

“There’s something beautiful and powerful here.”

New Rabbi David Vaisberg of Temple Beth Abraham
p 3



Setting the stage
New venue hosts riverside
concerts in Irvington
p 11

RIVERTOWNS Dispatch

Local News,
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\$2⁵⁰



DOBBS FERRY

Fulfilling work
Townes reappointed social services director
p 7



HASTINGS

Hangtime

Hastings native Zack Arno tosses his 1-year-old son, Oscar, in the air during a concert by the band Le Vent du Nord at MacEachron Waterfront Park in Hastings on Tuesday, July 14. Zack, his wife Tessa Richardson, and their son were visiting Zack’s parents, Iris Hiskey Arno and Peter Arno, from Oaxaca, Mexico.

Route 9 redesign receives \$25M from federal government

Funds to pay for upgrades in Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow

BY TIM LAMORTE

REGION The New York State Department of Transportation’s (DOT) plan to reconfigure Route 9 (Broadway) from Tompkins Avenue in Hastings to Pierson Avenue in Sleepy Hollow will receive \$25 million from the federal government, according to an announcement by U.S. Sens. Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand on July 1.

Those funds will be used for a 1.5-mile stretch in Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow, as stated in a press release from Schumer. The release adds that four signalized intersections will be reconstructed as roundabouts, two new traffic signals will be installed, a 0.75-mile shared-use path will be built, and sidewalks, crosswalks, and bus stops will be improved.

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ARDSLEY

Teen engages youth about climate issues
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“This design aims to highlight the beauty and spirit of Dobbs Ferry.”

Christine Cavallomagno of the Dobbs Ferry Public Art Committee
p 8



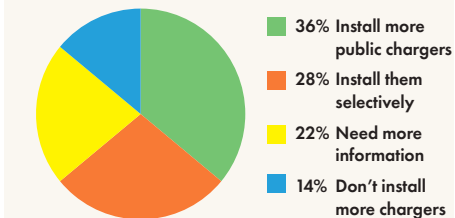
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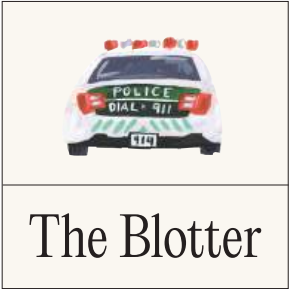
Summer hoops focus on development
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The Poll

What should local governments do about public EV chargers in municipal lots?

As answered by 156 readers of the Rivertowns Dispatch





The Blotter

ARDSLEY

Burglary arrest: A 20-year-old Manhattan resident was arrested on July 3 for burglarizing two businesses — the Mobil station at 891 Saw Mill River Road (Route 9A) and the Shell station at 730 Saw Mill River Road — on April 21. Cash and lottery scratch-off games were stolen after the front doors were forced open. The defendant was one of nine suspects in two cars. He is the first to be apprehended. He was charged with two counts of burglary in the third degree as well as one count each of grand larceny in the third degree and fourth degree, and criminal possession of stolen property in the fourth degree and fifth degree.

Leaf blower warning: Police found a landscaper from Mount Vernon using a gas leaf blower on Orlando Avenue on the afternoon of Wednesday, July 8. The landscaper was advised that the village code prohibits gas leaf blowers between May 16 and Oct. 14.

DOBBS FERRY

\$500 scam: A Dobbs Ferry resident was scammed out of \$500 on Tuesday, July 7. The resident sent the money, via Zelle, in response to a fraudulent phone call that seemed to be from Chase.

Credit card fraud: On July 10, a Dobbs Ferry resident reported that two unauthorized credit card accounts had been opened in her name in Florida on June 13. She learned about the fraud through an alert from TransUnion, the credit reporting agency.

Theft from Ulta: An unidentified woman shoplifted an unspecified

number of items from the Ulta Beauty at Rivertowns Square on Saturday, July 11.

HASTINGS

Deer and skunk deaths: Police put down an injured deer at Draper Park on the morning of Tuesday, July 7, and a sick skunk on Jefferson Avenue on the morning of Saturday, July 11. In addition, a deer was killed by a collision with a car on Burnside Drive on the evening of Friday, July 10.

Assault arrest: A 25-year-old homeless man was arrested for assaulting a woman at the intersection of Spring Street and Maple Avenue, and another woman on Warburton Avenue, on the afternoon of Sunday, July 12. Hastings and Dobbs Ferry police apprehended the defendant on Maple Avenue. He was charged with two counts of assault in the third degree and one count of resisting arrest, both misdemeanors. One

of the women was transported to St. John's Riverside Hospital in Yonkers.

Suspicious incident: An unidentified woman rang the doorbell of an unoccupied home on Farragut Avenue, and then walked around to a side door, on the evening of Wednesday, July 8. The home was not entered. The incident was recorded by a security camera.

Vehicle and traffic charges: A 32-year-old Manhattan resident was arrested for a suspended driver's license and vehicle registration, both misdemeanors, on Broadway (Route 9) on the evening of July 8. A 31-year-old Yonkers resident was arrested for a suspended registration on Broadway on the morning of July 9. He was also cited for an unregistered and uninsured vehicle, both violations. A 30-year-old Brooklyn resident was cited for an unregistered and uninsured vehicle, and for improper

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Beth Abraham's new rabbi plans to lead first by listening

BY LAURA SCHILLER

TARRYTOWN

Rabbi David Vaisberg expects to drink a lot of coffee during his first year at Temple Beth Abraham in Tarrytown — not because he'll need the caffeine, but because he plans to spend much of his time learning about his congregants, hearing their stories and priorities.

"The goal for the first year is to have a whole lot of coffee with everyone," Vaisberg told the Dispatch. "I plan to just sit down with as many folks as possible and find out what's important to them and what they want to see happen."

Vaisberg took over as Beth Abraham's rabbi on July 1, succeeding David Holtz, who retired after 33 years. The synagogue is home to some 380 families and is unique in blending Reform and Conservative traditions.

Temple president Brian Schneider said the search committee was looking for someone who could honor Holtz's legacy while leading the congregation into its next chapter. The committee was impressed by Vaisberg's ability to connect across generations.

"Our search committee heard remarkably similar feedback from teenagers, young families, longtime congregants, and seniors. People felt seen, heard, and comfortable with him almost immediately," Schneider said, noting those qualities reflect the kind of leader the congregation was seeking.

Rather than arriving with a list of initiatives, Vaisberg said top of mind is building relationships.

"I'm stepping into a community that's already on a journey," he said. "There are so many dreams and traditions here that I need to understand before I know how to lead."

That approach, he said, was reinforced by what first drew him to Temple Beth Abraham.

"This community has so much warmth, and it's so close-knit," he said. "There's something beautiful and powerful here — an incredible opportunity to find meaning not only in our own lives, but in each other and in the relationships that connect us. Through those relationships and that community, we can do tremendous good for ourselves and for the larger community."



Rabbi David Vaisberg

Vaisberg comes to Beth Abraham from Temple B'nai Abraham in Livingston, N.J., where he served as senior rabbi of the 600-family congregation for seven years. He said its long tradition of social justice — shaped in part by former Rabbi Joachim Prinz, who helped organize the 1963 March on Washington — inspired him.

"There was an incredible history of social action in that community," Vaisberg said, "and work of social justice that I hope to continue here."

Growing up in Montreal, Vaisberg knew by age 14 that he wanted to become a rabbi after a friend in his synagogue youth group suggested it.

"I must have said something that sounded wise," he recalled.

Inspired by his childhood rabbi, whom he still calls "a mentor and teacher," Vaisberg

attended York University in Toronto before enrolling at Hebrew Union College in New York.

"It's been the most exciting, meaningful journey since then," he said.

Vaisberg and his wife are relocating from Maplewood, N.J., to the Rivertowns with their two children. He said his family is looking forward to becoming part of the area's welcoming, diverse community and exploring the natural beauty of the Hudson River villages.

Vaisberg believes people come to synagogue for many reasons, but especially to find community and a sense of grounding during uncertain times.

"Sometimes our tradition provides that grounding," he said. "Sometimes that's the grounding that our people provide."

A trained musician who plays piano, guitar,

bass, and percussion, Vaisberg is looking forward to joining the congregation in song.

"I love teaching, and I love making music," he said.

Underscoring the latter, his family includes three cats named Sammy, Miles, and Charlie, and a dog named Billie — "after Billie Holiday, not Eilish," he joked.

For Vaisberg, creating a welcoming congregation is the first step toward making a broader impact on the world.

When asked what he hopes people experience when they walk through Temple Beth Abraham's doors, Vaisberg said, "I want people to experience what I experienced, which is total welcome."

He added, "There's still way too much brokenness. It's our responsibility to do what we can to bring some healing back into this world."

Town Board rules out 5-year freeze on property assessments

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

REGION

The Greenburgh Town Board plans to look into alternative options to provide relief for taxpayers after deciding not to pursue a five-year freeze on property assessments. The board and Greenburgh Tax Assessor Edye McCarthy discussed the viability of implementing the freeze during a public meeting on Tuesday, July 7.

Currently, McCarthy and her team at the assessor's office set the value of every person's home each year at 100% of the market

value, taking into account changes in the overall market and the impact of renovations made to the home. That means if a house can be sold at \$1 million, that's the assessment value.

"Typically, the real estate market goes up [for] seven years, then it levels, and goes down [for] seven years," McCarthy noted during the meeting. "That has been historical everywhere. This market here, I don't know. It's just weird that it's been so long of a steady increase. It's been 12 years at least, and it's still going strong."

Reasons why a property's assessment may be reduced include court orders like tax certioraris and small claims challenges of a homeowner's real property tax assessments.

Prior to an overall townwide reassessment in 2016, homes were assessed at 3 percent of their market value, so that a home worth \$1 million would be assessed at \$30,000 for tax purposes. McCarthy described that means of assessment as "confusing" and said assessing homes at 100% of the value set by the market, as is done now, is more "transparent" and easier for homeowners to

understand. Connecticut has a state mandate to assess homes at 70% of market value.

"In order for us to maintain these values at 100% we have to reflect the market every year," McCarthy explained. "With that, if the market goes up 5%, everyone's assessment goes up 5%. Then if you take a building permit out and your building permit increases the value of your home, we capture that as well."

After hearing from residents who suggested implementing a freeze on assessments

Continued on page 17

Route 9 funding
Continued from page 1

The release does not specify the locations of those changes. Questions about the project sent by the Dispatch to the DOT were not answered by July 16, when this issue of the newspaper went to press.

Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow officials were also awaiting more information, according to the village administrators of both communities. Both administrators were also unaware of any additional funding allocated for the project.

The most recent document on the website for the project (www.dot.ny.gov/route9corridor) is a draft design report from July 2025 that outlines two options — a \$200.2 million preferred alternative with 12 roundabouts and a \$161.6 million alternative without roundabouts.

