A new chapter with
The Hudson Independent



The month ahead
Calendar lists happenings for all of November
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RIVERTOWNS
Dispatch

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Local News, Locally Sourced

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



TARRYTOWN

The stories behind the floats
Lore and creativity converge for parade
p 15

Quilts and more to mark 250th commemoration

BY LAURA SCHILLER



Amanda Bowers, Kersten Harries, and Meredith Weiner with the two commemorative quilts.

REGION Two British redcoats will arrive by boat at the Sleepy Hollow RiverWalk this Sunday, Nov. 1, escorted by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Awaiting them will be Continental Army soldiers, portrayed by local students.

Instead of a battle, the encounter will lead to a reconciliation ceremony that will kick off the "Legendary 250th Commemoration," an event organized by Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown to mark the nation's 250th anniversary and the area's Revolutionary War history.

The villages are in separate towns — Sleepy Hollow in Mount Pleasant and Tarrytown in Greenburgh — making the joint venture especially fitting, according to Char Weigel of Sleepy Hollow, the vice president of special projects for Revolutionary Westchester 250, a nonprofit organizing local commemorations.

"We all needed to find a way to come back together despite the bitter divides of what really was a civil war at the time," Weigel told the Dispatch. "So, it's kind of apropos that both villages are coming together across those town lines and village lines to celebrate."

The redcoats are scheduled to land at 11:45 a.m. at the new pier, which will be used for the first time. Reenactors from the 5th New York and 1st Rhode Island regiments will escort them to Westward Drive for the reconciliation ceremony at noon.

Sleepy Hollow Mayor Marjorie Hsu will speak about the divisions of the Revolutionary era and the importance of gathering as one.

After the ceremony, three Sleepy Hollow High School students portraying John Paulding, Isaac Van Wart, and David Williams, who captured British Major John André, will lead a procession to Pierson Park in Tarrytown, accompanied by the school's marching band. A team of oxen will join the procession in a nod to the area's agricultural past.

"Where we are in Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown, it was a farming community," Weigel explained. "And if we were here 250 years ago, oxen were the animals that helped those

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DOBBS FERRY

Wildly Cakes adds sweetness to Cedar
p 7

"In forestry, messy forests are good forests."

CJ Reilly, director of the O'Hara Nature Center in Irvington
p 11



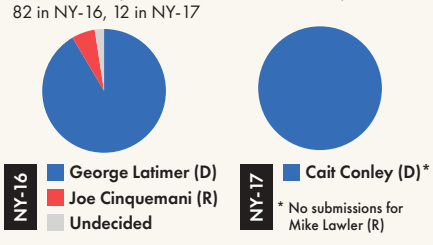
SPORTS

Hastings bests Irvington in sectionals
p 20

The Poll

Who has your vote for Congress this November?

As answered by readers of the Rivertowns Dispatch, 82 in NY-16, 12 in NY-17



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



The Blotter

ARDSLEY

Sexual abuse arrest: A 64-year-old White Plains resident who works in Ardsley was charged with sexual abuse in the first degree, a felony, on Oct. 14 for an incident involving a 32-year-old female co-worker on Saturday, Oct. 10. He was released on $2,500 bail. Det. Nick Guccione made the arrest.

Suspended registration arrest: A 45-year-old Bronx resident was arrested for a suspended vehicle registration, a misdemeanor, on Ashford Avenue on the afternoon of Wednesday, Oct. 21. He was also issued summonses for being unlicensed and uninsured. Officer Zack Pack made the arrest.

DOBBS FERRY

Assault arrest: A 55-year-old Dobbs Ferry resident was arrested for assaulting a 52-year-old woman at his home on Monday, Oct. 19. He was charged with assault in the third degree, a misdemeanor. Officer John Manzo made the arrest.

Thefts from Ulta: Three thefts from the Ulta Beauty at Rivertowns Square were reported on Oct. 24. The incidents involved an unidentified woman who stole $771 worth of items on the afternoon of Oct. 20; two unidentified women who stole $450 worth of items on the evening of Oct. 21; and an unidentified woman who stole $1,209 worth of items on the evening of Oct. 22.

Suspended license and registration: A 46-year-old Dobbs Ferry resident was arrested for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree, and for a suspended vehicle registration, both misdemeanors, on Walnut Street on the evening of Sunday, Oct. 25. Officer Anthony Muratore made the arrest.

HASTINGS

Tire deflated: A Summit Drive resident reported on Oct. 20 that one of the tires of her vehicle was deflated while the vehicle was parked in her driveway on Saturday, Oct. 10.

Contempt arrests: A 40-year-old Hastings resident and a 39-year-old Brooklyn resident were arrested for violating orders of protection at the Hastings resident's home on the evening of Tuesday, Oct. 20. Both were charged with criminal contempt in the second degree, a misdemeanor. Officer Ryan Keys and Thomas Gunther made the arrests.

Suspended license: A 45-year-old Newark resident was arrested for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree, a misdemeanor, on Farragut Avenue on the afternoon of Thursday, Oct. 22. He was also issued a summons for an expired registration, a violation. Officer Wuilber Maldonado made the arrest.

Hit and run: The driver's side of a 2022 Honda Pilot parked on the westbound side of Washington Avenue was damaged on Thursday, Oct. 22, between 1–9 p.m.

Youths in woods: Police dispersed youths from Hillside Woods, off Lefurgy Avenue, on the evening of Saturday, Oct. 24.

Suspended license and registration: A 45-year-old Hastings resident was arrested for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree, and for a suspended vehicle registration, both misdemeanors, on Main Street on the afternoon of Sunday, Oct. 25. Officer

Continued on page 4

Gas station and stationary store burglarized

REGION

Similar burglaries happened at Chestnut Mobil, 891 Saw Mill River Road (Route 9A), Ardsley, and at Tappan Zee Stationary, 350 S. Broadway (Route 9), Tarrytown on the morning of Saturday, Oct. 24. In both cases, two unidentified men exited the rear of a vehicle and used rocks to shatter glass doors. The break-ins happened at 4:24 a.m. in Ardsley and at 4:31 p.m. in Tarrytown. Nothing was stolen from the gas station, while $72,000 worth of lottery scratch-off games were stolen from the stationery store.

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ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS



Studio Tour co-producer Kara Lenkeit of Irvington will exhibit work by seven artists, including Lynn Stein (left) and Kristin Sandgren-Jolain (right), in her living room, which she will turn into the WKND Gallery Experiment.

RiverArts Studio Tour to showcase 63 artists

Event to encompass six villages on Nov. 7–8

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

REGION The annual RiverArts Studio Tour will return to Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings, Irvington, Sleepy Hollow, and Tarrytown on Nov. 7–8, with a preview show in Hastings on Nov. 1 that will bring together all of the artists in one space for the first time in the event's 33-year history.

During the two days of the free tour, some of the 63 artists will open their studios to visitors, while select locations will feature the work of multiple artists. This year's tour is co-produced by Hastings resident Kit Demirdelen and Irvington resident Kara Lenkeit, who have both worked with RiverArts for more than a decade.

"I think that the studio tour is something that's very important to local artists because it's a showcase that you can count on every year, where you know that you'll be able to present your work to the public and have your work be seen locally and by people who travel to the studio tour," Demirdelen told the Dispatch.

Demirdelen has been a producer of the studio tour for the past four years; this will be her final year in that role. She's also a visual artist who works with fabric and designs jewelry. Demirdelen has exhibited in the studio tour for the past 15 years, and will welcome visitors again next weekend.

"It's given me a lot of exposure that I wouldn't have gotten if I weren't involved in the organization," Demirdelen shared. "I've had a couple of shows locally that have been well-attended, I think because of my name recognition through RiverArts. It's also given me a lot of friendships that are important to me, and professional relationships."

For the second straight year, Lenkeit, who is an art curator, will host an exhibit of artists in her living room. Titled the WKND Gallery Experiment, the exhibit will feature Madi Jones, Gwen Kehrig-Darton, Jessica Maffia, Alli Miller, Alanna Morton, Kristin Sandgren-Jolain, and Lynn Stein.

Irvington wine shop Savvy Sips, 50 Main Street, will join the studio tour for the first time to host the work of photographer John Keon. The Hudson River Landing

Continued on page 18



Channeling Steve Gunn

As part of its "Channels" concert series, RivertArts will host guitarist and songwriter Steve Gunn at the Tennis Club of Hastings, 100 River St., on Friday, Nov. 6, at 7:30 p.m. Gunn released his seventh studio album, "Daylight Daylight," in November 2025. Produced by Stuart Wolferman of Hastings, "Channels" connects Rivertowns audiences with musicians from outside the area. For tickets, $35, visit riverarts.org.

— 2026 ELECTIONS —

State and County incumbents face opposition

BY AMY BOCHNER

REGION Across the Rivertowns, voters will decide four regional races on Election Day. Residents of Ardsley, Hastings, Dobbs Ferry, Irvington, Tarrytown, and Sleepy Hollow will choose their state senator and state assemblymember on Nov. 3. Each village — except Tarrytown — will also elect a representative to the Westchester County Board of Legislators. County Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson, a Democrat who represents Tarrytown, is unopposed.

New York State Senate

Running to represent District 35 are Democratic incumbent Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Republican challenger Anthony Merante. District 35 comprises Greenburgh, Mount Pleasant, and Yonkers.

Stewart-Cousins was first elected to the Senate in 2006, where she has been the majority leader since 2019. She is the longest-serving Democratic majority leader in the history of the Senate, as well as the first woman and African American woman to occupy that office.

Merante is an accountant and businessman based in Yonkers. In 2017, he was elected to the Yonkers City Council for the 6th District, where he served two four-year terms.

New York State Assembly

In the race for the 92nd District, Democratic incumbent MaryJane Shimsky is being challenged by Republican Bob Welch. The district includes most of Greenburgh and Mount Pleasant, as well as part of northwest Yonkers.

Shimsky was elected to the Assembly in 2022. From 2011–2022, she served on the Westchester County Board of Legislators.

This is Welch's first time running for the Assembly. He is a business executive with over 35 years of experience in financial services and fixed-income capital markets.

Westchester County District 12

The race for District 12, which encompasses Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Edgemont, Hartsdale, Hastings, and Irvington, is between Democratic incumbent David Imamura and Republican Laurie Duffalo.

Imamura is a voting rights lawyer and the first Asian American member of the Westchester County Board of Legislators. His first term began in February 2023. He served as interim majority leader of the County Legislature in 2025 and now chairs the Litigation Committee.

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250th Commemoration

Continued from page 1

farmers plow the fields. They would have been a very visible, familiar part of the landscape."

At Pierson Park, Tarrytown Mayor Karen Brown will address the crowd from the bandshell. The afternoon program, scheduled from 1–4 p.m., will include music, historical performances, musket demonstrations, crafts, food trucks and other activities for families.

At 1:30 p.m., two "Declaration of Dreams" quilts will be unveiled, one for each village hall, where they will be displayed permanently. The quilts each feature 26 squares that show images of local history and landmarks as well as symbols of hopes for the future, including hands reaching toward one another.

Each quilt also includes 250 hand-stitched hearts, which allowed people of all ages and sewing abilities to contribute. Residents were invited to reflect on what they wanted to commemorate from the past 250 years and what they hoped for in the next 50.

Over six months, the pieces were sewn in homes, schools, and at public events before volunteers Amanda Bowers, Rachelle Gebler, Janet Goyzueta, and Meredith Weiner stitched them together into the finished quilts.

"These quilts not only commemorate our villages' histories and embody our dreams for the future, but are evidence of our present potential and what's possible when we all work together," said Kersten Harries, the project manager for the quilts and a creative placemaking consultant in Sleepy Hollow.

"We wanted to do something that had some prominence and that would not just be a day for people to come together, which is very important on Nov. 1, but also sort of bring the community together on a combined art project," Weigel added.

Other afternoon events will explore different aspects of the Revolutionary era. Historical musicians Carla Lynne Hall and Jim Keyes will perform "Music of Africa in the Colonies," highlighting music associated with Black people, both enslaved and free, during the period.

Drama from the Past — featuring Sean Grady and Gary Petagine — will present "Rendezvous with Treason," about Benedict Arnold's plot to surrender West Point and John André's capture. Weigel will also perform in "Mrs. Arnold Would Like a Word," a piece that explores the perspective of Peggy Shippen Arnold, Benedict Arnold's wife, whose role in the story is less widely known.

The program will conclude with the national anthem performed by Sleepy Hollow High School singers and musicians.

Weigel hopes the commemoration will help residents learn more about the history that surrounds them. Local streets, for example, bear the names of men involved in André's capture, including Paulding and Van Wart, but the stories behind those names are less familiar.

"We live in this really important place, with such a rich Revolutionary War history, and most of us really don't know it — or only know bits and pieces," she said.

The event's focus on reconciliation is also a reminder of how communities moved forward after the war.

"At a time when people can feel very divided, the county came together after the war to become prosperous again," Weiger said. "That's why we wanted to start the day with a message of reconciliation."

The event is free and open to the public. In case of rain, activities will move to Kusel Auditorium at Sleepy Hollow High School, 210 N. Broadway. For more information, visit *bit.ly/TarrytownSleepyHollow250*.

The Blotter

Continued from page 2

Joseph Borelli made the arrest.

TARRYTOWN

Theft from CVS: On Oct. 19, the CVS at 51 N. Broadway (Route 9) reported that an unidentified man had shoplifted $1,331.22 worth of items on the evening of Monday, Oct. 12.

Missing registration stickers: On Oct. 20, the sales manager at Tarrytown Honda, 480 S. Broadway, reported that five registration stickers from the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles had not been delivered.

