

“The music can imply what it wants you to say.”

Jazz vocalist Ruby Pucillo
p 9



Tech Angels earn wings
Teens provide free help with using electronic devices
p 10

RIVERTOWNS

Dispatch

Local News,
Locally Sourced

\$2⁵⁰

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



HASTINGS

Water unresistant

Eighteen-year-old Joe Abirizk (center) sinks as he attempts to participate in the annual cardboard boat regatta at Chemka Pool in Hastings on Saturday, July 25. He is flanked by his brother Peter Abirizk (right) and lifeguard Jet Spiro (left). For additional information, turn to page 9.



'Humans of Ardsley' taps stories
p 5

“Demolishing Woodcliff, as the applicant is proposing, sets a bad precedent...”

Architect Peter Budeiri of Irvington



Summer league wraps up in Irvington
p 14



'You are not alone'
Fundraiser aids mental wellness nonprofit
p 3

Cabrini joins challenge to new right-to-die law

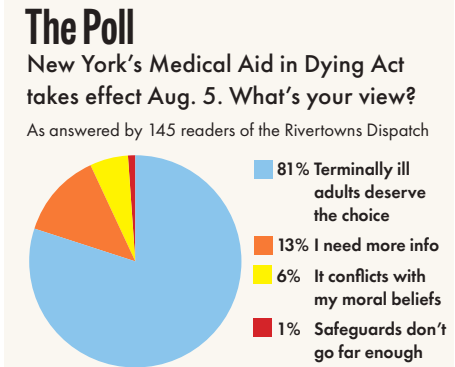
Catholic institutions file lawsuit against NYS officials

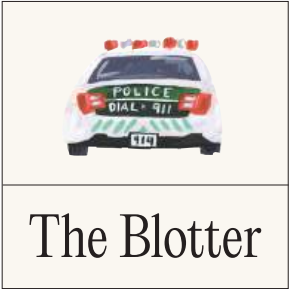
BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

DOBBS FERRY As the Medical Aid in Dying (MAID) Act takes effect in New York on Wednesday, Aug. 5, Cabrini of Westchester in Dobbs Ferry is one of 13 Catholic institutions involved in a lawsuit against New York State officials over the law, which allows terminally ill patients access medication that accelerates death. The Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne, operators of the Rosary Hill Home in Thornwood, are also part of the lawsuit.

The MAID Act, which Gov. Kathy Hochul signed in February, lays out a process for terminally ill patients to request a drug, which they must self-administer, for the purpose of ending their life. The law includes provisions to ensure that the person is mentally competent to make the request, and is not being coerced by someone who stands to benefit, financially or otherwise, from the person's death.

Continued on page 15





The Blotter

ARDSLEY

Larceny attempt arrest:

A 36-year-old resident of Augusta, Maine, was arrested on June 24 for impersonating a customer and attempting to withdraw \$35,000 from the Trustco Bank at 33-35 Center St. on June 17. She was charged with attempted grand larceny in the third degree, a felony; criminal impersonation in the second degree, a misdemeanor; and criminal possession of a forged instrument in the third degree, a misdemeanor. Det. Nick Guccione made the arrest.

Healthcare fraud: On July 22, an Ardsley resi-

dent received a fraudulent phone call from someone who claimed to work for UnitedHealthcare and who stated that the resident's personal information was used in China. She was also provided a fraudulent phone number for the Hangzhou Police Department.

Thefts from vehicles:

Unlocked vehicles were entered on Bramblebrook Road, Judson Avenue, Lincoln Avenue, McKinley Place, Prospect Avenue, and Ridge Road during the predawn hours of Friday, July 24. Cash, a bracelet, and personal papers were stolen. More than one security camera recorded an unidentified man in that area.

DOBBS FERRY

More than intended:

On July 20, a Dobbs Ferry resident reported that an organization to which he had donated \$50 had charged \$100 to his credit card.

Larceny, contempt, and mischief arrests: A 43-year-old Dobbs Ferry resident was arrested for stealing a relative's cellphone on Tuesday, June 21, and then cutting a phone line and violating an order of protection on Thursday, June 23. The second arrest was related to the first. She was charged with three misdemeanors — petit larceny, criminal contempt in the second degree, and criminal mischief in the fourth degree. Officer Jonathan Sordellini made the arrests.

Burglary attempt: Attempts were made to force open a basement door at The Master's School, 49 Clinton Ave., on the morning of Monday, July 20, and the afternoon of Saturday, July 25. Three youths fled during the second incident.

Mischief at park: Graffiti was painted on a retaining wall around the basketball court at Gould Park

between Monday, July 20, and Tuesday, July 21.

Theft of package: On July 22, a Beacon Hill Drive resident reported that a package expected on July 16 was never received. The package contained a necklace purchased through eBay for \$1,329.

Theft from vehicles:

Unlocked vehicles were entered on Henry Court during the predawn hours of Friday, July 24. A car alarm sounded at 4:30 a.m. Quarters were stolen.

HASTINGS

Check fraud: On July 21, a Hastings resident reported that two checks he made out in May were altered and then deposited, and that a counterfeit check was also deposited. The names of the payees were changed on the first two checks. The three checks totaled \$53,000.

Hit and run: The driver's

Continued on page 8

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Fundraiser nets \$94K for mental wellness nonprofit

JCK Foundation hosts events in Irvington and Dobbs Ferry

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

REGION The 16th edition of the JCK Foundation's Legends Day softball tournament raised about \$94,000 to support mental wellness on Saturday, July 25.

The annual event honors the life and struggles of John Cleaver Kelly, a former Irvington resident who died by suicide 15 years ago after suffering from obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). Kelly died one week shy of his 25th birthday. Four months later his close friends organized the first Legends Day tournament, which took place before the JCK Foundation existed. Team Celtic Corner won this year's tournament at Scenic Hudson Park in Irvington, which featured six teams, with players ranging in age from 15 to 68.

As has been the case each Legends Day, Kelly's parents, Dr. Stephen Kelly and Janet Kelly, were cheering on the sidelines.

Dobbs Ferry native John Tessitore, who was a close friend of Kelly and also has OCD, founded the JCK Foundation and continues to lead the organization. Every year, he visits schools throughout the country to speak to students about mental health and emphasize the Foundation's motto, "You Are Not Alone." Stephen and Janet Kelly visit at least one school per year with Tessitore and see the Foundation's impact on students who need the support their son needed.

"If the Foundation was around when John was around, he might still be around," Stephen Kelly told the Dispatch.

"It gets me emotional and it makes me really proud," Tessitore, 36, said in response to Stephen Kelly's reflection. "We might not realize it every day, but we really are changing lives. Every time I go to a school, I always



Participants gather at home plate before the start of the softball tournament.

envision that I'm talking to a 17-year-old John Kelly."

This past year Tessitore led presentations at 80 schools nationwide, including Irvington Middle School and Dobbs Ferry High School, as well as Kelly's alma mater, Regis High School, and Ho-Ho-Kus (N.J.) Middle School, which Kelly's niece and two nephews attended.

As the Legends Day community grows, Kelly's parents have gone from recognizing the majority of players as personal friends of their son to an increasing number of participants who never met him. Besides competition and laughs, Legends Day has become a space to normalize sharing mental health struggles

with friends or seeking professional help.

"When John was struggling, I advised him not to tell anyone because it would be a trauma on his life, that he might not be able to get a job if someone found out he had a mental illness," Stephen Kelly recalled. "Today, people just talk about it, they know what it is, it's a medical issue that can be treated."

Each Legends Day tournament draws friends of Kelly and Tessitore from as far away as California and Florida to participate in what has become a tradition for both Irvington and Dobbs Ferry. After the softball games, Legends Day migrated to Memorial Park in Dobbs Ferry for pizza, ice cream, arts and crafts, a cornhole tournament, and a kids' homerun derby. In May of last year, the Memorial Park basketball court was repainted to include the JCK Foundation logo at center court; John Kelly's signature; the words "Legends Court"; and the phrase "You Are Not Alone."

Since the inaugural tournament, Legends Day has grown to be enjoyed not only by John Kelly's friends, but their children as well. This past April 4 would've been her his 40th birthday.

"It's hard, because we see his friends who have been married with children, and that's what John wanted, but it wasn't meant to be," Janet Kelly said. "But we're happy for all of his friends who are here and have beautiful lives."

