A new chapter with
The Hudson Independent



Memento mori
Octagon House exhibit features art about death
p11

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RIVERTOWNS
Dispatch

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ARDSLEY — DOBBS FERRY — HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON — IRVINGTON — SLEEPY HOLLOW — TARRYTOWN



Women Together
Comedians solicit laughs to support cause
p 9

Communities on alert in wake of coyote attack

BY AMY BOCHNER

REGION Following an increase in coyote sightings in the Rivertowns over the summer, the first reported coyote attack on a human happened last week in Hastings, in the area of Elm Place and the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail.

On Sept. 23, at about 7 p.m., a coyote bit an ankle of Hastings resident Nina Segal as she walked for about 100 feet on the trail, which she had been avoiding at dusk due to recent coyote activity.

"I just felt jaws on my ankle," Segal told the Dispatch, then recalled how she turned around and came "face to face with this very large animal," about the size of a German shepherd. The coyote had bitten one side of her ankle, but was unable to bite the other side because of her heavy jeans, enabling her to escape

"I did what they tell you to do in all the public service announcements, which is to be as loud as I could and raise my hands and kind of look as big as I could," she explained. "I'm not loud or big, so I was trying to scare it, and it did not seem frightened at all."

The coyote paused before lunging a second time at Segal, who "screamed again really loud." They were now on the pavement at the top of Elm Place, and Segal hoped a neighbor would hear her.

"It just stood there after it came at me the second time, and I could just tell it was deciding whether it could take me down, which I think it could have for sure," she said. "But I screamed and screamed, waved my arms, and ultimately, it just chose to go away. I kept walking backwards until I couldn't see it, and then I ran to my house."

The whole encounter lasted "probably about 3 or 4 minutes," Segal said. She reported the incident to the Hastings Police Department and then received treatment at a hospital. She

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Coyotes photographed by Susrutha Gongalla in Dobbs Ferry on Sept. 18 and Nicola Coddington in Irvington on Sept. 21, .



Volunteers of the Month
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"There is no place like Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow."

Teacher Andrea Harrison
p 13

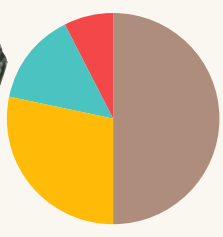


SPORTS
Panthers pull away for third win
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The Poll

What should we do about the coyotes?

As answered by 191 readers of the Rivertowns Dispatch



Vote at *rivertownsdispatch.com/the-weekly-poll*



The Blotter

ARDSLEY

Thefts from vehicles: Unlocked vehicles were entered on Almena Avenue, Bramblebrook Road, Captain Honeywell's Road, Carriere Avenue, Chimney Pot Lane, Concord Road, Cross Road, Heatherdell Road, and Ridge Road between Sunday, Sept. 20, and Monday, Sept. 21. The stolen property consisted of a wallet containing credit cards and a debit card, $150 cash, $25 cash, and sunglasses.

Theft of phone: On Sept. 21, a Mount Kisco resident reported that her grandson's iPhone was stolen at House of Sports, 1 Elm St., on Sept. 20, and that it was tracked to Massachusetts.

DOBBS FERRY

Payment thefts: Three Dobbs Ferry residents reported problems last week with payments mailed at the Ardsley Post Office, but not delivered to their intended recipients. The names of the payees were changed on a check sent on Oct. 15, 2025, a $250 money order sent on Aug. 28, 2026, and a $10,000 check sent on Sept. 4, 2026.

Suspended license: A 21-year-old Dobbs Ferry resident was arrested for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the second degree, a misdemeanor, after he was pulled over for a damaged windshield on Main Street on the evening of Monday, Sept. 21.

Theft from vehicle: A wallet was stolen from an unlocked vehicle parked on Florence Avenue on Thursday, Sept. 24, between 2–5 a.m. The wallet contained a driver's license, a debit card, and four credit cards.

Theft from Ulta: An unidentified man and woman shoplifted $399 worth of items from the Ulta Beauty at Rivertowns Square on the evening of Wednesday, Sept. 23. The theft was reported on Sept. 25.

HASTINGS

Suspended registration: A 34-year-old Bronx resident was arrested for a suspended vehicle registration, a misdemeanor, on Farragut Parkway on the afternoon of Monday, Sept. 21. Officer Wuilber Maldonado made the arrest.

Suspended license and registration: A 50-year-old New Rochelle resident was arrested for a suspended driver's license and vehicle registration, both misdemeanors, on Main Street on the afternoon of Thursday, Sept. 24. Officer Ryan Keys made the arrest.

Coyote sightings: Coyotes were reported on Broadway (Route 9) and Buena Vista Drive on the morning of Sept. 24; on Kent Avenue and Lefurgy Avenue on the morning of Sept. 25; and on North Broadway on the evening of Sept. 27.

TARRYTOWN

Resisting arrest: A 44-year-old Elmsford resident was arrested following an altercation with police at a bus stop on White Plains Road on the afternoon of Tuesday, Sept. 22. Police questioned the defendant after a woman reported that he grabbed her around the waist. He was charged with resisting arrest and obstructing

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Scheme to defraud senior results in arrest

TARRYTOWN

The Tarrytown Police Detective Division, in conjunction with the Greenburgh Drug and Alcohol Task Force, arrested a 43-year-old Queens resident for participating in a scheme to defraud an 81-year-old Tarrytown resident on Sept. 24. The defendant was apprehended at the Walgreens parking lot on Wildey Street after he was handed money by the victim, who had handed $29,000 to an unidentified man on Main Street on Sept. 23. The two payments were in response to a scam that started with a text message the victim received on Sept. 23. Titled "Apple Payment Warning," the text message consisted of a false statement about an unauthorized transaction and a phone number for the "Apple Financial Department." The victim called the number and was deceived into allowing access to a personal computer. Information on that computer was manipulated to seem as if Apple had deposited $50,000 into the victim's account. The victim was told the deposit was an error and was directed to return the money in cash. The victim contacted police on Sept. 23, after the first payment. The defendant was charged with grand larceny in the fourth degree and scheme to defraud in the first degree, both felonies. He was also charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance in the fifth degree, a misdemeanor, for cocaine, and released on his own recognizance.

Rivertowns Dispatch

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ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS



"Readers to Leaders" honorees Marianne Ripin (above), Chris Mitchell (below left), and Eric Neuner (below right). *Photos by Natalia DeGiulio*

Chambers recognizes five at gala fundraiser

Event honors champions of libraries and children

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL





REGION The Rivertowns Chamber of Commerce honored five community leaders on Sept. 24 for their support of libraries, youth programs, and youth leadership.

The inaugural "From Readers to Leaders" gala, which took place at the HudCo co-working and event space in Dobbs Ferry, raised money for programming at the Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings, and Irvington public libraries while also recognizing four longtime supporters of the libraries and a local business owner who provides real-world experience for children.

Ardsley Public Library director Marianne Ripin, Friends of Dobbs Ferry Public Library member Veronica Kurian, Hastings Public Library trustee Jacqueline Preiss Weitzman, and former Irvington Public Library board member Christopher Mitchell collectively have roughly 100 years of experience volunteering or working with their respective libraries. The fifth honoree, Eric Neuner, is a co-founder and creative director of Hi There! Gifts, located on Cedar Street.

Neuner and his partners opened shop in Dobbs Ferry in 2023. Neuner became vice president of the Chamber last month after serving as a village representative for Dobbs Ferry. In addition to vintage collectibles and stuffed animals, Hi There! features a "young makers" section where it sells goods made by local middle- and high-schoolers, who Neuner and co-founders Dollie Banner and Jane O'Donnell mentor about operating as a business.

"We wanted to focus on the youth and the youth programs, which are in desperate need of funding," Neuner explained to the Dispatch. "And the Friends of the libraries do their best for each of the libraries in the Rivertowns, but it was just to raise awareness so we can help continue to grow the minds of youth so that with the knowledge they can get from the libraries, one day they can be the leaders of this country."

Ripin was the sole library employee honored at the gala. She has been library director since July 2025, and was the children's librarian for nearly two decades before that promotion.

"I love when the kids come in and ask me a question about something that they're looking for a book on, and sometimes I don't really know what it is either," Ripin told the Dispatch, recalling a time when a child requested books on axolotl, the full aquatic salamander native to Mexico. "I like to talk to the kids about it, and get just as excited as them when the book comes in, and then explain to them, 'You know, because you asked for this book, I'm going to buy [one] for the library.'"

Jacqueline Preiss Weitzman is a longtime board member of the Hastings Library and the author of several children's books, including "You Can't Take a Balloon into the Metropolitan Museum" and "Flower Girls: A Story of Sisters." Preiss Weitzman has been an avid reader since she was a child. She became involved with the library — first as a patron and then as a volunteer — soon after moving to the village in 2004.

"Our library is such a center of our

Continued on page 19

Conley and Lawler get up-close and personal during first debate

BY BARRETT SEAMAN

REGION It was no surprise when the televised meeting between a hard-nosed political operative defending his Congressional seat and a battle-tested former airborne ranger out to depose him got prickly. During an hour-long first debate, during which they ran through their respective positions on a host of personal and policy issues, incumbent Republican Rep. Mike Lawler and Democrat Cait Conley repeatedly called each other liars and talked over each other.

Tara Rosenblum, the moderator of the News 12 debate — the first of two before the Nov. 3 election — called the race for New York's 17th Congressional seat "one of the most competitive, one of the tightest House races in the nation," and one that may well decide which party controls Congress come January.

Rosenblum controlled the order of topics, but relied on an assembled "watch party" of voters at the Rye Book headquarters of the Business Council of Westchester to pose many of the questions.

The first half of the debate was devoted to the state of the economy and the issue of affordability. Lawler claimed credit for pushing through "the largest tax cut in modern history" as part of President Donald Trump's Big Beautiful Bill, which Conley repeatedly referred to as the "Big Ugly Tax Bill." He also reiterated the claim that he convinced Trump to raise the cap on state and local tax (SALT) deductions from 10% to 40%. Conley accused him of trading away Medicaid coverage for thousands in order to give tax breaks to billionaires.

When asked what should be done to rein in electric bills, which Rosenblum noted were the highest in the country, Lawler replied that rates were determined by a state commission controlled by Democrats, while Conley countered that Congress could curb utility companies' lavish spending on private jets, corporate off-sites, and lobbyists. Lawler was a lobbyist before he was elected to Congress in 2022.

Lawler rejoined that rates were so high because Democrats banned natural gas extraction and closed the Indian Point nuclear plant, which he vowed to reopen. Conley replied that Congress should restore Trump-rescinded incentives to develop clean energy, like wind and solar.

On Trump's free-wheeling use of tariffs, Conley stated this trade tool was designed "as a scalpel to support individual businesses," not as the bludgeon the Trump administration has employed to get its way in international trade. By altering rates and target countries more than 50 times, she said, Trump

Continued on page 19

‘Join or Die’ screening gathers community organizations

BY LAURA SCHILLER



TUFSD Unplugged members Anna Bowers, Liz McClure, Lindsay Rauch, and Lauren Connell

TARRYTOWN The credits rolled and the lights flicked on. The audience rose from their seats and headed for tables where they found signup sheets offering ways to become engaged in village life in Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow. People added their names to mailing lists, exchanged information, and lingered to talk.

Such was the effect of the Sept. 18 screening of “Join or Die,” a documentary about the decline of clubs and community organizations and the importance of gathering.

The event was presented by Sleepy Hollow Cinema, the nonprofit working to bring movies — and a movie theater — to the Rivertowns. The venue was the Lyceum Club of Tarrytown, a men's organization that traces its roots to 1866, when it was founded as a reading and debating club.

The club includes animal trophy heads on the walls and an old-fashioned bowling alley. Sleepy Hollow Cinema added a movie-theater popcorn machine, along with a huge screen and projector. After the screening, even the moose seemed more inclined to sign on to a committee.

“Join or Die,” by filmmakers Rebecca Davis and Pete Davis, draws on the research of Harvard political scientist Robert D. Putnam, whose 2000 book “Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community” helped popularize the concept of “social capital” — the value people derive from relationships and networks.

One of Putnam's most striking claims in the film is that “your chances of dying over the next year are cut in half by joining one group.” Representatives from 16 local organizations were on hand at the Lyceum Club to tap in to that message.

Allison Thompson represented the Rivertowns chapter of Mothers Out Front, a national climate-advocacy organization. Members have worked with the Tarrytown School District on electric school buses and with the broader community on building and sustainability issues.

Amy Mott represented Plus One, whose 57 Dinners program brings neighbors together.

“We have people get together with their neighbors, have dinner, and share materials to learn about upcoming elections and how to register to vote,” Mott said. “We just have these conversations helping democracy.”

Gloria Duman, president of the Friends of Warner Library board, was also on hand. The group is best known for its annual book sale, she said, with the proceeds supporting the library's programming.

“The library, I think, has evolved into a community center and a home for people to get together, beyond borrowing books,” Duman said.

Before the screening, Lyceum Club president Karlo Pastrovic talked about the organization’s history and 75 years at its current location. The group, formerly known as the Young Men’s Lyceum, first met in a schoolhouse at 151 North Washington St.

“It was originally a place for political debate,” Pastrovic said. Since then, it’s become “a place of community and hope.”

The Masons were there, too, represented by Philippe Larock.

“We do a lot of charity stuff in the community,” Larock said, referring to the group’s scholarship fund, bicycle giveaway, and soup drives, among various initiatives.

Additional tables represented local

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ARDSLEY

Latino Heritage Celebration
Saturday, Oct. 3, 1–3 p.m.
Ardsley Community Center.
Rain location: Community Center, 18 Center St.
—
"Humans of Ardsley" Workshop
Sunday, Oct. 4, 2–6 p.m. Register ($25): *ardsleyvillage.gov*
—
Board of Trustees Meeting
Monday, Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m.
Village Hall.
—
Executive Functioning Workshop
Tuesday, Oct. 6, 6:30 p.m.
Ardsley High School Library.
—
Architectural Review Board Meeting
Tuesday, Oct. 6, 8 p.m. Village Hall.
—
Demystifying Medicare Workshop
Wednesday, Oct. 7, 5:30–8:45 p.m. Gerard J. Byrne Center, 11 Olympic Lane. Registration requested at 914-989-1823
—
CommuniTea of Connection
Wednesday, Oct. 7, 6–8 p.m.
Ardsley High School Library.
RSVP at *ardsleyheart.org*
—
Board of Trustees Work Session
Wednesday, Oct. 7, 6 p.m.
Village Hall.
—
Coffee with a Cop
Friday, Oct. 9, 9–11 a.m.
Ardsley Community Center.

