug. 10 — an unidentified woman stole \$1,682 worth of items on the afternoon of Thursday, Aug. 6; two unidentified women stole \$3,203 worth of items on the evening of Aug. 6; and an unidentified man stole \$1,299.98 worth of items on the afternoon of Saturday, Aug. 8.

**Coyote out of bounds:** A coyote was found on the artificial turf field at Dobbs Ferry Middle/High School on the morning of Monday, Aug. 17, as the high school football team arrived for practice.

HASTINGS

**Suspended registration:** A 48-year-old Bronx resident was arrested for a suspended vehicle registration, a misdemeanor, on Warburton Avenue on the evening of Monday,

Aug. 10. He was also cited for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, a violation. Officer Thomas Gunther made the arrest.

**Deer hit by vehicle:** Police put down a deer that was hit by a vehicle at the intersection of Broadway (Route 9) and Dudley Street on the morning of Tuesday, Aug. 11.

**Press box entered:** The press box at Reynolds Field was entered, but not damaged, sometime be-

fore the afternoon of Tuesday, Aug. 11.

**Suspended registration:** A 38-year-old Yonkers resident was arrested for a suspended vehicle registration, a misdemeanor, on Ravensdale Road on the afternoon of Thursday, Aug. 13. He was also cited for an uninspected motor vehicle, a violation. Officer Wuilber Maldonado made the arrest.

**Suspended license and registration:** A 21-year-

old Bronx resident was arrested for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree and for a suspended vehicle registration, both misdemeanors, on Broadway on the afternoon of Thursday, Aug. 13. He was also cited for an uninspected motor vehicle, a violation. Officer Wuilber Maldonado made the arrest.

**Suspicious duo:** Two unidentified men without IDs requested to enter a home on Farragut Avenue on the afternoon of Friday, Aug. 14. The request was denied.

**Suspended license:** A 19-year-old resident of Freeport, Long Island, was arrested for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree, a misdemeanor, on Broadway on the evening of Sunday, Aug. 16. He was also cited for two violations — speeding and failing to stop at a stop sign. Officer Thomas Gunther made the arrest.

Three courts sign on for mental health program

Dobbs Ferry, Hastings, and Tarrytown are among 10 municipal courts participating in a mental health navigator program launched by the Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health.

The program “will connect people with mental illness who are involved in the criminal justice system to treatment and support services while their cases are pending,” according to a press

release from the County on Aug. 3. “By helping participants access care, housing, and other resources,” the press release continues, “the program aims to improve outcomes for individuals, enhance public safety, and reduce unnecessary incarceration and repeat involvement with the justice system.” Participants in the program, which is voluntary, must be diagnosed with a serious mental illness and facing misdemeanor or felony charges. The courts can refer defendants for assistance or defendants can request assistance.

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Lelia Jimenez at the Stillroom in Irvington

## Jimenez wants Chamber to be a source of support

*Business coach steps into role as executive director*

BY LAURA SCHILLER

**REGION** When a street festival fills a downtown with families, music, and vendors, it may look like a community success. But for some business owners, road closures and parking restrictions make it harder for customers to stop by. Lelia Jimenez believes those business owners deserve a seat at the table.

As the new executive director of the Rivertowns Chamber of Commerce, Jimenez sees the Chamber as a bridge between local businesses and village leaders, raising concerns before they become problems while supporting events that bring people together.

“We can say, ‘This is a great idea. We love this event that’s coming up, but some of our businesses are concerned about it impacting traffic during their peak times,’” Jimenez told the Dispatch. “If we know that in advance, we can reach out and help find solutions — or at least make sure businesses have time to prepare.”

As a business coach and consultant, Jimenez, 40, has helped entrepreneurs launch and grow new ventures. Now she hopes to bring that collaborative approach to the Chamber’s approximately 240 member businesses across Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings, and Irvington.

“What stands out to me most about the business community here is how committed

people are to helping it grow. Business owners aren’t just focused on their own success — they genuinely want to connect with one another and build a stronger community together,” Jimenez said. “There’s a real understanding that we’re all better off when we support each other.”

A White Plains resident, mother of three, and business consultant, Jimenez took over as executive director from Regina Reyes on June 29. But her relationship with the Chamber began well before then. Her con-

“There’s a real understanding that we’re all better off when we support each other.”

Lelia Jimenez

sulting clients have included businesses throughout the Rivertowns.

Jimenez first became involved with the Chamber after joining as a member through her consulting business. She later accepted a position as the Chamber’s events manager, giving her an inside look at its operations and members.

After stepping away from that role, she remained connected to the Chamber. When Chamber president Tim Akapo encouraged her to apply for the executive director position, she decided to go for it.

“I think it takes a certain personality,” Jimenez said. “You can’t be afraid to reach

out to people. You have to genuinely want to connect with them.”

Before joining the Chamber, Jimenez had built a career around helping people find their path. After earning a bachelor’s degree in psychology, she took a job at a psychiatric hospital, where a kind of frustration altered her career plans.

“I was a 24-year-old single mom, and I wanted to take every one of those kids home and fix things that I couldn’t fix,” Jimenez said. “That’s when I realized I could make a difference in a different way.”

She pivoted into human resources, where she focused on connecting the right people with the right opportunities.

After spending several of the next years as a stay-at-home mother, Jimenez began hosting self-care events for women. One attendee traveled from Harlem after seeing a Facebook flier for one of Jimenez’s events. She later told Jimenez the experience had been so meaningful that she wished her own mother had opportunities like it — and asked whether she had ever considered coaching.

“I said, ‘No, maybe I should,’” Jimenez recalled.

The conversation prompted Jimenez to begin coaching women on personal and professional growth. She realized many women had marketable talents but lacked the confidence or guidance to turn them into businesses.

Jimenez launched “How Many Hatz Coaching” in 2019 before founding Lelia

*Continued on page 4*

## Hastings set pace for Weiser’s gubernatorial run in Colorado

BY AMY BOCHNER

**HASTINGS** Forty years after running for student government at Hastings High School — unsuccessfully — Phil Weiser is the Democratic nominee for governor of Colorado.

The HHS Class of ’86 graduate, who currently serves as Colorado’s attorney general, defeated U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet in a primary on June 30. Weiser will face Republican Victor Marx, a minister and former Marine, in the general election on Nov. 3. The incumbent, Democrat Jared Polis, cannot seek re-election due to term limits.

Weiser credits his Hastings upbringing for setting him on the path to politics, citing Robert Tucker, his 11th-grade A.P. U.S. History teacher, as an early mentor. Tucker also served as adviser to the Westchester Model U.N. Conference, which Weiser organized as a junior and senior. Although he didn’t win his student campaigns, those experiences started Weiser on his current path.

His first exposure to national politics was in 1990, when, after graduating from Swarthmore College with a bachelor’s degree in political science and economics, he worked on Nita Lowey’s campaign for the U.S. House of Representatives. Lowey, who passed away in 2025, went on to serve in Congress for 32 years. Through his work with Lowey, Weiser met another key mentor, Paul Feiner, who was running for his first term as Greenburgh town supervisor in 1991 and asked Weiser to be his campaign manager. Feiner is now running for his 19th term.

After Weiser graduated from New York University Law School in 1994, a clerkship with David Ebel of the U.S. Court of Appeals’ 10th Circuit brought him to Colorado. This led to further opportunities with U.S. Supreme Court Justices Byron White and Ruth Bader Ginsburg. He also worked in the Obama and Clinton administrations, at both the White House and U.S. Justice Department. From 2011 to 2016, he served as dean of the University of Colorado Law School.

Weiser first put his own hat in the ring in 2018, when Colorado residents elected him attorney general. Serving in that position over the past eight years, he said his most meaningful work has been related to the opioid crisis. He referenced his administration’s settlements with pharmaceutical companies that secured \$860 million, which was invested in the first-ever treatment facility in the state’s San Luis Valley.

*Continued on page 13*

*E-bike legislation*  
*Continued from page 1*

Parking, Pedestrian, and Cycling Safety Committee was “reinvigorated” this year, with one of its initial goals being e-bike legislation, which received support from the board and the police department. The board set a public hearing to consider the proposed legislation on Sept. 8 at 7:30 p.m.