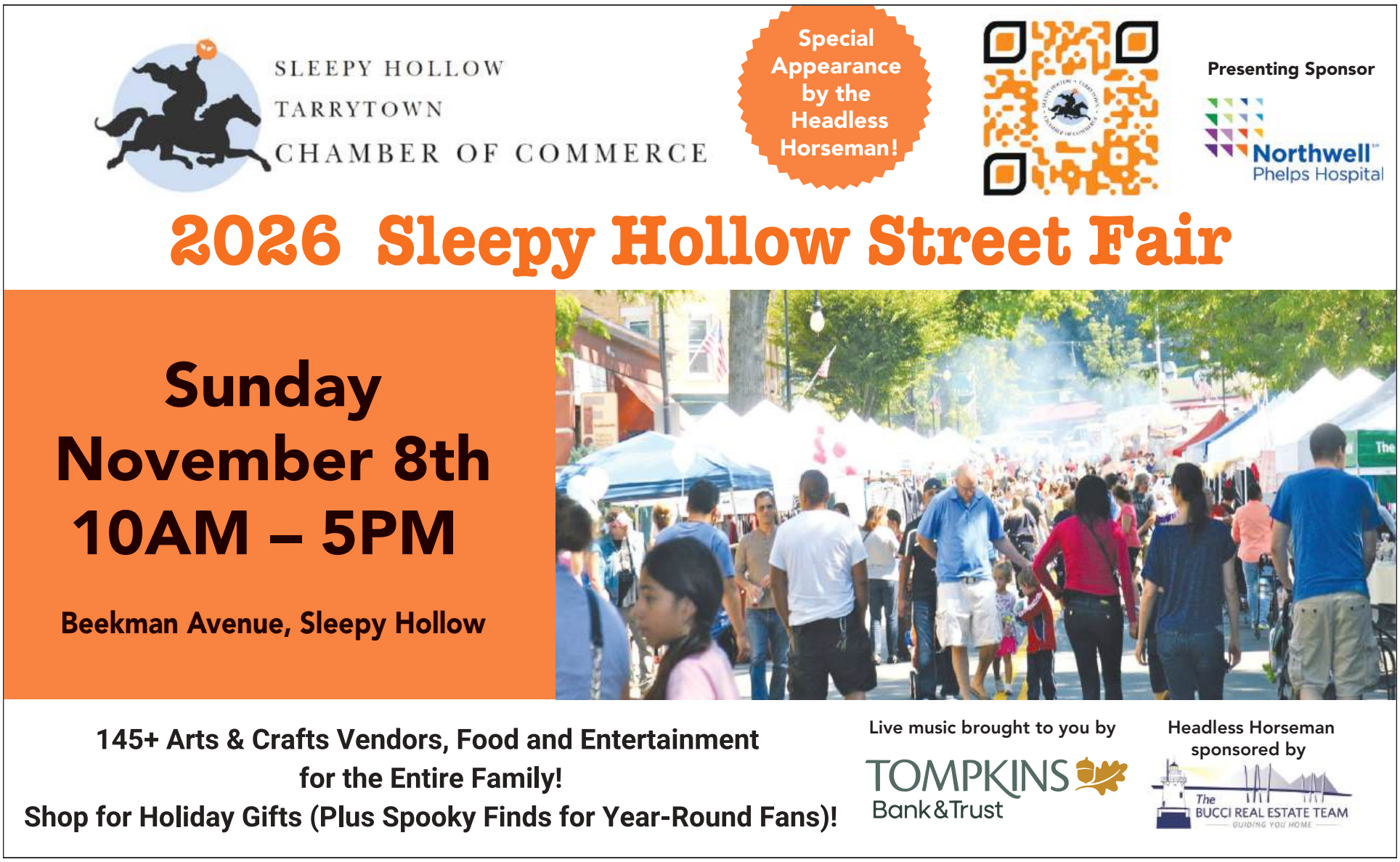
Unauthorized charges: On Oct. 20, a Tarrytown resident reported that unauthorized charges totaling $644.38 were made to her credit card in New York City, where she had lost the card, between Oct. 12–14.

Wanted no more: A 67-year-old Tarrytown resident surrendered to police on Wednesday, Oct. 21, in response to a warrant issued on Oct. 22, 2025, after he missed an appearance in Tarrytown Village Court. The appearance was for trespassing, a violation, at the CVS at 350 S. Broadway on Sept. 7, 2025.

Suspended license and registration: A 26-year-old Binghamton resident was arrested for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree, and for a suspended vehicle registration, both misdemeanors, on South Broadway on the afternoon of Friday, Oct. 23. Officer Claudio Liranzo made the arrest.

Youths dispersed: Police dispersed youths from a home under construction on Gracemere on the evening of Saturday, Oct. 24. Four of them — from Brewster, Katonah, Mahopac, and White Plains — were released to parents.

Menacing arrest: A 56-year-old Peekskill resident was arrested for threatening her 57-year-old husband with a knife in a vehicle parked at The Sail House, 238 Green St., on the afternoon of Sunday, Oct. 25. She was charged with two misdemeanors — menacing in the second degree and criminal possession of a weapon in the fourth degree. Officer Fernando Santiago made the arrest.



"Revisit the Revolution" Exhibit
Nov. 2–13. Ardsley Public Library.
—
Board of Trustees Meeting
Monday, Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m. Village Hall. To attend via Zoom, visit *ardsleyvillage.gov*.

Film Screening and Panel
Tuesday, Nov. 3, 8:45 a.m. Ardsley Middle School. Watch "Silent War: Asian American Reckonings with Mental Health," followed by a discussion with the film's director and the executive director of S.P.E.A.K.

Hudson Valley Wildlife for Ages 7+
Tuesday, Nov. 3, 11 a.m. Ardsley Public Library. Register: *ardsleypubliclibrary.org*.
—
Lego Lab for Ages 5+
Tuesday, Nov. 3, 4 p.m. Ardsley Public Library. Register at *ardsleypubliclibrary.org*.
—
Architectural Review Board Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 3, 8 p.m. Village Hall. Agenda available at *ardsleyvillage.gov*.
—
Senior Program with Louis Challop
Wednesday, Nov. 4, noon–1 p.m. Community Center.
—
"Partnering with Pollinators" Webinar
Wednesday, Nov. 4, 7 p.m. Register online for the link at *ardsleypollinatorpathway.org*.

— 2026 ELECTIONS —

Syed and Wiskind unopposed for board

BY AMY BOCHNER

Two Democratic candidates are running unopposed for two seats on the Ardsley Board of Trustees this coming Election Day, Nov. 3. Saboor Syed is seeking to join the board for the first time, while Michael Wiskind aims to continue his tenure.

Born in Pakistan, ***Syed*** has lived in Westchester for more than 30 years, including 22 as a resident of Ardsley. His career includes 20 years working for AT&T, where he serves as a leader in enterprise commercialization and pricing strategy. Syed was a member of the Ardsley 125th Anniversary Planning Committee from 2021–2022. He currently serves on the Zoning Advisory Committee, which he joined in 2025, and the planning board, which he joined this year.

Former Mayor Nancy Kaboolian appointed ***Wiskind*** to the board of trustees following Andy DiJusto's resignation in 2025. Wiskind filled DiJusto's term until it expired in December 2025. He was reappointed to the board after former Trustee Steve Edelstein became mayor and his seat opened up. A 33-year resident, Wiskind has been involved in local government since 2000, and has served as chair of both the architectural review board and the zoning board of appeals. He was also a trustee of the Ardsley Public Library from 2018–25, taking on the role of the treasurer from 2020–2025. For the past 20 years, he's worked in the promotional products industry, most recently as the director of finance at Gordon Sinclair.

Halloween candy buyback

The Ardsley Community Enrichment parent teacher organization and the Ardsley Girl Scouts are conducting a Treats for Troops Halloween candy buyback from Nov. 2–11.

All candy will be shipped to troops overseas courtesy of the Ardsley Fire Department's Engine Company and the Ardsley Police Benevolent Association.

Unwanted candy can be dropped off at Ardsley Smiles Dentistry at 20 Center Street. For each pound of candy, Ardsley Smiles will donate $1 to the Concord Road Elementary School kindergarten class.

Got news?
Email staff writer Amy Bochner at *amy@rivertownsdispatch.com*

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS



Maya Kamaeva and Karolina Piorko paint the mural on Sept. 21.

Rosy outlook is visual and fiscal at Pascone Park

BY AMY BOCHNER

With sleeping bumblebees and vibrant flowers, a new mural brings color and whimsy to Pascone Park, which will receive additional improvements as the result of a $718,562 grant.

On Sept. 22, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced $67.5 million in grants for 89 projects to build or renovate public playgrounds through New York Places for Learning, Activity, and Youth Socialization (NY PLAYS). Ardsley was among the recipients, securing funding for an additional playground and a new splash pad at Pascone Park. This builds on the $1.7 million renovation of the park in 2025, that included a new playground, a new bandshell, and other amenities.

To further beautify the park, the Ardsley Arts Commission put out a call in May for artists to paint part of a storage container — effectively a 40-by-8-foot wall — behind a gaga ball pit. In August, the village board of trustees approved the proposal of artist collective Triple Entendre, composed of New York City-based video game designer Maya Kamaeva and architectural designer Karolina Piorko. The Village provided a stipend of $3,000 for the work, which began in September.

On Oct. 18, Kamaeva and Piorko completed the mural. The design pays tribute to the village's Pollinator Pathway initiative by incorporating bees, butterflies, and abstract forms inspired by native plants. The mural is split into day and night halves. On the day side, a bumblebee collects honey at a swamp rose mallow. On the night side, two bees sleep beside each other on a buttonbush plant.

According to the artists, they were not familiar with Ardsley before painting the mural. However, after spending a few weekends in the village, "The town and its people left a great impression on us," Piorko said. "We felt very welcomed to the park and were energized by all the people and activities happening in the background as we painted."

Kamaeva shared that the process took place at the same time as the Ardsley Fire Department Carnival, with attendees walking over to watch the duo at work. According to Piorko, the timing also allowed the two to witness "soccer training sessions, tennis tournament, an amusement park, and a Halloween parade."

Kamaeva described their experience with community members while creating the mural.

Continued on page 18



Trunk-or-treat
—
Parents and children parade from Pascone Park to the Ardsley Middle School parking lot, where community members handed out candy from the backs of vehicles on the afternoon of Saturday, Oct. 24.

















HUDCO

GRAVE RAVE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026

Our Halloween ball came back from the dead for its last rites. The costume contest judges, Jessica and Josephine of The Beauty Parlor, and Simone of Simply by Simone, had the unenviable task of choosing the best of the lot. ‘Dead Funny’ went to Bloomy Cheese & Provisions and Dapper Fellow founder **Jessica Galen**, who roped us in as the downtown Dobbs Ferry wires. ‘Dead Ensemble’ went to **Alyson Lillis** and **Steve Jacobs**, who came as Miranda Priestly and Nigel from The Devil Wears Prada, and carried Runway on the runway of winners. ‘Dead Serious’ went to **Brenden Delbene** as Poison Ivy, who seriously must have come straight from Gotham to enter the contest.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GUS STRATIGEAS

See what we have planned next

















DOBBS FERRY

Día de los Muertos/ Day of the Dead
Sunday, Nov. 1, Noon–2 p.m.
Dobbs Ferry Public Library. All-ages celebration with a performance by Grupo Folklorica Kaukalli, face painting, and crafts.
—

Virtual Comedy Open Mic
Tuesday, Nov. 3, 8 p.m.
Hosted on Zoom by the Dobbs Ferry Public Library. For ages 18+. Sign up: *tdeery@dobbsferrylibrary.org*.
—

"A.I.: Seeing Is No Longer Believing"
Wednesday, Nov. 4, 6:30 p.m.
Dobbs Ferry Public Library. The tech talk focuses on how to protect yourself from deepfakes, A.I. scams, and social media manipulation.
—

Zoning Board Meeting
Wednesday, Nov. 4, 8 p.m.
Village Hall.
—

Planning/Architectural Review Board Meeting
Thursday, Nov. 5, 7 p.m.
Village Hall.
—

Pumpkin Smash
Sunday, Nov. 8, 1–3 p.m.
Gould Park.
—

Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry
Food distribution on Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.–noon. South Presbyterian Church, 343 Broadway. For information about donating, visit *dobbsferrypantry.org*.

— 2026 ELECTIONS —

Galen, Gupta, and Rothrock unopposed for board of trustees

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Three current members of the Dobbs Ferry Board of Trustees, all Democrats, are unopposed as they aim to remain in office on Election Day (Nov. 3).

Deputy Mayor ***Jessica Bloom Galen*** has lived in Dobbs Ferry since 2017, and been a trustee since 2022, around the same time she opened Bloomy Cheese & Provisions on Cedar Street. Last week, she opened a second business, Dapper Fellows, also on Cedar. Bloom Galen has served as trustee liaison for several village committees during her first two terms. She is currently the liaison for the Public Art Committee, Library Board, and Parks and Recreation Commission.

Pediatrician ***Nitin Gupta*** plans to begin his first full two-year term as a trustee in December. Last December, Gupta was appointed by Mayor Christy Knell to serve the remaining year of her two-year trustee term after she was elected mayor. Gupta, a father of two, moved to Dobbs in 2013 and opened Rivertowns Pediatrics, on Ashford Avenue, in 2017. In 2025, Gupta was on the 13-member Local Planning Committee charged with deciding which proposals to pitch for the $4.5 million NY Forward grant the Village received from New York State. He is the trustee liaison for the Traffic Committee, Youth Services Council, and Tree Commission, and is a board member of the Rivertowns Chamber of Commerce.

Like Gupta, ***Laura Rothrock*** is appearing on the ballot for the first time. Rothrock was appointed to the board by former Mayor Vincent Rossillo in September 2025, after Deputy Mayor Nicole Sullivan stepped down. Rothrock is president of the Long Island City Partnership, which is an economic development organization that focuses on advocating for infrastructure improvements, parks, and open space in Long Island City, Queens, and is also executive director of Long Island City's business improvement district. Rothrock was recruited to join Dobbs Ferry's Local Development Corporation in 2023, and was a part of the Local Planning Committee that oversaw the $4.5 million NY Forward grant. Rothrock serves as trustee liaison for the Downtown Committee and Zoning Board of Appeals.

Got news?
Email staff writer Julian Michael Caldwell at *julian@rivertownsdispatch.com*

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS



Maria Fernanda Ramirez behind the counter at Wildly Cakes on Cedar Street.

Wildly Cakes adds sweetness to Cedar Street

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

After years of operating a kitchen on Ashford Avenue that also served as a customer pick-up point for custom cakes and other special-order desserts, Wildly Cakes opened a storefront on Cedar Street on Oct. 22. There, owner and baker Maria Fernanda Ramirez is expanding her menu to include assorted cookies, fruit tarts, cinnamon rolls, muffins, and other treats ready to buy.

New Business Opening

Ramirez opened the Ashford Avenue location in December 2020, after a growth in demand for the custom cake business she founded in 2018. While people were locked down at home during the pandemic, Ramirez noticed that orders for personalized cakes increased.