Village earns silver status in climate smart program

BY AMY BOCHNER

The Village of Ardsley received silver certification from the New York State Climate Smart Communities program on Sept. 22, earning a total of 349 points for completing 56 actions.

The program encourages local governments to adapt to a changing climate, and offers grants, rebates for electric vehicles, and free technical assistance. Through accomplishing various actions, municipalities can achieve silver or bronze status, the latter of which the Village received in September 2025. Ardsley is among 30 communities across the state that earn silver certification, which is valid for the village through September 30, 2031.

Mayor Steve Edelstein shared the news at the board of trustees meeting on Sept. 22.

"It was a tremendous undertaking under a lot of time pressure that we didn't initially anticipate, but a testament to our community and our dedication to sustainability," he said. "This positions us for potential grants to help further our sustainability efforts."

Edelstein credited the work of Sophia Johnson of the Green Task Force, Dina Patterson and Carol Sommerfield of the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway, Village Manager Joe Cerretani, and Allen Chen, the secretary to the village manager.

Among the more recent actions that earned points were the creation of the Village's 2026 Organic Management Plan, which lays out strategies for food-waste prevention, and a Heat Emergency Plan, which includes emergency triggers, public alerts, support for vulnerable populations, and cooling-center procedures. In 2025, 365 native trees and shrubs were planted. Ardsley also joined neighboring Rivertowns in a study on regional curbside food-scrap pickup programs.

In March of this year, the Village announced its intent to launch the Ardsley Repair Café, where volunteers will repair appliances, textiles, electronics, and furniture for free. In May, 36 Level-2 electric vehicle charging ports were activated at McDowell Park, Pascone Park, and village hall.

The Climate Smart Communities report for Ardsley describes actions that date back to 2009. Other initiatives that earned the Village points included the creation of a Climate Smart Communities/Green Task Force, appointment of a coordinator, and participation in regional and national climate programs. The Village also completed both municipal and community-wide greenhouse-gas inventories.

Efforts related to clean, renewable, or efficient energy usage include converting municipal interior and streetlights to LED,

Continued on page 16

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS



Meghan Covington as Luci (center). *Photo by Tiffany Hagler Geard.*

Theater troupe returns to infamous local club

BY AMY BOCHNER

Later this month, the River's Edge Theatre Company will present "Peek-a-Boo: (An Immersive Hudson Valley Haunt)" for a third consecutive year, this time with a new character, scenes, music, and other surprises.

Written by Meghan Covington of Ardsley, who is the artistic director and co-founder of River's Edge, the play is set in Tarrytown in the early 20th century, when Wildey Street was occupied by a group of apartments called the Peek-a-Boo flats. Among them was an infamous club called the Peek-a-Boo, which drew customers and controversy.

The production combines Hudson Valley history with burlesque, vaudeville, and immersive theater. This year, the show will run from Oct. 15–18 and Oct. 22–25, with all performances at 7:30 p.m., at the Bethany Arts Community in Ossining. The show is intended for an 18-and-up audience.

To create an immersive experience, audiences will begin in one room for the main performance before being split up and guided to separate rooms. Last year, secret scenes were added, in which patrons were pulled away from the crowd and taken to private rooms. Covington told the Dispatch that the characters "address these patrons directly in these secret scenes, making the encounter more intimate and allowing the patron to truly feel immersed in the world of the show."

This year, a new character, The Lady in White, has been added. In "Peek-a-Boo," the Lady in White is not the legend associated with Raven Rock at Rockefeller State Park or the Octagon House in Irvington. The returning characters do, however, include a legend who lived in the park — Hulda of Bohemia, who was labeled a witch, but died as a heroine during the Revolutionary War.

Covington shared that audiences can expect "a few more surprises," including "new dance numbers, a pre-show secret scene with one of the existing characters, live music [by Lauryn Dee] during the pre-show, and a little bit of magic (like literally... think top hats and magic wands)."

Many of the actors from last year's production are returning to the same roles, with Noni Alley as Sadie the Goat, Traci Redmond as Hulda, David Covington as The Stranger, and Katie Kopajtic as Willamina Salisbury. This year, Elian Riviera will play John André and the Lady in White will be played by Elena Dure. Meghan Covington reprises the role of Luci, while Jessica Irons returns as the production's director.

Tickets to "Peek-a-Boo" can be purchased at *www.riversedgetheatre.com/next* at $27 for senior citizens and students, $37 for general admission, and $47 for VIP table seating.



Brothers earn eagle rank

—

Brothers Kesavan and Kasinathan Nair, who are juniors at Ardsley High School, were elevated to the rank of Eagle Scout during a ceremony at Veteran Park on Saturday, Sept. 26. For their Eagle Scout projects, Kesavan built a gaga ball pit at Pascone Park in Ardsley, while Kasinathan planted a meditation garden at the Durga Temple in Greenburgh. The brothers also earned more than the 34 required badges.



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9:00 - 9:30 am Coffee & Bagel Check in & Sign-up	9:00 - 9:30 am Coffee & Bagel Check in & Sign-up	9:00 - 10:00 am Coffee & Bagel Check in & Sign-up	9:00 - 10:00 am Coffee & Bagel Check in & Sign-up
9:30 - 10:30 am Chair Yoga	9:30 am - 12:00 pm Flu Shots & Blood Pressure Checks	10:00 - 11:00 am Garden Club Planting	10:00 - 11:00 am Tai Chi
10:30 am - 12:00 pm BINGO	10:30 am - 12:00 pm Painting Session with Ellen Tessitore	11:00 am - 12:00 pm Line Dancing	11:00 am - 12:00 pm Seniors in Focus
12:00 - 12:30 pm FREE Lunch & Music	12:00 - 1:00 pm FREE Lunch & Honoring Police/Fire	12:00 - 1:00 pm FREE Lunch & DOROT Senior Health Information Seminar	12:00 - 12:30 FREE Pizza Party Q&A from Tables
12:30 - 2:00 pm DJ and Dancing	1:00 - 2:00 pm Senior Trivia & Ice Cream	1:00 – 2:00 pm Laugh-a-thon	12:30 - 2:00 pm Photo Booth & Fun with DJ Joe Rooney

MONDAY, OCT. 12 CENTER CLOSED, NO LUNCH



DOBBS FERRY

Art-inspired Gardening
Saturday, Oct. 3, 10 a.m.–noon; rain date Oct. 17. Waterfront Park. The Hudson River Museum and Friends of Dobbs Ferry Waterfront Park host a community event featuring artist Borinquen Gallo.

—

Ferry Festa
Saturday, Oct. 3, 1–8 p.m.; rain date Oct. 4. Annual street fair on Main and Cedar streets

—

FerryCom: Stand-up Comedy Showcase
Saturday, Oct. 3, 8 p.m. Dobbs Ferry Public Library. Ages 18+

—

Blood Drive
Sunday, Oct. 4, 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Greenburgh Hebrew Center, 515 Broadway. Sign up at *donate.nybc.org*

—

Invasive Species Clearing
Sunday, Oct. 4, 10 a.m.–noon. Juhring Preserve. To sign up, visit *eventbrite.com* and search for the Dobbs Ferry Conservation Advisory Board

—

Mobile Shredder
Thursday, Oct. 8, 9 a.m.–noon. Waterfront Park

—

River Jam: Hillbilly Band
Friday, Oct. 9, 5–9 p.m. Waterfront Park

—

Cult Classic Movie Night: "HauntedWeen"
Friday, Oct. 9, 8 p.m. Dobbs Ferry Public Library

Village extends funding for volunteer ambulance corps

The Dobbs Ferry Board of Trustees has agreed to continue funding the nonprofit Dobbs Ferry Volunteer Ambulance Corp (DFVAC) for a fourth-straight three-month period, providing $15,000 per month through December. The board approved the extension during a public meeting on Sept. 22. The Village has been funding DFVAC in three-month intervals since a first agreement in December 2025, which was meant to provide short-term support while the Village and DFVAC negotiate a permanent one-year contract.

"We are working on a contract, trying to figure out what the Village wants and expects from us, and what we expect from the Village," DFVAC president Joe Rooney told the Dispatch. "I honestly truly feel that this will happen. I don't feel that it's going nowhere."

DFVAC first received financial support from the Village during the Covid emergency declaration, and was provided $10,000 per month from late 2020 through 2024. The Village stopped funding DFVAC for a year after being told by attorneys that since the emergency declaration was no longer in effect, continued funding could be considered a gift, and as such, illegal under state law. After further clarification from attorneys, it was determined that it would only be illegal to fund DFVAC on a permanent basis without an appropriate contract to replace an indefinite contract that has been in place since 1987 and prohibits the Village from permanently funding DFVAC.

Over the summer, residents Jon Hagstrom, Heather Morrison, Elisabeth Stock, and Justin Kamke were added to a new seven-member DFVAC board of directors, along with Rooney, DFVAC captain Swapnil Pandya, and vice president Marybeth Streb-Rauhofer. Since then, Morrison has stepped down and Pandya announced his plan to step down as captain and board member, but remain available to help the corps. Rooney plans to meet with two potential board members recommended by Mayor Christy Knell.

DFVAC is in search of more volunteers to join six volunteers and 16 paid per-diem EMTs on staff. EMTs work in 12-hour shifts. An ambulance is required to have a driver an EMT to be considered fully staffed. Rooney is also looking for more funding to attract per-diem EMTs by raising the pay from the current rate of $19 an hour, and to replace the two ambulances, which cost upwards of $300,000.

DFVAC is also in talks with with Ardsley-Secor Volunteer Ambulance Corps to combine resources and cover shifts for each other when needed. Rooney emphasized that the relationship would not constitute a merger, which DFVAC and the Irvington Volunteer Ambulance Corps considered in 2025.

— Julian Michael Caldwell

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS

VOLUNTEERS of the MONTH



FOCA president Lesley Walter and fellow volunteers Sara Kelsey, Miriam Kerness, and Michelle Pollack on the porch of the Keeper's House.

Docents and guides build aqueduct's fanbase

Friends lead tours and staff Keeper's House

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

On Walnut Street in Dobbs Ferry, along the Old Croton Aqueduct Trailway that stretches over a 41-mile underground tunnel that once carried clean water from Croton to Manhattan, the Keeper's House stands as a hub for the Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct (FOCA).

FOCA is a nonprofit organization that consists of executive committee members, board members, 25 docents who provide information about the Aqueduct to Keeper's House visitors on weekends, and six walking tour leaders. There is some overlap among the roles, which are all filled by volunteers.

Dobbs Ferry resident Lesley Walter became president in 2024 when longtime president Mavis Cain resigned several months before passing away at age 96. Walter moved to the same Dobbs Ferry block as Cain after living in Beijing, China, from 1993 to 2014, which was the year she joined the Friends.

"The only way to get out of that extreme pollution [in Beijing] was to hike, and the only place to hike in Beijing was the Great Wall," Walter told the Dispatch. "So I started a group and we used to walk a lot."

Though Walter grew up in Dutchess County and in Binghamton, it was her experience in Beijing that gave rise to her love for the outdoors. Since taking over as FOCA president, Walter still volunteers as a docent at the Keeper's House visitors center.

Irvington resident Sara Kelsey, formerly of Dobbs Ferry, is the longest-serving tour leader with FOCA. She began in 2008, when she was invited by Cain to be co-leader of walks and tours with FOCA board member Thomas Tarnowsky. Kelsey leads multiple tours, including a tour of the weir in Ossining, which allowed workers to access the tunnel.

"People can talk all they want about this tunnel that brought clear, pure, drinkable water to New York City, but you can't really visualize it until you go down and see [it]," Kelsey said.

"I really strongly believe that [the tour is] the best way to help people fall in love with the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail," Kelsey added. "I think if people know about it and use it and more people are on the trail, it makes the trail safer and it protects the trail from people trying to minimize it, pave it, or build homes over it."

Hastings resident Miriam Kerness is a Keeper's House docent who was inspired to volunteer after taking a tour led by Kelsey. In March of this year, Kerness launched the Children's Book Nook at the visitors center. During the last weekend of each month, the center provides nature-themed children's books to read as families spend time at the Keeper's House.

"I wanted to have a place where people can hang out with the books, and kids can just hang out and read, and maybe the adults can be looking at the display while their children relax on this nice, soft area and read books," Kerness said. "Meanwhile, the children are learning a greater love of water and parks."

Michelle Pollack is a retired nurse who has lived in unincorporated Greenburgh for 22 years and who leads group tours of the entire length of the Aqueduct, an itinerary that is parceled out in stretches. FOCA gives out patches to individuals who complete walks along the 26-mile section of the trail in Westchester, or the full 41 miles into New York City. Before volunteering, it took Pollack 18 years to complete the Westchester portion, spread out over various self-guided walks.

"It was the slowest marathon in history," joked Pollack, who is also a licensed New York City tour guide. "I thought the reason I didn't do this sooner is I didn't have anyone to walk with who really wanted to do this kind of thing. So I thought if I felt that way, I bet a lot of other people want to finish the whole 41 miles or 26 miles, and don't have people to do it with."

In the spring, Pollack leads groups on five walks that cover the Westchester portion, and in the fall she leads three walks along the remaining 15 miles. Her two favorite aspects of the walks are helping people who want to earn their patches achieve that goal, and the camaraderie the completion of that mission creates among participants.

"I'm in touch with so many of them and they're in touch with each other, and a bunch of them have become very loyal volunteers," Pollack said.

To sign up for a free public walking tour or become a volunteer with FOCA, visit *aqueduct.org*.