In New York State, e-bikes, or “bicycles with electric assist,” are defined as a bicycle that is no more than 36 inches wide, with an electric motor under 750 watts, and equipped with operable pedals. There are three classes of e-bike. The first has an electric motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and stops providing assistance when the vehicle reaches 20 mph. The second class has an electric motor that exclusively propels the e-bike, and cannot provide assistance when the vehicle reaches 20 mph. The third class is only applicable in New York City.

*Lelia Jimenez*  
*Continued from page 3*

Kaye Consulting, LLC, in 2022. Since then, she has enabled entrepreneurs — from clothing designers and bakers to health-care professionals — to launch and grow their businesses.

Those experiences continue to shape the way Jimenez approaches her new leadership

The proposed measures also apply to electric scooters, which are defined by the State as devices less than 100 pounds “with handlebars, a floorboard, or a seat that could be stood or sat upon by the operator, and an electric motor that can be powered by

“People may think of them as bikes, but they’re riding vehicles, and they must obey the rules of the road.”

Ardslley Mayor Steve Edelstein

an electric motor and/or human power and which has a maximum speed of no more than 20 mph.” The speed limit for electric scooters in New York State is 15 mph.

Ardslley’s legislation includes four new articles setting restrictions on e-bikes and

role at the Chamber.

One of Jimenez’s first priorities is demonstrating the value of Chamber membership by making networking events more interactive and responsive to business owners’ needs.

“I don’t want our networking events to be just another date on the calendar,” Jimenez said. “I want to hear what people need and make sure they know those ideas won’t stop

e-scooters. Many changes are consistent with state law while adding specific details about enforcement by local police.

Anyone under the age of 16 would be prohibited from operating these vehicles on public property or roadways. All riders and passengers would be required to wear a helmet. This expands upon New York State law, which only requires 16- and 17-year-old riders to wear helmets. The amendment bans e-bikes and e-scooters from sidewalks, and limits their usage on Village roads to ones with a speed limit under 30 mph.

Operating these vehicles in a “reckless fashion” is prohibited, which includes weaving through traffic or trick riding on streets with active traffic. The rules also ban the operation of these vehicles while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

The proposed rules provide the Ardsley Police Department with a mechanism to enforce these restrictions. For sidewalk riding, not wearing a helmet, or operating one of the vehicles while underage, the first

violation would come with a warning. A second violation within 18 months would be met with a \$250 fine, followed by \$500 for a third violation. In addition to the fines, there would be a vehicle storage fee of \$50 a day for any e-bike or e-scooter impounded by the Village.

More serious violations, like reckless operation, driving under the influence, or fleeing police, would be met with a \$500 fine, along with the impoundment of the e-bike/e-scooter. A second violation within five years would lead to a \$1,500 fine. For subsequent violations, there would be up to a \$5,000 fine and/or up to a year in jail.

For riders under the age of 16, the police would be able to immediately impound their vehicle. Guardians/parents could be responsible for fines, and the \$50-a-day storage fee.

Wiskind said the board is “very hopeful and positive that this will have good impacts on safety for both the people who use the bikes and the people who are on the roads with them.”

with me. I’ll take them back to the board and see what we can do.”

Jimenez’s first Chamber meeting as executive director was at Saint George Bistro in Hastings on Aug. 12. The Chamber’s “Readers to Leaders” gala, slated for Sept. 24 at HudCo, will honor local library leaders and raise money for children’s educational programs.

For Jimenez, the Chamber’s value extends

beyond networking events and ribbon cuttings. At its best, she said, it gives business owners an advocate — someone who listens, connects them with resources, and helps them navigate challenges together.

“‘Support’ is really the main word that comes up,” Jimenez said. “If there’s an area you need backing in, let us put you in contact with the right people and get you the resources to help you steamroll forward.”

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LIMO AND CAR SERVICE

**Summer Concert Series:**  
**G Force**  
 Saturday, Aug. 22, 6–8 p.m.  
 Pascone Park. Free; bring a blanket or chair.  
 —  
**Bouncing Babies: Storytime and Music**  
 Monday, Aug. 24, 10:45 a.m.

Ardsley Public Library. For ages 6 months–3 years. Register at [ardsleypubliclibrary.org](https://ardsleypubliclibrary.org).  
 —  
**Movie Matinee: "Project Hail Mary"**  
 Monday, Aug. 24, 2 p.m.  
 Ardsley Public Library.  
 Register by emailing

[peggym@ardsleylibrary.org](mailto:peggym@ardsleylibrary.org).  
 —  
**Board of Trustees Work Session**  
 Monday, Aug. 24, 7:30 p.m.  
 Village Hall. Agenda available at [ardsleyvillage.gov](https://ardsleyvillage.gov).  
 —  
**School Board Meeting**

Tuesday, Aug. 25, 7 p.m. High school library. Livestream available at [ardsleyschools.org](https://ardsleyschools.org).  
 —  
**Zoning Board Meeting**  
 Wednesday, Aug. 26, 8 p.m.  
 Village Hall.  
 —  
**Library Board Meeting**

Thursday, Aug. 27, 7:30 p.m. Ardsley Public Library.  
 —  
**Call for Artists: RiverArts Studio Tour**  
 Registration (\$60 per artist) is open through Sept. 12 at [riverarts.org](https://riverarts.org). Tour is slated for Nov. 7–8.

## Oula Health withdrawn

During their meeting on Aug. 3, the Ardsley Board of Trustees closed a public hearing regarding a proposed Oula Health medical office for women after the applicant withdrew. The board received the proposal in June, which sought to convert the former Rite Aid at 875 Saw Mill River Road (Route 9A) into a clinical office for outpatient maternity and gynecological care.

— Amy Bochner



### — HIGHER ED BRIEFS —

#### WPI graduate

**Joshua Cohen** earned a bachelor's degree in interactive media and game development from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) on May 15. Cohen completed a senior thesis as part of the university's project-based educational experience. His major qualifying project was titled "SPI-Glass — Alternate Reality Mobile Game."

#### Scranton graduate

**Stephen Thompson** earned a master's degree in accounting from the University of Scranton on May 24.

#### Alabama graduate

**Michael Belarge** earned a bachelor's degree in communication and information sciences from the University of Alabama.

#### Georgia graduate

**Jillian Bernstein** graduated from the University of Georgia.

#### James Madison dean's list

**Giulia Bennett** and **Aidan Wels** were named to the dean's list at James Madison University for the spring semester. Bennett is majoring in history, while Wels is majoring in sports and recreation management.

#### SUNY Oneonta dean's list

**Noah Augsburg** and **Tara Herbert** were named to the dean's list at SUNY Oneonta for the spring semester.

#### SUNY Buffalo dean's list

**Mady Calkins**, **Nathan Hemmerdinger**, **Justin Rieper**, and **Daniela Schwartz** were named to the dean's list at SUNY Buffalo for the spring semester.

#### SUNY Cortland dean's list

**Sophia DiMartino** and **Savannah Ippolito** were named to the dean's list at SUNY Cortland for the spring semester. DiMartino is majoring in speech and hearing science, while Ippolito is majoring in criminology.

#### SUNY Albany dean's list

**Joshua Noguera** was named to the dean's list at SUNY Albany for the spring semester.

#### Rhode Island dean's list

**Jade Hager** was named to the dean's list at the University of Rhode Island for the spring semester.

#### Tufts dean's list

**Michelle Gilinsky** and **Saanvi Kapoor** were named to the dean's list at Tufts University for the spring semester.



Sania Samad at her home

# Textile artist weaves community connections

BY SAMARA HADI

This past spring, textile designer Sania Samad reflected on the importance of home as she sat in her living room. "When someone's home is destroyed, everybody should think about how their homes are important to them," she said. "And maybe then they can develop that idea that everybody on Earth is important."

That concept of home, and its ability to bind a community together, was the origin of her idea for the Ardsley Story Quilt,

which was created from 31 squares made by different community members between April 2024 and September 2025, when it was unveiled. The quilt measures 9 feet by 9 feet.

Samad was raised in Lahore, Pakistan, where she studied, and later taught at, the National College of Arts. Her path to textile design began in childhood. She grew up in a family, and culture, that appreciated textiles and embroidery.

"My aunts and my mother and my grandmother all used to do embroideries," Samad

said. "This was a pastime. They used to sit together at night after dinner. They all had some kind of embroidery. There used to be a lot of discussion about the colors and the shapes and the quality of the stitch."