Kelly's legacy lives on through students reached by the Foundation, which held presentations in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Wyoming, and Sweden during the last three months of the school year. Last year, a pair of Dobbs Ferry High School

juniors started a JCK Foundation Ambassador Club at the high school, and plan to continue it during their senior year. There are Ambassador Clubs at five schools in New York, operating with guidance from the JCK Foundation and school staff to provide safe spaces for mental health conversations throughout the school year. Due to fundraising support through efforts like Legends Day, the Foundation also launched a partnership with the Westchester-based substance abuse prevention and early intervention nonprofit Student Assistance Services.

"When we present at a school, if someone wants another resource outside of a school counselor, they can reach out to this number and a mental health professional will connect them with the next steps," Tessitore explained about the partnership.

The JCK Foundation is developing a documentary, filmed in Iowa, called "If You Build It," inspired by the baseball film "Field of Dreams," which was also shot in Iowa. The documentary follows the stories of locals facing their own mental health challenges. In August, Tessitore will present to a school in Arkansas for the first time, kicking off another school year visiting 80 schools and a projected 32,000 students.

"You go to these different places around the country, and this is home," Tessitore said. "JCK just feels like home and feels like home for a lot of people, and I want it to stay like that forever. When I'm 80 years old I hope we can look back and this is still happening."

For more information about the JCK Foundation, or to donate, visit jckfoundation.org.



John Tessitore (right) and the Kelly's Heroes team rally before their first game.

RW250 leader
reflects on history
as a habit of mind

BY TIMOTHY REUTER

The Rivertowns Dispatch Podcast recently spoke with Constance Kehoe, president of Revolutionary Westchester 250 (RW250) and former deputy mayor of Irvington. RW250 is a nonprofit organization formed to promote Westchester County's role in the American Revolution. The transcript excerpted below is lightly edited for clarity. You can listen to the full interview on Spotify or Apple Podcasts or visit anchor.fm/rivertownsdispatch.

Rivertowns Dispatch Podcast (RDP): When people think about the American Revolution, why is Westchester so often overlooked? And what is the most important part of its history that Americans should know?

Kehoe: You know, I've been scratching my head about that for eight or nine years, now that I've been fully immersed in this. But



Constance Kehoe at her home in Irvington

I get it. Philadelphia grabs people's imagination. Boston has Lexington and Concord and Paul Revere. Yorktown, Virginia, was the big thing at the end of the war. Saratoga was a big turning point.

But what happened in Westchester? Our Hudson River was the key to which side would actually come out victorious at the end. The Port of New York, the Hudson River, connected New England to the rest of the colonies, now states. Both the British

and Washington knew that, and that's why you hear a lot about West Point.

But a lot of things that happened in Westchester were defeats and were gruesome. And so, if you see the stamps this year about the 250, they're all about the things that were wins. But when Washington lost and when there were setbacks, which there were in Westchester, he learned a lot about how to survive; lose the battle, win the war. So that's one reason.

And the other part is in the past. The civilian life of people during this time period, I mean the unsung people, the women, the enslaved, the free blacks, everybody, the children, the blacksmith, the farmers, the tenant farmers, their lives were kind of left out of the narrative. But that is what happened here. For eight years we were contested territory. So there were raids and burnings and marauders because neither army controlled this part of the country for most of those eight years.

RDP: What do you hope Westchester residents will take away from the 250th anniversary after the ceremony and celebrations are over?

Kehoe: My biggest hope is for the next generation. Because being aware of history, and being aware of what historians do to dig out the puzzle of what actually happened, is a habit of mind that is, to me, a really important part of what we human beings ought to do with our minds, and that is to be a good consumer of information. So when you see that things are not just so cut and dried, you read one speech that somebody gave at an Albany conference about something he said happened 50 years earlier, and you say, that's what happened. But wait a minute, aren't there competing bits of information?

So preponderance of evidence, habits of

Continued on page 12

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ARDSLEY

Volunteer at Monarch Meadow

Saturday, Aug. 1, 8–11 a.m.; rain date Aug. 8. Pascone Park behind the softball fields. RSVP: jennifer.nordhem@gmail.com

Mobile Shredder

Saturday, Aug. 1, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Concord Road Elementary School.

Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, Aug. 3, 7:30 p.m. Village Hall. To attend via Zoom, visit ardsleyvillage.gov

Senior Event: Ice Cream Social

Wednesday, Aug. 5, noon–1 p.m. Ardsley Community Center.

Summer Reading Club: Closing Party

Thursday, Aug. 6, 5 p.m.

Ardsley Public Library. For kids who've just finished grades K–5. Register at ardsleypubliclibrary.org

Summer Concert Series: The Clapton Project

Saturday, Aug. 8, 6–8 p.m. Pascone Park

Free; bring a blanket or chair to sit on the lawn

Ayo Obi Ardsley Tennis Tournament

Saturday, Sept. 19, and Sunday, Sept. 20. Rain dates: Sept 26–27. Register at ardsleyny.myrec.com



— STUDENT NEWS —

Drama Club honorees

The Ardsley High School Drama Club welcomed eight new members into the International Thespian Society on June 10, awarded six performers for their achievements in theater, and presented graduating seniors with their thespian medals. The inductees were *Mateo Agüero*, *Rebecca Ahn*, *Aaliyah Bello*, *Alessandra Ciriello*, *Lea Federman*, *Gabriella Mueller*, *Emma Poritsky*, and *Kayla Tardibono*.

The award recipients were *Allan Archer* (Diamond Distinguished Thespian), *Lea Federman* (Shining Star), *Piya Karthikeyan* (Rising Star), *Tiernan Kenny* (Breakout Star), *Syd Levitan* (Renaissance Thespian), and *Sophia Manalang* (Best Thespian).

Book award winners

Shrinand Patnaik and *Avery Xu* received the Harvard University and University of Pennsylvania Book Awards, which are awarded to high school juniors nationwide. Patnaik and Xu are students in Jessica Berman's A.P. United States History class.

Door decorating winners

The sixth-grade team of *Savanna Impellizzeri*, *Hania Ali*, and *Hera Ruy* placed first in the Ardsley Middle School's America 250 Door Decorating Contest. Eighteen teams of students across grades 5–8 participated in the contest, which challenged them to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Italian Honor Society inductees

Ardsley High School students *Dominick Carpenito*, *Daniella DiGiorno*, *Lea Federman*, *Angelina Fiordimalva*, and *Johah London* were inducted into the Società Onoraria Italica, the National Italian Honor Society for High School Students, sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Italian.

Gold level leader

Thomas Sassalos earned a gold-level leadership milestone through SUNY Oneonta's Leadership Education Development (LEAD) program. Completion of that level requires attending 19 events designated with a learning outcome (three must be diversity events), participating in four recognized organizations, completing three online courses (Foundations of Leadership, Personal Development, Organizational Development), and serving as an officer in a club or organization for at least two semesters (average of 219 hours to complete). Sassalos is studying professional accounting.

SUNY Oneonta honors

Jason Cramer was inducted into the Beta Gamma Sigma honor society at SUNY Oneonta on April 24, and was named to the dean's list for the spring semester. Cramer is majoring in business administration.

Got news?

Email staff writer Amy Bochner at amy@rivertownsdispatch.com



Sheila Narayanan and Sania Samad

'Humans of Ardsley' taps residents' stories

Registrations being accepted for workshop on Oct. 4

BY AMY BOCHNER

For Sheila Narayanan and Sania Samad, their shared love of storytelling means a scheduled 45-minute meet-up can turn into a 2-hour conversation. As the two recently sat in the shade at Pascone Park, they told the Dispatch how what brought them together as friends also led to the creation of "Humans of Ardsley," which seeks to promote community

through personal narratives.

The project, which is based on shared storytelling, is also spearheaded by fellow Ardsley resident Anju Kurian, and supported by the Village's Multicultural, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (MDIC).

A challenge in Ardsley, Narayanan said, is that the social scene is centered on the schools. Her experience living here for five years before her daughter was born taught her that if you don't have children in the district, "you don't have that same community."

Village-led efforts to bring people together,

she continued, often bring out the same core group of residents. Although MDIC events are open to everyone, Narayanan has found that few people who aren't part of the culture being celebrated attend. This prompted Narayanan to question how to broaden the social scene to include a cross-section of residents, regardless of their cultural background or whether they have children in the schools.

Samad, an artist, found a solution through the Ardsley Story Quilt, which she began in 2024 in collaboration with the MDIC. Over

Continued on page 8



Park rock

Fifth Plain performs as part of the summer concert series at Pascone Park on Saturday, July 25. The band consists of 2025 Ardsley High School graduates Mia Dapice, Dominic Dapice, Josh Sanders, and Liam Tierney, and 2026 Dobbs Ferry High School graduate Ryan Brennan. The concert series continues with the Clapton Project on Saturday, Aug. 8, from 6–8 p.m.