"During that time, I think it was hard for everyone, and they would get small cakes, but it was still a very personal cake for their loved ones," Ramirez told the Dispatch, adding that she felt her customers wanted to make sure birthdays were treated as special in the midst of stressful circumstances.

"It was trying to stay connected to our loved ones and making sure that we still celebrated them even though it was a hard time everyone was dealing with," Ramirez, the mother of three, added.

Ramirez began working in bakeries a little more than two decades ago, first as a front-of-house employee who learned from the dessert decorators. In 2020, two years after launching Wildly Cakes, Ramirez was working at a bakery in White Plains that closed during the pandemic. By the end of the year, the number of orders she was receiving was too much to handle from home, which was in White Plains. She discovered the Ashford Avenue site during one of her drives

Continued on page 18



Stirring the pots
—
Andrew Giordano and Antonietta Salvi stand on platforms as they stir pots of tomato sauce on Oct. 24, in preparation for 85th annual Spaghetti Dinner at Our Lady of Pompeii Church on Palisade Street on Sunday, Oct. 25. Parishioners made about 1,700 meatballs for the dinner on Oct. 23.

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HASTINGS

Farmers Market
Saturday, Oct. 31, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Commuter Lot, Southside Avenue. *hastingsfarmersmarket.org*.
—
Halloween Fun Run
Saturday, Oct. 31, 8:30 a.m. Hillside Elementary School. For K–5 students and their families. *ptsahastings.org*.
—
Scarecrow's Ball
Saturday, Oct. 31, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. The Good Witch Coffee Bar, 134 Southside Ave.
—
Munchkin Halloween Parade
Saturday, Oct. 31, 10:45 a.m. March from VFW Plaza to The Good Witch Coffee Bar.
—
Studio Tour Preview Show
Sunday, Nov. 1, 3–5 p.m. Village Hall. Artists show works that will be part of the RiverArts Studio Tour, Nov. 7–8.
—
Architectural Review Board Meeting
Monday, Nov. 2, 7 p.m. Village Hall. Agenda available at *hohny.gov*.
—
School Board Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 3, 6 p.m. Hillside Multipurpose Room. Agenda available at *hohschools.org*.
—
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 3, 7 p.m. Village Hall. Agenda available at *hohny.gov*.

— 2026 ELECTIONS —

Fleisig and Merton unopposed for board of trustees

BY AMY BOCHNER

Democratic incumbents Morgen Fleisig and Samantha Merton are running unopposed for the Hastings Board of Trustees in the Nov. 3 elections.

Fleisig moved to the village in 2014 and has served as a trustee since 2019. For the past 30 years, he has run his eponymous architecture firm. His first venture into local government was in 2017, when he joined the Waterfront Rezoning Committee. Two years later, former Mayor Peter Swiderski appointed Fleisig to the board of trustees. Fleisig was then elected to the board in 2020, and reelected in 2022 and 2024. In 2025, he ran in the Democratic primary for mayor, which was won by Tom Drake.

Merton has lived in Hastings since 2001 and is seeking reelection after her first term, which began in 2024. She is a graduate admissions counselor at Stratus Admissions Counseling and also works as a sensory panelist (professional taster) for MMR Research. She volunteers for various organizations, such as the Federal Employee Education & Assistance Fund, CollegeBound Foundation, and QuestBridge. Before becoming a trustee, Merton served for 13 years on the Parks & Recreation Commission, eight years on the Hastings Education Foundation board, and two years on the Hastings Comprehensive Plan Committee.

Also on the ballot in Hastings is Proposition 1, which relates to the Village's ***Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP)*** for volunteer firefighters.

In 1993, Hastings began participating in the LOSAP, which provides a retirement benefit to volunteers starting at age 65. Currently, volunteers can earn retirement credits for up to 20 years of eligible service. Each year of eligible service earns them $20, with a maximum benefit of $400 per month. Proposition 1 would allow volunteer firefighters to earn a larger retirement benefit by increasing the years of eligible service from 20 to 40. Volunteers would still earn $20 per eligible year, but the maximum benefit would increase to $800 a month.

According to the Village, the annual cost is not expected to increase significantly if the measure is approved. The current program had a budget of approximately $333,050 for 2026. The annual funding cost for the amended program is estimated to be $330,000.

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS



Natalie Thompson and Paige Maime Thompson uncover the panels across the street from the middle and high schools.

Panels complete project to celebrate Clarks

Couple honored for impact on children and civil rights

BY AMY BOCHNER

A new set of panels near the building that houses Farragut Middle School and Hastings High School honor Mamie and Kenneth Clark, the former village residents who played a pivotal role in the fight to desegregate schools across the country.

The Clarks were best known for their doll experiments, which led to them testifying as expert witnesses in Brown vs. Board of Education in 1954, which declared separating children in public schools on the basis of race was unconstitutional. During a panel dedication on Oct. 22, educators, residents, and family members reflected on the Clarks and their legacy.

The couple's groundbreaking experiments originated with Mamie Phipps Clark's master's thesis, "The Development of Consciousness of Self in Negro Pre-School Children." She partnered with Kenneth Clark to extend her thesis research, which provided evidence of the negative effects of segregation on Black children's self-esteem. Following years of trailblazing work in psychology and education, Mamie Clark died in 1983 at age 66, leaving behind two children and Kenneth Clark, who died in 2005 at 91.

Despite their contributions to society, there was little recognition of the Clarks in Hastings, where they arrived in 1950 and remained for the rest of their lives. According to Hastings resident Jennifer Ito, "Aside from a small plaque in the stairwell of the Clarks' home [on Pinecrest Drive in Hastings], and the Kenneth B. Clark Academy up the street in Dobbs Ferry… there was no public acknowledgement of the Clarks having lived here and of their impact on this country."

At the national level, Ito continued, information about Kenneth Clark was easy to find, but Mamie is "seldom mentioned, even though the doll test arose from her master's thesis, and she and Kenneth Clark had been equal partners conducting the doll study."

Ito, along with fellow Hastings residents Eddie Crawford and Caitlin Chang, decided to rectify these oversights.

"We kept saying to each other, 'Someone should do something to elevate both the Clarks and Hastings,'" Ito said. "If you lived here, it should just be part of common knowledge… We realized that that someone could be, and perhaps should be, the three of us. That's how this project was born."

In 2022, the three proposed a project to honor the Clarks to then Mayor Niki Armacost. They worked alongside Hastings Historical Society president Natalie Barry to bring their idea to life.

In fall of 2023, phase one of the project was realized when a portion of Mount Hope Boulevard was co-named Drs. Mamie and Kenneth Clark Way, with street signage funded by the Village.

Preceding the Oct. 14, 2023, co-naming ceremony, the Hastings Public Library hosted a series of lectures, discussions, and film screenings about historic figures connected to the Clarks. The historical society prepared an exhibit on the Clarks that was displayed at the high school and at the historical society's headquarters. This phase also included Minnijean Brown-Trickey, a member of the Little Rock Nine who lived with the Clarks from 1958–59, speaking at all three schools in the district.

According to Barry, phase two took "more time and effort than we expected," with costs increasing and the passing of their first contractor.

Four years after the project proposal, phase two is now complete, with three panels installed on Drs. Mamie and Kenneth Clark Way — two at the bottom of Mount Hope Boulevard, at Farragut Avenue, and one at the top of the hill, at Lefurgy Avenue. The two near the schools contain biographies of the Clarks and overviews of their work as psychologists and activists. The panel on Lefurgy features a condensed summary, in language accessible to elementary school students.

While the panels seek to honor the Clarks in Hastings, other attendees of the Oct. 22 ceremony shared how the couples' influence endures outside of the village.

In 1946, the Clarks opened the Northside Center for Child Development, offering mental health services to families in Harlem. President Paula Magnus, and past president Thelma Dye-Holmes, a psychologist, spoke during the ceremony, describing how the couple's legacy, especially that of Mamie Clark, lives on in the organization's work.

"That foundation was built by Dr. [Mamie] Clark on three simple, simple but

Continued on page 18



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Farmers Market
Sunday, Nov. 1, 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Main Street School, 101 Main St. *theirvingtonfarmersmarket.org*.
—
Honoring Irvington's Legacies
Sunday, Nov. 1, noon–4 p.m. Ardsley Country Club. Purchase tickets, $75–$175, for the historical society's annual fall benefit at *irvingtonhistoricalsociety.org*.
—
Lego Club and Storytime for Ages 5+
Monday, Nov. 2, 3:45 p.m.–4:30 p.m. Martucci Gallery at Irvington Public Library. Registration required at *irvingtonlibrary.org*.
—
"Nature's Narrative"
Monday, Nov. 2, through December. Martucci Gallery at Irvington Public Library. Features Dawn Leone's visual journey through the seasons.
—
Tabletop Game Night for Adults and Seniors
Tuesday, Nov. 3, 6:30–8:45 p.m. Irvington Public Library.
—
Planning Board Meeting
Wednesday, Nov. 4, 7 p.m. Village Hall. Visit *irvingtonny.gov* for the link.
—
Friends of the Irvington Library Meeting
Thursday, Nov. 5, 7 p.m. Martucci Gallery at Irvington Public Library.

— 2026 ELECTIONS —

Bloom, Kleiman, and Farber unopposed

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Three incumbents are running, unopposed, for two seats on the Irvington Board of Trustees and for the position of village justice.

Deputy Mayor Josie Bloom has lived in Irvington for seven years and has served as a trustee for one, two-year term after winning her first election in 2024. Since 2019, Bloom has been a member of the Irvington Green Team, which is an organization working to mitigate negative environmental impacts. Bloom also serves as the trustee liaison to the Irvington Parks & Recreation Department, Fire Department, Department of Public Works, Water Department, Police Department, Justice Court, and Rocktoberfest. Professionally, Bloom is a social worker who runs her own psychotherapy practice as well as a wedding planning business.

Kent Kleiman has also lived in Irvington for seven years and joined the board of trustees after winning in the same election as Bloom. Kleiman is the trustee liaison to the Board of Education, the Building Department, and the Historic District, Traffic Calming, and Open Space Advisory committees. Kleiman is the middle school assistant principal at East-West School of International Studies in Flushing, Queens, where he's been working for 13 years.

Village Justice Danielle Farber is appearing on the ballot for the first time since being appointed to the role, over seven other applicants, in January, following the departure of Desmond Lyons, who was in the position for 15 years. Farber has lived in Irvington since 2016, and worked as an attorney for more than two decades. In addition to her role as village justice, which comes with a $25,000 annual salary, Farber is the principal court attorney for Westchester County Supreme Court Justice Robert Ondrovic. She previously served in the Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court. Unlike the trustees, who serve two-terms, Farber is running for a four-year term.

Early voting continues Friday, Oct. 30, from 8 a.m.–4 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 31, from 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 1, from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Early voting is available at 25 locations throughout the county, including Greenburgh Town Hall, 177 Hillside Ave., White Plains, and the Hastings Public Library, 7 Maple Ave. The general election is Tuesday, Nov. 3, from 6 a.m.–9 p.m.

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS



Plastic tubes protect native shrubs and trees planted near the O'Hara Nature Center.

Firm hired to further woods restoration

Six-figure grant from NYS to fund projects

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Using grant money provided by New York State, the Village of Irvington will spent $353,512 to hire a forestry company to support the health of the 241-acre Irvington Woods.

During a public meeting on Oct. 19, the village board of trustees approved the contract with AMRO Forestry, based in Whitney Point, N.Y., using funds provided by the Community Reforestation (CoRe) Grant awarded to the Village in December 2025. The total grant was for $382,316, with the remaining funds going toward administering the grant.

The O'Hara Nature Center is located on a 26-acre parcel in the northeast corner of the woods. According to O'Hara Nature Center director CJ Reilly, AMRO's work will center around three primary objectives. Those include the removal of select invasive species from four treatment areas that total 99.5-acres, planting approximately 6,500 tree saplings in those areas, and building four fenced deer exclosures to protect 6.16 acres in ecologically sensitive areas. The exclosures will keep deer from eating native plants.

"Without all of the grant work from the state and the federal government, our adaptability and protection of the woods would not be as robust as it is now," Reilly told the Dispatch.

In 2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) awarded a $433,275 grant to support forest regeneration in Irvington, Dobbs Ferry, and Hastings. In Irvington, $112,652 is being used for planting native trees, removing invasive plants, deer mitigation, and forest ecology programs.

"The forest, where it was 10 years ago to where it is now, is kind of a night-and-day level," Reilly added. "Now we know through scientific studies and research work what's happening in the woods in a much more clear and precise way, and we have a much clearer understanding of how to manage the woods in a short-, mid-, and long-term perspective that is based in science and field observation from a wide range of individuals, from youth to adults."

> "The forest, where it was 10 years ago to where it is now, is kind of a night-and-day level."
>
> O'Hara Nature Center director CJ Reilly

The O'Hara Nature Center hosts free programs for children of all ages to learn how to conduct forest research and help protect the woods. Through the Living Forest Series, the Village hosts experts in ecology and forestry at the nature center to teach residents about a variety of subjects, such as bird ecology, deer management, and biodiversity. Through the nature center, residents can also sign up for volunteer days two Saturdays per month when they help with tree planting and invasive plant removal.

Volunteers learn how to identify invasive species, as well as which of them are most compatible for growing high-value mushrooms. Instruction is given in how to use power tools to drill holes in the logs of felled invasive trees and prep them to produce mushrooms. The volunteers are invited to take mushrooms and logs home from the nature center's agroforestry demonstration area. Reilly estimates that roughly 1,500 logs left from tree removal funded by the USDA grant have been drilled and filled with fungal spawn to produce high-value mushrooms like shiitake and Lion's mane.

"In forestry, messy forests are good forests," Reilly explained. "So, you don't want to wood chip all of those logs; you want to just leave them on the ground and they naturally decompose. They're habitats for amphibians and reptiles and fungi, so they provide a lot of services that if you were to just clean up that mess, it would actually not benefit the woods as much as it would just to leave a big brush pile of logs and twigs."