Samad is working on a project that involves themes of motherhood and feminism, inspired by the female presence throughout her childhood. For that project, she is using a Pakistani technique called ralli, which involves stitching together recycled scraps of fabric from clothes and other

*Continued on page 13*



## Coming soon?

The Ardsley Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, Sept. 8, regarding an application by Martine's Bakery to add a 390-square-foot addition, including a bathroom, to 660 Saw Mill River Road, the former location of Riviera Bakehouse. Riviera closed in January 2024. Martine's operates bakeries in Scarsdale and Tuckahoe.



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## DOBBS FERRY

### Bocce with the Mayor and Village Board

Saturday, Aug. 22, 10 a.m.–noon. Memorial Park Bocce Court (behind the Recreation Department building).

### Drop-in Mahjong

Monday, Aug. 24, 1–3 p.m.

Dobbs Ferry Public Library.

### School Board Meeting

Tuesday, Aug. 25, 7 p.m. Middle/high school library. Agenda available at [dfs.d.org](http://dfs.d.org).

### Trivia Night

Tuesday, Aug. 25, 7 p.m.

Memorial Park.

### Outdoor Concert: Richard Baratta

Wednesday, Aug. 26, 6:30–8 p.m. Waterfront Park. Family-friendly Jitterbugs Jam begins at 5:30. Cancellation due to inclement weather will

be announced by 2 p.m. at [jazzforumarts.org](http://jazzforumarts.org).

### Mobile Shredder

Thursday, Aug. 27, 9 a.m.–noon. Waterfront Park.

### Toddler Storytime

Friday, Aug. 28, 10:30 a.m.

Keeper's House, 15 Walnut St. Nature-themed storytime and craft activity for ages 2–4.

### Movie on the Trail: "The Little Giants"

Friday, Aug. 28, 8:30 p.m. Keeper's House. Bring your own chair and refreshments.

## Village considers policy for temporary speed humps

The Dobbs Ferry Board of Trustees is developing a policy to determine when to install temporary speed bumps in response to residents' complaints about village streets. During a public workshop on Aug. 11, the board heard a presentation from the Village Traffic Committee favoring installation of the temporary rubber speed bumps after concerns are referred to the committee by residents.

Traffic Committee member Matthew Carmody explained that rubber speed humps could be installed for a trial period, and moved to another street. He also acknowledged concerns about speed humps.

"Street cleaning, snow removal, and first responders find them challenging to work around, residents can sometimes hear vehicles driving over them from inside their house," Carmody explained. "And then drivers return to their previous speed after slowing down for them, so you have to place several [speed humps] along the street."

The committee recommends using speed humps with gaps for an emergency vehicle with a wide axis, which regular passenger vehicles can't avoid.

Dobbs Ferry Volunteer Fire Department Chief Joseph Giuliano also expressed concern about the impact on emergency vehicles.

"I'm not saying we're totally against every single one, but I do think there needs to be data to support it, starting with speed data," Giuliano said. "Even for the temporary speed bumps, we shouldn't just throw one out and see how it goes; there needs to be data and rules for those."

The Traffic Committee's proposed program includes QR codes on the side of the street, and on the Village's website, for residents to provide feedback after the temporary humps are installed. The committee also recommends including a speed box for police to conduct evaluations before and after the installation. Together, the feedback would inform the Village on whether to make the temporary speed humps permanent or remove them.

The board agreed to work with the Traffic Committee to further develop a policy that includes an approval process for speed humps, and a process to consider alternative traffic-calming options.

— Julian Michael Caldwell

### Got news?

Email staff writer Julian Michael Caldwell at [julian@rivertownsdispatch.com](mailto:julian@rivertownsdispatch.com)



Larry and Peggie Blizard at their home

## Artists pitch in to help historical society's home

### Art sale to be held at Mead House Aug. 22-23

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Longtime Dobbs Ferry residents and painters Larry and Peggie Blizard are leading a benefit art sale to support the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society's Mead House headquarters on Elm Street.

The fundraiser, on Aug. 22 and 23, will feature the work of a dozen local artists. A portion from each sale will go to the artist and the rest will go to general maintenance, like gas, electricity, insurance, and gardening, as well as a reserve fund for future

repairs to the 170-year-old Victorian home. The event also aims to attract new members to the historical society.

"We need to do some painting, and there is an issue in the basement with a pipe," Peggie Blizard told the Dispatch. "In addition to making a little money, we are hoping to get some new members for the Society," of which her husband has been a trustee since 2007. "It's important that the charm and beauty of the village be maintained, and that requires a watchful and caring eye."

Larry Blizard has researched and written articles on Dobbs Ferry history for the Society's quarterly newsletter, "The Ferryman." He sees the continuation and preservation

of the historical society and the Mead House as vital for Dobbs Ferry's future as the architecture and demographic changes.

"The [new] architecture is more or less functional, with no regard for the history, the feeling of the village, or any relation to the river," he lamented. "When people come to Dobbs Ferry, they're looking for something out of history, and they're going to miss it. I think the historical society has a part to play in educating people about the past — the Native Americans — and the records of the historical society are going to become more important."

Among the 12 artists featured are the

*Continued on page 15*

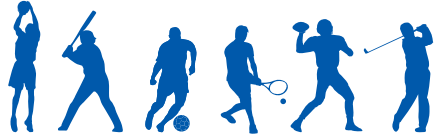


### A day for McCarthy

Mayor Christy Knell presented lifelong village resident Paula McCarthy with a proclamation during the Dobbs Ferry Board of Trustees meeting on Aug. 11. McCarthy was honored for serving on the Village's Nominating Committee since 2015, including five years as chair (2017-22), and for her community service through the American Legion Auxiliary and Our Lady of Pompeii Church, where she has chaired the annual spaghetti dinner, served on the parish council and altar guild, and co-founded a youth group. The proclamation declared Aug. 12, 2026 as Paula McCarthy Day in Dobbs Ferry.

MON-FRI 7AM-7PM  
SAT 8AM-1PM

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## HASTINGS

### Farmers Market

Saturday, Aug. 22, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Commuter Lot, Southside Avenue. [hastingsfarmersmarket.org](http://hastingsfarmersmarket.org).

### Mahjong

Tuesday, Aug. 25, 12:30–2:15 p.m. Hastings Public Library.

To play, call 914-478-3307.

### Movin' the Mind & Groovin' the Balance

Tuesday, Aug. 25, 1–2 p.m. Hastings Public Library. Movement class for people with Parkinson's disease or balance challenges.

### School Board Meeting

Tuesday, Aug. 25, 6 p.m. Hillside Multi-Purpose Room. Agenda available at [hohschools.org](http://hohschools.org).

### Medici.TV Matinee:

Flute Concert

Wednesday, Aug. 26, 1:30 p.m. Hastings Public Library.

### Zoning Board Meeting

Thursday, Aug. 27, 7 p.m. Village Hall.

### Senior Book Club

Friday, Aug. 28, 12:30–1:30

p.m. Hastings Public Library. Discuss "When Books Went to War" by Molly Guptill Manning.

### Hillside Newcomers Dinner

Friday, Aug. 28, 5–7 p.m. Hillside School multi-purpose room. RSVP: [ptsahastings.org](http://ptsahastings.org).

## Lipchitz Committee formed

On Aug. 18, the Hastings Board of Trustees announced the members of the new Lipchitz Studio Building Use Study Committee, which will make recommendations about the future of that site, located at 22 Aqueduct Lane.

Jacques Lipchitz, who created the "Between Heaven and Earth" sculpture installed in front of the Hastings Public Library, lived in the village from 1947 until his death in 1973. His art studio was donated to the Village of Hastings by the Jacques and Yulla Lipchitz Foundation in 2020.

This past June, the board of trustees established a committee to recommend the best way to repurpose this building. The Village put out a call for volunteers to serve on the committee, which originally was to consist of seven members — five officials and two civilians. On Aug. 18, Mayor Tom Drake shared that due to the community's overwhelming interest, which was "beyond... the board's expectations," the positions on the committee increased to 14.

The five members of the public are educator Bess Seewald, architects Mara Ayuso and Adelina Castro, RiverArts board member Josh Suniewick, and sculptor Malcolm MacDougall. Six members represent various Village boards/commissions: Sue Smith (Beautification Committee), Mike Jacobs (Parks & Recreation Commission), Dan Lemons (Conservation Commission), Salvatore Schiciano (Arts Commission), Natalie Barry (Historical Society), and Eva Alligood (Planning Board). Trustee Samantha Merton and Douglass Alligood serve as the village board liaisons.