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Tooth be told

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

When do you actually need your wisdom teeth out?

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

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

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

the only tooth replacement option thats actually alive.

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

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



Dr. Julia Abend
DDS | Parlor Dental



DOBBS FERRY

Dino Dodgeball for Tweens & Teens

Wednesday, Aug. 5, 4–5 p.m.
Dobbs Ferry Public Library
Register by emailing teens@dobbsferrylibrary.org

Outdoor Concert: Pianist Spike Wilner

Wednesday, Aug. 5, 6:30–8 p.m. Waterfront Park. Family-friendly Jitterbugs Jam begins at 5:30. Cancellation due to weather will be announced by 2 p.m. at jazzforumarts.org

Storycraft: Dinosaur Project for Ages 2–4

Thursday, Aug. 6, 10:30 a.m.
Dobbs Ferry Public Library

Library Field Day at the OCA
Thursday, Aug. 6, 3–4 p.m.
Keeper's House, 15 Walnut St.
Free outdoor games, races, and more for ages 3+. Registration required: childrens@dobbsferrylibrary.org

dobbsferrylibrary.org

**Planning/Architectural
Review Board Meeting**
Thursday, Aug. 6, 7 p.m.
Village Hall.

River Jam and Food Trucks
Friday, Aug. 7, 7–9 p.m.

Waterfront Park. Featuring folk-rock singer-songwriter Dan Zlotnick

**Movie on the Trail:
"Remember the Titans"**
Friday, Aug. 7, 8:30 p.m.
Keeper's House. Bring your own chair and refreshments.



— STUDENT NEWS —

SUNY Buffalo graduates

Sammy Georgioudakis, Liberty McCormack, Jordan Palmer, Anthony Panaro, Daniel Stern, and Sujin Yoo earned bachelor's degrees from SUNY Buffalo. Georgioudakis graduated cum laude with a degree in business administration and was named to the dean's list for the spring semester. McCormack graduated cum laude with a degree in exercise science and was named to the dean's list for the spring semester. Palmer graduated with a degree in exercise science. Panaro graduated with a degree in communication. Stern graduated cum laude with a degree in business administration and was named to the dean's list for the spring semester. Yoo graduated magna cum laude with a degree in biomedical sciences and was named to the dean's list for the spring semester.

Charleston graduate

Eric Dowd earned a bachelor's degree in environmental and sustainability studies and sustainability and 21st century business solutions from the College of Charleston and was named to the president's list for the spring semester.

SUNY Oneonta graduates

Taylor Broccoli earned a bachelor's degree in communication studies from SUNY Oneonta on May 16 and was named to the dean's list for the spring semester.

SUNY Potsdam graduate

Jacob Bobson earned a master's degree in social studies middle/secondary education from SUNY Potsdam on May 16.

SUNY Oneonta graduate

Megan McDade earned a master's degree in education from SUNY Oneonta on May 16. McDade completed the literacy education all grades program.

Adelphi graduate

Matthew Branch graduated from Adelphi University on May 21.

Hamilton graduate

Esther Schriever earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Hamilton College on May 24 and was named to the dean's list for the spring semester.

James Madison graduate

Robert Sanzo earned a bachelor's degree in communication studies from James Madison University.

Alabama graduate

Jillian Anderson earned a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Alabama and was named to the president's list for the spring semester.

Roger Williams graduate

Matthew McCormack earned a bachelor's degree in marine biology from Roger Williams University.



Hayley Parker Barker at Paradise. Photo by Tim Lamorte.

Reading Ninja shaves frozen Paradise

*Pop-up shop to be open
through Oct. 3*

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Fans of flavored Hawaiian shaved ice, or anyone willing to try a new frozen refreshment, have just over two more months to visit Paradise in Dobbs Ferry before the pop-up shop closes as the warm weather subsides.

Located at 63 Main Street, the shop offers 28 flavors including mango, orange, bubblegum, and cotton candy, is run by Dobbs Ferry resident and mother of three Hayley

Parker Barker.

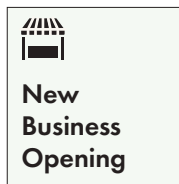
"The 28 [flavor menu] is even pared down from what's available in this industry," Barker told the Dispatch. "Since I know it's kind of a new dessert for people, I didn't want to overwhelm."

Barker first fell in love with Hawaiian shaved ice as an adolescent living in Utah who visited family friends on the Hawaiian island of Kauai. During those trips, Barker recalls shaved ice being a daily treat, which she still enjoys. At her shop, Barker uses a Japanese

machine that produces ice that she describes as, "extremely fine, so it comes out fluffy, white, and melts in your mouth." The only other ingredients are flavored concentrates and pure sugar cane syrups.

Since moving to the East Coast to attend college at the Fashion Institute of Technology, Barker has spent the better part of the last two decades living in New York. Shortly after graduating, she launched a line of kids' clothes called Culdesac, which

Continued on page 15



Octet earns gold

For the second-straight year, the Dobbs Ferry High School Octet, led by teacher Georgia DeFalco, earned a gold with distinction rating at the NYSSMA Majors, which was held at Townsend Harris High School in Queens on June 1. The Octet consists of Miranda Cabrera, Kennedy Collins, Olivia DiLallo, Sloane DiSimone, Chella Galletta, Anika Johnston, Yael Klein, Laila Storms, Maisie VanNess, and Phoebe Walker.



Got news?

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

The Blotter

Continued from page 2

side of a 2017 Subaru Outback in the process of being parked on southbound Warburton Avenue was hit by a southbound vehicle that left the scene on the afternoon of Wednesday, July 22.

Suspended licenses: Two drivers were arrested for suspended licenses, a misdemeanor, and cited for unregistered vehicles, a violation — a 40-year-old Dobbs Ferry resident on Farragut Avenue on the morning of Friday, July 24, and a 25-year-old Bronx resident on Ravensdale Road on the morning of Saturday, July 25.

Check fraud: On July 24, a Hastings resident reported that a \$904 check mailed at the Ardsley Post Office on July 9 was altered and then deposited for \$5,000 on July 14. The name of the payee was also changed.

Teens on roof: Two 15-year-olds and one 16-year-old used scaffolding surrounding the Farragut Complex (middle/high school) to climb onto the roof of that building on the evening of Friday, July 24.

Hit and run: The driver's side of a 2002 Toyota Camry parked on northbound Warburton Avenue was hit by a northbound vehicle that left the scene on the afternoon of Saturday, July 25.

Vehicles entered: Unlocked vehicles on Farragut Avenue, Hamilton Avenue, Prescott Place, Prince Street, and Rosedale Avenue were entered between Sunday, July 26, and Monday, July 27. Nothing was stolen.

Dead deer: A deer died after being hit by a car on Broadway (Route 9) on the morning of Monday, July 27.

IRVINGTON

Fraudulent charge: On July 24, an Irvington resident reported that his email account and credit card were used to rent a car for \$1,558.90 from an Avis in Berwyn, Pa.

Graffiti at Halsey: Antisemitic and racist graffiti were found scratched into the top of a wall at Halsey Pond on the morning of Saturday, July 25. The Irvington Recreation and Parks Department removed the graffiti. That afternoon, Mayor Arlene Burgos, Police Chief Frank Pignatelli, and the board of trustees sent an email blast stating that “There is no place in our community for antisemitism, racism, hate, or any act that seeks to divide us. Irvington stands firmly against all forms of hatred and discrimination. We are a community built on respect, inclusion, and mutual understanding, and we will not allow acts of hate to define who we are.”

Humans of Ardsley

Continued from page 5

the course of 18 months, 20 people met to sew and embroider cloth squares that told their individual stories, which were stitched together to create a 9-foot-square quilt.

After the completion of that project in September 2025, Samad began searching for another activity to bring people together. While talking with Narayanan at Momo's Café, the two found inspiration in The Moth, a nonprofit group focused on the art of storytelling. At in-person events or on “The Moth Radio Hour” podcast hosted by NPR, prominent figures and everyday people share their stories. Narayanan and Samad attended one of these events in Tarrytown, and wanted to bring a similar idea to Ardsley. The two also took a page from StoryCorps, which is a nonprofit that records, shares, and preserves personal conversations and interviews between everyday people.

A project based on oral storytelling struck close to home for Samad, who grew up in Pakistan.

“I was raised in a joint family system,” she said. “In that big house with so many people, we used to sit together, mostly at night. Everybody is discussing and telling [each other] what happened, some story from the family or the town. That tradition is still very alive and, in my head at least, The Moth is carrying the same tradition.”

