

**Border issues**  
Dobbs High School grad  
assists federal detainees  
p 3

**Makers Circle**  
Crafters and causes come  
together in Ardsley  
p 5

**Cakes and chili**  
Hastings events to raise  
funds and spirits  
p 9

Vol 2. Issue 26.

March 6, 2026

# RIVERTOWNS Dispatch

Local News,  
Locally Sourced

\$2<sup>50</sup>

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



Ellen Sledge at Penny Lick Ice Cream in Hastings

## ‘Kakistocracy’ earns crown for spelling bee champs

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL  
IRVINGTON — A trio of residents from Kendal on Hudson in Sleepy Hollow wowed the audience during the Friends of the Irvington Library’s 13th annual Community-wide Spelling Bee at the Irvington Theater on Feb. 27, winning a contest so competitive that it nearly ran out of prepared words. The retirees won with the correct spelling of “kakistocracy,” defined by the Merriam-Webster dictionary as “a government by the worst people.”

Going by the name Ten Thousand Words, the team consists of Philip and Carol Monteloni, who have been married for more than 50 years, and their friend, Michael Kornfield. They are also the reigning champions of Kendal on Hudson’s spelling bee, which happened in October, and was their first spelling bee. Kendal residents must be age 62 or older.

In a competition that featured team names like Yes We Hive No Bee-Nanas and The Spell-guins, and costumes that included penguin suits and honeycomb sunglasses,

*Continued on page 4*

## Small business owners decry tariffs

*Congressman hosts panel about trickle-down costs*

BY AMY BOCHNER

REGION — Small business owners offered insight into how the Trump administration’s tariff policy has trickled down to the local level during a roundtable discussion hosted by Congressman George Latimer on Feb. 27.

Moderating the event, which took place at the Westchester County Center, were two chairs of the citizen task forces Latimer announced in December. Jane Veron is the chair of the task force on jobs and the economy, as well as the co-founder and CEO of The Acceleration Project, a nonprofit

supporting small business owners. Asha Castleberry-Hernandez, who served as the senior executive adviser in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs under the Biden-Harris administration, is the chair of the task force on foreign and military affairs.

Two small business owners participated in the roundtable, one of whom is Ellen Sledge, the owner of Penny Lick Ice Cream Company, which has locations in Hastings, Mamaroneck, and Ossining. The second was Peter Herrero Jr., the CEO of NY Hospitality Group, which operates Sam’s of Gedney Way, Caperberry Events Catering, The Great American BBQ Catering Company, and the CV Rich Mansion.

Providing economic analysis of the tariffs were Victor Petenkemani, dean of Mercy

University School of Business; Ann Rutledge, founder and CEO of Creditspectrum Corp.; and Raymond Brescia, associate dean for research and intellectual life at Albany Law School.

Sledge began by stating that local businesses across the board are feeling the impact from tariffs.

“It is the same for ice cream as it is for your local nail salons, as it is for your local pizzerias and dry cleaners, as it is for anybody running a small business,” she said. “Tariffs mean, simply put, higher prices, and it is one more volatile piece of information that we have to manage in our day-to-day.”

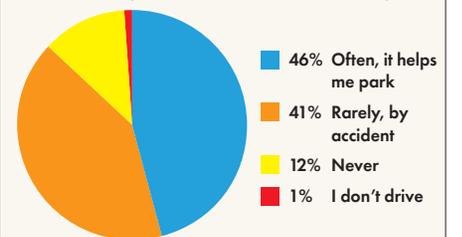
She shared one example of higher prices she’s experienced: In November 2024, 11

*Continued on page 10*

— You Answered —

When parking near snowbanks, how often do you bump into one?

As answered by 106 readers of the Rivertowns Dispatch



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



## The Blotter

### ARDSLEY

**Suspended license:** A 25-year-old Peekskill resident with a suspended driver's license was charged with aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the second degree, a misdemeanor, after being involved in a two-car accident at the intersection of Center Street and Saw Mill River Road (Route 9A) on the afternoon of Thursday, Feb. 26.

### DOBBS FERRY

**Wanted no more:** The Clarkstown Police Department apprehended a 61-year-old Yonkers resident who was wanted by the Dobbs Ferry Police Department on Wednesday, Feb. 25. The Dobbs Ferry Village

Court had issued a warrant for the defendant after he missed an appearance on July 10, 2025, following his arrest for shoplifting \$96.38 worth of items from Walgreens, 11 Ashford Ave., on June 24, 2025. The defendant was turned over from Clarkstown to Dobbs Ferry and then released on his own recognizance.

**Theft from Ulta:** Two men shoplifted \$4,760 worth of items from the Ulta Beauty at Rivertowns Square on the evening of Wednesday, Feb. 25.

**Theft from home:** On March 3, a Dobbs Ferry resident reported that a laptop computer, a DVD player, an external hard drive, and a jewelry cleaner were stolen from his home between Sunday, Jan. 25, and Wednesday, Feb. 25.

### HASTINGS

**Unauthorized account:** On Feb. 24, a Hastings resident reported that an unauthorized cellphone account had

been opened in his name.

**Wanted no more:** A 33-year-old Yonkers resident was issued a summons for an improper license plate, a violation, on Warburton Avenue on the afternoon of Wednesday, Feb. 25. The license plate was registered to another vehicle. He was then released to the Yonkers Police Department, which had a warrant for his arrest. Officer Wuilber Maldonado stopped the defendant.

**Peephole taped:** On Feb. 26, a Warburton Avenue resident reported that tape had been placed over her apartment door's peephole.

**Suspended registration:** A 31-year-old Yonkers resident was arrested for a suspended vehicle registration, a misdemeanor, on Warburton Avenue on the afternoon of Thursday, Feb. 26.

**Theft from account:** On Feb. 27, two Hastings residents reported that a total of \$750 was stolen from

their joint bank account through two withdrawals on Feb. 24 and one on Feb. 26. The withdrawals were made in California.

**Theft from store:** A Speks toy worth \$20 was stolen from Chelsea Dry Goods, 2 Main St., while more than a dozen youths were in the store on the afternoon of Friday, Feb. 27.

**Contempt arrest:** A 33-year-old Yonkers man was arrested for violating an order of protection by following a 27-year-old woman on Farragut Avenue on the morning of Saturday, Feb. 28. Both the man and the woman were in vehicles. He was charged with criminal contempt in the first degree, a felony, and remanded to the Westchester County Jail. Bail was set at \$10,000. Officer Adam Aliotta made the arrest.

**Hit and run:** The driver's-side rear of a 2026 BMW parked on Tompkins Avenue was damaged between Feb. 27-28.

# RIVERTOWNS Dispatch

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RESERVATIONS



# Volunteer details two weeks at border shelter

*Dobbs High School grad assists federal detainees*

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL  
Dobbs Ferry native and Skidmore College sophomore Maeve Larson spent two weeks in January volunteering at a migrant shelter called Annunciation House in El Paso, Texas, near the U.S. border with Mexico. The 2024 Dobbs Ferry High School graduate made the trip during her winter break, along with Skidmore Spanish professor Diana Barnes, who has volunteered with Annunciation House multiple times.

Larson assisted people who had been released from El Paso detention centers. She helped them contact relatives and arrange flights to cities, like Chicago and New York, where the detainees had been picked up by immigration officers. She also helped feed people at the shelter.

“They were all released with ankle monitors, so they were still being surveilled, and they still were not free,” Larson explained. “Hearing them talk about the conditions at the detention centers made me lose a lot of patience for a lot of things that are happening in our country right now.”

Annunciation House was founded in 1978

by Ruben Garcia, who was inspired after meeting Mother Teresa in El Paso. According to Garcia, a majority of the people at the shelter were known to the government before they were arrested, because they had begun formal immigration proceedings. Despite being sent home for those proceedings to continue, they are all still at risk of being deported.

“All of the [previous] administrations — even the first president Trump administration — respected people who were in proceedings and never picked any of these people up,” Garcia told the Dispatch. “Under President Trump 2.0, they are utterly disregarding all of that.”

Larson estimates that roughly five to 12 new people arrived at the shelter each day. Most of them spent a few days there before being driven to airports for flights home, which were paid for by family members. Donations cover all Annunciation House expenses, such as room and board for the migrants and volunteers. In addition to Larson and Barnes, two other volunteers and two employees were working there at the same time. Five migrants were also at the shelter on extended stays after crossing the border into the U.S. and having nowhere else to go.

“We’d all have meals together, and it was interesting to see how [although] everybody had just been released and just been able to call their families, they still put their phones down, had a meal together, and were able to talk to each other about their experiences,” Larson said.

Barnes has volunteered with Annunciation House roughly 10 times, and in the 26 years since she first visited the region, she maintains that “every administration has contributed to the debacle of the border.” During prior visits to Annunciation House facilities, a majority of the people Barnes helped were migrants who had just crossed the border from Mexico into the U.S. During January’s visit, a handful were in that situation.

Larson, a Spanish and sociology double major, and an office assistant in the Spanish department, learned about Barnes’ shared interest in the U.S./Mexico border



Maeve Larson and fellow volunteers hike the Franklin Mountains, which overlook El Paso and Juarez.



The border fence between El Paso and Juarez

and introduced herself. (She has not been Barnes’ student.)

“The first time I met Maeve I knew that she had the emotional maturity and intellectual maturity to undergo this kind of excruciating experience,” Barnes said. The professor teaches a class on U.S./Mexico border studies, in addition to her Spanish language and literature classes. “It’s a wonderful form of resistance against what’s happening right now, and I saw that Maeve had a deep sense of humanity that would see her through the experience.”

Some of the migrants were sent to Annunciation House after spending a couple of months in the detention center, while others spent more than a year in detention. Although Annunciation House doesn’t have a formal relationship with the U.S. government,

Barnes explained that the two sides have an agreement for immigration officers to transport some released detainees to one of Annunciation’s three permanent El Paso shelters. To Larson, after seeing dozens of people come through the shelter, the reasons for the various lengths of detention seem arbitrary.

“It didn’t seem to make much sense at all, and I would ask the people I was working with, and they wouldn’t know either,” Larson explained. “I think that part of the reason that no one could explain it to me is because it just makes no sense. People are being detained with no record, have been paying taxes, and it’s tiring to hear all of this rhetoric — ‘They came here illegally, they’re not paying taxes.’”

A section of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service website states that “foreign workers

*Continued on page 14*




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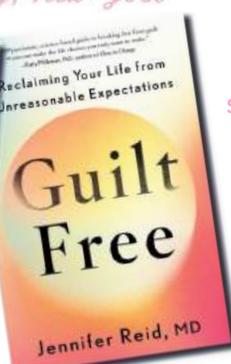


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## Spelling Bee

Continued from page 1

Ten Thousand Words dispensed with puns and elaborate outfits as they impressed the crowd with their spelling skills.

“We didn’t practice,” Carol Monteloni told the Dispatch. “If you get to be as old as we are, you’ve done a lot of reading and you’ve seen a lot of words, and they stay in your head.”

“We’re undefeated — that’s why they brought us here,” her husband added. “We were the top champs [at Kendal], so they said, ‘You have to come to Irvington. This is where the big boys come.’”

Irvington’s spelling bee started with 12 teams of three, with the four teams with the most points in the opening rounds moving on to the championship round, where one spelling mistake would eliminate a team.

The final two teams, Ten Thousand Words and Reservoir Dogs — Irvington residents Ron Cohen, Amy Martini, and Bill Moss — both rattled off correct spellings of “appoggiatura,” “connoisseur,” “limn,” and “capricious.” At that point, host Keach Hagey, an Irvington resident and Wall Street Journal reporter, informed the audience that she had used all of the words on her list. Irvington Schools Superintendent Mara Ratesic and the Rev. Garth Evans of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, who served as judges, gave Hagey the OK to look through her phone for words that might stump one of the teams.



Friends of the Irvington Public Library president Heather Bancroft (right)

As both teams breezed through the spelling of “chiaroscurist,” “logorrhea,” and “xanthosis,” some attendees began to call for the teams to be crowned co-champions. But with the correct spelling of “kakistocracy,” Ten Thousand Words walked off with a standing ovation and dinner for three at Mima Vinoteca on Main Street.

“The lady in front of us offered to be our agent if we want to go on tour,” Carol Monteloni said.

The spelling bee serves as a fundraiser for the Friends of the Irvington Library. Money

raised comes from a combination of ticket sales, advertisements, concessions, and a raffle with prizes from local businesses and organizations, including Don Carvajal, Harvest on Hudson, Random Farms Kids Theater, and Shames JCC on the Hudson. While the amount raised is yet to be determined, it will go to programming at the library.