According to Drake, Village Manager Mary Beth Murphy, who is also a member of the committee, will announce public meetings in September after the 14 members get together and view the site.

## Parade and fireworks

On Aug. 18, the board of trustees approved an agreement for a fireworks display following the Village's Oktoberfest celebration and a parade honoring Village residents and the 250th anniversary of the United States. The \$15,000 contract is with Legion Fireworks Co., which was hired for the Dobbs Ferry Fourth of July celebration.

On Oct. 2, Main Street will close at 6 p.m. to celebrate Oktoberfest. In Boulanger Plaza, there will be music and food sold by local restaurants. At 8 p.m., a parade of veterans, first responders, and essential workers will start at Foodtown on Main Street and continue to MacEachron Waterfront Park, where there will be fireworks at about 8:45 p.m. According to Mayor Tom Drake, Police Chief David Dosin suggested the parade after the one planned for Memorial Day was cancelled due to rain.

— Amy Bochner



Dorothy Neagle stands outside her home library.

# Poetry collection investigates female archetypes

## *Imagine a Woman' draws from centuries of inspiration*

BY AMY BOCHNER

Virgin. Mother. Prophet. Whore. In Dorothy Neagle's new poetry collection, "Imagine a Woman," the 14-year Hastings resident seeks understanding and healing through an exploration of the female archetypes found in folklore, ranging from ancient to modern times.

Neagle, 44, splits her time between writing and running Good Food Jobs, a gastro-job search tool. Over the past 10 years, her poetry has been published in various literary magazines.

"Imagine a Woman," which was published by Gnashing Teeth Publishing on June 9, is Neagle's first book, and began with a series of poems she wrote during a class at Manhattan's 92nd Street Y. While exploring the idea of arranging poems into a structure, Neagle told the Dispatch, she had a "breakthrough," and began "generating a lot of poems that became the core of this book."

She drew inspiration from fairy tales, among them "Beauty and the Beast," "The Little Mermaid," "Sleeping Beauty," and "Snow White." Some poems are rooted in Greek mythology and the Bible, incorporating figures like Andromeda and Eve, while others pay homage to historical women, such as Joan of Arc and Beatrix Potter.

Neagle was drawn to these classic stories because of the female archetypes found throughout different eras. As a self-identified

feminist, a wife, and the mother to a daughter, how women are perceived and categorized is of interest to Neagle.

Typically, she explained, these archetypes are the maiden, the mother, and the crone, each defining a woman's role in society by her age and marital status. The maiden, or virgin, is a woman ready to be married, while the mother is already married with children. The crone, reworked into "the prophet" in Neagle's book, is a woman past childbearing age, entering the "invisible elder category."

These tropes persist in modern culture, according to Neagle, and impact how women are viewed today.

"Those archetypes, the negative ones in particular, get infused within us," she said. "We don't even know it. It's like the air that we breathe. That fairy-tale piece is really important for me because they contain all of these archetypes, and I did absorb them as a child [through] my favorite stories that I watched and read again and again."

In "Imagine a Woman," Neagle included another archetype: the whore, to further explore the complexity of womanhood.

"The idea of the whore came in as this word that is used to take away a woman's power, especially through sexuality and sexual freedom," she said. "I really wanted to reclaim that word and say that this is also an act of self-definition... It was mostly an idea of finding a balance to that maiden/mother/crone thing in a really empowering way."

The throughline of "Imagine a Woman" is an investigation of "why women are given these particular roles, definitions, and titles, and

why stories are told the way that they're told."

Neagle asked herself, "Can I retell [these stories] in a different way, and will that actually not only be interesting and rich, but also a process of healing and a process of understanding myself better?"

The book is organized into four sections based on the archetypes. While sorting the poems, she found that many had overlapping themes, and could fit in more than one category. Many deal with the relationships between mothers and daughters, and have themes present in both the virgin and mother archetypes. She described cataloging these poems as a nearly "impossible" task, requiring her to "surrender" and use her intuition as a guide.

Just as Neagle shares her voice through her work, the book's eponymous poem centers on learning how to speak in adulthood, and the duality between speaking up and staying silent. While many poems in the collection explore the archetypes passed down to Neagle from her mother and broader culture, "Imagine a Woman" is about defining womanhood for herself.

"I dare to hope that someone would read this and say, 'I have something to say too, and I feel more empowered to tell my story,'" Neagle said.

"Imagine a Woman" has a cover price of \$15.

Buy your copy of this local author's book at Picture Book: [www.picturebookny.com](http://www.picturebookny.com)

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**Intro to Medicare Seminar**  
Saturday, Aug. 29, 10:30 a.m.  
Irvington Public Library.  
—  
**“Acting Shakespeare:  
An American Odyssey”**  
Saturday, Aug. 22, 8 p.m.  
Irvington Presbyterian  
Church, 25 N. Broadway.

Free outdoor performances.  
[irvshakespeare.org](http://irvshakespeare.org).  
—  
**Farmers Market**  
Sunday, Aug. 23, 9 a.m.–  
1:30 p.m. Main Street  
School, 101 Main St.  
[irvingtonfarmersmarket.org](http://irvingtonfarmersmarket.org)  
—

**Architectural Review Board  
Meeting**  
Monday, Aug. 24, 7:30 p.m.  
Village Hall. To attend via  
Zoom, visit [irvingtonny.gov](http://irvingtonny.gov).  
—  
**Get Ready for Kindergarten:  
Story and Craft**  
Tuesday, Aug. 25, 3:30–4:30

p.m. Irvington Public Library.  
Register: [irvingtonlibrary.org](http://irvingtonlibrary.org).  
—  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
Tuesday, Aug. 25, 7 p.m.  
Village Hall. To attend via  
Zoom, visit [irvingtonny.gov](http://irvingtonny.gov).  
—  
**Jazz Forum Arts Summer**

**Concert Series**  
Thursday, Aug. 27, 6:30 p.m.  
Matthiessen Park Stage.  
Featuring Evan Arntzen.  
Cancellation due to inclement  
weather will be announced  
by 2 p.m. on Facebook and at  
[jazzforumarts.org](http://jazzforumarts.org).

## Flood mitigation and sidewalk installation spur debate

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

East Irvington residents are at odds over the construction and maintenance of a new sidewalk, and flood mitigation work, both of which are in progress along Taxter Road.

The sidewalk installation, from the intersection of East Sunnyside Lane and Mountain Road to Eiler Lane, began this month, nearly two years after the Greenburgh Town Board approved \$1.1 million in bonds for the project, as well as sidewalks at other locations, in September 2024. The Town of Greenburgh also began removing trees on Taxter Road this month in preparation for a drainage project.

Neil Barry, a resident of Taxter Road and current board member and former president of the East Irvington Civic Association (EICA), welcomes the addition of a sidewalk.

“For the last 10 years, since I’ve been on the civic association [board], we’ve been having people say there needs to be a sidewalk,” Barry told the Dispatch.

The campaign received a push from Greenburgh Town Supervisor Paul Feiner in 2024. Feiner supported Irvington High School student Sebastian Sage’s call for a sidewalk along Taxter, where he was hit by a car when he was in the third grade, and backed Cindy Collins, who has requested for a sidewalk since she joined the Greenburgh Parks and Recreation Advisory Board in 2020.

“Taxter Road is a dangerous street where cars drive too fast,” Collins wrote the Dispatch. “Currently, pedestrians are forced onto the road and we’ve all seen too many dangerous close calls.”

For more than a year, Taxter Road resident Gregory Maugeri has been expressing his opposition to building a sidewalk, contending that with its blind curves and heavy traffic, Taxter Road is not safe for pedestrians under any circumstances. He told the Dispatch that beyond disapproval of the sidewalk, he and other neighbors have been unhappy with a lack of transparency and accountability from the Town.

“Regardless of anyone’s position on the sidewalk, the lack of meaningful engagement with the directly impacted homeowners, the unanswered questions, vague answers, and the apparent reversal of commitments regarding maintenance are very concerning,” Maugeri wrote the Dispatch. “It would be

*Continued on page 15*



The former Odell Tavern on private property at 100 South Broadway

## Irvington to celebrate tavern’s day as state capitol

*Event to be held at  
Memorial Park on Aug. 30*

BY LAURA SCHILLER

For one day this month, Irvington will relive one of the most extraordinary chapters in its history — when the oldest building in the village, the Odell Tavern, briefly served as New York State’s capitol.