The preferred alternative replaces signalized intersections with roundabouts at 10 locations — Pierson Avenue, Pocantico Street, Bedford Road, and Beekman Avenue in Sleepy Hollow; Route 119 in Tarrytown; Sunnyside Lane and Main Street in Irvington; Mercy University and Ashford Avenue in Dobbs Ferry; and Five Corners in Hastings. That plan also adds roundabouts at two intersections without signals — 303 Broadway in Tarrytown and Tompkins Avenue in Hastings.

Both plans put Route 9 on a “road diet” that narrows most sections to two lanes, with turn lanes where needed. The section

at I-287 and Route 119 in Tarrytown would remain four lanes. The two options also add bicycles lanes, sidewalks, and crosswalks, which would vary along the 8.5-mile route, as well as traffic signals at Central Avenue in Tarrytown and at Chestnut and Oak streets in Dobbs Ferry. The preferred alternative removes a traffic signal at the CVS shopping center in Tarrytown.

The draft timetable states construction will start in fall 2027 and end in winter 2029.

The DOT proposed 10 roundabouts in its original plan, which was the subject of public forums at Mercy University and the Tarrytown Senior Center in September 2024. The revised proposal with 12 roundabouts was aired during a public forum at Mercy on June 4, 2025.

In a Feb. 26, 2026 letter to Julianne Fuda, the Hudson Valley regional director for the DOT, Tarrytown Mayor Karen Brown wrote that her village supports the project, but that “more work is needed during the design phase to ensure that the portion of Route 9 that is within Tarrytown’s jurisdiction includes improvements and enhancements that work for the businesses and institutions along the corridor as well as those using it for mobility.”

Tarrytown Village Administrator Richard Slingerland told the Dispatch that preserving parking spaces in the business district is a priority, as is achieving “a balance between vehicular traffic and pedestrian and bicycle use.”



The DOT’s renderings of the roundabouts proposed for Ashford Avenue in Dobbs Ferry (top) and Mercy University in Dobbs Ferry (bottom).



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ARDSLEY

— Coming Up This Week —

Celebrate Greenburgh Day

Sunday, July 19, 10 a.m.; rain date July 19
Anthony F. Veteran Park, 11 Olympic Lane
Admission: \$7 pool entrance fee; free after
6 p.m. Festivities include mini golf, dunk tank,
inflatable water slides, entertainment, and
music. Fireworks begin after 9 p.m.

Food Drive for the Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry

Saturday, July 18, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.
Ardsley United Methodist Church,
525 Ashford Ave.

Drop off donations of nonperishable foods
and monetary gifts or call 914-693-4225
for a pickup

Summer Concert Series: Chris Conte Quartet

Sunday, July 19, 2–4 p.m.
Pascone Park

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

Board of Trustees Special Meeting

Tuesday, July 21, 3 p.m.
Village Hall

Agenda available at ardsleyvillage.gov

Geology with the Bruce Museum

Tuesday, July 21, 4:15 p.m.
Ardsley Public Library

Register at ardsleypubliclibrary.org

Zoning Board Meeting

Wednesday, July 22, 8 p.m.
Village Hall

Senior Field Trip: Jazz Concert in Westport

Thursday, July 23, noon

\$10 per person, includes bus transportation
Email placy@ardsleyvillage.gov for details

Library Board Meeting

Thursday, July 23, 7:30 p.m.
Ardsley Public Library

Summer Reading Club: Adam Hart Music

Thursday, July 23, 5 p.m.

Ardsley Public Library

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

Got news?

Email staff writer Amy Bochner at
amy@rivertownsdispatch.com



Sonya Duggal

Teen engages youth about climate issues

*Workshop to be held at
Greenburgh Library on July 25*

BY AMY BOCHNER

Through her zine EcoVoices, rising Ardsley High School sophomore Sonya Duggal is promoting climate literacy via art, writing, and global connections. On July 25, she will help other young people combat climate-related anxiety with a creative workshop at the Greenburgh Public Library.

Duggal credits her mom, Fatima, for immersing her in environmentalism from a young age, encouraging her to make “eco-friendly choices.” As an eighth-grader at Ardsley Middle School, Duggal learned about the pervasiveness of “eco anxiety,” or distress over the climate crisis, especially among youth. This inspired her to combine her eco-friendly values with her passion for art and writing to make climate literacy more engaging for young people.

In spring 2025, the first issue of “EcoVoices” was released. Duggal chose to utilize a “zine” format to offer a platform for students to share their perspectives and have their creative pieces published. EcoVoices published a second issue that winter, which centered on storms.

Copies of both zines were distributed in the Greenburgh Public Library. PDFs are also available online at sites.google.com/view/ecovoices/home.

Following the publication of the first two zines, Duggal decided to expand her reach by creating pamphlets sharing young people’s perspectives on climate change, which would be easier to distribute not only in Greenburgh, but throughout the world.

This past May, she reached out via email and social media to hundreds of clubs and organizations in the U.S. and abroad, searching for fellow students to become ambassadors for EcoVoices’ “Climate Across Borders” program. As a result of that search, there are 11 ambassadors who live in nine different countries: Peru, Ghana, Uganda, Kuwait, India, Oman, Mexico, Indonesia, and the U.S. These students distribute, translate, and promote the pamphlets, which contain one to two pieces of art or writing.

“You can make an impact
literally anywhere, just as
long as you have the passion
and the will.”

Sophomore Sonya Duggal

EcoVoices published the first pamphlet this June, with PDFs available online at sonyaduggal02.wixsite.com/ecovoicesglobal. Duggal is accepting submissions for a second pamphlet.

The EcoVoices zine recently closed submissions for the third issue, which was themed around droughts. Duggal anticipates accepting content for the fourth issue, which has yet to announce a theme, in the upcoming weeks.

Both the pamphlet and the zines are looking for 11-to-18-year-olds to share their art and writing, but Duggal said there are no “strict limits” on who can submit.

“I’m looking for a clear, comprehensive

message [that] shows real passion about climate change,” she told the Dispatch.

Along with helping find ambassadors, Duggal’s cold emailing opened up another opportunity for EcoVoices: a partnership with a chapter of the United Nations’ gender equality program Girl Up, based in Afghanistan. According to Duggal, the two anticipate creating a joint pamphlet to promote more opportunities for Afghan girls.

While “EcoVoices” has gone global, Duggal is continuing to work at the local level. On July 25, her workshop at the Greenburgh Public Library, called “Create for the Climate,” is geared to middle and high school students who are interested or passionate about climate change. The free workshop will feature a slideshow presentation and creative prompts by Duggal about climate change, followed by the attendees creating their own pamphlets to be displayed in the library.

Duggal encourages other young people interested in finding creative forms of climate action to “go for it.”

“You don’t need a team of 100 people. You don’t need a really large budget or connections everywhere,” she told the Dispatch. “You can make an impact literally anywhere, just as long as you have the passion and the will. Don’t be afraid to just take the risk. I promise it’ll work out as long as you keep going.”

The “Create for the Climate” workshop will take place in the Greenburgh Library’s children’s program room from 2–3:30 p.m. Registration is required at greenburghlibrary.libcal.com. More information about submitting to EcoVoices can be found on Instagram @ecovoices_zine.

ARDSLEY

Summer concerts christen bandshell at renovated park

BY AMY BOCHNER

Ardsley's Summer Concert Series returned on July 11, bringing a yearly tradition to the renovated Pascone Park.

Each of the six concerts in the series, organized by Ardsley Recreation Supervisor Trish Lacy, is free to the public and takes place from 6–8 p.m.

This is the first Summer Concert Series following the \$1.7 million upgrade of Pascone Park, which has a new playground, seating, and other amenities. Now, performers can take advantage of the park's new bandshell, which is a raised stage area with a concave shell that offers special acoustic properties. The park held a grand reopening in October 2025, which featured the '70s cover band Groove Machine. The group returned to the park to kick off the 2026 summer concerts on July 11.

Among the five members is lead singer Vincent Piazza of Dobbs Ferry, who also plays guitar and drums. He described the experience of performing at the refurbished park.

"The bandshell is absolutely awesome," he told the Dispatch. "A perfect platform, plenty of space. Lights that automatically go on at dusk and plenty [of] electrical outputs, combined with a huge lawn. It's perfect [for] families."



Groove Machine performs at Pascone Park on July 11.

The second concert, this Sunday, July 19, will feature the Chris Conte Quartet. Conte is a vocalist and upright bassist who specializes in standards from the Great American Songbook.

Next, Fifth Plain will take the stage on

July 25. The rock band formed in 2024 and is made up of Mia Dapice, Dominic Dapice, Liam Tierney, Josh Sanders, and Ryan Brennan. All members graduated from Ardsley High School in 2025, with the exception of Brennan, who graduated from Dobbs Ferry

High School this year.

The band mostly plays classic and alt rock covers, with some originals. The upcoming concert is not only Fifth Plain's first time appearing at Pascone Park, but it will also be the first time one of their original songs is performed in front of an audience.

On Aug. 8, the Clapton Project, an Eric Clapton tribute band, will perform covers of the rock and blues singer's discography, which spans the 1960s to '90s. The set list includes rock anthems like "Layla" and "Sunshine of Your Love," as well as ballads like "Wonderful Night" and "Bell Bottom Blues."

The band has seven members, including drummer and band manager Greg Saracino, who lives in Valhalla. He told the Dispatch he hopes the audience experiences "that pure and timeless feeling of seeing Eric Clapton live, and that emotional connection to the music that made his songs legends."

He continued, "If people walk out saying 'Wow, that felt like a real Clapton show,' we've done our job."

The next concert takes place on Aug. 22, featuring G-Force. The four-person band plays top-40 hits that range from Fleetwood Mac to Bruno Mars.

Ardsley native Gil Parris performs on

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Tooth be told

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

When do you actually need your wisdom teeth out?

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

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

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

the only tooth replacement option that's actually alive.

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

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



Dr. Julia Abend
DDS | Parlor Dental



DOBBS FERRY

— Coming Up This Week —

Food Drive for the Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry

Saturday, July 18, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.
Ardsley United Methodist Church,
525 Ashford Ave.

Drop off donations of nonperishable foods
and monetary gifts or call 914-693-4225
for a pickup

Movie Screening: “1776”

Saturday, July 18, 2 p.m.
Dobbs Ferry Public Library

Dine Out Dobbs

Sunday, July 19, 6–10 p.m. (rain date July 26)
Main and Cedar streets (streets close at 3)
Outdoor dining, family-friendly activities,
live music, and sidewalk sales

Board of Trustees Workshop

Tuesday, July 21, 6:30 p.m.
Village Hall

Trivia Night

Tuesday, July 21, 7 p.m.
Memorial Park

Outdoor Concert Series: Bernd Reiter 4tet

Wednesday, July 22, 6:30–8 p.m.
Waterfront Park

A pre-concert family-friendly Jitterbugs Jam
begins at 5:30 p.m. Cancellation due to
inclement weather will be announced by
2 p.m. at jazzforumarts.org

Mobile Shredder

Thursday, July 23, 9 a.m.–noon
Waterfront Park

Storycraft: Pasta Project for Ages 2–4

Thursday, July 23, 10:30 a.m.
Dobbs Ferry Public Library

River Jam and Food Trucks

Friday, July 24, 5–9 p.m.
Waterfront Park
Live music from Archives, 7 p.m.

