A new chapter with
The Hudson Independent



SLEEPY HOLLOW

**Green for a cause**
Family calls attention to rare pediatric disorders
p 3

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October 16, 2026

# RIVERTOWNS Dispatch

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



SLEEPY HOLLOW

## In the gloom of night

Kerin McCue reads "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" inside the Old Dutch Church, accompanied by music and sound effects by Jeremy Goldsmith, on the evening of Sunday, Oct. 11. The performance was the second of six scheduled for October to raise money for replacing the church's roof. The final four will be Oct. 17, 18, 24, and 25, all at 7 p.m. For tickets, which cost $40, visit *www.friendsofodc.org*.



TARRYTOWN

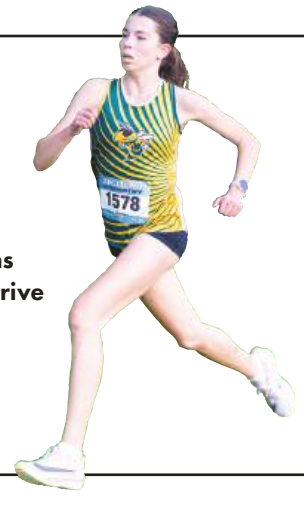
**Book spins ghost stories from local lore**
p 15

"In a way, he is like an American Shakespeare."

Kamran Saliani of the Irvington Shakespeare Company
p 11

SPORTS

**Rivertowns runners thrive at league meet**
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HASTINGS

**Back to Warburton**
Shopkeeper returns with an updated outlook
p 9

# Village to hire trapper in the wake of latest coyote incident

BY TIM LAMORTE

DOBBS FERRY

The morning after a coyote operational response plan was announced for Dobbs Ferry, a coyote bit a leashed dog on a walk with its owner in that village.

The incident happened on Beechdale Road as the owner and her 20-pound mixed breed strolled the loop created by Beechdale, Clinton Avenue, and Judson Avenue on Wednesday, Oct. 14, at around 8 a.m.

The coyote approached the pair from behind and bit the dog's right hind leg. The dog, which was not injured, had been vaccinated for rabies within the last month. The coyote fled into a nearby yard.

Later that morning, an email blast from the Village of Dobbs Ferry stated the coyote "has been classified as dangerous," that its "behavior represents a public safety concern," and that police are "authorized to dispatch the coyote if encountered."

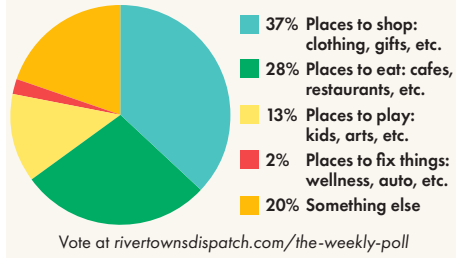
The previous evening, during a meeting of

*Continued on page 4*

## The Poll

What kind of businesses do we need more of in the Rivertowns?

As answered by 144 readers of the Rivertowns Dispatch




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




# The Blotter

**DOBBS FERRY**

***Theft of packages:*** Two packages containing items worth $709.99 were stolen from outside a home on Ashford Avenue after UPS delivered them on the afternoon of Tuesday, Sept. 29. The theft was reported on Oct. 7.

***Fraudulent invoices:*** An architect with a client in Dobbs Ferry sent four wire transfers totaling $15,760 between Sept. 10 and Oct. 7 in response to invoices that appeared to be emailed from the Village of Dobbs Ferry Building Department, but turned out to be fraudulent.

***DWI arrest:*** A 29-year-old Yonkers resident was arrested for aggravated driving while intoxicated, a misdemeanor, after she hit a police vehicle headed in the opposite direction on Maple Street on Thursday, Oct. 8. She was also charged with unlawful fleeing a police officer in the third degree, a misdemeanor, and with three vehicle-and-traffic violations. Officer Michael Digilio made the arrest.

***Wanted no more:*** A 48-year-old Bronx resident surrendered to police on Thursday, Oct. 8, in response to a warrant issued after he missed an appearance in Dobbs Ferry Village Court in October 2024. He had been charged with disorderly conduct, a violation, on Sept. 10, 2024.

***Suspended permit:*** A 41-year-old Yonkers resident with a suspended learner's permit was arrested for aggravated unlicensed operator of a motor vehicle in the third degree, a misdemeanor, on Broadway (Route 9) on the morning of Thursday, Oct. 8. He was also charged with two vehicle-and-traffic violations. Officer Victor Wilson made the arrest.

***DWI arrest:*** A 40-year-old Yonkers resident was arrested for driving while intoxicated, a misdemeanor, after being involved in a collision on Chestnut Street on the evening of Friday, Oct. 9. She was also charged with two vehicle-and-traffic violations. Officer Jairo Hidalgo made the arrest.

***Larceny attempt:*** On Oct. 10, a Dobbs Ferry resident reported that attempts were made to withdraw $30,000 from her checking account on Sept. 28 and $15,000 on Oct. 1.

***Theft from Ulta:*** An unidentified man shoplifted unspecified items from the Ulta Beauty at Rivertowns Square on the afternoon of Saturday, Oct. 10.

***Larceny arrest:*** A 56-year-old Yonkers

*Continued on page 14*



Officer Fernando Santiago flanked by Mayor Karen Brown and by his mother, Danielle.

**TARRYTOWN**

## New officer returns to hometown

***Officer Fernando Santiago*** was sworn in as the newest member of the police department during the village board of trustees meeting on Monday, Oct. 5. Santiago grew up in Tarrytown and graduated from Sleepy Hollow High School in 2018. He then earned an associate's degree in criminal justice from Westchester Community College and worked at the Shames JCC. In 2023, he joined the NYPD, first assigned to the 42nd Precinct in the Bronx and then to the Strategic Response Group.

**DOBBS FERRY**

## Alleged medical fraud results in arrest

A 46-year-old Dobbs Ferry resident was arrested on Oct. 8 for defrauding two insurance companies out of $99,007.15. According to the Westchester County District Attorney's Office, the defendant used forged invoices for medical services to receive reimbursements of $16,737.13 from UnitedHealthcare Company between May 17, 2022 and July 10, 2023, and $86,270.02 from Cigna Health and Life Insurance Company between April 15, 2024 and Feb. 14, 2025. She was charged with 21 counts of 10 different felonies and released on her own recognizance.

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ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS



The bridge that spans the Tappan Zee illuminated green on Oct. 9.

# Family calls attention to rare pediatric disorders

*Pending legislation would require health care coverage*

BY LAURA SCHILLER

**SLEEPY HOLLOW** "If a parent comes to you and describes a sudden and acute change in their child, that is a medical red flag," Sleepy Hollow resident Bianca Gersten wrote in a letter to her son's former pediatrician.

Gersten was referring to PANDAS, the acronym for pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections. The condition is linked to the sudden onset of behavioral changes following a strep infection. PANS, or pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome, is a broader condition with other possible triggers.

October 9 was World PANS/PANDAS Awareness Day, and this year the bridge that spans the Tappan Zee was illuminated in green as part of #LightUp4PANS, a global initiative to bring attention to the illnesses. ASPIRE (Alliance to Solve PANS & Immune-Related Encephalopathies) was the nonprofit behind the initiative.

Gersten and her family drove to the bridge that evening to take a photo as a symbol of hope.

The New York State Assembly also recognized Oct. 9 as PANS/PANDAS Awareness Day. Two bills that would require health plans to cover medically necessary PANS treatment remain in committee in both the state Assembly and Senate.



Bianca Gersten and her son Jonah.

About two years ago, Gersten's son Jonah, then 6, had a case of strep throat.

"Within days he started displaying symptoms of rage and paranoia, and they were very uncharacteristic of him. I mean, he was a very calm, easygoing kid," Gersten told the Dispatch. "We used to call him our gentle giant because he's very tall for his age."

Over a short time, Jonah became paranoid, believing his teacher was "out to get him" and that he had no friends. He went from being an earnest student to bringing home blank worksheets. Getting him to school became a daily battle.

"I called the pediatrician and I was like, 'What the heck's going on? This is not like him,'" she recalled.

The pediatrician attributed the change to ADHD. The medication that was prescribed produced "horrific results."

A neuropsychological evaluation diagnosed autism.

"We were ready to accept any diagnosis, but it just didn't feel like anything was explaining why there was this like rapid, dramatic change in him," Gersten said.

Over the following months, Jonah became less coordinated and could no longer ride his bicycle. He developed severe sensory sensitivities to everyday activities like showering, having his nails trimmed, and wearing certain shoes. He appeared depressed and stopped playing.

Gersten continued to search for answers. Eventually, a neighbor told her that Jonah's symptoms reminded her of another mother she knew whose child had PANDAS.

Gersten remembered that a child psychiatrist had raised PANDAS as a possibility, but the pediatrician dismissed it.

"He made it sound like PANDAS is not real," Gersten said. "And if we went down that road, you know, we were going to fall into like a black hole of quackery."

The neighbor connected Gersten with the other mother, who suggested having Jonah tested for strep and giving him the over-the-counter anti-inflammatory ibuprofen during an episode. When Jonah calmed down within 30 minutes of taking ibuprofen, Gersten felt she might have found an important clue. Jonah was then started on antibiotics and anti-inflammatories. His response was dramatic.

"Literally overnight he was like his normal self," she said. "Life became livable again overnight."

"The problem is, something happened when this initially happened that just made

*Continued on page 14*

# Latimer and Cinquemani face off in debate

BY BARRETT SEAMAN

**REGION** During the League of Women Voters online debate between Republican challenger Joe Cinquemani and Democratic Congressman George Latimer on Oct. 8, Latimer lost his video connection after 4½ minutes, so viewers saw only a dark square with his name on it for the rest of the hour.

Nevertheless, every polling firm that has studied the race for New York's 16th Congressional District has rated it as either "safe" or "solid" for Latimer to remain in office for a second term.

Latimer has never lost an election during his political career, which began with a seat on the Rye City Council in 1987 and then continued with the Westchester County Board of Legislators (1992–2004), New York State Assembly (2005–2012), and New York State Senate (2013–2017), and as Westchester County Executive (2018–2024).

To win his congressional seat two years ago, Latimer trounced his predecessor, Jamaal Bowman, in a Democratic primary before sailing by Republican Miriam Flisser in the general election. In contrast, Cinquemani, a lawyer who lives in New Rochelle, has no experience as an elected official and has neither raised nor spent a dime of political contributions.

Latimer's line of attack all but ignored his opponent, focusing instead on President Donald Trump and the Republican Party. During the two years Trump and his GOP have been in power in Washington, Latimer said in his opening statement, gas, food, and housing prices, and the national debt, have all gone up, while the country is mired in an endless war with Iran and a trade war with Canada, "our closest friend."

Cinquemani called Latimer "a radical progressive socialist masquerading as moderate" who "supports biological men's and women's sports, and sanctuary cities. I don't." If elected, Cinquemani said he would cut taxes and spending, "support out troops," recommission the Indian Point nuclear power plant, and "drill, baby, drill."

On specific issues, the candidates' positions were largely predictable:

***Immigration*** — Cinquemani blames the death of Yorktown college student Sheridan Gorman on Latimer and sanctuary city policies, and suggests that A.I. could be utilized to strengthen border security. Gorman was shot by an illegal immigrant in Chicago in March 2026. Latimer supports previous bipartisan efforts to codify a pathway to citizenship and accuses Cinquemani of misrepresenting Westchester's law that requires ICE to obtain warrants before making arrests.

***Voting*** — Cinquemani believes that taking someone's word that they are who they

*Continued on page 4*

# Schools disclose data about personal device violations

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

**REGION** As schools throughout New York State begin their second year operating under a statewide full-school-day ban on students' personal electronic devices, local districts are gathering and sharing data on enforcement of the ban from the first year.

The ban, approved in May 2025, prohibits unsanctioned use of internet-enabled personal devices on school grounds in K–12 public schools, including during lunch and study hall periods. The State also requires that every district publish an annual report each September detailing enforcement of the policy in the previous school year. None of the school districts reported violations at the elementary school level, where strict rules existed prior to the statewide ban.

—

## Ardsley

Ardsley School District's policy requires students to turn the devices off (or disable their online connectivity) and store them in either their lockers, in designated bins, or in pouches in classrooms, or deposit them in central locations like the school's main office. Among the 1,520 students throughout the district, 118 students received at least one violation, and 186 violations were recorded in total.

Devices were confiscated and parents were notified in 80 of the cases. Sixty-six of the violations happened at the middle school and 120 occurred in the high school. Five high school students received detentions as a result of the violations. Boys, who make up 54% of the population, received 59% of the violations, while girls, who make up 46% of the population, received 41% of violations. The gender distribution of violations was less balanced for the other districts in the Dispatch's coverage area.

Ardsley Schools Superintendent Matthew Block has heard from teachers that focus has improved during class time since the ban was instituted.

"I do think that, particularly the threat of parents having to come at the end of the school day to pick up a confiscated phone, has made students more thoughtful about taking out their phones," Block told the Dispatch. "They do not like that consequence, and when they hear that it happened to a classmate, we have fewer phone spottings in the schools."

—

## Dobbs Ferry

Dobbs Ferry's policy goes a step further than the State's ban to include non-internet enabled devices, such as fitness trackers, wired or wireless headphones, and earbuds, e-readers, voice recorders, and music players. The policy requires students to keep the devices in their lockers during the school day.

Among the 1,443 students throughout the district, 91 received at least one violation throughout the school year, and there were a total of 133 violations recorded. Their devices were confiscated 128 of those times, and there were nine detentions given for violations.

The bulk of the enforcement happened at the high school, while the middle school accounts for nine of the total violations, and none of the detentions. While the number of boys and girls in the district is almost even, 107 of the violations (80%) were issued to boys, while 26 (20%) were issued to girls.

—

## Hastings

The Hastings School District is the only district in this newspaper's coverage area that issued every student in middle and high school a personal pouch that locks magnetically in which to secure their devices. Students were told to leave any internet-enabled device that wasn't issued by the school at home. The report states that while there has been "limited adherence to actual pouching," the requirement has made it easier for staff to consistently enforce the policy.

### Cell Phone Ban Violations for 2025–26

| DISTRICT | STUDENTS WITH A VIOLATION | TOTAL VIOLATIONS | TOTAL STUDENTS | % OF STUDENTS WITH A VIOLATION |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ardsley | 118 | 186 | 1,520 | 7.8% |
| Dobbs Ferry | 91 | 133 | 1,443 | 6.3% |
| Hastings | 133 | 169 | 1,590 | 8.4% |
| Irvington | 79 | 100 | 1,683 | 4.7% |
| Tarrytown/Sleepy Hollow | 113 | 165 | 2,754 | 4.1% |

Out of 1,590 students in the district, 133 students received a total of 169 violations. Eight of those were at Farragut Middle School and the rest were at the high school. Phones were confiscated for 119 of the violations, and parents were notified on 31 occasions. Two high school students received detentions for related offenses, and one middle school student received a related detention.

While the proportion of boys and girls in the district is nearly even at 50% and 49%, respectively, boys accounted for 64% of violations and girls accounted for 34%; the 1% of students who identify as neither accounted for 3% of violations.

—

## Irvington

Irvington's policy also requires students to keep the devices in their lockers during the school day, while, at the discretion of teachers, high school students may at times use e-readers, calculators, wireless headphones, or earbuds.

Out of a total 1,683 students throughout the district, 79 students received a total of 100 violations. The students' devices were confiscated in each of those cases. Parents were notified for three of the violations, and no detentions were given in relation to the policy. Boys make up 53% of the district's population and accounted for 79% of the violations. Girls, who make up 47% of the school district's population, accounted for 21% of violations.

Dean of Students Ferhad Razzak has spoken with teachers who told him that since the ban, students have been more social while walking the halls, and have adjusted.