The story behind Irvington’s “Capitol for a Day” celebration begins with a desperate escape.

After the devastating Battle of Brooklyn, Gen. George Washington and the Continental Army began retreating north as British forces closed in. Members of New York’s Committee of Safety — the state’s temporary revolutionary government — also headed north from New York City. Their journey brought them to the Odell Tavern, in what is now Irvington, where they conducted official business before continuing their flight.

For one day — Aug. 31, 1776 — that modest venue became New York’s seat of government, briefly making Irvington the state’s capital. Originally a farmhouse built in 1693, the tavern still stands on private property off Broadway, across Dows Lane from Memorial Park.

Nearly 250 years later, the Village will commemorate its cameo role on Sunday, Aug. 30, from 12:30–4 p.m. at Memorial Park.

“It’s really a celebration of our history and this remarkable moment when Irvington had its time to shine,” said Kent Kleiman, a village trustee and a former history teacher. “It’s a chance to celebrate that unique

chapter in Irvington’s story.”

The idea for “Capitol for a Day” came from Irvington resident Allan Richardson, a photographer, author, and former village tree commissioner active with Revolutionary Westchester 250 (RW250), the countywide initiative commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War.

After RW250 president and former Village Trustee Connie Kehoe connected Irvington Historical Society leaders with Richardson, organizers embraced the idea.

“We jumped on it because none of us really knew that Irvington had been the capital for a day,” historical society president Scott Mosenthal said. “It connects to the Odell Tavern, the oldest building in Irvington, and it gave us a way not only to create an event people would enjoy, but also to educate them about this important moment in our local history.”

The free celebration will feature Revolutionary War-era music, living history, and family-friendly activities. The festivities will begin with a performance by a professional fife and drum corps, followed by the national anthem sung by 2025 Irvington High School graduate Gabriella Brenner.

Throughout the afternoon, visitors can enjoy colonial-era tavern music by The Liberty Three, period dancing by the New York Baroque Dance Company, a musket demonstration by the 5th New York Regiment, stories from Jonathan Kruk, and encounters with costumed interpreters portraying George Washington and Benjamin Franklin. Hands-on activities will include lessons in spycraft, espionage, and broom making.

Community organizations — including

the Irvington Public Library, Irvington Girl Scouts, and Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct — joined by Irvington High School athletes and local land preservation groups will also offer hands-on activities. Food will be available for purchase from Geordanes Neighborhood Market.

The celebration will also feature a mayoral proclamation recognizing “Capitol for a Day” and a dedication honoring the Odell Tavern, where a new plaque recognizing the site’s historical significance was installed earlier this year. Organizers plan to offer short presentations about Irvington’s involvement in the colonists’ fight for independence throughout the afternoon.

“We wanted the history to be threaded throughout the celebration,” Mosenthal said. “Hopefully people will come away with a greater appreciation for Irvington’s role in this major moment of the Revolutionary War.”

“Capitol for a Day” is one of several events marking Irvington’s commemoration of America’s semiquincentennial.

The historical society’s newest exhibit, which explores the tenant farmers of Philipsburg Manor during the Revolutionary War, opens at the McVickar House on Aug. 29 and runs through January 2027.

On Aug. 30, from 4–7 p.m., the public is also invited to the Armour–Stiner Octagon House for an 1876 centennial garden party. Tickets are available at [armourstiner.com](http://armourstiner.com). Guests can take a trolley from “Capitol for a Day” at Memorial Park to the Octagon House or stroll the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail, traveling from one celebration — and one century — to the next.

# The Agenda

## SATURDAY AUGUST 22

### Concert in the Park

#### ARDSLEY

6–8 p.m. / Free. Pascone Park, 507 Ashford Ave. The summer concert series continues with G Force. Bring a blanket or chair to sit on the lawn. [ardslevillage.gov/parks-recreation](http://ardslevillage.gov/parks-recreation)

### The Subourbons

#### ARDSLEY

8 p.m. / No cover charge. Saw Mill Tavern, 925 Saw Mill River Road. Featuring blues and classic rock. Reservations encouraged. [smtavern.com](http://smtavern.com)

### Art Exhibit and Sale

#### DOBBS FERRY

10 a.m.–5 p.m. / Free admission. Mead House, 12 Elm St. Also Aug. 23. A portion of every sale benefits the preservation and maintenance of the Mead House, home of the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society. [instagram.com/dobbsferry-historicalsociety](http://instagram.com/dobbsferry-historicalsociety)

### “Acting Shakespeare: An American Odyssey”

#### IRVINGTON

8–9:30 p.m. / Free. Irvington Shakespeare Company’s Backlawn Theater at Irvington Presbyterian Church, 25 N. Broadway. Outdoor performance of the 90-minute one-man musical written and performed by company founder Kamran Saliani of Irvington. [irvshakespeare.org](http://irvshakespeare.org)

### “Gardens of the Gilded Age”

#### TARRYTOWN

11 a.m. / \$15. Lyndhurst, 635 S. Broadway. Begin with a tour of the rose garden and the greenhouse, then meet in the carriage room at noon to learn about the gardens featured in the book by Jana Milbocker. For ages 12+. Register at [lyndhurst.org](http://lyndhurst.org)

### EcoTones Outdoor Concert

#### TARRYTOWN

4 p.m. / \$10, free for kids ages 10 and under. Lyndhurst, 635 S. Broadway. The ensemble blends classical chamber music and jazz improv in “Flora and Fauna Percussion Jam.” Bring your own blankets and chairs for this family-friendly concert. Rain date Aug. 23. Purchase tickets at [lyndhurst.org](http://lyndhurst.org)

### Vocalist Quiana Lynell

#### TARRYTOWN

7 and 9:30 p.m. / \$35, \$30 for students. The Grammy-winning songwriter performs. Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. [jazzforumarts.org](http://jazzforumarts.org)

### Summer Saturdays: “Seeds and Sprouts”

#### SLEEPY HOLLOW

11 a.m.–3 p.m. / \$18, \$15 for ages 18–25 and 65+, \$13 for children. Philipsburg Manor, 381 N. Broadway. Guided garden tours, marigold potting, and the assembly of traditional herbal



Lyndhurst in Tarrytown hosts a book talk and tour about “Gardens of the Gilded Age” by Jana Milbocker on Saturday, Aug. 22, and hands-on experience in the Gardening Academy on Thursday, Aug. 27. Photo by Andrea B. Swenson Photography

remedies feature botany, horticulture, and historic medicine. Purchase timed-entry tickets at [hudsonvalley.org](http://hudsonvalley.org)

### Village Carnival

#### SLEEPY HOLLOW

4 p.m. / \$35. Kingsland Point Park. Food, games, and rides for all ages. Also Sunday, 3 p.m. [friendsofsleepyhollowny.org](http://friendsofsleepyhollowny.org)

### Jazz Italian-American Style

#### YONKERS

6 p.m. / Free. Untermyer Park and Gardens, 945 N. Broadway. Rain location: Saunders High School, 183 Palmer Road. [untermyerperformingarts.org](http://untermyerperformingarts.org)

## SUNDAY AUGUST 23

### Outdoor Live Music: Concrete Flowers

#### DOBBS FERRY

2–5 p.m. / No cover charge. Hudson Social, 11 Station Plaza. [hudsonsocial.com](http://hudsonsocial.com)

### Drummer Darrian Douglas and the Unity Septet

#### TARRYTOWN

4 and 6 p.m. / \$35, \$30 for students. Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. [jazzforumarts.org](http://jazzforumarts.org)

### Ecuadorian Culture Day

#### SLEEPY HOLLOW

3–8 p.m. / Free. Barnhart Park, 25 Andrews Lane. Featuring live music, children’s activities, and food vendors. [sleepyhollowny.gov](http://sleepyhollowny.gov)

## MONDAY AUGUST 24

### Matinee Movie

#### ARDSLEY

2 p.m. / Free. Ardsley Public Library, 9 Amer-

ican Legion Drive. Screening of “Project Hail Mary.” Register: [peggym@ardsleylibrary.org](mailto:peggym@ardsleylibrary.org)

## TUESDAY AUGUST 25

### Outdoor Concert: Mark Morganelli Quartet

#### SLEEPY HOLLOW

6:30–8 p.m. / Free. Horan’s Landing Park, 57 River St. Cancellation due to inclement weather will be announced by 2 p.m. on Facebook and the website. [jazzforumarts.org](http://jazzforumarts.org)