Movie on the Trail: “Muppet Treasure Island”

Friday, July 24, 8:30 p.m.
Keeper’s House
Bring your own seats and refreshments

Got news?

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



Deputy County Executive Joan McDonald, Leonard Townes, and County Executive Ken Jenkins.

Townes reappointed social services director

Dobbs resident enters fourth decade with County

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

New Dobbs Ferry resident Leonard Townes has been reappointed to lead Westchester County’s largest governmental department. Townes, who moved to Dobbs from Elmsford in January, has served as commissioner of the Department of Social Services (DSS), overseeing its roughly 1,000 employees, since 2021. He began working with the department in 1986.

“Human services is the best work because it’s fulfilling,” Townes told the Dispatch. “You have a chance to have a positive impact on someone’s life, and you don’t always get that in all professions. [In other professions] you can’t see people who write back to you and give thanks for helping them, and see them years later living successful lives.”

Townes, 62, grew up first in White Plains and then in Greenburgh before graduating from Woodlands High School in Hartsdale. He studied business administration at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, with a concentration in management. Fresh out of college, Townes took a job with DSS as an eligibility examiner. Promotions followed — to supervisor, manager, director, and deputy commissioner.

What initially was Townes’ most financially sound job opportunity 40 years ago has become a lifelong career. In gravitating to human services, he recognizes the impact of seeing his mother, Ethel Townes, commit to helping others as the director of a daycare center, and in the way she gave to the members of her community during Leonard’s childhood.

Later in his adult life, the religious convictions Townes developed reinforced his dedication to DSS.

“As I got older, I became a man of faith, and it’s all about considering people [more] than yourself and meeting the needs of the needy,” Townes explained. “So the work tied into my faith; it made sense that I did this work based on my beliefs.”

Townes’ work with DSS also fulfills another abiding desire. He recalls being in high school at Woodlands and setting a goal of working at a Fortune 500 company. During Townes’ interview with the Westchester County Board of Legislators before

“It made sense that I did this work based on my beliefs.”

Leonard Townes

his first appointment as commissioner, the Board reminded him that though it’s not a private Fortune 500 company, DSS does have an annual budget — roughly \$750 million, according to the County — the size of one.

Much of DSS’ funds go toward executing partnerships with organizations like Feeding Westchester, which distributes to local entities like the Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry. DSS also partners with nonprofits to help locate housing opportunities for the department’s clients and run its shelters. DSS serves 250,000 people throughout Westchester County, with many of them utilizing its medical assistance program, which connects residents with options for long-term care when the elderly or disabled need to be placed in facilities. Townes also

cherishes the chance to help residents struggling through poverty or substance abuse find their way to housing, food, relief, and the confidence to move forward in their lives.

“It’s always good to be able to see that when people get in a hole by no fault of their own and they need quick help with rent or emergency SNAP benefits, that we can help meet that need, to keep them on their feet,” Townes shared. “We offer the opportunity to get the training, get some career success going, give you the opportunity to overcome substance abuse issues and give you some support with mental health issues, and put you on track to taking control and managing your own life.”

Townes was a deputy commissioner at DSS from 2018 to early 2021, including the height of the pandemic. The pandemic sticks out for Townes as a time when he was proud of the way he and his co-workers went above and beyond to serve residents.

“That was a good experience because we were called upon to do work outside of our standard type of employment,” Townes recalled. “We had to participate in helping the entire county of Westchester navigate this challenge, and we stepped up to the plate. We were at the vaccination center at WCC [Westchester County Center], we were at the Mercy Operation Center taking calls for the communities. So that was great to see how we came together to get us through that as a county.”

Townes was recently named an Elder in the new statewide Fatherhood Steering Committee established in June by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). The committee is meant to promote father engagement across family-serving systems such as child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

DOBBS FERRY

Georgia muralist to capture what is ‘uniquely Dobbs Ferry’

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Dobbs Ferry’s newly formed Public Art Committee has selected the winning artist to create a new mural in the village’s downtown later this year. The mural will be painted on the side of Rochambeau Wines & Liquors, at the corner of Broadway (Route 9) and Cedar Street, on the brick wall facing Performance Service & Park.

During a public meeting on Tuesday, July 14, the village board accepted the committee’s recommendation to award a contract to Atlanta-based muralist Trudy Tran, who earned a BFA in painting and drawing from Georgia’s Kennesaw State University in December 2023. During a presentation, committee members Christine Cavallomagno and Bruce Richards shared examples of Tran’s previous works in California, Tennessee, Oklahoma, and Georgia.

“She really focuses on bringing in natural, botanical flora, fauna; historical elements; community; themes that are relevant to the place,” Cavallomagno shared during the meeting.

The mural project is part of a \$250,000 Downtown Improvement Grant awarded the Village in 2023, which also includes a \$100,000 wayfinding initiative to install signage directing drivers and pedestrians to key parts of the business district, and



Trudy Tran’s conceptual design for the mural.

\$5,000 grants for downtown businesses to upgrade their storefronts.

After putting out a call for submissions for the mural project on the online Artwork Archive database in the spring, the Village received 64 applications from artists across multiple states and seven countries. The call for submissions featured a list of priorities to meet, including the creation of a memorable visual landmark and art that would encourage people to turn into the business district, be welcoming, visible, and engaging, and “uniquely Dobbs Ferry.”

Tran was one of three semifinalists who

were awarded a \$500 stipend to develop a rough draft of the mural concept. Tran’s draft, which will be further developed with continued collaboration with the Public Art Committee, includes native plants and a body of water stretching across the majority of the wall, representing the Hudson River. Tran plans for the mural to be between 400 and 600 square feet.

“A vibrant and flowing design was created to highlight Dobbs Ferry’s beautiful natural landmarks, local botany and fauna, and history. Past and present elements were mixed to create a timeless piece,” Tran explained in

her submission. “Through combining landscapes, floral elements, historical objects, and animals, this design aims to highlight the beauty and spirit of Dobbs Ferry.”

Tran will receive \$5,000 for the final mural design, plus a separate budget for the actual painting of the mural. Next, the Public Art Committee plans to poll residents to inform more detailed conversations with Tran about elements to include in the piece. The process will include up to two rounds of revisions before the Village finalizes a design.

“Trudy seems really receptive to us as a village identifying things that are important to the village and finding ways to incorporate them into the next draft,” Cavallomagno noted. “She is willing to travel here to install the mural herself, which was important to us. To have an artist that is also painting the mural and designing the mural is really nice.”

The Village is aiming to unveil Tran’s mural in late August or early September, in advance of Ferry Festa, which is scheduled for Oct. 3. The committee is also working with Tran to have her paint the steps leading from the corner of Broadway (Route 9) down to Cedar Street, across the street from Rochambeau. Tran’s preliminary design includes painting the stairs multiple colors, with “Dobbs Ferry” spelled out, letter-by-letter, across multiple steps, and outlines of flowers.

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HASTINGS- ON-HUDSON

— Coming Up This Week —

Farmers Market

Saturday, July 18, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

Commuter Lot, Southside Avenue

For details, visit hastingsfarmersmarket.org

Cardboard Boat Regatta

Saturday, July 18

Chemka Pool

Begin construction of boats at 10 a.m.;
races at 3 p.m.

Pool Party for Seniors

Sunday, July 19, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Chemka Pool

Registration required by emailing
senioroutreach@hohny.gov

Hastings on Jazz

Sunday, July 19, 3–5:30 p.m.

VPW Plaza

The weekly summer series continues with the
Joe Magnarelli/Gary Smulyan Quintet with
David Janeway, Joris Teepe, and Victor Jones.

Rain location: Hastings Public Library

Sunset Concert Series: Dar Williams

Tuesday, July 21, 7–9 p.m.

MacEachron Waterfront Park

Rain location: Hastings High School

Senior Thursday

Thursday, July 23

Screening of “La La Land” at the
public library, 1 p.m.

Foodtown, restaurants, and shops offer
discounts for residents over 65. Pick up a free
parking pass at library or community center.

Zoning Board Meeting

Thursday, July 23, 7 p.m.

Village Hall

Senior Book Club

Friday, July 24, 12:30–1:30 p.m.

Hastings Public Library

Discuss “Heron’s Cry” by Anne Cleaves

Local History

Mondays and Thursdays, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Observatory Cottage, Draper Park,
407 Broadway

See the Hastings Historical Society’s current
exhibit, “The Times They Are A-Changin’:
Hastings in the 1960s”

Got news?

Email staff writer Amy Bochner at
amy@rivertownsdispatch.com



CGA Studio Architects' rendering of the proposed mews within the development.

Mews proposal seeks easement for access

BY AMY BOCHNER

In pursuit of the easement required to go forward with their mixed-use project, the developer of Washington Mews gave a presentation before the board of trustees on July 7.

Since first proposed three years ago, the plan, which encompasses 9-17 Washington Avenue, has received six variances from the zoning board and is awaiting view preservation and site plan approval from the planning board. The easement with the Village is needed for a proposed exterior staircase and pocket garden.

Present at the meeting were property owners Alexander Cheng and Neil Deluca; Christina Griffin and Karen Chubak of CGA Studio Architects; Richard Quigley of IG Landscape Architects; and attorney Jacob Amir of Zarin & Steinmetz.

The proposal calls for two existing buildings on the site to be replaced by a new building with three sections, providing a total of 20 residential units, including three affordable units, and one retail space for a café. There are 18 two-bedroom units and two one-bedroom units. Below, there is a garage for residents.

The mews portion of the complex begins

from an entry off of Washington Avenue and ends with a staircase and pocket garden leading to the Village-owned Zinsser Commuter Lot. An easement between the Village and developers would enable the public to use the mews to access the parking lot from Washington Avenue.

Inside the mews, a decorative fountain, seating, bike storage racks, and planters create “a vibrant outdoor space,” Chubak said.

She described the project as “serving to connect the residents, creating a sense of community,” while promoting the use of

Continued on page 17



Sign of service

The Rivertowns Rotary put up a sign at Wagner Plaza, near the intersection of Broadway and Warburton Avenue, on June 16. The sign is across the street from Zinsser Park, which was named after Frederick Zinsser, whose son John was the first president of Rivertowns Rotary. Established in 1925, the club is a community service organization that represents Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings, and Irvington.

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON

Safety upgrades planned for Ravensdale Road and Main Street

BY AMY BOCHNER

The Hastings Board of Trustees agreed to move forward with a four-way stop at the intersection of Rosedale Avenue and Ravensdale Road, along with other traffic measures on Main Street, on July 7.