"Initially, it took a toll on students, trying to figure out how to coordinate with peers, stay in contact, and even just scroll through for updates. But students adhered to the expectations fairly quickly," Razzak told the Dispatch. "They understand that while they are in school, a personal internet device is not necessary. They can still see and interact with friends, get in touch with parents via school phones, and use a school-issued device for their assignments."

—

## Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow

There were 2,754 students enrolled last school year throughout the Public Schools of the Tarrytowns, which serves students from Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow. As is the case in Hastings, policy requires that students at Sleepy Hollow High School keep their internet-enabled devices in magnetic pouches throughout the entire school day.

During the first school year of the ban, the district issued 165 violations spread among 113 students, and confiscated the device and notified students' parents for each violation. Boys make up 52% of the population and 70% of students who received violations, while girls make up 48% of the population and accounted for 30% of violations.

## *Coyotes*

*Continued from page 1*

the Dobbs Ferry Board of Trustees, Village Administrator Mike Neppl announced that the Village had established a tiered response plan following an increase in coyote activity in Dobbs Ferry, Hastings, and Irvington since the summer.

The plan classifies incidents as either normal, concerning, or dangerous. Dangerous is defined as chasing or threatening people; biting or attacking leashed pets; remaining in a school area after hazing; and appearing sick. Concerning is described as a repeated presence at one location; near a school or a playground; approaching or following people or pets; and entering an occupied yard.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) issued a permit to the Village to capture and kill dangerous coyotes. The Village intends to hire a licensed trapper, according to Mayor Christy Knell. The trapper will operate, according to the plan, on property owned by the Village or by an institution. The Village will notify adjacent neighbors, and the public, about trapping on public property.

In response to a concerning incident, the plan calls for police to haze a coyote by causing a disturbance to scare it off. The Village encourages people who encounter coyotes to raise their arms and wave, make loud noises, and back away while facing the animal.

Coyotes attacking or threatening people or pets should be reported to 911. To report bold or unusual behavior, call the Dobbs Ferry Police Department at (914) 693-5500. For all other sightings, fill out the form on the Village website (*www.dobbsferry.gov*).

The Village's plan for contending with coyotes also involves eliminating sources of food such as trash, bird seed, fallen fruit, and pet food placed outdoors. The Village plans to distribute sanitation information to owners and tenants of multifamily properties.

On Oct. 9, a coyote approached a group of students at The Masters School as they walked across that campus from Clinton Avenue enroute to the Dobbs Ferry Middle/High School at around 7:30 a.m. Two of the students tried to haze the coyote. No one was injured. Coyote sightings were also reported that morning on Beacon Hill Drive and at Springhurst Elementary School.

On the same morning as the incident on Beechdale, a coyote followed two runners southbound on the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail in Irvington, as they approached Main Street. Police scared off that animal. On the evening of Sept. 23, a coyote bit a Hastings resident's ankle when she was walking on the Aqueduct at Elm Place. That animal was not caught. In Irvington, a coyote attacked a dog on Lewis Road on June 12.

## *Latimer vs. Cinquemani*

*Continued from page 3*

are is insufficient and advocates for voter IDs. Latimer maintains that matching signatures are adequate proof, that the GOP's SAVE Act goes too far, and that all the talk of voter fraud is "just another way to try to steal another election."

***Healthcare*** — Cinquemani calls for healthcare savings accounts competing in the public marketplace and a requirement that hospitals and doctors post their fees in advance. Latimer calls savings accounts inadequate and advocates for the consolidation of Medicare, Medicaid, and Obamacare into a single national system.

The candidates did agree on two issues. Both stated the government needs to stop raiding the Social Security fund to pay for other programs, and both advocate for curbing the president's power to grant pardons.




# ARDSLEY

**Arbor Day Celebration**
Saturday, Oct. 17, 9 a.m.
Bicentennial Park. Ceremony with donuts and apple cider
—
**Volunteer Fire Department Carnival**
Through Sunday, Oct. 18.
Opens at 5 p.m. weekdays and 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.
Pascone Park. Daily wristband for unlimited rides: $35
—
**Local History Lecture**
Sunday, Oct. 18, 2 p.m.
Ardsley Community Center.
The Ardsley Historical Society presents Peter Marcus to discuss "The American Encampment in Ardsley"
—
**Rise Against Hunger Walkathon**
Sunday, Oct. 18, 2–4 p.m.
Pascone Park. Donations ($10) go to people in developing nations.
—
**Board of Trustees Meeting**
Monday, Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m.
Village Hall.
—
**Dialogue About the New AHS Schedule**
Tuesday, Oct. 20, 6–7:30 p.m.
High school library
—
**Architectural Review Board Meeting**
Tuesday, Oct. 20, 8 p.m.
Village Hall.
—
**Senior Event: Halloween Candy Bag**
Wednesday, Oct. 21, noon–1 p.m. Community Center


Noah Kuriakose

## Eagle Scout Project

For his Eagle Scout project, Noah Kuriakose, a life scout with Troop. 3 installed an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) at the community center on Center Street. Kuriakose designed and built a custom wooden cabinet for the AED, and coordinated with Village officials to find an appropriate location for the device, which can be used for cardiac emergencies involving adults and children. A ribbon-cutting was held on Sept. 10 and was attended by Mayor Steve Edelstein and Village Manager Joseph Cerretani.

## National Merit honorees

Ardsley High School seniors ***Camila Gonzalez, Akshara Kumar, Joseph Park,*** and ***Avery Xu*** were named National Merit Scholarship semifinalists, while 16 of their classmates were named commended students — ***Siya Arora, Joshua Au, Brendan Berlin, Suhana Gulani, Aditri Inamdar, Devaki Inamdar, Aira Jain, Aarav Joshi, Jeevan Kadaplackal, Layla Kunjukutty, Ethan Menezes, Olivia Moopenn-Morris, Shrinand Patnaik, Nina Rubinstein, Eunsuh Shin,*** and ***Ella Zhang.***

## All-State and County musicians

Nine Ardsley High School students were selected by the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) for all-state and all-county ensembles. For All-State Band — ***Kelsey Crawford*** (alternate, timpani). For All-State Electronic Music Showcase — ***Jamie Puleo*** (for the third time), ***Dexter Scheller*** (for the second time), ***Edward Scheller, Noah Fasulo*** (honorable mention, and ***Jayden Gonzalez*** (honorable mention). For Area All-County — ***Stella Cronk, Melaine Illesaca,*** and ***Kelly Pintado*** (high school treble choir), and ***Dylan Smith*** (orchestra).

**Correction**
Sharon Colabello's last name was misspelled in the Oct. 9 story about Ardsley's military tribute banners.

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS

# DiJusto remembered for service to community

BY AMY BOCHNER

Andy DiJusto, a former Ardsley village trustee and deputy mayor, has been described by friends and co-workers as a fixture in the community for his years of volunteerism and service. Following his passing on Sept. 25, at age 60, community members honored DiJusto, his legacy, and his commitment to helping others.

Born in the Bronx, DiJusto moved to Ardsley in 1996. Before running the Ardsley Wash & Dry Laundromat from April 2006 to December 2022, DiJusto worked as a crane operator in New York City, where he participated in the cleanup of the World Trade Center site after the September 11 terrorist attack.

Soon after he arrived in Ardsley, DiJusto immersed himself in the village, taking on various municipal and volunteer roles. These included tenures as a director of the Ardsley Historical Society (1998–2003), as the recording secretary for the Ardsley Chamber of Commerce (2004-05) and for the Ardsley Traffic Committee (2006–12).

A resident of the Ashford Court Condominium, from 2001 to 2013 he held positions on its board of managers, including as president and vice president.

DiJusto was elected to the Ardsley Board of Trustees in 2013, where he served as liaison to various departments and committees, including public works, the historical society, and the Ardsley-Secor Volunteer Ambulance Corps (ASVAC).

During the Board of Trustees meeting on Oct. 5, Village Manager Joe Cerretani shared his experience working with DiJusto, who was the board liaison to the team overseeing construction of the DPW facility at 220 Heatherdell Road.


Andy DiJusto (left) was a member of the Ardsley-Secor Volunteer Ambulance Corps for 14 years.

"I remember fondly in the early stages of the project being out on site with Andy and [general foreman] David DiGregorio, Andy wearing his trademark tan work boots, ankle deep in the cold mud, going over locations of water, sewer, and drainage infrastructure, or looking at the impressive lattice of steel rebar support before a cement pour," Cerretani recalled. "He really immersed himself in the details of the work."

At the same meeting, Mayor Steve Edelstein shared his experience with DiJusto, who offered encouragement and a warm welcome when Edelstein joined the board of trustees in 2017.

"He was a big presence in the village, from living here and being a small-business owner and in the many ways he volunteered," Edelstein said. "He just really enjoyed the village, and it seemed like he threw himself into it in any way that he could. I think pretty much everybody knew Andy."

Former Mayor Nancy Kaboolian chose DiJusto to serve as deputy mayor in 2019. He served in that role until 2024, when he stepped down due to health issues.

Kaboolian believes DiJusto's greatest impact was his volunteerism, particularly his 14 years as a member of the ambulance corps.

"Andy received many awards and recognitions from ASVAC for his dedication," she said. "I remember he was most proud of a call he went on to help a woman in labor on the New York State Thruway."

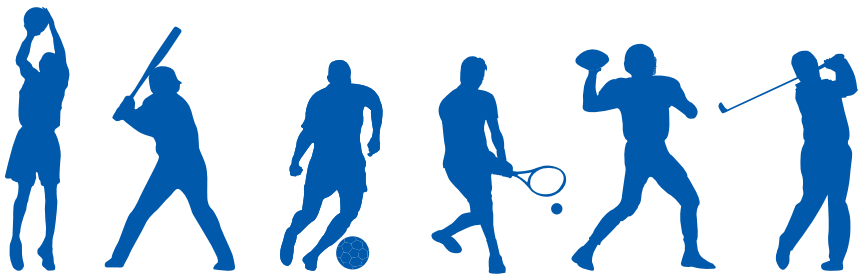
On Oct. 4, ASVAC shared, on Instagram, a post in which DiJusto is praised as "a man who saw service not only as a moral imperative for everyone, but as a true joy, a mission, even an avocation."

"He served us in Ardsley as a trustee and a deputy mayor," the post continued. "But most importantly to the members of ASVAC

*Continued on page 18*



**Panthers on a roll**
—
The Ardsley Community Enrichment PTO held its third annual Panther Fest on Saturday, Oct. 10. The events kicked off with a parade from Concord Road Elementary School to Ardsley High School, where a celebration was held that included flag football games for high school girls.



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## Play Pokémon TCG This October at New Kawaii



**Pokémon League Challenge**
Saturday Oct 3
Check-In at 10 AM
Deck List Required

**Pokeween Celebration**
Friday Oct 30 @ 6 PM
League Night with a Treat (no tricks!)
Costumes Encouraged

**Prerelease: Pokémon Delta Reign**
Saturday Oct 31 @ 12 Noon
Start Halloween off right!
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DOBBS FERRY

**Community Clothing, Toy & Gear Swap**
Saturday, Oct. 17, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. Dobbs Ferry Public Library. Drop off donations (including Halloween costumes) through Friday, Oct. 16, at 68 Belden Ave. For details, visit *rivertownsswap.com*

**Food Drive for the Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry**
Saturday, Oct. 17, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Ardsley United Methodist Church, 525 Ashford Ave. Donate nonperishable foods and monetary gifts

—

**Wickers Creek Market: Antiques and Vintage Goods**
Sunday, Oct. 18, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Waterfront Park

—

**Invasive Species Clearing**
Sunday, Oct. 18, 10 a.m.–noon. Juhring Preserve. To sign up, visit *eventbrite.com* and search Conservation Advisory Board

—

**Friends of Dobbs Ferry Seniors Fundraiser**
Monday, Oct. 19, 6 p.m. Hudson Social. *fodfs.org*

—

**Library Board Meeting**
Wednesday, Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m. Dobbs Ferry Public Library

—

**Mobile Shredder**
Thursday, Oct. 22, 9 a.m.–noon. Waterfront Park

—

**River Jam: Grateful To Be Alive**
Friday, Oct. 23, 6:30–8:30 p.m. Waterfront Park

## Clothing and toy swap

Residents can pick up free toys and clothes for infants and children at the first Rivertowns Swap at the community room of the Dobbs Ferry Public Library, 55 Main St., this Saturday, Oct. 17, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The swap was organized by Dobbs resident Nadia Rahman. The public is welcome to pick up items such as stuffed animals, games, puzzles, toy sets, and clothes for children age 0 to 6, which have been collected over the past several weeks. The swap arose from a WhatsApp group Rahman, a mother of two, created for new moms when she moved to Dobbs Ferry in 2023. It has since grown to include more than 200 members.

"It's such a good experience of receiving from your community, feeling like you have your village, and then giving back," Rahman told the Dispatch. "Those clothing items are always so special to new moms; you don't want to just throw them in the garbage."

The swap is free, but attendees are encouraged to make a $5 donation to the library at the event.

## All-State music selections

Dobbs Ferry High School seniors ***Alice Wu*** and ***Olivia DiLallo*** have been recognized among the best student musicians in the state by being selected for the New York State School Music Association's (NYSSMA) All-State Conference.

This is Wu's and DiLallo's second-straight year representing the high school at NYSSMA, which will take place in December in Rochester, N.Y. After achieving top scores at the NYSSMA solo evaluation festival last spring, Wu will play viola in the All-State Orchestra at NYSSMA while DiLallo will sing in the chorus.

Around 825 students from across the state are chosen for All-State bands, chorus, orchestra, and jazz ensembles. Wu and DiLallo's All-State qualification also makes them eligible to apply to participate in the National Association for Music Education's Eastern Division Conference, which takes place in April in Providence, R.I. That conference features high school students from 11 different states on the East Coast.

## Delhi graduate

***Yuji Naito*** graduated from SUNY Delhi with a bachelor's degree in nursing on May 16.

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

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS



Trudy Tran works on the mural during the Ferry Festa on Oct. 3.

# New mural enlivens gateway to downtown

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

A vibrant new mural now welcomes people entering downtown Dobbs Ferry from Broadway (Route 9) at Cedar Street. The mural is 17 feet tall and 16 feet wide, taking up the bulk of the wall on the north side of Rochambeau Wines & Liquors.

Artist and illustrator Trudy Tran of Georgia started painting the mural on Oct. 2. The 24-year-old, whose submission was selected by the Village's Public Art Committee over 63 others, prepped and painted from 10 a.m. until around midnight during her first three days in an effort to finish the mural within a week.

In December 2023, Tran earned a bachelor's degree in painting and drawing from Kennesaw State University in Georgia, where she moved after spending the first nine years of her life in Rochester, N.Y.

"I'm super glad that the scaffolding is down so that I can see the whole mural, and I'm really happy with the finished product," Tran told the Dispatch. "And I'm really happy that I've gotten so much positive feedback from people in Dobbs Ferry who have recognized me as the artist and given me really kind words."