## WEDNESDAY AUGUST 26

### Outdoor Concert

#### DOBBS FERRY

6:30–8 p.m. / Free. Waterfront Park. Drummer Richard Baratta and the Gotham City Latin Jazz Quintet reimagine Charlie Parker’s repertoire. Family-friendly Jitterbugs Jam begins at 5:30. Cancellation due to inclement weather will be announced by 2 p.m. at [jazzforumarts.org](http://jazzforumarts.org)

### “Three Identical Strangers”

#### TARRYTOWN

11:30 a.m. / Free. Shames JCC, 371 S. Broadway. Screening and discussion of documentary about triplets separated at birth. [shamesjcc.org](http://shamesjcc.org)

### Matinee Movie

#### TARRYTOWN

2–4 p.m. / Free. Warner Library, 121 N. Broadway. Screening of “The Scarlet Coat,” a musical by Stephen Sondheim and George Furth based on the 1934 play. [warnerlibrary.org](http://warnerlibrary.org)

## THURSDAY AUGUST 27

### Outdoor Live Music: Train of Thought

#### DOBBS FERRY

6–9 p.m. / No cover charge. Hudson Social, 11 Station Plaza. [hudsonsocial.com](http://hudsonsocial.com)

### The Jam

#### DOBBS FERRY

7–9:30 p.m. / No cover charge. Mirabella Cocina Latina Restaurant & Bar, 1 Hamilton St., in Rivertowns Square. Featuring Scott Latzky on drums, Tom Christensen on saxophone, Dan Asher on bass, and David Janeway on piano. The second set is open to guest musicians. [mirabellacocina.com/calendar-dobbs-ferry](http://mirabellacocina.com/calendar-dobbs-ferry)

### Riverfront Concert: Evan Arntzen

#### IRVINGTON

6:30 p.m. / Free. Matthiessen Park. Parking is not permitted in the Bridge Street lots. Cancellation due to inclement weather will be announced by 2 p.m. at [jazzforumarts.org](http://jazzforumarts.org)

### Sunset Yoga

#### TARRYTOWN

6:30–7:30 p.m. / Donations benefit Yoga Love NY. Tarrytown House Estate, 49 East Sunnyside Lane. [tarrytownhouseestate.com](http://tarrytownhouseestate.com)

### Waterfront Concert: Billy and the Showmen

#### TARRYTOWN

7–9 p.m. / Free. Pierson Park, 238 W. Main St. Featuring R&B, soul, and funk. Presented by the Tarrytown Recreation Department. [tarrytownny.gov](http://tarrytownny.gov)

## FRIDAY AUGUST 28

### Movie on the Trail

#### DOBBS FERRY

8:30 p.m. / Free. Keeper’s House, 15 Walnut St. Screening of “The Little Giants.” [aqueduct.org](http://aqueduct.org)

### Outdoor Jazz: Pianist Willerm Delisfort

#### 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](http://jazzforumarts.org)

### Vocalist Ann Hampton Callaway

#### TARRYTOWN

7 and 9:30 p.m. / \$40, \$35 for students. Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. The Tony-nominated singer-songwriter showcases her pop-jazz style in her show, “Here’s to Life.” Also on Aug. 29. [jazzforumarts.org](http://jazzforumarts.org)

### The People’s Mic

#### SLEEPY HOLLOW

7–9 p.m. / \$5 for performers and in-person audience seats. Philipse Manor Station, 300 Riverside Drive. Hosted by Westchester poet laureate Phylisha Villanueva. [writerscenter.org](http://writerscenter.org)



# RIVERTOWNS Dispatch

## Dispatch and Independent intend to join forces to serve six communities

This isn't one of those Debbie Downer stories about yet another local news organization shuttering its doors or getting bought out by a private equity firm that strips its assets and takes what little is left. Instead, it is an example of a voluntary strategic alliance formed by two vibrant news operations dedicated to keeping the residents of six Hudson River villages — from Sleepy Hollow on down through Hastings-on-Hudson — informed and engaged in their communities.

The Rivertowns Dispatch and the Hudson Independent intend to join forces to bring one robust — printed — newspaper for and about the rivertowns. In addition to its paid staff of reporters and photographers, the anticipated alliance will allow the Dispatch to tap into the journalistic skills of men and women who contribute to The Indy (as its readers have come to know it). Starting with the next issue, the Indy logo will appear alongside the Dispatch on the front page, marking the beginning of a new chapter of collaboration between the two organizations.

Readers of both publications will continue to see deep local coverage and familiar voices. Barrett Seaman will continue his coverage of the 17th Congressional District, bringing that reporting to Dispatch readers as well as longtime Indy readers.

Launched in 2006 as a monthly newspaper delivered free to residents of Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown, the Independent gradually moved south, covering Irvington, then Dobbs Ferry and eventually all six villages. Along the way, the Covid-19 pandemic stripped the paper of its advertising revenue — its only

source of income. The staff decided to publish exclusively on the internet — a move that reduced its visibility but at the same time spurred a reportorial nimbleness that made its contributors quicker off the mark. In 2019, the Indy applied for 501c(3) non-profit status to attract more donations.

The Rivertowns Dispatch launched in 2024 in the wake of the closure of the Rivertowns Enterprise along with two other Westchester weeklies. The community expressed anxiety, even anger at the abrupt disappearance of their local paper, planting the seed for a return to a local weekly. A new paper came together, carrying forward the editorial tradition of the Enterprise, while bringing fresh energy to the design, business model, and focus on serving local families.

Both share an entrepreneurial spirit and belief in the importance of local news. We also share the belief that communities need a common set of facts about what's happening around them. Beginning Sept. 4, the Dispatch will expand into Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow, with free delivery to every household in September, then transitions to a subscription model across all six villages with print and digital access. You can subscribe now by going to [www.rivertownsdispatch.com/membership-expansion](http://www.rivertownsdispatch.com/membership-expansion)

THE HUDSON INDEPENDENT  
*Barrett Seaman, Editor*  
*Walter Montgomery, Publisher*  
THE RIVERTOWNS DISPATCH  
*Tim Lamorte, Editor*  
*Allison Schulte, Publisher*

*Sania Samad*  
*Continued from page 5*

sources to create mosaic-like designs.

In 2004, Samad moved from Pakistan to the U.S. She and her husband, Nasir Naqvi, who grew up in Connecticut, settled in Iowa City, where he was a Ph.D. student. The couple moved to Westchester in 2007, living first in Mount Vernon, and then Eastchester. In 2016, they settled in the Ardsley School District. Their family includes a 21-year-old daughter, 19-year-old son, and 12-year-old daughter.

In 2020, Samad designed a lawn sign for the Ardsley Multicultural, Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Local families selected colors for circles on the sign, which included the message "We are a community of open hearts and open minds. Welcome."

In 2023, the idea of home became an important part of Samad's art as the war between Israel and Hamas led to the destruction of homes in Gaza. To show support for

*Phil Weiser*  
*Continued from page 3*

Although Hastings and Colorado are nearly 2,000 miles apart, the lessons he learned in his hometown continue to shape his work. He credits Feiner and Lowey for modelling a "commitment to showing up for people." Weiser's relationship with Tucker also helped inspire his gubernatorial campaign's mentorship fellowship, which for a semester included Tucker's grandson, Matthew.

For students in Hastings who aspire to

Gazans, she considered creating a large Palestinian flag, but then reconsidered based on the polarization the war caused in her community.

"When Gaza happened... everybody picked sides," she recalled.

Samad instead decided to try to bridge the gaps between neighbors by making something to "bring everybody together and realize that we are all humans." The result was the quilt, which celebrates the stories of local families and the community they create. During the quilt-making process, Samad came to a realization.

"Tensions can be released only when people are working together," she said.

This story was written by a participant in the Rivertowns Dispatch Lab, a journalism mentorship program for high school students. The deadline to apply for the 2026-27 school year is Sept. 25. For more information, visit [www.rivertownsdispatch.com/the-dispatch-lab-program](http://www.rivertownsdispatch.com/the-dispatch-lab-program)

public service, Weiser encourages them to get involved, whether it be in the mentorship program run by Feiner, "volunteering on campaigns, interning in government, [or] taking advantage of extracurricular opportunities."