At previous board meetings, residents expressed concern over pedestrian safety at the crossing at Ravensdale, a busy artery, and urged the board to consider a four-way stop. In April, the board received a study conducted by T.Y. Lin International Engineering and Architecture stating the intersection did not meet the minimum thresholds for a four-way stop. The board decided to get a second opinion from Creighton Manning, the firm that's leading a project creating continuous sidewalks along both sides of Rosedale between Ravensdale and Mount Hope Boulevard.

Village Manager Mary Beth Murphy and Trustee Douglass Alligood summarized the recommendations provided by Creighton Manning about the Ravensdale/Rosedale intersection. The engineers recommended a push-button flashing crossing system, as opposed to stop signs. The reasoning, Alligood said, was that stop signs are often rolled through by drivers and give pedestrians "a false sense of security."

A push-button system requires new infrastructure, which Alligood said could be part



The location of the crosswalk planned for Main Street.

of the upcoming Ravensdale redesign project, which the Village received plans for by James J. Hahn Engineering last year. The roadway's \$2.4 million upgrade includes the addition of bike lanes, as well as new and replaced sidewalks.

In the meantime, the Village is looking for an immediate solution at the Rosedale/Ravensdale intersection. According to Alligood, although the engineers "didn't say

'absolutely the stop sign is the right way to go,'" they also "didn't say 'no.'"

"What they're thinking is that there might be a plan to put a stop sign in, and we can vote for that if we want to," Alligood said. "There's nothing to say that we can't do that, and it wouldn't be adding danger."

He also referenced a three-way stop at the intersection of Kent Avenue and Ravensdale, which he described as "significantly easier

to cross... than it is to cross at Rosedale."

The board agreed to move forward with the four-way stop at Rosedale. To do this, the board needs to adopt legislation stating that the stop signs will be installed. They also agreed to ask Creighton Manning to research turning the three-way stop at Kent into a four-way stop.

The board will also implement other recommendations made by Creighton Manning, such as signage and speed cushions, which are segmented rubber bumps designed to slow cars down without impeding emergency vehicles.

The traffic-calming measures can be implemented quickly and at a low cost, Alligood said. These can be monitored over time, and additional measures can be incorporated, if necessary, when the Village begins the Ravensdale sidewalk project.

The next board meeting, on Aug. 4, will include an item scheduling a public hearing on the four-way stop.

The board also discussed a pilot program for a three-way stop at the intersection of Main Street and Warburton Avenue, where there is an existing traffic light. For 90 days, the light will either be placed on a flashing red cycle, or covered while temporary stop signs would be put up. The goal is to see

Continued on page 17

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IRVINGTON

— Coming Up This Week —

Tech Angels

Saturday, July 18, 10:30 a.m.–noon
Irvington Public Library
Drop in for assistance with your phone, computer, or other device

Artist Reception

Saturday, July 18, 2:30–4:30 p.m.
Martucci Gallery at the public library
This month's exhibit, "Between Pages / Between Places," showcases paintings by Hu Shasha

Riverside Music: The Now Stories

Sunday, July 19, 6–8 p.m.
Matthiessen Park Stage
Parking is not permitted in Bridge Street lots

Farmers Market

Sunday, July 19, 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
Main Street School, 101 Main St.
For details, visit irvingtonfarmersmarket.org and follow the market on Facebook

World Cup Watch Party

Sunday, July 19, 3 p.m.
Irvington Senior Center, Bridge Street

Zoning Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 21, 7:30 p.m.
Village Hall
To attend via Zoom, visit irvingtonny.gov for the link

Cupcake Competition for Grades 5–12

Thursday, July 23, 5–7 p.m.
Irvington Public Library
Register at irvingtonlibrary.org

Jazz Forum Arts Summer Concert Series

Thursday, July 23, 6:30 p.m.
Matthiessen Park Stage
Featuring the Donald Vega's As I Travel Quartet. Cancellation due to inclement weather will be announced by 2 p.m. on Facebook and at jazzforumarts.org

Family Movie Night

Friday, July 24
Matthiessen Park
Screening of "Shrek" begins at dusk; bring your own chairs, blankets, and snacks

Got news?

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

Pumpkins to turn four villages into an art trail

Artists welcome to submit designs through July 30

BY LAURA SCHILLER

Every fall, pumpkins become part of the Rivertowns landscape. This year, they'll become something more.

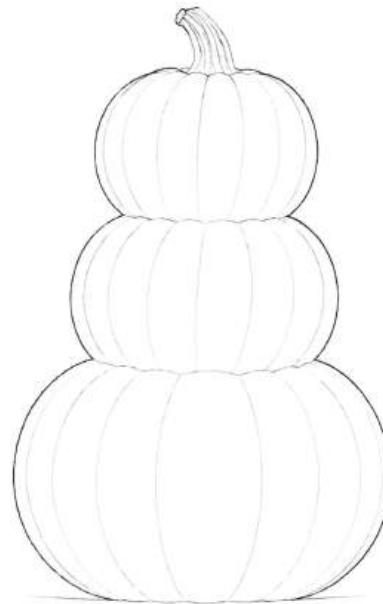
A new public art project called the Rivertowns Pumpkin Trail will transform fiberglass pumpkins into works of art in Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Irvington, and Sleepy Hollow. The initiative is designed to encourage residents and visitors to explore downtowns while celebrating the work of area artists.

"Public art belongs to everyone," said organizer Kristina Schmidt, chair of the Irvington Arts & Culture Committee, which produces two other public installations in Irvington that require artists to decorate fiberglass statues — the Bulldog Gallery, started in 2023, and the Butterfly Gallery, which debuted this past spring.

Schmidt said she loves public art because it brings people together.

"The pumpkins are something you can stop and look at — and even touch — as you're walking down the street," she explained. "Then somebody else walks up, and suddenly you're both having a conversation about something really cool, interesting, beautiful, or different."

The idea for Rivertowns Pumpkin Trail grew out of the committee's annual planning discussions. After the success of the



The design for the stacked pumpkins

Bulldog and Butterfly galleries, members wanted another three-dimensional installation while also collaborating with neighboring communities.

"We wanted to do something different," Schmidt said. "Everybody loved the dogs, but we thought, 'Could we do that and more?' We'd been talking with Sleepy Hollow's arts committee for a couple of years about collaborating. The pumpkins fit all the needs, and fall is such a special time in the Rivertowns."

Organizers hope visitors that swarm the Halloween meccas of Sleepy Hollow and

Tarrytown will spill over to neighboring communities, downtowns, and businesses.

Schmidt said nearby municipalities had been asking how they could create public art projects similar to Irvington's, which led organizers to expand Rivertowns Pumpkin Trail beyond Irvington, sharing its experience and established framework.

"I love the Rivertowns and how we came together for the spring scavenger hunt," Schmidt said referring to an Earth Month contest that encompassed six villages this past April and into May. "I thought this could be a good way to connect us for the fall. This lets other communities offer something similar to what we do without having to start from the beginning, while also helping businesses throughout the Rivertowns benefit from pumpkin season visitors."

Through July 30, artists are invited to submit designs for one of two pumpkin sculptures — a large, round "Hero" pumpkin or a three-tiered "Stacked" pumpkin. Applications are available at artscultureirv.org/pumpkin26.

Schmidt expects around 30 pumpkins to line streets in downtown areas this fall, creating the Rivertowns' first regional public art trail. Organizers are looking for designs that demonstrate "attention to detail, color balance, ingenuity, and a willingness to elevate your design with accessories or illumination," according to the call for artists on the Irvington Arts & Culture Committee website.

Continued on page 17

Ribbon cut as new stage hosts summer concerts

BY TIM LAMORTE

New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Irvington Mayor Arlene Burgos cut a ribbon for the new stage at Matthiessen Park on Saturday, July 11.

The \$1.6 million structure was paid for in part by a \$500,000 Parks, Preservation and Heritage Grant from New York State's Environmental Protection Fund.

Following the ceremony, two bands — Local Politics and The Skam — performed as part of the six-part concert series, hosted by the Village, that started June 5.

Local Politics consists of former Irvington Mayor Jon Siegel (drums), Adam Hellegers of Scarsdale (vocals), Jason Kofman of Scarsdale (bass), Eddie Manheimer of Scarsdale (guitar and vocals), Eric Scheffler of Scarsdale (guitar), Karen Scheffler of Scarsdale (vocals), and Isaac Sonett-Assor of Sleepy Hollow (keyboard).

The Skam consists of former Irvington Village Trustee Mitchell Bard (drums), Stacy Hirsh of Irvington (bass and vocals), Fled Isma of Peekskill (guitar), and Kenny Schaefer of Briarcliff Manor (guitar and vocals).

The Village of Irvington series continues with The Now Stories, which covers songs from the 1960s, 1970s, and more recent decades, this Sunday, July 19, from 6–8 p.m. The series concludes with The Femme Fighters on Friday, July 31, from 7–9 p.m. The New Stories consists of Heather



County Executive Ken Jenkins, State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Irvington Mayor Arlene Burgos, State Assemblymember MaryJane Shinsky, and County Legislator David Imamura on July 11.

Ferguson of Brooklyn (drums), Ann Epstein Gulian of Ossining (vocals), Leo Harmony of Nyack (harmonica and vocals), Stacy Hirsh of Irvington (bass and vocals), Jon Kolleen of Poughkeepsie (guitar and vocals), Maureen "Mo" O'Connor of Hastings (percussion), Parker Reilly of Irvington (keyboard and vocals), and Marlowe Stern of Beacon (guitar).

In addition, the nonprofit Jazz Forum Arts has been using the stage for a free eight-part series that started July 9 and continues with Donald Vega's As I Travel Quartet on July 23, Barry Stephenson on July 30, Giulia Coda on Aug. 6, the Tony Jefferson Quartet on Aug. 13, Carlos Abadie on Aug. 20, and Evan Arntzen on Aug. 27. All concerts begin at 6:30 p.m.

IRVINGTON

Expert offers guidance about coexisting with coyotes

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Following reports of coyote encounters and sightings in Irvington, a local conservation center offered tips to the public on how to reduce the risk of harm to themselves and their pets.

The South Salem-based Wolf Conversation Center (WCC) presented a program titled “Coexisting With Coyotes” at the Irvington Public Library on July 9. WCC, which is home to 33 wolves across three subspecies, also observes a robust population of wild coyotes in the area surrounding the facility.

According to the Center, the coyotes roaming Westchester are typically the Eastern Coyotes subspecies, which is the largest coyote subspecies, weighing 20–45 pounds on average. By comparison, Labrador retrievers weigh an average of 55–80 pounds and gray wolves weigh 80–120 pounds.

Frequent coyote sightings in Irvington, Dobbs Ferry, and Hastings were reported to police and posted in local social media groups throughout June and early July. Dana Goin, a program coordinator and wildlife educator with WCC, explained that sightings in the area are to be expected, with an estimated 30,000–40,000 coyotes living in New York State.