Tran's mural features images characteristic of the village, including the Hudson River, Palisades, Old Croton Aqueduct, and schools' eagle mascot, with an inviting "Welcome to Dobbs Ferry" message. Tran has also painted murals in California, Florida, Georgia, Oklahoma, and Tennessee. The

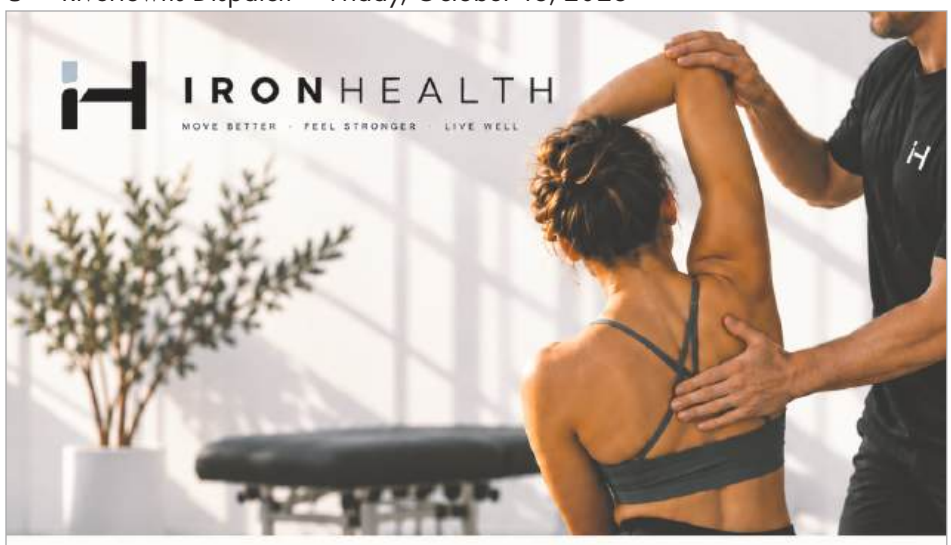
*Continued on page 18*



### Mayor for a day

—

Eighth-grader Scarlett Geelan served as mayor for a day in Dobbs Ferry on Tuesday, Oct. 13. Geelan had lunch with Mayor Christy Knell, who presented her with a certificate that evening at a meeting of the Dobbs Ferry Board of Trustees. Three mayor-for-a-day opportunities were auctioned off during a gala for the Dobbs Ferry Schools Foundation on May 1.




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HASTINGS

**Farmers Market**
Saturday, Oct. 17, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Commuter Lot, Southside Avenue. For details: *hastingsfarmersmarket.org*

—

**Hastings Flea**
Sunday, Oct. 18, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Commuter Lot, Southside Avenue

—

**Senior Discussion: "Looking Back, Looking Forward"**
Tuesday, Oct. 20, 1 p.m. James Harmon Community Center

—

**School Board Meeting**
Tuesday, Oct. 20, 6 p.m. Hillside Multipurpose Room

—

**Board of Trustees Meeting**
Tuesday, Oct. 20, 7 p.m. Village Hall

—

**Senior Thursday**
Thursday, Oct. 22. Screening of "9 to 5" at the public library, 1 p.m. Foodtown, restaurants, and shops offer discounts for residents over 65.

—

**Family Pumpkin Carving**
Thursday, Oct. 22, 6–8 p.m. James Harmon Community Center. Registration required at *hastingsrecreation.org*

—

**Deep Dive: Thomas Paine's "Common Sense"**
Thursday, Oct. 22, 7 p.m. Hastings Public Library.

—

**Zoning Board Meeting**
Thursday, Oct. 22, 7 p.m. Village Hall

## Village security cameras

Hastings Technology Director Rafael Zaratzian shared a presentation on Village-owned security cameras at the board of trustees meeting on Oct. 6. The Village operates security cameras throughout municipal buildings and parks, which Zaratzian stated are used to "protect the Village assets."

Zaratzian said these cameras are not monitored live, and are connected to a fiber network in all Village-owned buildings. The footage is uploaded to a central server, where it is retained for 30 days before being erased.

When requested by the police, footage is provided by the technology department. The police department does not have direct access to the cameras.

Zaratzian's presentation was prompted by a Recreation Commission meeting during which security cameras was discussed.

Board of trustees members raised the idea of creating a camera use policy or guide, as well as installing signage to inform the public about camera locations. The proposal will be followed up on at a future meeting.

## Residential parking

On Oct. 6, the Board of Trustees approved sending State Assemblymember MaryJane Shimsky and State Sen. Andrea Stewart-Cousins a request to designate certain areas of the downtown as residential parking. The motion was introduced less than a month before the Village's free 3-hour parking law goes into effect, on Nov. 1.

The recommended streets are in close proximity to the Metro-North train station. The proposal seeks to address the challenge of commuters parking in residential areas.

The streets include Maple Avenue, from its northern end to Spring Street; Maple Lane; Ridgedale Avenue; Edmarth Place; Riverview Place; Edgars Lane to the Old Croton Aqueduct; Fraser Place; Elm Place; a portion of Villard Avenue; Travis Place; Baker Lane, including the Loop; Whitman Street to Christie Terrace; the east side of Warburton Avenue from 2729 Washington Avenue to 500 Warburton Avenue; Washington Avenue from Warburton to Broadway; and Williams Street from 15 William Street to Aqueduct Lane and Ridge Street. During the meeting, Croton Avenue was added to the list.

**Correction**
In the Oct. 9 story about the "Exploring Equity" course, Sharon Diamond was misidentified as the daughter of a Holocaust survivor and her son as a journalist reporting from Gaza. Her mother's extended family was killed during the Holocaust, while her mother and her mother's immediate family were in the U.S. Her son is a journalist reporting from the West Bank.

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS



Lori Kenig Slater at Just North Design

# Shopkeeper returns with an updated outlook

*Just North Design replaces In2Green on Warburton*

BY AMY BOCHNER

With her new store Just North Design, Lori Kenig Slater brings a refreshed perspective on retail to downtown Hastings.

The 30-year village resident grew up on Manhattan's Upper West Side surrounded by retail, with her family owning health and beauty stores in the city. Slater first ventured into commerce in 2006, when she founded In2Green, an eco-luxury textiles company, with then business partner Stephanie Zeldin. The company operated from two locations, one in Yonkers and a storefront on Warburton Avenue in Hastings. Following the sale of the business in 2023, Slater launched Just North Design, a retail consulting practice that works with people looking to open a store or needing help with an existing one.

**New Business Opening**

Three years later, the storefront in Hastings that formerly housed In2Green became available again. Slater saw this as an opportunity to dive back into retail.

Just North Design opened in Hastings in early September, selling a range of new, vintage, and "storied" finds. Slater believes the store reflects changes in the retail world.

*Continued on page 17*



**Into the river**

Hastings High School teacher Marc Zelmanowicz, along with senior Peter Abirizk and junior Vivian Reichardt, wade into Kinnally Cove on Tuesday, Oct. 6, as part of the 24th annual "Day in the Life of the Hudson and Harbor," during which students gathered data about the river at sites from Albany to New York City.

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# Halloween in the Rivertowns

Halloween is almost here, and it comes with costumes, candy, and a whole lot of neighborhood fun. From coyote caution to candy inspection (and Dr. Gupta's top pick from the bowl), here's how to make the night safe, spooky, and sweet.



**Be careful of coyotes!**
Don't let this ruin trick-or-treating; just be vigilant. Travel in groups, and carry flashlights and a loud noisemaker.



**Have the sniffles or a little cough?**
If you're 24 hours fever-free and have the energy, you're free to trick-or-treat!



Most important tip!

**Let the kids have fun!**
Trick-or-treating gives them an opportunity to get outside, exercise, meet their neighbors, and connect with the community.




**Dr. Gupta's candy pick?**
Snickers — the perfect ratio of everything you want in a candy.



**Get the perfect dad costume**
Dads, are you still looking for a costume? Every one of you has the components to be Ted Lasso.



**Eat some candy!**
It's a time-honored tradition. Just remember: everything in moderation, and don't forget to brush and floss after your feast!



**Check the haul**
Inspect your kids' candy; you can never be too safe. Check for opened wrappers and allergy concerns, and don't eat anything that wasn't prepackaged.





**Be wary of your costumes**
Make sure they aren't flammable (people still put out real candles). Dark colors? Put on reflective accessories to be visible to cars. Parents, do this for yourselves too!

## Family-Friendly Events

**The Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze**
Sept. 18–Nov. 8,
Van Cortlandt Manor,
Croton-on-Hudson

**Lyndhurst Trick-or-Treat**
Oct. 17, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., and
Oct. 18, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.,
Lyndhurst

**Ardsley Trunk or Treat**
Oct. 24, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.,
Pascone Park

**Dobbs Ferry Pet Parade and Halloween Bash**
Oct. 24, 11:30 a.m.,
Waterfront Park

**Tarrytown Halloween Parade**
Oct. 24, 5 p.m.,
Patriots Park

IRVINGTON

**Local Forest Stewardship**
Saturday, Oct. 17, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Meet at O'Hara Nature Center, 170 Mountain Road. Register at *register.capturepoint.com/villageofirvington*
—
**Harvest Hayride**
Saturday, Oct. 17, 6–8:30 p.m. Matthiessen Park. Family rides until 7 p.m., haunted rides after 7, live music and a bake sale hosted by Irvington High School's Midnight Run Club.
—
**Farmers Market**
Sunday, Oct. 18, 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Main Street School, 101 Main St. For details, visit *irvingtonfarmersmarket.org*
—
**Library Board Meeting**
Monday, Oct. 19, 6 p.m. Irvington Public Library
—
**Halloween Stories and Crafts for Ages 4–6**
Tuesday, Oct. 20, 4 p.m. Irvington Public Library. Register: *irvingtonlibrary.org*
—
**School Board Meeting**
Tuesday, Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m. Campus Presentation Room at Irvington High School
—
**"Read S'more Spooky Stories"**
Thursday, Oct. 22, 6–7 p.m. (rain date Oct. 30). Irvington Public Library's Reading Garden. Grades 5–12 can roast marshmallows, make s'mores, and hear Halloween tales. Register: *irvingtonlibrary.org*

## Village retains silver

Irvington has maintained its status as a municipality with the highest recognition possible from New York State's Climate Smart Communities program. Irvington was recertified this month as a silver community, which is the top designation a municipality can receive for taking steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Out of 479 registered communities throughout the state, 30 are certified silver and 162 are certified bronze. Irvington received bronze status in March 2021 and silver status in September 2024.

The Climate Smart Communities program certifies participating communities through a system that awards points for a range of efforts. Irvington's recent actions include upgrades to the Village's electric vehicle fleet, the regional Earth Month scavenger hunt in the spring, and the establishment of the Village's gas leaf-blower ban.

While certification remains valid for five years, Irvington's sustainability director, Charlotte Binns, encouraged the completion of new tasks to protect the silver status during the next review, before which some tasks may expire.

"Completing and maintaining these tasks makes the Village more resilient; improves community maps and plans; expands education, engagement, and stewardship; and helps us measure progress and prioritize investments," Binns told the Dispatch.

Irvington's status gives it a scoring advantage for Climate Smart Communities grants to support efforts such as flood mitigation and emissions reduction.

## Zoning code amendment

During a public meeting on Oct. 5, the Irvington Board of Trustees voted to amend the zoning code to provide more detailed traffic standards required for special permitted projects in the multi-family/office (MFO) district east of Broadway (Route 9) and north of Strawberry Lane.

This comes after New York State made changes this year that would no longer require the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) to be applied for multifamily projects, such as the contested mixed-used proposal for 76 N. Broadway under review. While that project has undergone traffic studies under SEQRA, the zoning code amendments passed on Oct. 5 move to ensure that similar studies are required for future projects in the MFO district, without SEQRA.

The amendment adds language calling for proposed developments to undergo a traffic impact study by a New York State licensed professional engineer — to be reviewed by the Village's independent traffic engineering consultant — and details what needs to be included in the study.

*— Julian Michael Caldwell*

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS



Jamie Dufault as the Red Death

# Shakespeare troupe finds kindred spirit in Poe

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

For the rest of October, the Irvington Shakespeare Company (ISC) will present a theatrical performance of Edgar Allen Poe's short story "The Masque of the Red Death" throughout the Lyndhurst mansion in Tarrytown.

Starting Oct. 15, there will be 10 staggered performances of the 40-minute adaptation per night, traveling throughout different rooms, on nine dates through Oct. 30. Each performance features one of five different casts of five actors.

ISC founder Kamran Saliani, a 2012 graduate of Irvington High School, considers Poe the perfect counterpart to Shakespeare.

"In a way he is like an American Shakespeare," Saliani told the Dispatch. "The more I looked into it I saw the immense similarities in their exploration of human nature — the darker sides to humanity they both explore."

Poe wrote "The Masque of the Red Death" in 1842, the same year the Lyndhurst mansion was completed. In the story, which takes place in unspecified medieval European country, Prince Prospero, holds a masquerade with 1,000 other nobles during a plague known as The Red Death. The gathering serves as refuge for the wealthy guests looking to protect themselves from infection.

"There's this obsession with the prince, that with enough money and resources and power he can create a castle isolated from a disease, he can create something that will protect him," Saliani said. "And little does he know that the more someone does that, and builds walls and castles, and there's a thinking that 'I'll be happy,' that actually is not true because it takes away your humanity."



Kamran Saliani as Prince Prospero

For Saliani, who plays the role of Prince Prospero, the work of Poe and Shakespeare parallels contemporary themes and challenges. The masquerade that guests employ to escape death and despair resonates with the escapes of the 21st-century.

"Social media has all these distractions in the world," Saliani explained. "You have to face something and instead you're like, 'Let me just scroll another 20 minutes.' It's a similar kind of barrier building in a psychological way, where you end up not having to confront something that if you did confront, it might be uncomfortable, but it'll be incredibly profound and helpful and healing."

ISC's production moves through seven rooms at Lyndhurst, allowing for performances to happen every 20 minutes over the course of the night, with different casts, from 6 to 9 p.m. The rooms align with the seven rooms in Poe's story, each marked by a different color, which Saliani interprets to represent the different stages of life. The black room, which signifies the final phase of life, is the one all guests try to avoid.

"The Masque of the Red Death is an allegory in itself of trying to escape death," Saliani explained about the futility of that pursuit. "They [the characters] do it in a pretty barbaric way, where they lock themselves in a mansion and leave their countrymen to die. It doesn't have to be in that extreme sense, but in all the ways that we kind of do that to avoid confronting reality."

Each performance includes a narrator, who delivers the bulk of the lines and describes the action, as well as three silent characters representing the crowd of 1,000 nobles in the story. Saliani delivers the only two lines not spoken by the narrator. Except for him, each of the 16 actors spread among the five casts will at some point serve as narrator and as a silent character during the complete run of 90 shows.

For tickets to "The Masque of the Red Death," which cost $46.75, visit *lyndhurst.org*.

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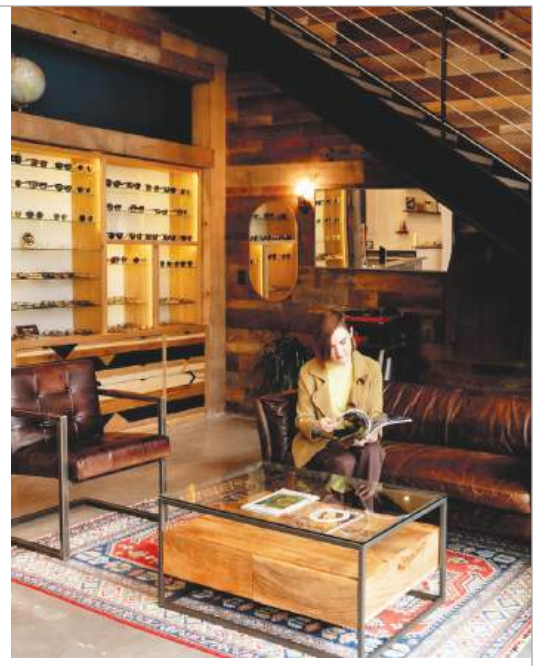
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SLEEPY HOLLOW

**Block Party**
Friday, Oct. 16, and Saturday, Oct. 17, 5 p.m.–midnight. Beekman Avenue

—

**TaSH Farmers Market**
Saturday, Oct. 17, 8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Patriots Park. *tashfarmersmarket.org*

—

**BMW Test Drive Event**
Saturday, Oct. 17, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. 154 N. Broadway. Sign up at *2026sleepyhallowpowerofchoicetestdrives.eventsbmw.com*. The first 100 people will receive $20 in TaSH Cash to spend at the market.