For “Humans of Ardsley,” The Moth will

host a 3-hour workshop on Oct. 4 at 2 p.m., where participants will learn to craft an engaging 5-to-7-minute story. These don't have to be about Ardsley, Narayanan said, and can be “[something] funny, memorable, inspiring, [or a] tear-jerker.” Because the goal is for people to find commonality in their experiences, Samad and Narayanan ask participants to attend without “preconceived notions” and to put their identity as a member of the Ardsley community at the forefront.

There are 20 to 25 spots available, eight of which are filled. Registration requires a \$25 deposit that will be refunded at the workshop. Even if someone isn't able to register for a spot, they are encouraged to attend, although they won't be able to perform at the storytelling event to be held in December. Workshop attendance and a commitment to a couple of rehearsals are required for those who wish to perform.

Narayanan and Samad hope “Humans of Ardsley” can become a village tradition.

“There are turning points in life when you realize that we really need to know other people,” Samad said. “In America, almost everybody is an immigrant, and we all come from different cultures, different societies. We all have fascinating stories.”

Narayanan concurred, noting, “At the end of the day, we have more in common than divides us.”

To register for the Oct. 4 workshop, which will take place at the Community Center, visit tinyurl.com/5y6c288z.

New Parent to Teacher Program

Turn Your Passion into a New Career

Inspired by involvement in your children's education? Become a teacher yourself!
LIU Hudson's convenient, online MS.Ed. program is built for parents like you, with:

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CLASSES START SEPT. 2 – REGISTER NOW FOR A FREE INFO SESSION!

Wed., Aug. 5
11 am



Wed., Aug. 12
1 pm



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Long Island University's Hudson Graduate Centers
Purchase, NY and Online



**Farmers Market**

Saturday, Aug. 1, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Commuter Lot, Southside Avenue. For details, visit hastingsfarmersmarket.org

Hastings on Jazz

Sunday, Aug. 2, 3–5:30 p.m. VFW Plaza. The weekly

summer series continues with the John Clay Sextet featuring vocalist Ruby Pucillo, a Hastings native. Rain location: Hastings Public Library

Architectural Review Board Meeting

Monday, Aug. 3, 7 p.m. Village

Hall. Agenda available at hohny.gov

Movin' the Mind & Groovin' the Balance

Tuesday, Aug. 4, 1–2 p.m. Hastings Public Library. Movement class for people with Parkinson's disease or

balance challenges.

Mahjong

Tuesdays, 12:30–2:15 p.m., and Wednesdays, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. Hastings Public Library. To play, call 914–478–3307 or leave your name and number at the Circulation Desk

The Introverts Book Club

Friday, Aug. 7, 4–6 p.m. The Good Witch Coffee Bar, 134 Southside Ave. Email amanning@hastingslibrary.org for details



— STUDENT NEWS —

Middle School Science and Engineering Fair

Farragut Middle School Science Fair winners attended the awards ceremony for the Westchester Regional Middle School Science and Engineering Fair on May 6.

Two Hastings projects placed in the top 10% at the fair, earning nominations for the 2026 Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge (JIC), the nation's premier STEM competition for middle school students. The nominated projects were: **Charlie and Rosie Janofsky** for "Stream Team: How Water Quality and Flow Rate Affect the Macroinvertebrate Diversity of Two Hastings-on-Hudson Streams" and **Ema Buteler and Addy Porter** for "Diatoms: A Microscopic Metropolis."

In addition, **Jane Weber** received the Judge Edith Miller Excellence in Education Award for her project, "An Evaluation of OTC Pain Relief Medication on Daphnia Heart Rate." Hastings students also earned top placements across multiple categories:

First Place — **Charlie and Rosie Janofsky**, Environmental and Earth Sciences; **Jane Weber**, Medicine and Health

Second Place — **Ema Buteler and Addy Porter**, Microbiology; **Ira Nivarthi**, Environmental and Earth Sciences

Third Place — **Nora Renaud, Leela Patel, and Isabella Gardezi**, Energy and Sustainability.

Somers Science Fair

Forty first-year Science Research students from Hastings High School won awards for their proposed projects at the Somers Science Fair on June 6.

First Place — Animal Science: **Imogen Tolson**; Behavioral Science: **Maxwell Silva Steeves, Anna Smith, Joaquin Toledo Chae**; Environmental Science: **Genesis Chacha, Desmond Cheung, Gia Levinson, Maya Sanzel**; Medicine & Health: **Ruby Black, Jenny Schofield, Ella Tadmor**

Second Place — Animal Science: **Anna Konon**; Behavioral Science: **Will Andrus, Sara Dehgan, Caroline Emilio, Orly Fishman, Scarlet Stephens, Juliet Tetrault, Nai Wells**; Biochemistry: **Matilda Vishab**; Bioinformatics: **Jude El Yaman**; Cell & Molecular Biology: **Ariella Klugerman**; Chemistry: **Jalen Pekkala-Bitterman**; Earth & Planetary Science: **Colin Glass**; Medicine & Health: **Alina Abrams**

Third Place — Behavioral Science: **Maria Arnon, Kai Ghalib, Siri Lambert, Ethan Malat, Sage Wasserman, Sage Wrzesinski**; Cell & Molecular Biology: **Frankie DiMartino-Blanco, Simrin Eklund, Sydney Greenberg**; Earth & Planetary Science: **Anthony Holder**; Engineering: **Reid Hamilton, Soren Hegley**; Environmental Science: **Emily Colletti, Hazel Kuniholm**; Medicine & Health: **Maya Kelly**

HHS grad lends her vocal style to jazz lineup

BY AMY BOCHNER

Ruby Pucillo learned to sing by listening to instrumentalists. Thelonious Monk, Charlie Parker, Fats Waller, and Art Tatum scored her childhood. Listening to them shaped her approach to music, helping her to develop an ear for improvisation.

The vocalist, a 2019 Hastings High School graduate, will share that unique approach as part of the John Clay Sextet, appearing as part of the free outdoor "Hastings on Jazz" series at VFW Plaza on Aug. 2.

From a young age, Pucillo told the Dispatch, she assumed every singer was a vocal improviser, but discovered she was the outlier after qualifying for the All-State Vocal Jazz Ensemble of the New York State Schools Music Association at age 16.

She further developed these skills at the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music, where she earned a dual degree in English literary studies and jazz performance voice.

After graduating in 2023, Pucillo was hired as an assistant editor at Abrams Books and moved from Hastings to Harlem. On June 15, The New York Times published an article about Pucillo for a series exploring how everyday New Yorkers afford to live in the city. Pucillo, who is a 10th-generation New Yorker, felt "honored to have our family history represented in this paper that is so central to the New York story."

As both an editor and a reader, biographies and essays written by musicians



Ruby Pucillo

are of particular interest to Pucillo, as she is "fascinated" by how they "think [and] theorize." Writing is central to her musical process, and she developed an interest in "how words and sound come together" as a preteen. Her understanding of rhythm and language allows her to "write lyrics that feel indistinguishable from the music that they serve."

"If there is rising motion in a melody, for example, notes that climb a staircase, perhaps I might choose lyrics that would talk about ascension, or about soaring," she said. "If there's a note that slides, sometimes that's really well served by a lyric that references sighing or falling. It's so interesting how much of the language in music

references movement. The music can imply what it wants you to say."

Her Harlem neighborhood is home to a rich jazz history, from its roots as a cultural hub for Black artists during the Harlem Renaissance to the venues where figures like Ella Fitzgerald, whose scat syllables she emulates, reigned. Although Pucillo did not move to Harlem for the music scene, the history enriches her experience, and she strives to hear live music at least three times a week.

Pucillo performs once every two to three weeks. In February, she released two songs — with instrumentalists Jonathan Paik, Tony Golden, and Quinton Cain — that are available on Apple Music and Bandcamp.

While singing in Denver, Pucillo met John Clay, a Westchester-based drummer whose son, Taylor, is a saxophonist in that city's jazz scene. After performing a few gigs together, John Clay asked Pucillo to sing on a couple of cuts for an album he was recording. The result is "About Time," which features Pucillo's vocals on the tunes "Alice in Wonderland" and "Highway 14."

"I improvise on the album," she said. "I sing some really high melodies. I sing some mid-range melodies. I sing some crazy pre-improv vocal babbling. It kind of runs the gamut."