“It goes to storytime, and it goes to the summer reading program for the kids, which is so popular,” Friends president Heather Bancroft explained. “And it goes to yoga, knitting, poetry writing. There are

all these different things that don’t fit into the everyday budget, and all of this money goes right to that.”

The spelling bee also found other opportunities for teams that didn’t come out on top to be celebrated. The Chignon Sleep Til Brooklyn team was recognized for incorporating the word that knocked them out of last year’s spelling bee into this year’s team name. Human Bee-ings, who sported honeycomb glasses, yellow capes, and yellow hats with eyes, won the best costume award. And Guiteau’s Girls’ first-round blunder turned into a win when they were given the prize for most creative spelling for their version of “tragedy” — with an extra “d.”

“These are our neighbors, we love the library, and this is a community-oriented event,” Bancroft said. “It’s not really about who the winner is; it’s more about community and coming out and sharing an evening together of fun.”

The Friends of the Irvington Library’s next fundraiser is a book sale at the library in May.

### Correction

Paul Feiner has been re-elected Greenburgh town supervisor 17 times, not 19 times as reported in the Feb. 27 issue of the Dispatch. He is serving an 18th term and is seeking a 19th term.

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# ARDSLEY

— Coming Up This Week —

## Invasive Plant Removal

Saturday, March 7, 10 a.m.–noon  
 South County Trailway  
 Volunteer to help the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway and Westchester Parks Foundation save trees by cutting invasive vines  
 To register, visit [ardsleypollinatorpathway.org](https://ardsleypollinatorpathway.org)

## Chinese Lantern Festival

Saturday, March 7, 10:30 a.m.  
 Ardsley Public Library  
 Local author and animator Julia Liu reads from “Take a Look, Take a Guess, Happy Lantern Riddle Fest,” followed by a paper lantern craft for ages 3–7  
 Register at [ardsleypubliclibrary.org](https://ardsleypubliclibrary.org)

## Village Board Work Session

Monday, March 9, 7:30 p.m.  
 Village Hall  
 Agenda available at [ardsleyvillage.gov](https://ardsleyvillage.gov)

## Planning Board Meeting

Monday, March 9, 8 p.m.  
 Village Hall  
 Agenda available at [ardsleyvillage.gov](https://ardsleyvillage.gov)

## Pizza Bingo for Seniors

Wednesday, March 11, noon–2 p.m.  
 Ardsley Community Center

## “Board of Ed 101: How You Can Get Involved”

Wednesday, March 11, 7 p.m.  
 Ardsley High School library

## League of Women Voters Hybrid Meeting

Friday, March 13, 4–5:30 p.m.  
 Hastings Public Library, 7 Maple Ave.  
 Email [info@lww-rivertowns.org](mailto:info@lww-rivertowns.org) to join by Zoom

## Yoga & Breathwork: A Follow-Along Session

Friday, March 13, 2 p.m.  
 Ardsley Public Library  
 Register at [ardsleypubliclibrary.org](https://ardsleypubliclibrary.org)

## Local Board Positions Open

The Village is currently accepting applications from residents interested in serving on a board, commission, or committee  
 Visit [ardsleyvillage.civicweb.net/Portal/BoardApplication](https://ardsleyvillage.civicweb.net/Portal/BoardApplication)

## Got news?

Email staff writer Amy Bochner at [amy@rivertownsdispatch.com](mailto:amy@rivertownsdispatch.com)



Jing Chen (center) holds an amigurumi doll made by Stephanie Soohoo (right) on Feb. 26.

# Makers Circle unites crafters and causes

BY AMY BOCHNER

Around a table of coffee cups and yarn skeins, the Ardsley Makers Circle held their second meeting on Feb. 26 at Momo’s Café. In the participants’ hands were handmade sweaters, dolls, and blankets, each going to a friend, charity, or social justice cause.

The group grew out of the Ardsley Story Quilt project, spearheaded by resident and textile artist Sania Samad. In 2023, Samad felt moved to create a quilt in support of Palestine. After meeting with religious leaders and village officials, the idea evolved into a community quilt, in which residents could find common ground and share their stories. With the help of the Ardsley Multicultural, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee, creating the story quilt launched on April 28, 2024.

Over the course of 18 months, the group of over 20 met at different homes and at the community center to sew and embroider 31 14-by-14-inch squares. The final 9-square-foot quilt, completed in September 2025, hangs at the Ardsley Public Library.

Nancy Kaboolian, a participant who was mayor throughout the project’s duration, described the quilt as a success.

“It was a great project that we did here,” she told the Dispatch. “We didn’t want that feeling of what we did with the quilt and bringing everybody together to stop... everybody had this real feeling that we accomplished something together.”

This led to the creation of the Makers Circle, which first met at the library on Jan. 22, with individuals who contributed a square

to the quilt participating. The Makers Circle expanded its reach, going beyond embroidery to include knitting, crocheting, and sewing.

The first project allowed the contributors to showcase their respective crafts. For Valentine’s Day, the group knitted, crocheted, and sewed hearts, which were sold to raise money for the public library, which was gifted \$110.

At the Feb. 27 meeting, the makers brought their own projects to work on, as well as completed ones to show the group. Stephanie Soohoo passed around roses that flipped into fairies, done in the style of amigurumi, a Japanese art of crocheting small creatures.

Many projects related to a social justice cause or were to be donated to charity. Deborah Shapiro worked on her fourth “Melt

*Continued on page 14*



## Warm-up

Trainer George Meikle of Ardsley leads exercises for attendees during the Black History Month celebration hosted by the Ardsley Multicultural, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee at the community center on Saturday, Feb. 28. The event also featured poet Chris Slaughter and pianist Edward Callahan.

ARDSLEY

# Public weighs in on proposal for upgrading Addyman Square

BY AMY BOCHNER

Ideas for downtown revitalization were shared during the Ardsley Board of Trustees meeting on March 2, with thoughts heard from merchants, residents, and a cohort of Princeton engineering students.

Douglas J. Hahn of James J. Hahn Engineering, the firm hired by the Village in December 2025 to forge a vision for the busy intersection that includes Addyman Square and Legion Park, offered a recap of his firm's current redevelopment plans.

The project will be funded by a \$977,827 federal grant secured by then Congressman Jamaal Bowman in 2024. The area targeted for improvement straddles Saw Mill River Road (Route 9A), with the site plan broken up into three sections: Addyman Square, the northern sidewalk leading to Center Street, and 9A.

The proposal for Addyman Square has three elements. The first is a "plaza" on the west side with a stamped concrete patio, a sidewalk, light poles, bollards, trees, and landscaping. The project would remove the crown — a raised area in the asphalt — from the center of the parking lot. There would also be an approximately 15-foot-high, 25-to-28-foot-long metal laser-cut wall, with plantings behind it. The plaza would eliminate two or three existing parking spots, one of which is

handicap parking. A space next to the plaza would be converted to handicap parking.

The entrance to Addyman Square would also have a laser-cut sign, as well as a stamped concrete sidewalk, plantings, new asphalt, and light poles.

The area Hahn referred to as the "seating wall and planting area" would be on the east side of Addyman Square, with a seating wall, stamped concrete sidewalk, trees, landscaping, and light poles.

The proposal calls for replacement of the northern sidewalk and curbs, and making the pedestrian pole, currently a flashing crossing sign, push-button activated. Trees and tree pits would also be installed.

For Legion Park, the project proposes a retaining wall, a Norwood spruce, shrubs, and light poles.

Architect Javier de la Garza of Dobbs Ferry shared what he described as a more organized layout for Addyman Square. He said traffic flow could be improved by rethinking the funnel-shaped entrance into a narrower curve. The inside of the lot would be shaped like a rectangle. The overall design would result in 17 spaces, a reduction from the current 24.

De la Garza also suggested a parking space counter that would allow drivers to know when the lot is full, as well as spaces with different time limits depending on the hours.

Former Mayor Nancy Kaboolian shared her "wholehearted support" for the project, and referenced its funding grant.

"While we can disagree on some aesthetics... I think that it really meets the requirements and the outline of the grant application from 2024."

She also suggested that Addyman Square could become a community hub by closing it down "every other Friday [or] Saturday

their customers."

She said she has received complaints from customers about parking and parking enforcement:

"Yesterday, somebody was parked in the handicapped spot for 6 hours. Nothing was done about it. This is happening daily... I really feel that removing any amount of parking right now... is detrimental. The restaurants, the salon, the nail salon, we rely on the convenience [for] our customers... It's not a park."

Dr. Alaleh Akhavan provided comments on the proposal through a PowerPoint presentation. She spoke on behalf of herself, and fellow residents Lucia Ferri-Martin, Darcy Briks, Andi Federman, Christina Hansbury, and Michele Fernandez.

First, she addressed the plaza, showing a rendering with a brick wall instead of the laser-cut wall.

"I love the idea of blocking off that highway area," she said. "Our visual concept is to stick to historical materials to make things that are substantial, give an idea of value to the town."

Regarding the proposed Addyman Square laser-cut sign, she suggested a sign that says "Ardsley" instead.

"I would like to brand Ardsley. So [for] people going by, this is the photo that you

*Continued on page 14*

"I really feel that removing any amount of parking right now... is detrimental."

Megan Reiff, Cutting Edge Hair Studio

night, take the cars out of it, make it a meeting, eating, music place."

On the other hand, Megan Reiff, owner of the Cutting Edge Hair Studio, emphasized the need for parking spots.

"At the end of the day, Addyman Square is a business plaza," she said. "There are 10 businesses, plus residents. While I think the idea of sometimes in the summer shutting it down, having a little party, is fantastic, and I support that, businesses need parking for

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## DOBBS FERRY

— Coming Up This Week —

### Artist Reception:

“Color Between the Reins”

Sunday, March 8, 1–4 p.m.

Dobbs Ferry Public Library

Watercolor exhibition of equine art by Lena Knudson, a 2012 graduate of Dobbs Ferry High School. On view through March 31.

### Intro to Quantum Computing for Ages 10 and Up

Monday, March 9, 4:30–5:30 p.m.

Dobbs Ferry Public Library

Email [teens@dobbsferrylibrary.org](mailto:teens@dobbsferrylibrary.org) to sign up

### Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, March 10, 7:30 p.m.

Village Hall

Agenda available at [dobbsferry.gov](http://dobbsferry.gov)

### Comedy Open Mic

Tuesday, March 10, 8 p.m.; sign-up starts at 7:30

Divino’s Speakeasy, 524 Warburton Ave., Hastings. For ages 18 and up; one-drink minimum for performers

### Virtual Town and Gown Literary Discussion Group

Wednesday, March 11, 7 p.m.

Discuss “The Magician’s Assistant” by Ann Patchett

Email [sbramble@dobbsferrylibrary.org](mailto:sbramble@dobbsferrylibrary.org) to register for the Zoom link

### Zoning Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 8 p.m.

Village Hall

Agenda available at [dobbsferry.gov](http://dobbsferry.gov)

### Readers’ Circle: “Rebecca” by Daphne du Maurier

Thursday, March 12, 1:30 p.m. for

movie screening. Thursday, March 19, 2 p.m. for book discussion

Dobbs Ferry Public Library

Register: [reference@dobbsferrylibrary.org](mailto:reference@dobbsferrylibrary.org)

### League of Women Voters Hybrid Meeting

Friday, March 13, 4–5:30 p.m.