—

**Book Sale**
Saturday, Oct. 17, and Sunday, Oct. 18, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Warner Library

—

**Frightful Feature Film: "Curse of The Demon"**
Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2 p.m. Warner Library

—

**Zoning Board Meeting**
Wednesday, Oct. 21, 7 p.m. Village Hall. Agenda available at *sleepyhollowny.gov*

—

**Planning Board Meeting**
Thursday, Oct. 22, 6:30 p.m. Village Hall

—

**School Board Meeting**
Thursday, Oct. 22, 7 p.m. Central Office Building, 200 N. Broadway. Agenda and link to the livestream available at *tufsd.org/boe*

## SHFD honors firefighters

The Sleepy Hollow Fire Department honored three members for their decades of service during its inspection on Saturday, Sept. 26. ***John DiCairano,*** deputy chief of the department, and ***Wilfredo Gonzalez,*** president of Union Hose, were recognized for 50 years of service. ***William Hennessey Sr.,*** also a deputy chief, was honored for 60 years.

Chief Steven Bencosme praised the honorees and said their service leaves "a legacy for generations of firefighters to follow."

## SHAC stages cabaret and improv

The Sleepy Hollow Arts Collective (SHAC) is bringing spooky songs, poetry, and comedy to the stage. "What Scares You?," a cabaret exploring everything from personal fears to existential dread, takes place Sunday, Oct. 18, at 6:30 p.m. at the Hudson Valley Writers Center, 300 Riverside Drive. A $10 donation is suggested. SHAC will then present "Headless Improv," an evening of comedy inspired by spooky audience suggestions, on Oct. 24, 30, and 31 at 7 p.m. at the Fraternal Order of Eagles, 322 N. Broadway. Tickets are $30, visit *sleepyarts.org/shac-events*.

## Girl Scouts create 'Hope Spot'

Ten members of Girl Scout Troop 2513 earned their Bronze Award for creating a welcoming space at Devries Park. The Scouts designed and built a "Hope Spot," featuring a hand-painted bench, colorful markers bearing encouraging messages, and painted wind chimes. Each Scout contributed more than 20 hours to the project.

The Scouts are ***Cecily Bell, Thalia Bell-Thomson, Violet Gross, Charlotte Grundstein, Vera Halasz, Naomi Katz-Moss, Emi Kubo, Anna Ritzen, Sadie Song,*** and ***Noa Zohar.***

## FrightFest honors filmmakers

In the short film "Serial Dating," an online-dating serial killer meets his match. Directed by Sleepy Hollow High School (SHHS) student Liam McMahon, "Serial Dating" won one of three Golden Horseman at the first Sleepy Hollow FrightFest on Saturday, Oct. 10.

Presented by Sleepy Hollow Cinema, the festival showcased 20 horror shorts by young filmmakers. McMahon won the SHHS category, while Erona Beka of Brooklyn won the National High School prize for "True Nature," and Julian Felix Aaronson of New York City won the National Undergraduate category for "Envi." Festival judge Monica Castillo, a New York Film Critics Circle member, led a horror trivia contest at the festival, which happened at SHHS.

*— Laura Schiller*

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS





Meghan Raderstrong, poetry editor Elizabeth Tucker, and Jeff Raderstrong

# Tarry invites readers to linger with creatives

*Annual literary magazine publishes second issue*

BY LAURA SCHILLER

*tarry verb \'ter-ē*
*1. To delay or be slow in going, coming or doing something.*
*2. To stay or remain somewhere longer than expected.*

That's how Merriam-Webster defines "tarry." For the nearly 12,000 people who call Tarrytown home, it's also part of their village's name — and the name of a literary magazine inviting readers to take their time to appreciate the stories, people, and places that make this area special.

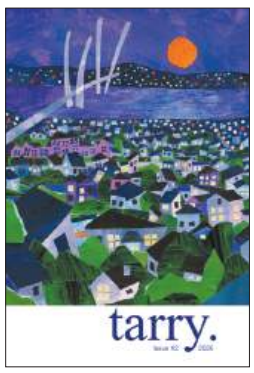
(Note for trivia enthusiasts: Tarrytown takes its name from the Dutch word "tarwe," meaning "wheat.")

The magazine's second annual edition was released last month, following the success of its 2025 debut. The new issue features the contributions of 10 poets, four fiction writers, four essayists, and nine visual artists. Many are local, though some come from farther afield and, judging by their keen observations, seem to know the region well.

Collectively, they capture some of the special sauce that makes Tarrytown a place people want to linger — along the Hudson River, in the nearby hills and woods, on local paths, and in the coffee shops that make the community feel like home.

In a world of endless scrolling, it feels almost novel to hold a publication in your hands, turn an actual page, and enjoy what's inside.

The idea for the magazine came from Jeff Raderstrong, a professional ghostwriter, but the title was his wife Meghan's inspiration.




The cover of the current issue, featuring "Tappan Zee Moon" by Julie Heller

The couple, who have lived in Sleepy Hollow for about 10 years, are the magazine's co-founders and editors. Meghan teaches English as a Second Language in White Plains and is a candidate for the Sleepy Hollow Board of Trustees.

"I loved that as an image, you know, looking at a hard copy of something you can really sit and enjoy," Meghan said.

The title also connects to Tarrytown's name and Sleepy Hollow's former name, North Tarrytown. But Meghan liked that "tarry" works as a verb, too, an invitation — or command even — to slow down and savor the surroundings.

"Pretty quickly we found that there was a huge appetite for this," she said.

That enthusiasm has grown. The editors received roughly 250 submissions this year, up from about 120 for the inaugural issue. The work explores a wide range of subjects, from the Hudson River and train travel to the pandemic and the experience of living in the area. It ranges from spooky stories to personal reflections. "It really runs the gamut," Meghan said.

The artwork includes bare autumn trees, a sketched face and its reflection, sea life among flowers, a starlit house of worship, and a comic strip. The cover, by Julie Heller, features a vibrant collage of a waterfront village — bridge and all — that appears to be Tarrytown.

One entry, "The Last Innocent Morning" by Christian Emecheta, who is from Nigeria, is about a local newspaper writer who befriends the paper's editor. When the editor makes an irreversible mistake that kills a young girl, both their lives are changed forever. The story uses the Hudson Valley landscape to examine how the living remain haunted by the past.

Among the poets, New York-based Celia Pain captures a peaceful moment on the Aqueduct trail in her short poem, "My friend Mike asks me to 'send him something messy.'"

I try to be here, in this sweet mud, / unedited, / and smiling.

In her essay "The Suburbs," Tarrytown resident Laura Carraro describes moving back to Manhattan as an empty nester, hoping to recapture life before it was filled with soccer games and chauffeuring children. But she finds herself missing her suburb.

"I began to miss driving my car, instead of being packed into a subway. I longed for spacious grocery stores and a two-car garage. Central air-conditioning! I missed long walks in the Rockefeller Preserve and constant peeks at the Hudson River," Carraro writes. "Most of all, I craved community."

That sense of connection runs through Tarry itself. When the Raderstrongs opened submissions, people they knew as neighbors and parents began revealing creative pursuits the couple hadn't known about.

"It's been a really cool thing to offer a place for people to get to know our community better," Meghan said.

*Continued on page 14*

## *PANDAS*

*Continued from page 3*

his immune system go into some sort of misfiring loop. So, his primary symptoms come back now whenever his immune system is activated," Gersten said.

Jonah has had strep twice since his tonsils were removed last fall and has had to stay on medication.

For children who do not respond adequately to anti-inflammatory treatments, Gersten said doctors may consider corticosteroids and, in more severe cases, intravenous immunoglobulin, or IVIG, an infusion treatment that affects immune system activity.

For families seeking IVIG, insurance coverage can be another obstacle. A 2026 study in the Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychopharmacology found that, among 60 caregivers and adult patients surveyed, 24% received insurance approval without an appeal, while 14% waited nine months or longer for treatment.

Gersten hopes Jonah will be able to receive IVIG, which she said can cost $15,000 to $30,000 per session and may be needed monthly for up to a year.

"I had sort of been having a feeling for some time that IVIG is where we were going to wind up," she said. "It does seem like Jonah is maybe going to be covered by our insurance, but that's not a given. And there are so many families where it is denied."

IVIG remains a debated treatment for PANS/PANDAS. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, some research suggests it may help improve symptoms. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), however, there is not enough evidence to know how well it works. The AAP recommends considering it in rare cases with guidance from specialists.

For advocates, the debate underscores the need for greater awareness and better access to care.

"Too many families still spend months or years searching for answers and appropriate treatment. We want every green light on October 9 to help change that," said Gabriella True, president of ASPIRE.

Gersten hopes greater awareness will spare other families the uncertainty and frustration her family experienced.

"It's ridiculous to me that any family has to suffer like this," Gersten said. "I want there to be much greater awareness of these illnesses, because if I had known or understood more about it, it probably would have saved our family months of agony."

## *Blotter*

*Continued from page 2*

resident was arrested for stealing a bag of 18 rolls from outside Empire Bagels, 24 Cedar St., before dawn on Monday, Oct. 12. She was charged with petit larceny, a misdemeanor. Officer Steven Coradin made the arrest.

### HASTINGS

***Suspicious letter:*** On Oct. 8, a Hastings resident reported receiving a letter with her return address, no delivery address, and a Houston postmark.

***Unwelcome knocks:*** A 57-year-old Yonkers resident knocked on a door to a home on Main Street and demanded to be let in on the afternoon of Thursday, Oct. 8. Someone inside the home told him to leave, which he did. He then returned, knocked on a window, and left again. Nothing was damaged. Police located him on Spring Street. He left on a public bus.

### IRVINGTON

***Check fraud:*** On Oct. 10, an Irvington resident was notified that a $12,478 check she placed in a mailbox outside Irvington Town Hall on Sept. 28 was altered and then cashed on Oct. 8. The name of the payee was changed.

***Coyote encounter:*** A coyote followed a man and a woman running south on the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail between Fargo Lane and Main Street on the morning of Monday, Oct. 13. Police located the coyote in a backyard in that area and scared it off.

## *Tarry magazine*

*Continued from page 13*

The magazine has also found support from local businesses and arts organizations. Chris Steib of Transom Bookshop in Tarrytown has helped get copies onto shelves and into readers' hands, while the Hudson Valley Writers Center in Sleepy Hollow has hosted readings and launch events. Local writers and literary enthusiasts have also helped review submissions.

A new partnership with the Rivertowns Dispatch will bring the magazine's work to a wider audience through a monthly "Tarry Corner" and a special expanded section, timed to be "Halfway to Halloween." With submissions accepted on a rolling basis at tarrymag.com, the partnership will give contributors more opportunities to see their work published.

The Raderstrongs initially hoped Tarry would appeal to visitors, particularly the many who descend during the fall season.

"We have so many folks that come to visit Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown, especially in October, and our motivation was to give them more of a taste of what it is to live here," Meghan said.

At Transom, Steib said the magazine is resonating with the community it set out to celebrate.

"Fall visitors do often ask about local writers, so it's great to hand them something that's from here, and that we're really proud of. But the local community has also shown up in support of Tarry," Steib told the Dispatch. "Initially, I think folks were really charmed to see friends and neighbors in print. But then they read Tarry and are pleasantly surprised to find that it's actually great quality stuff."





TARRYTOWN

**TaSH Farmers Market**
Saturday, Oct. 17, 8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Patriots Park. *tashfarmersmarket.org*

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**BMW Test Drive Event**
Saturday, Oct. 17, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. 154 N. Broadway. Sign up at *2026sleepyhallowpower ofchoicetestdrives.events bmw.com*. The first 100 people will receive $20 in TaSH Cash to spend at the market.

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**Book Sale**
Saturday, Oct. 17, and Sunday, Oct. 18, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Warner Library

—

**Mobile Shredder**
Saturday, Oct. 17, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Green Street Parking Lot F

—

**Board of Trustees Meeting**
Monday, Oct. 19, 7 p.m. Village Hall

—

**Frightful Feature Film: "Curse of The Demon"**
Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2 p.m. Warner Library

—

**Architectural Review Board Meeting**
Wednesday, Oct. 21, 7 p.m. Village Hall

—

**School Board Meeting**
Thursday, Oct. 22, 7 p.m. Central Office Building, 200 N. Broadway. Agenda and link to the livestream available at *tufsd.org/boe*

## Library to host mariachi

The Tarrytown-Sleepy Hollow community can celebrate Mexican music and culture with a free mariachi concert on Oct. 18 at 2:30 p.m. at the Warner Library, part of the library's expanded concert series. Real de México, a New York City-based mariachi group directed by Ramon Ponce Sr. and Ramon Ponce, will perform a program celebrating Mexican musical traditions in anticipation of Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, the Mexican holiday honoring deceased loved ones.

Before the concert, Girl Scout Troop 2862 will lead a Día de los Muertos- and Halloween-themed skull-decorating craft at 2:15 p.m. The library's fall book sale, scheduled for Oct. 17–18, will help fund this and other concerts.

## Scout earns Eagle rank

Sleepy Hollow High School junior Eliza Boozer was honored for earning the rank of Eagle Scout on Sept. 26, at the Reformed Church of the Tarrytowns, where she was recognized for her service to the community that includes a garden she built at the Tarrytown Rehabilitation and Nursing Center. Completed in May, the project consisted of choosing the garden's location and plants, raising money for supplies and tools, and recruiting fellow Scouts to help plant the garden.

At Boozer's ceremony, Westchester County Legislator Margaret Cunzio, who represents District 3, presented her with a declaration from the Westchester County Board of Legislators naming Sept. 28, 2026, "Eagle Scout Eliza Boozer Day" in Westchester County. Her name was also displayed on the Jumbotron outside the County Center in White Plains.

Scoutmaster Matt Pajak called Boozer "an incredible model for what Scouting can do for young adults on the cusp of their next big life moments."

## $4.2 million for streetscapes

The Westchester County Board of Legislators unanimously approved $4.2 million for sidewalk, crosswalk, and intersection improvements in four villages, including Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow. Through its Complete Streets program, the County will cover up to half the construction costs in Tarrytown, Sleepy Hollow, Mamaroneck, and Tuckahoe. According to Tarrytown Village Administrator Richard Slingerland, the other half of the costs will be met "through the issuance of debt, appropriation of fund balance/reserves, or some combination thereof."

Planned work includes an extension of the RiverWalk in Sleepy Hollow, curb repairs, landscaping, and safer pedestrian crossings.

The funding was approved Sept. 28 as part of a package of infrastructure measures.

*— Laura Schiller*

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS



Lynda Bridges-Fassa along the Riverwalk in Sleepy Hollow

# Author spins ghost stories from local lore

*'I am sort of a believer in things that we cannot see.'*

BY LAURA SCHILLER

For 30 years, Lynda Bridges-Fassa has lived among the legends of Sleepy Hollow Country. Now, she has turned some of those stories — and her own imaginings — into a book.

"Haunted Sleepy Hollow: Ghost Stories from the Hudson Valley" brings together 13 original stories rooted in the places that have made the region famous, from the Hudson River and Sleepy Hollow Cemetery to the Armour-Stiner Octagon House in Irvington and Shadowbrook Manor in Tarrytown.

For Bridges-Fassa, the region provides plenty of inspiration.

"I am sort of a believer in things that we cannot see," Bridges-Fassa said. "As Shakespeare said [by way of Prince Hamlet], 'There are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in your philosophy.' And there really are in these towns, because there's just so much history and the history is so dense. I mean, we're just so close to it that if there is a kind of a veil, it's really thin here."

Bridges-Fassa's familiarity with the area goes beyond living here. She has worked as a real estate agent for the past eight years, owns Westchester Staging Company, and recently joined Corcoran in Tarrytown. She has also worked at several of the area's historic sites, including as the first tour guide at the Octagon House and as a guide at




Washington Irving's home, Sunnyside, and as a manager at Philipsburg Manor, both properties of Historic Hudson Valley.