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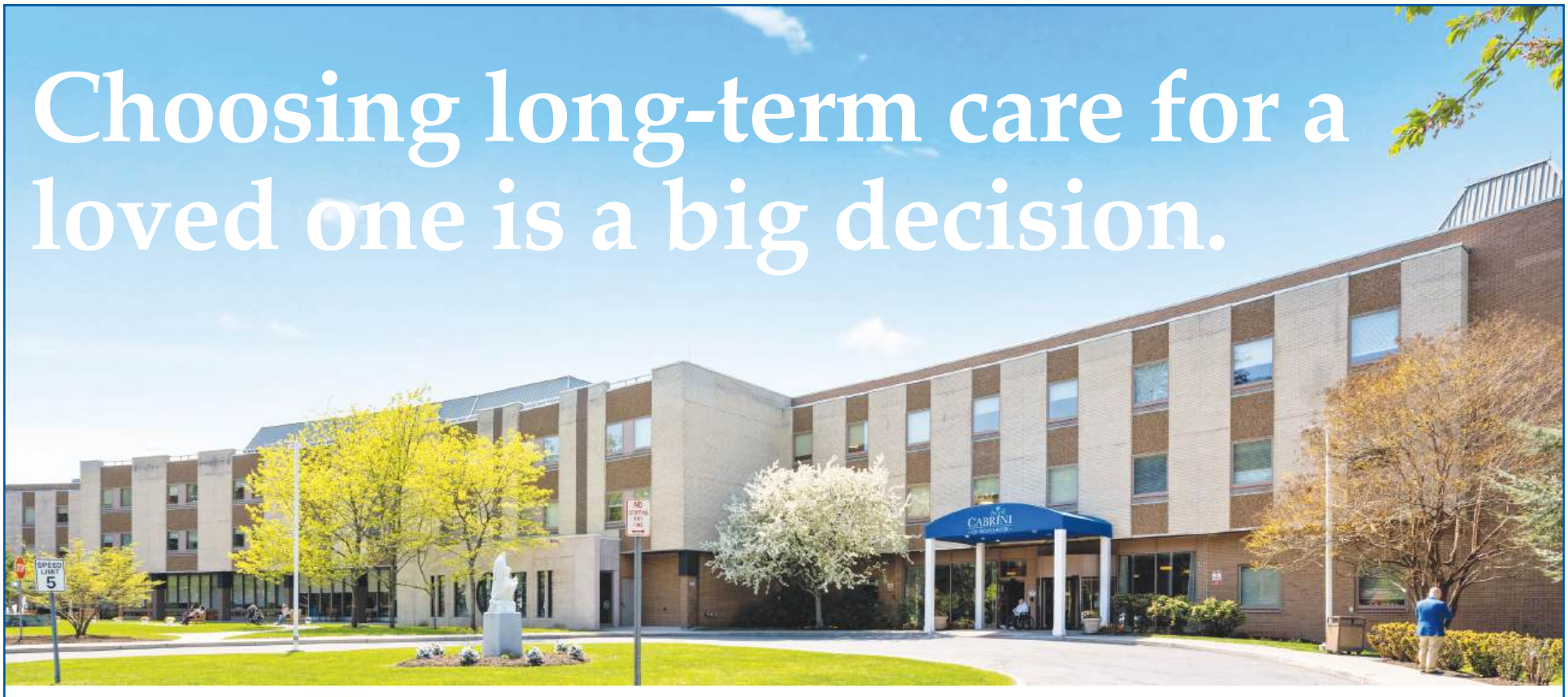
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HASTINGS

Farmers Market
Saturday, Oct. 3, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Commuter Lot, Southside Avenue. *hastingsfarmersmarket.org*
—
Rivertowns Repair Café
Saturday, Oct. 3, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. James Harmon Community Center
—
Villagewide Tag Sale
Saturday, Oct. 3, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.; rain date Oct. 4. The recreation department will post participating addresses
—
Rivertown Thrift Pop-up
Saturday, Oct. 3, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. James Harmon Community Center, lower level. Clothing donations accepted until noon
—
Architectural Review Board Meeting
Monday, Oct. 5, 7 p.m. Village Hall. Agenda available at *hohny.gov*
—
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, Oct. 6, 7 p.m. Village Hall. Agenda at *hohny.gov*
—
Senior Mindfulness Class
Thursday, Oct. 8, 12:30–1:30 p.m. James Harmon Community Center
—
"Homeward Bound"
Through Oct. 26. Village Hall Gallery. Features the work of three local photographers: Tim Lamorte, John Maggiotto, and Jim Metzger.

Debate continues over genocide unit for eighth-graders

BY AMY BOCHNER

Following a contentious public comment session, the Hastings School District continues to receive feedback about the "Genocide and Mass Atrocities" unit of an eighth-grade course, and about the district's decision to revise that curriculum.

"Exploring Equity" is a required class at Farragut Middle School taught once a year in grades 5–8. The class is in its second year and evolved out of a course called "Courageous Conversations." Following the release of the original syllabus for this year's eighth-grade curriculum, the district heard concerns from community members about the course's omission of the Holocaust and inclusion of the current conflict in Gaza.

The second unit, "Genocides and Mass Atrocities," had case studies the class would examine throughout September and October, including the Armenian Genocide, the Japanese Occupation of China, Bosnia, Rwanda, Darfur, and Gaza, the latter serving as a contemporary scenario. Over the past three years, a United Nations Commission of Inquiry, the International Association of Genocide Scholars, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and other organizations have characterized Israel's actions in Gaza as genocide.

An assignment for this unit was described as analysis of the question "Is It Genocide?" in which students would "evaluate evidence against established definitions and criteria rather than being given a predetermined conclusion."

The syllabus was a focal point at the Sept. 9 board of education meeting, during which the board described the Holocaust's absence from the list of genocides as a mistake that would be corrected. "Exploring Equity" is a complementary course to the core social studies program, which includes the Holocaust in its curriculum.

The meeting featured a contentious public comment session in which several speakers urged the district to remove Gaza from the curriculum as a case study for genocide, expressing their concerns over political bias and antisemitism. Throughout the meeting, there were instances of parents yelling from the audience at the board. Following a speaker going over the 3-minute time limit and being told her time was up, another woman who had spoken earlier in opposition to Gaza's inclusion in the curriculum approached board president David Weinstein while shouting. The woman grabbed his gavel, walked to the back of the multipurpose room, opened the door, and left the gavel outside before returning to her seat.

The district released an email on Sept. 10, stating that the course would pause the genocide unit while the district revised the curriculum content. According to Schools Superintendent William McKersie in a Sept. 16 interview with the Dispatch, the revised curriculum will address recent events in Gaza as a human rights issue rather than as a case study for genocide. On Back-to-School Night on Sept. 17, the course's teacher, Chris Canales, distributed the syllabus the class will follow while the genocide unit curriculum is reviewed. In place of the genocide unit, the class would revert to the "Me, We and the World" unit from last year's course.

At the start of the Sept. 23 meeting, board member Theresa McCaffrey described being "personally offended by the behavior that took place in this room" during the meeting on Sept. 9.

"Though we, as board members and as administrators, validated the comments… we were still screamed at, heckled, taunted, and verbally harassed," she said. "It didn't stop in this room… I want the public to know that at tonight's board meeting we have extra security that is coming out of our district's

Continued on page 19

Comedians solicit laughs to support Women Together nonprofit

BY AMY BOCHNER

Comedians will share jokes for a cause at the Women Together Comedy Fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 3, which will benefit women and girls in underserved communities.

Hastings resident Jessie Murphy is the host of the event, which will take place at The Good Witch Coffee Bar from 7–9:30 p.m.

In the early 2000s, Murphy was an internationally touring musician, who opened for singers like Beck, James Blunt, and Regina Spektor. Her career in stand-up comedy began in 2022. This is the fourth comedy fundraiser she has produced in the Rivertowns.

The money raised this year will go toward Women Together Global, which serves women and girls in 14 communities across Malawi and Mozambique. The founder of that organization, Dr. Anu Anandaraja, worked with Mount Sinai Medical Center's global health program, which was founded by Murphy's father, Ramon, who passed away in 2019.

Murphy told the Dispatch that one of the fastest ways to change health outcomes in a community is "to empower women financially… [so they can] have the financial independence to make healthy choices for their families."

She also described the impact of Women Together Global's efforts.

"Women Together Global is about giving women skills, training, and funding for small businesses… so that they can really flourish, their daughters can flourish, and kind of start to reverse-engineer matriarchy in parts of the world that were the most adversely affected by colonialism."



Jessie Murphy of Hastings

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS

Murphy will begin the fundraiser with a comedy set before serving as the MC for the remainder of the night. The comedians include Andrea Allen (co-host of "The Hot Mess Comedy Hour" podcast); Natasha Price (whose credits include recurring appearances on "Late Night with Conan O'Brien"); April Boddie (contributor to BuzzFeed, iHeartRadio, and HuffPost); actor Piyali Syam; and artist and educator Katie Reidy, who works in Hastings.

The night will end with a musical performance by Two Star, a musician based in Ithaca.

For tickets to the Women Together Comedy Fundraiser, which cost $30, visit *bit.ly/4hUEWJm*.

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Saturday Oct 3
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Pokeween Celebration
Friday Oct 30 @ 6 PM
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Saturday Oct 31 @ 12 Noon
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Costumes Encouraged

Pokémon Club Afterschool
Thursdays @ 4 PM
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IRVINGTON

Hybrid Presentation: van Gogh
Saturday, Oct. 3, 2 p.m. Irvington Public Library. To attend via Zoom, register at *irvingtonlibrary.org*
—
Farmers Market
Sunday, Oct. 4, 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Main Street School, 101 Main St. For details, visit *irvingtonfarmersmarket.org*
—
Honoring Open Space Heroes
Sunday, Oct. 4, 3–5 p.m. O'Hara Nature Center, 170 Mountain Road. The Greater Irvington Land Trust ("GILT") celebrates with a bluegrass band and treats
—
Tabletop Game Night for Adults and Seniors
Tuesday, Oct. 6, 6:30–8:45 p.m. Irvington Public Library
—
School Board Meeting
Tuesday, Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m. Campus Presentation Room at Irvington High School. Agenda available at *irvingtonschools.org*
—
Planning Board Meeting
Wednesday, Oct. 7, 7 p.m. Village Hall. To attend via Zoom, visit *irvingtonny.gov* for the link
—
October Exhibit: "Structures"
Martucci Gallery at Irvington Public Library. Features watercolors by Jim Maciel

Varma proposal for North Broadway stirs more contention

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

As a contested mixed-use proposal for the 4.2-acre Maxon property at 76 North Broadway (Route 9) nears the end of the review process, the Village is facing a fourth lawsuit over the project. At the same time, a newly appointed member of the zoning board of appeals (ZBA) who has been asked to step down on a technicality, claims his removal is retaliation for his open criticism of the plan.

First introduced by Varma RE Development in the summer of 2024, that plan calls for building 53 residential rental units (six would qualify as moderate income and six as affordable) in addition to an early-education facility for children 5 years old and younger, consisting of 13 classrooms for between 155 and 176 children. The proposal also calls for the demolition of the on-site mansion, known as Woodcliff Manor.

Though the project was granted variances by the ZBA on Aug. 18, Varma is pursuing an additional variance to allow the construction of a walkway from the corner of Broadway and Strawberry Lane onto the property. During its upcoming meeting on Oct. 7, the planning board will review a draft resolution for site plan approval, and will accept public comment, but will not vote on the resolution. If the planning board grants site plan approval and a special permit, which is required for all development in the multi-family office (MFO) district where the property is located, the project would then go to the architectural review board for approval before Varma could apply for a building permit.

The Village is facing a lawsuit brought by Strawberry Lane homeowner Peter Michalik and Strawberry Hill Holdings that seeks to invalidate a local law enacted by the board of trustees to define the use "school." In January, the board amended the village code to define "school," which is a permitted use in the MFO district, as a "college/university, high school, middle school, secondary school, primary or elementary school, or preschool or nursery school." Three previous lawsuits challenging the school determination and traffic regulations related to the project were unsuccessful. During a Sept. 22 ZBA meeting, members of Irvington Neighbors Against Traffic (INAT) contended that the project should be rejected because the proposed educational facility caters, in large part, to children under the age of 3, and thus shouldn't be considered a school.

During a Sept. 14 board of trustees meeting, several residents spoke against the proposed

Continued on page 19



Items on display as part of "Remember You Must Die."

Octagon House exhibit features art about death

Memento mori collection coincides with fall tours

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Just in time for Halloween, a new fall exhibit at the Armour-Stiner Octagon House in Irvington, titled "Remember You Must Die," features an array of death-themed art displayed in the house's basement. The exhibition, which is up through Nov. 2, is curated by art collector Ryan Michael Cohn, who previously collaborated with the Octagon House on the "Cabinet of Curiosities" exhibition in 2022 and 2023.

All of the pieces in "Remember You Must Die" come from Cohn's personal holdings, the majority of which he acquired from late art collector Richard Harris, who passed away in 2022, after establishing a reputation as an aficionado of art related to the theme of death. The exhibition features hundreds of individual pieces, including paintings and drawings with images of skulls, puppets, pipes, ephemera, and a wooden chair carved to look like a seated skeleton.

"Our mortality is one of the few things that everybody has in common," Octagon House director Jess Lombardi told the Dispatch. "The exhibition, to me, on the surface seems like it's very goth and meant to frighten you, but actually it's so elegant and doesn't frighten. It's not ghoulish."



Nearly every inch of the walls within the former billiard room of the Octagon House is covered with items from Cohn's memento mori collection. The term "memento mori" translates from Latin into "remember you must die," and is tied to a tradition of art that often features skulls and bones. The Octagon House exhibition, which represents less than 20% of Cohn's collection, includes antique items and artwork from each of the past six centuries.

The Octagon House is running three fall tours, all of which include access to view "Remember You Must Die." The immersive "The Lady in White" tour is based on a ghost story written in 1956 by Carl Carmer, who lived in the house for 30 years, and costs $58 per person. The Edgar Allen Poe-themed "Tis the Wind and Nothing More" is inspired by Poe's well-known poem "The Raven" and also costs $58 per person. The "Myths and Mysteries" tour, which costs $38 per person, teaches visitors about the restoration of the house and strange occurrences since it was first built in 1860. To purchase tickets, visit *armourstiner.com*.

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS








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SLEEPY HOLLOW

TaSH Farmers Market
Saturday, Oct. 3, 8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Patriots Park. Bilingual storytime, 10:30–11 a.m. For details, visit *tashfarmersmarket.org*

—

Sleepy Hollow Music Festival
Saturday, Oct. 3, noon–8 p.m. Kingsland Point Park

—

Art Reception: Donald Whitely
Sunday, Oct. 4, 2–4 p.m. Warner Library

—

Board of Trustees
Work Session
Tuesday, Oct. 6, 6:30 p.m. Village Hall. Visit *sleepyhollowny.gov* for the link

—

Matinee Movie: "Wander Darkly"
Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2 p.m. Warner Library

—

Parent Workshop: Student Wellness
Wednesday, Oct. 7, 6 p.m. Sleepy Hollow High School Library. Covering teen mental health, nutrition, and sleep; light dinner will be provided

—

Tweens Craft for a Cause
Thursday, Oct. 8, 3:30–5:30 p.m. Warner Library

—

Craft Circle for Adults
Thursday, Oct. 8, 6:30–8:30 p.m. Warner Library

Sisters lead spooky season tours

Sleepy Hollow Strolls, a walking-tour business started last fall by Briarcliff High School senior Sofia Cruz, is back for the Halloween season, offering small-group tours led by Cruz and her younger sister, Adriana, a sophomore.