The album, she continued, highlights Clay's strengths as a drummer, which she described as "sensitivity and restraint" that

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**Nudge**

Lifeguard Jet Spiro helps 8-year-old Lachlan Porter during the annual cardboard boat regatta at Chemka Pool on Saturday, July 25. The event consisted of rounds of races between boats piloted by one and two children.

Got news?

Email staff writer Amy Bochner at amy@rivertownsdispatch.com


IRVINGTON
Tech Angels

Saturday, Aug. 1, 10:30 a.m.–noon. Irvington Public Library. Drop in for assistance with your phone, computer, or other device

“Needles at Noon”

Saturday, Aug. 1, noon–1:30

p.m. Irvington Public Library. Lori Cohen joins the weekly yarn craft meetup to help with knitting and crocheting

“Wizard of Oz and Judy Garland”

Saturday, Aug. 1, 2 p.m. Irvington Public Library.

Hybrid presentation by Toni McKeen. To attend via Zoom, register at irvingtonlibrary.org

Dinosaur Stories & Crafts for Ages 4–6

Tuesday, Aug. 4, 4 p.m. Irvington Public Library. Registration required at

irvingtonlibrary.org

Tabletop Game Night for Adults

Tuesday, Aug. 4, 6:30–8:45 p.m. Irvington Public Library

Board of Trustees Work Session

Tuesday, Aug. 4, 7 p.m. Village Hall. To attend via Zoom, visit irvingtonny.gov

Planning Board Meeting

Wednesday, Aug. 5, 7 p.m. Village Hall. To attend via Zoom, visit irvingtonny.gov



Neel Rikhy of the Tech Angels

Tech Angels earn their wings

For the third-straight year, a team of teens known as the Tech Angels is offering free support to those who need help using a phone, tablet, laptop, or similar device.

The Tech Angels will be at the Irvington Public Library on Aug. 1, 15, 29, and Sept. 12 from 10:30 a.m.–noon, and at the Shames Jewish Community Center (JCC) in Tarrytown on Aug. 9 and 23, and Sept. 6, from 10 a.m.–noon. The team plans to continue at the JCC during the school year.

The Tech Angels include three Irvington High School students — rising juniors Neel Rikhy and Dario Gryka, and rising senior Gabriel Reichgott — as well as Riley Reichenberg, a rising eighth-grader at Ardsley Middle School. For information about volunteering, email techangelsny@gmail.com.

According to Rikhy, the team most often receives requests for help with setting up apps, accessing accounts, and managing files. They do not repair hardware, nor do they make house calls. On July 18, Rikhy helped a senior citizen access audio books by using her library card to sign into an app at the library.

Luke Mitchell founded the Tech Angels in 2024, when he was a rising senior at Irvington. The program continued in 2025 under Simon Silverman, who was then a rising senior at Irvington.

Welcoming Schools Seal of Excellence

Before the academic year ended, Irvington's Main Street School became the first in

Continued on page 12

Got news?

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

Architects call for preservation of mansion

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

The Irvington Village Board is responding to residents' efforts to preserve the 19th-century mansion at 76 North Broadway (Route 9) as part of Varma RE Development's mixed-use proposal for the 4.2-acre Maxon property.

The current proposal is to build 53 residential rental units (six would qualify as moderate income and six as affordable) in addition to an early-education facility 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.

The project was first introduced in the summer of 2024. During a meeting on July 20, the village board held a public hearing that was meant to focus on Varma's request to be granted a public benefit because the plan includes one more moderate income unit than required by code. Varma is asking for additional lot coverage of 5% from the prescribed 30% to 35% and additional floor area ratio (FAR) of .05, from the prescribed 0.30 to 0.35. Floor area ratio is the ratio of a building's total area of all floors combined, to the size of the piece of land on which it is built. Lot coverage is the sum of the area of all buildings, fences, walls, driveways, parking spaces, and walkways on the property. The public benefit would not permit the physical buildings to be any larger than the zoning code allows, but would permit Varma to build an additional three units more than a previous plan that included 50 units, with five moderate-income units and five fair and affordable units.

During the public hearing, Irvington resident architects urged the board to protect the mansion before the project moves forward. Earl Ferguson and Peter Budeiri are two of the six architects named in a letter written to the village board, claiming the project goes against a zoning code requirement to retain Woodcliff Manor. They both encouraged the board to treat preservation of the mansion as

“The code does not say that you must retain a historically significant property.”

Attorney Katherine Zalantis

a reason for a public benefit, instead of the additional moderate-income unit.

“Demolishing Woodcliff, as the applicant is proposing, sets a bad precedent for other historically significant structures in the district,” Budeiri wrote to the board. “Please hold off on giving them that bonus until the project is compliant with the MFO [multi-family/office district] zoning, meaning that it maintains and reuses Woodcliff.”

Katherine Zalantis, an attorney representing Varma, pointed out that an earlier version of the project did include a plan to preserve and adaptively reuse the mansion by creating apartments inside, but that it didn't pan out because of fire safety issues.

“The code does not say that you must retain a historically significant property; the code says, ‘to the greatest extent

practicable,” Zalantis said during the meeting. “And, in fact, prior versions of the project considered retaining the house. After much analysis and discussions with the fire department, it was impossible to allow safe fire access to the building,” which predates current regulations.

Ferguson echoed a letter from Irvington Historical Society president Scott Mosenthal that called for the board to grant an exception to the zoning code by not counting a fire department access road against the project's allowable density, in order to preserve the mansion.

Village Attorney Marianne Stecich explained that the architects' request would require the zoning code to be amended for the entire village.

“For people opposed to the project, that would be grounds for them to say, ‘You're making these changes just to help out this project, and that makes it vulnerable in court.’ So those changes he suggested might have made sense two years ago, but it's kind of late.”

Members of the board suggested that the Village look into ways to amend the zoning code in the future, to allow other village structures to be preserved when a similar situation arises.

“The precedent that this is setting is the realization that we need to review the entire zoning code in these details that severely affect whether a developer can build something like this or not,” Trustee David Zwiebel said.

The village board ended the hearing without voting on whether or not to approve Varma's request for a public benefit, and plan to do so at a future meeting.


Hands-on help

Kisook Suh of Tarrytown, a textile conservator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, mends a sweater for Randy Paradise of Hastings during the Irvington Repair Café at the Eileen Fisher office on Saturday, July 25. During the event, 25 fixers repaired 146 out of 176 items brought in by 87 guests. Eighteen additional volunteers also helped.

The Agenda

SATURDAY AUGUST 1

Ledz Groove

ARDSLEY

8:30 p.m. / No cover charge. Saw Mill Tavern, 925 Saw Mill River Road. The Led Zeppelin cover band performs. Reservations encouraged. smtavern.com

Fishing Derby

TARRYTOWN

9–11 a.m. / Tarrytown Lakes. Bring your own fishing rod; bait is provided. For ages 6–12 accompanied by an adult. Rain date Aug. 2. Registration required at tarrytown.recdesk.com/Community/Home

Jazz Trumpeter Freddie Hendrix

TARRYTOWN

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

Summer Saturdays: “Wonderful Waterway”

SLEEPY HOLLOW

11 a.m.–3 p.m. / \$18, \$15 for ages 18–25 and 65+, \$13 for children. Philipsburg Manor, 381 N. Broadway. Learn about the importance of local waterways in colonial New York with themed events and hands-on activities, including seeing the water-powered gristmill in action and painting with watercolors. Purchase timed-entry tickets at hudsonvalley.org

Summer Fungi Walk

YONKERS

10 a.m. / \$20. Untermyer Park and Gardens, 945 N. Broadway. Register at untermyergardens.org

“Back to the Garden 1969”

YONKERS

6:30–8 p.m. / Free. Untermyer Park and Gardens, 945 N. Broadway. Featuring the music of Woodstock. Rain location: Saunders High School, 183 Palmer Road. untermyerperformingarts.org

SUNDAY AUGUST 2

Outdoor Live Music: Notes Overton

DOBBS FERRY

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

Hastings on Jazz

HASTINGS

3–5:30 p.m. / Free. VFW Plaza, 558 Warburton Ave. The weekly summer series continues with the John Clay Sextet featuring vocalist Ruby Pucillo, a Hastings native. Rain location: Hastings Public Library, 7 Maple Ave. destinationhastings.org



Folk-rock singer-songwriter Dan Zlotnick performs at Waterfront Park in Dobbs Ferry on Friday, Aug. 7.