The stories are her own, but many grew out of local legends, historical events, and tales passed down over the years.

"Either my own or the ones that are whispered to me from the other side," she said. "We won't go to an analyst to figure that out, but yeah, it's fascinating that they're original stories that are based on happenings or old stories or possibilities."

One of the stories explores the backstory of how a Hessian soldier became Irving's Headless Horseman. Another, "The Midnight Circus," is inspired by traveling carnivals that came through the area's many small towns around the turn of the 20th century. In "Black Dog," a dog grieving the loss of a young boy becomes part of the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery landscape, guiding souls to the other side.

Bridges-Fassa said some of the stories have been with her for years, while others seemed to emerge on their own.

"They've just lived in my mind for a long time," she said. "I think that there's a backstory to every piece of lore that is out there."

The book's visual elements are also closely tied to the region. Bridges-Fassa is a painter, and she said the illustrations were essential to the atmosphere she was conjuring.

"The illustrations were a big part of the same vibe. I didn't do them specifically for the book," she said. "It was more like they sort of happened on their own over several years because of this area and the energy in this area, and I really just wanted them to be part of the book."

When potential publishers were unwilling to include the illustrations as she envisioned them, Bridges-Fassa decided to self-publish the book through Amazon.

Bridges-Fassa is also the author of the 2008 bestselling "Green Babies: Sage Moms," a guide for new parents interested in raising their children in an environmentally friendly way.

After 30 years in Tarrytown, Bridges-Fassa hopes her stories will spur readers to explore some of the places that inspired them.

A self-guided ghost tour at the end of the book points readers toward local sites where they can look for stories of their own.

"I find a strange, solemn comfort here," the author writes in her preface. "I have written these stories for the companions who share this hollow with me and all of us who are drawn here."

HAPPENINGS IN THE RIVERTOWNS

# The Agenda

EDITED BY JENNIFER GOLD

## SATURDAY OCTOBER 17

### Arbor Day Celebration
ARDSLEY
9 a.m. / Free. Bicentennial Park. Ceremony with donuts and apple cider. *ardsleyvillage.gov*

### Seed Swap
ARDSLEY
11 a.m.–noon / Free. Ardsley Public Library, 9 American Legion Drive. Share seeds from your own garden and pick up varieties from your neighbors'. *ardsleypubliclibrary.org*

### Volunteer Fire Department Carnival
ARDSLEY
Opens at 5 p.m. weekdays and 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, through Sunday. Pascone Park, 507 Ashford Ave. Daily wristband for unlimited rides: $35.

### Community Clothing, Toy & Gear Swap
DOBBS FERRY
9 a.m.–1 p.m. Dobbs Ferry Public Library, 55 Main St. *rivertownsswap.com*

### Learning Lab Bake Sale
DOBBS FERRY
11:30 a.m. South Church, 343 Broadway. Proceeds support the Learning Lab's Breakfast Midnight Run on Oct. 31. *southpres.org*

### Harvest Hayride
IRVINGTON
6–8:30 p.m. / Free. Matthiessen Park, 1 Bridge St. Family rides until 7 p.m., haunted rides after 7, plus live music by Jake's Rockin' Country Band and a bake sale hosted by the Irvington High School Midnight Run Club.

### Kids' Clothing Swap
TARRYTOWN
9 a.m.–noon. Shames JCC, 371 S. Broadway. *shamesjcc.org*

### Lyndhurst Trick-or-Treat
TARRYTOWN
9 a.m.–4 p.m. / $15, free for children age 10 and under; with entry to the mansion: $30, $28 for seniors, $24 for ages 11–17, free for children age 10 and under. Lyndhurst, 635 S. Broadway. Come in costume and hunt for candy at special spots throughout the historic landscape. Also Sunday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. *lyndhurst.org*

### Book Sale
TARRYTOWN
10 a.m.–5 p.m. Warner Library, 121 N. Broadway. Proceeds go to the Friends of Warner Library. Also Sunday. *warnerlibrary.org*

### Mariachi Real de México
TARRYTOWN
2:30–3:30 p.m. / Free. Warner Library, 121 N. Broadway. Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with the live performance. Pre-concert children's craft at 2:15. *warnerlibrary.org*



**The Glass Pumpkin Patch opens on Thursday, Oct. 22, in Kingsland Point Park in Sleepy Hollow with hundreds of whimsical pieces available for purchase as a fundraiser for Make-A-Wish Hudson Valley.**

### Fall Fair and Open House
TARRYTOWN
10 a.m.–4 p.m. / Free. Christ Church San Marcos, 43 S. Broadway. Features self-guided tours of Washington Irving's parish.

### Tour Washington Irving's Sunnyside
TARRYTOWN
10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. / $16–$20. 3 W. Sunnyside Lane. Tour the author's estate celebrating his classic tale, "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow." Timed-entry tickets required. Continues through Nov. 8. *hudsonvalley.org*

### "Home for Horror" Film Series
TARRYTOWN
5, 7:15, and 9:15 p.m. / $16 for adults, $13 for kids. Lyceum Club, 39 N. Broadway. Screenings through Sunday, Oct. 18, for the first of three weekends of seasonal classics presented by Sleepy Hollow Cinema. The series runs through Nov. 1. *sleepyhollowcinema.org/events*

### Vocalist Champian Fulton
TARRYTOWN
7 and 9 p.m. / $35, $30 for students. Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. *jazzforumarts.org*

### Yellow Brick Joel
TARRYTOWN
8 p.m. / $47–$63. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. The tribute concert features piano-driven anthems by Elton John and Billy Joel. *tarrytownmusichall.org*

### The Goblin Market
SLEEPY HOLLOW
10 a.m.–3 p.m. Hudson Valley Writers Center, Philipse Manor Station. Local pop-up with artwork, crafts, and more. *writerscenter.org*

### The Headless Horseman Files
SLEEPY HOLLOW
10 a.m.–4 p.m. / $25–$35. Philipsburg Manor, 381 N. Broadway. Follow a guide to collect clues and solve the legend. Recommended for ages 8+. Fridays-Sundays through Oct. 31. Timed-entry tickets required. *hudsonvalley.org*

### Spirits of Sleepy Hollow Country
SLEEPY HOLLOW
2 p.m. and later / $65–$89. Philipsburg Manor, 381 N. Broadway. Illusionists Mark Clearview and Nick Wallace feature interactive magic and the region's folklore. Various times on Fridays-Sundays through Oct. 31. Recommended for ages 10+. Advance tickets required. *hudsonvalley.org*

### Block Party
SLEEPY HOLLOW
5 p.m.–midnight / Free. Beekman Avenue. *visitsleepyhollow.com*

### "Peek-a-Boo"
OSSINING
7:30 p.m. / $37, $27 for seniors and students, $47 for VIP table seating. Bethany Arts Community, 40 Somerstown Road. This immersive show, written by Ardsley resident Meghan Covington, artistic director of River's Edge Theatre Company, takes the audience to a little club in Tarrytown in the 1920s. For mature audiences. Also Oct. 18 and 22–25. *riversedgetheatre.com, bethanyarts.org*

## SUNDAY OCTOBER 18

### Local History Lecture
ARDSLEY
2 p.m. / Free. Ardsley Community Center, 18 Center St. The Ardsley Historical Society presents Peter Marcus to discuss "The American Encampment in Ardsley."

### Rise Against Hunger Walkathon
ARDSLEY
2–4 p.m. / $10. Pascone Park. Donations go toward distributing food to people in developing nations.

### Wickers Creek Market: Antiques and Vintage Goods
DOBBS FERRY
10 a.m.–4 p.m. / Free admission. Waterfront Park, 11 Station Plaza. *wickerscreekmarket.com*

### Hastings Flea
HASTINGS
10 a.m.–4 p.m. (rain or shine). Zinsser Commuter Parking Lot, Southside Avenue (across from the train tracks). Outdoor bazaar featuring handmade, vintage, and upcycled clothing and accessories plus food truck treats and live music. *thehastingsflea.com*

### Fall Festival and Open House
HASTINGS
10 a.m.–noon. Free. Hudson Lab School, 185 Old Broadway. RSVP at *hudsonlabschool.com/dates-events*

### Kids' Sip and Paint
HASTINGS
Noon–1 p.m. / $25. Moviehouse Mews, 579 Warburton Ave. The Mews Collective provides pumpkins to decorate and hot cocoa. Visit *destinationhastings.org* for the link to register.

### Twilight Village
SLEEPY HOLLOW
7–9 p.m. / $25–$35. Philipsburg Manor, 381 N. Broadway. The Halloween market features entertainment and specialty vendors. Various times on Fridays-Sundays through Oct. 31. Advance tickets required. *hudsonvalley.org*

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

### Family Movie: "Hocus Pocus"
TARRYTOWN
3–5 p.m. / $8, $12 for nonmembers. Shames JCC, 371 S. Broadway. Screening followed by fun facts with Shannon Carlin, author of "Witches Run Amok: The Oral History of Disney's 'Hocus Pocus'." *shamesjcc.org*

### "The Masque of the Red Death"
TARRYTOWN
6–9 p.m. / $45. Lyndhurst, 635 S. Broadway. Irvington Shakespeare Company presents an immersive theater experience based on Edgar Allan Poe's short story about Prince Prospero.

*Continued on page 17*

# The Agenda

For ages 12+. Also Oct. 22–25, and 29–30. *lyndhurst.org*

### "From Bebop to Funk"
**TARRYTOWN**
4 p.m. / $25, $20 for students. Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. SUNY Purchase All-Stars perform, followed by the JALC Youth Orchestra at 6. *jazzforumarts.org*

### "What Scares You? Cabaret"
**SLEEPY HOLLOW**
6:30 p.m. / $10. Hudson Valley Writers Center, Philipse Manor Station. Featuring songs, poetry, and performance. *writerscenter.org*

## TUESDAY OCTOBER 20

### Singer/Songwriter Rob McMahon
**HASTINGS**
7–9 p.m. / No cover charge. Uncle Lefty's, 583 Warburton Ave. *uncleleftys.com*

## WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 21

### Author Talk
**DOBBS FERRY**
7–8 p.m. / $30. Picture Book at HudCo, 145 Palisade St., Suite 200. Rivertowns for Reproductive Rights and Picture Book present Irin Carmon, author of "Unbearable: The Truth About Pregnancy in America," moderated by Andrea Flynn. RSVP at *picturebookny.com/calendar*

### Frightful Feature: "Curse of The Demon"
**TARRYTOWN**
2–3:30 p.m. / Free. Warner Library, 121 N. Broadway. *warnerlibrary.org*

## THURSDAY OCTOBER 22

### The Denners Jazz Quartet
**DOBBS FERRY**
7–9:30 p.m. / No cover charge. Mirabella Cocina Latina Restaurant & Bar, 1 Hamilton St., in Rivertowns Square. *mirabellacocina.com/calendar-dobbs-ferry*

### Gardening Academy
**TARRYTOWN**
10 a.m.–noon. / Free. Lyndhurst, 635 S. Broadway. Education with hands-on practice in the garden. Ages 18+. Registration required. *lyndhurst.org*

### Phil Collins Tribute
**TARRYTOWN**
8 p.m. / $50–$77. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. *tarrytownmusichall.org*

### Glass Pumpkin Patch
**SLEEPY HOLLOW**
10 a.m.–5 p.m. / Free admission. Kingsland Point Park, 299 Palmer Ave. Adirondack artist Gregory Tomb showcases hundreds of hand-blown glass pumpkins for sale; 20% of proceeds benefit Make-A-Wish Hudson Valley. Also Oct. 23–25 and Oct. 29–Nov. 1. *wish.org/hudson*

### Show & Tell: Eulogy Theme
**SLEEPY HOLLOW**
7–9 p.m. / $10. Hudson Valley Writers Center, Philipse Manor Station. Sign up for a 5-minute slot to share objects and stories at *writerscenter.org*

## FRIDAY OCTOBER 23

### Art Reception
**ARDSLEY**
6 p.m. / Free. Ardsley Village Hall, 507 Ashford Ave. Celebrate the opening of "Moments in Medium" featuring works by Orietta Schneider. On view through April 2027.

### River Jam
**DOBBS FERRY**
6:30–8:30 p.m. / Free. Waterfront Park. The fall concert series features the Grateful Dead tribute band Grateful To Be Alive and a food truck. *dobbsferry.gov/recreation-department*

### Halloween-themed Movie in the Park
**ARDSLEY**
6:30 p.m. / Free. Pascone Park, 507 Ashford Ave. Movie title TBA. Bring blankets or chairs.

### Talking Stick Song Circle
**HASTINGS**
4–6 p.m. / Free. The Good Witch Coffee Bar, 134 Southside Ave. *destinationhastings.org*

### American Classical Orchestra: "Enlightenment"
**IRVINGTON**
7:30 p.m. / $45–$15. Irvington Theater, 85 Main St. Featuring chamber music masterpieces by Haydn and Mozart. *irvingtontheater.com*

### Gothic Market Weekend
**TARRYTOWN**
9 a.m.–5 p.m. / $35 for adults, $33 for seniors, $29 for ages 6–17. Lyndhurst, 635 S. Broadway. Explore the mansion and shop the market featuring an eclectic mix of spooky oddities, antiques, jewelry, and witchy wares, plus tarot card readings and seasonal foods. Timed-entry tickets required. Also Oct. 24–25. *lyndhurst.org*

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

### "Home for Horror" Film Series
**TARRYTOWN**
5, 7:15, and 9:15 p.m. / $16 for adults, $13 for kids. The Lyceum, 39 N. Broadway. Screenings through Sunday, Oct. 25, for the second of three weekends of seasonal classics presented by Sleepy Hollow Cinema. The series runs through Nov. 1. *sleepyhollowcinema.org/events*

### Pianist Miki Yamanaka
**TARRYTOWN**
7 and 9 p.m. / $35, $30 for students. Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. *jazzforumarts.org*

### Singer/Songwriter Josh Ritter
**TARRYTOWN**
8 p.m. / $46–$66. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. *tarrytownmusichall.org*

## ONGOING

### Farmers Market
**HASTINGS**
Saturdays, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Commuter Lot, Southside Avenue. The market is open weekly through November. *hastingsfarmersmarket.org*.

### "Homeward Bound"
**HASTINGS**
Village Hall Gallery, 7 Maple Ave. Features the work of three local photographers: Tim Lamorte, John Maggiotto, and Jim Metzger. Through Oct. 26.

### "The Times They Are A-Changin': Hastings in the 1960s"
**HASTINGS**
Observatory Cottage, Draper Park, 407 Broadway. Open the first Saturday of each month, 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* and follow the market on Facebook.

### "Shine Through"
**DOBBS FERRY**
Donald Gallery at South Church, 343 Broadway. Watercolors by Teri Siegel. Through Oct. 25. Gallery hours: Tuesday, 12–6:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 2–4 p.m.; Thursday, 12–4 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. *southpres.org*

### "Structures"
**IRVINGTON**
Martucci Gallery at Irvington Public Library, 12 S. Astor St. The October exhibit features Jim Maciel's watercolors inspired by photographs from across the country. *irvingtonlibrary.org*

### Historical Society Exhibit
**IRVINGTON**
McVickar House, 131 Main St. "'Neither Bought Nor Conquered' — The Revolutionary War and the Tenant Farmers of Philipsburg Manor" is on view Saturdays and Thursdays, 1–4 p.m., through January 2027. *irvingtonhistoricalsociety.org*

### TaSH Farmers Market
**TARRYTOWN**
Saturdays, 8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Patriots Park, 121 N. Broadway. The weekly market continues through the fall. *tashfarmersmarket.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. Daily 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 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*

## *Just North Design*
*Continued from page 9*

"This vintage and antique market is outpacing sales, especially in the luxury market, of new items," she said. "I think that people just want a different experience, and more is not more anymore. They don't want fast fashion. They're looking for items that have a story and items that are heritage brands made in the USA that have some quality."