NOVEMBER

A glimpse at the month ahead of events and activities in the Rivertowns

EDITED BY JENNIFER GOLD

SUNDAY

1

- HA Studio Tour Preview Show
  3–5 p.m., Hastings Village Hall
- IR "Honoring Irvington's Legacies"
  Noon–4 p.m., Ardsley Country Club
- DF Día de los Muertos/Day of the Dead
  2–4 p.m., Dobbs Ferry Public Library
- SH & TT 250th Commemoration
  Noon–4 p.m., Riverwalk and Pierson Park
- TT Buzz & Bloom: Kids' Pollinator Adventure
  10–11:30 a.m., Lyndhurst

8

- RiverArts Studio Tour
  11 a.m.–4 p.m.
- DF Pumpkin Smash
  1 p.m., Gould Park
- HA Terry Ryan Memorial Run
  11 a.m., Hastings High School
- HA Hastings Flea 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Zinsser Lot
- SH Sleepy Hollow Street Fair
  10 a.m.–5 p.m., Beekman Avenue
- TT Mahjong Tournament
  12:45–5:30 p.m., Shames JCC
- TT Open Jam Session
  8 p.m., Jazz Forum Club

15

- TT The Moth Storytelling Workshop
  Noon–3 p.m., Shames JCC
- TT "Don't Cry For Me: My Yeshiva"
  3–5 p.m., Shames JCC
- TT Live Talks NY: Amy Tan
  4 p.m., Tarrytown Music Hall

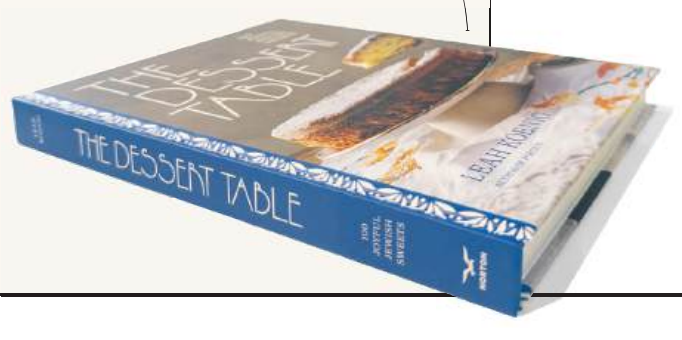


22

- HA RiverArts' Chamber Music Concert
  1 p.m., The Newington-Cropsey Foundation
- IR Peter K. Oley Turkey Trot
  2 p.m., Dows Lane Elementary School
- TT Trudy Dunbar Memorial Run
  10 a.m., Pierson Park
- TT Broadway's Wild Ride: Music of the 1950s
  3–5 p.m., Shames JCC
- TT Westchester Symphonic Winds
  3 p.m., Hackley School

29

- HA Hanukkah Cookie Baking with Leah Koenig
  10 a.m.–noon, The Good Witch
- TT Holiday Mansion Tours
  10 a.m.–3 p.m., Lyndhurst. Through Dec. 27



MONDAY

2

- AR Revisit the Revolution Exhibit
  10 a.m.–5:30 p.m., Ardsley Public Library
- TT Live Talks NY: Andy Serkis
  8 p.m., Tarrytown Music Hall

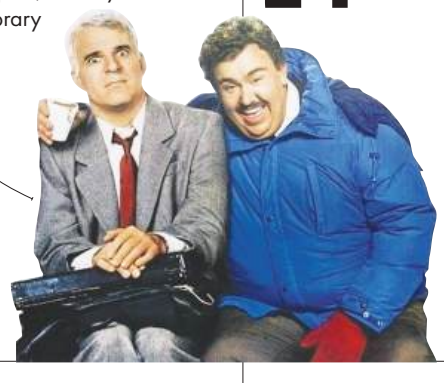
9

- TT Behind the Scenes with Andy Cohen
  6:30–7:45 p.m., Shames JCC
- TT Line Dancing
  7:15 p.m., Senior Center



23

- AR Screening: "Planes, Trains and Automobiles"
  2 p.m., Ardsley Public Library



30

TUESDAY

3



10

- AR Film Screening: "Saving the Hidden Coral"
  11 a.m., Ardsley Public Library
- DF Book Club: Switzy
  8 p.m., Picture Book at HudCo

17

ONGOING

- AR "Moments in Medium" Exhibit
  Ardsley Village, through April 2027
- HA Farmers Market
  Commuter Lot, Saturdays, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m., through Nov. 21
- IR Classic Tour & Myths and Mysteries Tour
  Octagon House, through Nov. 2
- IR Farmers Market
  Main Street School, Sundays, through Nov. 22

24

Submit events: *rivertownsdispatch.com/contact-us*

WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY

4



- AR "Partnering with Pollinators" 7 p.m., webinar
- SH Mahjong Night 6–9 p.m., The Library at Historic Hudson Valley
- TT Dweezil Zappa: Like Father, Like Son 8 p.m., Tarrytown Music Hall

5

- DF Brazilian Vocalist Sanny Alves 7–9:30 p.m., Mirabella Cocina Latina
- TT Mark Rivera: From Piano Man to the Fab Four 7:30 p.m., Shames JCC

6

- DF Ladies Night Out: Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraiser 6:30–9:30 p.m., HudCo
- TT Afro Jobim 6:30 p.m., The Pocantico Center
- TT "The Importance of Being Earnest" 7:30 p.m., Lyndhurst. Through Nov. 22



7

- RiverArts Studio Tour 11 a.m.–5 p.m.
- DF Diwali Celebration 10 a.m.–noon, Dobbs Ferry Public Library
- DF Rivertowns Repair Café 11 a.m.–3 p.m., Embassy Community Center
- IR Good Company Fall Benefit Concert 7:30 p.m., Irvington Theater
- TT Jazz Vocalist Pamela Knowles 2:30 p.m., Warner Library
- SH Magic and Cocktails with Noah Levine 4 and 6 p.m., Philipsburg Manor

11



12

- DF Roberta Piket Organ Trio 7–9:30 p.m., Mirabella Cocina Latina
- HA Deep Dive: Thomas Paine's "The American Crisis" 7 p.m., Hastings Public Library
- IR Science-on-Hudson Lecture 7 p.m., Nevis Science Center
- TT Trivia Night 7:30 p.m., Shames JCC

13

- HA Talking Stick Song Circle 4–6 p.m., The Good Witch
- TT Married By the Mob 7 p.m., Tarrytown House Estate
- TT Small Town Murder 8 p.m., Tarrytown Music Hall

14

- AR Diwali Celebration 1–3 p.m., Ardsley Middle School
- AR Live Band Karaoke 7:30 p.m., Saw Mill Tavern
- DF MorDance Open Rehearsal 6–7:30 p.m., 145 Palisade St.
- HA Outdoor Screening: "Planes, Trains and Automobiles" 8 p.m., Commuter Lot
- IR "Victorian Christmas" Tour 10 a.m.–2:30 p.m., Octagon House
- TT Taconic Opera: Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 1 p.m., Tarrytown Music Hall

18

- DF HudCo Provisions 6:30–8:30 p.m., 145 Palisade St.
- DF Rivertowns Chamber: Women's Social 6:30–8:30 p.m., 145 Palisade St.

19

- DF The Jam with The Trio & Mr. TC 7–9:30 p.m., Mirabella Cocina Latina

20

- IR "Come From Away" 7 p.m., Irvington Theater
- SH Hybrid Open Mic 7:30 p.m., Philipse Manor Station

21

- DF FerryCon 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Dobbs Ferry Public Library
- TT "Annie The Musical" 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., Tarrytown Music Hall. Through Nov. 29



25

- IR "Nature's Narrative" Exhibit Martucci Gallery, through December
- IR Historical Society Exhibit McVickar House, through January 2027
- TT The Creepshow Makers Central, through Nov. 1
- TT Fall Classic Mansion Tour & Upstairs-Downstairs Tour Lyndhurst, through Nov. 1

26



- TT Tour Washington Irving's Estate Sunnyside, through Nov. 8
- TT TaSH Farmers Market Patriots Park, Saturdays, 8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., through Nov. 21
- TT "Woven Wonders: Kykuit's Picasso Tapestries" Pocantico Center, through March 20, 2027

27

- TT Holiday Opening and Makers Market 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Lyndhurst. Through Nov. 28

28





SLEEPY HOLLOW

TaSH Farmers Market
Saturday, Oct. 31, 8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Patriots Park. Pablo Mayor's Colombian ensemble Folklore Urbano performs beginning at 11:30. *tashfarmersmarket.org*.
—
Halloween Movies for Kids
Saturday, Oct. 31, 11 a.m.–noon. Warner Library. Also, trick-or-treating, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
—
Sleepy Hollow & Tarrytown 250th Commemoration
Sunday, Nov. 1, noon–4 p.m. Ceremony at Riverwalk, followed by march to Pierson Park for live performances, colonial crafters, food trucks, and presentation of two Declaration of Dreams quilts crafted by residents. *bit.ly/TarrytownSleepyHollow250*.
—
Día de los Muertos
Sunday, Nov. 1, 2–6 p.m. Municipal parking lot, 21 Beekman Ave. Mariachi and traditional dancers, magic shows, face painting, food.
—
Board of Trustees Work Session
Tuesday, Nov. 3, 7 p.m. Village Hall.
—
School Board Meeting
Thursday, Nov. 5, 7 p.m. Central Office Building, 200 N. Broadway.
—
Sleepy Hollow Street Fair
Sunday, Nov. 8, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Beekman Avenue.

— 2026 ELECTIONS —

Trio of Democrats unopposed for board of trustees

BY LAURA SCHILLER

Three Democratic candidates for the Sleepy Hollow Board of Trustees will be unopposed on Election Day (Nov. 3).

Rodolphe Boulanger is an Edge-on-Hudson resident, where he and his wife, Colleen Lawrie, are raising their two children. Drawn to Sleepy Hollow in part for its diversity, his civic engagement includes volunteering on the Village's Transportation and Parking Committee.

An entrepreneur specializing in the wine and food industries, Boulanger has held leadership positions with local, regional, and national retailers, including FreshDirect and Total Wine & More. With experience in procurement, strategic planning, and budgeting, he hopes to draw on that business experience to help guide Village decisions and address residents' needs.

Meghan Raderstrong lives in Webber Park with her husband, Jeff, and their two children. A Mount Pleasant native, she has spent the past 15 years working as a classroom teacher, reading specialist, and instructor for multilingual learners.

Raderstrong is active in the community, volunteering as a driver and secretary for the Sleepy Hollow Ambulance Corps, serving as a class parent, and volunteering with her church. She is also the co-founder and co-editor of Tarry, an annual literary magazine that published its second edition last month.

Patrick Sheeran is seeking reelection to the Board of Trustees. Elected to a two-year term in March 2024, he was initially appointed to fill the unexpired term of Trustee Sandra Spiro in August 2023.

Sheeran is the co-owner of Beekman Ale House, which he opened with his brother, Luke, in 2021 on Beekman Avenue, where he and his wife, Christine, initially lived above the business.

Sheeran began his career working in his family's midtown Manhattan bars and restaurants, then worked in wealth management at Merrill Lynch before returning to the restaurant business to open his own establishment.

As a trustee, Sheeran hopes to attract more businesses to Sleepy Hollow and help create a more vibrant Beekman Avenue and surrounding area. He enjoys participating in the Sleepy Hollow Half Marathon and 10K, and taking his dogs to Kingsland Point Park.

Condo-to-rental proposal sets off tax debate

Edge developer wants 175 rentals instead of condos

BY LAURA SCHILLER

Nearly 30 years after General Motors closed its 96-acre assembly plant in Sleepy Hollow, the former industrial site is taking shape as Edge-on-Hudson, a waterfront development designed to ultimately include 1,177 homes, retail space, and public waterfront amenities.

Now, developer Lighthouse Landing Communities LLC wants to convert 175 planned condominiums in one undeveloped section, Block K, to rental apartments. The change would require an amendment to the project's special permit, which limits rentals to 40% of the development, and would raise that share to about 52%.

The proposed revision has divided residents of the village. Some worry that replacing condos with rentals could reduce long-term tax revenue and alter the community's character. Others want to see the development completed after years of construction.

"I feel duped because when I signed that contract, at my age I relied on what I was buying into here," said Dina Denley, an Edge-on-Hudson homeowner who spoke against the change at the first public hearing in May.

Brian Palmer, another resident, supported the conversion, stating he wants to see the project finished, even though his 3-year-old son loves watching the ongoing work.

"We've been at Edge-on-Hudson for almost three-and-a-half years and trust me, he loves every single morning, running to the window and seeing an empty construction lot, piles of dirt and cement trucks. Mommy and daddy, not so much," Palmer said.

At the May hearing, the developer's lawyer said the conversion would bring the Village an additional $6.4 million in tax revenue, speed up waterfront improvements, and include a $3 million payment to the Village.

During a hearing on July 14, Denley questioned whether the board was prioritizing the developer's financial interests over the approved plan.

"I completely 100% believed that the environment where I was choosing to live the rest of my years on this Earth, since I am a senior citizen, was going to be the home of my dreams. But it is not turning out to be the home of my dreams," she said.

She also asked whether the village wanted to become "another Yonkers" or "another Peekskill."

At an Oct. 6 work session, independent consultant VHB presented an analysis comparing the financial implications of developing Block K's 175-unit residential building as condominiums or rentals. The report found that rentals would bring tax revenue to the Village and school district sooner because they are expected to be built about seven years earlier.

VHB found strong demand for both types of housing. The difference in timing reflects the developer's plans: it would not begin another condo project until its current development is completed and occupied, but would be willing to build rentals sooner.

The Village is projected to collect about $28 million in taxes from the rentals through 2045, compared with $24.4 million from the condos. Once both properties are assessed at their full taxable value, however, the condos are expected to generate more each year — about $1.99 million, compared with $1.45 million for rentals.

By 2055, the condos are projected to generate about $1.8 million more in total Village revenue. But when future revenue is adjusted to reflect what that money is worth today, the rental option has an estimated $2 million advantage.

The school district would receive about the same annual tax revenue from either option once the properties are fully assessed — about $1.66 million. Because the rentals are expected to be built sooner, however, they are projected to generate about $11.2 million more in school tax revenue over 30 years. The analysis found little difference in revenue for the Town of Mount Pleasant.

The report cautioned that its findings depend on when the units are built and assessed. Changes in construction schedules, property values, assessments, or tax rates could alter the results.

Residents have also raised concerns about the impact on schools. At the May hearing, Donna Zaicek, a Webber Park homeowner, argued that converting the condos to rentals could increase pressure on schools because the number of bedrooms would rise.

"You're saying the building size is staying the same, yet you're increasing the amount of bedrooms. A lot more people can fill a three-bedroom than a one-bedroom condominium," Zaicek told the trustees and developer.