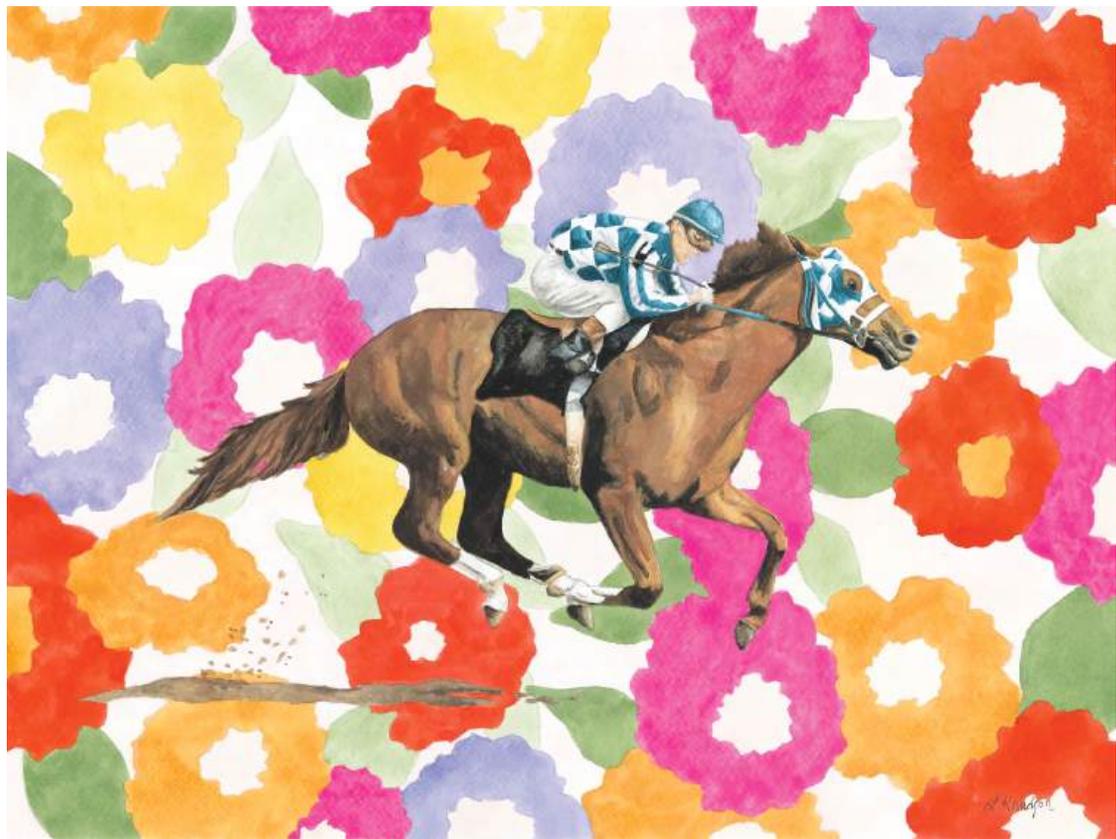
Hastings Public Library, 7 Maple Ave.

To participate by Zoom,

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### Got news?

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



“Run for the Florals” by Lena Knudson

# Painter returns with equine inspiration

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

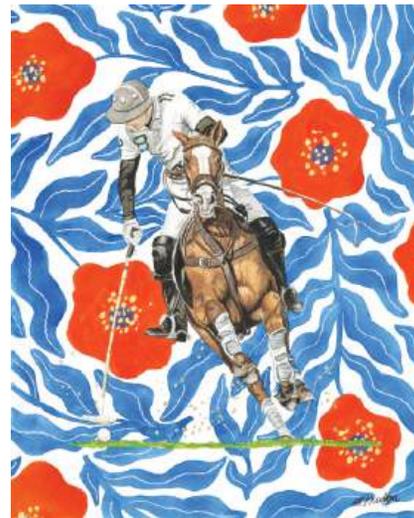
Watercolor artist Lena Knudson is returning to Dobbs Ferry this month for her first exhibition in the village where she grew up. Knudson, now a resident of Richmond, Virginia, is showing an equine-themed collection titled “Color Between the Reins” at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.

The 2012 graduate of Dobbs Ferry High School was drawn to watercolor after learning the technique from her paternal grandmother, Silvia Altholz, who was an art teacher at Yeshiva of Flatbush in Brooklyn. She passed away in 2007, when Knudson was in middle school.

“There’s just something very freeing about the medium that I pretty instantaneously felt and have been enjoying all of this time,” Knudson said. “It leaves a lot of room in case you make mistakes I’ve found. And I feel like unlike acrylic or oil, with watercolor you can build the pigment to build your own color that you’re interested in.”

Knudson credits DFHS art teacher Serena Buschi with helping refine her skills when she was a teen. Knudson went on to West Virginia University, where she earned a bachelor’s in multidisciplinary studies/elementary education in 2016 and a master’s in elementary education in 2017. From there she took an extended break from art as she worked as a special education teacher in Wilmington, North Carolina, and then Richmond.

The pandemic allowed her to return to painting more regularly, and in 2021 she launched Bristles and Design, a company through which she sells art online and at art shows, paints commissions, and teaches in-person watercolor workshops. Knudson left special education in 2023 to devote herself to art full-time.



“Candy Striped Gallop” by Lena Knudson

“Color Between the Reins” draws from a passion for horses she’s had since she was around 10 or 11 years old. Knudson was on the English equestrian club team at West Virginia University and owned a horse, named Sandy, when she lived in Wilmington.

“Horseback riding, for me, taught me a lot of discipline,” Knudson explained. “It taught me a lot about connecting with nature and animals and picking up on the smaller nuances of that human-animal interaction.”

“Color Between the Reins” expands on a collection of rodeo scenes she unveiled in 2024. Four of the paintings in the Dobbs Ferry show are from that series, while the rest are new.

About five months ago, Knudson put out a call online for people to send her photographs of them with their horses. The result is represented in the 18-piece “Color Between the Reins” exhibit. Some of the

paintings depict the horse alone, while others include the rider.

“I enjoy trying to catch the essence of not only the horse, but the movement,” Knudson explained. “When you paint a horse, you can really see all of the intricacies of their muscles and the way their hooves are moving, and the way their mane is flowing because they’re moving so fast. So you really get a good sense of their mechanism and their power.”

The earlier rodeo paintings show bull riders in action against a flower-patterned background.

“There’s something about the juxtaposition of these hyper-detailed subjects of these intense moments, set on top of flowers that are hot pink or orange,” Knudson explained. “With some of the pieces that are a little bit more masculine, the contrast is really there.”

The paintings in the exhibit range in size from 6 by 7 inches to 28.5 by 35 inches. All of them are framed and for sale, ranging from \$235 to \$2,600, except for one that’s on loan from a private collector. Knudson will also have prints of the original artwork available for \$45 to \$65.

“I’m from Dobbs, so everyone will know me, and I hope that they like it,” Knudson said. “In my time selling my art as a watercolor artist, upon talking to people, most people are intimidated by the medium or they’ve tried it once and it became like a mud pile, so I hope they can see that the medium is for everybody.”

Knudson’s artist reception in the gallery at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library, 55 Main St., is this Sunday, March 8 from 1–4 p.m. The gallery is open seven days a week during library hours, which are available at [dobbsferrylibrary.org](http://dobbsferrylibrary.org). For more about Knudson and her art, visit [bristlesanddesign.com](http://bristlesanddesign.com).

DOBBS FERRY

# Naples native offers Italy's finest at Abbiocco Salumeria

BY RORY PASQUARIELLO

Abbiocco Salumeria & Focacceria may be as close to Italy as it gets in the River-towns. Almost everything in the store, from meats and cheeses to coffee and dry goods, is imported.

The rest is made in-house by chef Vincenzo Adamo, who moved from Naples to Queens eight years ago to advance his culinary career. He and his wife, Elda, met working in a restaurant in 2018, moved to Yonkers in 2024, and welcomed their first child last year.

"He's the food guy, I'm the accountant," said Elda Adamo, who moved to New York from Albania in 2014. "We were ready to open something of our own and there wasn't anything like this here."

In January, after a year of planning, the couple opened Abbiocco, 86 Main Street, in a storefront previously occupied by a photography studio. The delicatessen's name can translate literally to "drowsiness," but it describes the decelerated comfort and contentment after a large meal — a food coma.

"This is a cozy space with a real salumeria feel," Elda said as her husband served a pair of enthusiastic customers espresso made with Kimbo beans, a popular Italian brand.

The customer interjected, "If you eat here,



Vincenzo and Elda Adamo at Abbiocco Salumeria & Focacceria

you feel the difference."

Vincenzo trained at a culinary school in southern Italy and worked as a line cook on the Amalfi Coast before holding executive chef positions in Italy, the United Kingdom, and at The Leopard at des Artistes, which

is inside the Hotel des Artistes on Manhattan's Upper West Side.

At Abbiocco, Vincenzo bakes bread, including focaccia, pane cafone, and cocchione. He even imports flour for the dough. He also sells his own pasta and desserts.

For Vincenzo, bread was a gaping culinary absence in his life after moving to the U.S.

"The type of bread is different," Vincenzo said. "Most of these things I can replicate. I keep them the way they're supposed to be. We don't compromise."

Another difference that vexes Vincenzo is the American sandwich, which consists of too much meat and too many toppings on bland factory bread. Abbiocco offers 11 focaccia sandwiches, ranging in price from \$16.50 to \$20.50, as well as a student discount menu of four sandwiches, each \$15.

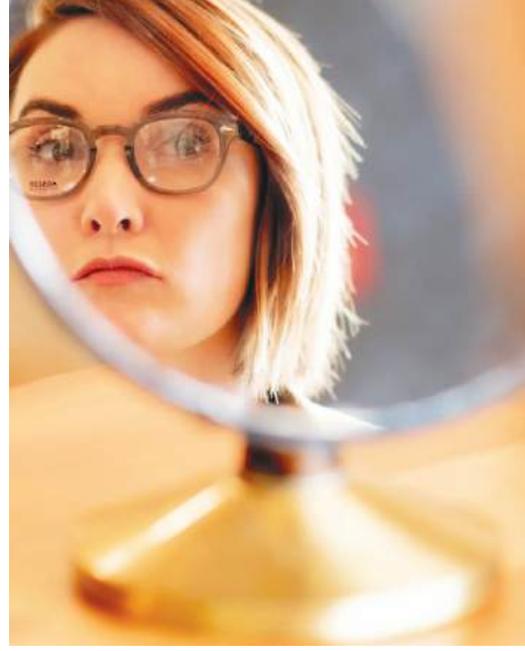
"Most of our sandwiches are three, four ingredients," Vincenzo said. "I want you to taste everything."

The transition from executive chef at a high-end Manhattan restaurant to running a salumeria in Dobbs Ferry has been steep, but welcome. In the end, Vincenzo said, "I don't find this super different from being a chef. I can still be creative. I really tried to bring everything I know."

Abbiocco Salumeria & Focacceria is open Tuesday through Saturday from 7 a.m.-7 p.m., and Sunday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, visit [www.abbiocco-salumeria.com](http://www.abbiocco-salumeria.com) or follow them on Instagram @abbioccosalumeria.



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MASUNAGA

## The Mosaic of Time

Cast from the earth with no color or purpose

Pieces arranged to fit together without any specification

Years put into its finely crafted picture with the end still not in sight

Colors that range from the endless bounty of nature.

The center holds golden painted stones framed by the terracotta earth it came from

Swirls of whimsical white run across the tiles like the wind

Hues of blue from deep cobalt to light aqua glazed into the pours of the clay

Bright yellow telling of the days of laughter and dark telling of those that felt like there was none

Green splashed everywhere for new life and continued growth.

Browns used to show the stable strong link the pulls the tiles together

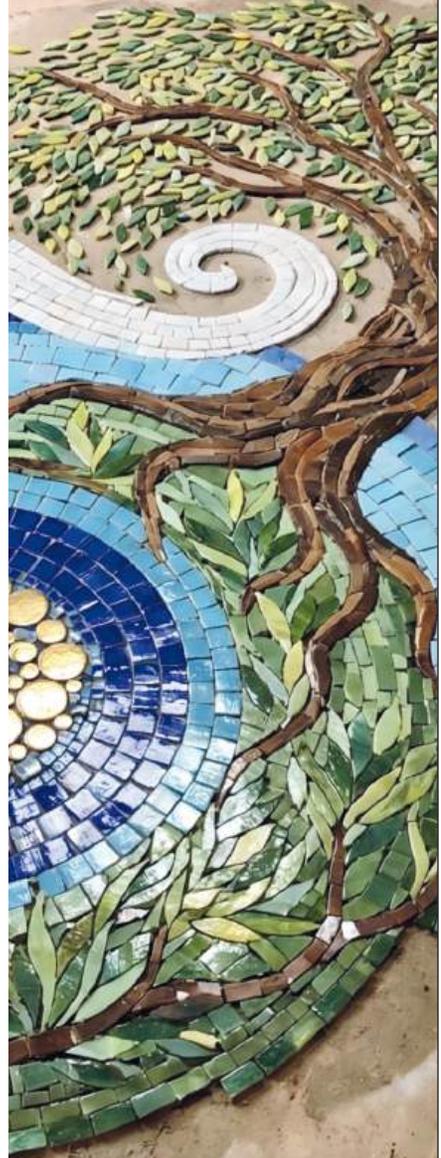
A mosaic so beautiful and so big that it brings tears

A picture that always has you casted in gold in the middle with all of us.