Her store offers a curated collection of home goods, apparel, and accessories that "work together and tell one cohesive story." The store is unique to the area because of its retail offerings for men, along with sections for women, children, and babies. She described the aesthetic of her merchandise as lived-in, warm, cozy, and approachable.

Her 17 years of experience in textiles and design is useful in the curation process, she said, giving her a better understanding of the markets and style trends.

The items she looks for include heritage brands with longevity, like vintage L.L. Bean, Levis, Brooks Brothers, J.Crew, and Carhartt. She described the collection as "quietly elevated." For the newer goods, she looks for emerging, artisan brands with "a similar design sensibility." On the horizon for Just North Design is a line of reworked denim designed by Slater.

With an array of stock, Slater strives for Just North Design to "have something for everybody."

"It takes a lot to get somebody to walk in the door," she said. "So you want to make sure they have something that they can purchase."

With the market constantly evolving, Slater's perspective on how to run a successful retail business is to be flexible and follow the customer's example.

"I think in retail, especially now, you have to be able to shift," Slater said. "I grew up in retail, so I'm not afraid of shifting, based on customers' response or what is selling. I think that's the only way you'll succeed."

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*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CONGRATULATIONS HENRY!**

Happy 13th Birthday, and Mazel Tov on your Bar Mitzvah! We are so proud of you.
Love,
Dad, Mom, Jasper and Milkshake

—

**HUMANS CONNECTING WITH HUMANS**

Looking for a piano teacher, a couch, or a conversation? The Dispatch Classifieds are for real people, reaching real people — no bots, no algorithms, no AI. Share your news — market.rivertownsdispatch.com/classies

## PUBLIC NOTICES

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

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**7 WHITMAN STREET - LEGAL NOTICE**

Village of Hastings-on-Hudson
7 Maple Avenue
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706
Zoning Board of Appeals - Case No. 14-26

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 295-143B of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson Zoning Code, Notice is hereby given that: A Public Hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals on Thursday, October 22, 2026, at 7:00 P.M., in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue, Hastings-on-Hudson, New York. The Hearing will be held on the application of Brian Brooks Ballard for relief from the strict application of the Village Code Sections 295-69F2(a)(2) for the legalization of an existing rear deck at his single-family dwelling located at 7 Whitman Street. Said property is located in the R-7.5 Zoning District and is known as SBL: 4.30-24-7 on the Town of Greenburgh Tax Maps.

Non-conformity details are as follows: 1) Development Coverage: Existing & Proposed--55.5%; Required--40% Max {295-69F2(a)(2)}; Variance Required--15.5%

The Zoning Board of Appeals will, at this time and place, hear all persons in support of such matter and any objections thereto. Plans will be made available for review at the Building Department and on the Village web site, www.hohny.gov, on or about the Friday prior to the meeting date. Josh Heitler, Chair, ZBA

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**11 RIVERVIEW PLACE - LEGAL NOTICE**

Village of Hastings-on-Hudson
7 Maple Avenue
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706
Zoning Board of Appeals - Case No. 15-26

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 295-143B of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson Zoning Code, Notice is hereby given that: A Public Hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals on Thursday, October 22, 2026, at 7:00 P.M., in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue, Hastings-on-Hudson, New York. The Hearing will be held on the application of Peter & Brittney Walgren for relief from the strict application of the Village Code Sections 295-52A, 295-53.1, 295-70E.1(b) w/295-20B.6 and 295-70E.3(a)(2) for a proposed Sauna, hot tub & rear deck at their single-family dwelling, located at 11 Riverview Place. Said property is located in the 2R Zoning District and is known as SBL: 4.30-20-33 on the Town of Greenburgh Tax Maps.

Non-conformity details for the proposed work are as follows: 1) Hot Tub Setback from Dwelling: Proposed – 1.1 ft.; Required Minimum – 5 ft. {295-52A}; Variance Required – 3.9 ft. 2) Rear Yard Setback to Deck: Existing – 17 ft.; Proposed – 9 ft.; Required Minimum – 19 ft. {295-70E.1(b) w/295-20B.6}; Variance Required – 10 ft. 3) FAR: Existing – .530/Proposed – .536; Required Maximum – .420 {295-53.1}; Variance Required – .116 (730.8 sq. ft.; 35 sq. ft. over existing) 4) Development Coverage: Existing – 39.8%; Proposed – 44%; Required Maximum – 40% {295-70E.3(a)(2)}; Variance Required – 4% (252 sq. ft.)

The Zoning Board of Appeals will, at this time and place, hear all persons in support of such matter and any objections thereto. Plans will be made available for review at the Building Department and on the Village web site, www.hohny.gov, on or about the Friday prior to the meeting date. Josh Heitler, Chair, ZBA

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**6 BELLAIR DRIVE - LEGAL NOTICE**

Village of Hastings-on-Hudson
7 Maple Avenue
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706
Zoning Board of Appeals - Case No. 16-26

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 295-143B of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson Zoning Code, Notice is hereby given that: A Public Hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals on Thursday, October 22, 2026, at 7:00 P.M., in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue, Hastings-on-Hudson, New York. The Hearing will be held on the application of Frances Greenberg for relief from the strict application of the Village Code Sections 295-68F.1(a&c) w/295-60C.2 for the re-construction of an existing garage at her single-family dwelling located at 6 Bellair Drive. Said property is located in the R-10 Zoning District and is known as SBL: 4.20-12-12 on the Town of Greenburgh Tax Maps.

Non-conformity details are as follows: 1) Front Yard Setback to the Garage: Existing & Proposed – 5.78 ft.; Required – 30 ft. {295-68F1(a) w/295-60C.2 Effects of Serious Damage}; Variance Required – 24.22 ft. 2) Side Yard Setback to the Garage: Existing & Proposed – .072 ft.; Required – 8 ft. Minimum {295-68F1(c) w/295-60C.2 Effects of Serious Damage); Variance Required – 7.928 ft.

The Zoning Board of Appeals will, at this time and place, hear all persons in support of such matter and any objections thereto. Plans will be made available for review at the Building Department and on the Village web site, www.hohny.gov, on or about the Friday prior to the meeting date. Josh Heitler, Chair, ZBA

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**1 SUNSET STREET - LEGAL NOTICE**

Village of Hastings-on-Hudson
7 Maple Avenue
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706
Zoning Board of Appeals - Case No. 17-26

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 295-143B of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson Zoning Code, Notice is hereby given that: A Public Hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals on Thursday, October 22, 2026, at 7:00 P.M., in the Meeting Room, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue, Hastings-on-Hudson, New York. The Hearing will be held on the application of Rebby & Jesse Yarbrough for relief from the strict application of the Village Code Sections 295-68F1(c) w/295-55A and 295-20B(1) for the construction of a 2nd story addition on their single-family dwelling located at 1 Sunset Street. Said property is located in the R-10 Zoning District and is known as SBL: 4.90-78-16 on the Town of Greenburgh Tax Maps.

Non-conformity details for the addition are as follows: 1) Side Yard Setback: Existing & Proposed – 10.4 ft.; Required – 12 ft. {295-68F1(c)}; Variance Required – 1.6 ft. 2) 295-55A – Extension of an Existing Non-conformity 3) Cornice into Setback: Existing – 5.33 ft.; Proposed – 4.75 ft.; Required Maximum – 2 ft. {295-20B(1)}; Variance Required – 2.75 ft.

The Zoning Board of Appeals will, at this time and place, hear all persons in support of such matter and any objections thereto. Plans will be made available for review at the Building Department and on the Village web site, www.hohny.gov, on or about the Friday prior to the meeting date.

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**LEGAL NOTICE**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the Village of Ardsley Zoning Board of Appeals, 507 Ashford Ave., Ardsley, NY, will conduct a public hearing at 8:00 p.m., October 28, 2026, on a variance application of Christopher T. & Kelly M. McNerney, for a proposed increase in gross land coverage to an amount exceeding the maximum permitted by Ardsley Village Code § 200-83C, subject to Planning Board approval, for proposed construction of a new driveway and retaining walls at 26 Lincoln Ave. (Lot 6.80-69-22.1). All wishing to be heard are invited to attend and to email comments to kleddy@ardsleyvillage.gov. Application materials may be viewed in the Village Clerk's office during office hours (Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-4 p.m.). Meeting information also is posted at: www.ardsleyvillage.gov/calendar.
Tasha Macedo
Zoning Board Secretary
Village of Ardsley

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**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 October 27, 2026 at 7:30 p.m., upon the application of

Lauren Weisholz & Andrew Ditchfield – 2 El Retiro Lane (2.120-61-9) is seeking variances of sections 224-11 (addition of an encroachment into front and side yard) 224-13 (altering the original approved allowable coverage) of the Village Code in order to alter the original approval to add a utility pole and refuse area 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,
Sarah Gardner, Chairperson
Katie Bugna, Clerk-Treasurer
Village of Irvington, New York
Dated: October 14, 2026

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**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 October 27, 2026 at 7:30 p.m., upon the application of

Viral & Neerja Patel – 43 Matthiessen Park (2.40-10-8, 15) is seeking an interpretation or variance of section 224-3 (the proposed structure above the roof that houses proposed chimneys vents and exhausts exceeds the allowable height of 35' and is considered by the definition in 224-3 a "structure/building" as well as in the definition of height considered a decorative feature) of the Village Code in order to construct a new residence 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,
Sarah Gardner, Chairperson
Katie Bugna, Clerk-Treasurer
Village of Irvington, New York
Dated: October 14, 2026

## *Andy DiJusto*

*Continued from page 5*

and the countless patients he transported to area hospitals, Andy was a singular volunteer. As both a resident and local business owner who worked every day in the village, he was always present. Andy was NEVER unavailable to respond to an emergency. And he never failed to do so."

In addition to his volunteer work, DiJusto served as chair of the Ardsley Democratic Committee from 2019–2022. Andy Laub, who serves as the treasurer of the committee, told the Dispatch, "Whether we were going canvassing door to door… or having coffee at The Shop, [he had] a big personality, and he was always fun to be around."

Laub described DiJusto as "a fixture" in the community who will be missed.

"He was essentially Mr. Ardsley," he said. "People knew him as somebody who you could rely on for help. He always was somebody that went the extra mile for people."

## *Mural*

*Continued from page 7*

week she spent in Dobbs Ferry was her first time in Westchester.

"Being able to see the river view was super beautiful, so I'm glad that it's the main composition of the mural," Tran said.

Tran's work extended across the street from Rochambeau, to the staircase leading from the corner of Broadway down to Cedar Street. There, she painted the steps in solid colors, with scattered images of oysters. After completing the mural during her first four days, she spent the next day painting the steps.

"I appreciate everybody's kindness and positivity, and I'm happy that I was able to bring some brightness and color to Dobbs Ferry," Tran shared. "The guys at the [Performance] auto shop were so helpful. They would bring me lights at night because I would stay super late, and people from local stores were very supportive and seeing if I needed anything. That was super sweet, and doesn't happen every time I paint a mural."

The mural was paid in full using a portion of a $250,000 Downtown Improvement grant awarded to the Village in 2023, which also included $100,000 to install signs directing drivers and pedestrians to key parts of the business district, and $5,000 grants for downtown businesses to upgrade their storefronts. The total budget of the mural was $17,000, which consisted of a $5,000 stipend for the design and installation, $6,500 for materials, and $5,500 for scaffolding for safety purposes. Tran and two other semifinalists also received $500 stipends to develop rough drafts of their concepts before Tran was selected.

> "The guys at the [Performance] auto shop were so helpful. They would bring me lights at night because I would stay super late."
>
> Artist Trudy Tran

Mayor Christy Knell praised the volunteers on the Public Art Committee, Friends of Waterfront Park, Beautification Committee, and historical society for their contributions to the content of the mural. The mural was recommended by consultants who worked with the Village for the Downtown Improvement grant and the $4.5 million NY Forward grant awarded in 2025, which is also meant to help revitalize the downtown.

"We wanted to make sure this particular piece accomplished a lot — to help establish that location as a main entry point to the downtown, to reflect iconic elements that are unique to Dobbs, to attract passers-by," Knell told the Dispatch. "Trudy was able to take all of those into consideration and deliver efficiently and effectively."

# 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*

## *Gem of a nursery school needs new home in 2027*

To the Editor:

Westchester families have a unique gem in Little Leaf School, New York's first licensed nature preschool that prioritizes free play, fresh air, and social-emotional growth. Little Leaf serves approximately 80 families across three campuses: Andrus-on-Hudson in Hastings, Bethany Arts Community in Ossining, and Lenoir Nature Preserve in Yonkers.

However, the administration at Andrus-on-Hudson has discontinued Little Leaf's lease after the 2026–27 academic year, leaving the 45 families whose children attend school there in the lurch. Now, Little Leaf is looking for a new campus to call home.

I imagine that many parents could write about how much they love their preschool. With my daughter now in her third year on the Andrus-on-Hudson campus, I'm trying to find the words to tell you that Little Leaf isn't just another preschool. The teachers' skill level is unmatched. The teacher retention is unmatched. Even knowing that the school doesn't have a home for the following school year, all of the teachers at Andrus-on-Hudson returned for the 2026–27 school year with their passion undimmed. Their commitment to showing up is palpable, and families follow suit. We show up for potlucks, solstice celebrations, maple syrup harvesting, and for each other off campus, too.

Perhaps the best way to understand Little Leaf is to envision how a student's time at Little Leaf ends. One special tradition at Little Leaf is the Milestone Walk: a hike that kindergarten-bound graduates complete in their final spring at Little Leaf — a nature walk they have completed many times, but this time without a teacher. They walk in pairs and are greeted at the bottom of the Great Hill by parents, classmates, and teachers singing to and celebrating them. The chorus of the Milestone Walk song, sung repeatedly as they emerge from the woods, triumphant, is "You are welcome home."

*Gina Ciliberto*
YONKERS

## *Contradictions about tree removal caused frustration*

To the Editor:

I'm writing to express appreciation for a letter from Ariella Gastel in last week's issue that addressed the discussion that took place at the recent Hastings Board of Education meeting, regarding the "requisite" removal of two large trees to accommodate the design for the new middle school entrance on Farragut.

Ms. Gastel's description of the discussion was accurate and concise, and conveyed the frustration I felt in listening, and especially by how close Trustee David Barone came to pinning down the contradictions in the information being provided by the architects, only to undermine his point, at the last moment, by claiming to "understand" the reasons why the trees needed to be removed, and steering the discussion instead to how the district needed to do a better job "explaining" it to the community.

No one seems to have challenged the designers to solve for both access and trees. Would the architects have respectfully withdrawn from the project on principle, convinced that the ask was impossible?

*David Skolnik*
HASTINGS

## *State needs to manage electric motorcycles*

To the Editor:

The Old Croton Aqueduct Trail is being overrun by very fast electric motorcycles. Now we see 93 mph capable unicycles, shooting the danger level through the roof.

To keep the public safe and minimize its own liability, New York State needs a motorcycle management policy that maximizes the policing of safety at the lowest cost.

The solution is simple. Get riders, insurers, and vendors to manage themselves, and in doing so, make sure that the State has enough information to police motorcycle riders when necessary.

1. All motorized wheeled vehicles, no matter how many wheels or engine type from gas to electric, must be licensed and insured.

2. All drivers of these motorized vehicles must be licensed according to the classification of their motorcycles, demonstrating knowledge of laws and rules of the road.

3. All motorcycle vendors must secure insurance and license certification for both driver and vehicle.

4. Motorcycle vendors must ensure that every motorcycle, regardless of classification, has a license plate and can be identified.