“They’re not strictly nocturnal, so if we

see them out and about during the day, that doesn’t necessarily signal that they’re rabid or sickly,” Goin explained during the presentation. “A lot depends on the season. This time of year, for example, is pup season, so coyotes who are raising young pups have to be out moving around, looking for more food, and that might require them to go hunting for longer periods.”

Coyotes breed between January and March, and have a gestation period of around 62 days. That means the spring and summer are when they begin raising young pups, who are born blind and deaf. On the afternoon of June 12, an Irvington resident reported to police that a coyote approached their 2-year-old son while he was playing in their driveway, and continued to walk closer after the parent picked the child up. Even after the resident began swinging the child’s bike in front of the coyote, the animal didn’t leave until the family dog scared the coyote away. That evening a coyote dug under a fence at a different Irvington home, entered a family’s yard, and bit the family’s dog. The coyote continued to hold on with its teeth as the dog’s owner threw toys and rocks. The coyote released the dog as police drove into the area. The dog survived the attack.

Coyotes are carnivores who follow an omnivorous diet, and scavengers who

primarily eat rodents and rabbits as well as killed or injured deer. Because of their eating habits, coyotes help prevent the spread of Lyme disease carried by rodents, help control the rodent population in general, and clean the environment of dead animal carcasses.

Goin made clear that the encounters and sightings are not definitive evidence of an increased number of coyotes in the area. It is unusual, however, for coyotes to intentionally approach — and stay close to — humans.

“They’re all born really wary of humans, but if they learn that every interaction with humans is neutral, that starts to erode their fear,” Goin said. “So we want to make sure pretty much every interaction they have with humans is one where they have no idea how the next interaction is going to go.”

Goin described close encounters between coyotes and humans as outliers and evidence that a specific coyote or group of coyotes is more brazen because of previous experiences with humans who fed them or exhibited other behavior that allowed the coyotes to become acclimated to humans. She explained that remaining quiet and calm when a coyote gets close will help it become more comfortable being around humans.

“We want to make sure if you’re seeing a coyote, make it scary for them, frighten them,” Goin instructed. “If coyotes see people

and people are really loud and unpredictable, they’re going to start to learn to avoid them and keep their distance from as many humans as possible.”

Goin encourages people to engage in “hazing,” which calls for scaring coyotes away by talking loudly, waving your arms, clapping your hands, or using tools like air horns and coins in a can to make noise. If the coyote is in the distance, hazing is not necessary. Goin recommended that any time a person spots a coyote, they close one eye and stick their thumb out, and if the coyote is close enough that their thumb is not completely covering their view of the coyote, they should practice hazing.

People are encouraged not to leave their pets unsupervised outdoors, even if fenced in. It’s also recommended to leave only enough pet food out for one meal, so that it doesn’t attract other wild animals.

“We want to keep our pets away from wildlife so we don’t have these conflict situations,” Goin said. “They [coyotes] don’t know, ‘I’m allowed to eat that rabbit, but I’m not allowed to eat that cat.’ I want pets to be safe, so we want to make sure we’re keeping cats indoors and not re-entering them into the food chain, essentially. And with our dogs, keep them close to us and keep them supervised.”



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The Agenda

SATURDAY JULY 18

Live Music: The Incumbents

ARDSLEY

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

MorDance: “Dolly in the Park”

DOBBS FERRY

7–8:15 p.m. / Free. Waterfront Park. Rain date July 19. Ballet set to songs by Dolly Parton. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. mordance.org

“The Jaws of the Merman”

HASTINGS

7 and 8 p.m. / \$27, \$17 for students and seniors. River’s Edge Theatre Company Studio, 546 Warburton Ave. Immersive performance of an ancient German folk tale. Also on Sunday, 4 and 5 p.m. riversedgetheatre.com

“Between Pages / Between Places”

IRVINGTON

2:30–4:30 p.m. / Free. Martucci Gallery at Irvington Public Library, 12 S. Astor St. Reception to meet Shasha Hu and see her exhibit of paintings. On view through July 31. irvingtonlibrary.org

History Portrayal

TARRYTOWN

2:30–4 p.m. / Free. Warner Library, 121 N. Broadway. Historian Char Weigel presents “Mrs. Benedict Arnold Would Like a Word: The Surprising Story of Peggy Shippen Arnold.” warnerlibrary.org

“A Midsummer Night’s Dream”

TARRYTOWN

7 p.m. / \$59, \$84 includes dinner. Lyndhurst, 635 S. Broadway. M&M Performing Arts Company’s production of Shakespeare’s romantic comedy is set in the 1960s and performed in the Palm Court’s open-air theater through July 26. Appropriate for ages 8+. lyndhurst.org

Jazz Vocalist Kate Kortum

TARRYTOWN

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

Craig Finn & Patterson Hood

TARRYTOWN

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

Summer Saturdays: Fabric and Fashion

SLEEPY HOLLOW

11 a.m.–3 p.m. / \$18, \$15 for ages 18–25 and 65+, \$13 for children. Philipsburg Manor, 381 N. Broadway. Themed events and hands-on activities with historic demonstrations. Purchase timed-entry tickets at hudsonvalley.org



MorDance plans a free performance at Waterfront Park in Dobbs Ferry on Saturday, July 18, with a rain date of July 19.

SUNDAY JULY 19

Celebrate Greenburgh Day

ARDSLEY

9 a.m.–10 p.m. / \$7 pool entrance fee; free admission after 6 p.m. Anthony F. Veteran Park, 11 Olympic Lane. Festivities include mini golf, dunk tank, inflatable water slides, entertainment, and music. Fireworks begin after 9 p.m. greenburghny.com/parks

Concert in the Park

ARDSLEY

2–4 p.m. / Free. Pascone Park, 507 Ashford Ave. The summer concert series continues with the Chris Conte Quartet. Bring a blanket or chair for the lawn. ardsleyvillage.gov/parks-recreation

PJ Library Bookmobile

DOBBS FERRY

9:30–11:30 a.m. / Free. Greenburgh Hebrew Center, 515 Broadway. Books for ages 0–12, plus crafts, snacks, and playtime. RSVP required at PLlibrary@ghcny.org

Outdoor Live Music: Noah & Co

DOBBS FERRY

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

Dine Out Dobbs

DOBBS FERRY

6–10 p.m. Rain date July 26. Main and Cedar streets (streets close at 3). Outdoor dining, family-friendly activities, music, and sidewalk sales.

Hastings on Jazz

HASTINGS

3–5:30 p.m. / Free. VFW Plaza, 558 Warburton Ave. The weekly summer series continues with the Joe Magnarelli/Gary Smulyan Quintet

with David Janeway, Joris Teepe, and Victor Jones. Rain location: Hastings Public Library, 7 Maple Ave. destinationhastings.org

Riverside Concert: The Now Stories

IRVINGTON

6–8 p.m. / Free. Matthiessen Park. Parking is not permitted in the Bridge Street lots.

Jazz Bassist Marcos Varela

TARRYTOWN

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

World Cup Final Viewing Party

TARRYTOWN

3 p.m. / Free. The Ark at Shames JCC, 371 S. Broadway. Cash bar. Reserve a table (up to 10 people) by emailing TheArkEvents@shamesjcc.org

Mermaid Festival

SLEEPY HOLLOW

1–5 p.m. / \$10, free for children under 10, free for Sleepy Hollow residents with bracelets picked up in advance. Kingsland Point Park. The family-friendly event celebrates the Hudson River with a costume parade, live music, a puppet show, and local food trucks. A portion of proceeds supports Riverkeeper. visitsleepyhollow.com

TUESDAY JULY 21

Trivia Night

DOBBS FERRY

7–9 p.m. / Free. Memorial Park. Up to six people per team; ages 18 and up. Sign up at dobbsferry.gov/recreation-department

Sunset Concert Series: Dar Williams

HASTINGS

7–9 p.m. / Free. MacEachron Waterfront Park, 100 River St. Rain location: Hastings High School, 1 Mount Hope Blvd. destinationhastings.org

Classic and Original Jazz

HASTINGS

7–9 p.m. / No cover charge. Uncle Lefty’s, 583 Warburton Ave. Featuring Mark Kaufman. uncleleftys.com

WEDNESDAY JULY 22

Outdoor Concert: Percussionist Bernd Reiter

DOBBS FERRY

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

THURSDAY JULY 23

Outdoor Live Music: Sonnie Daze

DOBBS FERRY

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

The Jam

DOBBS FERRY

7–9:30 p.m. / No cover charge. Mirabella Cocina Latina Restaurant & Bar, 1 Hamilton St., in Rivertowns Square. The second set is open to guest musicians. mirabellacocina.com/calendar-dobbs-ferry

Riverfront Concert: Donald Vega’s As I Travel Quartet

IRVINGTON

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

FRIDAY JULY 24

Live Rock: Nantastic 4

ARDSLEY

9 p.m. / No cover charge. Saw Mill Tavern, 925 Saw Mill River Road. Reservations encouraged. smtavern.com

River Jam and Food Trucks

DOBBS FERRY

7–9 p.m. / Free. Waterfront Park. The summer concert series continues with Archives. dobbsferry.gov/recreation-department

Movie on the Trail

DOBBS FERRY

8:30 p.m. / Free. Keeper’s House, 15 Walnut St. “Muppet Treasure Island.” aqueduct.org

Continued on page 14

The Agenda

ONGOING

Farmers Market

HASTINGS
Saturdays, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Commuter Lot, Southside Avenue. The market is open weekly through November. For details, visit hastingsfarmersmarket.org.

PaperWorks 2026: Transformations

HASTINGS
Upstream Gallery, 8 Main St. The annual juried exhibit of works on paper, includes drawing, collage, printmaking, and painting. On view through July 19. upstreamgallery.com

“The Times They Are A-Changin’:
Hastings in the 1960s”

HASTINGS
Observatory Cottage, Draper Park, 407 Broadway. Open the first Saturday of each month (except August), 2–4 p.m., and Mondays and Thursdays, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. On view through October. hastingshistoricalsociety.org

Farmers Market

IRVINGTON
9 a.m.–1 p.m. Main Street School, 101 Main St. The market is open weekly through November. For details, visit theirvingtonfarmersmarket.org.

“Treason of the Blackest Dye”

IRVINGTON
1–4 p.m. / Free. McVickar House, 131 Main St. The Irvington Historical Society hosts a showcase of Revolutionary Westchester 250’s research about Benedict Arnold and British Major John André. On view Saturdays and Thursdays, 1–4 p.m., through Aug. 8. irvingtonhistoricalsociety.org

Octagon House Tours

IRVINGTON
Various times Thursday–Monday / \$34. The Armour-Stiner Octagon House, 45 W. Clinton Ave. The 1876 Centennial Tour commemorates the 250th anniversary of the United States. Through Sept. 20. For ages 7+. Advance tickets required. armourstiner.com

Historic Hudson Valley Tours

IRVINGTON, SLEEPY HOLLOW
Various times. Washington Irving’s Sunnyside, 3 West Sunnyside Lane, Irvington, and Philipsburgh Manor, 381 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow, a 1750 farm and grist mill. Timed-entry tickets required. hudsonvalley.org

TaSH Farmers Market

TARRYTOWN
Saturdays, 8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Patriot’s Park, 121 N. Broadway. The weekly market continues through the fall. For details, visit tashfarmersmarket.org

market.org and follow the market on Facebook.