In our beautiful mosaic of time.

I miss you Kathy!

In loving memory  
For Kathy Miningham  
2/26/97





# HASTINGS- ON-HUDSON

— Coming Up This Week —

## Rivertown Thrift Pop-up

Saturday, March 7, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.  
James Harmon Community Center,  
lower level

Clothing donations accepted until noon

## Local History

Saturday, March 7, 2–4 p.m.  
Observatory Cottage, Draper Park,  
407 Broadway

See the Hastings Historical Society's current exhibit, "The Times They Are A-Changin': Hastings in the 1960s"

## Architectural Review Board Meeting

Monday, March 9, 7 p.m.  
Village Hall  
Agenda available at [hohny.gov](http://hohny.gov)

## A.I. Discussion and Demo

Wednesday, March 11, 5:30–7 p.m.  
James Harmon Community Center  
Sponsored by Hastings Youth Council  
Intergenerational Club and Hastings  
Senior Council

## Keeping It Real Book Club

Friday, March 13, 11 a.m.  
Hastings Public Library  
Discuss "Everyone Who Is Gone Is Here: The United States, Central America, and the Making of a Crisis" by Jonathan Blitzer  
Email [has@hastingslibrary.org](mailto:has@hastingslibrary.org) to register

## League of Women Voters Hybrid Meeting

Friday, March 13, 4–5:30 p.m.  
Hastings Public Library, 7 Maple Ave.  
To participate by Zoom, email  
[info@lwv-rivertowns.org](mailto:info@lwv-rivertowns.org) for the link

## "River Dreamer"

Through April 3  
Village Hall  
Works by Dobbs Ferry artist Neil Lavey

## FISH

### (Friends in Service Helping)

Drivers needed for rides to  
medical appointments  
Call 914-999-2090 to volunteer

## Got news?

Email staff writer Amy Bochner at  
[amy@rivertownsdispatch.com](mailto:amy@rivertownsdispatch.com)



(Above) Maria Ramirez, the owner of Wildly Cakes in Dobbs Ferry. (Below) Joy Thaler, the owner of ThePod in Dobbs Ferry.

# Cakes and chili to raise funds and spirits

BY AMY BOCHNER

In Hastings, sales of pastries in the morning and chili in the afternoon will make this Saturday, March 7, a mouthwatering marathon of support for, respectively, immigrant rights and student athletes.

The fundraising begins with the "Ice Cakes Not People" bake sale at The Good Witch from 9 a.m.–1 p.m. More than 20 events under that banner will take place nationwide on March 7, 8, and 14, all raising money for charities helping immigrants and their families. "Ice Cakes Not People" is the brainchild of Amy Larson, the owner of culinary retail brand Overseasoned, which is sold at her shop, Matriarch, in Newport, Rhode Island.

Maria Ramirez, who owns Wildly Cakes on Ashford Avenue in Dobbs Ferry, brought the idea of this fundraiser to the Rivertowns. She is originally from Mexico and became an American citizen eight years ago.

"I know what the process is like, and how hard it is," Ramirez told the Dispatch. "I have friends and family, people that have gone through... trying to become legal in this country. Now, to go through it in this period in time, is even harder. It's insane. It sucks watching the news, how bad it's getting."

Ramirez reached out to Joanna Prisco, owner of The Good Witch, about hosting an "Ice Cakes not People" fundraiser in Hastings. Prisco, who offered her café as a venue for the event, told the Dispatch why she decided to get involved.

"I think a lot of people can feel helpless during times like these," she said. "When you see things taking place across the country that don't feel right, that you object to, you want to do something, and one of those ways is to gather in community and do something joyful. We are all bakers, able to do what we love and raise money for a good cause."



About a dozen professional pastry chefs, business owners, and home bakers will participate. In addition to Wildly Cakes and The Good Witch, the lineup includes Sarah Bakes Cakes, Little Star Pastry, Yellow Bowl Bakery, Mariachi Mexico, and ThePod by CocoaCompassion. There will also be a photo booth provided by Bibbity Bobbity Booth.

Prisco described the array of goods that will be available.

"We'll have offerings that range from brownies and cookies and cupcakes to sourdough, focaccia, and flaky croissants to gluten-free and dairy-free mini mochi cakes," she said. "There's going to be a cheesecake with roasted pears, pignoli cookies, and Brazilian carrot cake."

One hundred percent of the proceeds will be donated to two local organizations providing legal support for people immigrating to the United States or struggling with immigration enforcement. One of the organizations is Cabrini Immigrant Services in Dobbs Ferry, while the other charity's name will be shared at the bake sale due to safety

concerns, according to Ramirez.

"I'm just really hoping that we get a good outcome and we get enough donations to give to a great cause," she said. "Some people can't afford it, when they're taken into custody. They can't pay lawyers. So for me, it's important to help out, at least in this way."

Prisco shares that sentiment. "When so much seems to divide us and break us down, these joyful shared experiences keep us resilient, hopeful, and bound by community. Who doesn't love a fresh-baked treat with a side of social activism?"

Less than half a mile away from The Good Witch, another fundraiser will take place from noon–3 p.m. at the James Harmon Community Center, where the Hastings Yellow Jackets Booster Club will host their "Chili Cook-Off" to raise money for the school district's sports teams.

This is the first time the club has held this event, which co-president Melissa Dalon Sbrega hopes will become an annual

*Continued on page 10*

## HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON

### Tariffs

*Continued from page 1*

pounds of 58% dark chocolate cost \$90; in May 2025, that same amount of the same product cost \$220.

“My receipts are much higher than they used to be, and I buy from wholesale suppliers, but never in my receipts does it say what the tariff is,” she said. “Some of this may simply be instability and raising prices because you can, but it’s always being raised on the backs of small businesses. The end result for all of us is less people coming in the door... What it means to us is 15% to 30% less sales, depending on whether or not I’m talking about my ice cream store or our catering line.”

In February 2025, Sledge went through the menu of flavors and the ingredient costs, and “culled” ones that would be too expensive. Two ingredients with increased costs, from tariffs and shortages related to climate, were coffee and chocolate.

Penny Lick previously offered four different coffee flavors throughout the year. Sledge told the Dispatch she cut down the offerings, taking the mocha macchiato and espresso truffle off the regular menu rotation and bringing them back as specials, but not at the same time. Penny Lick’s dark chocolate coconut flavor became more expensive, with coconut milk prices shooting up in May and June. Because this flavor is a bestseller, Sledge said they couldn’t take it off

the menu, and instead tried to throw more specials on the menu that were inexpensive to make, such as the sheet cake flavor and strawberry milk flavor. Penny Lick also paused production on its white chocolate fudgesicles for half a year, as white chocolate was higher in price than dark chocolate.

As a result of the increased price of ingredients, Sledge raised her prices, and “immediately noticed” complaints from customers. Other cost-cutting measures included putting expansion plans for 2026 and 2027 on hold, and anticipating hiring 20% fewer people during the summer, which is the company’s busiest season.

Herrero said that he feels like he’s “on the front lines,” describing the situation as worse than the public realizes.

“It’s tariffs, but the compounding effect [on] the quality, quantity, the price, the availability, the weather... you think this is bad? Wait four to five months. These storms in Florida are going to kill the citrus market. Where are we going to replace it?”

During the Q&A section, several small business owners shared how tariffs have impacted them. Deborah Smook, the owner of Turbofil Packaging Machines in Mount Vernon, which manufactures packaging machines mostly for the pharmaceutical industry, spoke about the uncertainty caused by the tariffs. Her company buys materials from other countries, including stainless steel which the Trump administration placed

a 25% tariff on and later increased to 50%.

“We contract with customers to build a machine, which might take us a year, and over that year, the tariffs have changed, I don’t know, 10 times?” Smook said. “We don’t know what our costs are when we budget for a project, and when we charge our customers for a project.”

Another business owner who spoke was Oliver Stauffer, the CEO of Packaging Technologies & Inspection (PTI), a company headquartered in Hawthorne. He said that demand for his products decreased 35% in the last 12 months, leading to the company enacting its “second layoff” the day prior to the roundtable.

Jessica Galen described her experience as the owner of Bloomy Cheese & Provisions in Dobbs Ferry. In August 2025, the Trump administration announced a 39% tariff on goods from Switzerland, which was reduced to 15% that November. Galen explained that Switzerland is an important cheese exporter to the U.S., providing many traditional cheeses that cannot be created elsewhere due to their unique production processes.

She emphasized the importance of small businesses in a local economy.

“If our communities want these independent businesses in our downtowns, and we want them to not just be copycat businesses... we do have to think about ourselves as part of that global story of these special products that can’t be replicated.”

### Fundraisers

*Continued from page 9*

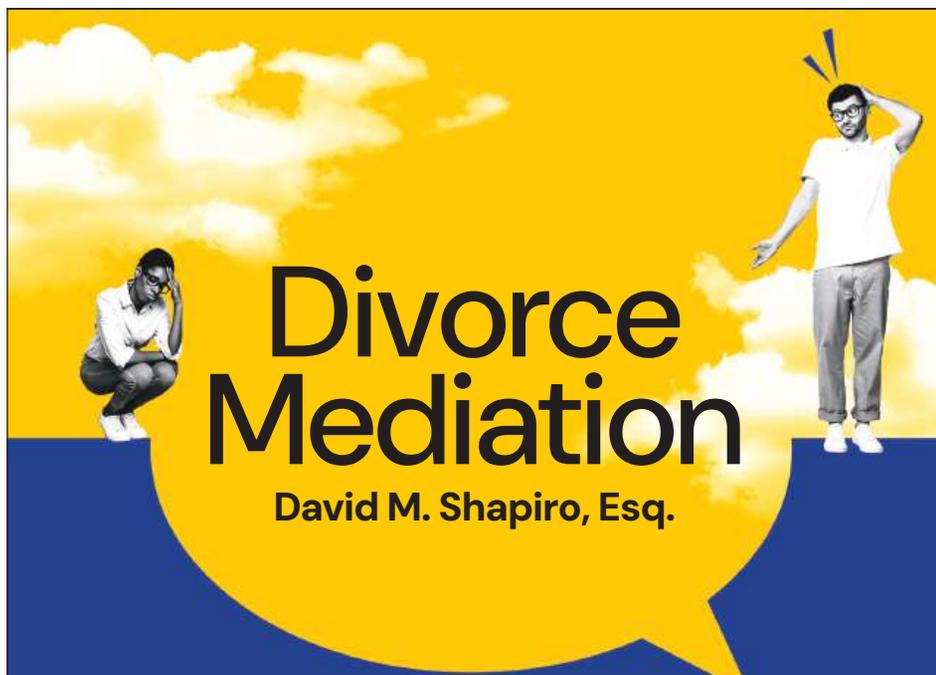
tradition. The decision to make the fundraiser a cook-off, she said, was based on a wish to “get the community together... and celebrate in a fun, different way.”

The money collected will go toward the athletic department, teams, and coaches. Among the booster club’s goals is to have a permanent snack bar at one of the athletic fields.

More than 10 teams, which each paid a \$75 entrance fee, will bring 2 gallons of chili in a crockpot, along with toppings and sides. Taster tickets, which will be sold in advance and at the door, entitle the adventurous to sample each team’s chili. Along with the tasters, three “celebrity judges” — Mayor Tom Drake, Hastings High School boys’ varsity baseball coach Scott Stampfl, and Farragut Middle School physical education teacher Melissa Otovich — will determine the winner, who will receive a trophy — in the form of a chili ladle — and a pass to taste and drink for free.

The general public can purchase tickets for drinks, which will be donated by Uncle Lefty’s, Maud’s Tavern, Bread & Brine, and Captain Lawrence Brewing Co.

Taster tickets, purchased in advance, are \$25 for adults, \$10 for children; at the door, \$30 for adults, \$15 for children. A family bundle of four tickets is offered for \$50. Drink tickets cost \$7 each or four for \$25. Go to [my.ched-darup.com/c/chili-cook-off-16892/items](http://my.ched-darup.com/c/chili-cook-off-16892/items).



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# IRVINGTON

— Coming Up This Week —

## Stewardship at O'Hara & Irvington Woods Park

Saturdays, March 7 and 14,  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Meet at O'Hara Nature Center,  
170 Mountain Road

Help with invasive plant removal, tree  
planting, trail maintenance, and  
urban forest restoration

Register at [irvingtonny.gov/25/recreation-and-parks](http://irvingtonny.gov/25/recreation-and-parks)

## Virtual Lecture: "Pasta" with Toni McKeen

Saturday, March 7, 2 p.m.