Jazz Drummer Paul Francis

TARRYTOWN

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

Open Jam Session

TARRYTOWN

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

History Tour

YONKERS

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

Family Day: “Horsing Around”

YONKERS

11 a.m.–5 p.m. / \$15 for adults, \$8 for ages 3–18, \$9 for students and seniors, free for members and children under 3. Hudson River Museum, 511 Warburton Ave. Featuring pony rides (for an extra fee), outdoor games, and art and science projects. hrm.org

TUESDAY AUGUST 4

Virtual Comedy Open Mic

DOBBS FERRY

8 p.m.; sign-up starts at 7:30. Hosted on Zoom by the Dobbs Ferry Public Library. For ages 18+. Email tdeery@dobbsferrylibrary.org to register.

Mahjong Guided Play

IRVINGTON

7 p.m. / \$45, free for unlimited members. The Lark, 50 S. Buckhout St., G107. Includes Italian-inspired refreshments. thelark.club/events

Outdoor Concert: Mark Morganelli Quartet

SLEEPY HOLLOW

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

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 5

“Mystic Mingle”

DOBBS FERRY

5:30–8 p.m. / \$30. HudCo, 145 Palisade St., Suite 200. Psychic business strategist Francine Tesler shares intuitive insights and group readings. Register at hudco.eventbrite.com

Outdoor Concert: Pianist Spike Wilner

DOBBS FERRY

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

Ladies of the ’80s

SLEEPY HOLLOW

6–8 p.m. / Free. Horan’s Landing Park, 57 River St. Live music plus food trucks and gaga pit for kids. Visit Sleepy Hollow Recreation & Parks on Facebook.

Astronomy for Grown-ups: Black Holes

YONKERS

2 p.m. / \$23 for adults, \$16 for seniors, \$14 for ages 3–18, free for members. Hudson River Museum, 511 Warburton Ave. Planetarium show, followed by Q&A. Reservations recommended. hrm.org

THURSDAY AUGUST 6

Field Day

DOBBS FERRY

3–4 p.m. / Free. Keeper’s House, 15 Walnut St. The Dobbs Ferry Public Library and the Old Cro-

ton Aqueduct staff host outdoor games, races, and more. For ages 3+. Registration required by emailing childrens@dobbsferrylibrary.org

Outdoor Live Music: Nick DiBari Band

DOBBS FERRY

6–9 p.m. / No cover charge. Hudson Social, 11 Station Plaza. hudsonsocial.com

Paul Carlon Latin Jazz Trio

DOBBS FERRY

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

Riverfront Concert: Giulia Coba

IRVINGTON

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

Waterfront Concert: Marc Berger and Ride

TARRYTOWN

7–9 p.m. / Free. Pierson Park, 238 W. Main St. Featuring American roots rock, blues, and country. Presented by the Tarrytown Recreation Department. tarrytownny.gov

FRIDAY AUGUST 7

Some Kind of Brothers

ARDSLEY

8 p.m. / No cover charge. Saw Mill Tavern, 925 Saw Mill River Road. Hits from the 1960s and ’70s. Reservations encouraged. smtavern.com

River Jam and Food Trucks

DOBBS FERRY

7–9 p.m. / Free. Waterfront Park. The summer concert series continues with folk-rock singer Dan Zlotnick. dobbsferry.gov/recreation-department

Movie on the Trail

DOBBS FERRY

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

Outdoor Jazz: Vocalist Kelly Green

TARRYTOWN

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

Jazz Pianist Joey Alexander

TARRYTOWN

7 and 9:30 p.m. / \$40, \$35 for students. Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. Also on Aug. 8. jazzforumarts.org

Opinion

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

Dobbs Ferry and Sleepy Hollow need to work on timing

To the Editor:

So, help me understand something. Both Sleepy Hollow and Dobbs Ferry are going to have major town events on the same day this October — why? Sleepy Hollow is having its Music Festival on Oct. 3, and Dobbs Ferry is having its annual Ferry Festa the same day. How does this make any sense? At a time when small businesses are struggling, and all the river towns are dealing with hard financial choices, one wonders if these towns are actually talking to each other. Sponsoring a town event is great for the community, great for businesses, and brings people from across Westchester together promoting what each town has to offer and what makes them unique. These events could have been planned for different dates, so that everyone benefits. I'm reminded of the old saying: "cutting off your nose to spite your face." Hey, Mayor Knell, let me introduce you to Mayor Hsu. The topic: town event planning for 2027. Now discuss!

Scott Bloom

DOBBS FERRY

Latimer has been a 'principled leader of integrity' in Congress

To the Editor:

In response to "Latimer needs to show courage" (Letter to the Editor, July 24, 2026), criticism of any leader is legitimate, mischaracterization is not. The \$3.3 billion U.S. assistance to Israel was not a subsidy to Benjamin Netanyahu, but a security arrangement to Israel under an agreement negotiated by President Obama. Nor did Congressman George Latimer's vote on Rashida Tlaib's resolution "support the Iran war"; that measure concerned alleged U.S. hostilities in Lebanon.

I traveled with George to Israel after the Hamas invasion and massacre of Oct. 7, 2023. We witnessed the devastation at Kfar Aza and met wounded Israelis and hostage families. Supporting the defense of the Jewish state is not endorsing every Israeli policy. George Latimer is a principled leader of integrity — and our community should say so.

Rabbi Menachem Creditor

WHITE PLAINS

Thanks to Latimer for stands on antisemitism and Lebanon

To the Editor:

I gratefully thank CD16 Rep. George Latimer, who shows courage and integrity, for co-sponsoring HR 9211, the Jewish American Security Act to combat the disease of antisemitism and Jew hatred that is endemic to our homeland. I also recognize Latimer for seeing through Rashida Tlaib and her War Powers Resolution on Lebanon, which intentionally failed to mention Iran's proxy Hezbollah and their required removal from Lebanon as being central to the peaceful solution of a Lebanon for Lebanese, not Iran. Trilateral negotiations among Lebanon, Israel, and the United States of America is the path forward.

Matt Turk

HASTINGS

Latimer's votes reflect 'unrelenting strength and courage'

To the Editor:

We write to respond to a letter that highlighted two recent votes, and to thank George Latimer for his support of our district, and for unrelenting strength and courage in Congress.

Congressman Latimer rightly voted "no" on a resolution that would have required "the President to remove U.S. armed forces from hostilities within Lebanon within seven days." The resolution suffered from several deep flaws — including most critically that there are no U.S. armed forces in combat in Lebanon. Moreover, the resolution took place four days after the Trilateral Framework Agreement was signed, aiming to end hostilities, restore Lebanese sovereignty, and disarm Hezbollah.

As to the resolution to end all aid to Israel, 98 Democrats voted with Congressman Latimer against this resolution, highlighting the "many unanswered questions" about the implications and effects," according to a quote from Congressman Gregory Meeks (D-NY) in a story published by the Jewish Insider on June 30. Also, of the 19 New York Democrats in the House, only five voted in favor of the resolution.

We know this is a challenging time to govern — and we are grateful to have Congressman Latimer as our representative in CD16. *White Plains Mayor Justin Brasch, NYS Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, Rabbi Jay Stein of the Greenburgh Hebrew Center, Laura Compagni of Hastings, Lynne Ecker of White Plains, Deena Goldsmith of Irvington, Andy Laub of Ardsley, Jennifer Mittelman of Hartsdale, Rochelle Steinwurtzel of Hastings, and Nancy Street of New Rochelle*

Cedar Street housing proposal prompts a range of concerns

To the Editor:

I am writing days after the July 21 storm flooded the storage units, laundry room, garages, and playground at Village Green, where I live, downhill from the proposed 99 Cedar Street development. While I support affordable housing, I do not believe this proposal belongs in this location.

I attended the Rivertown Dispatch housing discussion in April and shared my concerns. My greatest concern is stormwater management, as Cedar Street has zero public drainage infrastructure. I worry that replacing the municipal parking lot with a 38-unit residential development will increase runoff, erosion, and flood risks for neighboring properties.

I am also concerned about the history of the site. The parking lot was constructed over the former DPW property, which burned down in the 2010s. Residents deserve confidence that all environmental concerns have been thoroughly evaluated. If unforeseen environmental or health issues arise in the future, who will ultimately bear the responsibility and cost?

I spoke with neighbors and downtown business owners. The majority expressed concern about significantly reducing the capacity of the public parking lot. Business owners worry that fewer parking options will discourage customers, especially during community events and the holiday season.

Anyone who regularly drives through this area knows that leaving Cedar Street during peak hours can already take several traffic light cycles. With upcoming traffic changes planned for the Route 9 and Ashford Avenue intersection, we should be cautious about implementing numerous major changes in a short period of time.