Rip Van Winkle’s Journey

TARRYTOWN
\$65. Washington Irving’s Sunnyside, 3 W. Sunnyside Lane. Immersive outdoor theater experience with live music and curated drinks. Various times through July 26. Recommended for ages 10+. Advance tickets required. hudsonvalley.org

Lyndhurst Classic Mansion Tour

TARRYTOWN
\$5–\$26. Lyndhurst, 635 S. Broadway. The historic mansion offers guided tours encompassing the first and second floors of the mansion, spanning approximately 16 rooms. Offered on various dates and times through Sept. 20. Timed entry tickets required. lyndhurst.org

Lyndhurst Upstairs/Downstairs Tour

TARRYTOWN
\$35–\$42. Lyndhurst, 635 S. Broadway. Offered on various dates and times through Sept. 20. Timed-entry tickets required. lyndhurst.org

“Lost and Found”

TARRYTOWN
11 a.m.–5 p.m. / Free with grounds admission (\$10–\$15). Lyndhurst, 635 S. Broadway. The exhibition features rediscovered items related to the history and owners of Lyndhurst. The gallery at the Welcome Center is open 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

Thursday–Tuesday through September, and daily September through November. lyndhurst.org

“Woven Wonders: Kykuit’s Picasso
Tapestries”

TARRYTOWN
11 a.m.–4 p.m. / Free. The Pocantico Center, 200 Lake Road. The exhibit showcases eight monumental tapestries based on Pablo Picasso’s bold paintings. On view 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Fridays and 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Saturdays through March 20, 2027. Reserve tickets at rbf.org/pocantico/events

UPCOMING

Grateful To Be Alive Concert

HASTINGS
July 28 / 6–9 p.m. / Free. MacEachron Waterfront Park. Rain date: July 29. The Grateful Dead cover band gives a free concert.

Rivertowns Repair Café

IRVINGTON
July 25 / 11 a.m.–3 p.m. / Free. Eileen Fisher, Inc., 2 Bridge St., Suite 230. repaircafehv.org

Riverside Concert: The Femme Fighters

IRVINGTON
July 31 / 7–9 p.m. / Free. Matthiessen Park. Parking is not permitted in the Bridge Street parking lots.



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- Waxing
- and More!

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

Thanks to Co-op alumni for an evening of kindness

To the Editor:

On June 22, an amazing group of alumni gathered to honor my 30 years of dedication to Hastings Nursery School. It was an elegant evening filled with giant hugs, heartfelt stories, and meaningful connections. It was a beautiful reminder of what the Co-op was built on: years of hard work by individuals who cared for and supported one another through joyful and difficult times. The room was filled with respect, acceptance, integrity, and, above all, kindness.

I was grateful to share the evening with my co-director of more than 25 years, Cindy Nibur. Together, we were an unstoppable team through three moves, floods, challenging times, and much more. Our friendship is rare, enduring, and treasured.

Melissa and Dan Sbrega, the owners of Uncle Lefty's, hosted the celebration and made everyone feel at home.

Thank you to all of my generous friends who donated money to my fundraiser.

A special thank you to the unstoppable Nina Segal. Her compassion and ability to care for others are beyond words.

I also want to thank Will Kennedy, Gaby and Andrew Bordwin, Jeff and Wendy Pucillo, and Marie-Louise Miller and her husband, Alex Navarrete. This incredible group of friends started a fundraiser and spent hours organizing the celebration. My heartfelt thanks also go to everyone who donated.

I want to thank my husband, Don, and son, Donald, for standing by my side. And to my daughter, Jessica, who lifted me when I was sad and felt disrespected. She reminded me of the importance of self-respect. I could not love her more.

My dream was to send my grandson to the Co-op and eventually retire from the Co-op that I loved so dearly. Life has taken me in a different direction. I will carry with me the true friendships I made, the joy I shared with your children, and the privilege of being part of their educational journey. Those memories will remain in my heart.

Thank you all for giving me a lifetime of

purpose and unforgettable memories.

Irene Balint-Wemer

HASTINGS

Support businesses to preserve character of community

To the Editor:

I'm wondering if others are as upset and sad as I was when I walked through town last week.

I had just learned that the bookstore was closing. For those who remember, both Good Yarns and Galapagos were such a part of Hastings for so long. It was wonderful to have another bookstore back in town. Now it's gone.

Then I heard on the same day that Wild Culture Waffles and Taiim were closing, and then the next day I saw that Hudson Line was having a moving sale and closing soon. Just walking on Warburton, I kept looking at empty store after empty store, many with paper on the windows. What a sad sight.

What's to become of the Hastings that we all know and love? Yes, there are many wonderful stores and restaurants that we can support, and in fact we must. We have to go out of our way to shop local — year-round.

Whether it's the pharmacy or the hardware or health food store — stores that anchor the corners of our village like Chelsea's or Suburban Renewal, and others scattered throughout — imagine what it will look like if they all have to close, and the restaurants and "food places" — just imagine.

Sure, it's much easier to order online and have things delivered to your door — go to bigger competitors, etc. — but I'm urging all of us to make a concerted effort to shop in our town, to support our merchants, and our restaurant owners/food purveyors.

Maybe — hopefully — there are other things that the village can consider doing that would also support local merchants.

We come here and live here for a variety of reasons, but I'm guessing that we all love Hastings for the little village that it is. However, it's up to all of us to do our part to keep it the place that we hold dear.

Jodie Meyer

HASTINGS

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Classies

MARKET.RIVERTOWNSDISPATCH.COM/CLASSIES

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



PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Elster Rare Books & Art LLC filed with SSNY on 03/11/2026. Office Location: Westchester CountySSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom precess may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 12 Hazel Lane Larchmont, NY 10538. Purpose: any lawful act or activities.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Ardsley will hold a public hearing on Monday, August 3, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. or soon thereafter at Ardsley Village Hall-Court Room, 507 Ashford Avenue, Ardsley, NY 10502 to discuss the proposed application to convert vacant commercial space into a medical office located at 875 Saw Mill River Road, Ardsley, NY 10502.

Please check the calendar on the Village website for meeting details at www.ardsleyvillage.gov or email the Village Clerk at arocco@ardsleyvillage.gov.

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

The meeting is conducted using hybrid format and interested parties are invited to observe a meeting either in-person or virtually through the videoconferencing service Zoom which can accessed here: Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81799077785?pwd=JlRlX0pWQD6RlRn6ay3iir1zEYgOVFde.1> Meeting ID: 817 9907 7785 Passcode: 470520

Members of the public can also listen to the meeting via Zoom platform by dialing via phone+1 929 205 6099, Meeting ID: 817 9907 7785 Passcode: 470520

Further details on this application are available at the Clerk's office, 507 Ashford Avenue, Ardsley, NY during normal office hours Monday

through Friday 9:00 am-4:00 pm.

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

All residents and taxpayers are invited to attend. BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF ARDSLEY, NEW YORK

Ann Marie Rocco
Village Clerk
Dated: July 17, 2026

NOTICE TO BIDDERS — ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION SERVICES

VILLAGE OF IRVINGTON REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS COMMUNITY REFORESTATION (CORE) GRANT ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION SERVICES CONTRACT #: 2026-41

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Request for Proposals for the

Village of Irvington Community Reforestation (CoRE) Grant

Ecological Restoration Services project will be received by the Irvington Village Administrator's office until 12PM on Wednesday, July 29, 2026. Respondents shall submit proposals in accordance with the submittal guidelines in the RFP.

The RFP document and all information relative thereto may be secured at the Irvington Village Clerk's Office or downloaded from www.irvingtonny.gov. There is no cost for the Request for Proposal document. The Village will not be responsible for full or partial sets of contract documents, including any addenda obtained from any other source.

The Village of Irvington reserves the right to waive any informalities in the bids; or to reject any or all bids. No bidder may withdraw his bid within forty-five (45) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

All questions should be directed to Karen Buccheri, Assistant to the Village Administrator at (914) 591-4356 or by e-mail

at kbuccheri@irvingtonny.gov

Katie Bugna, Clerk/Treasurer
Village of Irvington
July 13, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Zoning Board of Appeals
Village of Irvington
Westchester County
New York

NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to Section 224-98 of the Code of the Village of Irvington, that a public hearing will be held in Village Hall, 85 Main Street, Irvington, New York, on August 18, 2026 at 7:30 p.m., upon the application of

August Iorio — 16 Riverview Road (2.50-23-9) is seeking variances of sections 224-11 (proposed additions encroach into the front yard and side yard setbacks) and 224-13 (exceeds allowable coverage) of the Village Code in order to build an addition. at the above referenced property.

All papers are on file at the office of the Irvington Village Clerk-Treasurer and the Irvington Library, open to public inspection during

their business hours. All submissions can also be viewed online through the Village website, www.Irvingtonny.gov. All persons interested are invited to attend in person or join via Zoom

By order of the Zoning Board of Appeals, Village of Irvington.

Signed,
Dated: July 15, 2026
Sarah Gardner, Chairperson
Katie Bugna, Clerk-Treasurer
Village of Irvington,
New York

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Zoning Board of Appeals
Village of Irvington
Westchester County
New York

NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to Section 224-98 of the Code of the Village of Irvington, that a public hearing will be held in Village Hall, 85 Main Street, Irvington, New York, on August 18, 2026 at 7:30 p.m., upon the application of

Heather Morris & Matthew McCarthy — 84 Fargo Lane (2.20-3-2) is seeking a vari-

PHOTO WALL



I LOVE YOU!

You are incredible, kind-hearted, smart and thoughtful. I have learned so much by being your daughter. Thanks for being awesome! Love, Amanda

ance of section 224-13 (exceeds allowable coverage) of the Village Code in order to relocate an existing patio and build a garden wall at the above referenced property.

All papers are on file at the office of the Irvington Village Clerk-Treasurer and the Irvington Library, open to public inspection during their business hours. All submissions can also be viewed online through the Village

website, www.Irvingtonny.gov. All persons interested are invited to attend in person or join via Zoom

By order of the Zoning Board of Appeals, Village of Irvington.

Signed,
Dated: July 15, 2026
Sarah Gardner, Chairperson
Katie Bugna, Clerk-Treasurer
Village of Irvington,
New York



The Tarrytown Lighthouse
in Sleepy Hollow

Dear Reader,

Two and a half years ago, the Rivertowns Dispatch was simply an idea — that a community is stronger, that our conversations are more productive if we have a shared, excellent (and fun) local newspaper.

This September, we are growing to include Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow.