Cruz, a Sleepy Hollow resident for the past 12 years, said she got the idea after noticing the number of tourists wandering around the village last fall.

"I remember just kind of walking around and thinking in September, 'There's no one to guide these tourists around and everyone just is always looking at their phone and seems confused,'" she said. "I was like, 'Wouldn't it be so cool to make a business and be able to show people around and give tours?'"

Cruz started the business with a friend and brought Adriana into the operation this year. Together, the sisters have been refining the tour and sharing the history and legends of the area.

The tours start at Muddy Waters Coffee Shop on Main Street in Tarrytown and wind through Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow for 1.5 miles, ending near the cemetery. Along the way, the sisters share local history and legends and point out spots including Tarrytown Music Hall, Warner Library, and Philipsburg Manor. They also stop for photos at the "Welcome to Sleepy Hollow" sign and other favorite locations.

The tour, which takes around 2 hours, is limited to eight people, allowing the sisters to personalize the experience. Tickets are $20 per person.

Tours are offered Saturdays and Sundays through Halloween at 10 a.m., with 2 p.m. tours added on some October weekends. Tours are open to all ages.

For Cruz, the appeal is getting to share the place she calls home.

"I think being able to share the town that I've grown up in for so long with other people that are just visiting, I really like being able to kind of touch on all the historical facts," she said. "There's so much history."

Preparing as a tour guide has also given Cruz a new appreciation for the villages. She researched the history behind each stop and said she learned things she hadn't known.

The business has given Cruz a taste of entrepreneurship, too. She's had to figure out marketing, reservations, and which stops belong on the route. She hopes to study business in college.

And yes, "We also talk about the legend of Sleepy Hollow," she said.

To book a spot, visit *Eventbrite.com* and search for Sleepy Hollow Strolls.

— Laura Schiller

Got news?
Email staff writer Laura Schiller at *laura@rivertownsdispatch.com*

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS



Art teacher Andrea Harrison talks to Alberta Jarane, the owner of Mint Premium Foods and Pik Nik BBQ in Tarrytown, who was featured in the exhibit.

Project documents stories about community

BY LAURA SCHILLER

Tony Albert Cypress, who has worked as a bus monitor, maintenance worker, and cafeteria worker, is a familiar face to generations of students at Sleepy Hollow High School, where his son, Tony Jr., graduated in 2016.

Alyn Diaz grew up in a close-knit Deaf community in upstate New York, and after moving to Tarrytown, became an advocate for the Deaf and helped teach American Sign Language to students, faculty, and staff.

Alexis De La Cruz, a custodian at John Paulding School, grew up in the Dominican Republic and attended Sleepy Hollow High School after moving to the U.S. at age 15. He considers the school his extended family.

These are but a handful of the more than 100 people whose stories and images are featured in "Dear Tarrytown Schools," a community arts project on display at Sleepy Hollow High School and available for viewing at TUFSD.org/dear-tarrytown-schools. The exhibit will be at the Warner Library throughout November and December.

The project began last spring, when Sleepy Hollow Middle and High School students were asked to look more closely at the people they encounter every day. The idea was inspired by photographer Brandon Stanton's "Dear New York," which brought portraits and personal stories of New Yorkers to Grand Central Terminal.

The students photographed and interviewed staff members in their schools, under the guidance of teachers and professional photographer John Rizzo.

"We spend a lot of time in our schools talking about teaching and learning, but it's also equally important to pause and think about the people, the relationships, the connections, the sense of belonging," Tarrytown Schools Superintendent Ray Sanchez said. "That's what this exhibit is all about."

The students led the interviews, while Rizzo worked with them on photography techniques.

To get started, journalism teacher Samantha Nadili said students were posed a simple question: "Who are the people in our community who make it so special?" Students initially saw it as fun, she said, but their perspective deepened as they interviewed and photographed people.

"They realized how special it was going to be," she said.

During the summer, the project expanded into the broader community through Tarrytown Arts Camp, where about 20 middle schoolers participated in a weeklong Young Journalists program at the Hudson Valley Writers Center. With Rizzo, the students traveled by school district bus throughout Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow to interview and photograph community members and business owners.

On Saturday, Sept. 19, community members gathered in the Sleepy Hollow High School atrium to see the photographs, interviews, and personal reflections that coalesce in "Dear Tarrytown Schools." The portraits in the exhibit are Rizzo's professional photographs; some of the students' work was also included in a digital slideshow.

"There were tears shed and hugs exchanged, some cheering, and it was so beautiful," Nadili said. "So much more impactful than I thought putting it together would be. I knew it would be such a great outcome, but the journey was so meaningful."

That sense of connection was central to Andrea Harrison, a longtime art teacher who helped bring the idea to life. After 32 years in the district, she sees Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow as an extension of the community she has built in her classrooms.

"There is no place like Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow," Harrison said. "This town, my classes… this is what the world should be. There's such diversity. People lift each other up. People are part of a family here."

Camp director Anna Povich de Mayor loved the idea of representing the community through images.

Viewers of the exhibit meet Jackie Jones, who has worked at the Sleepy Hollow Post Office since 1999 and grew up across the street. As a letter carrier, she has been chased by dogs and once had to jump a fence to escape. Sister Mary Anne has spent more than four decades caring for children and families at St. Teresa's Church, where she began her ministry as a nun. C-Town deli worker Francisco "Pancho" Bravo has spent more than 24 years serving customers. His favorite sandwich — and the most popular — is roast beef.

Albina Formoso, a former banker, has found a deep connection to students and the

Continued on page 16



TARRYTOWN

TaSH Farmers Market
Saturday, Oct. 3, 8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Patriots Park. Bilingual storytime, 10:30–11 a.m. For details, visit *tashfarmersmarket.org*
—
Art Reception: Donald Whitely
Sunday, Oct. 4, 2–4 p.m. Warner Library
—
Blessing of the Animals
Sunday, Oct. 4, 4–4:30 p.m. Christ Episcopal Church and San Marcos, 43 S. Broadway
—
Board of Trustees Meeting
Monday, Oct. 5, 7 p.m. Village Hall. To attend via Zoom, visit *tarrytownny.gov* for the link
—
Matinee Movie: "Wander Darkly"
Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2 p.m. Warner Library
—
Parent Workshop: Student Wellness
Wednesday, Oct. 7, 6 p.m. Sleepy Hollow High School Library. Covering teen mental health, nutrition, and sleep; light dinner will be provided
—
Tweens Craft for a Cause
Thursday, Oct. 8, 3:30–5:30 p.m. Warner Library
—
Craft Circle for Adults
Thursday, Oct. 8, 6:30–8:30 p.m. Warner Library

'Ensemble Connect' at Pocantico

You might fancy yourself a classical music fan or jazz aficionado. But you may never have heard some of the sounds that will emerge from the Pocantico Center on Oct. 7.

That night, Carnegie Hall's Ensemble Connect — a group of young professional classical musicians — will join Biribá Union, a trio that blends Brazilian sounds with hip-hop, percussion-heavy Go-go, American roots music, and jazz improvisation.

But don't come expecting a polished concert. Instead, "Ensemble Connect Up Close: Biribá Union" will allow audiences to experience the creative process as the musicians experiment with sounds and ideas and develop an original work to be performed at Carnegie Hall next May.

"This event culminates a residency that gives Ensemble Connect and Biribá Union time and space to create something new," said Elly Weisenberg, senior manager of public programs and residencies at Pocantico.

The event will feature 11 Ensemble Connect fellows collaborating with Biribá Union musicians Mike Block on cello and vocals, Christylez Bacon on beatbox and guitar, and Patricia Ligia on electric bass and vocals. Ensemble Connect brings together young professional musicians who also work as teachers and community educators.

The event is at 6:30 p.m. at the David Rockefeller Creative Arts Center at The Pocantico Center, 200 Lake Road, Tarrytown. Tickets are $16.80, including the ticketing fee, and must be purchased in advance at *pocantio.org/events*.

YMCA Circle of Caring

Good food, dancing, Hudson River views — and a chance to support local families — were all part of the Family YMCA at Tarrytown's seventh annual Circle of Caring on Thursday, Sept. 24, at Abigail Kirsch at Tappan Hill Mansion.

This year's Laurance S. Rockefeller Award honorees were Joan and William M. Mooney Jr. Bill Mooney spent more than five decades in banking and business and led the Westchester County Association from 2004 to 2020. Joan has held volunteer and leadership roles with community, educational, and cultural organizations. Together, they have supported nonprofit and educational causes throughout the region.

The Y also honored the late Edward Apuzzo, a former board member who died in 2023, with its Leonard Andrew Spirit of Service Award.

Proceeds support the Y's programs and financial assistance, helping make its services available to local families.

— Laura Schiller

Village board considers ban on gas leaf blowers

BY LAURA SCHILLER

The sound of gas-powered leaf blowers could become less common if the Tarrytown Board of Trustees adopts a proposed law that would phase in a ban on such equipment.

Under Tarrytown's current law, gas-powered leaf blowers are prohibited from June 15 through Sept. 15 and on weekends and holidays during the rest of the year. Residents who own or rent a one- to three-family home are exempt when using a blower at their own home.

The proposed law would phase in a broader ban. In addition, it would eliminate the homeowner exemption. During the first phase, gas-powered blowers would be prohibited on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays through May 31, 2027.

Beginning June 1, 2027, gas-powered blowers would be banned at all times, with limited exceptions for emergencies, certain municipal work, and properties of 20 acres or more. On those larger properties, four-stroke blowers could still be used during limited hours. They would be prohibited from June 1 through Sept. 30, on weekends and federal holidays from Oct. 1 through May 31, and within 100 feet of a residential building or structure.

Beginning June 1, 2028, the large-property exception would disappear. The remaining exceptions would be for emergencies, certain municipal and school work, and temporary special permits.

The proposal grew out of work by the Tarrytown Environmental Advisory Council (TEAC), which has been helping the Village revise its existing leaf-blower restrictions.

TEAC has cited several concerns with gas-powered leaf blowers, including noise and air pollution, potential health risks for workers who operate them, and the loss of leaf and plant material that can provide habitat for insects and other organisms. The group has pointed to noise levels that can affect hearing and emissions from two-stroke engines.

At a Sept. 16 board of trustees work session, TEAC members Dean Gallea and Rachel Tieger and trustees worked through practical questions about the large-property exception, including how much time property owners and landscaping companies would need to transition away from gas equipment. They ultimately proposed a one-year transition for those properties.

"That would give them enough time to invest in what they need," Tieger told the trustees. "If they have in-house landscaping, they could invest in the equipment; if they use a landscaping company, the company could invest in charging equipment or whatever else is needed."

The Village is also considering how the proposed ban would affect landscaping companies.

Deputy Mayor Kathy McGovern said the Village should make a concerted effort to notify all landscapers who hold permits in Tarrytown, including companies based elsewhere, so they have an opportunity to participate in the public process.

"I hope we hear from these landscapers," McGovern said. "I think we do need to hear from everybody, you know, and we need to know how it's going to affect a small business, a big business, and workers."

Currently, the Village has 79 licensed green industry contractors. The trustees agreed to send each one a letter outlining the proposed law.

Tarrytown would join several neighboring Westchester municipalities that have adopted restrictions on gas-powered blowers, including Sleepy Hollow, Irvington, Dobbs Ferry, and Hastings.

Tieger told trustees that Tarrytown has fallen behind other Westchester communities in restricting gas-powered blowers.

"We call ourselves this progressive village, this environmentally front-minded village, and then we've got the worst possible leaf blower laws," Tieger said. "So this would be a big message to everyone, like, 'Hey, you know, we're just late to the party, but we're here now.'"

The proposal follows more than a year of discussion. Residents raised concerns about the noise and pollution associated with gas-powered blowers at an April 2025 board of trustees meeting, and TEAC said it was working on stronger restrictions.

A public hearing on the proposed law is scheduled for Oct. 19, at 7 p.m., at village hall. Remote participation is allowed, and speakers will have 3 minutes for comments. Written comments may be sent to *administrator@tarrytownny.gov* and will be shared with the board. The proposed law was part of the Sept. 23 board of trustees meeting, which can be viewed at *tarrytownny.gov/home/events/54066*.



Lights of Hope

—

Illuminated paper bags decorated with messages about cancer victims and survivors were the centerpiece of a gathering at the Westchester Landing of the Tappan Zee Bridge on the evening of Tuesday, Sept. 22. The Lights of Hope event was organized by four members of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network — Marcia Earle of Ossining, John Manna Jr. of Upper Nyack, Mark Mannix of Pleasantville, and Katrina Snyder of Yonkers. For more information about the organization, visit *fightcancer.org*.

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS

HAPPENINGS IN THE RIVERTOWNS

The Agenda

EDITED BY JENNIFER GOLD

SATURDAY OCTOBER 3

Latino Heritage Celebration
ARDSLEY
1–3 p.m. / Free. Pascone Park. Rain location: Ardsley Community Center, 18 Center St. Zumba, soccer, music, and food. *ardsleyvillage.gov*

Homegrown String Band
ARDSLEY
2 p.m. / Free. Ardsley Public Library, 9 American Legion Drive. *ardsleypubliclibrary.org*

Parade of Scarecrows
DOBBS FERRY
On display on the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail through Oct. 31. *Laura.compagni@parks.ny.gov*

Guided History Walk
DOBBS FERRY
9:30 a.m. / Free. Meet near the bleachers next to the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail and Victory Hall at Mercy University, 555 Broadway. Learn how the Revolutionary War divided neighbors and families on a 4-mile loop on the Trail. Registration required. *aqueduct.org*

Ferry Festa
DOBBS FERRY
1–8 p.m. Rain date Oct. 4. Annual street fair on Main and Cedar streets featuring music, crafts, food, and entertainment. *FerryFesta.com*

Stand-up Comedy Showcase
DOBBS FERRY
8 p.m. / Free. Dobbs Ferry Public Library, 55 Main St. For ages 18+. Sign up by emailing *Reference@DobbsFerryLibrary.org*

Villagewide Tag Sale
HASTINGS
10 a.m.–4 p.m. Rain date Oct. 4. The recreation department will post a list of participating addresses. *hohny.gov*

Rivertowns Repair Café
HASTINGS
10 a.m.–2 p.m. / Free. James Harmon Community Center, 44 Main St. *repaircafehv.org*

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.

Storytime Celebrating Nature Trails
HASTINGS
10:30–11:30 a.m. / Free. Hastings Public Library, 7 Maple Ave. Features two local authors: Roni Schotter reading "Bibi Steps Out!" and Pamela Paul reading "The Path."