Adding dozens of new affordable housing

units (in addition to the new Cedar Commons), reducing parking capacity, temporary construction activity, and modifying a critical traffic intersection will place additional pressure on an already congested downtown.

These changes could make it more difficult for residents and visitors to access local businesses and may discourage people from coming downtown altogether.

Kevin LeGall

DOBBS FERRY

Invite student musicians to join summer jazz concerts

To the Editor:

A suggestion to make the summer jazz concerts even more special: invite a talented high school musician to play at least one piece with the band.

During the months of July and August, residents are treated to terrific jazz concerts at Waterfront Park in Dobbs Ferry, Matthiessen Park in Irvington, Pierson Park in Tarrytown, VFW Plaza in Hastings, Yosemite Park, and Pascone Park in Ardsley.

These concerts are free and many of the musicians are extremely talented. A jazz concert at Yosemite Park featured, for example, the incomparable Robert Randolph — a Grammy-winning pedal steel guitarist who has been recognized as one of the 100 greatest guitarists of all time.

Area high school band directors would help select the talented high school student musicians who would perform.

This would inspire young musicians who could perform alongside experienced professionals and would give students a rare learning opportunity that will motivate them. The students selected would gain confidence by performing before a live audience in a professional setting and build connections with professional performers who can help them with their careers and musicianship.

Inviting students to perform will also help attract larger turnouts at these concerts. We should showcase local high school talent and show we value our young people.

Finally, residents might enjoy watching different generations of musicians performing together.

I hope organizers of next year's jazz concert series will consider this suggestion.

Paul Feiner

GREENBURGH TOWN SUPERVISOR

Sports

EDITED BY ROB DIANTONIO

Aybar sparks Irvington to win in summer league finale

BY ROB DIANTONIO

The O'Hara Summer Boys' Basketball League wrapped up on July 27 at Irvington High School with both Irvington and Hastings closing out weeks focused less on the standings and more on preparing for the upcoming varsity season.

Irvington finished the summer 3-6 after defeating Saunders 50-41 in the seventh-place game, while Hastings concluded its schedule at 4-5 following a 34-27 loss to Valhalla in the fifth-place game.

For both programs, however, the final scores were secondary to the opportunity to build chemistry, evaluate lineups, and provide valuable experience for younger players before the winter season begins.

Irvington leaned heavily on rising senior Adrian Aybar in its season finale. Aybar poured in a game-high 27 points. Rising junior Jarrett Ourman added 12 points, while Lucas Kaye chipped in five.

Aybar set the tone early, attacking the basket for consecutive scores before knocking down a pair of first-quarter three-pointers to help Irvington build a 12-3 advantage. He scored 12 points in the opening quarter and continued to carry the offense as Saunders battled back to tie the game multiple times during the second period.

After the teams were deadlocked at 21, Aybar converted an inbounds play before adding another basket late in the half to give the Bulldogs a 26-22 lead at the break.

Irvington seized control in the third quarter behind Aybar once again. He connected on two three-pointers during the period, pushing his total to 24 points and extending the Bulldogs' lead to double digits. Saunders made one final push in the fourth, trimming the deficit to six, but Aybar completed a three-point play before Kaye buried a late corner three to help seal the victory.

While Aybar's scoring grabbed the headlines, Irvington coach Rocco Cipriano said the rising senior's evolution has been about much more than putting points on the board.

"This is his third year on varsity," Cipriano said. "He's starting to understand that his strength is going to the basket and attacking. He's settling for jump shots a lot less and just trying to take what he can at the rim."

Despite the 3-6 record, Cipriano viewed the summer as a success because of the experience gained by a relatively young roster.

"There were obviously some highs and some lows, but overall, we're still a young team with a lot of kids that have only a year, maybe even half a year, of varsity experience," he said. "Getting together and playing well was the big goal. We didn't really look at the wins or losses. We were just trying to put together good quarters, good rotations, and look at combinations we hadn't seen before. It kind of all came together."



Top: Irvington's Adrian Aybar scored 27 points to lead the team to a summer league win. Left: Hastings' Lucas Seelye looks to finish through contact. Middle: Irvington's Jarrett Ourman eyes the basket. Right: Irvington's Lucas Kaye elevates for a shot. Photos by Rob DiAntonio.

The summer league also helped accelerate the integration of Irvington's younger players with the returning varsity group.

"That's super important," Cipriano said. "A lot of those kids are the same age, so having those friendships outside of basketball helps the chemistry."

Beyond Aybar, Cipriano pointed to several returning players who made noticeable

strides over the past several weeks.

"Jarrett Ourman, Luke Graber, and Jake Piersol all played significant minutes last year, and they've all taken significant steps this summer," he said. "They're getting bigger, faster, and stronger, and they're starting to play with more composure and poise."

In its loss to Valhalla, Hastings was led by rising senior Anthony Moore, who led

the Yellow Jackets with 11 points, including three fourth-quarter three-pointers. Lucas Seelye added seven points, while Theo Suniewick contributed five.

Valhalla controlled much of the game, building an early lead before stretching its advantage to 20-11 midway through the third quarter. Hastings found its rhythm

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Hastings' Anthony Moore drives the lane.
Photo by Rob DiAntonio.

Summer basketball

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offensively in the final period, with Moore knocking down three triples and Seelye adding a driving layup to cut into the deficit, but the comeback ultimately fell short.

Coach Francesco Scioscia, the Yellow Jackets' JV coach in the winter, liked the way his team continued competing despite struggling offensively for much of the afternoon.

"We always tell our guys, whether it's modified, JV, or varsity, if the ball isn't going in, you've got to keep playing hard and attacking the basket," Scioscia said. "Eventually it'll come. We don't control whether the ball goes in. We control our energy and effort."

Like Irvington, Hastings entered the summer focused on developing younger players alongside returning varsity veterans.

"It's a great opportunity for those younger guys to get acclimated to what we want offensively and defensively at the varsity level," Scioscia said. "They're typically outmatched physically, but if they put their best foot forward and play with effort, that's all good for us."

Scioscia also saw progress in the team's offensive identity over the course of the league.

"I thought as the summer went on, we were really buying into the model of playing through Theo Suniewick, who is our senior center," he said. "He just committed to Union College for baseball. He's our most effective player because of his size, so we've got to commit to playing through him. I thought as the summer went on, we did that better and better. Our guards and our wings had good games and bad games, but that happens."

Among the team's biggest individual improvements, Scioscia highlighted rising sophomore Gavin Smith while also praising the leadership provided by seniors Andrew Constantine, Suniewick, Moore, and Seelye.

"Gavin is an undersized four and we'll see what team he makes in the winter," Scioscia said. "He's somebody that has improved a ton. Our senior guards Andrew Constantine and Anthony Moore have been steadying presences, and Lucas Seelye is another guy too. Those are three seniors along with Theo that will really be the crux of the team this year."

Cabrini

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A section of the law states that a healthcare provider who's unwilling to participate in providing the medication can opt out, but is required to arrange a transfer of a patient who is qualified and interested to a new healthcare provider that is willing to grant their request. Laura Slavis is an attorney with the Washington, D.C.-based Becket Fund law firm representing the 13 Catholic institutions throughout the state, most of which are nursing homes. For Slavis' clients, the opt-out process still goes against their Catholic faith.

"They need to transfer [the patient] to a facility that they know is willing to give the drugs, so they basically know they are checking the box to allow the patients to go and get these deadly drugs somewhere else," Slavis told the Dispatch. "For them, their religious beliefs are that that type of participation is just as wrong as giving them the drugs directly."

Cabrini and the other plaintiffs are concerned that by complying with the law, they could potentially lose the ability to call themselves Catholic institutions because participating in the process of a medically assisted death is contrary to the principles of the Catholic Church.

"The bishops are the ones who have the responsibility for ensuring that Catholic institutions are providing healthcare in accordance with what the church teaches about the sanctity of life," Slavis explained. "They are the ones who allow institutions to say that they're Catholic. So, New York here is basically telling, not just these institutions, but the Church itself, 'You don't have the right to set your own rules.'"

The plaintiffs take issue with the fact the law only provides the opportunity for an

institution to opt out of prescribing the drugs, but requires them to present the option and go through the assessment process to see if a patient is eligible. A section of the MAID Act reads that a healthcare provider "shall not be subject to civil, administrative or criminal liability, penalty or professional disciplinary action by any government entity for taking any reasonable, good-faith action or refusing to act under the article, including without limitation, engaging in discussions with a patient relating to the risks and benefits of end-of-life options."

Slavis and her clients interpret that as prohibiting a nursing home like Cabrini

"There are patients out there who want to die without hearing about assisted suicide."