At the Oct. 13 public hearing, Edge-on-Hudson resident Arnold Sony argued that condos would generate more property tax revenue over the long term. Citing VHB's projection that condos would generate about $540,000 more in annual Village tax revenue once fully assessed, he said the difference would add up over time.

Sony extended the projections to 80 years and estimated that the condo option would generate $29 million more in tax revenue. That was his own calculation, not a finding in VHB's report.



Off (with their heads in tact)
—
Participants turn from Beekman Avenue to North Washington Street at the start of Rivertown Runners' annual Sleepy Hollow Halloween 10K on the morning of Saturday, Oct. 24. Vann Moffett of New Rochelle was the top male finisher with a time of 31.15 minutes, while Brigid Moriarty of Tarrytown was the top female finisher with a time of 39.27 minutes.

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS



TARRYTOWN

TaSH Farmers Market
Saturday, Oct. 31, 8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Patriots Park. Pablo Mayor's Colombian ensemble Folklore Urbano performs beginning at 11:30. *tashfarmersmarket.org*.
—
Halloween Movies for Kids
Saturday, Oct. 31, 11 a.m.–noon. Warner Library. Also, trick-or-treating, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
—
Sleepy Hollow & Tarrytown 250th Commemoration
Sunday, Nov. 1, noon–4 p.m. Ceremony at Riverwalk, followed by march to Pierson Park for live performances, colonial crafters, food trucks, and presentation of two Declaration of Dreams quilts crafted by residents. *bit.ly/TarrytownSleepyHollow250*.
—
Pet Costume Contest
Through Nov. 1, 5 p.m. Share photos on Instagram or Facebook using the hashtag "tarrytownspookypaws2026" or direct message the photos on Instagram to @ tarrytownrecreation.
—
Board of Trustees Meeting
Monday, Nov. 2, 7 p.m. Village Hall. To attend via Zoom, visit *tarrytownny.gov* for the link.
—
School Board Meeting
Thursday, Nov. 5, 7 p.m. Central Office Building, 200 N. Broadway. Agenda and link to the livestream available at *tufsd.org/boe*.

— 2026 ELECTIONS —

Mitchell, Rinaldi, Schubert unopposed

BY LAURA SCHILLER

Three Democrats, including two incumbents, will be unopposed for the Tarrytown Board of Trustees on Election Day (Nov. 3).

Thomas E. Mitchell is seeking reelection, citing more than 20 years of experience in education, nonprofits, and community engagement. Mitchell joined the board in December 2021, when he was appointed to fill a vacancy, and was elected to his first full term in 2022.

Mitchell has served as a liaison to several groups, including Commerce and Tourism, the Cultural Heritage and Recognition Committee, Warner Library, the Parks and Recreation Committee, and the Friends of Tarrytown Parks and Recreation Foundation.

He currently works as executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Westchester & Putnam. His previous roles include chief operating officer of Lyceum Kennedy International School.

As a trustee, Mitchell's priorities include improving mobility, accessibility, public safety, infrastructure, parks and recreation, and tourism while ensuring residents have a voice in the village's future.

Paul J. Rinaldi is seeking reelection to the board, which he joined in 2018 after running to replace Trustee Mary McGee. A clinical psychologist specializing in addiction, Rinaldi brings a background in mental health and addiction treatment to his public service.

Rinaldi has lived in Tarrytown for 27 years and served on the Village Ethics Committee for more than a decade before joining the board.

As a trustee, Rinaldi said he values Tarrytown's strong community spirit and residents' commitment to maintaining the balance of qualities that make the village special.

Elizabeth Schubert moved to the village from Brooklyn in 2020 with her husband, Ramon Kapoor, their two children, and two dogs. She serves as a district leader for the Tarrytown Democratic Committee.

Schubert is a social worker at a New York City hospital, where she provides clinical and administrative supervision in the Transplant and Dialysis programs.

Schubert said she was drawn to Tarrytown's strong sense of community, residents' care for one another, and its walkability, which allows her to get around without a car.

As a trustee, she said her priority would be ensuring that every resident feels welcome and free to be themselves. She hopes to advance that goal through inclusive policies and processes, while helping residents get involved in the community.

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS



The Wildey Street float about British Major John Andre

Lore and creativity converge in parade floats

BY LAURA SCHILLER

British Major John André probably never imagined that, nearly 250 years after his capture in Tarrytown, he would rise from a coffin as a larger-than-life skeleton in a Halloween parade. André was captured in 1780 carrying documents connected to Benedict Arnold's plot to surrender West Point to the British. He was later tried and hanged as a spy.

"Had Major André not been captured, we would all be speaking with British accents and we'd be British citizens," Tarrytown resident Lee Eiferman said.

Eiferman is part of the Wildey Street Float Team, a group of neighbors who have spent the past five years turning local history and legends into elaborate Halloween parade floats. The team has won "Best Neighborhood Float" every year since its first entry in 2022, including this year, for which they used animatronics and chicken wire to bring André back to life — or something like it.

"André will rise from his coffin, his eyes glowing, smoke coming out of his mouth, and his head pivoting from side to side," Eiferman told the Dispatch before the Oct. 24 parade.

"The story that we structure always has to create spectacle and also create a meaningful role for all the people who want to march," Eiferman said. Last Saturday, Wildey Street team members proceeded as wraiths, dragging André's soul to the underworld.

Eiferman and her husband, painter Timothy Duch, moved to Wildey Street from Dobbs Ferry about 10 years ago. After the pandemic, neighbors began tossing around ideas for a float, drawing inspiration from Wildey's Swamp and a neighbor's interest in the Headless Horseman.

The following year, the team turned to the legend of pirate Captain Kidd and his alleged dealings with wealthy landowner Frederick Philipse near Kidd's Rock, now in Kingsland Point Park. The float, "Captain Kidd vs. Hudson River Kraken," incorporated a neighbor's small boat.

"Really, the business of a float is spectacle first and foremost," Eiferman said, "but by having a rich story, it gives you jumping-off points to inspire the design and the execution. And the stories are always based locally, so you won't find us, you know, doing a random, pop-culture thing."

The team later paid tribute to Tarrytown Music Hall with "Ichabod and the Craniacs." Last year's entry was "Hulda Summons the Wildey Beast and Defeats the Redcoats."

The floats bring together a community with an array of skills, including industrial designers, creative directors, photographers, and engineers. Children pitch in, too — sometimes, Eiferman joked — telling the adults what to do.

"It's just been a real delight and joy because we've connected with so many talented creatives who are literally our neighbors," she said. Being part of the team has been "very, extremely life-enhancing."

Sun Blue Energy sponsored Wildey's float this year.

At Tarrytown Music Hall, about 20 employees — including stage managers, producers, and other behind-the-scenes staff — collaborated on a float celebrating the historic theater and its upcoming production of "Annie." The musical, featuring Broadway performers, will be presented in November to mark the 50th anniversary of its Broadway debut.

Conceived by education director Kevin Kearins, the float featured a cityscape and characters from the show, including the orphans. Cast members from the Music Hall Academy's fall productions of "Alice in Wonderland" and "Carrie" also marched alongside it.

Karina Ringeisen, the Music Hall's manager and volunteer coordinator, estimated that about 200 people affiliated with the venue, including staff and artists, took part in this year's parade.

The float has become an annual staff project. The Music Hall team won "Best Float" in 2019 and 2024, and "Best in Show" in 2022 and 2023.

This year, the team faced a last-minute hitch when its float flatbed got stuck in Florida and wouldn't arrive in time. Local towing company Stiloski's Automotive came to the rescue, providing a truck and driver.

The Rivertowns Pumpkin Trail brought its regional public art project to the parade as the 24-foot-long "Steam Punk'in Factory," which won "Best Float" this year. It featured industrial-style pipes and fittings, along with some of the trail's 43 one-of-a-kind pumpkin sculptures.

"The idea for the float," explained Kristina Schmidt, the chair of the Irvington Arts & Culture Committee and founder of the Rivertowns Pumpkin Trail, "is that it's a regular factory from back in the day, but something went haywire and instead of making regular pumpkins, now it's making crazy, magical,

Continued on page 18

HAPPENINGS IN THE RIVERTOWNS

The Agenda

EDITED BY JENNIFER GOLD

SATURDAY OCTOBER 31

Live Music
ARDSLEY
9 p.m. / No cover charge. Saw Mill Tavern, 925 Saw Mill River Road. The Iron Maiden cover band Wrathchild performs. Reservations encouraged. *smtavern.com*

Scarecrow's Ball
HASTINGS
9 a.m.–1 p.m. The Good Witch Coffee Bar, 134 Southside Ave. The Halloween party features crafts, candy, live music, and the Munchkin Parade from VFW Plaza to The Good Witch at 10:45 a.m. *destinationhastings.org*

Halloween Dance Party
HASTINGS
9 p.m. / No cover charge. Uncle Lefty's, 583 Warburton Ave. Featuring goth, new wave, post-punk. Costumes encouraged. *uncleleftys.com*

Grand Opening Party
HASTINGS
6–9 p.m. all ages / After 9 p.m. 21+, no cover charge. Aussie's, 579 Warburton Ave. Cocktails, DJ, light snacks, raffle for best costume.

"Home for Horror" Film Series
TARRYTOWN
3, 5:15, 7, and 9 p.m. / $16 for adults, $13 for kids. The Lyceum, 39 N. Broadway. Screenings of seasonal classics presented by Sleepy Hollow Cinema. Also Sunday, 3, 5 and 7 p.m. *sleepyhollowcinema.org/events*

"Macbeth"
TARRYTOWN
5 and 9 p.m. / $50. Makers Central, 84 Central Ave. Anywhere Theatre Company's immersive production reimagines Shakespeare's dark tragedy with an all-female cast. Also Sunday, 1 and 7 p.m. *anywheretheatrecompany.com*

"Dark Shadows"
TARRYTOWN
Various times & prices. Lyndhurst, 635 S. Broadway. Features a meet & greet with author and actress Kathryn Leigh Scott and other stars, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. ($24–$30). Drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and mingling, 5–6:30 p.m. ($120). *lyndhurst.org*

Halloween Movies for Kids
TARRYTOWN
11 a.m.–noon / Free. Warner Library, 121 N. Broadway. Screening of "The Adventures of Ichabod and Mr. Toad" and "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown." Also, trick-or-treating, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. *warnerlibrary.org*

Church Tour
TARRYTOWN
11 a.m., noon, 1 and 2 p.m. / $10 suggested donation. Christ Church San Marcos, 43 S. Broadway. Features guided tours of Washington Irving's parish. Register at *ccsmtny.org/tours*



Regina DeCicco headlines the all-female lineup appearing in "Ladies Night Out: A Comedy Show for Breast Cancer Awareness" on Friday, Nov. 6, at HudCo in Dobbs Ferry.

Grammy-winning Pianist
TARRYTOWN
7 and 9 p.m. / $35, $30 for students. Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. Steven Feifke performs with his trio. *jazzforumarts.org*

Glass Pumpkin Patch
SLEEPY HOLLOW
10 a.m.–5 p.m. / Free admission. Kingsland Point Park, 299 Palmer Ave. Adirondack artist Gregory Tomb showcases hand-blown glass pumpkins; 20% of proceeds benefit Make-A-Wish Hudson Valley. Through Nov. 1. *wish.org/hudson*

The Headless Horseman Files
SLEEPY HOLLOW
10 a.m.–4 p.m. / $25–$35. Philipsburg Manor, 381 N. Broadway. Follow a guide to collect clues and solve the legend. Recommended for ages 8+. Timed-entry tickets required. *hudsonvalley.org*

Headless Improv
SLEEPY HOLLOW
7 p.m. / $30, $25 for ages 10–13. Fraternal Order of the Eagles, 322 N. Broadway. Featuring comedians and audience participation. *sleepyhollowtarrytownchamber.com*

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1

Rivertowns Pumpkin Auction
ARDSLEY, DOBBS FERRY, HASTINGS, IRVINGTON, SLEEPY HOLLOW, TARRYTOWN
Until 9 p.m. / Starting at $400. Bid or Buy Now at *galabid.com/pumpkin-auction-26*. Also, walk the free trail (maps at *rivertownspumpkintrail.com*) and play the Great Rivertowns Pumpkin Hunt at *pyts.link/p/AZZH*.

Studio Tour Preview Show
HASTINGS
3–5 p.m. / Free. Hastings Village Hall, 7 Maple Ave. Meet the artists and get a first look at works that will be on the RiverArts Studio Tour, Nov. 7–8. *2026studiotour.riverarts.org*

Honoring Irvington's Legacies
IRVINGTON
Noon–4 p.m. / $75–$175. Ardsley Country Club, 100 N. Mountain Drive. Irvington Historical Society's annual benefit includes the screening of a documentary about longtime residents. Purchase tickets: *irvingtonhistoricalsociety.org*

Día de los Muertos/Day of the Dead
DOBBS FERRY
2–4 p.m. / Free. Dobbs Ferry Public Library, 55 Main St. Performance by Grupo Folklorica Kaukalli, face painting, crafts. *dobbsferrylibrary.org*

250th Commemoration
SLEEPY HOLLOW & TARRYTOWN
Noon–4 p.m. / Free. Riverwalk and Pierson Park. The two villages celebrate with reenactors, performances, food, and a presentation of two Declaration of Dreams quilts crafted by village residents. *bit.ly/TarrytownSleepyHollow250*

Jazz Vocalist Teri Roiger
TARRYTOWN
4 and 6 p.m. / $25, $20 for students. Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. *jazzforumarts.org*

MONDAY NOVEMBER 2

"Nature's Narrative"
IRVINGTON
9 a.m.–9 p.m. / Free. Martucci Gallery at Irvington Public Library, 12 S. Astor St. Dawn Leone's exhibit features a visual journey through the four seasons. *irvingtonlibrary.org*

Live Talks NY: Andy Serkis
TARRYTOWN
8 p.m. / $48–$78. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. Orchestra seats include a copy of his new memoir, "My Pressures: The Bizarrely True Story of Andy Serkis." *tarrytownmusichall.org*

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 4

Webinar: "Partnering with Pollinators"
ARDSLEY
7 p.m. Register for the Zoom link at *ardsleypollinatorpathway.org*

Dweezil Zappa: Like Father, Like Son
TARRYTOWN
8 p.m. / $77–$87. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. *tarrytownmusichall.org*

Mahjong Night
SLEEPY HOLLOW
6–9 p.m. / $75, $85 for beginners. The Library at Historic Hudson Valley, 639 Bedford Road. Includes cocktails, mocktails, hearty snacks, and sweets. For ages 16+. *hudsonvalley.org*

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 5

Brazilian Vocalist Sanny Alves
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*

From Piano Man to the Fab Four
TARRYTOWN
7:30 p.m. / $43–$70. Shames JCC, 371 S. Broadway. Saxophonist, vocalist, and longtime rock-'n'-roll sideman Mark Rivera shares music, stories, and behind-the-scenes memories from his career. *shamesjcc.org*

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6

Ladies' Night Out
DOBBS FERRY
6:30–9:30 p.m. / $35, $20 for HudCo members. HudCo, 145 Palisade St., Suite 200. Comedy show for breast cancer awareness. *hudco.eventbrite.com*

RiverArts' "Channels" Music Series
HASTINGS
7:30 p.m. / $35. Tennis Club of Hastings, 100 River St. Guitarist and songwriter Steve Gunn performs. Purchase tickets at *riverarts.org*

"The Importance of Being Earnest"
TARRYTOWN
7:30 p.m. / $49. Lyndhurst, 635 S. Broadway. M&M Performing Arts Company presents Oscar Wilde's comedy in the Carriage House. Performances through Nov. 22 at 7 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays and 2 and 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Appropriate for ages 12 and up. *lyndhurst.org*

Local business, personal stories

What is your favorite Halloween costume ever?