Register at [irvingtonlibrary.org](http://irvingtonlibrary.org) for the  
Zoom link

## Farmers Market

Sunday, March 8, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Main Street School,  
101 Main St.

The winter market convenes every other  
Sunday (except April 5)

For details, visit [irvingtonfarmersmarket.org](http://irvingtonfarmersmarket.org)  
and follow the market on Facebook

## School Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 10, 7:30 p.m.

High school library

Agenda available at [irvingtonschools.org](http://irvingtonschools.org)

## Board of Trustees Work Session

Wednesday, March 11, 7 p.m.

Village Hall

To attend via Zoom, visit [irvingtonny.gov](http://irvingtonny.gov)  
for the link

## League of Women Voters Hybrid Meeting

Friday, March 13, 4–5:30 p.m.

Hastings Public Library, 7 Maple Ave.

To participate by Zoom, email  
[info@lwv-rivertowns.org](mailto:info@lwv-rivertowns.org) for the link

## "Treason of the Blackest Dye"

On view Saturdays and Thursdays,

1–4 p.m., through August

McVickar House, 131 Main St.

## Got news?

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



Janet Arms and Jesse Goldberg at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

## Mother and daughter polish 'Modern Gems'

### *Duet to perform at St. Barnabas on March 8*

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Ardasley native Jesse Goldberg, the music director for St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Irvington, will perform a duet this weekend with her mother, Janet Arms, with whom she's made music nearly her entire life. The concert, titled "Modern Gems," will take place Sunday, March 8, as part of Goldberg's Riverview Chamber Series at St. Barnabas.

Arms is a professional flutist who has lived in Ardsley for 40 years while performing and recording with the likes of the New York Philharmonic, San Francisco Ballet, Metropolitan Opera, and New York City Opera orchestra, of which she's been a member since 1988. In 1994, she was on stage with the opera less than 2 hours before she went into labor with her daughter.

"I got finished at 11:30 [p.m.] and I started labor at 1," Arms told the Dispatch. "So she listened to opera every night of her pre-birth. I started singing to her immediately and when the babysitter would come in the evening so I could go to the opera, she would put on a song that I sang and Jesse, being a baby, would look around for me."

Arms is a senior artist teacher and co-chair of Chamber Music at the Hartt School at the University of Hartford, and has given private lessons in the Rivertowns over the years. Her husband, Marc Goldberg, is a professional bassoonist, which means that Jesse was raised in a household where music was present at all times.

"My mom used to teach flute lessons with me in a little infant carrier, first against her stomach and then against her back," Goldberg said. "And apparently, when I was little, I used to laugh any time a flute student

would make a mistake."

Goldberg recalls classical music playing on CDs and vinyl while she was growing up, along with pop records by artists like The Beatles. As a toddler, babysitters would take her to the opera to hear her mother perform, and Goldberg would sit with her babysitter in the orchestral lounge listening to the concerts over the loudspeakers. She began playing piano at 4 years old, and by elementary school she began playing duets with Arms.

"My husband and I noticed at a really young age that she would sing right on pitch," Arms recalled. "From third grade my husband would say, 'Oh my god, she's watching you.' It's very hard for young kids to play music with another instrument and pay attention to anyone else, and we watched this very young kid playing piano and looking over to see when I breathe and what I'm going to do."

"I've been listening to her breathe for my whole life, I can listen to the way she's breathing and I can know what she wants to do and follow the line," Goldberg added. "And so we really have so much freedom when we play together, and we can make so much of the phrasing and dynamics that it's such a joy, and no two performances end up being the same."

Goldberg and Arms' upcoming "Modern Gems" performance at St. Barnabas features classical pieces by living composers. Among them are Eric Ewazen, who teaches music theory at Juilliard, where Marc Goldberg also teaches bassoon, and Swiss composer Reto Stadelmann. During a concert at the Hartt School in October, mother and daughter gave the debut U.S. performance of Stadelmann's composition "Pilatus," which they are revisiting for the "Modern Gems" concert. Even during St. Barnabas' weekly service, Goldberg incorporates the work of living composers.

"It means a lot to them and it has a much bigger impact than if we just played some

Beethoven or something," Goldberg said. "Sometimes when people think of music by living composers, they think of it as inaccessible or esoteric, and this program is full of incredibly warm, beautiful, melodic pieces that are energetic and exciting, while some are soothing."

In addition to playing together countless times at home, Arms and Goldberg typically perform together publicly at least once a year. Their upcoming concert culls from their nearly three decades of public and private duet performances.

"We just thought of some of the things that we've enjoyed playing the most together and that's how we came up with the program," Goldberg explained. "I would hope that someone would come into it with an open mind and leave having discovered something totally new that they would actually enjoy listening to again."

Most of the concert will include Arms and Goldberg alone, though guitarist Christopher Ladd, who has performed with Arms, will play on one number, and Arms' former Hartt School student Yunlu Tong will join on flute for another.

"It's going to be great music on a great Sunday afternoon, and people shouldn't be shy about wondering what modern gems they should come open-minded to discover, because they're going to love it," Arms said.

"Modern Gems" takes place March 8 at 2 p.m. at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, 15 N. Broadway, Irvington, and is free for all ages. There will be free child care provided during the hour-long concert, and a reception after the performance. The concert is the second of three Riverview Chamber Series concerts, with the third, featuring violist Rose Nelis, taking place on Sunday, April 19. Seats can be reserved in advance by visiting [stbarnabaschurch.org](http://stbarnabaschurch.org) and scanning the barcode of the concert flier.

# Volunteers OF the Month

## LoRusso and Cortese add comfort for those in foster care

BY JANINE ANNETT

For Emma LoRusso of Yonkers and Matthew Cortese of Irvington, volunteering at Abbott House is a family affair. That's because LoRusso, a 15-year-old sophomore at the Ursuline School, and Cortese, a 17-year-old junior at Irvington High School, are cousins. Recently, they teamed up to create 100 comfort packages for children, teens, and young adults entering foster care at Abbott House, where Filomena LoRusso, Emma's mother (and Matthew's aunt), is director of Community Support Services.

Abbott House is a nonprofit organization based in Irvington with a mission "to build lasting foundations for children, families, and adults with complex needs, and to empower them with opportunities for promising futures," per the organization.

Emma LoRusso and Cortese's goal when



Matthew Cortese and Emma LoRusso at Abbott House

creating the packages was to bring comfort to the children, teenagers, and young adults (ranging in age from newborns to 21-year-olds) who often had to transition abruptly to a new home.

"When I was younger, my mom used to come home and tell me stories about the children and how they needed help," LoRusso shared. "At the time, I was young, so I didn't

know the full extent of things. I just thought, 'Oh, these kids need help.' When I got older, I realized it was more serious, and these children went through traumatic things. When they got placed into foster care, sometimes they would have little to nothing to bring with them. So, I thought we should give care packages to these children so when they get placed into a foster home, right away they

feel comfort and have something to make them feel a little bit more at home."

LoRusso and Cortese made a list of age groups and tailored the comfort packages to suit. "We sat down and really thought about it. A 1-year-old and a 16-year-old can't have the same things. So, 0-to-3-year-olds — they got blankets. For the 3-year-olds, we did blankets, teddy bears, and little puzzles. For 4-to-8-year-olds we added socks and toothbrushes and we wrote cards for them. For 9-to-15-year-olds, we kept adding more things. For the 16-to-21-year-olds, we added gift cards and journals," LoRusso said.

"I enjoyed the fact that I was able to help these people who are in need, knowing it will comfort them and will really help them," Cortese said. "It's very stressful and scary when you first come to a foster home. This might not be the biggest thing, but knowing that I can help however much I can, it feels great."

Figuring out which items to get, acquiring the items, and organizing them was no small feat, but the cousins developed a system to make it work.

"We created an Amazon wish list, and Matthew and I calculated everything," LoRusso said. "For example, if blankets came in a pack of six, we needed to figure out that we needed to ask for eight packs.

*Continued on page 16*

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**IRVINGTON**  
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

KINDERGARTEN  
REGISTRATION

For the 2026-27 School Year!

Children Must be Age 5 by 12/31/2026

Registration is now online!

Please go to [www.irvingtonschools.org](http://www.irvingtonschools.org)

From the homepage, click on Departments and select Registration for the 2026-27 registration application link.

- Our webpage has additional information on the process and information needed to register
- If you have difficulty accessing this website, please contact the District Registrar at [registration@irvingtonschools.org](mailto:registration@irvingtonschools.org) or call 914-269-5052
- Proof of age is required (original birth certificate or passport)
- Proof of residency within the Irvington School District boundaries is also required to register. See instructions on our website for acceptable forms of proof.

WHERE THE JOURNEY BEGINS!



# The Agenda

## SATURDAY MARCH 7

### Chinese Lantern Festival Celebration

**ARDSLEY**  
10:30 a.m. / Free. Ardsley Public Library, 9 American Legion Drive. Local author and animator Julia Liu reads from "Take a Look, Take a Guess, Happy Lantern Riddle Fest," followed by a paper lantern craft. For ages 3–7. Register at [ardsleypubliclibrary.org](https://ardsleypubliclibrary.org)

### Fashion Night Out Westchester

**DOBBS FERRY**  
6–11 p.m. / \$40–\$75. HudCo, 145 Palisade St., Suite 200. Runway show with new collections from local designers, craft cocktails, gift market, and a DJ. [instagram.com/fnowestchester](https://instagram.com/fnowestchester)

### Community Bake Sale: "Ice Cakes Not People"

**HASTINGS**  
9 a.m.–1 p.m. / The Good Witch Coffee Bar, 134 Southside Ave. Proceeds go to immigrant rights organizations. [instagram.com/thegoodwitchcoffeebar](https://instagram.com/thegoodwitchcoffeebar)

### Rivertown Thrift Pop-up

**HASTINGS**  
10 a.m.–3 p.m. James Harmon Community Center, 44 Main St., lower level. Clothing donations accepted until noon.

### Chili Cook Off Fundraiser

**HASTINGS**  
Noon–3 p.m. / Team registration to enter chili: \$75. Tasting tickets in advance: \$25 for adults, \$10 for kids, \$50 for families; \$5 more at the door. Drink tickets: \$7 each, \$25 for four. James Harmon Community Center, 44 Main St. Proceeds benefit the Hastings Athletics Booster Club. [instagram.com/hastingsufsd](https://instagram.com/hastingsufsd)

### "The Times They Are A-Changin': Hastings in the 1960s"

**HASTINGS**  
2–4 p.m. / Free. Observatory Cottage, Draper Park, 407 Broadway. The Hastings Historical Society is open the first Saturday of every month in addition to its regular hours: Mondays and Thursdays, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. On view through October. [hastingshistoricalsociety.org](https://hastingshistoricalsociety.org)

### Curator Tour: "Modern Women/Modern Vision"

**YONKERS**  
2 p.m. / \$15 for adults, \$9 for seniors and students, \$8 for ages 3–18, free for members and children under 3. Hudson River Museum, 511 Warburton Ave. [hrm.org](https://hrm.org)

### CenterStage Live Band Karaoke

**TARRYTOWN**  
7–10 p.m. / \$23, \$18 for members. The Ark at Shames JCC, 371 S. Broadway. Pick a song, then front the band like a rock star. [shamesjcc.org](https://shamesjcc.org)



Naturalist Catherine Nava Ponce will be on hand as the Lenoir Preserve hosts a free Maple Saturday on March 7, from 12–2 p.m., at 19 Dudley St. in Yonkers.