Attorney Laura Slavis

from taking action against an employee who counsels a patient about the benefits of assisted suicide, against the facility's wishes.

"They have to counsel them about the benefits of suicide, they have to help them qualify, and they can't opt out of any of that," Slavis said. "They can only opt out of prescribing, and for our clients, they feel that any help they are giving the person to pursue assisted suicide is against their religious beliefs."

In an email to the Dispatch, a spokesperson for Hochul explained that religious institutions can restrict their employees from being involved in MAID. The spokesperson added that the Department of Health is working on regulations to implement the law "thoughtfully and responsibly."

Barker said. "There was a void, and I've been waiting for someone else to do it because I want it so much, but it then needed to be me, I guess, to bring it."

Online searches for the nearest shops dedicated to Hawaiian shaved ice reveal options on Long Island and Brooklyn, but nothing in Westchester.

Barker, her husband, and three children moved to Dobbs Ferry in the summer of 2024, making the village the target place for Barker to fill the void. Paradise opened on June 23 to maximize the amount of hot days people can enjoy the dessert, and possibly be introduced to something they've never tried before.

"I have a lot of people seeking me out who know shaved ice, and then anyone that's

musicians who showcase the best that Hastings has to offer."

As she prepares to perform for her hometown, Pucillo reflected on two figures who encouraged her to pursue the path she's on — HHS music teacher and orchestra and jazz band director Kenneth Jernigan, who retired in 2019, and choral director Jon Riss.

"[Jernigan] got me through high school and part of middle school in the jazz band.

"While we cannot comment on any pending litigation, under this historic legislation participation is entirely voluntary, and religious facilities have the right to opt out if they choose to do so," the spokesperson wrote.

While Cabrini welcomes residents of all faiths, Slavis believes the MAID Act, as currently written, fails to protect the rights of residents who hold the same unwavering beliefs about medically assisted death as the Catholic institutions.

"There are patients out there who want to die without hearing about assisted suicide," Slavis asserted. "They want to go to these homes because they share those beliefs. So if New York believes in choice and believes in patient autonomy, then it should allow there to be a space where people can go when they don't want to hear about assisted suicide."

A section of the MAID Act labeled "Justification" references a 2015 poll that found that 77% of all New Yorkers, including 75% of Catholics, support aid in dying.

The lawsuit argues that the MAID Act puts New York at risk of losing federal healthcare funds, like Medicaid and Medicare, because federal law prohibits the use of federal funds for medically assisted death. New York is the 13th state, plus Washington, D.C., to legalize medically assisted death for terminally ill patients. The complaint lists similar laws in Oregon and Washington State as examples New York's legislation should mirror.

"There's a long history of these laws existing and they permit complete opt outs, not just from prescribing, but from any part of the process," Slavis said. "So New York has a heavy hill to climb to show why it's good enough for Washington and Oregon, but apparently it's not good enough for New York."

Becket Fund is scheduled to have its first hearing before the Northern District of New York in Albany on Monday, Aug. 3.

new to it, they're kind of blown away by how good it is," Barker said of the first month in business. "I think it's a delicious, refreshing treat to beat the heat."

Barker hopes that Paradise becomes a place for families to make memories like the ones she has of enjoying Hawaiian shaved ice on Kauai as a kid.

"Having now experienced a storefront, I hope it's paired with community and that human experience you can get from meeting someone new and trying something new," Barker said.

Paradise is open Tuesdays through Sunday from 12–8 p.m. The shop's last day will be Oct. 3, the same day as Ferry Festa. Barker plans to bring back Paradise next year, perhaps as a truck.

He had me playing first chair tenor saxophone," she said. "[Riss] is an amazing choral teacher who really encouraged me to sing jazz. He saw that that was a particular passion of mine and said, 'You should do more with this. You should take this somewhere, you know, and I did.'"

The "Hastings on Jazz" concert will be at VFW Plaza, at the top of Spring Street, from 3–5:30 p.m.

Paradise

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was sold exclusively at Barney's. Barker also works in digital marketing and is an influencer in the children's book industry. She runs a popular Instagram account called The Reading Ninja, where she reviews children's books.

Barker found a lack of Hawaiian shaved ice options in New York and the Northeast region of the country in general, where the more prevalent alternatives are Italian ices and snow cones, which, unlike Hawaiian shaved ice, require a person to chew the ice.

"I've always been surprised it wasn't here because it's such a great refreshing treat in the humidity and heat of the summer,"

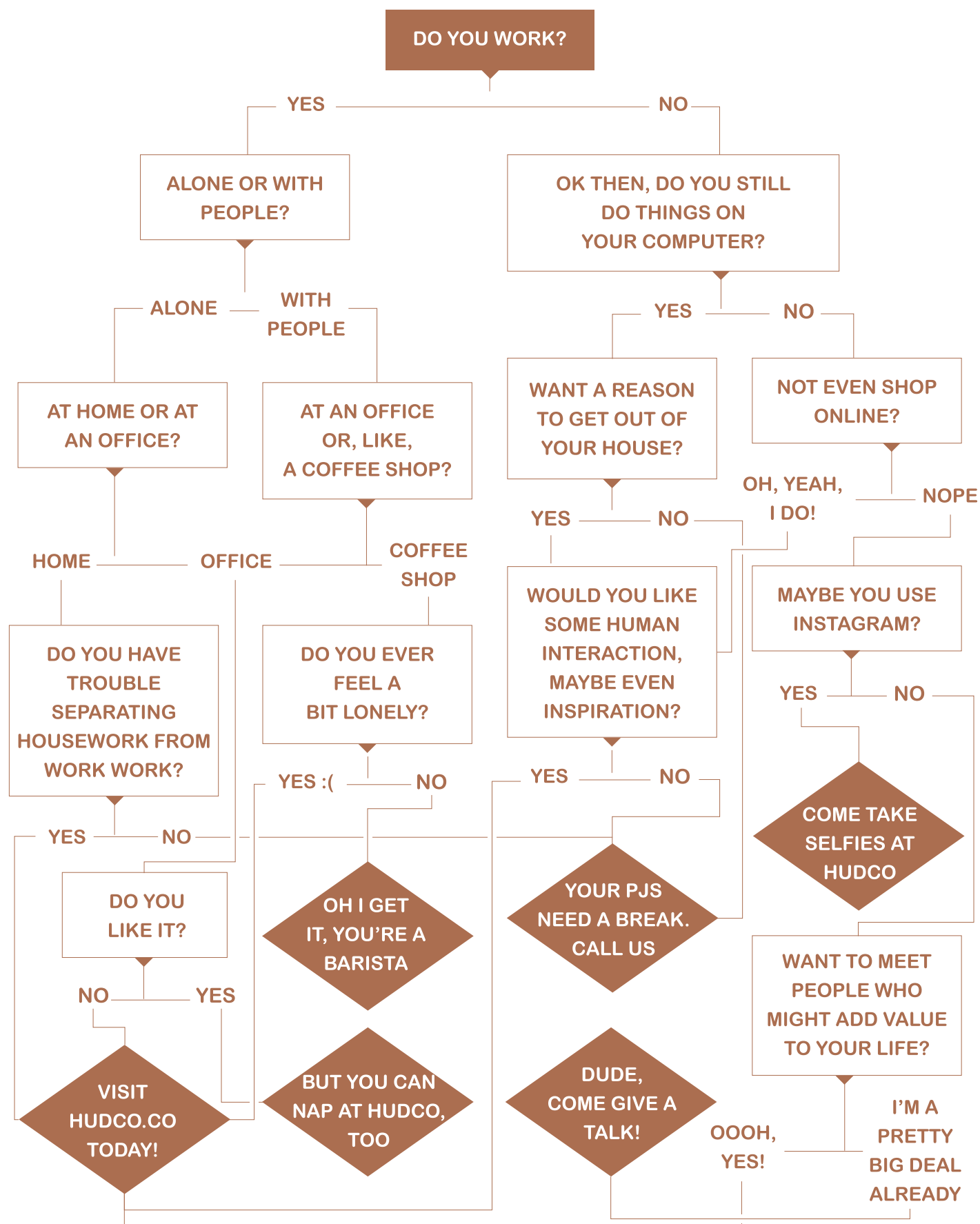
Pucillo

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set forth the band "as a true ensemble."

Clay and six musicians, Pucillo among them, will premiere the album during this Sunday's installment of "Hastings on Jazz," a concert series organized by pianist David Janeway of Hastings, who Pucillo said has done "a great job booking really wonderful

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