Comedy Fundraiser
HASTINGS
7–9 p.m. / $30. The Good Witch Coffee Bar, 134 Southside Ave. Proceeds benefit Women Together programs in Malawi, Mozambique, and New Mexico. Purchase tickets at *eventbrite.com*



Everclear headlines the Sleepy Hollow Music Festival at Kingsland Point Park this Saturday, Oct. 3. *Photo by Brian Cox*

Sleepy Hollow Music Festival
SLEEPY HOLLOW
11 a.m.–8 p.m. / $85, up to two children 12 years old and under can enter free with a ticket-holding adult. Kingsland Point Park. The lineup includes Everclear, The Smithereens with Marshall Crenshaw, Fastball, and Sophie B. Hawkins. Also, Halloween-themed programming, craft vendors, food trucks, family activities, and a children's zone. *sleepyhollowmusicfestival.com*

An Audience with Poe
SLEEPY HOLLOW
3, 5, and 7 p.m. / $65. The Library at Historic Hudson Valley, 639 Bedford Road. Professional storytellers bring to life Edgar Allen Poe's tales. Includes complimentary cocktails and mocktails. Fridays-Sundays through Oct. 31. For ages 16+. Advance tickets required. *hudsonvalley.org*

Murder Mystery
SLEEPY HOLLOW
7–9 p.m. / $65. Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, North Gate, 540 N. Broadway. Interactive whodunnit in the Washington Irving Memorial Chapel. Register at *sleepyhollowcemetery.org*

"Digging Deeper"
TARRYTOWN
10 a.m.–noon / $40. Lyndhurst, 635 S. Broadway. The Garden Conservancy presents contemporary artist Paula Hayes to guide a walking tour of The Overlook. Timed entry tickets required. *lyndhurst.org*

Bilingual Storytime
TARRYTOWN
10:30–11 a.m. / Free. TaSH Farmers Market at Patriots Park, 121 N. Broadway. Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with books by Latino authors about fall and Halloween.

Mike LeDonne Groover Quartet
TARRYTOWN
7 and 9 p.m. / $35, $30 for students. Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. *jazzforumarts.org*

Comedy: Randy Feltface
TARRYTOWN
8 p.m. / $42–$62. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. *tarrytownmusichall.org*

SUNDAY OCTOBER 4

Blood Drive
DOBBS FERRY
9 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Greenburgh Hebrew Center, 515 Broadway. Sign up at *donate.nybc.org*

Outdoor Fall Makers Market
DOBBS FERRY
Noon–5 p.m. / Free admission. Hudson Social, 11 Station Plaza. Shop handmade and locally crafted goods. Live acoustic music with the Slingshots, 1–4 p.m. *hudsonsocial.com*

Open Space Heroes
IRVINGTON
3–5 p.m. / Free. O'Hara Nature Center, 170 Mountain Road. The Greater Irvington Land Trust celebrates the Rivertowns' conservation efforts apples, donuts, cider, and a bluegrass band.

Balourdet Quartet
SLEEPY HOLLOW
3 p.m. / $50, $25 for ages 19–30, free for ages 18 and under. Sleepy Hollow High School, 210 N. Broadway. *friendsofmusicconcerts.org*

Paint a Headless Horseman
SLEEPY HOLLOW
11 a.m.–3 p.m. / $75. Washington Irving Memorial Chapel, 540 North Broadway. No experience needed. Register: *sleepyhollowcemetery.org*

Rolls Royce Annual Concours
TARRYTOWN
11 a.m.–4 p.m. / Grounds Pass ($15) required. Lyndhurst, 635 S. Broadway. Classic cars will be on display throughout the landscape. Purchase tickets at *lyndhurst.org*

Autumnal Equinox Celebration
TARRYTOWN
12:15–1:15 p.m. / $20, $15 for members. Shames JCC, 371 S. Broadway. *shamesjcc.org*

Art Reception: Donald Whitely
TARRYTOWN
2–4 p.m. / Free. Fitzgerald Art Gallery at the Warner Library, 121 N. Broadway. *warnerlibrary.org*

Blessing of the Animals
TARRYTOWN
4–4:30 p.m. / Free. Christ Episcopal Church and San Marcos, 43 South Broadway.

Guitarist Misha Mendelenko
TARRYTOWN
4 and 6 p.m. / $25, $20 for students. Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. *jazzforumarts.org*

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

MONDAY OCTOBER 5

"In the Heights"
ARDSLEY
2 p.m. / Free. Ardsley Public Library, 9 American Legion Drive. Screening of the film adaptation of the musical. Free popcorn. Register at *ardsleypubliclibrary.org*

Two-Day Gouache Workshop
TARRYTOWN
10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. / $225. The Pocantico Center, 200 Lake Road. Also Oct. 6. Rain dates Oct. 13–14. Register at *rbf.org/pocantico/events*

TUESDAY OCTOBER 6

New Jokes on Tap
DOBBS FERRY
7:30–9:30 p.m. / No cover. Hudson Social, 11 Station Plaza. The comedy series launches with headliner Tom Eschelman and hosts Cyndy Cecil and Jessie Murphy. *hudsonsocial.com*

"Little Shop of Horrors" Singalong
TARRYTOWN
7 p.m. / $11. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. *tarrytownmusichall.org*

Continued on page 16

The Agenda

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 7

Matinee Movie: "Wander Darkly"
TARRYTOWN

2–3:30 p.m. / Free. Warner Library, 121 N. Broadway. *warnerlibrary.org*

Ensemble Connect and Biribá Union
TARRYTOWN

6:30 p.m. / $15. The David Rockefeller Creative Arts Center at Pocantico, 200 Lake Road. Reserve tickets at *rbf.org/pocantico/events*

Live Talks NY: Barbara Kingsolver
TARRYTOWN

8 p.m. / $63–$78. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. Tickets include a copy of her new novel, "Partita." *tarrytownmusichall.org*

THURSDAY OCTOBER 8

Ralph Lalama Organ Trio
DOBBS FERRY

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

Science-on-Hudson Lecture
IRVINGTON

7 p.m. / Free. Nevis Science Center, 136 S. Broadway. Columbia astrophysicist Matthew Lundy presents "How to Find the Most Energetic Place in the Galaxy." Register at *nevis.columbia.edu*



Friends of Music presents the Balourdet Quartet at Sleepy Hollow High School this Sunday, Oct. 4.

Tweens Craft for a Cause
TARRYTOWN

3:30–5:30 p.m. / Free. Warner Library, 121 N. Broadway. Register at *warnerlibrary.org*

Cracking the Serial Killer Code
TARRYTOWN

7:30 p.m. / $20–$43. Shames JCC, 371 S. Broadway. With forensic psychologist Katherine Ramsland. *shamesjcc.org*

Five for Fighting with String Quartet
TARRYTOWN

8 p.m. / $47–$67. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. *tarrytownmusichall.org*

FRIDAY OCTOBER 9

River Jam
DOBBS FERRY

6:30–8:30 p.m. / Free. Waterfront Park. The fall concert series features the Hillbilly Band and a food truck. *dobbsferry.gov/recreation-department*

Cult Classic Movie Night: "Haunted Ween"
DOBBS FERRY

8 p.m. / Free. Dobbs Ferry Public Library, 55 Main St. Screening of the 1991 horror film. *dobbsferrylibrary.org*

"The Time Machine"
SLEEPY HOLLOW

7:15 and 9:15 p.m. / $45. Washington Irving Memorial Chapel, 540 N. Broadway. David Neilsen gives a live performance based on H.G. Wells' 1895 science fiction novella. For ages 12+. Register at *sleepyhollowcemetery.org*

Yonder Mountain String Band
TARRYTOWN

8 p.m. / $49–$59. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. *tarrytownmusichall.org*

'Join or Die'
Continued from page 4

craft and weaving groups, Tarry Magazine, Friends of Sleepy Hollow, TUFSD Unplugged, Heads Up Horsemen, and other community and advocacy organizations.

For moviegoer Sierra Scott, the message hit home.

"I've had a lot of ideas kicking around [in] my head for different clubs I want to join, different things I care about," Scott said. "Tonight has given me the fire to finally join all these clubs I've been thinking about joining for years. I think it'll be a really cool thing, meeting new people and all the good stuff."

Jared Rodriguez, a Sleepy Hollow village trustee and member of Livable Tarrytowns, told the Dispatch that running for local office gave him an unusual opportunity to meet people across the village.

"The physical act of running for election means that you are knocking on people's doors across the entire village — people you wouldn't know," he said. "And by doing that, and by engaging with all of these different communities, you see them and you know them."

"So I walk down the street and I know people from different walks of life, and they know me," Rodriguez said. "But it's not normal. And people shouldn't have to run for election for that to happen."

Dear Tarrytown Schools
Continued from page 13

Sleepy Hollow/Tarrytown community working in the Morse School cafeteria, a job that has allowed her to be with her own children after school. Evelyn Gardella, a second-grader who can do splits and one-handed cartwheels, wants to be a teacher when she grows up. At "Get Your Head Right," barbers Jose Rosario and Mario Guzman take pride in their Dominican heritage and their work, including their specialty mohawk and low taper fade.

"These photos are a true testament to the incredible place we call home here in Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow," Povich de Mayor said. "It is our hope that you might identify with these beautiful faces and feel a sense of belonging."

Climate Smart Communities
Continued from page 5

adopting a fleet-efficiency policy, maintaining a 25.38-kW solar installation at the firehouse, as well as participating in Westchester Power and selecting its 100% renewable electricity option. The Village also adopted affordable-housing and accessory dwelling unit (ADU) provisions, improved walking/biking infrastructure, and completed a Natural Resources Inventory. Additional points were earned for the Village's public engagement, including climate education campaigns, events, and online outreach.

With Ardsley among the smallest municipalities on the list of 30 with silver certification, Edelstein described the community as "the little village that can."



Opinion

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

Lobby governor to sign Freedom to Read Act into law

To the Editor:

As a publisher and resident of Ardsley, it is my civic duty to share a call to action with Hudson Valley residents. Newsflash: New York State (NYS) doesn't have a Freedom to Read Act (FTRA). Which means that book banning can occur in New York undetected because we lack the legal guardrails to prevent it. In 2024, a school in Staten Island culled hundreds of children's books on ideological grounds. The books were discovered in a dumpster behind the school.

Pen America reports that nearly 23,000 books have been banned in U.S. public schools since 2021, with 6,870 bans in the 2024–25 school year alone.

I volunteer for the Right to Read Coalition (RTRC) and the New York Civil Liberties Union to fight censorship. Advocacy is performed by regular people who care about literature and do not take kindly to anyone telling them what their children can or cannot read.

Currently, 15 states, including New Jersey and Connecticut, protect the Freedom to Read. Last month, Massachusetts signed their FTRA into law.

New York State had advanced a FTRA to the governor's desk last year, but it was vetoed. We worked diligently to get a second version of the FTRA submitted, and once again the bill is on her desk, awaiting her signature. Just because New York is a blue state doesn't guarantee that Gov. Hochul will sign it. We must demand that she does.

I've made two trips to Albany, our state capital, as lawmakers are only moved to act when they hear directly from their constituents.

We want the governor to sign the FTRA into law by Banned Book Week (Oct. 4–10). To generate a letter to the governor in under 30 seconds, visit *action.aclu.org/send-message/ny-fight-freedom-read*. Advocacy work is about playing the long game, but as you can see, real progress is possible. Please act!

Jason Low
CO-OWNER, LEE & LOW BOOKS

LWV to host forum for county board candidates

To the Editor:

The League of Women Voters of the Rivertowns is sponsoring a candidate forum for the Westchester County Legislator District 12. The candidates are David Imamura and Laurie Press Duffalo. Imamura is the incumbent. He is running on the Democratic and Working Families Party lines. Duffalo is a Republican.

The forum will be a Zoom webinar on Wednesday, Oct. 14, from 7–8 p.m. The forum can be viewed live by pre-registration at *bit.ly/legislativedistrict12*.

Questions must be submitted ahead of time either at registration or by email to *info@lwv-rivertowns.org*. The deadline for submission of questions is 6 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 11. Questions will be reviewed by a committee of League members who will submit them to the moderator prior to the start of the forum.

County Legislator District 12 includes Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Edgemont, Hartsdale, Hastings, Irvington, and part of Yonkers.

The event will be recorded and made available following the forum on the Rivertowns YouTube channel, LWV Rivertowns, and website *www.lwv-rivertowns.org*.

Lisa Wilkinson
PRESIDENT, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE RIVERTOWNS

Host town halls to share information about affordability

To the Editor:

Affordability. Reliable property assessments. Supporting older residents on fixed incomes. Tax relief for veterans. Maintaining the quality of life that makes our community a wonderful place to live.

These issues cross municipal boundaries.

In recent weeks, I have joined the effort to provide property tax relief for disabled veterans at both the town and village levels. New York Real Property Tax Law 458-A allows municipalities to provide property tax exemptions for qualifying veterans on their primary residences. Our work demonstrates how initiatives like this can benefit from greater town-village communication and collaboration.

Veteran and elderly financial stability isn't simply a Hastings, Dobbs Ferry, or Greenburgh issue. These are challenges we share.

Too often, village residents have limited interaction with town government, even though decisions made at both levels directly affect affordability and quality of life. We can change that.

The Town of Greenburgh should bring government directly into our communities through open, inclusive town halls in Hastings, Dobbs Ferry, Ardsley, and Tarrytown, as well as unincorporated communities including Fairview and Edgemont.

These shouldn't simply be traditional government meetings in different buildings. They should be conversations.

Town and village officials could discuss affordability, property assessments, veterans' tax relief, and the challenges facing older residents. Residents could ask questions, offer ideas, and better understand how their governments can work together.

Greater cooperation doesn't require another layer of government or another committee. It requires communication.

Our villages have distinct histories, identities, and traditions that should be celebrated. Collaboration doesn't mean sacrificing local control. It means sharing information and ideas so officials and residents can make better-informed decisions.

Bring town government into our villages. Invite young people, seniors, veterans, renters, homeowners, business owners, and community organizations. And then listen. There will be disagreements. That's democracy. But disagreement doesn't have to prevent collaboration.

Jeremy Hopwood
HASTINGS

Board should create a healthier setting during meetings

To the Editor:

I want to comment on the Sept. 25 letter to the editor by David Barone, a Hastings Board of Education (BOE) member. Reading about what occurred from his perspective was distressing. It prompted me to view the recorded event of that meeting on Sept. 9, 2026. As a viewer, I was left with a very different impression. Of course, safety is paramount at any meeting. Having a gavel taken from you must be scary. But what was missing and so critical in his letter were the many antecedent events. I urge all to watch the recorded event.