### "Othello"

**TARRYTOWN**  
2 and 5 p.m. / \$49. Lyndhurst, 635 S. Broadway. M&M Performing Arts Company presents Shakespeare's tragedy in the parlor of the Lyndhurst mansion. Performances run through March 22 at various times. Ages 12 and up. [lyndhurst.org](https://lyndhurst.org)

### Screening: "The Librarians"

**GREENBURGH**  
1 p.m. / Free. Greenburgh Public Library, 300 Tarrytown Road. The film explores the fight against book bans and censorship, followed by discussion and Q&A with Sam Helmick, American Library Association president, and Chris Hansen, retired American Civil Liberties Union attorney. Register at [greenburghlibrary.org](https://greenburghlibrary.org)

## SUNDAY MARCH 8

### International Women's Day Chamber Music Celebration

**ARDSLEY**  
4–5:30 p.m. / \$40. St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, 2 Revolutionary Road. The Solace Trio, made up of violinist April Johnson, cellist and RiverArts Chamber Music director Peter Seidenberg, and pianist Tomoko Uchino, perform works by six female composers written between 1846 and 2023. [riverarts.org](https://riverarts.org)

### Watercolor Exhibit: "Color Between the Reins"

**DOBBS FERRY**  
1–4 p.m. / Free. Dobbs Ferry Public Library, 55 Main St. Opening reception for equine art by Lena Knudson, a 2012 graduate of Dobbs Ferry High School. On view through March 31. [dobbsferrylibrary.org](https://dobbsferrylibrary.org)

### Gua Sha Workshop

**HASTINGS**

3–4:30 p.m. / \$60 (includes a take-home kit). Amanda Kupillas Dance, 45 Main St. [amandakupillas.com](https://amandakupillas.com)

### Riverview Chamber Series

**IRVINGTON**  
2 p.m. / Free. Church of St. Barnabas, 15 N. Broadway. The series, presented by the church's music director and organist, Ardsley native Jesse Goldberg, continues with flutist Janet Arms, an internationally acclaimed soloist and orchestral musician, beloved Rivertowns teacher, and long-time Ardsley resident, performing new works.

### Winter Farmers Market

**IRVINGTON**  
9:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Main Street School, 101 Main St. The market convenes on the second and fourth Sundays of the month (except April 5) through May 17. For details, visit [theirvingtonfarmersmarket.org](https://theirvingtonfarmersmarket.org) and follow the market on Facebook.

### "Staging Stillness": A Performing Art Workshop

**YONKERS**  
1–4 p.m. / \$15 for adults, \$9 for seniors and students, \$8 for ages 3–18, free for members and children under 3. Hudson River Museum, 511 Warburton Ave. In celebration of Women's History Month, theater director and arts educator Liz Dahmen leads an immersive workshop. Register at [hrm.org](https://hrm.org)

## MONDAY MARCH 9

### Monday Meetup for Changemakers: Those Who Build, Advocate, and Serve

**DOBBS FERRY**  
10–11 a.m. / Free. HudCo, 145 Palisade St., Suite 200. Reserve a spot at [hudco.eventbrite.com](https://hudco.eventbrite.com)

## TUESDAY MARCH 10

### Picture Book x HudCo Book Club

**DOBBS FERRY**  
8 p.m. / Free. Picture Book at HudCo, 145 Palisade St., Suite 200. Discuss "The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny" by Kiran Desai. RSVP at [picturebookny.com/calendar](https://picturebookny.com/calendar)

### Comedy Open Mic

**HASTINGS**  
8 p.m. / One-drink minimum for performers. Divino's Speakeasy, 524 Warburton Ave. Presented by the Dobbs Ferry Public Library. For ages 18 and up. Sign up: [tdeery@wlsmail.org](mailto:tdeery@wlsmail.org)

### Meetup: Carrying the Invisible Load

**IRVINGTON**  
7 p.m. / \$35, free for unlimited members. The Lark, 50 S. Buckhout St., G107. [thelark.club/events](https://thelark.club/events)

## WEDNESDAY MARCH 11

### Hybrid Lecture: "Revolutionary Women of Westchester County"

**YONKERS**  
7 p.m. / Free. Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site, 29 Warburton Ave. Register at [philipsemanorhall.com](https://philipsemanorhall.com)

## THURSDAY MARCH 12

### Jazz & Latin: Featuring Peter Brainin and Matt Chertkoff

**DOBBS FERRY**  
7–9 p.m. / No cover charge. Mirabella Cocina Latina Restaurant & Bar, One Hamilton St.

### New Exhibit: "Eternal Verities, Felt Thoughts"

**HASTINGS**  
12:30–5:30 p.m. / Upstream Gallery, 8 Main St. Opening of Madge Scott's latest works. Reception on Sunday, March 15, 2–5 p.m. On view through April 5. Hours: Thursday–Sunday, 12:30–5:30 p.m. [upstreamgallery.com](https://upstreamgallery.com)

### Pre-release Screening: "9/11: Reclaiming Ground Zero"

**TARRYTOWN**  
6:30 p.m. / Free. The Pocantico Center, 200 Lake Road. [rbf.org/pocantico/events](https://rbf.org/pocantico/events)

## FRIDAY MARCH 13

### Used Book Fair

**HASTINGS**  
5–7 p.m. / \$3 for hardcovers, \$1–\$2 for paperbacks; cash preferred. Hillside School, 120 Lefurgy Ave. Also Saturday, March 14, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. [ptсахastings.org](https://ptсахastings.org)

### Border shelter

Continued from page 3

who are [undocumented immigrants] are subject to U.S. taxes in spite of their illegal status." The section goes on to say that undocumented immigrants "who receive income from performing independent personal services are subject to 30 percent

withholding unless exempt under some provision of law or a tax treaty."

"A lot of times there really is no rhyme, nor reason," Barnes said of the lengths of time in detention, adding that most of the people who made it to the shelter had paid a bond to be released. "It has to do with which judge they're in front of, it has to do with whether or not they can hire an attorney."

### Makers Circle

Continued from page 5

the ICE" hat, which is a pattern created by Paul Neary of the Minneapolis-based store Needle & Skein. The pattern, sold for \$5, is a response to the surge of Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials in his city and the killing of resident Renee Good by a federal agent. The money raised from the pattern goes toward nonprofits supporting

immigrants in the Minneapolis area.

Also in Shapiro's bag was a panel for a blanket she is working on for her knitting group at Woodlands Community Temple in White Plains, which donates items to hospitals and hospice facilities.

Many of the other participants described goods they created for charity. Kaboolian knits blankets for immigrant children through the organization Welcome Blanket, while Cynthia Zeitchick provides for

### Addyman Square

Continued from page 6

take. This is the postcard that we draw up and give to the local businesses to get out, to get people excited about Ardsley."

She also recommended adding string lights to the downtown, which she said are "an inexpensive way to make a tremendous difference."

After the discussion on Addyman Square, four engineering students from Princeton University shared their proposals for revitalizing Ardsley's downtown. This was the result of the De la Garza Architecture

internship through the university, which focused this year on Ardsley. De la Garza introduced the participants — Mary Raffinan, Savreen Madahar, Juan Jeong, and Abram Gomez Castro — who worked independently on topics and merged them for the presentation.

The first proposal began with addressing parking challenges, and recommended a survey of the lots at Bridge Street, Addyman Square, CVS, and Village Green, and street parking on Center Street and 9A. Data to be collected would include the number of occupied spaces and total spaces, average length of time cars are parked, the number

Larson hopes to volunteer at Annunciation House again and spend several months there, either after she finishes her undergrad studies or over a summer. She plans to study abroad in Mexico next spring with a program through the Vermont-based School for International Training, where she'll learn more about immigration policy and international politics.

Larson has a message for her neighbors

who may never spend time at a migrant shelter or detention center.

"Be empathetic and think about what these people are going through," Larson said. "I don't want this to be about politics; I want it to be about people treating people with respect and treating each other as humans. Regardless of your view on immigration, this is just so much bigger than that."

sick or injured children staying at the Ronald McDonald House in Valhalla.

While knitting and social justice are intertwined for many of those involved, the group is also an opportunity to make friends and feel connected.

Hallie Wachen found a greater sense of community after her three children graduated from the school district. Village Trustee Holly Halmo agreed, describing a crafting group as a low-stakes way to meet new people.

"You already have something in common," she said. "You're swapping stories, you're swapping patterns. You get to meet people that you already have a connection with."

The next two meetings will take place on March 26 and April 23 at the Ardsley Public Library from 5-6:45 p.m. At the upcoming one, Zeitchick will demonstrate how to make fabric baskets and stuffed toys, while Soohoo will demonstrate how to make amigurumi Easter eggs.

of double or illegally parked vehicles, and the utilization of handicap parking spots.

The second proposal addressed reconfiguring 9A, with narrow travel lanes, a center turn lane with refuge islands, buffered bike lanes, and high visibility crosswalks.

The students also proposed curb/side-walk extensions on the intersection of 9A and Ashford Avenue to increase pedestrian visibility, decrease crossing distance, and potentially decrease turning speed. Another proposal described adding a gateway arch along or right before the intersection, as well as murals along the buildings facing the highway. The students addressed 701

Saw Mill River Road, the former Westchester Garage, suggesting to bring the building forward to the street, widening sidewalks, and removing unnecessary crosswalks.

The final proposal investigated the area behind the Village Green, which is in the 100-year flood zone and is a FEMA regulatory floodway, meaning it must remain underdeveloped to allow floodwaters to pass. Castro described a similar area in Dobbs Ferry that was developed. Although building is currently not recommended, he proposed a three-story commercial/residential complex down the line, if Ardsley ever decided to utilize that area.



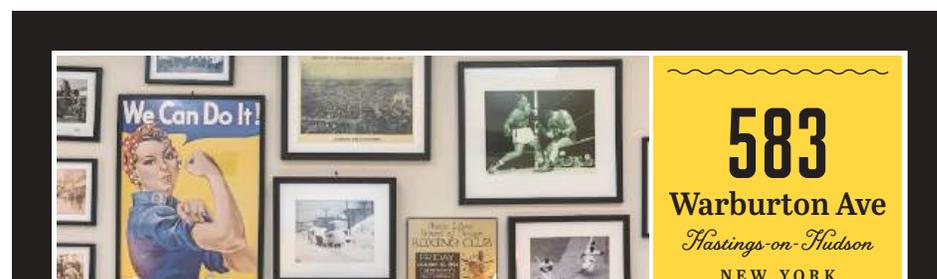
**INTERNATIONAL  
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MARCH 8TH**

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MOBILE #: 914-844-0517



**583  
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NEW YORK  
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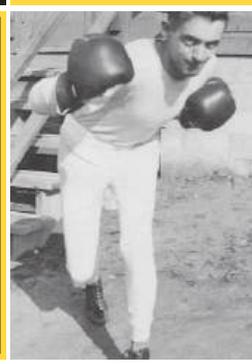
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**Wednesday 5 p.m. – 12 a.m.**  
**Thursday 5 p.m. – 12 a.m.**  
**Friday 12 p.m. – 12 a.m.**  
**Saturday 12 p.m. – 12 a.m.** Brunch!  
**Sunday 11 a.m. – 12 a.m.** ←



# The Little Dispatch

BY KIDS

FOR KIDS

## KID ON THE STREET

We asked: What's something you're really good at that might surprise people?



"I'm really good at fencing—I've been doing it for 2 years."  
-Audrey M., 10



"I'm really good at the diabolo, which might be surprising because not so many kids know circus tricks. I learned it at camp."  
-Cassius J., 8



"I know a lot of facts about whales. For example, they store a lot of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide."  
-Jasper D., 7



"Baseball—I have been playing since Kindergarten."  
-Matias B., 10



"Tennis."  
-Paige, 7

by  
THE LITTLE  
Dispatch team



By Sebastian P., 11

# Classies

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



## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PUBLIC HEARING — ARCHITECTURAL CONSULTANT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Irvington will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 2, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at Village Hall, 85 Main Street, Irvington to consider a local law amending Chapter 9 (Board of Architectural Review) to permit an architectural consultant in lieu of requirement that at least one ARB member be an architect.

A copy of the local law is available on the Village website [WWW.IRVINGTONNY.GOV](http://WWW.IRVINGTONNY.GOV) or in the office of the Village Clerk-Treasurer, 85 Main Street, Irvington.

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

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Ardsley will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 6, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. or soon thereafter at Village Hall-Court Room Facility, 507 Ashford Avenue, Ardsley, NY 10502 to consider granting site plan approval for the proposed development located at 774 Saw Mill River Road.

Please check the calendar on the Village website for meeting details at [www.ardsleyvillage.gov](http://www.ardsleyvillage.gov) or email the Village Clerk at [arocco@ardsleyvillage.gov](mailto:arocco@ardsleyvillage.gov)

The meeting will be able to be seen live on Channel 75 (Cablevision) or Channel 32/35 (Verizon). Members

of the public can also listen to the meeting via Zoom platform by dialing via phone+1 929 205 6099, Meeting ID: 881 4214 0918 Passcode: 040201 or Join Zoom which can be accessed here:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88142140918?pwd=L3c3JrTdMINvKaU4bHcx13slbzBse.1>

Meeting ID: 881 4214 0918 Passcode: 040201  
Further details on this proposed request is available at the Clerk's office, 507 Ashford Avenue, Ardsley, NY during normal office hours Monday through Friday 9:00 am-4:00 pm.