5. Vendors selling to unlicensed drivers face a $100,000 fine — the same for selling an uninsured motorcycle.

6. All riders must produce documentation.

The entire motorcycle industry — gas or electric, pedal-assist to full engine-driven — will police itself and provide the State and local police with the information they need.

Better still, users pay. And the insurance industry will love the money flowing from this new market. It will do everything it can to minimize risk, which is exactly what the State needs.

Also, the State and local police forces will have an information database that will allow them to act when they need to. The public will be safer. Taxpayers will get the most for the least. All while State liability is minimized.

*Francis McInerney*
HASTINGS

## *Mayor's email blast ignored state violence against Palestinians*

To the Editor:

The Oct. 7 email of Hastings Mayor Tom Drake rightly remembers the horrors of that terrible day. But it completely ignores another horror — Israel's indiscriminate state violence, both before and after, which we enable by our silence.

On Oct. 7, we were in South Africa, retracing the footsteps of Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu, encountering South Africans, many Jewish, horrified at Israel's even more extreme retracing (now including what many Israeli scholars deem genocide, absent in South Africa) of the apartheid that almost destroyed their beloved country.

We mourn the lives tragically lost on Oct. 7. But we similarly remember the decades-long violence against Palestinians, from the 1948 Nakba, when hundreds of villages were razed, thousands killed, and hundreds of thousands forced to flee their ancestral homes, to those thousands killed in the many nonviolent protests preceding Oct. 7, now culminating in the unfathomable slaughter of tens of thousands in Israel's unspeakable retaliatory violence.

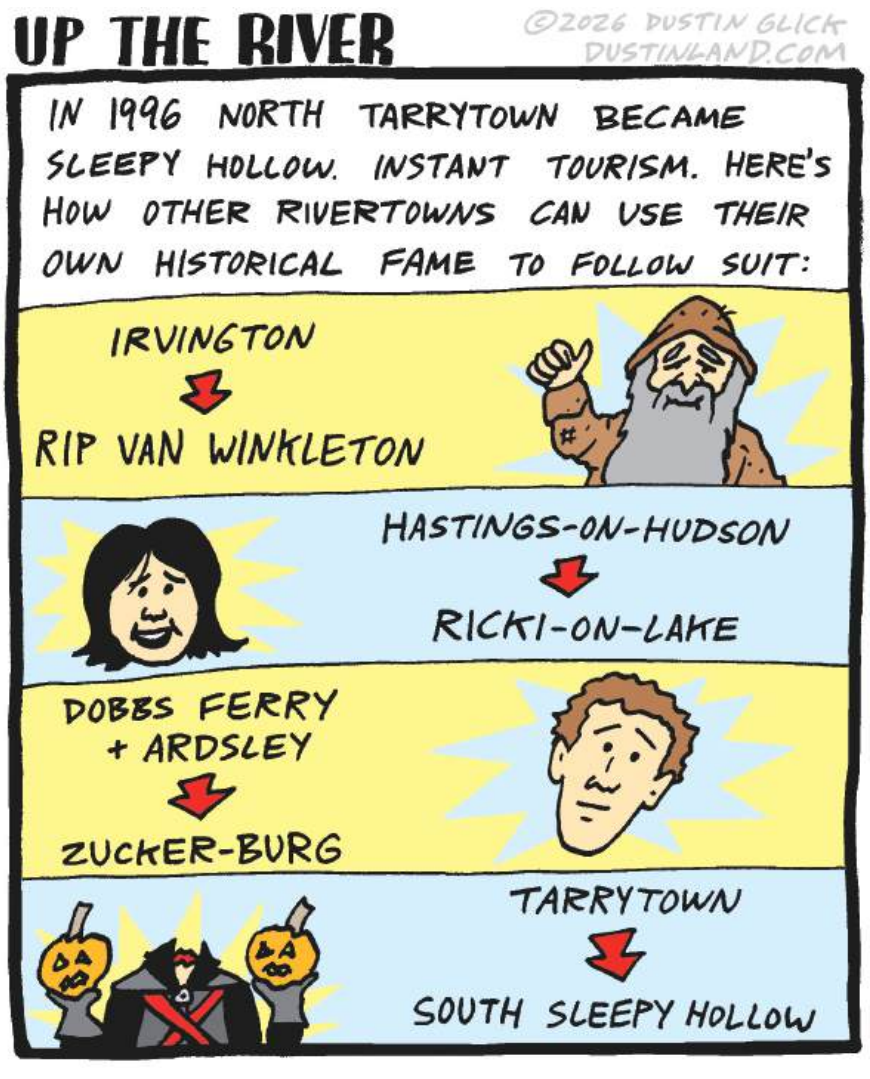
What difference is there between "stateless terrorism" and state-sanctioned violence (especially from a people whose own prophets thought exile preferable to injustice)?

And what difference is there between white Afrikaaners calling black inhabitants of their land "animals" and Israeli politicians similarly dehumanizing Palestinians?

Even our enemies are human, wanting to raise their children in peace. (Read about Hamas' 2008 truce offer to Jimmy Carter, saying that after 10 years of living together in peace a shared future might be possible.)

How can the government of a people called by their God to be a light of justice to the nations bulldoze homes, burn olive trees, steal sheep, and build massive dividing walls?

*Steven Siebert and Beverly Borg*
HASTINGS



Sports

EDITED BY ROB DIANTONIO

# Hastings blanks rival Dobbs Ferry on Senior Day

— GIRLS' SOCCER ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Hastings has turned a corner after a difficult stretch earlier this season, and the Yellow Jackets delivered one of their most satisfying victories on Senior Day, Oct. 13.

Junior forward Sage Wrzesinski scored twice as host Hastings blanked rival Dobbs Ferry 2–0, avenging a 5-3 loss to the Eagles on Oct. 1. It was the Yellow Jackets' first victory over Dobbs Ferry since the 2024 season.

"It's our first Senior Day win in my four years being on the team, so it really means a lot," Hastings defender and captain Izzy Doherty said. "And especially over a Rivertowns rival. It's really a big win for us."

The Yellow Jackets improved to 5–7–2 under first-year co-head coaches Tim Spenser and Olivia Szeker-Cortes. Hastings endured a five-game losing streak to start the season but has shown improvement in recent weeks.

"The last few weeks have been difficult for us," Spenser said. "We've tried to make a shift in our league play and really get to playing this type of soccer that we want to be playing. They did great today in the first half, and really from the first minute were pressing."

Hastings broke through with 20:43 remaining in the first half when Wrzesinski chased down a through ball from sophomore Alyssa Schlacter, fought off a defender, and slid a shot past Dobbs Ferry goalie Juliet Curanovic into the left side of the net.

The Eagles threatened 4 minutes later, but Hastings goalie Rory McKinnon stopped a shot from Phoebe Walker. The Yellow Jackets continued to generate opportunities after halftime. Curanovic stopped a cross from Schlacter 3 minutes into the second half, and Schlacter had a goal waved off for offsides 6 minutes later.



Dobbs' Phoebe Walker and Hastings' Georgia Schmit vie for possession.



Hastings' Sage Wrzesinski presses the attack as Dobbs' Claire Turner chases. *Photos by Rob DiAntonio.*

Wrzesinski gave Hastings some breathing room with 28:15 remaining. She received a pass from Schlacter, dribbled into scoring position, and finished to make it 2–0.

"Both were great through balls to me," Wrzesinski said of the assists from Schlacter on the pair of goals. "The first one was a little difficult because [the Dobbs Ferry defender] was really bodying me out, and I somehow was able to get around her. I literally just tapped it in. The second one, the defender was coming pretty fast, so I took a touch to stop it and then shot it with the left foot."

Wrzesinski nearly completed a hat trick with 22:50 left, but Curanovic made the save. Dobbs Ferry's Bridget Turner sent a shot over the crossbar 5 minutes later, while Hastings' Zavi Mazur narrowly missed on a header with 13:15 remaining.

Curanovic finished with 11 saves for the Eagles, while McKinnon made five to preserve the shutout.

"I think being at home, there's a different energy than being away," Doherty said. "We played with a lot more energy this game than we did last game, and I feel like that really pushed us to win."

Doherty pointed to Hastings' recent results against Bronxville as another example of the team's progress. The Yellow Jackets suffered a 4–1 loss to the Broncos earlier in the season before battling them to a 3–3 tie on Oct. 9.

The senior defender also praised the transition under Spenser and Szeker-Cortes, who took over the program this fall.

"It's definitely been a change, but I think they've done a really good job adapting to us, and we've done a good job adapting to them," Doherty said. "I think that's also helped us be more together as a team."

With the postseason approaching, Spenser is encouraged by the direction of the Yellow Jackets.

"It feels like we've kind of turned a corner," he said, "and we're heading in the right direction going toward playoffs."

In a 3–3 tie with visiting Rye Neck on Oct. 7, Schlacter had two goals and an assist. Wrzesinki netted the other goal and McKinnon made four saves. In the tie with Bronxville, Schlacter (1G, 1A), Wrzesinski (1G), and Kaya Israel (1A) sparked the squad.

Dobbs Ferry (9–4) had a seven-game winning streak snapped by Hastings. Caroline Schwartz scored on a feed from Paisley Blain as the Eagles edged visiting Bronxville 1–0 on Oct. 7. Walker buried five goals in a 6–0 rout of host Scarsdale B on Oct. 9. Clara Power (1G, 1A), Turner (1A), Blain (1A), and Curanovic (4S) contributed.

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## Panthers win two of three

Ardsley (10–4) continued its strong play with two wins over the last week. The Panthers cruised past visiting Edgemont 5–0 on Senior Day on Oct. 10, and bested host Hendrick Hudson 3–1 on Oct. 13. Against Edgemont, senior Hazel McGourty (2G), Teagan Kenny (1G, 1A), senior Ava Santavicca (1G), Morgan Hamlet (1G), Riley Osborne (2A), and Katharine Toth (1A) led the way. McGourty, Osborne, and Helene Dillon scored a goal each against Hen Hud. Camille Guerra, Kenny, and Olivia Moopenn-Morris each passed for an assist. Elise O'Brien made three saves. O'Brien made five saves in a 3–0 loss to visiting Pleasantville on Oct. 7.

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## Irvington tops Westlake, Edgemont

Irvington (6–5–2) edged visiting Westlake 2–1 on Senior Day on Oct. 9, and cruised past host Edgemont 4–0 on Oct. 13. Against Westlake, Skylar Coyne and Alexis Im had a goal apiece. Emma Reilly made eight saves. In the win over Edgemont, Coyne (2G), Shea Pressman (1G, 1A), Im (1G), Parker Pressman (1A), Zoe Sobol (1A), and Ruthie Liang (1A) led the way. Shea Pressman scored the lone goal on a feed from Coyne in a 7–1 loss to visiting Hendrick Hudson on Oct. 7.

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## Horsemen post 1-2 week

Sleepy Hollow (6–7–1) lost to visiting Hen Hud (4–2, Oct. 9), blanked host Brewster (2–0, Oct. 10), and fell to visiting Pleasantville (9–1, Oct. 13). Against Hen Hud, Sami Marvin (1G), Siena Spataro (1G), Evie Mackey (1A), Meghan McMahon (1A), and Sabrina Graham (7S) led the team. In the win over Brewster, McMahon and Spataro each had a goal, with the assists from Marvin and Mackey. Graham stopped seven shots. Corina Armster scored against the Panthers on a feed from Marvin. Graham had a busy day in net with 12 saves.

Sports

# Balanced scoring propels Irvington to win over Ossining

— FIELD HOCKEY ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Irvington has already surpassed last season's win total, and on Oct. 9 the Bulldogs continued to show their improvement with a 4–1 victory over host Ossining.

After just three wins last fall, Irvington recorded its fifth of the current campaign. The Bulldogs overcame an early deficit and controlled the action for much of the game, receiving goals from four different players.

Ossining struck first off a penalty corner in the opening 2 minutes, but Irvington settled down and took control.

"I think we were a little bit slow to start," Irvington coach Arielle Rodriguez said. "But after the first quarter, we talked about the things that we need to do to be successful, and I think everyone was on the same page moving forward."

Junior midfielder Sadie Kilbury evened the score at 1–1 with 11:58 remaining in the second quarter off an assist from freshman Lucy Brutto. Sophomore Zoe Gonzalez put the Bulldogs ahead for good just over 3 minutes later. Hazel Kwon, a junior, extended the lead to 3–1 with 1:44 left in the first half, scoring off a penalty corner on an assist from junior defender Emi Doncov.

Sophia Quinio, a senior captain, capped the scoring just 1:16 into the third quarter, converting a pass from Brutto for a commanding 4–1 advantage.

"We had a good huddle at the end of the first quarter, and our teamwork started working a lot better," Kilbury said. "Our passes were more direct, and we were really just working well with each other."

Irvington was equally impressive defensively after surrendering the early goal. Goalkeeper Zoya Bhandari needed to make just two saves as the Bulldogs limited Ossining's scoring opportunities.

"I think we talk a lot about playing as a unit, but also allowing your teammate to be able to recover," Rodriguez said. "The girls have shown increased trust over the course of the season."



Irvington's Sophia Quinio looks to finish against Ossining. *Photo by Rob DiAntonio.*

The balanced offensive production was another encouraging sign for Irvington, which has made strides after struggling to finish scoring chances last season.

"I think that's really important," Kilbury said of having four different goal scorers. "We're not depending on one person to do all the work for us. We are a really equal team, and I think it also just boosts morale when you can get everyone to score."

Rodriguez has also been pleased with the versatility of players such as Doncov and Jordan Friedman, who have contributed defensively while showing the ability to push forward offensively.

With the sectional playoffs approaching, the Bulldogs are hoping their continued growth translates into postseason success.

"I think we have made a lot of progress," Kilbury said. "If we played this team in the beginning of the year, it would have been a much closer score. We have a younger team and we're all getting better together. Hopefully we do well in sectionals."

Irvington (5–6–1) fell to host Harrison 2–1 on Oct. 7. Kilbury scored the team's goal with the assist from Gonzalez. Bhandari made 10 saves. In a 1–0 loss to visiting North Rockland on Oct. 13, Bhandari stopped six shots.

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### Hastings nets win over Panas

Camelia Galvan scored the game-winning goal in Hastings' 1–0 win over visiting Walter Panas on Oct. 10. The Yellow Jackets were blanked 2–0 by host Fox Lane on Oct. 8. Hastings (4–7–2) lost to host Rye Neck 4–1 on Oct. 13. Zelda Weitzman netted the lone goal.

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### Sleepy Hollow ties Fox Lane

Sleepy Hollow/Briarcliff tied visiting Fox Lane 2–2 on Oct. 13. Ruby Wild-Arons and Lark Goldsmith scored a goal apiece. Jana Reimer made 10 saves.

# Dobbs Ferry drops overtime heartbreaker to Valhalla

— FOOTBALL ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Dobbs Ferry appeared headed for a crucial road victory against Valhalla on Oct. 10, but a stunning last-second touchdown forced overtime and the Vikings rallied for a heartbreaking 34–33 win over the Eagles.

Trailing 27–21, Valhalla took over with 1:37 remaining in the fourth quarter and no timeouts. The Vikings kept their hopes alive by converting a fourth-and-4 before quarterback Joe Candrea connected with Jake DiNatale for a 20-yard touchdown pass with just 0.2 seconds left. The extra point was no good, sending the game to overtime.

Dobbs scored first in overtime on a 3-yard touchdown run by Jackson Kearns, but a botched snap prevented the Eagles from converting the extra point.

Luke Foisset answered with a touchdown run, and Valhalla converted the extra point to complete the comeback.

The Eagles (3–3) were in control for most of the game, building a 14–0 first-quarter lead and taking a 27–14 advantage midway through the fourth quarter.