The start of the meeting was delayed by 30 minutes due to BOE business. Each public comment is allotted 3 minutes. Normally that may work and make sense. But not that night, given the intense emotionality of the topics. Sometimes flexibility and sensitivity can go a long way in creating the right tone and mood. Parents were addressing their pain and upset about how the Holocaust was omitted from a curriculum at Farragut Middle School and how Gaza was included. Some people had family members murdered during the Holocaust. They were already in pain and then the 3-minute rule along with the gavel created a harsh and cold response to their plight. Preceding the removal of the gavel, a parent in pain whose family had died in the Holocaust was told her 3 minutes was up. There was no empathy expressed by the leader. Just insistence that she stop. This same leader was eating and drinking earlier while others spoke — this was not sending the right message.

My suggestion: limit the BOE members time to speak (the meetings take too long), be more sensitive to the community speakers, respond with empathy after listening. A president in the past used to do that. And review what could have been done differently to create a healthier setting that night and don't just target that individual singled out by Mr. Barone.

Steven Goldfinger
HASTINGS

'Genocide' has been used as a weapon against Israel

To the Editor:

I have previously expressed concern about a published letter using the word "genocide" to describe Israel's actions in Gaza after the vicious massacre by Hamas on October 7, 2023, but here I am again. This time I am troubled by Sierra Scott's letter expressing her worry that "the unit about genocide was 'paused' because of the vehement denial of what... has widely been defined by prominent and trusted humanitarians organizations as a genocide in Gaza."

Put simply, the word "genocide" has been successfully politicized as a weapon against Israel. And the people who believe it either don't know what genocide is or don't care because it sounds serious. The word genocide has been repeated so often that people now assume that it is a correct description of what has happened in Gaza — a group that apparently includes Ms. Scott's "prominent and trusted humanitarian organizations." As a Holocaust survivor, I know well what genocide is and what it is not. What Israel's government has done in Gaza is not genocide. I think that its response to the October 7 massacre was possibly excessive (or maybe not), but I also know that trying to get rid of the unending decades-old Hamas terror required the strongest response. The number of innocent Gaza residents who died is sad, for sure. But would those who call it a genocide call the atom bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki a genocide? Or would they admit that it was an appropriate step to end World War II even if hundreds of thousand innocent civilians were killed? It happens in a war.

I suspect that a less extremist government in Israel than the current one might have had to make a similar response to eliminate Hamas as an unrelenting threat to Israel's existence. Even now, Hamas still controls Gaza and threatens further attacks on Israel, conveniently encouraged by well-meaning persons who repeat the libelous word "genocide," and by the anti-Jewish sentiments that have not stopped since biblical times.

Herbert Rosenberg
DOBBS FERRY

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Classies

MARKET.RIVERTOWNSDISPATCH.COM/CLASSIES

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

Fifty-Three Thirty Productions LLC. Filed 9/29/26. Office: Westchester Co. SSNY desig. as agent for process & shall mail to: 230 S. Bedford Rd, Chappaqua, NY 10514. Purpose: Entertainment.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

HUMANS CONNECTING WITH HUMANS

Looking for a mahjong teacher, a dog (or cat) walker, a lost flip phone, someone to successfully assemble IKEA furniture, a record player, a dance instructor or choreographer for a flash mob, a specific Jellycat, a person to explain cryptocurrency to your parents, an Amazon package that was definitely delivered, a virtual assistant, a cleaner who doesn't judge your kitchen, gently used children's clothing, or just some conversation? The Dispatch Classifieds are for real people, reaching real people — no bots, no algorithms, no AI.

Share your news — either here in Announcements or on the Photo Wall ----------> market.rivertownsdispatch.com/classies

PHOTO WALL



DOG OF THE WEEK

Stormy is one of the Paws Crossed Animal Rescue's Pets of the Week. Reach out to adoptions@pawscrossedny.org to learn more!



CAT OF THE WEEK

Scampi is one of the Paws Crossed Animal Rescue's Pets of the Week. Reach out to adoptions@pawscrossedny.org to learn more!

Coyote attack

Continued from page 1

is undergoing a series of rabies vaccinations.

In response to the attack, Hastings Police Chief David Dosin sent out two email blasts to the community on Sept. 24. In the second email, he wrote that the Hastings Police Department is working with the Dobbs Ferry Police Department, Greenburgh Animal Control, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Police to "locate and safely capture the coyote as soon as possible."

In late June, a coyote tried to attack one of Segal's neighbors, Marek Fuchs, and his small dog, a Yorkie mix, as they walked on the aqueduct just before dusk. While exiting on the top of Elm Place, a coyote "lunged out from behind a car," Fuchs told the Dispatch."

"It was pretty aggressive," he said. "It didn't lunge out snapping, but it came toward us. I pivoted and yelled at it and faked toward it. It stopped momentarily, and then it started coming toward me again. I ran into the house, which was luckily just 100 feet away."

In local Facebook groups, residents post about coyote sightings. Jonathon Kastner shared Ring camera footage from this past week of a coyote following his 16-year-old son to their home's back door. The family lives near the Reynolds Field playground, in the same neighborhood as Segal along the Aqueduct. In August, Kastner told the Dispatch, there was another incident of a coyote approaching the back door after his wife and 14-pound dog went inside.

On Sep. 27, Irvington Mayor Arlene Burgos sent an email blast to residents of her village about recent coyote activity, including an incident on the evening of Saturday, Sept. 26, when a coyote chased five children on Meszaros Field at the Irvington Middle/High School.

Burgos stated she was in communication with Village Administrator Charles Hessler, Police Chief Francis Pignatelli, members of the village board of trustees, "and others regarding the increasing reports of coyote activity."

"Following the incidents reported on Saturday, September 26, I have asked Chief Pignatelli to formally contact the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to seek additional guidance and assistance," Burgos wrote.

In Irvington, a coyote attacked a dog on Lewis Road on June 12. There was also an altercation with a dog on Bertha Place on July 5. In response, the Village of Irvington held two public forums about coyotes. The first, on July 9, was at the library with Dana Goin, program coordinator and wildlife educator at the Wolf Conservation Center in South Salem. The second, on July 29, was at town hall with Pignatelli, Dobbs Ferry Police Chief Manuel Guevara, and DEC biologists Wes Mason and John Milo.

As for Segal, she is seeking ways to keep herself and her dog, a 35-pound "doodle" mix, safe.

"We're not going out without a dog horn," she said. "I know some people are bringing bear spray."

Segal believes the issue of coyotes is "beyond the police."

"I think I speak on behalf of the community where they hope that there'll be a more active wildlife management approach to either trap and relocate some of the coyotes," she said, "or at least try to figure out why there's this sudden emergence of so much activity."

For more information about coyotes, including conflicts, visit *dec.ny.gov > Nature > Animals, Fish & Plants > Eastern Coyote.*

Got more questions?
For coyote info not on the DEC website, email questions to *hello@rivertownsdispatch.com* and we will consider them for a future story.

Blotter

Continued from page 2

governmental administration, both misdemeanors. Officer James Nardelli made the arrest.

Theft of gold and currency: On Sept. 22, a Tarrytown resident reported that two gold bars and assorted foreign currency were stolen from his home between Saturday, Aug. 29, and Sunday, Sept. 20.

Wanted no more: A 47-year-old Queens resident wanted for missing an appearance in Tarrytown Village Court in 2016, surrendered to police on Sept. 23. He was arrested for a suspended vehicle registration on June 13, 2016. The warrant was issued on Aug. 9, 2016.

Grand larceny arrest: A 27-year-old Brooklyn resident was arrested for stealing a 2003 Honda Accord from the Washington Irving Boat Club on the morning of Wednesday, Sept. 23. Officer Brandon Belles of the Irvington Police Department apprehended him on South Broadway in that village, where he was charged with criminal possession of stolen property in the fourth degree, a felony. In Tarrytown, he was charged with grand larceny in the fourth degree, a felony.

Paint on courts: Paint was found splattered on one of the four public tennis courts along Green Street on the afternoon of Wednesday, Sept. 23.

Disorderly conduct: A 34-year-old resident of Washington, D.C., was cited for disorderly conduct, a violation, for urinating in public along South Broadway (Route 9) on the morning of Friday, Sept. 25.

Suspended registrations: A 36-year-old Queens resident and a 41-year-old Bronx resident were arrested for suspended vehicle registrations, a misdemeanor, on Friday, Sept. 25. Officer Adam Turcotte arrested the Queens resident on Independence Street, while Officer Claudio Liranzo arrested the Bronx resident on Leroy Avenue.

Conley vs. Lawler debate

Continued from page 3

has jacked up prices in the Hudson Valley by $4,200 per average family — an outcome she said Lawler has supported on eight separate votes. Lawler defended tariffs, calling them "a tool to force fair trade," citing their use to persuade European countries to reduce prices on prescription drugs exported to the U.S.

The exchanges grew more heated over four subjects: support for Israel, cuts to Medicaid, immigration, and A.I. Rosenblum pointed out that one in five voters in District 17 is Jewish. Both candidates expressed general support for the State of Israel and the Jewish people and condemned antisemitism. Lawler's position was one of blanket support: "our greatest ally in the middle east — a beacon of hope, freedom, and democracy."

"I do support the State of Israel and the Israeli people," Conley said. But she distinguished her support for the country from her criticism of the Netanyahu government for its actions in Gaza and Lebanon and support for illegal settlements in the West Bank.

Lawler used the discussion of antisemitism to tie his opponent to leftist elements in the Democratic Party, repeatedly pressing her to denounce New York City Mayor Zoran Mamdani for accusing Israel of genocide. Each time, Conley replied that she condemned antisemitism in general — not any one individual.

The dispute between Lawler and Democrats over the effect of cuts in Medicaid has followed this race from its early days. Lawler insisted "we voted to protect Medicaid by requiring eligibility verification, proof of citizenship, and work requirements" while striking unqualified and illegal recipients from the roles. Conley countered that the cuts were indiscriminate, stripping benefits from thousands of qualified recipients under the guise of efficiency.

The exchange over immigration became emotional as the debate organizers called upon Tom and Jessica Gorman of Yorktown Heights to recount how their daughter Sheridan was shot to death by an illegal immigrant in Chicago. This was the same couple Lawler had introduced to the GOP convention in Dallas last month, repeating their claim that laws curbing contact between local police and ICE agents had contributed to Sheridan's death. While expressing sympathy for the Gormans, Conley pointed to the death of American citizens at the hands of undertrained and over-armed federal agents and the indiscriminate rounding up of legally documented residents as a root cause of violence.

Lawler linked Conley to Gov. Kathy Hochul's policy of releasing what he characterized as "7,000 convicted illegal immigrants — murderers, rapists, drug dealers, gun traffickers, and gang bangers," while claiming that he had helped preserve temporary protected status for Haitians and other immigrants seeking citizenship. Both candidates said they support required body cameras, IDs, and a prohibition on agents wearing face masks.

The subject that triggered the most personal accusations — in both directions — was A.I. Each accused the other of being in the pocket of "Big Tech." Conley said Lawler had bent to the will of data center builders in Rockland County.

Lawler accused Conley of receiving "hundreds of thousands of dollars for a no-show job" with an A.I. company she got through her work with the National Security Council — an extension of her military career. She will "move back to Virginia as quickly as she got here when she loses in November," he predicted.

"I do not need to have my service attacked by a guy who never left the comfort of his couch after 9/11," she retorted.

The two will meet again on PIX 11 on Oct. 14 at 7 p.m.

'From Readers to Leaders'

Continued from page 3

community," Press Weitzman explained. "As our technology has changed, it's not just about books, it's not just about research — it's really become a center of our community for gathering, for discussion, for learning, for crafting, for socializing. It's like a town center, and I love that aspect of it."

Veronica Kurian is a former nurse at Springhurst Elementary School who has lived in Dobbs Ferry for 52 years and volunteered with the Friends of the Dobbs Ferry Library for roughly 30 of those years. She launched and continues to oversee a section of the library that she calls the "boutique," where jewelry donated by residents of Dobbs Ferry and neighboring villages is sold to raise funds for library programs.

Christopher Mitchell, a former Irvington resident, made such an impact as the longest-serving library trustee (1990–2021) that he was honored at the gala even though he has since moved to the Kendal on Hudson community in Sleepy Hollow. Mitchell briefly served as the library board president in the early 2000s, and feels most proud of playing a significant role in the library's relocation from village hall, where the historic Tiffany Reading Room still exists, to the repurposed Burnham Building on South Astor Street, tripling the space for materials, activities, and an art gallery.

"In village hall, there was a children's room, but it was small and out of the way, and not terribly inviting," Mitchell recalled. "[We did] all the work of endless meetings and planning and fundraising to get that current children's room that has space and attractiveness and is filled with light, that draws in young readers in a way we never did before."

Fundraising for the Friends groups that financially support each library is ongoing via a silent auction that began at the gala and continues online until Thursday, Oct. 8, at 4 p.m. To bid on experiences and products from local businesses, visit *rivertowns chamber.com*.

Genocide debate

Continued from page 9

operating budget, and that is sad."

McCaffrey shared her support for the inclusion of Gaza and other mass atrocities in the course, and asked, "How can we model for the children who live in this village civil discourse if the grown-ups… feel so entitled to come to a public board meeting… scream at us, heckle us, harass us, and charge toward the school board president? What kind of modeling is that?"

During the public comment session on Sept. 23, 30-year Hastings resident Robin Herbert, whose now-adult children attended district schools, responded to assertions made at the previous board meeting by community members.

"The existence of genocide in Gaza has been recognized by the U.N. and many other organizations," she said. "Additionally, there's been widespread documentation of famine in Gaza, beginning in late 2023 and only abating recently. Time constraints don't permit a listing of all the documentation of the famine and genocide, but with respect to the famine, it's only improved as of Jan. 26, when U.N. News announced that Gazans finally received enough humanitarian aid to meet their basic food needs."

Herbert emphasized that in addition to being sensitive to the needs of Jewish students, "the school must also pay attention to caring for the needs of Arab or Muslim children who may face difficulties in these discussions."

Hastings resident Adam Hart, whose children graduated from the district, expressed support for the board and referenced his experience as a fourth-generation Jewish American.

"Although the discussions were heated last week, and some of the behavior was abhorrent, I do feel a sense of empathy to people who were hurt by the omission [of the Holocaust]… I do believe that the school is continuing to make the effort, though, to move the ball forward, and listen to the community," Hart said.

The response to the Sept. 9 public comment and the district's decision to revise the syllabus extended beyond the Hastings community. On Sept. 29, Westchester for Palestine posted on Instagram an "action alert" urging people to call or email district leaders to "restore Gaza to the curriculum." As of Oct. 1, the post has received over 850 likes and has been reposted over 150 times.