"Hastings encouraged that mindset for me... I continue to look for and benefit from opportunities that have set me up for future success," he said. "A lot of times, when I talk to students, there's a reluctance to raise your hand to volunteer. I just encourage people: 'Don't wait to be asked.'"

## Classies

Submissions are due by 12 p.m. Monday for that Friday's paper. [market.rivertownsdispatch.com/classies](http://market.rivertownsdispatch.com/classies)



### HELP WANTED

**HELP WANTED**  
Robert Legal Group — a local Special Needs Planning, Guardianship, Estate Planning, and Elder Law firm, and the official notary of the Rivertown Dispatch — is hiring a Paralegal/Legal Assistant. No legal experience needed; we'll train the right person.

The office is based at HudCo, the beautiful coworking space right here in Dobbs Ferry (where this very paper is put together!). Bright workspace, great coffee, and a real community of local professionals — and the job comes with a full HudCo membership, so you can use the space on your own time too.

We just ask for about 20 hours a week in person at HudCo; the rest of your hours are remote, on your own schedule. Great for anyone balancing school pickups or other commitments.

You'd help with correspondence, mailings, e-filings, scanning, and keeping case files organized for families we serve. Details matter, but we'll teach you the rest.

Looking for: reliable transportation to Dobbs Ferry, organized and punctual, comfortable with Google Drive and cloud tools.

Competitive hourly rate. Send a resume and your ideal schedule to [info@robertlegallgroup.com](mailto:info@robertlegallgroup.com).



### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### HUMANS CONNECTING WITH HUMANS

Looking for a piano teacher, a dog walker, a couch, or a conversation? The Dispatch Classies are for real people, reaching real people — no bots, no algorithms, no AI. Share your news — either here in Announcements or on the Photo Wall —> [market.rivertownsdispatch.com/classies](http://market.rivertownsdispatch.com/classies)

#### PHOTO WALL



#### WELCOME DEV

Jasmine (Harris), DFHS class of '09, and Rohan Joshi announce the arrival of their son 7/31/26 as they begin their next chapter in DF, "Where eagles learn to fly."



#### DOG OF THE WEEK

Pepper is one of the Paws Crossed Animal Rescue's Pets of the Week. Reach out to [adoptions@pawscrossedny.org](mailto:adoptions@pawscrossedny.org) to learn more!

## Sports

EDITED BY ROB DIANTONIO

# Tufts-bound Warner to lead disciplined Irvington squad

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Irvington rising senior Griffin Warner is a midfielder for the Bulldogs and is coming off an all-section junior season. Warner, a team captain, recently committed to Tufts University, where he will continue his soccer career. The Rivertowns Dispatch caught up with Warner just as the preseason was set to start on Aug. 24.

**RD:** *What do you think the identity of this Irvington team will be this season, and what do you want opponents to notice about your team when they play against you?*

**GW:** The identity of our team this year will be, above all, discipline. I want our opponents to notice how structured and organized we are as a unit. Our identity won't lie in the face of just a couple of players, but rather in our group as a collective. Our opponents should expect Irvington to be a group of hard-working competitors who stay connected and organized.

**RD:** *Playing in the midfield puts you in the middle of almost everything that happens. What do you enjoy most about that role, and what do you think makes a strong midfielder?*

**GW:** What I enjoy most about being a midfielder is being able to impact different areas of the pitch in different ways. It allows me to cater my role to what the team needs at different points of the game. Whether that means I have the freedom to roam higher up the field and receive in half-spaces, or if the game requires me to work harder off the ball and help the team in the press, I really enjoy the freedom and ability to impact the game in different ways. I think that's truly what makes a special midfielder: being able to help and connect your team in games when they require someone to take on different roles, create chances, control the tempo, or help defensively.

**RD:** *Last season ended with a quarter-final loss to rival Dobbs Ferry. When you look back on that game now, what stands out to you most, and what did the team learn from it?*

**GW:** What stands out most to me is just how competitive and close the postseason is. Regular-season results don't matter, and if you rely too heavily on what happened during the regular season, you get punished. If I have learned anything from my time playing for Irvington, it's that every moment in the postseason matters more. I know the team learned that lesson the hard way from that loss. It gave all of us a feeling we never want to have again.

**RD:** *How would you describe the chemistry of this year's group, and how important is that in soccer when you're trying to*



Irvington's Griffin Warner on the attack last season. File photo by Rob DiAntonio.

*connect different parts of the field?*

**GW:** The chemistry is definitely there this year. We have a really good group of seniors who have experienced the highs and lows of this program, which really helps. To me, chemistry is one of the most important things in the sport and can really change a team and turn it into a championship contender that no one sees coming. I've experienced what it's like when chemistry is at an all-time high and how much of a difference it can make to a team's performance on the field. The impact of a team's chemistry can't be overstated in my mind.

**RD:** *Who are some players you think could take a big step forward or surprise people this season?*

**GW:** There are a bunch of players who could really have a big impact for us, but for me, Dennis Sasso, Hagai Frechter, and George Miles are three who definitely have the potential to be game-changers. Dennis Sasso played a really big role for us last year and showed many glimpses of the quality he brings to our attack. Hagai Frechter played a lesser role last year, but I've been with him a lot over the off-season, and he's been putting in the work, day in and day out, to really step up for us as an impact player. George Miles was unfortunately injured for the entirety of last year, and he's a really crafty, strong, commanding player whose absence was felt last year. We are really looking forward to having him back this year.

**RD:** *As a captain, how do you balance being vocal when the team needs it with leading through the way you play and compete?*

**GW:** A big part of being a captain is knowing when to balance being vocal and leading through action. Over time, you pick up cues that indicate when being vocal is necessary for the team and when just leading through action is more impactful. Both facets of leading are useful and suit different types of people, but for me, I balance the two by reading situations. From years of experience as a captain on different teams, I've learned when to be vocal and when to just lead through action. I still have much to learn in this aspect of the game, though, so continuing to experience and lead as a captain will be really important for mastering that balance.

**RD:** *What do you think Irvington needs to do better this season to turn a strong regular season into a deeper playoff run?*

**GW:** Adaptability is the biggest thing. Playoff games are different from the regular season, and the smaller moments matter that much more in the postseason. So, understanding that games in the postseason can present completely different challenges, and being prepared to adapt to those challenges, will be the most important thing for us in turning regular-season success into postseason success.

**RD:** *You're heading into your final*

*season playing soccer at Irvington. What are you most looking forward to about getting one more year with this group?*

**GW:** It's definitely really sentimental for me. I've been in and around the varsity team since the winter of eighth grade and have loved every minute of every year. I've experienced such different teams with different dynamics over the years, which has taught me so much about the game and even beyond the game. For my senior year, I'm most looking forward to the small things. Just taking full advantage of those 7 a.m. practices, team bonding, bus rides, and playing on a team with guys that I've truly grown up with one last time. I won't take for granted the smaller day-to-day things throughout the season with the team.

**RD:** *What went into your decision to commit to Tufts University? What appealed to you about Tufts and its soccer program?*

**GW:** Tufts University really had everything I was looking for in a program. It's a really successful program coming off a national championship win last year with a really bright future. That, combined with the strong academics and prestige of Tufts, made it that much more appealing. The whole coaching staff is super committed to the team and super personable, which made it really easy to buy into what they're building. I'm truly blessed for the opportunity and can't wait.

Sports

# Locals shine at finals for Westchester County Swim Conference

*Chen and Ambotas each win three individual events*

The Westchester County Swim Conference championship finals took place at Westchester Country Club Beach Club in Rye on Aug. 6.

For Hastings, Toby Chen was a triple winner. He raced to first in the 14-and-under 100-yard freestyle in a clocking of 48.16 seconds, won the 14U 100-yard breaststroke in 1:05.52, and also won the 14U 100-yard butterfly (52.84). Hastings' Madeline McMahon took fourth in the 14U 100-yard breaststroke (1:15.27). Violet Campanelli finished eighth in the 17U 100-yard backstroke.

Hastings' 17U relay team finished fourth in the 200-yard freestyle in 1:49.56. Campanelli, Alyssa Schlacter, Barbara Chang, and Velvet Marsh made up the relay.

Greenburgh's Nikita Ambotas, a Dobbs Ferry student-athlete, was a triple individual winner. He won the 17U 100-yard freestyle in 46.22, the 17U 100-yard backstroke (51.05), and 17U 100-yard breaststroke in 57.55. He was also on the first-place 17U 200-yard freestyle relay, which clocked a time of 1:30.75.