"One of my favorite costumes this year is my friend Annie dressed up as the classic Julia Child cookbook *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*!"

— **SARA DAVIDSON JOHNS,**
PICTURE BOOK



"Atari joystick — my arm was the stick, dressed in black and cut out a big orange circle for the button."

— **BECKY PITTS,**
STORY SALON



"A bunch of spa employees all got different color M&M costumes. They are so comfy and easy in all weather! Can't beat that!"

— **STEPHANIE HERSHKOWITZ,**
TRANQUILITY SPA



"Our fave fave halloween costume was our Leia Bounty Hunter and Han Solo in carbonite costumes that we made ourselves ... We're huge Star Wars geeks."

— **JEN VARGAS,**
NEW KAWAII



"Our daughter Ira channeled Edgar Allan Poe last Halloween, pairing a dapper black jacket and tie with a 3D-printed raven with handmade circuitry for glowy red eyes. Her half-smile says she's the spookiest, literary figure in all of Hastings. Quoth the raven: 'Best costume ever!' Nevermore will we forget it."

— **AARTHI MUTHUKRISHNAN,**
THE MAKER HIVE

"My mom dressed me as the TIN MAN with a roll of aluminum foil! Didn't work out so well!"

— **BILL FORD SUSSMAN,**
FORD SUSSMAN COLDWELL BANKER REALTY



"10 years ago, Christina and I were among a group that dressed up as the Guilty Remnants from the Leftovers TV show, which was filmed in Dobbs and Hastings. Complete with fake smoking and a sign to explain this niche group costume idea (LOL)."

— **CHRISTY KNELL,**
HUDCO

Classies

To purchase a classified notice, go to *market.rivertownsdispatch.com/classies*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

HUMANS CONNECTING WITH HUMANS

Looking for a piano teacher, a dog walker, a couch, or a 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.rivertowns-dispatch.com/classies



HELP WANTED

FURNITURE MOVERS

We're building a small bench of independent movers for scheduled furniture-moving jobs at HudCo: setting up and breaking down rooms for events, rearranging for workshops, that kind of thing. Jobs are usually 2–4 hours, often evenings or early mornings. Dates are booked weeks in advance, so you can plan around them. You choose which jobs you take, and there's no obligation to say yes to every one. If you might be interested or know someone who would, email info@hudco.co



PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

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.

RiverArts Studio Tour

Continued from page 3

building at 145 Palisade Street in Dobbs Ferry, which houses the studios of multiple artists, includes 19 stops on the studio tour.

This Sunday, Nov. 1, from 3–5 p.m., each of the tour's participating artists will have one piece in the preview show at the Hastings Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue. The group exhibit facilitates community building among the artists, most of whom are isolated from one another during the two days of the tour, and also helps viewers manage a potentially overwhelming number of options to visit.

"I highly recommend starting at Hastings Village Hall," Lenkeit explained. "You can go there, see one work by every artist, and plan [your tour itinerary] based on what you like or want to see more of."

While many artists featured in this year's studio tour are returning participants, there are seven first-time exhibitors. In addition to Keon, Morton, and Sandgren-Jolain, Hastings' Lauren Berman and Don Levan, Adria Vitlar of Dobbs Ferry, and Peter Best of Ardsley are making their studio tour debuts. Madge Scott, Catrin Perih, and Jen Moore Smith are among the dozens of tour regulars.

"The very interesting thing about our membership is we have people who are traditional painters, and we have much more experimental artists," Demirdelen noted. "We have people working in found objects, people working in multimedia, so there's a wide range of art."

The dozens of locations on the studio tour will be open on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 11 a.m.–5 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 8, from 12–4 p.m. For the full map locations, including thumbnail images of each artist's work, visit *2026studiotour.riverarts.org*.

Regional elections

Continued from page 3

Since 2016, Duffalo has worked as the director and vice president of the Bronchiectasis Foundation, which seeks to help those affected by the lung condition. She also served as an election inspector for the Westchester County Board of Elections from 2020–26.

—

Westchester County District 3

In District 3, which encompasses North Castle, Mount Pleasant, Pleasantville, Sleepy Hollow, and Harrison, Republican incumbent Margaret Cunzio is being challenged by Democrat Michael Peppard.

Cunzio is the minority leader of the board, which she first joined in 2016. She is seeking a sixth term. The former elementary-school teacher and current college professor is also a volunteer firefighter with the Thornwood Fire Department.

Peppard is a professor of theology at Fordham University who served as a trustee for the Village of Pleasantville from 2021–2024. He is the author of three books about the Bible and Christianity.

Pascone Park

Continued from page 5

"We've met quite a few Ardsley locals while painting, from schoolchildren to tennis coaches from the nearby courts to passersby," she said. "We felt that our interactions were personal and warm, and on the whole we felt very welcomed into the community. We hope that this optimism of the village's residents is reflected in the mural, which taps into a whimsical perception of the world."

Kamaeva hopes the mural can serve as a "pop of color and a visual anchor" for the park, to which Piorko agreed.

"Before the mural, the container was at best an object in the background that people ignored, and at worst an industrial eyesore that stood out from the natural environment," Piorko said. "As the design developed, more and more people stopped to talk to us about the mural. The container turned into something that catches attention — in a good way — that people slow down to look at and something that sparks a bit of curiosity, especially from kids."

Parade floats

Continued from page 15

mystical pumpkins."

The Pumpkin Trail brings together artists and six Rivertowns communities — Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings, Irvington, Sleepy Hollow, and Tarrytown. More than 25 people helped bring the exhibition to life. Falasca's Home Improvement in Tarrytown helped build the float and donated the pedestals for the sculptures. The pumpkins are on display around the six villages and available for auction through this Sunday, Nov. 1, at *www.rivertownspumpkintrail.com*.

Other prize-winning entries included Tappan Landing, which won "Best in Show"; Scaryoke, "Best Group"; Dog Park Darling, "Best Adult"; and Ossining Destination Imagination, "Best Child." Special awards commemorating the nation's 250th anniversary went to Transfiguration Parish and Uncle Sam & Lady Liberty.

A total of 100 groups participated in the parade, which amassed 34 floats or vehicles and 10 marching bands. The Village estimates that 1,300 people took part in the procession and about 24,000 spectators lined the route, making this year's parade the most attended yet.

Wildly Cakes

Continued from page 7

through Dobbs Ferry, where she and her family moved to earlier this year.

"I was already taking orders and word was getting out because a lot of bakeries either closed or were not taking orders because of Covid," Ramirez recalled. "So, either they [customers] would pick it [their cake] up outside my house, or I would drop them outside their house."

In 2018, the same year she launched Wildly Cakes, Ramirez completed a nine-month program for pastry arts at the International Culinary Center in Manhattan. Baking custom desserts has allowed Ramirez to channel the love of art she's had since she was a child. Born in Mexico City, she came to the U.S. at age 6.

"Art was my favorite class when I was in school," Ramirez said. "I would make cards for my mom, cards for anyone. Anything I could do with art, I love it. That is my favorite part, to this day, about making cakes."

Expanding beyond fulfilling orders requested by customers allows Ramirez to offer Mexican treats like concha, a Mexican sweet bread, or pan de muerto, also sweet bread, but that's traditionally baked around the time of Día de los Muertos, which is Nov. 1–2. During her first few days on Cedar Street, Ramirez found concha to be particularly popular — including with customers who weren't familiar with it until visiting Wildly Cakes.

"I really want them to get a taste of my culture, the Mexican flavors," Ramirez explained. "We're going to be bringing in more Mexican desserts. I really want to invite people to try it and see what it's really about."

Wildly Cakes, 10 Cedar St., is open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., as well as Sunday from 8 a.m. to noon. For more information, visit *wildlycakes.com*.

Clark panels

Continued from page 9

powerful principles: family, community, and pure love," Magnus said.

She noted how Northside has grown since she began working for the organization 30 years ago. At the start of that period, Northside had a $2 million budget, served 900 families, and had 60 employees in one location. The center currently has a $33 million budget, serves 6,500 families, and employs 300 people. Northside operates four locations, and offers programs in 22 schools throughout New York City.

"[The Clarks] understood something profound about children… When our children and our families walk through the doors, we want them to know that the beauty belongs to them. The quality belongs to them. They deserve it and they matter," Magnus said.

The Clarks broke barriers in their educational and professional lives, foremostly as the first African-Americans to earn doctoral degrees in psychology at Columbia University. Kenneth Clark was also the first African American appointed to the New York State Board of Regents. During the Hastings ceremony, Lester W. Young Jr., who currently sits in Clark's seat, shared the responsibility he feels to honor his predecessor.

"Every time I enter the Regents group, I'm reminded that I walk a path cleared by someone who came before, and that his courage, his intellect, and commitment to children helped make it possible for me to serve as the first African American chancellor," Young said.

The message of Clark's work "remains urgent today," he continued, emphasizing the need to create schools "where every young person knows they belong, believes they can succeed, and has a genuine opportunity to be successful."

"Dr. Kenneth Clark did more than study problems," Young said. "He challenged institutions to act, leaders to be courageous, and educators to see every young person through the lens of possibility rather than limitation… When we expand the possibility of a young person's life, we move closer to the promise of justice that lies at the heart of public education."

The ceremony concluded with the Clarks' eldest granddaughter, Natalie Thompson, along with her daughter Paige Mamie, unveiling the panels. Thompson, who grew up in Hastings and graduated from the high school in 1986, described the experience as "humbling."

"The work that my grandparents fought so hard for, ensuring that children felt seen and had access to resources that could build their self-esteem and thrive, was evident in this community right here," she said. "I truly want to thank Eddie, Jen, Caitlin, and Natalie for everything they've done in turning a simple idea into a historical landmark that my entire family is truly so proud of."

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*

Candidate outlines experience and goals for Sleepy Hollow

To the Editor:

Let me introduce myself: I am Rodolphe Boulanger and I am running to be a trustee in the Village of Sleepy Hollow.

Every day I see change, opportunity, and progress in Sleepy Hollow, Westchester's fastest-growing municipality. We have an opportunity to harness growth in the right way for all village residents. We must achieve this in a manner that preserves the affordability, broad diversity, and rich history of our legendary community.

I am a lifelong New Yorker. My family moved to the village's newest quarter, Edge-on-Hudson, last year. Our son, age 5, loves his new school, John Paulding. Our daughter, age 2, is always up for some people (and boat) watching on the RiverWalk. Professionally, I have worked with wine and food retailers for the past 25 years. I have an MBA from Columbia Business School and numerous international accreditations in wine. I've held leadership positions at local and national retailers across the U.S., U.K., and France working on merchandising, marketing, procurement, and strategic planning with annual budgets ranging from $1 million to $1.3 billion.

I hope to combine this perspective with a local one to the benefit of our village. I spent six entrepreneurial years operating a small business in Westchester. I've been helping and mentoring local entrepreneurs while also volunteering on the Village's Transportation and Parking Committee.

Change will continue, but we must make sure it is realized holistically and with all our residents in mind. Moreover, we need to keep up with the needs of our community by expanding municipal services, updating infrastructure, and supporting diverse transportation systems. I am up for the challenge of working to achieve all this in a fiscally responsible manner.

Please vote on Nov. 3 for me and my fellow TAG candidates Meghan Raderstrong and Patrick Sheeran.

Rodolphe Boulanger
SLEEPY HOLLOW

Rothrock has demonstrated her commitment

To the Editor:

We are pleased to endorse Laura Rothrock for re-election as trustee of the Village of Dobbs Ferry.

Laura was appointed last September to fill a vacancy and has spent the past year demonstrating her commitment to effective, forward-looking local government. Laura has worked in partnership with Mayor Knell and her fellow trustees to advance the Village's priorities.

She understands what makes Dobbs Ferry special and what it will take to sustain its success. She is deeply committed to supporting small businesses, fostering community engagement, and ensuring that Village government operates efficiently, responsibly, and pragmatically.

Laura holds a master's degree in city planning and over her career has worked for the City of New York as a government and community relations consultant and currently serves as president of the Long Island City Partnership. Since her family moved to Dobbs in 2017, Laura has dedicated her time and expertise to regular volunteer service with the Dobbs Ferry Schools Foundation, Village Local Development Corporation, and Local Planning Committee for the NY Forward grant.

Experienced, engaged, collaborative, and pragmatic leaders like Laura Rothrock will be essential as the Village continues capital investments, infrastructure improvements, and community programs. We are proud to endorse Laura for village trustee and encourage our neighbors to make their voices heard by voting on Nov. 3.

Ariana King and Jennifer Small-Saunders
DOBBS FERRY

Candidates share 'values of decency and common sense'

To the Editor:

Running for public office is not for the faint of heart. It takes a special combination of commitment and grit to engage citizens and meet voters where they are. Fortunately, Sleepy Hollow has two highly qualified and energetic residents on the ballot this November.

Meghan Raderstrong and Rodolphe Boulanger are running for Sleepy Hollow village trustees. Both candidates have impressive résumés that they can draw on to improve the lives of Sleepy Hollow residents.