Written comments may be sent to the Village Clerk at [arocco@ardsleyvillage.gov](mailto:arocco@ardsleyvillage.gov) or sent via regular mail to 507 Ashford Ave, Ardsley, NY 10502. All comments will be shared with the Board of Trustees and questions will be answered as quickly as possible.

All residents and taxpayers are invited to attend.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF ARDSLEY, NEW YORK

Ann Marie Rocco  
Village Clerk  
Dated: March 6, 2026

### PUBLIC HEARING — ARCHITECTURAL CONSULTANT FEES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Irvington will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 2, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at Village Hall, 85 Main Street, Irvington to consider a local law amending Chapter 160 (Professional Fees) to provide for referral to an architectural consultant and reimbursement of fees.

A copy of the local law is available on the Village website [WWW.IRVINGTONNY.GOV](http://WWW.IRVINGTONNY.GOV)

or in the office of the Village Clerk-Treasurer, 85 Main Street, Irvington.

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

### NOTICE OF ADOPTION — LOCAL LAW #2 OF 2026

Please be advised that on February 25, 2026, the Board of Trustees adopted Local Law #2 of 2026 amending the Vehicles and Traffic Chapter of the Village Code to provide for reserved parking for the senior center.

A copy of the full text of this Local Law is available in the office of the Village Clerk, 85 Main Street, Irvington, NY or on the Village website at <http://www.irvingtonny.gov>.

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

### NOTICE OF ADOPTION — LOCAL LAW #3 OF 2026

Please be advised that on March 2, 2026, the Board of Trustees adopted Local Law #3 of 2026 amending Chapter 9 (Board of Architectural Review) to permit architectural consultant in lieu of requirement that at least one ARB member be an architect.

A copy of the full text of this Local Law is available in the office of the Village Clerk, 85 Main Street, Irvington, NY or on the Village website at <http://www.irvingtonny.gov>.

Katie Bugna, Clerk-Treasurer  
Irvington, NY  
March 3, 2026

### NOTICE OF ADOPTION — LOCAL LAW #4 OF 2026

Please be advised that on March 2, 2026, the Board of Trustees adopted Local Law #4 of 2026 amending

Chapter 160 (Professional Fees) to provide for referral to architectural consultant and reimbursement of fees.

A copy of the full text of this Local Law is available in the office of the Village Clerk, 85 Main Street, Irvington, NY or on the Village website at <http://www.irvingtonny.gov>.

Katie Bugna, Clerk-Treasurer  
Irvington, NY  
March 3, 2026

### REQUEST FOR BIDS FOR SECURITY PROJECTS

A non-profit organization in Westchester, NY is soliciting sealed bids from qualified vendors for the sale and installation of security-related enhancements. Projects include: (1) closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems; (2) electronic access control systems; (3) door open/close notification systems; (4) installation of reinforced, impact-resistant, and/or ballistic-rated doors and window systems; (5) anti-ram barriers; (6) PA systems; (7) security training; (8) fences with gates.

Projects are funded in part by New York State and federal security grant programs. All work must comply with applicable state and federal laws, regulations, and grant requirements.

Bid specifications and instructions for submission may be obtained by contacting: [grant-rfp46s@gmail.com](mailto:grant-rfp46s@gmail.com). Sealed bids must be received no later than 5:00pm on March 13, 2026. Late bids will not be considered. Certified Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBEs) are strongly encouraged to submit bids.

### LEGAL NOTICE — 425 WARBURTON AVENUE

Village of Hastings-on-Hudson

### HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON LEGAL NOTICE - SALE OF TAX LIENS FOR UNPAID TAXES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:

That the Tax Liens of Real Property of Hastings-on-Hudson for Village Taxes levied for the year 2025 and remaining unpaid will be sold at public auction at 10:00 AM on Thursday, March 12, 2026, in the Village Court Room in the Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue, 2nd Floor, Hastings-on-Hudson, New York, 10706. Persons interested in participating in the auction must pre-register with the Village Clerk's Office by email at [villageclerk@hohny.gov](mailto:villageclerk@hohny.gov).

Owners of such real property are hereby warned to pay the amount of such taxes remaining unpaid, together with interest and charges of notice and advertisement to the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson before that date to avoid such sale.

A detailed statement setting forth the names of the persons against whom the taxes have been assessed, the location of the respective properties, and the total sum for the non-payment of which the tax lien will be sold has been deposited in the Office of the Village Clerk. Any interested person may request such statement from the Office of the Village Clerk by email at [villageclerk@hohny.gov](mailto:villageclerk@hohny.gov).

The sale is pursuant to Resolution for the Collection of Unpaid Taxes by Tax Sale, adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, at a Regular Meeting held on the 20th day of January 2026, and is in conformity with the provisions of Section 1452 of the Real Property Law of the State of New York.

Parcel	Address	Total Due
4.120-127-18	0 KENT AVE	\$334.47
4.140-144-1	1 PEARL ST	\$3,386.21
4.40-44-2.6H65	565 BROADWAY (UNIT 6 H)	\$763.26
4.70-52-30	40 RIDGE ST	\$1,943.19

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ANTHONY COSTANTINI  
Village Clerk/Treasurer  
Publish: The Rivertowns Dispatch  
March 6, 2026

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 Zoning Code, Notice is hereby given that: A Public Hearing will be held by the Planning Board on Thursday, March 19, 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 Tabi Realty for an amendment to the previously approved Site Plan

application for the demolition of their three-family building and the driveway/parking area paving, plus restoration of the site at 425 Warburton Avenue. Said property is in the MR-O Zoning District and is known as SBL: 4.70-52-10 & 11 on the Town of Greenburgh Tax Maps. The Planning Board will, at this time and place, hear all people in support of such matter and any objections thereto. Plans will be made available for review at the Building Department or on the Village web site, [www.hohny.gov](http://www.hohny.gov), on or about the Friday preceding the meeting date. Eva Alligood, Chair, PB

## Volunteers of the Month

Continued from page 12

So we did that, and I posted on my Instagram, my mom posted on her Instagram, and we told our friends and family, and they donated to the cause."

"At first it was overwhelming with all this stuff and all the unpacking," Cortese added, "but once it came together, it was very satisfying."

The items were organized, sorted, and packed into string bags — along with handwritten notes for those old enough to read — at the LoRusso home, then brought to Abbott House to be distributed to the children who were entering foster care.

"I work in conjunction with many of the programs at Abbott House, and foster care is one of the main ones I work with," said Filomena LoRusso, who has been with the organization for 23 years. "We offer support systems to foster children in our foster homes. It's always been in the forefront of my mind that these children and families have been at a disadvantage and have been through so many different traumatic situations. It's been my life's mission to make sure that Emma understands that we need to do whatever we can do to be good human beings and to help people."

When the cousins expressed interest in volunteering, Filomena LoRusso went to the vice president of Foster Care at Abbott House and asked what was needed, and the idea of creating comfort care packages was born.

"They did a great job," Filomena LoRusso said about her daughter and nephew. "They covered everything from comfort items to toiletries, and they really thought about it. It was nice to watch them figure out how to do it. My sister [Anna Cortese, Matthew's mom] and I were really hands-off, other than making sure that the items were appropriate."

For the children entering foster care, the items and kind words ("Dear friend, This package was made just for you, with lots of love and care. You are special, amazing, and one of a kind! We hope these goodies make you smile. XOXO, Your Abbott House friends") are sure to make the transition a little smoother.

For more information about Abbott House, visit [www.abbotthouse.net](http://www.abbotthouse.net)

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

1053 SAW MILL RIVER ROAD, ARDSLEY  
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## Sports

EDITED BY ROB DIANTONIO

# Dobbs clears Hastings hurdle in semifinals

*Eagles advance to first championship game since 2019*

— BOYS' BASKETBALL ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

After falling short in the Section 1 Class B semifinals the last two seasons, second-seeded Dobbs Ferry finally broke through, defeating No. 3 Hastings 69-61 on March 3 at the Westchester County Center to earn its first trip to the championship game since 2019.

Dobbs Ferry was stopped one step shy of the finals in each of the previous two seasons, losing to Woodlands in 2025 and Alexander Hamilton in 2024. This time, the Eagles found a way through the semifinal barrier behind another big performance from senior star Anthony Ficarrotta and a collection of timely contributions from his teammates. Ficarrotta, Section 1's all-time leading scorer, poured in a game-high 31 points and grabbed 13 rebounds. Juniors Calvin Higgins and Andrew Zendel added 11 points each while seniors Thomas Joslin and Mateus Hertz-Bird chipped in eight and six points, respectively.

With the victory, Dobbs Ferry advances to the Section 1 Class B championship game where it will face top-seeded Woodlands this Sunday, March 8.

"It was huge," Ficarrotta said. "We came here the last few years, and we lost in the semifinals. It was huge just to get over that hump and go compete for a gold ball now on Sunday. We're going to have a good week of practice and we'll be ready to go."

The Eagles also completed a season sweep of their Rivertown rival, defeating Hastings for the third time in another hard-fought matchup that lived up to the rivalry's reputation.

Senior Dylan Heilakka led the Yellow Jack-ets' charge with 28 points. Hudson Sundberg added 13 points on four three-pointers and senior Michael Leyden contributed 11 points. Theo Suniewick had six points.

Dobbs appeared to seize control in the middle portion of the game, building a 13-point lead late in the third quarter after Joslin knocked down a left-corner three to make it 37-24. Zendel and Higgins added baskets during the same stretch as the Eagles' offense found rhythm around Ficarrotta's relentless attacking. A Sundberg three, and four free throws from Leyden, kept Hastings within striking distance. Ficarrotta scored with 5 seconds left to give the Eagles a 45-33 lead after three.

Hastings refused to go away quietly. A three from Heilakka early in the fourth quarter trimmed the lead to 45-36. Lucas Seelye's basket midway through the fourth made it



(Clockwise from left) Dobbs Ferry's Anthony Ficarrotta shoots over Hastings' Theo Suniewick. Hastings' Theo Suniewick looks to finish as Dobbs' Andrew Zendel defends. Dobbs' Calvin Higgins glides in for a layup. Photos by Rob DiAntonio.



52-43, but Zendel answered with a right-wing three. Leyden finished inside, then Heilakka converted a three-point play and scored again to cut the deficit to 56-51 with 2:34 remaining.

The Eagles steadied themselves when it mattered most. Ficarrotta answered with a three-point play to push the lead back to eight. Zendel had a key putback off a missed free throw to make it 63-55 with 1:24 left. Ficarrotta made three of four free throws before fouling out. Joslin calmly knocked down two free throws with under 10 seconds remaining and Higgins added another free throw in the final seconds to seal the victory.

"I think that we're a composed, veteran team and even when stuff started going wrong, I feel like we were ready for it," Ficarrotta said. "We weathered the storm and we

came out on top tonight."

While Ficarrotta once again carried the scoring load, the Eagles' supporting cast played a critical role. Zendel, playing in just his third game back after suffering a football injury that sidelined him for months, delivered several important baskets.

"I tore my MCL and fractured my femur at the end of football season," Zendel said. "I was out for three months. I've been coming to practice every day trying to just stay within the mix. I was working hard in [physical therapy], and I just stayed with everyone. I wanted to stay with them and make sure that when I come back, that I could do as much as I can to help."

The junior's presence has been an immediate boost for the Eagles' rotation.

"It means everything," Zendel said about reaching the championship game. "I've been playing with these guys my entire life and this is all we ever think about. This is what we want. This is what we work for."

Dobbs Ferry coach Scott Patrillo said Zendel's return added another valuable piece to the Eagles' lineup at exactly the right time.

"Andrew's been working his way back all year long," Patrillo said. "He actually was on the floor here in the County Center last year as a sophomore and he's somebody we had trust in, that we knew could give us something. We just had to wait a little longer than we had hoped for this year to get contributions out of him."

The Eagles also leaned on their depth

*Continued on page 19*

## Sports

# Four individuals and two relays qualify for state meet

— TRACK AND FIELD ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

It was an impressive day for local athletes at the state qualifier meet at the Nike Track & Field Center at The Armory on Feb. 27. Twelve local athletes qualified for the state championship meet, which takes place at the Ocean Breeze Track and Field Complex on March 6–7 on Staten Island.

Ardasley's relay teams had a big day at the state qualifiers with the boys' 4x200-meter relay and girls' 4x200-meter relay both qualifying for the state meet.

The boys placed first in Division 2, with a season best clocking of 1:32.12. Senior Zaire Bell, senior Ahmady Dolcine, senior Peyton Francis, and sophomore Andrew Herceg made up the relay squad.