For Ardsley Swim Club, Nolan Schmidt won the 6U 25-yard freestyle in 19.74 seconds and also placed first in the 6U 25-yard backstroke in 25.09. Grant Schmidt swam to second in the 10U 50-yard breaststroke in 37.89. Connor Gray placed third in the



Hastings' Toby Chen won the 14U freestyle, breaststroke, and butterfly. File photo by Jim MacLean.

17U 100-yard butterfly (56.63) and fourth in the 100-yard backstroke (58.62). Duke Diab placed sixth in the 12U 50-yard breaststroke. Ella Diab finished fifth in the 17U 100-yard breaststroke with teammate

Madeline Barnes in eighth.

Sebastian DeLuca was eighth in the 10U 50-yard backstroke and placed eighth in the 10U 50-yard breaststroke. Brayden Gior-dano took eighth in the 17U butterfly.

For the team standings, Greenburgh placed fourth out of 33 teams with 725 points. Ardsley Swim Club finished 15th with 221 points. Hastings was 18th with 167.50 points.

## *Taxter Road* *Continued from page 11*

great to have clear answers from the Town and ensure that the real concerns regarding maintenance, drainage, landscaping, and restoration are properly addressed."

"Historically there are a lot of people who think it's [a sidewalk] absurd; that people shouldn't be walking on Taxter anyway," Taxter Road resident Jason Cohen added. "But assuming that you can't always get what you want, this was done completely backhanded. There was never any communication."

Feiner asserted that he sent out physical letters to East Irvington residents about the sidewalk in 2024 and organized a walk

with residents along Taxter Road in 2023, during which he recalls no opposition to the proposed project.

While both Barry and Collins disagree with Maugeri on the necessity of a sidewalk, they agree that sidewalk maintenance, including snow removal and landscape restoration, should be the responsibility of the Town of Greenburgh, not Taxter Road residents. Even for residents in support of the sidewalk, the lack of a concrete commitment from the Town to take care of maintenance and to replace trees and plants removed during construction has left several residents frustrated.

"This shouldn't have to be as difficult and challenging as it is," Barry said. "The

flooding [mitigation], the sidewalk maintenance, the snow removal, the landscaping that will replace what will be needed to be taken down to put the sidewalks in; myself and the civic association all support getting all of that done. And it shouldn't be a fight to get that done because the Town has indicated they have done this elsewhere, so there's no reason why they shouldn't be able to do this on Taxter Road."

Feiner explained that the town board needs to approve the handling of snow removal along the Taxter Road sidewalk, and that the board plans to discuss the matter during their Sept. 1 meeting. He has also suggested to the board the option of closing the sidewalk whenever it snows.

While the idea of flood mitigation measures along Taxter Road hasn't drawn opposition, residents are concerned the Town has not clearly committed to providing landscape restoration in the wake of the removal of roughly a dozen trees along Taxter Road in an effort to increase water flow and reduce flooding from water buildup.

Aaron Schmidt, deputy commissioner of Community Development and Conservation, told the Dispatch that developing a landscape restoration plan following the drainage and sidewalk projects requires a review with the project engineer and an analysis of the budget for landscaping. According to Schmidt, the Town will aim to have landscaping installed this fall.

## *Historical Society art sale* *Continued from page 7*

Blizards themselves, and fellow Dobbs Ferry artists like Jean Capuano, Mary Fennell, and Janet Sikirica. They are among the personal friends the couple reached out to for help supporting the historical society, including residents of Ardsley, Hastings, and more upstate communities. The

prices of the artwork will range from \$250 and \$4,000.

"There is an overabundance of extremely creative and gifted people in this area," Peggie Blizard noted, citing 19th-century Hudson River School landscape painter Jasper Crosby of Hastings as evidence that artists' affinity for the Rivertowns is not new. "For one thing, we are located 25 minutes from the art capital of the world, and the area is

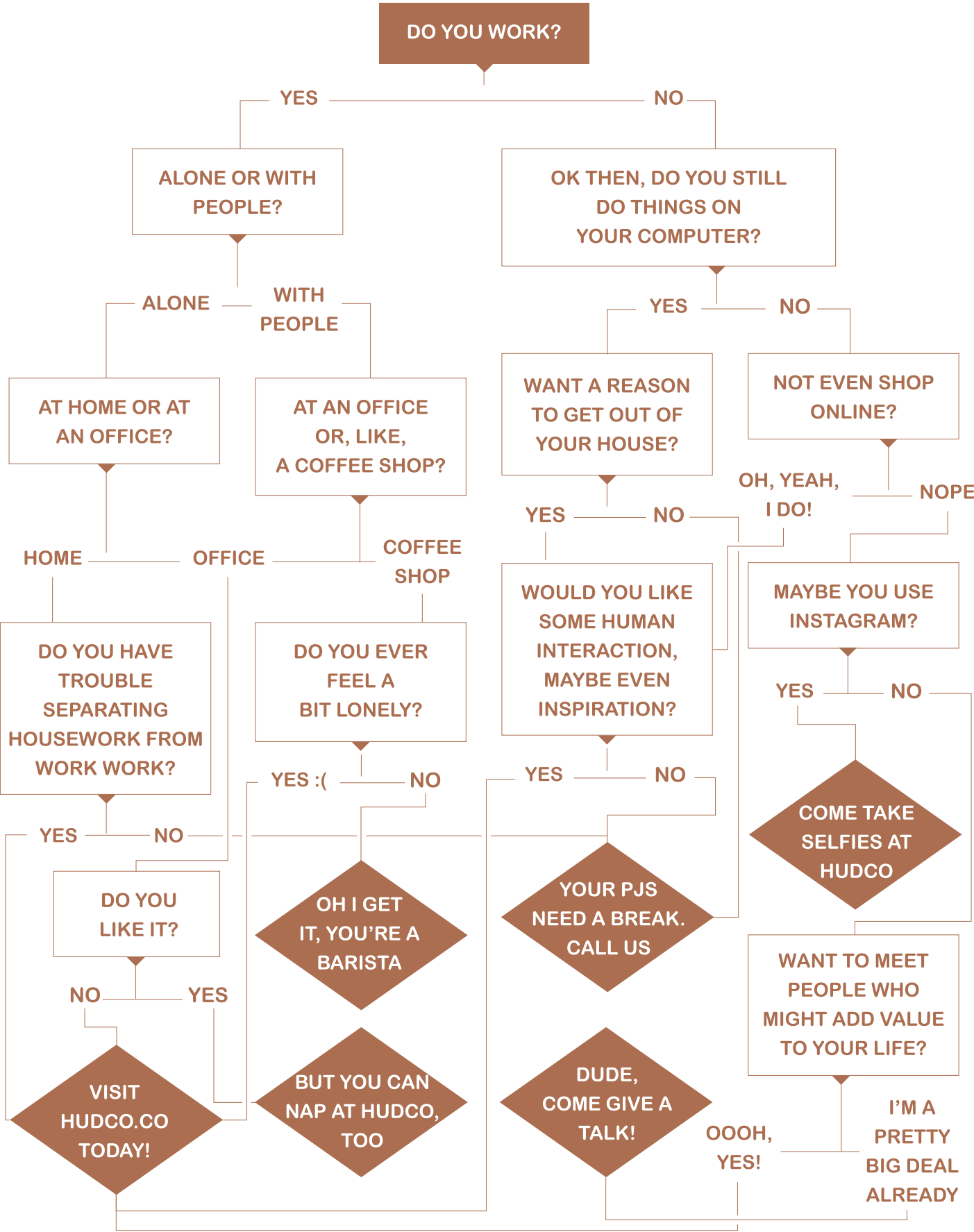
physically one of the most beautiful areas in the country."

The Blizards are lifelong artists who moved to Dobbs Ferry in 1970. Their work has been featured in dozens of exhibitions, including at the Main Street Gallery and The Masters School in Dobbs Ferry, Martucci Gallery in Irvington, and other galleries throughout Westchester, New York City, and other parts of the state. Larry Blizard's

artwork was also displayed in a pair of exhibitions in Germany.

The benefit art sale on Saturday, Aug. 22, and Sunday, Aug. 23, is from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Mead House, 12 Elm St. Visitors are encouraged to spend time conversing and discovering the different parts of the house. Punch and cookies will be served. To learn more about the historical society, and to join, visit [dobbsferryhistory.org](http://dobbsferryhistory.org).

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