Additionally, they both have a demonstrated commitment to public service. Meghan is a longtime member of the Sleepy Hollow Ambulance Corps. Rodolphe is on the Sleepy Hollow Transportation and Parking Committee. I recognized something in both of them that reminded me of why I decided to enter Mount Pleasant politics five years ago. We are bound by our values of decency, common sense, and service to our community.

After 25 years in the Valhalla Fire Department, and more recently as a member of the Mount Pleasant Town Board, I feel I have an understanding of my neighbors and this community. We have different ideas of how to get things done, but every one of us share the values of decency and common sense, and that is what Meghan and Rodolphe have demonstrated beyond a shadow of a doubt.

Early voting started Oct. 24; the election is Nov. 3. Cast your votes for Meghan and Rodolphe. I'm excited to work together as colleagues of the Town and Village.

Councilman Joe Bonanno
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Sports

EDITED BY ROB DIANTONIO

Wiese's late goal lifts Hastings over Irvington in sectionals

— FIELD HOCKEY ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Hastings spent much of its Section 1 Class C opening-round game against rival Irvington knocking on the door, but the host Yellow Jackets couldn't find a way to break through.

That finally changed with less than 2 minutes remaining when Trinity Wiese scored the game's lone goal to lift eighth-seeded Hastings to a thrilling 1–0 victory over the No. 9 Bulldogs under the lights on Oct. 23.

The Yellow Jackets controlled possession for long stretches and generated 11 penalty corners, but Irvington senior goalie Zoya Bhandari kept her team in the game with several key saves.

Hastings coach Christina Gagliardi was confident her team would eventually capitalize on one of its opportunities.

"Yes, and I wish a lot sooner than it did," Gagliardi said. "Irvington was pumping a lot in the middle, so that was making us slow down a little bit and not take as many shots as we usually do. But once the girls figured that out, we got our goal."

For senior co-captain Celia Ayuso, the victory was especially meaningful after Hastings had come up short in the sectional tournament in previous seasons.

"This is my first win as a Hastings player in sectionals," Ayuso said. "It feels really good. I'm really proud of our team."

The Yellow Jackets applied pressure from the opening quarter, earning several penalty corners, but were struggling to convert their opportunities into quality shots. That pattern continued throughout the game. Hastings repeatedly pushed the ball into Irvington's defensive end in the third quarter, but the Bulldogs held firm. Senior co-captain Maya Sanzel sent a ball into the circle late in the third quarter, but nobody was there to finish.



Hastings celebrates Trinity Wiese's game-winning goal. *Photo by Rob DiAntonio.*

The Yellow Jackets continued to press in the fourth quarter. Bhandari made a save with 7:35 remaining and turned away a shot by Wiese with approximately 3 minutes left, resulting in another Hastings penalty corner.

Hastings had an even better opportunity with 2:31 remaining when Ayuso stepped up for a penalty stroke. Bhandari came through with another clutch save to keep the game scoreless.

The Yellow Jackets refused to be denied, however. With less than 2 minutes remaining, Wiese worked her way around the circle before sending a shot toward the cage. The ball deflected off an Irvington player and into the net, finally putting Hastings ahead.

"I was just dribbling, took it around the circle, shot it in, and the girl touched it," Wiese said. "You gotta love that."

For Wiese, delivering the winning goal was especially meaningful because it helped extend the season. "I'm really glad to win for these seniors," she said.

The Yellow Jackets limited the Bulldogs' offensive opportunities and prevented them from developing any sustained pressure. Gagliardi credited several players for their work in keeping Irvington off the scoreboard.

"Juliet Tetrault was great at pushing up and then also going back down," Gagliardi said. "Norah Destin can read the play very well, and our freshman, Violet Goldberg, really stepped up and helped us stop the ball a lot. And Maya Sanzel, at center, leading the whole thing."

Ayuso felt the Yellow Jackets' communication and teamwork were major factors in their defensive performance.

"I think we were just all connected," Ayuso said. "We were talking a lot and we were super loud on the field. We were all working as one. Passes were connecting."

Gagliardi also praised the offensive contributions of Wiese and Ayuso, who helped Hastings maintain pressure throughout the contest.

"Trinity's really all over the field, and she helps us transition it down," Gagliardi said. "Once Celia gets it, she can bring it down like 20, 30 yards easily."

Hastings (6–10–2) was blanked by top-seeded Pawling 6–0 in the quarterfinals on Oct. 26. Elodie Dodziuk (6S) and Ella Rizzo (5S) combined for 11 saves.

Irvington concluded the season with a 5–11–1 record. The Bulldogs made strides with a young team this season and will graduate four seniors in Bhandari, captain Sophia Quinio, Stella McCarthy, and Alice Besidski.

—

Sleepy Hollow/Briarcliff falls to Lakeland

No. 14 Sleepy Hollow/Briarcliff (5–10–2) lost to No. 3 Lakeland 9–0 in the Section 1 Class B opening round on Oct. 24. Jana Reimer made 16 saves.

Ardsley's Ponterio honored for milestone victory

— VOLLEYBALL ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Ardsley coach Dave Ponterio reached a major career milestone on Oct. 16, earning his 500th varsity victory in a five-set win over host John Jay-Cross River.

Five days later, Ponterio was honored for the achievement during the team's Senior Day celebration on Oct. 21, following another thrilling five-set victory.

The Panthers rallied from a two-set deficit to defeat visiting Pearl River 23–25, 23–25, 25–20, 25–15, 15–8, giving Ponterio his 501st career win.

"Reaching 500 wins means a lot to me," Ponterio said. "This sport has been a major part of my life during my 37-year teaching career. The 500 varsity wins span the last 34 years. I also coached modified for two years."

Ponterio has spent more than three decades building the Ardsley volleyball program, emphasizing hard work, toughness, and teamwork.

"Work ethic and team cohesiveness are major parts of my philosophy," he said. "Talent is not enough to make an individual nor team successful. Players have to put in the time necessary to become the best they can be."

Ponterio believes developing players goes beyond improving their volleyball skills.

"Players have to develop both physical and emotional toughness," he said. "They also need to have a shared sense of responsibility for the success of their team."

While the 500-win milestone is a significant personal achievement, Ponterio takes just as much pride in the players he has coached and the relationships he has built over the years.

"It's been an honor and pleasure serving the Ardsley community," he said. "I've been fortunate to coach some incredibly intelligent young women who have gone on to become doctors, lawyers, teachers, business leaders, and moms."

Seniors Serena Emanuele (11K, 2AC, 24D), Morgan Macri (10K, 6D), and Addy King (5D) came through on Senior Day. Other key contributors were Zaniya Bell (10K, 6D), Sophie Young (9K, 3AC, 25D), Casey Sassalos (2K), Sophia Pecora (31D, 3AC), and Katherine Cai (42AS, 15D, 3AC).

Fifth-seeded Ardsley (12–6) was scheduled to host No. 12 Byram Hills in the Section 1 Class A opening round on Oct. 28.

—

Hastings swings past Rye Neck

No. 4 Hastings (12–4) defeated No. 13 and visiting Rye Neck 3–1 (26–24, 25–10, 22–25, 25–13) in the Section 1 Class B opening round on Oct. 27. Roxy Griffin (10K, 6B), Emmy Dehgan (14D, 5AC, 5AS), and Poppy Soeiro (22AS, 4AC) led the way. In their final regular-season game, Hastings bested visiting Croton-Harmon 3–1 (25–22, 25–22, 21–25, 26–24) on Oct. 14. Griffin (10K, 4B), Dehgan (13D, 4AS, 2AC), and Kylie Deklin (12K, 7D) paced the team. The Yellow Jackets will host No. 5 Westlake in the quarterfinals on Oct. 30.

—

Irvington falls to Westlake

No. 12 Irvington (5–13) went on the road and lost to No. 5 Westlake 3–0 (21–25, 18–25, 15–25) in the Class B opening round on Oct. 27. Paige Swift recorded her 300th career assist for the Bulldogs.

Sports

Hastings and Irvington snap droughts and advance to semifinals

— BOYS' SOCCER ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Felix Casey had been knocking on the door all season for Hastings. In the Section 1 Class A quarterfinals, the junior finally broke through when his team needed him most.

Casey scored both goals to lead the third-seeded Yellow Jackets to a 2–0 victory over visiting No. 6 Somers, sending Hastings to the semifinals.

"Felix has been right around goal all year, and he's been in positions to score a lot of those kinds of headers," Hastings coach Joe Callagy said. "Today, it really came together for him."

The Yellow Jackets, who defeated No. 14 Keio Academy 1–0 in overtime in the opening round, have now recorded two consecutive postseason shutouts. The victory over Keio was the team's first playoff win since 2019.

"It means so much," senior captain and defender Baz Van Der Sande said. "This team, we've had a curse the past seven years. Going into every first playoff game, we lost every single time. So, the first win against Keio was amazing, and now the second against Somers is such a blessing."

Hastings came out aggressively against Somers and generated several early opportunities. Kai Ghalib sent a shot just wide of the left post before Eli Sundheim fired one over the crossbar.

Casey broke the scoreless tie with 25:24 remaining in the first half, heading in a long throw-in from Sundheim. The junior nearly struck again just over 2 minutes later, but his shot hit the crossbar.

"We already had a lot of momentum before the goal," Casey said. "Once that first goal happened, there was no stopping us. It just spurred us on even more, and we made sure not to ever slack off."

Sundheim's long throw-ins have become an important part of the Hastings attack. "He's gotten stronger, and it's gotten to be more of a staple part of his game," Callagy said. "Every time we know we're getting an attacking throw-in in that area, we know that it can be a scoring chance."

Casey doubled the lead just 1:37 into the second half, heading in a corner kick from Zack Brower to give the Yellow Jackets some breathing room.

"The most important thing about soccer is momentum, because without momentum, the boys are nothing," Van Der Sande said. "Felix got it for us, and I believe so much in that kid. He's underrated."

Somers had its opportunities, but goalie Justin Wilmot and the Hastings defense were up to the challenge. Wilmot made a key save on a first-half free kick and secured the loose ball before Somers could capitalize. He finished with seven saves. Callagy credited Wilmot and the entire defensive unit for another strong performance. The rest of the defense consists of Van Der Sande, Lachlan Muldoon, Oliver Sturman, Sundheim, Daniel O'Brien, and Liam Stechel.





Hastings' Felix Casey possesses the ball in the quarterfinals. Irvington's Conner Gredick crosses midfield. *Photos by Rob DiAntonio*

"All of the guys that step in and play defensive roles for us have been outstanding all year," Callagy said. "Today was kind of their peak performance."

The victory came on the heels of an emotional opening-round win over Keio, which ended the program's seven-year playoff drought. Brower scored the winner off a pass from Casey with 11:57 remaining in the first overtime period. Wilmot made four saves in the shutout, while Keio's Katsumi Mizuno stopped 15 shots.

Callagy felt the pressure of ending the program's postseason struggles weighed heavily on his players in that contest.

"I think some of the guys had it in their heads that this is the first time in a while where we've been a higher seed, and it was kind of the attitude of, 'We can't lose this one,'" Callagy said. "But once we got it over the line on Friday, I think today they came out a lot more free."

The Yellow Jackets, who also captured a league title this fall, believe their camaraderie has played a major role in their success.

"We're definitely a family this time," Casey said. "We have a lot of juniors and a lot of seniors that we know really well, so the chemistry's just been building and building."

Hastings was scheduled to travel to No. 2 Walter Panas for the semifinals on Oct. 28.

—

Irvington nets first playoff win since 2022

For the first time in four years, Irvington is moving on in the sectional playoffs.

Senior captain Griffin Warner scored with 18:27 remaining in the second half to lift the second-seeded Bulldogs to a 1–0 shutout win over visiting No. 7 Bronxville in the Section 1 Class B quarterfinals on Oct. 27. It was Irvington's first sectional victory since 2022 and the first under coach Chris Lombardi, who took over the program in 2023.

"It's truly a surreal feeling," Warner said. "I've been on this team for four years and I've never won a sectional game. So, to experience what it takes to win one and the performance that it requires against a really good Bronxville team, it means everything."

Junior Ryder Haynes, who has taken on a heightened role with senior Dennis Sasso sidelined by a torn ACL, delivered a pass toward the middle to Warner. The Tufts University commit finished the opportunity to give the Bulldogs the lead.

"Ryder's really stepped up big on that right wing," Warner said. "He put a really good one-touch ball back into the middle and I got the ball and capitalized. When I'm in that position, I expect to score."

Warner was a constant threat despite drawing considerable attention from Bronxville's defense. He had a shot saved in the opening 2 minutes, another hard strike stopped midway through the first half, and hit the left post with 6:40 remaining before halftime. Conner Gredick also had a first-half opportunity saved off a Warner cross.

"At halftime we just talked about keeping the pedal to the metal," Warner said. "We just had to keep piling up chances and eventually one's going to fall."

Warner has grown accustomed to being double-teamed by opposing defenses but continues finding ways to create scoring opportunities.

"You've got to get really creative," he said. "It's flattering knowing that two players are going to be always on me, but I just try to find new ways and reach new heights in my game to get out of that and still have an impact."

With junior George Miles also out with a back injury, several players stepped into unfamiliar roles, including goalkeeper Ethan Otto, who contributed as a field player. Gredick, who has battled injuries, also provided a lift in the midfield. "Guys stepped into big roles and played positions that they haven't played before," Lombardi said.

Lombardi also praised the defensive effort as the Bulldogs maintained their organization while Bronxville pushed for an equalizer in the closing minutes.

"Our defense has just been solid for us all year," Lombardi said. "They've been consistent. We were able to stay organized in those last 10 minutes. Everybody came back and they fought together."

The Bulldogs (14–2–1), who have won eight consecutive games, were scheduled to host Pleasantville in the semifinals on Oct. 29. Lombardi hopes the breakthrough playoff victory will be a turning point for a program that has endured several disappointing postseason exits.

"Griffin said it in the huddle after, 'This is a culture shift for us, and it starts here,'"

Continued on page 22

Sports

Ardsley's strong season ends with quarterfinal loss to Somers

— GIRLS' SOCCER ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Ardsley made significant strides this fall, but its impressive season came to an end against an opponent that was far stronger than its playoff seed suggested.

The second-seeded Panthers fell 3–0 to No. 10 Somers in the Section 1 Class A quarterfinals on Oct. 27. The Tuskers scored twice in the first half and added an insurance goal after halftime to advance to the semifinals.