"They've been working together for years now," Ardsley boys' coach Scott Pollard said. "They are always pushing each other to improve. The goal for the state qualifier was to run a clean and relaxed race. When they finished running, with their best time of the season, their motivation increased."

The relay squad placed third at states last year and the goal is to surpass that this season, according to Pollard.

For the Panther girls, they placed second in Division 2 with a time of 1:47.43. Mioko Martin is the lone senior on the relay and paired up with Czarina Adewunmi, Sarah Lenihan, and Zaniya Bell.

"The girls really came together," Ardsley coach Henry Leone said. "Staying calm and collected, they ran a season-best time and are now just six-hundredths of a second



(Above) Ardsley's 4x200-meter relay of Zaire Bell, Ahmady Dolcine, Peyton Francis, and Andrew Herceg placed first at the state qualifiers. (Right) Dobbs Ferry's Chris Doherty qualified for states in the 1,000 meters. Photo by Todd Sliss.

away from the school record. We're hoping to break it at states."

Hastings senior Danae Morgan qualified for states in two throwing events: the weight throw and the shot put. She was first in the weight throw with a heave of 51-11 and took second in the shot put with a 36-0 1/4.

"Qualifying in both events this year is truly special to me," Morgan said. "Everything I worked for led up to this moment. It just goes to show how much I've grown this year. I'm very excited to compete at states and I

know that I'm going to be surrounded by so much talent, so I'm ready to give it my all."

Morgan said the key at the state qualifiers was to aim for bigger throws after starting off comfortably. Consistency was also important, she added. "I had to stay mentally locked in," she said. "I wasn't chasing any numbers but instead I trusted my technique and the months of work that brought me to that moment."

Her goal for states is to make podium appearances in both events, but she wants



to take top honors in the weight throw. "The past year I've found a newfound love for weight throw and I'm excited to see what I can do," Morgan said. "I didn't work all year just to qualify and gain this experience. I'm going to compete at my best ability."

Joining Morgan at states will be teammate Claire Grushko, who qualified in the 1,500 meters. A sophomore, she was third at the state qualifiers but met the qualifying standard with a time of 4:49.24.

Irvington senior Aaron Schwartz qualified  
*Continued on page 19*



Chloe Runge and Dobbs Ferry fell to YMA in the Class B quarterfinals. File photo by Rob DiAntonio.

## Dobbs Ferry's season ends in quarterfinal loss

— VARSITY ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Seventh-seeded Dobbs Ferry fell 57–36 on the road to No. 2 Yonkers Montessori Academy in the Section 1 Class B quarterfinals on Feb. 26 in a rematch of last winter's championship game won by YMA.

"I was proud of their effort in this game," Dobbs Ferry coach Kasey Grisanti said. "I can say they really left it all out there and gave it all they had. YMA is obviously a great team, and we just went out there and played basketball and that's all I can ask for."

The Eagles, who finished 8–14, showed the same fight that defined the back half of their season. After a slow start to the campaign, Dobbs Ferry gradually found its footing despite returning just two starters and

operating without a true point guard.

Senior Mimi Phillips led the way in the finale with 12 points, five rebounds, and three assists, continuing to shoulder the playmaking load she embraced all season. Fellow senior Chloe Runge added 10 points and five rebounds, providing her usual interior presence and toughness around the rim.

"I'm proud of this group," Grisanti said. "We had a pretty tough schedule, but I think we went out there and fought as best we could. With only two returning starters and no true point guard I think we did well. It can be difficult to try to put all the pieces together, but I'm very happy with how this team pulled together and came out with eight wins."

Dobbs Ferry graduates six seniors: Mya Ustares, Runge, Phillips, Caileigh Doyle, Kamryn Addis, and Molly O'Brien.

"The worst part about coaching is saying goodbye to your seniors," Grisanti said. "You work with these kids year after year and watch them grow not only as basketball players but into young women and it's just an incredible thing to be a part of. Some of these seniors have been a part of this program since

seventh grade, so to see them move on will be a great loss for us. But I'm very excited for them and their future. They've given a lot to this program and have been tremendous role models for the younger girls. We'll be very young next year, but they have paved the way and set the bar for our future."

### — Wrestling

Ardasley junior Ethan Mitev headed up to the Division 2 state meet for the second time last weekend. States took place at the MVP Arena in Albany on Feb. 27–28.

Mitev, who was the No. 18 seed in the 175-pound bracket, started the tournament by making quick work of North Shore's James Wu, pinning him in just 11 seconds. He then faced the No. 2 seed and eventual state champion, Gabe English of Berne-Knox-Westerlo in the next round, falling by pin in 1:08.

The Ardsley junior showed grit in the wrestle-back rounds, winning two matches by a 15–13 decision and injury default. He lost his next match by a 7–0 decision to end his tournament. Mitev finished the day with a 3–2 record and ended the campaign with an overall record of 35–10.

## Sports

# Rivertown Legends fall short in 2-point semifinal loss

— ICE HOCKEY ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

The Rivertown Legends threw everything they had at the BYSNS on Feb. 27, but 42 shots and relentless pressure weren't enough in the Section 1 Division 1 semifinal game that ended in a 4-2 loss at Westchester Skating Academy.

The second-seeded Legends controlled large stretches of play, won puck battles, and spent extended time in the offensive zone, yet saw its season come to an end against the No. 3 BYSNS (Brewster/Yorktown/Somers/North Salem) in a game decided by a handful of critical moments and a standout performance in goal.

The Legends struck first and set the tone early. Ryan Vicari finished with 7:56 left in the first period to give Rivertown a 1-0 lead. Aidan Balkin and Saxon Frank earned the assists.

BYSNS weathered the early push and tied the game late in the first period, then capitalized midway through the second to take a 2-1 lead with 5:47 remaining. The Legends continued to press and were rewarded late in the period when Luka Surguladze tied

the game at 2-2 with 1:42 left. Frank and Balkin picked up their second assists of the night on the equalizer.

The turning point came in the third period. James Munoz scored the go-ahead goal for BYSNS with 9:53 remaining, a strike that ultimately proved to be the difference. Despite sustained pressure from the Legends and multiple high-quality chances, the tying goal never came. BYSNS added an insurance tally with 1:06 left to close out the win.

The Legends outshot the opposition 42-23, but BYSNS goaltender Patrick Vaughn delivered a game-defining performance, turning aside 42 shots and frustrating the Legends during long stretches of zone time. Legends senior Richie Sullivan made 19 saves in his final game.

"The outcome was surely based on the penalty taken in the second period," Legends coach Kevin Hagen said. "Taking one of my better offensive players out of the game changed everything. Having to kill off a 5-minute major penalty didn't help the energy level of the team. Their goalie stood on his head."

While the loss ended the Legends' playoff run one step short of the final, it did little to diminish what was another landmark season

for the program. The Legends finished 15-6 after moving into League A and competing against the section's top teams. Along the way, they defeated Suffern — the eventual Section 1 champion — for the first time in program history and bested Rye twice.

"I'm very happy with the overall season," Hagen said. "Moving up to the top league was a team challenge, but I'm very proud of how resilient we were. Our senior group building off last year's success helped in beating Suffern once and Rye twice."

Senior captain Balkin finished his career with exactly 200 points and reflected on the journey afterward. "I thought the season was a great success and we grew as it went on," Balkin said. "Everyone bought in. It didn't turn out how we wanted, but it was still a great season."

What he will miss most, Balkin said, is the atmosphere and shared experience. "I'll miss the fun times with all of my teammates," he said, "and playing in a packed rink with my friends there to watch."

The Legends graduate nine seniors in Balkin, Eli Morrison, Liam Gallante, Vicari, Ryan Brennan, Ezra Malki, Eoghan Glynn, Sullivan, and Levi Putter.



Senior Aidan Balkin finished his career with 200 points. File photo by Rob DiAntonio.

"I'm so proud of all the seniors on this year's team," Hagen said. "They were great mentors to the younger players, and I'm lucky to have had the privilege of coaching those boys."

## Track and field roundup

Continued from page 18

for states in the pole vault, placing second with a 12-6.

"Aaron's success is a product of his commitment not just this season but in the previous four years with both winter and spring track," Irvington coach Jason Williams said. "He's one of the hardest-working athletes I've had the pleasure to coach."

He continued, "We are hoping that Aaron is able to achieve a personal best mark at the state meet, perhaps meeting the Nationals provisional standard, but I'm so proud of what he's already accomplished. That would just be the icing on the cake to a great season."

Dobbs Ferry senior Chris Doherty made states in the 1,000 meters, finishing second with a clocking of 2:30.30.

For Ardsley's girls, Adewunmi also had a strong day in the triple jump, placing third with a 35-11. Martin was fourth in the long jump (17-1). Zaniya Bell placed 10th in the 55-meter hurdles (9.77). For the Panther boys, Zaire Bell was 10th in the 55-meter dash (6.71) with teammate Francis in 14th (6.76).

Irvington senior Ethan Gartlan finished fifth in the 3,200 meters (9:37.70), with fellow senior Declan Lyons in 13th. Ruthie Liang led the Irvington girls with an eighth-place finish in the 600 meters in 1:40.31. Teammate Julianna Flamm was 13th.

For the Dobbs boys, Seamus Fitzpatrick placed 10th in the 1,600 meters (4:35.14).

## Boys' basketball roundup

Continued from page 17

during the closing minutes as foul trouble forced adjustments.

"Everybody knows Anthony, everybody knows Mateus," Patrillo said. "But with those two fouling out, at the end of the game Thomas Joslin hit some big free throws. Andrew comes into the game and does some great things for us down the stretch. Calvin hit free throws down the stretch. We said it's going to take more than just one guy for us to do something special this season, and this game kind of showed that there are more players here than just the one superstar that we do have."

Hertz-Bird echoed that sentiment. "Anthony's going to give us open looks," he said. "And if we can knock them down, we're going to be able to beat anyone."

Hertz-Bird said games against Hastings always bring an extra level of intensity because of the familiarity between the programs.

"Our coach always says, every time it's a game against a Rivertowns team it doesn't matter if the other team is 0-16, it doesn't matter if Dobbs Ferry is 0-16," Hertz-Bird said. "Kids are going to bring everything they have. It's going to be a fight because it's personal. You know the person you're playing against, and it just means everything."

Behind 43 points and 16 rebounds from Ficarrota, the host Eagles edged No. 7 Putnam Valley 66-61 in the Class B quarterfinals on Feb. 27. Hertz-Bird (8P, 5A) and Zendel (6P) chipped in.

Despite the semifinal loss, Hastings



Hudson Sundberg shoots over Thomas Joslin. Photo by Rob DiAntonio.

delivered a strong performance in the rivalry clash and repeatedly threatened to swing the game in its favor.

"They had a couple role players who hit a couple big shots," Hastings coach Chris Rohle said. "[Zendel] coming in, didn't play all year, steps up, hits two big threes and a couple other buckets. It's hard enough to stop Ficarrota, but if the role players are going to hit shots it's going to be a tough night."

Rohle was proud of his team's fight during a season that ended with a 15-win campaign and a trip to the County Center. The Yellow Jackets graduate seven seniors: Heilakka,

Leyden, Andrew Ciszewski, Colin Sexton, Rolie Soeiro, Johnny Sbraga, and Andrew Rizzo.

"These guys all year have never given up," Rohle said. "Even down a couple points I knew they were never going to give up. I really thought we had a few chances there to cut it to two, to cut it to three."

He continued, "You can't say it's an unsuccessful season. I'm proud of these guys — the way they battled. I stepped in as a first-year coach last year and the seniors were just always so supportive, trying their hardest, and that's all I can really ask for."

Host Hastings bested No. 6 Leffell School 61-45 in the quarterfinals on Feb. 27. Sundberg sparked the squad with 21 points. Heilakka and Suniewick added nine points apiece. Ciszewski scored six points while Anthony Moore added five.

For Dobbs Ferry, the focus now turns toward the next challenge. The Eagles (18-4) return to the County Center with a chance to capture the program's first sectional title since 2019 — and a powerhouse opponent standing in their way.

"We feel great," Patrillo said. "Getting to the finals for us is a huge deal. But we know that there's a juggernaut ahead. Woodlands is the No. 1-ranked team in New York State right now for a reason."

Still, after finally clearing the semifinal hurdle that haunted them the past two seasons, the Eagles will enter the championship game with momentum — and a chance to finish what they started.

"We've got a lot more to do," Zendel said. "We're not satisfied with today."



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