During the Sept. 23 meeting, McKersie shared that there will be roundtable discussions with community members on Oct. 15 and Oct. 22. These will include about 20 people per session, and the plan is to start with FMS families that have already contacted the district with concerns. When McCaffrey noted that this approach may exclude other families who hadn't reached out to the district, he expressed that the administration would work on expanding outreach and scheduling additional sessions.

76 North Broadway

Continued from page 11

removal of newly appointed ZBA member Keith Greenbaum. Greenbaum has lived in Irvington since 2019 and was appointed to a vacant ZBA position by the Board of Trustees in May. When village administrator Charles Hessler drafted the resolution, Clem Turner, who has been an alternate for six years, remained an alternate, and Greenbaum was added as a regular member. Hessler told the Dispatch that it wasn't until August that he realized Greenbaum had been incorrectly appointed as a member, when protocol calls for the current alternate to move into a vacant spot, and a newly appointed member to join the board as an alternate.

Hessler's realization was triggered by a conversation with other village officials over the need for Greenbaum to recuse himself from matters related to the Varma development. Those concerns stemmed from the fact that Greenbaum had signed a petition before joining the ZBA that called for the preservation of Woodcliff Manor. The last paragraph of the petition reads, "Your support is crucial in stopping the 'Big Varma' development and preserving the unique cultural legacy of Woodcliff Manor and its beautiful stone walls for generations to come."

Mayor Arlene Burgos and Greenbaum both recall the mayor telling him in April that she would appoint him to the ZBA under the condition that he agree to recuse himself from matters related to the development.

"From Facebook I saw that he had shared the petition and had what seemed to be a pretty formed opinion about the Varma project," Burgos told the Dispatch.

Burgos said Greenbaum agreed to recuse himself in April and that she would have never appointed him if he hadn't. Greenbaum told the Dispatch that he doesn't recall agreeing to recuse himself until Aug, 11, while under pressure from village officials in a private meeting, after speaking publicly about the conversation with Burgos during a July 21 public meeting of the ZBA. On Sept. 21, Greenbaum wrote a letter to the board of trustees and village officials withdrawing his August recusal, which he described in the letter as "procured through undue influence, coercion, and material misrepresentations of New York State law."

Greenbaum later told the Dispatch that he felt "intimidated" and "bullied" into recusing himself and stepping down from his ZBA position. During the July 21 meeting, Greenbaum referred to making "statements that said I was not a fan of this project" when he was a "private citizen" not serving on the ZBA.

"I didn't sign a petition that had to do with the development," Greenbaum explained. "I signed a petition for the preservation of the manor."

On Sept. 30, Katherine Zalantis, an attorney representing Varma's proposal, wrote a letter to the Zoning Board alleging that Greenbaum exhibited "contemptible behavior" after the ZBA meeting on Sept. 22 by speaking outside of the meeting room with an attorney who represents opponents of the project.

Greenbaum is set to appear before the board of trustees during a public hearing on Monday, Oct. 19, and said he feels "outmatched" without the funds for legal representation. As of Oct. 1, Greenbaum was still listed as a regular member of the ZBA on the Village website.

Sports

EDITED BY ROB DIANTONIO

Hastings shakes off slow start, tops Irvington

— VOLLEYBALL ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Hastings found itself in an early hole against Irvington, but the Yellow Jackets have already shown a knack for responding when things are not going their way.

After falling behind by seven points in the opening set, Hastings rallied and went on to sweep visiting Irvington 25–21, 25–23, 25–12 on Sept. 24.

The victory was Hastings' fifth win of the season under first-year coach Matt Cochenour.

"That's been our thing all year," Cochenour said. "We've been playing from behind because we're trying some new things. We're trying to get our culture going. We're trying to build some positive things moving forward with the young ladies, and they're working hard."

Irvington came out sharp and built a 17–10 advantage in the first set. Hastings gradually chipped away at the deficit, and senior co-captain Josie McLaughlin eventually pulled the Yellow Jackets even at 19–19 with a kill.

The teams were still deadlocked at 21–21 before Hastings took control. A couple of Irvington miscues helped the Yellow Jackets move in front, and an ace from McLaughlin was part of a closing run that gave Hastings the opening set, 25–21.

"I think it was everyone feeding off of each other's energy," senior co-captain Sara Dehgan said. "When someone gets a kill, we all celebrate like it's our own. So we kind of build off that."

Irvington again grabbed an early advantage in a back-and-forth second set, but Hastings stayed within striking distance. The Jackets eventually pulled in front and finished off another tight set when Kylie Deklin put down a kill for the final point of a 25–23 victory.



Hastings' Roxy Griffin sends it over the net as Irvington's Alice Schneider leaps for the block attempt. *Photos by Rob DiAntonio.*

Deklin led Hastings' attack with 15 kills and added three aces. Roxy Griffin had 10 kills, eight aces, four blocks, and five digs. Dehgan distributed 16 assists to go along with three kills and four digs.

"Roxy Griffin, obviously, is our middle, and she's been great all year long," Cochenour said. "She's really been helping out. The setters are making good decisions right now."





(Left) Irvington's Eliza Stern dives for the dig attempt. (Right) Hastings' Poppy Soeiro passes.

After having to rally in each of the first two sets, Hastings left little doubt in the third. With Faith Schwartz providing strong serving, the Yellow Jackets raced out to an 8–0 lead. Irvington was unable to recover as Hastings closed out the match with a decisive 25–12 third set.

The strong finish came one day after Hastings suffered its lone loss of the season, a five-set setback against Putnam Valley after the Yellow Jackets had taken the first two sets.

"That was a heartbreaker," Cochenour said. "We just lost some fundamentals there at the end and let them in at some crucial times. But we'll learn from it. It's not about how you start, it's about how you finish."

After showing flashes of potential last season, the Yellow Jackets have turned that promise into a fast start this fall. Dehgan pointed to both Cochenour's arrival and the chemistry Hastings developed during a pre-season retreat as important factors.

"The coaching is great," she said. "It's great to have a new coach, and the team has really come together. We've been able to bond off the court, and that really reflects on the court."

Irvington coach Leano Monsanto saw positives from his team, particularly in the way it opened the first two sets. The Bulldogs were coming off a loss to Dobbs Ferry the previous night and responded with better focus early against Hastings.

"They were definitely more focused," Monsanto said. "That's something we spoke about. Hastings made a few mistakes early on as well, and then they cleaned it up. While they were cleaning it up, we started making mistakes."

Paige Swift finished with eight assists and 14 digs for the Bulldogs. Piper Keltz added 13 digs and three aces, while Chloe Swift had six kills and six digs.

Irvington (3–8) lost to visiting New Rochelle 3–0 (19–25, 11–25, 21–25) on Sept. 28. Isabella Dhanoolal (6AS, 9D, 3AC), Alice Schneider (3AC), Chloe Swift (9D), and Ella Cantillana (3AS) paced the Bulldogs.

In Hastings' 28-26, 25-19, 21-25, 25-27, 13-15 loss to host Putnam Valley, Griffin (17K, 4AC, 4B, 4AS), Dehgan (25AS), and Poppy Soeiro (20AS, 5AC, 6K) sparked Hastings.

The Yellow Jackets (6–1) had a big day serving with 28 aces as they cruised past host Pawling 25–8, 25–12, 25–16 on Sept. 29. Griffin (7K, 12AC, 2B, 4AS), Dehgan (15AS, 4K), and Deklin (5AC, 8K) led the team.

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Dobbs turns tables on Put Valley

Putnam Valley had Dobbs Ferry's number

Continued on page 23

Sports

Dobbs Ferry rebounds with victory over rival Irvington

— GIRLS' SOCCER ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

After a pair of tough losses, Dobbs Ferry needed a response. Getting one against a rival made it that much sweeter.

The Eagles scored once in each half and sophomore goalkeeper Juliet Curanovic came up with several key stops as Dobbs Ferry held off host Irvington for a 2–1 victory on Sept. 28.

Junior captain Phoebe Walker finished with a goal and an assist, while sophomore Bridget Turner scored the opening goal for the Eagles, who reached the Section 1 Class B semifinals last fall.

Dobbs Ferry entered the rivalry matchup looking to bounce back after consecutive losses to Byram Hills and Pelham.

"I think playing against bigger schools was really hard, but we ended up learning more about ourselves and how we can compete with higher levels," Turner said. "By the last game against Byram Hills, we kind of got our flow of chemistry."

That chemistry showed against Irvington.

With 14:49 remaining in the first half, Walker found Turner, who struck a deep shot into the right corner of the net to give the Eagles a 1–0 advantage.

The lead remained intact through halftime, and Dobbs Ferry wasted almost no time adding to it after the break. Just 20 seconds into the second half, Turner played the ball to Clara Power, who connected with Walker. The junior slipped her shot past the goalkeeper to give the Eagles a 2–0 cushion.

Irvington needed only 19 seconds to answer. Naomi Maltz found Shea Pressman, who finished to cut the deficit to 2–1 and quickly turn the game into a battle for the final 39 minutes.

"I think just communicating and sorting through little problems throughout the game really helped us to figure it out," Turner said. "We just worked together to maintain for the rest of the half since they scored really early on."



Dobbs Ferry's Caroline Schwartz and Irvington's Zoe Sobol chase a loose ball. *Photos by Rob DiAntonio.*

Irvington continued to apply pressure as it searched for the equalizer, but Curanovic repeatedly came through. The sophomore made a key save on a close-range opportunity with 26:30 remaining and later denied Skylar Coyne on a breakaway with approximately 20 minutes to play.

Curanovic, in her first season as the Eagles' starting goalkeeper, finished with 10 saves. "She's incredible," Walker said. "We can't wait to see what she does in future years."

Dobbs Ferry had opportunities to add an insurance goal at the other end. Chella Galletta had a pair of dangerous chances in the second half, but Irvington goalie Emma Reilly kept the Eagles from extending their lead.

Ella Kreig made three saves and Reilly added six for Irvington.

The Bulldogs continued to push forward down the stretch and generated several corner kicks and set-piece opportunities, but they were unable to find the tying goal.

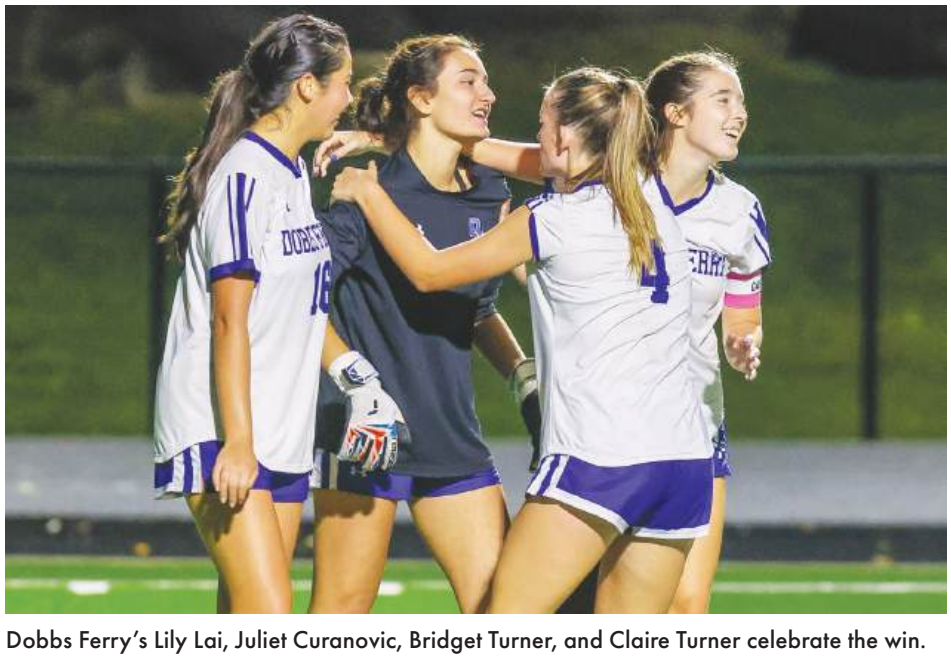
"We're looking for consistency," Irvington coach Pat DiBenedetto said. "That is the biggest thing that we talked about. We came off of a really good week last week, and coming into this week, we needed more energy and just kind of finding each other better, and we didn't do that. Capitalizing on opportunities, which we definitely had, was a big thing."

For Dobbs Ferry, the victory was a needed one following its two-game skid and came in a back-and-forth rivalry matchup that tested the Eagles throughout the second half.

"I think we really pulled it together with the great teamwork and hard work," Walker said. "I think this team really cares for each other, and we always have each other's back. We all just want what's best for each other."

Dobbs (4–3) cruised past host Scarsdale B 12–0 on Sept. 29. Walker (6G) and Power (4G, 1A) combined for 10 goals. Ivana Vuletic (1G, 1A), Ruthie Murphy (1G, 1A), Lily Newman (2A), Turner (1A), Galletta (2A), Ashleigh Avalos (1A), Caroline Schwartz (1A), and Paisley Blain (1A) contributed.

Irvington (3–2–2) blanked host Westlake 3–0 on Sept. 23. Coyne (1G, 1A), Pressman (1G), Alexis Im (1G), Ruthie Liang (1A), Krieg (4S), and Reilly (3S) led the way.



Dobbs Ferry's Lily Lai, Juliet Curanovic, Bridget Turner, and Claire Turner celebrate the win.

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Ardsley shuts down Edgemont, Westlake

Ardsley (5–3) cruised past host Edgemont 3–0 on Sept. 23. Hazel McGourty (2G), Riley Osborne (1G, 2A), and Morgan Hamlet (1A) sparked the squad. The Panthers kept rolling with a 2–0 shutout of visiting Westlake on Sept. 29. McGourty and Hamlet scored with assists from Maggie McCaffrey and Lily Champion. Elise O'Brien made four saves.

—

Sleepy bounces back with win

Sleepy Hollow (3–4–1) rebounded from an 8–1 loss to host Pleasantville on Sept. 23 with a 5–2 win over visiting Edgemont on Sept. 29. Sami Marvin (2G, 2A), Siena Spataro (2G, 2A), Meghan McMahon (1G), and Sabrina Graham paced the team against Edgemont. McMahon scored on a feed from Corina Armster against Pleasantville, with Graham making five saves.

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Hastings drops three

Hastings (3–5) lost to visiting Mahopac (6–1, Sept. 23), host Rye Neck (4–1, Sept. 25), and host Bronxville (4–1, Sept. 29). Alyssa Schlacter scored the team's lone goal in each game. Sage Wrzesinski had an assist against Bronxville. Rory McKinnon made seven saves against Mahopac, five against Rye Neck, and six more against Bronxville.