These are two remarkable river towns, full of history, creativity, civic energy, and stories worth telling. We're excited to get to know them better and share those stories with readers across the Rivertowns.

Thanks to your support, we've been able to build something worth growing.

Throughout September, we'll deliver the paper free to every household in Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow as we introduce the Dispatch to our new neighbors.

Know someone in Tarrytown or Sleepy Hollow?
Tell them we're coming.

Warmly,
The Rivertowns Dispatch team

Tax assessments

Continued from page 3

for five years, Greenburgh Town Supervisor Paul Feiner requested that the assessor review the potential benefits of that process. Connecticut is an example of a state that freezes assessments for five-year periods. During the July 7 meeting, McCarthy weighed the pros and cons for taxpayers.

“The pro for taxpayers is that their assessments are stable,” McCarthy explained. “Doesn’t mean their taxes are going to be stable, just their assessments.”

McCarthy further explained that freezing assessments might cause tax rates, which have remained steady in recent years, to increase in order for the Town and Villages

to cover expenses. Beyond that potential impact, McCarthy and members of the town board expressed concern that in the sixth year after a freeze, the current market could set taxpayers up for a large increase in assessments, and an overwhelming increase in tax payments.

To test the effect of a five-year freeze, McCarthy did a hypothetical study of a house that was worth \$500,000 in 2021. By looking at government spending for the Town of Greenburgh, McCarthy recalculated what the tax rates would have been each of those five years. Based on real market data, she estimated an increase of \$150,000 for the value of that home over that time period. McCarthy then calculated that taxes for the homeowner would

increase \$1,500 from the fifth to the sixth year after the reassessment. Her study didn’t include the addition of school district taxes.

“Maybe the five-year freeze by itself is too much...”

Town Supervisor Paul Feiner

“In my eyes — and people might disagree with this — I’d rather know I’m paying my 2 and 3 percent [each year] as opposed to a big jump in the sixth year,” McCarthy said.

The board decided that a five-year freeze

on assessment would not be worth pursuing further, agreeing that it wouldn’t provide any tax relief. Feiner, who first introduced the idea of looking into it, encouraged the assessor and the board to explore other options.

“Maybe you could think of other compromise ideas that could help some of the people who are really struggling,” Feiner suggested. “Maybe the five-year freeze by itself is too much, but maybe a one-year freeze is something that we should at least have a discussion on. Maybe we can test out other compromise ideas.”

McCarthy told the board that she plans to research other states and municipalities for potential solutions that may be able to provide tax relief for Greenburgh residents.

The Blotter

Continued from page 2

license plates — all violations — on Warburton Avenue on the morning of July 9.

Suspicious marks: Black marks were found on a walkway outside a home on Fraser Place on the evening of Thursday, July 9. The homeowner was concerned that the marks were a hate symbol.

\$1,500 scam: On July 10, a Hastings resident reported that she was scammed out of \$1,500 on June 25. In response to a text message about a fabricated charge, she called a provided phone number, supplied personal information, and sent \$500 via Uber Cash, \$500 via a gift card, and \$500 via another gift card.

Thefts from vehicles: Unlocked vehicles were entered on Columbia Avenue, Clunie Avenue, High Street, Hillside Avenue, and Nepera Place between the evening of Sunday, July 12, and the morning of Monday, July 13. Cash, change, gift cards, and wallets were stolen.

Washington Mews

Continued from page 9

public transportation and easy access to events, such as the farmers market and Hastings Flea, in the Zinsser lot.

Public access to the mews would be limited to the hours of 6:30 a.m.–8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m.–5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Security gates would be installed at the entrance to the mews and at the top of the stairs to the Zinsser lot. These two 4-foot-wide swing gates would automatically unlock during public access hours. A programmable remote gate-opener would facilitate the opening and closing of the gates at designated times and would be tied into the fire alarm system so they can unlock during emergencies. Included in the plan is a battery back-up system, an emergency generator, and the ability to operate the gates mechanically.

The gates would always be unlocked from the mews side to allow residents to exit freely and to ensure any pedestrian present at closing time could get out. There

Pascone concerts

Continued from page 6

Aug. 29. Parris is a Grammy-nominated guitarist who blends jazz, blues, and rock. He graduated from Ardsley High School in 1986.

The concert series concludes on Sept. 25 with the Larry Stevens Duo, who are veteran performers at Pascone Park. Stevens, who grew up in Montvale, N.J., and Greg Mayo, who grew up in West Harrison, have collaborated on “Amerirock” music, which is a combination of rock, pop, classic rock, and country/folk influences, for over two decades. Their set list at Pascone Park will include covers and original songs, two of which are from the duo’s most recent recording project that has yet to be released.

Stevens’ wish is for audience members to leave “feeling like they experienced something special.”

“Audience engagement has always been my favorite part of performing,” he told the Dispatch. “Whether I see someone smiling, laughing, singing along, or even shedding a tear, I know we’ve made a connection.”

Hastings traffic

Continued from page 10

whether the stop signs or the traffic light is better for pedestrians and motorist safety. According to Village Manager Murphy, the Village is working out details with its engineer at Creighton Manning.

In another project with the firm, Main Street will see the installation of a new pedestrian crosswalk and stoplight connecting the ambulance corps property to the James Harmon Community Center. The stoplight infrastructure that exists there will accommodate a button for pedestrians to push that will turn the light red for them to cross.

According to Murphy, the bid documents for this project will be put together by the end of August.

Creighton Manning recommended an additional crosswalk at the eastern perimeter of Boulanger Plaza, next to Bread & Brine, a prospect that would entail the loss of three parking spaces on the south side of Main Street. The board decided to postpone that plan and focus on the crosswalk by the community center and the 90-day pilot program.

Pumpkin Trail

Continued from page 11

Selected artists will receive one pumpkin sculpture — valued at \$500 and purchased by the arts organizers in each village — to transform before returning the finished pieces in September. Constructed from fiberglass and polymer-modified resins, the sculptures are lightweight and weather-resistant.

The pumpkins will be on display from Sept. 20 through Nov. 1 before being auctioned. Artists will receive 30 percent of the sale price, with the remaining proceeds supporting project expenses and future public art projects.

Schmidt expects no two pumpkins to be alike. Artists have proposed everything from Halloween-inspired scenes and whimsical animals to ornate Victorian designs that reflect the Rivertowns’ historic character. Some artists are also exploring ways to illuminate their pumpkins, creating displays that will glow after sunset.

“I feel like each pumpkin is going to take you on a journey,” Schmidt said. “That’s going to be really exciting to see.”



CGA Studio Architects’ rendering of Washington Mews.

would also be signs adjacent to each gate indicating the hours of operation.

The board expressed concern about the

lighting of the staircase at night. While the mews exterior lighting would remain on all day and night, the stair lighting would only

be on during public access hours. Trustee Malaika Sundberg questioned if this meant Washington Mews residents are returning home and climbing unlit stairs to gain access to their homes. Trustee Morgen Fleisig agreed that this could create hazards, but said he would defer to the planning board.

Chubak said the developers had “gone back and forth” on the staircase lighting. The downside of lighting the stairs at night is that “someone from the public would not read the sign and would go up the stairs and find themselves at a locked gate that is also proximate to residents’ homes.” She also explained that there is ambient light from the Zinsser lot, and that the team “can study that more closely to see that it would light the stairs sufficiently.”

While the developers are working on an agreement with the board, they will also continue to seek site plan approval from the planning board. Village Attorney Linda Whitehead stated that she noted the concerns raised, and that “we’ll make sure that the planning board is aware of them as they review the details of the plan.”

Sports

EDITED BY ROB DIANTONIO

Treglia aims to build on Ardsley's football tradition

BY ROB DIANTONIO

When Phil Treglia looked at the opportunity to become Ardsley's next head football coach, he wasn't searching for a program that needed to be rebuilt. He was looking for one with a strong foundation.

He found exactly that in Ardsley.

Treglia was hired this summer to replace Dan DiFalco, who stepped down in the spring after guiding the Panthers to three Section 1 Class B championships during his 10-year tenure. Ardsley reached the Section 1 Class B semifinals last fall before falling 42-26 to eventual state finalist Sleepy Hollow, leaving Treglia to inherit one of the area's most consistent programs.

"Coach Treglia brings extensive varsity head coaching and coordinator experience, along with a strong record of program leadership," Ardsley Athletic Director Matt Pringle said. "Phil also expressed a deep commitment to building lasting connections with student-athletes, supporting their development both on and off the field, and a genuine desire to become an active and engaged member of the Ardsley community. We are excited to welcome coach Treglia to Ardsley and look forward to the positive impact the football program will have under his leadership."

For Treglia, the appeal wasn't just the football tradition. It was the type of student-athletes he believed he'd have the opportunity to coach.

"Ardsley is a well-known school district, and I think there's motivated students here," Treglia said. "That's what attracted me to the job. I felt that the student-athletes would be motivated not only as football players, but as students — well-rounded kids. At this stage of my career, I wanted to go to a school district that had a very solid foundation. The students were motivated and they had a track record of success."

Treglia brings more than two decades of coaching experience to the Panthers, along with another role that he believes has helped shape the way he connects with teenagers. He has spent the past 20 years working as a guidance counselor.

"I have that combination of educator and football coach," Treglia said. "It helps working with teenagers and understanding what they're going through as students, but then what they want to accomplish as athletes on the field. It's like an extension of the classroom, really."

A 1994 graduate of Iona Prep, where he played quarterback, Treglia continued his playing career at SUNY Cortland before moving into coaching. His coaching stops have included Iona Prep, Woodlands High School, Hackley School, and Archbishop Stepinac. He previously served as head coach at both Woodlands and Hackley, while also working as an assistant coach and offensive



New Ardsley football coach Phil Treglia. Photo by Rob DiAntonio.

coordinator at Stepinac.

Along the way, he says he learned valuable lessons from each stop.

"You really start working your way up from the ground floor," Treglia said. "You appreciate coaching the ninth- and 10th-graders to start. That's really where you build a foundation of what works with teenagers and what doesn't work. Football and education are a lot different than they were 10 or 20 years ago, so you've got to adapt with the times."

Treglia credits former Stepinac head coach and athletic director Mike O'Donnell as one of his biggest mentors. He also gained valuable lessons owing to longtime Hackley coach Rob Pickert, whose tenure spanned more than four decades.

"I followed some big-time coaches," Treglia said. "Coach Pickert at Hackley was the coach for like 45 years, and then I was the coach after him. So I do have some experience in those situations."

That experience should prove valuable as he takes over for DiFalco, whose teams established Ardsley as one of Section 1's premier Class B programs.

Rather than overhaul what has already been built, Treglia plans to preserve many of the traditions that have made the Panthers successful while gradually implementing his own ideas.

"I know the former coaching staff did a really good job here at Ardsley," Treglia said. "There's been a track record of success and a strong

foundation, so it was an ideal spot to step into."

He has already leaned on DiFalco during the transition.