"I've been saying it all year long; there's not many teams that are more physical than us and have the grit that we have in Section 1," Ardsley coach Beau Thompson said. "That is probably the only other team that plays that physical. I think it took us a little bit to get into the game and then we matched that halfway through, but I think that took us a little bit by surprise."

Thompson said Somers presented a different challenge than many of the stronger opponents Ardsley had faced during the regular season. While those teams often relied on possession and positional play, the Tuskers were more direct and combined their physicality with skilled attacking players.

The Panthers struggled to adjust early, and Somers capitalized with two first-half goals. The Tuskers' first goal came from Aurora Riley just over 10 minutes in and the second tally, by Natalie D'Ippolito, came with 12:45 left in the half. Ardsley had opportunities to get back into the game, including its best chance when Ariana DiBlasi stepped up for a penalty kick with 30 minutes remaining in the second half. A goal would have cut the deficit to 2–1, but the Somers goalkeeper made the save and the Tuskers added a third goal 10 minutes later.

The Panthers also had a few other promising chances, including an early cross that narrowly missed connecting with attacking players.

"We had some chances," Thompson said. "Credit to them, their backs and midfield were very physical in a hard-nosed soccer way, which is kind of what I want to model my teams after."

Thompson wasn't surprised by Somers' performance. He pointed to the Tuskers' difficult regular-season schedule, which included competitive games against some of the area's top programs. "Take away the seed, that's not a game I'm going to look back on and be like, 'Man, we had that and we



Ardsley's Morgan Hamlet pushes the attack in the quarterfinals. *Photos by Rob DiAntonio.*

let it slip away,'" Thompson said.

Despite the disappointing finish, Ardsley took a major step forward this season. The Panthers put together a strong regular season, earned the No. 2 seed, and advanced to the quarterfinals with a playoff victory. They finished with a 13–5 record.

Thompson believes the team's success was built as much on its chemistry as its talent.

"We have a lot of very talented players that work really well with one another and they deeply care about each other," he said. "I think that bond on and off the field showed. Even in moments where we did get down or the ball didn't bounce our way, they stuck together. Even in this game, they stuck together. They fought to the end."

The emotional postgame gathering reflected that bond, with several players in tears as they came to terms with the end of their season. Thompson, who completed his second season with the Panthers and has coached approximately 30 high school sports seasons across multiple sports, said this group stood out for its closeness.

"Every team is a little unique and special, but this team is incredibly special," he said. "Just the chemistry of this team — I've never really experienced that."

Ardsley graduates six seniors in Ava Santavicca, Alexis Fitzsimmons, Elise O'Brien, Hazel McGourty, Olivia Moopenn-Morris, and Kaia Rogers.

The Panthers cruised past No. 16 Putnam Valley 6–0 in the opening round on Oct. 24. Teagan Kenny (1G, 1A), McGourty (1G), Fitzsimmons (1G), Gracie Donaghy (1G), Katharine Toth (1G), O'Brien (1G), Helene Dillon (2A), Riley Osborne (1A), Morgan Hamlet (1A), and Lily Champion (1A) led the way.

—

Eagles bow out in quarters

Dobbs Ferry's season came to a disappointing end with a 1–0 loss to visiting Croton-Harmon in the Section 1 Class B quarterfinals on Oct. 26.

The fourth-seeded Eagles had their opportunities throughout the contest but couldn't find the back of the net against the No. 5 Tigers. Kate Weber scored the game's lone goal for Croton with 22:53 remaining.

Dobbs Ferry made one final push in the closing minutes. Bridget Turner had a shot deflected out of bounds with under 2 minutes to play, setting up a corner kick. Turner sent the ball into the box, but the Eagles couldn't capitalize on the loose ball in front of the net.

"Sometimes the ball goes your way, sometimes it doesn't," Dobbs Ferry coach Mark DeGaetano said. "We have to take the good with the bad. It just wasn't meant to be for us this year, but we'll be back next year for sure."

The Eagles finished 10–7 in a season filled with highs and lows. Injuries took their toll, including the loss of senior midfielder Amra Klincevic during a Sept. 18 loss to Byram Hills. Dobbs continued to battle through adversity as additional players went down throughout the season.

"We did a lot of growing this year," said DeGaetano, who completed his second season as head coach. "The season wasn't easy for us. We lost a bunch of players throughout the year, which made it difficult for us, but the girls kept the standard high. They fought to the end. To be honest, probably one of the best experiences I've had as a coach."



Dobbs Ferry's Clara Power.

Dobbs Ferry graduates just two seniors in Klincevic and defender Claire Turner, leaving a strong returning group for next season.

"Two big leaders of the program," DeGaetano said. "It's tough to see them lose this way. I have a lot of respect for them and their game. They're just really good kids and they'll be successful as time goes on."

—

Sleepy Hollow falls to Rye

No. 8 Sleepy Hollow (9–8–1) lost to top-seeded and host Rye 7–0 on Oct. 27 in the Section 1 Class A quarterfinals. Sabrina Graham made 10 saves. The host Horsemen blanked No. 9 Walter Panas 3–0 in the Class A opening round on Oct. 24. Sami Marvin scored twice, while Evie Mackey (1G), Corina Armster (1A), Meghan McMahon (1A), and Graham (5S) contributed.

—

Bulldogs edged by Sailors

No. 11 Irvington (7–8–2) went on the road and lost to No. 6 Hendrick Hudson 1–0 in the Section 1 Class A opening round on Oct. 24. Emma Reilly made five saves.

—

Hastings blanked by Bronxville

No. 12 Hastings (7–8–2) fell to No. 5 and host Bronxville 2–0 in the Section 1 Class A opening round on Oct. 24.

Boys' soccer roundup

Continued from page 21

Lombardi said. "There's sophomores who just experienced their first playoff win in their first season, and they got a taste of that. It's going to propel us forward. It gives us a lot of momentum and confidence."

—

Ardsley edges Nanuet, falls to Rye

No. 16 and host Ardsley defeated No. 17 Nanuet 3–2 in the Section 1 Class A outbracket round on Oct. 22. Sebastian Chacon, Ronald Chen, and Eshan Kapoor scored a goal each for the Panthers. Ardsley lost to top-seeded Rye 5–0 in the opening round the next day.

—

Eagles blanked by Rye Neck

No. 9 Dobbs Ferry (7–8–2) lost to No. 8 Rye Neck 1–0 on the road in the Section 1 Class B opening round on Oct. 24. Elijah Burns made seven saves.

—

Horsemen fall to Westlake

No. 10 Sleepy Hollow (7–7–3) was shut out by No. 7 and host Westlake 1–0 in the Section 1 Class A opening round on Oct. 23.

Sports

Dobbs Ferry rolls past rival Irvington in regular-season finale

— FOOTBALL ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Dobbs Ferry entered its final game of the regular season in need of some momentum after a difficult stretch over the past several weeks. The Eagles delivered one of their strongest performances of the season, rolling to a 41–6 victory over host Irvington on Oct. 23.

Dobbs, which had lost four of its previous five games, improved to 4–4 and will head into the Section 1 Class C playoffs on a positive note. The fourth-seeded Eagles host No. 5 Albertus Magnus in the quarterfinals on Oct. 30.

"I'm just proud of them for not hanging their heads after some tough losses," Eagles coach Joe Cox said. "They're continuing to show up and working to get better."

The Eagles dominated on the ground with three players surpassing 100 rushing yards. Killian O'Connor led the way with 150 yards on 15 carries, while Camilo Cruz added 145 yards on 13 attempts. Joe Salerno rushed for 108 yards and three touchdowns on 10 carries. Jackson Kearns added two rushing touchdowns, and Hunter Fuerst scored his first varsity touchdown.

Dobbs wasted little time establishing control, taking a 7–0 lead on a 7-yard touchdown run by Kearns with 5:55 remaining in the first quarter. Andrew Zendel added the extra point. The Eagles doubled their advantage just 5 seconds into the second quarter when Salerno scored on a 7-yard run to make it 14–0.

Irvington answered when Julian Peres connected with Bobby Estrada on a 24-yard scoring pass with 8:13 left in the first half. The Bulldogs were unable to convert the extra point, leaving Dobbs ahead 14–6.



Dobbs Ferry's Camilo Cruz carries as Irvington's Adriel Martinez looks to make the stop. *Photo by Tom Warren.*

The Eagles responded before halftime, extending their lead to 21–6 on a 19-yard touchdown run by Salerno with 3:06 remaining. Kearns scored his second touchdown on a 1-yard quarterback keeper with 1:38 left in the third quarter to increase the lead to 28–6.

"I really liked that we were able to shut the door in the third quarter after playing some not-so-great second halves this season," Cox said.

Salerno completed his three-TD performance with a 12-yard scoring run early in the fourth quarter, pushing the advantage to 35–6 with 9:47 remaining.

"The key to coming out strong in the second half was our coach's halftime speech," Kearns said. "We felt like we left some things on the table in the first half and that really motivated us to come out strong and finish the game."

With the outcome no longer in doubt, Dobbs was able to give its younger players valuable varsity experience in the final quarter. The reserves made the most of their opportunity, putting together a 90-yard scoring drive that culminated in Fuerst's 5-yard touchdown run with just 10 seconds remaining. "I really loved that our young guys were able to play a lot in the fourth quarter," Cox said.

Defensively, Kearns, Matt O'Leary, and Cruz (INT) led the Eagles in tackles.

Irvington was led defensively by Josh Tatz, who made eight tackles. The sixth-seeded Bulldogs (4–4) will travel to No. 3 Valhalla for a Class C quarterfinal matchup on Oct. 30.

—

Ardsley rebounds vs. Nanuet

Ardsley (4–4) snapped a three-game slide with a 41–21 win over visiting Nanuet on Oct. 23. Jack Calkins went seven of 13 for 139 yards and two touchdown passes. He also had 12 carries for 71 yards and a score. Defensively, he had two interceptions. Tristen Roberts had 18 carries for 101 yards and a touchdown. He added a fumble recovery return for a score. Jonah Goldberg had a 70-yard touchdown reception and Tommy Bennett had a touchdown catch. Christian Emanuele blocked a punt. The No. 3A Panthers travel to No. 2B Pearl River for the Class B quarterfinals on Oct. 30.

—

Horsemen top Briarcliff/Hamilton

It was a high-scoring affair as host Sleepy Hollow (3–5) defeated Briarcliff/Hamilton 55–33 on Oct. 30. Jeremiah Bowen rushed for 119 yards and a touchdown, threw a touchdown pass to Jack Marvin (INT), and returned a kickoff for a score. Olin Keough had 150 yards rushing on 17 carries and two touchdowns. He also returned a kickoff for a touchdown. Abel Perez Rosario had an interception. The No. 4B Horsemen travel to No. 1A Westlake for the Class B quarterfinals on Oct. 30.

Local teams post strong results at Westchester County Championships

— VARSITY ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Cross country

In a field of 185 runners, Hastings junior Claire Grushko finished seventh overall in a time of 18:29.1 and was second of Class C competitors at the Westchester County Championship Meet on Oct. 24 in Milton. Grushko is in her first season competing in cross country.

Irvington's girls had the highest local team finish, placing fifth of 23 squads with 172 points. The Bulldogs were second behind Bronxville out of Class C schools. Lily Korb was the top Irvington finisher in 26th (19:40.9), Greta Davis placed 37th, Julianna Flamm was 38th, Liliana Brandwein took 44th, and Melanie Welsch was 56th.

Hastings finished 12th in the team standings. Hazel Kuniholm was the second finisher for the Yellow Jackets in 27th (19:42.7). Louise Durietz-Bourdain placed 78th.

Ardsley placed 13th and was led by Kayla Kenny (62nd) and Layla Kunjukutty (67th). Dobbs Ferry's top finisher was Alessia Ambrosi in 84th.

Irvington's boys' team also placed fifth with 235 team points and was second in Class C behind Pleasantville. The Bulldogs were led by Davin Toeman (22nd, 16:34.1) with Glen Feng right behind him (24th, 16:35.4). Emmett Ansari (52nd), Ian Kwon (64th), Paul Van Haetsdaele (70th), and Levent Sarayli (79th) finished in the top 80.

Dobbs Ferry was 14th in the team standings and led by Seamus Fitzpatrick, who finished 23rd in 16:35.3. Griffin Kamke placed 49th.

Jonah Goldberg led Hastings with a 42nd-place finish. Colin Glass was 62nd. Ardsley's top finisher was Jonah Londin in 88th.

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Girls' swimming

Ardsley/Dobbs Ferry finished with a perfect 7–0 regular-season record and captured the league title as it defeated visiting John Jay-Cross River/North Salem 118–52 on Senior Day on Oct. 23.

Fiamma Cioffi (100 butterfly, 1:00.56; 500 freestyle, 5:23.26), Isla Harris (200 freestyle, 1:58.40; 100 breaststroke, 1:11.20), and Emma DeFilippis (50 freestyle, 25.40; 100 freestyle, 55.74) were double individual winners. Daphne Green won the 200 IM (2:15.16).

Ardsley/Dobbs swept the relays. They won the 200-medley relay (1:55.77) with a team of Green, Cioffi, DeFilippis, and Mackenzie Cabello. Cabello, Harris, Alba Iacobazzi, and Ella Diab made up the winning 200-freestyle relay (1:49.45). Green, DeFilippis, Harris, and Cioffi were on the first-place 400-freestyle relay (3:46.76).

SHEDI (Sleepy Hollow/Hastings/Edgemont/Irvington) picked up its first win of the season, edging visiting Byram Hills 88–82 on Oct. 21. Individual winners were Barbara Chang (200 freestyle, 2:11.76), Emily Xie (100 butterfly, 1:09.96), and Violet Campanelli (100 backstroke, 1:08.27).

The team won the 400-freestyle relay (4:07.93) behind Sienna Gojka, Emily Xie, Alex Brenner, and Gavin Gottlebe.

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Girls' tennis

Fourth-seeded Ardsley lost to top-seeded and host Byram Hills 3–0 in the Section 1 Division 2 semifinals on Oct. 21.

The Bobcats swept the three doubles matches to clinch the win. Ardsley's teams of Hayden Weiss and Kimaya Sood (6-3, 6-1), Avery McCormack and Keira Hayden (6-3, 6-0), and Juliette An and Ellisyne Ladha (6-0, 6-4) fell in doubles.

In singles competition, Ardsley's Lily-Rosey Parashis was ahead 7-5 when the match was stopped due to Byram winning the three doubles matches. Summer Lopez was trailing 6-1, 5-1.



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