Camilo Cruz opened the scoring with a

*Continued on page 23*




Dobbs Ferry's Killian O'Connor carries as Camilo Cruz blocks. *Photo by Rob DiAntonio.*

Sports

# Irvington sweeps league titles, Sleepy Hollow girls also win

— VARSITY ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO










Dobbs Ferry's Seamus Fitzpatrick, Irvington's Davin Toeman, and Irvington's Lily Korb compete at the league meet. *Photos by Davin Milun.*

## Cross country

Irvington's boys' and girls' cross-country teams swept the League L championships on Oct. 13 at Woodlands High School, with the girls capturing their first league title since 2010.

The Bulldogs' boys finished with 29 team points to comfortably outdistance runner-up Dobbs Ferry, which totaled 53 points in the five-team race. It was the fourth time in the last six years that the team has won the league meet.

"Our team depth has been key, and we have strong senior leadership this year, as we usually do," Irvington coach Chris Barry said.

Irvington placed four runners among the top seven finishers and seven in the top 15, led by senior Davin Toeman, who finished second overall in 17:06.2. Fellow senior Glen Feng was right behind him in third place in 17:21.2.

Emmett Ansari took fifth in 17:40.1, followed by Ian Kwon in seventh (17:53.7) and Levent Sarayli in 12th. Paul Van Haetsdaele placed 14th, Derin Sarayli was 15th, Leon Luyat finished 16th, Michael Arnett took 17th, and Ciaran Lynch was 20th.

Dobbs Ferry senior Seamus Fitzpatrick claimed the individual league championship, crossing the finish line in 16:51.8. Freshman Griffin Kamke added a sixth-place finish in 17:50.1. Reed Wilford took 11th and Myles DiRuggiero finished 19th for Dobbs.

Hastings was led by senior Jonah Goldberg, who placed fourth in 17:38.5. Colin Glass finished ninth in 18:10.5.

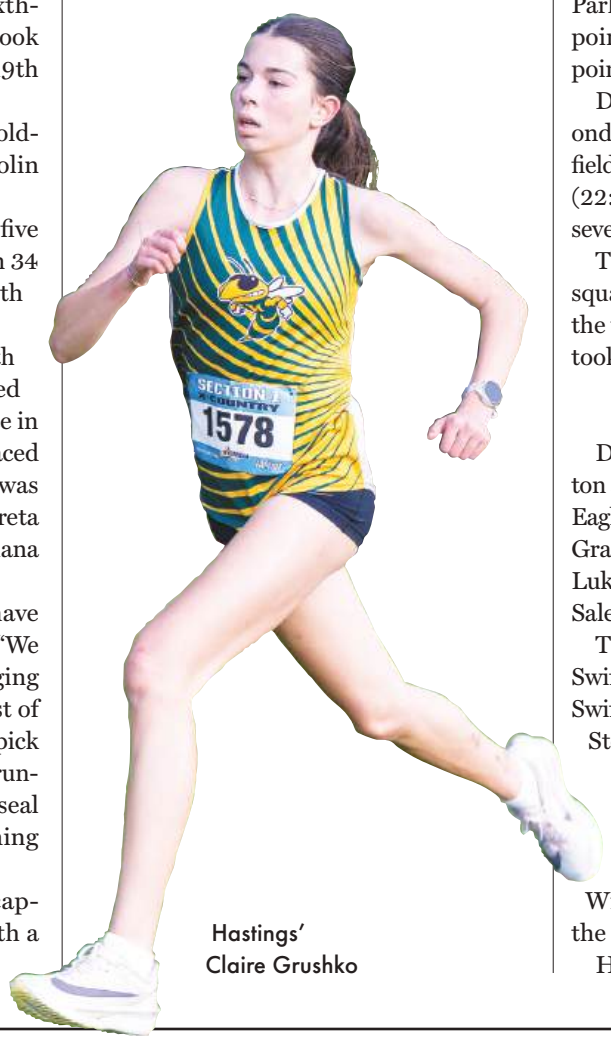
On the girls' side, Irvington placed five runners among the top 11 to finish with 34 team points. Hastings took second with 71 points in the five-team field.

Senior Lily Korb led the Bulldogs with a runner-up finish in 20:19.9, followed by junior Julianna Flamm in third place in 20:35.2. Freshman Melanie Welsch placed eighth in 21:28.8, while Lumina Rush was 10th and Olivia Mineo finished 11th. Greta Davis added a 14th-place finish and Liliana Brandwein was 18th.

"We are so proud of how the girls have built a strong team this fall," Barry said. "We have a senior rookie, Lily Korb, emerging as our strong No. 1 runner, and the rest of the girls work hard, race together, and pick each other up. Our three-through-five runners came through for us and helped seal the deal. It has been a long time coming for the girls."

Hastings junior Claire Grushko captured the individual league crown with a clocking of 19:31.8, finishing nearly 48 seconds ahead of second. The Yellow Jackets also received a 13th-place finish from Hazel Kuniholm, while Louise Durietz-Bourdain took 15th and Maya Ganeshananthan was 20th.

Dobbs Ferry had four runners finish among the top 20, led by Alessia Ambrosi in 12th place. Stephanie Cardozo Romani was 16th, Bianca Ambrosi took 17th, and Bianca Cardozo Romani finished 19th.




Hastings' Claire Grushko

Sleepy Hollow's girls' squad won the League G title on Oct. 7 at Croton Point Park. The Horsemene45e3 scored 45 team points, edging second-place Peekskill (55 points) in the four-team field.

DeLila Iovacchini led the way with a second-place finish (21:10.7) in the 29-runner field. Senior Isabella Bencosme finished fifth (22:57.3) while junior Kelsey Crawford was seventh (23:36.3). Leah Besana placed 12th.

The Horsemen boys finished third of four squads with junior Matt Bartolacci leading the way in fourth (18:11.6). Emerson Janes took 15th.

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## Volleyball

Dobbs Ferry (11–3) defeated host Irvington 3–0 (25–17, 25–17, 25–16) on Oct. 9. The Eagles were sparked by Kayla Rukaj (6K, 4B), Grace Demitrovic (14AS, 4K, 4AC), Olivia Lukas (4K), Layla Wilbekin (13AS), Ashley Salerno (6D), and Taylor Denike (9K, 7D).

The Bulldogs (4–11) were paced by Paige Swift (13D, 10AS), Blake Glazer (6K), Chloe Swift (5D, 3AC), Piper Keltz (4K), and Eliza Stern (11D).

The Eagles cruised past host Pawling 25–8, 25–13, 25–11, on Oct. 13. Denike (11K, 4AC), Demitrovic (4K, 6AS), Natasha Mansfield (4K, 6AC), Wilbekin (10AS, 6D), and Rukaj (5K) led the way.

Hastings (9–3) bested host Irvington 3–0 (25–15, 25–22, 25–18) on Oct. 13. Josie McLaughlin (13AC, 8K, 5D), Roxy Griffin (12K, 4AC, 3B), and Emmy Dehgan (15D, 4AC) sparked the Yellow Jackets.

Ardsley (9–5) rallied to defeat host Sleepy Hollow 3–2 (23–25, 25–21, 17–25, 25–20, 15–11) on Oct. 8. Sophie Young (20K, 2B, 2AC, 9D), Katherine Cai (44AS, 23D, 2AC), Zaniya Bell (14K, 3AC, 14D), Maddison Polanco (9K, 3AC, 10D), and Sophia Pecora (45D, 3AC) paced the Panthers.

Sleepy Hollow was led by Charlotte Pacheco (20K, 17D), Sam Taylor (17K, 2AC, 29D), Melody Rodriguez (45AS, 13D), and Madeline Lynch-Riley (7K, 4AC, 9D, 2B).

In Ardsley's 3–1 win (19–25, 25–15, 25–21, 25–21) over visiting Eastchester on Oct. 9, Young (12K, 17D), Cai (33AS, 3AC, 2B, 12D), Morgan Macri (8K), Addy King (2AC), and Pecora (5AC, 4AS, 27D) led the way.

The Horsemen (4–9) fell to host Tappan Zee 3–2 on Oct. 12. Taylor (27K, 9AC), Pacheco (21K), Lynch-Riley (4AC), and Rodriguez (4AC) were key contributors.

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## Girls' tennis

At the Section 1 tennis championships on Oct. 10 at Harrison, Ardsley's Summer Lopez (6-0, 6-2) and LilyRosey Parashis (6-1, 6-3) each won their opening-round singles matches but fell in the next round. Hastings' Jenny Schofield (6-3, 6-0) also won her first match but lost in the second round.

In doubles, Ardsley's team of Kimaya Sood and Hayden Weiss (3-6, 6-1, 10-5) rallied to win their first match but fell in the next round.

Sports

# Hastings battles back to earn tie with Westlake at homecoming

— BOYS' SOCCER ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Hastings has made a successful transition to Class A this fall, and the Yellow Jackets are putting themselves in position to capture a league championship.

In a pivotal league matchup on homecoming, Hastings rallied from a second-half deficit to earn a 2–2 tie with visiting Westlake on Oct. 8. Junior Zack Brower scored both goals for the Yellow Jackets, including the equalizer on a direct kick with just over 8 minutes remaining.

Hastings moved to 8–1–3 overall and 3–0–1 in league play.

"The homecoming environment adds a lot in what they're thinking about," Hastings coach Joe Callagy said. "It makes the game tougher in a lot of ways. But they did a really nice job of keeping to the plan that we had and not getting too down on themselves. They just kept knocking on the door until we were able to get one."

The Yellow Jackets struck first less than 6 minutes into the contest. Kai Ghalib sent a cross to Brower, who finished to give Hastings a 1–0 advantage.

Westlake answered on a penalty kick with 18 minutes remaining in the first half to even the score.

Hastings had opportunities to regain the lead before halftime. Louis Von Rege narrowly missed wide on a breakaway, and Ghalib was denied on a close-range opportunity as the teams went into the break tied at 1–1.

The Wildcats moved in front 2–1 with 20:13 remaining in the second half, putting the pressure on the Yellow Jackets. Hastings continued to push forward and finally broke through with 8:16 left. Brower blasted a perfectly placed direct kick from approximately 25 yards out to pull the Yellow Jackets even.



Hastings' Charles Baer gains possession against Westlake. *Photo by Rob DiAntonio.*

Brower, who has scored in three consecutive games, has emerged as an important offensive weapon for Hastings.

"He's starting to come into form as a scorer," Callagy said. "Anytime you have a player with that good of a left foot, it adds a really unique element to what you can do as a team. He's been a crucial part of what we've been doing this year."

The Yellow Jackets have also benefited from having several players capable of finding the back of the net, an area Callagy felt the team needed to improve from previous seasons. "A lot of guys have stepped up," he said.

After a seven-win campaign last fall, Hastings has taken another step forward this season despite moving up in classification.

"Just experience and trust and guys kind of maturing as players and coming into their own," Callagy said of the team's improvement. "There's still a lot of work to do, but it's been a good run so far."

The Yellow Jackets have a demanding closing stretch ahead, with four games in six days to conclude the regular season.

"We like our chances," Callagy said. "It's just a matter of finishing strong for the playoffs."

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### Horsemen net win, loss, and tie

Sleepy Hollow (6–4–3) routed visiting Pelham (5–1, Oct. 12), tied host Tappan Zee (1–1, Oct. 10), and lost to host Rye Neck (2–0, Oct. 7).

Samuel Quezada Pesantez netted a hat trick in the win over the Pelicans. Dhary Suqui (1G, 1A), Nico Barbosa (1G), Duncan Barron (1A), Joaquin Rodriguez (1A), and Ovaldo Trejo (1A) contributed for the Horsemen, who scored five unanswered goals after falling behind early. Quezada Pesantez scored on a feed from Suqui in the tie with Tappan Zee.

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### Irvington edges Blind Brook

Irvington (9–2–1) defeated visiting Blind Brook 3–2 on Oct. 8. Griffin Warner and Dennis Sasso each tallied one goal and one assist. Joseph DeNardo had a goal while David Rus added an assist. Owen Brunenavs made three saves.

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### Eagles tie Rye Neck

Dobbs Ferry (6–5–2) played to a 2–2 stalemate with host Rye Neck on Oct. 8. Chase Colyer, who has 25 goals on the season, scored both goals for the Eagles. Kyle Hung and Max Arellano had one assist apiece. Elijah Burns made five saves.

## *Varsity football*

*Continued from page 21*

9-yard touchdown run with 8:05 remaining in the first quarter. Andrew Zendel added the extra point to give Dobbs Ferry a 7–0 lead. The Eagles struck again late in the quarter as Killian O'Connor capped another drive with a 5-yard touchdown run to make it 14–0.

Dobbs had an opportunity to extend its advantage before halftime. A long touchdown pass to Cruz was called back because of an illegal formation penalty, and Zendel missed a 33-yard field goal attempt in the closing seconds of the half.

Valhalla got on the board early in the third quarter with a 50-yard touchdown pass, cutting the deficit to 14–7. The Eagles answered with another sustained drive. Cruz broke off a 7-yard run to move the ball inside the 10-yard line before Joseph Salerno scored on a 3-yard run with 1:48 remaining in the third quarter. The extra point was unsuccessful, leaving Dobbs Ferry ahead 20–7.

Foisset scored on a 25-yard run early in the fourth quarter to trim the lead to 20–14.

Dobbs Ferry responded once again. O'Connor broke loose for a 35-yard gain to set up a 6-yard touchdown run by Kearns with 5:34 remaining. Zendel's extra point gave the Eagles a 27–14 cushion.

The Vikings refused to go away. Foisset scored on a 4-yard run with 3:32 remaining to make it 27–21. Cruz recovered the ensuing onside kick, but the Eagles couldn't pick up a first down and were forced to punt, setting up Valhalla's last-second touchdown pass.

O'Connor led the Eagles with 208 rushing yards on 20 carries. Cruz added 101 yards and a touchdown on 14 carries while catching three passes for 48 yards.

Dobbs Ferry faces a pivotal test against Tuckahoe on Senior Day, Oct. 17.

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### Irvington cruises past Woodlands

Irvington (3–3) defeated host Woodlands 27–0 on Oct. 10. Sophomore quarterback Julian Peres threw a pair of touchdown passes to Bobby Estrada and Jarrett Ourman. Zach Surchin and Adrian Aybar rushed for one touchdown each. Josh Tatz (INT, 6T) and Adriel Martinez (2INT) led the defense. "The defense did a great job and the offense controlled the ball," Irvington coach James Madison noted. The Bulldogs will host Haldane on Oct. 17.

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### Ardsley falls to Westlake

Ardsley (3–3) had a difficult time stopping Harry Hudd as the Panthers battled unbeaten Westlake but fell 21–7 on homecoming on Oct. 9. Hudd rushed for three touchdowns including scores of 51 and 46 yards. The Panthers' lone touchdown came on a 1-yard run by Jack Calkins. Calkins set up the score with a 27-yard pass to Dom Carpenito. Ardsley looks to bounce back when it travels to Byram Hills on Oct. 16.

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### Horsemen succumb to Pirates

Sleepy Hollow (2–4) lost to host Pearl River 45–13 on Oct. 10. Olin Keough had 23 carries for 68 yards while Leon Miranda rushed for 32 yards on eight carries and a touchdown. Jack Marvin had five receptions for 79 yards including a 33-yard touchdown reception from Jeremiah Bowen. The Horsemen host Pelham on Oct. 16.

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### Hastings battles Hen Hud in loss

Hastings (0–6) fought neck and neck with a 5–1 Hendrick Hudson squad but fell 27–20 on Senior Day, Oct. 10.

Senior Lucas Seelye rushed for 150 yards and a touchdown and threw a 38-yard touchdown pass to fellow senior Paul Consorte. Consorte also rushed for a score.

Seelye (INT, FF), Consorte (INT), Levi Rosenman (INT), and senior Aidan Hansen (2S, 8T) led the defense.

The Yellow Jackets travel to Briarcliff/Hamilton on Oct. 16.


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