Sports

Ardsley pulls away from Panas for third-straight win

— FOOTBALL ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

After a sluggish opening quarter, Ardsley needed something to change the momentum of the game.

Senior quarterback Jack Calkins provided it — and then kept making plays in just about every way possible. Calkins returned a punt for a touchdown, threw for two scores, ran for another, and added a late interception on defense as the Panthers pulled away for a 28–6 win over visiting Walter Panas on Sept. 25.

Since opening the season with a loss to Valhalla, Ardsley has rattled off three consecutive wins to improve to 3–1.

"We've been more locked in as a team," Calkins said. "We've been just working to get to the next week, and every week we're just going to keep doing that."

Neither offense was able to generate much in the opening quarter, but Calkins broke the scoreless tie early in the second when he fielded a punt near midfield and took it 50 yards for a touchdown. Conor Lenihan added the first of his four extra points for a 7–0 lead.

"I think that was momentum-changing for us," Ardsley coach Phil Treglia said. "I'm proud of the boys for converting their opportunities in tough situations."

Panas answered with a 2-yard touchdown run with 2:17 left in the half, but its two-point attempt failed. Ardsley responded immediately. Calkins connected with Tommy Bennett for a 78-yard gain that moved the Panthers deep into Panas territory. Calkins finished the drive with a 4-yard touchdown run, sending Ardsley into halftime with a 14–6 advantage.

"We worked together as a team, and when it came to halftime, we switched our game plan," Calkins said. "We knew what we had to do. Offensively, we fixed what was the problem, and defensively, we just stood our ground."

Ardsley took control in the second half. Calkins found Xavier Estime for a big conversion on third-and-27 before connecting with Bennett for a 20-yard touchdown late in the third quarter to extend the lead to 21–6.

Calkins then hit Dom Carpenito for 33 yards early in the fourth quarter before going back to him for a 6-yard touchdown in the corner of the end zone, putting Ardsley ahead 28–6.

Calkins completed seven of 13 passes for 212 yards and two touchdowns while rushing nine times for 56 yards and a score. Bennett caught two passes for 100 yards and a touchdown, while Carpenito had three receptions for 45 yards and a score. "I've been playing with these guys my whole life, and I have so much trust in these dudes," Calkins said.



Ardsley's Tristen Roberts rushes for the perimeter. *Photos by Rob DiAntonio.*

Treglia believes that versatility gives the Panthers plenty to work with offensively.

"We have a lot of athletes, so we can definitely spread the ball around," he said. "Jack's been playing well. He can run the ball. He can pass the ball. He's still learning as a quarterback, so we're looking for good things as we move forward."

Defensively, Tristen Roberts recorded six tackles, Jeremy Dawud Platt had five in his first game back from injury, and Lenihan finished with four tackles and a sack.

The Panthers have responded well since their opening loss, but their three-game winning streak will now be tested by a significant step up in competition. Ardsley travels to unbeaten Pearl River on Oct. 2 before returning home to host unbeaten Westlake on Oct. 9.

"Each game's a different story," Treglia said. "We're looking forward to our next opponent, which is Pearl River, a very strong team. We have a lot of things in practice to work on to get up to the challenge."

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Horsemen earn first win vs. Hastings

After three consecutive losses to open the season, Sleepy Hollow went back to the basics. The result was the Horsemen's first win of the season.

Sleepy Hollow scored four first-half touchdowns on its way to a 27–14 win over visiting Hastings on Sept. 28.

"The keys this week were focusing on basic football," Sleepy Hollow coach Anthony Giuliano said. "Blocking, running hard, tackling, and rallying to the ball. Our focus all week was getting back to the basics and just executing the little things that often get overlooked."

The defending Section 1 Class B champions wasted little time taking control. Quarterback Jeremiah Bowen connected with Jack Marvin for a 61-yard touchdown on a third-and-5 to put the Horsemen ahead 6–0 less than 2 minutes into the game.

After the Sleepy Hollow defense forced a three-and-out, Olin Keough broke through the middle for a 70-yard touchdown run and a 13–0 advantage.

The Horsemen added to their lead in the second quarter. Michael Variano blocked a Hastings punt to give Sleepy Hollow the ball at the Yellow Jackets' 38-yard line. Bowen later finished the drive with a 7-yard touchdown run to make it 20–0.

Bowen delivered a big special-teams play just before halftime, returning a punt for a touchdown with 13 seconds remaining to send the Horsemen into the break with a commanding 27–0 lead.

Keough finished with 136 yards and a touchdown on 13 carries. Bowen completed four of eight passes for 116 yards with a touchdown while adding the rushing score. Marvin caught four passes for 116 yards and a touchdown.

Hastings responded in the second half with a pair of touchdown passes from Avi Rothstein to Lucas Seelye. Seelye finished with four catches for 88 yards and two touchdowns while adding an interception. Aidan Hansen recovered a fumble.

For the Horsemen, the victory was an important response after its difficult start.

"After the 0–3 start, we did a nice job of understanding that what's in the past is uncontrollable and just focusing on our next opponent," Giuliano said. "This was only our second league game of six on the schedule, so being able to get to 1–1 in league play was really important."

Sleepy Hollow (1–3) travels to Tappan Zee on Oct. 2, while Hastings (0–4) visits Pelham the same day.

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Late heroics lift Irvington past Rye Neck

Irvington (2–2) scored the go-ahead touchdown with 1 minute left on a 25-yard pass from Julian Peres to Harrison Malakoff to propel them to a 20–14 win over host Rye Neck at Mamaroneck High School on Sept. 28.

Adrian Aybar rushed for 113 yards and a touchdown for the Bulldogs. Peres completed 11 of 15 passes and had touchdown passes to Malakoff and Bobby Estrada.

Defensively, Vontre Harris came up with several key stops down the stretch including a sack for a big loss. He added an interception. Josh Tatz led the defense with six tackles while Grant Malakoff and Harrison Malakoff added four and three tackles, respectively. Jarrett Ourman had an interception. "Our game was won by our defense shutting them down from the second quarter to the end," Irvington coach James Madison said. "They played awesome."

The Bulldogs host Albertus Magnus on Oct. 2.

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Dobbs falls to Bronxville

In a rematch of last season's Section 1 Class C championship game, host Dobbs Ferry (2–2) trailed by just a touchdown at halftime but lost to visiting Bronxville 28–0 on Sept. 25. The Eagles travel to St. Dominic's (Long Island) on Oct. 2.





(Left) Ardsley's Jack Calkins looks to shake a tackle attempt. (Right) Sleepy Hollow's Jack Marvin heads for the end zone for a score.

Sports

Sleepy Hollow/Briarcliff edges Hastings for victory in overtime

— VARSITY ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO



Eliza Boozer and Jana Reimer defend against Celia Ayuso. *Photos by Rob DiAntonio.*

Field hockey

Sleepy Hollow/Briarcliff spent much of the second half knocking on the door. It finally broke through in overtime.

Lark Goldsmith scored off an Eliza Boozer assist on a penalty corner just two minutes into overtime to lift Sleepy Hollow/Briarcliff to a 2–1 win over visiting Hastings on Sept. 28.

After Hastings controlled much of the opening half, Sleepy Hollow/Briarcliff tied the game just before halftime and dictated play from there on, generating a steady stream of scoring chances and penalty corners.

"We were finally getting the ball into the circle," Sleepy Hollow/Briarcliff coach Mike Marchese said. "That's been kind of a tough point for us this year, and we worked on it a lot in practice over the last week. Getting the ball into the circle and then following up into the circle, getting shots on goal. We did that a lot better this game than we have all season."

Hastings struck first with 5 minutes remaining in the second quarter. Celia Ayuso scored on a rebound following a shot by Ruby Jacobsen to give the Yellow Jackets a 1–0 lead.

But Sleepy Hollow/Briarcliff answered with just 16 seconds remaining in the half. Ruby Wild-Arons converted off a penalty corner on an assist from Boozer to even the score at 1–1.

From there, Sleepy Hollow/Briarcliff took over. The hosts consistently pressured the Hastings defense throughout the second half but couldn't find the go-ahead goal in regulation. Hastings goalies Ella Rizzo and Elodie Dodziuk helped keep the Yellow Jackets in the game — Rizzo finished with 14 saves and Dodziuk made four.

The breakthrough finally came in overtime when Boozer picked up her second assist of the game, setting up Goldsmith for the game-winner on a corner.

Wild-Arons, a senior captain, felt Sleepy Hollow/Briarcliff's ability to make adjustments throughout the game helped fuel the turnaround.

"Every single huddle we have, we say things that are directly applied in the following quarter," Wild-Arons said. "We're great listeners and that's part of our team chemistry. We kind of felt that we could take control of the game, and then we did because we talked about it and we applied that."



Sleepy Hollow/Briarcliff's Ruby Wild-Arons controls the ball.

Hastings coach Christina Gagliardi felt her team was unable to match Sleepy Hollow/Briarcliff's increased intensity after halftime.

"I think Sleepy turned on and we kind of stayed at our level and didn't meet their level after that," Gagliardi said. "We have to keep our momentum up and not let one goal get us down."

Sleepy Hollow/Briarcliff goalie Jana Reimer made six saves, all in the first half, as the hosts improved to 2–5. Hastings fell to 2–3–2.

For Sleepy Hollow/Briarcliff, the victory was another sign of progress after facing a challenging schedule early in the season.

"I love this team," Wild-Arons said. "We played a lot of great, fast-paced teams earlier in the season. Obviously, that was hard for some of our new players, to come out and get bashed by some of the early teams. But I think it was great conditioning. I think the reason that we can play at the speed at which we played today is because we played so many good teams at the start of the season."

Irvington (3–3) endured a pair of losses to host Pleasantville (6–0, Sept. 24) and visiting Pawling (5–0, Sept. 28).

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Boys' soccer

Dobbs Ferry (4–3–1) has won four-straight games, most recently winning home games against Leffell School (4–2, Sept. 23) and Ossining B (2–1, Sept. 28).

Chase Colyer, who has 15 goals and five assists through eight games, scored all four goals against Leffell. Max Arellano tallied two assists and Jonas Serulle had one. Elijah Burns made nine saves. Colyer scored both goals against Ossining, with Assanov netting one assist. Burns made four saves.

Hastings (6–1–1) cruised past visiting Keio Academy 5–1 on Sept. 24. Louis Von Rege scored three goals, with Kai Ghalib and Joaquin Toledo-Chae adding one goal each. Justin Wilmot made five saves.

Sleepy Hollow (3–3–1) was blanked by visiting Tappan Zee 3–0 on Sept. 28.

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Girls' tennis

Ardsley blanked visiting Blind Brook 4–0 on Sept. 25. Summer Lopez (6-4, 6-2) and LilyRosey Parashis (6-0, 6-0) won in singles. Victorious doubles teams were Kimaya Sood and Hayden Weiss (6-4, 6-4), and Keira Hayden and Juliette An (6-1, 6-3).

The Panthers also defeated visiting Hastings 4–1 on Sept. 23. Lopez (6-3, 6-1) and Sood (6-3, 6-3) won in singles for the Panthers. Their doubles winners were Weiss and Avery McCormack (6-1, 6-1), and Weiss and An (5-7, 6-2, 1-0). Hastings' doubles team of Ava Levinson and Aine Lynch (7-6, 6-4) won their match.

Irvington defeated visiting Tuckahoe 5–0 on Sept. 27. Sophia Orton (8-0) and Abigail Brandwein (8-0) won their singles matches. In doubles, the winning teams were Anya Foley and Marina Foley (8-0), Jordan Henry and Mackenzie Lee (8-0), and Isla Daly and Delanie Mendelson (8-0).

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Girls' swimming

Ardsley/Dobbs Ferry (3–0) handily defeated host Tsunami 113–70 on Sept. 25. Fiamma Cioffi won the 500-yard freestyle (5:26.32) and 200 IM (2:16.75). Other first-place finishers included Isla Harris (200 freestyle, 2:04.89), Daphne Green (100 butterfly, 1:05.87), and Mackenzie Cabello (100 breaststroke, 1:13.81).

Ardsley/Dobbs swept the three relays. They won the 200 medley relay (2:01.37) with a squad of Green, Cabello, Cioffi, and Emma DeFilippis. They were first in the 200 freestyle relay (1:52.90) behind Harris, Cabello, Charlize Diab, and Alba Iacobazzi. They capped it off by winning the 400 freestyle relay (4:04.51) with a team of Harris, Green, DeFilippis, and Cioffi.

Volleyball roundup

Continued from page 20

last season. The Tigers defeated the Eagles twice during the regular season and rallied in the Section 1 Class B championship game to hand them a heartbreaking defeat.

Dobbs (7–1) was out for some revenge when it traveled to Put Valley on Sept. 29, when the Eagles found what they were looking for in the form of a straight-set 25–22, 25–22, 25–13 sweep.

Taylor Denike (13K, 15D), Grace Demitrovic (4K, 15AS, 3AC, 14D), Natasha Mansfield (8K, 4AC, 18D), Layla Wilbekin (12AS, 2AC, 14D), and Brielle Jean (3B) sparked the team.

The Eagles cruised past host Eastchester 25–17, 25–20, 25–23 a day earlier. Demitrovic (17AS, 2AC), Denike (17K, 12D, 3B), Mansfield (8K, 6AC, 17D), Wilbekin (12AS, 8D), and Kayla Rukaj (4K, 4B) paced the squad.

Dobbs defeated visiting Irvington 25–13, 25–9, 25–12 on Sept. 23. Denike (11K, 9D), Demitrovic (15AS, 5AC), Mansfield (6K, 5AC), Hollen Peet (5K), Jean (3K), and Jocelyn Jakasal (4AC, 10D) led the way.

Paige Swift (5AS, 9D), Chloe Swift (10D), and Piper Keltz (7D) paced the Bulldogs.

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Ardsley splits a pair

Ardsley (5–4) went on the road twice, defeating Tappan Zee 3–0 (25–21, 26–24, 25–18) while falling to Yorktown 3–1 (15–25, 22–25, 25–15, 23–25). Against TZ, Sophie Young (13K, 4AC, 9D), Zaniya Bell (9K, 14D), Serena Emanuele (7K, 19D), Morgan Macri (5K, 4D), Sophia Pecora (29D), and Katherine Cai (30AS, 13D, 4AC) stuffed the stat sheet. Against Yorktown, Cai (14D, 33AS), Young (11K, 3AC, 12D), Emanuele (9K, 3AC, 18D), Macri (9K, 4B, 5D), Bell (9K, 2B, 2AC, 14D), and Pecora (29D, 2AC) paced the Panthers.

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