"Dan's been great," Treglia said. "I already talked to him on the phone. He's been very helpful. I had a lot of questions for Dan, and he gave me a lot of answers. It got us off on the right foot."

Treglia has also benefited from continuity within the coaching staff. Joe Vaccaro has remained with the program, while the entire junior varsity and modified staffs have returned.

"We're lucky," Treglia said. "Joe Vaccaro was an assistant coach at the varsity level last year, and he's been extremely helpful getting us off on the right foot. We do have the same JV staff and the same modified staff, so there is consistency within the program for our student-athletes. I'm the new guy, but the rest of the guys are the same."

The biggest on-field change will come offensively.

"We're adding a new offense, which comes with new terminology and new verbiage," Treglia said. "We're more of a shotgun, no-huddle offense, which I think is a change from the past. The boys have been open to learning that."

Still, wins and losses are only part of what Treglia hopes his players remember from their high school careers.

"My coaching philosophy really is I want them to remember their high school sports," he said. "I want them to create great

memories. That's done in practice, in the locker room, during games. I want them to have a fun and memorable experience.

"That does include winning some football games, but there's more to it. When they look back, I want them to say, 'These are the best times of my life. I made some great friends, and I'm still friends with them as an adult.'"

On Friday nights, Treglia hopes his team reflects those values through its effort and sportsmanship.

"I'd like people to see a hard-working, high-energy football team," he said. "A team that plays within the lines to the whistle, but also can shake hands at the end of the game and say, 'Good game,' no matter what the score is."

Building those relationships extends beyond the locker room. Treglia has already met with players throughout voluntary summer workouts and planned to introduce himself to parents during a team meeting. Looking ahead, he hopes to strengthen the connection between the varsity program and the community by expanding opportunities for younger athletes.

Ardsley will open the 2026 campaign on the road against Valhalla on Sept. 3.

"We've had a good start with the students," Treglia said. "One of my goals moving forward is to really get the youth excited about football by coming to our games or running clinics. I know we have a good flag football program, but I'd love for the youth to have a tackle football program as they did in the past."

Sports

Player development the focus during O'Hara Summer League

BY ROB DIANTONIO

The O'Hara Summer Girls' Basketball League has given local programs an early glimpse of what they could look like once the winter season tips off, with Irvington, Hastings, and Dobbs Ferry all using the summer schedule to develop young talent and build chemistry.

Games are played at either Irvington High School or Scenic Hudson Park, with coaches placing less emphasis on the standings and more on evaluating lineups, giving younger players valuable minutes, and preparing for the months ahead.

Irvington has enjoyed the strongest start among the local teams, posting a 4-1 record through its first five games. The Bulldogs picked up victories over Eastchester, Hastings, Westlake, and Dobbs Ferry before suffering their first defeat, a 41-17 loss to Pelham on July 14.

The final score didn't tell the full story for Irvington, which was missing multiple

"I think people are definitely going to see a different dynamic with us this upcoming year."

Irvington coach Kaitlin Degnan

starters because of summer vacations in a contest with a Pelham squad that returned many of the players who helped it reach the Section 1 Class A championship game last winter.

Head coach Kaitlin Degnan was pleased with the effort despite the lopsided result.

"I just loved the way our girls grinded it out, and they played really hard," she said. "We had really good moves to the basket, but a couple of the shots that we missed, they just didn't fall. I think we held our own, and I was proud of their effort."

Leila Parvin led Irvington with six points, while Isi Doncov added five. Degnan has been encouraged by what she has seen from a team that graduated five seniors and is beginning a new chapter.

"We're doing pretty well," Degnan said. "We play Thursday against Pleasantville, another good team, and then the following week we play Dobbs and then it's the playoffs. We're hoping that within the next two games, hopefully we can get some more wins and get us higher in the ranking. Then we have some of our girls coming back."

Degnan pointed to one player who has stood out through her commitment away from the high school season.

"Lillian Duke is putting in a ton of outside work and effort," Degnan said. "Whether it's

her AAU season, I just see a big difference, and I'm looking forward to having her kind of take the reins this upcoming year."

She also praised Doncov, Alexis Im, and Brooke Lee for continuing to develop.

"They all have played together," Degnan said. "They were my JV starters two or three years ago, and they are kids that are hungry, they're ready, and they play really well together. I think people are definitely going to see a different dynamic with us this upcoming year."

While Hastings is still searching for its first victory, the Yellow Jackets have shown signs of progress as they continue introducing a young group to varsity basketball.

Their latest example came in a 38-25 loss to Sleepy Hollow on July 13.

After falling behind 21-7 at halftime, Hastings responded with one of its strongest stretches of the summer. The Yellow Jackets chipped away at the deficit before Catherine Rice converted a three-point play to open the fourth quarter and knocked down a corner three about a minute later to trim the margin to 30-19.

Harlow Norlander paced Hastings with a team-high 11 points, while Rice finished with eight.

Head coach Patrick Theodule said the second half reflected a team finding its feet.

"They got more comfortable with the game and the pace and they played better," Theodule said. "They understand some of the concepts we're trying to teach."

Although Hastings remains winless, Theodule isn't concerned with the record. "It's all about development," he said.

The Yellow Jackets are still building chemistry after bringing together a group that hasn't spent much time on the floor together.

"We're going to improve on defense," Theodule said. "This group of girls hasn't played together and they're just right now getting comfortable with each other."

Theodule also credited Norlander for her aggressive approach offensively. "She's fearless," he said.

Dobbs Ferry has also experienced growing pains with one of the league's younger rosters but has still managed to put together a 2-3 record.

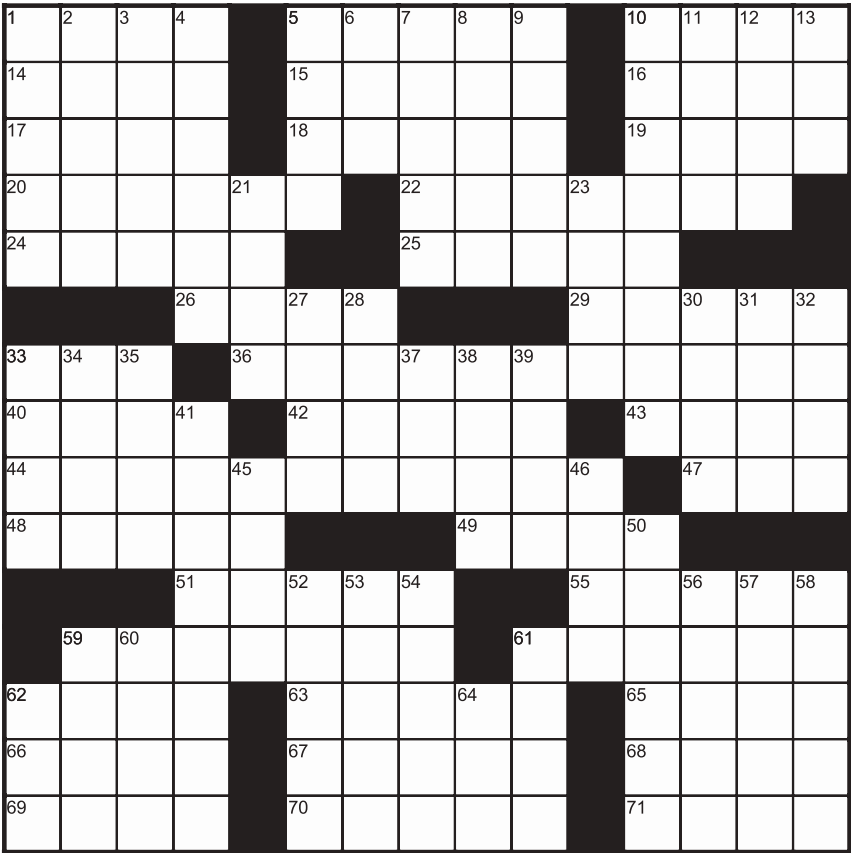
The Eagles most recently dropped a matchup to Pleasantville on July 14 despite strong offensive performances from Quinn Cronin and Madison Hall, who shared team-high scoring honors.

Dobbs Ferry coach Kasey Grisanti believes the biggest victories are happening well before the standings matter.

"I'm very happy with how we are playing this summer," Grisanti said. "We're a very young squad and just learning how to play with each other. But I'm very happy with how the dynamic is working so far. I'm definitely seeing a lot of good basketball, and it's got me looking forward to the season."



(Top) Hastings' Harlow Norlander drives to the basket. (Middle) Irvington's Alex Barth looks to score in the paint. (Bottom left) Hastings' Catherine Rice leads a break. (Bottom right) Irvington's Emi Doncov looks to finish at the rim. Photos by Rob DiAntonio.



- ACROSS**
- 1. Throws softly
 - 5. Gather
 - 10. Railed public transport
 - 14. Hautboy
 - 15. Lawful
 - 16. Hindu music
 - 17. Japanese wooden clog
 - 18. Overjoy
 - 19. The maple
 - 20. Medical
 - 22. Partner
 - 24. Applaud
 - 25. Sea eagles
 - 26. Fresh-water fish
 - 29. Entertain
 - 33. Consume
 - 36. Zoologists or botanists, for example
 - 40. Pastry item
 - 42. Pertaining to the palm of the hand
 - 43. Timber tree
 - 44. Having God as the focal point
 - 47. Arid
 - 48. Chemical compound
 - 49. Hearing organs
 - 51. Mend garments
 - 55. Giraffe-like animal
 - 59. Primrose
 - 61. Shim
 - 62. To the sheltered side
 - 63. Canal boat
 - 65. The Pentateuch
 - 66. Member of the women's army auxiliary corps
 - 67. Stadium
 - 68. Send out
 - 69. Australian explorer
 - 70. Madagascan mammal
 - 71. Valley

- DOWN**
- 1. Reasoning
 - 2. Belief involving sorcery
 - 3. Fencing thrust
 - 4. Charred
 - 5. Smart - , show-off
 - 6. Actor, - Gibson
 - 7. With mouth wide open
 - 8. Indian guitar-like instrument
 - 9. Severe
 - 10. Send out radio signals
 - 11. Sprint contest
 - 12. Maturing agent
 - 13. Spoil
 - 21. Republic in SW Asia
 - 23. Trade agreement
 - 27. Grotto
 - 28. English college
 - 30. Second-hand
 - 31. Leading player
 - 32. Portable ice-box
 - 33. Suffix, diminutive
 - 34. Exclamations of surprise
 - 35. Weight allowance
 - 37. Last month
 - 38. Uncommon
 - 39. Opera solo
 - 41. Toecap
 - 45. Pack fully
 - 46. Harvest
 - 50. Moved over ice
 - 52. Pertaining to a tube
 - 53. Irish county
 - 54. Seraglio
 - 56. Pueblo Indian village
 - 57. Danger
 - 58. Angry
 - 59. Stage show
 - 60. Back
 - 61. Scorch
 - 62. Reverential fear
 - 64. Wildebeest

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ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK

