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Vol 1. Issue 38.

June 6, 2025

RIVERTOWNS Dispatch

Local News,
Locally Sourced
~

\$2⁵⁰

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ARDSLEY — DOBBS FERRY — HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON — IRVINGTON



The peanut-shaped roundabout proposed for Broadway and Tompkins Avenue in Hastings, near the Yonkers border.

DOT updates proposals for Route 9

*Number of roundabouts
increases from 10 to 12*

BY TIM LAMORTE

REGION — Twelve roundabouts, including one shaped like a peanut, were among the revised recommendations unveiled on Wednesday, June 4, for reconfiguring Broadway (Route 9) from Tompkins Avenue in Hastings to Pierson Avenue in Sleepy Hollow.

For two hours that evening, the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) shared preliminary plans and renderings inside the Rotunda at Mercy University. The public was welcome to view the visuals at their own pace and to talk with staff from the DOT and WSP, the engineering firm hired for the project.

Jenny Baez is the project manager for the DOT, while Scott Geiger is the project manager for WSP. Geiger worked for the DOT, first as an engineer from 1988 to 2020, and then as director of construction from 2019 to 2020.

The previous recommendations for Route 9, which called for 10 roundabouts, were

aired during public workshops at Mercy University and at the Tarrytown Senior Center in September 2024. The new roundabouts were added at Tompkins in Hastings and at the Tappan Manour condominium complex in Tarrytown, where there is an on-ramp for westbound I-287. The peanut-shaped roundabout would be at Tompkins.

The other 10 roundabouts would be at Five Corners in Hastings; Ashford Avenue in Dobbs Ferry; Mercy University in Dobbs Ferry; Main Street in Irvington; East/West Sunnyside Lane in Irvington; Route 119 in Tarrytown; Beekman Avenue in Sleepy Hollow; Bedford Road in Sleepy Hollow; Pocantico Street in Sleepy Hollow; and Pierson Avenue in Sleepy Hollow.

The recommendations also include 31 crosswalks with rapid-flashing beacons, as well as a mix of sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and shared-use paths for cyclists and pedestrians, which would vary along the 8.5-mile route. The plans and renderings showed bicycle lanes painted green and shared-use paths higher than the road. In sections without those features, cyclists and motorists would share the road.

For Dobbs Ferry, the variations consist of parking along much of Broadway, plus the addition of traffic lights at Chestnut Street and at Clinton Avenue. The current crosswalk at Clinton has flashing lights for pedestrians and cyclists to activate.

Throughout the planning process, which started in 2023, the DOT has worked with a 15-member advisory committee, chaired by Andrew Ratzkin of Hastings, that consists of the three representatives for each of the five affected communities — the village administrator or manager, an elected village official, and a resident.

On June 5, the revised plans and renderings were uploaded to the DOT's webpage for Route 9 (www.dot.ny.gov/route9completestreets). In the near future, according to Geiger, the DOT intends to add a draft design report that will include recommendations for implementing the plan in five phases.

Comments from the public should be emailed to Baez at jenny.baez@dot.ny.gov or mailed to her at the NYS Department of Transportation, Eleanor Roosevelt State Office Building, 4 Burnett Blvd., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.

Hearing adds to criticism of proposed rate hikes

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

REGION — Westchester residents and lawmakers are continuing to speak out against Con Edison's proposed rate hikes for residential customers. On average, the increases to utility bills would be 11.4% for electricity and 13.3% for natural gas.

On June 3, at the Irvington Theater, the Westchester County Board of Legislators hosted a public hearing for residents to voice their concerns about the proposal, which municipalities are fighting through hearings with the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC).

Con Ed proposed the increases in a petition filed with the PSC on Jan. 31. In the petition, Con Ed contended that the increase is intended to cover the cost of upgrading and building new facilities, increased property taxes, and other expenses, while allowing the company to return a profit.

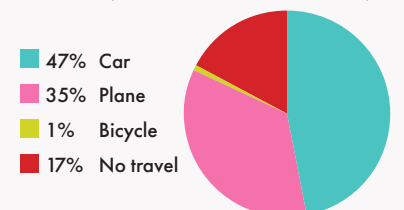
The June 3 hearing was hosted by eight members of the Westchester County Board of Legislators, including David Imamura, who represents District 12, which covers Ardsley,

Continued on page 17

— You Answered —

Do you plan to go on a vacation this summer, and if so how will you travel?

As answered by 156 readers of the Rivertowns Dispatch



Vote at rivertownsdispatch.com/the-weekly-poll



The Blotter

ARDSLEY

Shoplifting arrest: A 33-year-old Peekskill resident was arrested for shoplifting a \$2 item from DeCicco and Sons on Tuesday, May 27, as well as \$299.88 worth of items from that supermarket on Wednesday, May 7. He was charged with two counts of petit larceny, a misdemeanor, and remanded to the Westchester County Jail. Bail was set at \$500. The White Plains and Yonkers police departments had warrants for his arrest. Officer Kenneth Cordero made the arrest.

Gas leaf blowers: Gas leaf blowers were reported on Park Avenue on May 27, Orlando Avenue on May 29,

Captain Honeywells Road on May 30, and Saw Mill River Road (Route 9A) on June 2. On Orlando, the user left before police arrived. On the other streets, police advised the users that the village code prohibits gas leaf blowers between May 16 and Oct. 14.

DOBBS FERRY

Theft from Ulta: Two unidentified men shoplifted items worth between \$2,000 and \$3,000 from the Ulta Beauty at Rivertowns Square on the afternoon of Monday, May 26.

Mischief to men's room: Graffiti was made with red marker inside the men's room at Waterfront Park between the afternoon of Monday, May 26 and the morning of Tuesday, May 27.

Menacing arrest: An 18-year-old student from the Clark Academy, 71 Broadway (Route 9), was arrested for threatening to throw a rock at a police of-

ficer on Broadway on the afternoon of Wednesday, May 28. The incident happened during a seatbelt checkpoint, as the officer stopped a vehicle occupied by Clark staff who were looking for the defendant. He was charged with menacing in the second degree and obstructing governmental administration, both misdemeanors. Officer Michael Marron made the arrest.

Theft of patio furniture: On May 28, a resident of the Washington's Headquarters townhouse complex on Broadway reported that a grill, a table, and four chairs had been stolen from his patio.

Shoplifting arrest: A 30-year-old Mount Kisco resident was arrested for shoplifting \$77.98 worth of items from Walgreens, 11 Ashford Ave., on the evening of Wednesday, May 28. He was charged with petit larceny, a misdemeanor. Officer Kelly Conklin made the arrest.

Suspended license: A 47-year-old Yonkers resident was arrested for a suspended driver's license, a misdemeanor, on Main Street on the morning of Thursday, May 29. She was also cited for a tinted windshield and an improper U-turn.

Broadway burglary: An unoccupied building on Broadway was entered through its basement between Tuesday, May 27 and Thursday, May 29.

Assault arrest: A 56-year-old Dobbs Ferry resident was arrested for hitting an 83-year-old Dobbs Ferry resident in the leg with a piece of wood on the afternoon of Saturday, May 31. He was charged with two counts of assault in the second degree, a felony. The victim was treated at the Dobbs Ferry Pavilion of St. John's Riverside Hospital. Officer Anthony Muratore made the arrest.

Thefts from Ulta: An unidentified man shoplift-

ed \$1,808 worth of items from the Ulta Beauty at Rivertowns Square on the morning of Thursday, May 29. Three unidentified men then shoplifted \$3,249.95 worth of items on the morning of Saturday, May 31. Both thefts were reported on June 1.

Attempted larceny arrest: A 68-year-old resident of Irvington, New Jersey, was arrested for attempting to steal a cellphone and handbag at Hudson Social on the morning of Monday, June 2, and for impersonating a police officer. He was charged with criminal impersonation in the first degree and attempted grand larceny in the fourth degree, both felonies. Officer Kelly Conklin made the arrest.

HASTINGS

Hit and run: A 2019 Lexus parked on Pinecrest Parkway was damaged on Tuesday, May 27, between 3:45-7:45 p.m.

Continued on page 16

RIVERTOWNS Dispatch

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Local Curiosities

— FOUR QUESTIONS WITH —

Kristina Schmidt, founder of the Bulldog Gallery

BY JANINE ANNETT

IRVINGTON — Starting this month and continuing through the summer, Irvington is home to 23 unique bulldogs that require little care, no feeding, and can be visited outdoors, free of charge, day or night. For more information, the Dispatch spoke with artist Kristina Schmidt, who is the chair of the Irvington Art and Culture Committee and the Bulldog Gallery Committee, as well as founder of the Bulldog Gallery. The third annual gallery kicks off with an art and food festival this Sunday, June 8.

Rivertowns Dispatch: What is the Bulldog Art and Food Festival?

Kristina Schmidt: It's basically a launch party for the beginning of the third annual Bulldogs Gallery. At the festival, there will be a number of tables and booths set up along the sidewalk which will have activities and art for display and art for sale. Artists will come out and will do plein-air-type painting. There'll be bulldog canvases for kids to paint. Various restaurants along Main Street will be offering samples and small bites to eat right on the sidewalk.

RD: What's the Bulldog Gallery like?

KS: There are fiberglass statues that are sponsored by local businesses and individuals who want to support public art; designs are submitted by area artists. This year, we have a number of professional artists involved in the gallery. There're some really exciting designs. There are four students individually decorating bulldogs and there's also an art club that collectively did one of the bulldogs.



Kristina Schmidt with the statue she made for outside FarmEats BBQ.

At the end of the gallery, all the statues go on auction, so people can own them. The statues are all one-of-a-kind originals and 20 percent of the proceeds goes to the artist who created it; the rest goes back to the gallery so that we can do more public art. With these public galleries, everything has to be outdoor weatherized and UV resistant, rain and wind resistant. When you put all the materials together to make it safe and make it something that's going to last, it does get expensive, so the auctioning of the art helps perpetuate more public art.

RD: What's the significance of the bulldog?

KS: The bulldog is the mascot for all the Irvington sports teams. You can say "Go

Bulldogs!" to anybody in Irvington. It's the most popular mascot in the country, actually, so we have people who moved here who might've been a Georgia Bulldog if they went to college there, or their high school had a bulldog mascot, too, so a lot of people like them. It's a great canvas to build off of.

RD: How did this project get started?

KS: I had seen that there were different animals, like the cow parade and [upstate] the cats of Catskill and the bears of Cairo, out on display during the warmer months. When my kids were younger, they used to love to see all the artistry on display. It made art a lot more user friendly because it was right there. You don't have to buy a ticket. You don't have to behave. You're allowed to

touch the art. It just made art so much more accessible to my kids. As somebody who's always been an artist, looking at some of the creations and being able to really look and take my time was great. I could go back as many times as I wanted. There're no opening hours or closing hours. I found them inspirational for my artwork, and I thought, "We have to do this in Irvington. There's nothing like this around here and it would just be really special."

The Bulldog Art and Food Festival will take place this Sunday, June 8, from 1-4 p.m. on Main Street in Irvington. For more information on the Bulldog Gallery and the Bulldog Art and Food Festival, visit www.bulldoggallery.org.

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The following essay is the winner of a contest conceived by Dobbs Ferry High School senior Liliane Williams-Ameen and conducted by the Rivertowns Dispatch. Rivertowns residents between ages 13-18 were invited to submit essays about how misinformation affects their lives, and how they can combat misinformation.

The impact of misinformation on my life and how I fight it

BY DOMINICK STERN

In today's world, misinformation feels like background noise: constant, unavoidable, and sometimes hard to discern. Every time I look through social media, news headlines, or even overhear conversations, I realize how easily fake news can slip into everyday life. It affects not only what people believe, but also how they act, vote, and treat each other. Personally, exposure to misinformation has made it harder to know who or what to trust in this modern technological age. As a student at Dobbs Ferry High School, I've seen misinformation spread quickly on TikTok and other social

media platforms used by my peers. In one instance an Instagram story was posted by a student with a fake weapon in the background. People who viewed the post were frightened. They shared the story with their friends, claiming it was real. Those people then spread the message to others, the story becoming more and more warped as it was shared. Then, the authorities got involved and the student was reprimanded for the action, which was originally meant with no ill intent. False stories and rumors can spark fear, anger, or division over things that aren't even true. I've seen friends argue over made-up claims they read online, believing them just because they came from a familiar source. This eradicates trust, not just in information but in relationships, too.

To combat misinformation in my life, I try to be intentional about what I read and share. Before believing a "breaking news" headline or a viral post, I pause and check if it comes from a credible source. If I'm unsure, I'll look for con-



firmation from multiple trusted outlets, a term called "lateral searching." It's not about finding the "perfect" source — every outlet can have flaws — but it's about gathering a full picture instead of relying on a single narrative. Another step I try to take is asking questions. Instead of automatically accepting something as fact, I try to stay curious; "Who is saying this? Why might they want me to believe it? Is there evidence?" Critical thinking is a skill I'm constantly working on, and its value is undeniable in the internet and A.I. age.

Finally, I think it's important to be honest when I don't know something. Admitting "I'm not sure" is better than pretending to be confident about something false. It creates room for learning, correction, and better conversations. Additionally, it helps set a tone among friends and family that it's OK to fact-check and stay open-minded.

Misinformation isn't going away anytime soon, but that doesn't mean we have to give up. Through tools like lateral searching, fact-checking, and staying



Dominick Stern
humble about what we know, we can push back against the flood of false information, one step at a time.
Dominick Stern is a freshman at Dobbs Ferry High School.



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ARDSLEY

— Coming Up This Week —

Concert in the Square: What the Funk

Friday, June 6, 7–9 p.m.
Addyman Square

Pollinator Meadow Volunteer Event

Saturday, June 7, 9 a.m.–noon
(rain date June 14)

Pascone Park, back area by the softball field
Learn how to remove turf using the eco-friendly “sheet mulching” technique and help prepare the garden bed.

Bicycle Safety Rodeo

Saturday, June 7, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.
Concord Road School

Visit greenburghny.com for the QR code to register.

AMP FEST 2025

Saturday, June 7, 12:30–6 p.m.
Ardsley Middle School

Purchase tickets (\$12.50 in advance, \$15 at the door; \$32.50 for families) at ardsleymusicpartners.org.

“Stories from Suburbia”

Sunday, June 8, 2 p.m.
Ardsley Public Library

The historical society presents Tim Lamorte, editor of the Rivertowns Dispatch and former editor of the Rivertowns Enterprise, who will reflect on 25 years of covering the Rivertowns.

Planning Board Meeting

Monday, June 9, 8 p.m.
Village Hall

Agenda available at ardsleyvillage.gov.

Senior Event: Brain Games

Wednesday, June 11, noon
Ardsley Community Center

“The Value of Local News”

Friday, June 13, 5 p.m.
Andrus on Hudson,

185 Old Broadway, Hastings

Allison Schulte, founder and publisher of the Rivertowns Dispatch, speaks at a light supper hosted by the League of Women Voters of the Rivertowns. Suggested donation: \$20.

RSVP by emailing info@lwv-rivertowns.org.

Got news?

Email staff writer Amy Bochner at amy@rivertownsdispatch.com



Fifth Plane will close AMP Fest, starting at 5:30 p.m.

AMP Fest taps talent to benefit schools

Teens and adults to perform a range of music

BY AMY BOCHNER

The third annual AMP Fest will bring rock, jazz, and funk to Ardsley Middle School this Saturday, June 7, with performances by local bands and troupes.

AMP (Ardsley Music Partners) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and supporting the school district's music program. Ardsley parents Erica Finegan and Rebecca Berry started AMP Fest three years ago to give exposure to local performers and raise money for the organization.

From 12:30 to 6 p.m., 11 groups will perform. There will also be concessions, as well as yard games, tattoos, and crafts. This year's AMP Fest will see a few differences from the last two years. Because the high school football field is under construction, the event will take place in the middle school's recess area. The bands will also have longer sets compared to previous years, ranging from 20 to 40 minutes.

The festival will open with an hour and a half of school performance groups, including the AMS Jazz Band, AMS Outcast, AMS Troubadours, AHS Select Chorus, and AHS Jazz Band.

Following this will be six bands, starting with the Supernovas, a group of five students who met through the high school's More Than Mozart music outreach club, with whom they have performed at the club's concerts. At AMP Fest, the instrumentalists and vocalists will perform “old-

ies,” including Billy Joel and Beatles songs.

Two Supernovas members, 10th-graders Cami Gonzalez and Kaia Rogers, shared their enthusiasm for the festival.

“I’m excited to take it beyond the high school stage,” Gonzalez told the Dispatch. “We are proud of it, and we’ve all worked really hard on it... We’re also an all-girls band. It’s just a bunch of friends that joined together.”

Jazz combo Eastman Gone South will follow, featuring 2023 AHS graduate Ryan Finegan, a saxophonist and rising junior at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester. The quartet will play “recognizable jazz standards and also some lesser-known tunes,” Finegan said.

Next will be The Speakers, an ensemble of neurodivergent musicians that formed 10 years ago. They perform a variety of music, including funk, rock, and pop with support from the Lagond Music School's Power Through Performance program. The school's executive director, Rosanne Lana, described how The Speakers use music as a vehicle for advocacy.

“They’re speaking out — ‘Our disability does not define us, but our passion for music does.’ This is what they want to be, but there is a glass ceiling for divergent artists in any genre,” she said. “They have a message about hope, strength, and positivity, and [going] after your dreams.”

Another band, Shiftly, is a Brooklyn-based synth alternative rock band that boasts Ardsley music teacher Kyle Banks as one of its members.

Two student-run bands will close out the show. First is Crêver, comprised of AHS un-

derclassmen, and the final performance will be by Fifth Plane, a classic rock band with AHS seniors and one junior.

The money raised from AMP Fest will be used to support music at Ardsley schools.

“We help supplement the funding from the school district to get newer instruments when they need to be replaced,” Berry said, “or help with the larger instruments that don’t move back and forth as easily, so students can rent one and keep it home and then have one to play when they’re at school. We also provide scholarships to seniors... for a job well done in their high school careers.”

Finegan added, “We also help with rentals for students who may be facing some financial difficulty. We just heard word of an exciting project to paint a mural in the physics hallway of Ardsley High School, which is just in the idea stages, but we’re looking to be funding things like that as well.”

The help goes both ways, with Finegan sharing appreciation for the faculty that made the festival possible.

“A really big thank you to the teachers who are so supportive of our organization and the festival itself, helping throughout the day, preparing their groups for the school showcase... and helping us throughout the festival and really throughout the year,” she said. “We really value the partnership we have with them.”

Pre-sale tickets for AMP Fest, \$12.99 for adults, \$7.80 for children, and \$33.73 for a family, are available at ardsleymusicpartners.org/amp-fest. On the day of the event, each ticket will cost an additional \$2.50.

ARDSLEY

Juneteenth celebration to revive a ‘U-N-I-T-Y’ vibe

Event to be held at
Pascone Park on June 14

BY AMY BOCHNER

Ardsley will honor Juneteenth with roller skates, double Dutch, and more in a ‘90s-themed celebration at Pascone Park next week.

The Ardsley Multicultural Diversity and Inclusion Committee, in collaboration with the Village of Ardsley, will host the event on June 14, from 1-3 p.m., five days before the official holiday. Leading the event is MDIC co-chair Demetria Jones, along with Raynelda Mejia, Jannete Mateo, and Greg Dorsainville.

This is the fourth year the MDIC has held an event for Juneteenth, which was recognized as a national holiday in 2021 and commemorates the end of slavery.

Jones, who heads the Juneteenth committee for the third consecutive year, explained the meaning behind this year’s theme, “Bridging the Gap: Connecting community both past and present.”

“Our inspiration was looking back on what we have been able to accomplish, [from] slavery days until accomplishing

equal rights,” she said. “We bridged that gap, but then also... in light of the political climate these days, we still have so much more to continue to bridge. We’re definitely taking it way back, and then showing where we are now, and also highlighting where we would like to be in terms of equality and inclusivity, especially with so many people denouncing a lot of their DEI programs.”

One way the event connects to the past is through its ‘90s groove.

“We are bringing some old-school themes that we might have forgotten about, like unity, ‘U-N-I-T-Y.’ That was a big popular Queen Latifah song back in the ‘90s,” Jones said. “That song was basically about uniting various different people in more or less an urban setting, but we’re gonna bring it to the suburban setting.”

In the same vein, there will be a DJ playing music from the era, along with recent music that sample, or reuse, portions of ‘90s songs. Event-goers can also watch Daniel Gomez Areizaga, a graffiti artist, create a mural live, which will be displayed throughout the community. At an arts and crafts station, people can customize canvas bags.

Also featured will be food trucks, dancers from the Bokandeye African-American Dance Theater, and spoken-word poet Marcus John.

“Words are powerful, and we always have to be mindful of our words,” Jones said. “It was super important to have an element where people can just listen. [The speaker] is going to deliver what Juneteenth means to them, what Juneteenth means to the community as a whole, how it’s important that it became a federal holiday, and why we continue to celebrate it.”

Jones hopes that attendees enjoy the event, while also learning about and acknowledging the multi-faceted nature of the occasion.

“We want people to understand and people to know that Juneteenth, yes, we celebrate it, but it was a struggle,” she said. “It was a struggle in the sense that we had to overcome a lot of adversity, a lot of shame, even from within our own community, and we had to rise above that and be where we are today. But the struggle still continues, and we’ve got to continue to evolve ourselves, present our community and our people in a good light, and make changes.”


— COMMUNITY BRIEFS —

Math league winners

Ardsley High School student Aarav Joshi, Ziyu “Tim” Liu, and Avery Xu were part of a team of 15 students from Westchester who finished third in their division at the New York State Mathematics League Competition in Mineola. In the individual round, Xu correctly answered 9 of 10 questions and finished among the top 30 students statewide.

AHS students place at science fair


Three juniors in Ardsley High School’s Science Research Program earned honors during the virtual 2025 Tri-County Science & Technology Fair, where they competed alongside peers from 20 high schools. Serina Tomioka placed second in biology; Khushi Karthikeyan placed third in earth/space; and Kiarra Parikka placed third in environment.



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DOBBS FERRY

— Coming Up This Week —

Invasive Species Clearing

Sunday, June 8, 10 a.m.—noon

Juhring Preserve

Volunteer to help the Conservation Advisory Board remove invasive Japanese knotweed and barberry and plant native species. To sign up, visit eventbrite.com and search for the Dobbs Ferry Conservation Advisory Board.

Blood Drive

Monday, June 9, noon–6 p.m.

Dobbs Ferry Public Library

To schedule an appointment, visit nybc.org.

Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, June 10, 7:30 p.m.

Village Hall

Agenda available at dobbsferry.com.

Comedy Open Mic

Tuesday, June 10, 8 p.m.; sign-up starts at 7:30

Divino's Speakeasy,

524 Warburton Ave., Hastings

Dobbs Ferry Public Library's Comedy on the Hudson events are intended for ages 18 and up. One-drink minimum for performers.

Virtual Town and Gown Literary Discussion Group

Wednesday, June 11, 7 p.m.

Discuss "The Familiars" by Stacey Halls.

Email sbramble@dobbsferrylibrary.org to register for the Zoom link.

Trivia Night

Wednesday, June 11, 7 p.m.

The Pit at Memorial Park (bocce court)

Zoning Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 11, 8 p.m.

Village Hall

Agenda available at dobbsferry.com.

"The Value of Local News"

Friday, June 13, 5 p.m.

Andrus on Hudson,

185 Old Broadway, Hastings

Allison Schulte, founder and publisher of the Rivertowns Dispatch, speaks at a light supper hosted by the League of Women Voters of the Rivertowns. Suggested donation: \$20. RSVP by emailing info@lwv-rivertowns.org.

Got news?

Email staff writer Julian Caldwell at julian@rivertownsdispatch.com



Randy Jurgensen and State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins at the state capitol on May 27.

Korean War vet enters hall of fame

*91-year-old recognized by
New York State Senate*

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Seventy-two years after coming home from serving as a paratrooper in the Korean War, Dobbs Ferry resident Randy Jurgensen is one of the newest inductees into the New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame. Jurgensen, a Purple Heart recipient, also served as grand marshal for Dobbs Ferry's Memorial Day celebration on May 26.

By the age of 19, Jurgensen had returned home to New York City and earned three Bronze Stars — along with the Purple Heart — before starting a career as a decorated NYPD officer and making appearances in films such as "The Godfather" and "The French Connection."

On May 27, at an event at the state capitol in Albany, Jurgensen was inducted into the hall of fame by Andrea Stewart-Cousins, who is his local state senator and the state senate majority leader. Fifty-nine other veterans from throughout the state were also inducted by their respective senators.

Jurgensen, 91, grew up in Harlem and has lived in Dobbs Ferry for roughly 49 years. He joined the military when he was 16, and three years later participated in one of the Korean War's final battles, the Battle of Pork Chop Hill.

"Whenever I get recognition and they put the word 'hero' in there, I, along with the recipients on that day [March 27], we know who the real heroes are," Jurgensen told the Dispatch. "The real heroes are the ones who didn't make it home. So, it's very emotional, and it brings back so many memories."

In 2023, Jurgensen wrote letters to state senators in an effort that helped lead to the

establishment of April 26 as Korean War Veterans Recognition Day in the State of New York, the first of which was recognized that year on the 70th anniversary of the start of final armistice talks. On that occasion, Jurgensen and 10 other Korean War veterans were honored by the state senate in Albany.

"We were fighting a war that wasn't called a war," Jurgensen said of his time in combat, adding that it wasn't until 1986 that Congress declared it a war. "It was called a 'police action,' and then it was called a 'conflict.' When we came home, we couldn't join any of the [veterans] organizations because they had rules and regulations. It was not a war, so we couldn't join any of it."

Among those organizations was Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), which provides benefits beyond those provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

**"We were fighting a war
that wasn't called a war."**

**Randy Jurgensen, New York State
Veterans Hall of Fame Inductee**

(VA). Through the VA, Korean War veterans are eligible for the same benefits as all war veterans, which include disability compensation, pension, health care, and more.

In addition to state senators, Jurgensen wrote a letter in 2023 to then-President Joe Biden, and earlier this year wrote to President Donald Trump, to call for the establishment of a national day of recognition for Korean War veterans. A Korean War Veterans Memorial was dedicated in Washington, D.C., on July 27, 1995, the 42nd anniversary of the armistice, but no day exists on

the federal calendar for those who served.

Jurgensen was initially inspired by conversations with veterans he knows who fought in the Vietnam War, which has been recognized with a National Vietnam War Veterans Day every March 29 since 2017. Both world wars also have national days of remembrance.

"I believe that we belong there, and I know them [veterans from other wars], and they would welcome us right away," Jurgensen said. "I'm looking forward to seeing that come to fruition. But you know what? Being born and raised in this city, in this state, and having this state every April 26 have a day of recognition for Korean War veterans, I am completely satisfied with that."

Jurgensen was a member of the NYPD from 1957-77, working first as a uniformed officer and then as a narcotics detective, when he was injured while pursuing two men who had killed a police officer. In October 2024, Jurgensen received the Police Combat Cross from the NYPD, making him one of 200 members of the department to receive that honor since 1934.

Upon returning from the war, Jurgensen found a community of seven Korean War veterans, including himself, who lived in New York, Connecticut, and Florida and kept in close contact for decades. Now, three of them are alive. As more Korean War veterans pass, Jurgensen thinks not only of them, but also those that never made it home from the war alive.

"I now look at my age, and I look at my family, and I look at my grandchildren, and I know that they never had a chance to have this," Jurgensen said. Never taking any of life's opportunities for granted, the onetime paratrooper noted that he took his last recreational skydive — at more than 13,000 feet — in 2013, for his 80th birthday.

DOBBS FERRY

Ideas abound for \$4.5M grant to upgrade downtown

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

A performance theater, public art, and more affordable housing were among residents' most-requested upgrades for downtown Dobbs Ferry during the first public workshop, held June 3, about the \$4.5 million the village received from the NY Forward program.

Dobbs Ferry is one of the two mid-Hudson municipalities, along with Nyack, to receive NY Forward grants this year. Funds can be used for public improvements such as streetscapes, public art, and green space; new development or rehabilitation of existing buildings; and marketing of downtown to target residents, tourists, and investors. The program launched in 2022, with Highland Falls, Montgomery, Sleepy Hollow, and Cornwall-on-Hudson receiving funds for the mid-Hudson region.

After the first public meeting of Dobbs Ferry's 12-member NY Forward Local Planning Committee (LPC) on May 15, dozens of residents gathered at the Embassy Center on June 3, to suggest what should be brought to the village through the grant program.

Members of the Department of State and New York City-based civil engineering firm Vanesse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB),

which has been assigned as the Village's consulting team for the program, helped guide residents through what will be a roughly eight-month process to identify and approve prospective projects. Mayor Vincent Rossillo, who is a co-chair of the LPC, attended the workshop as well.

"There's been so much public engagement, and this is just the beginning of getting stuff in," Rossillo said after the event. "I was really heartened to see so many people there."

Eligible stand-alone projects can be led by the Village or private entities, have to have a minimum cost of \$75,000, and must be shovel-ready within two years of being awarded. Potential projects must occur within the designated geographical boundaries in and around downtown. On its western border, the area begins just east of Waterfront Park, includes Memorial Park and Station Plaza, and stretches to include much of Palisade Street and Chestnut Street. The designated area includes all of Main and Cedar streets, part of the Old Croton Aqueduct Trailway, and the 99 Cedar Street parking lot, at the corner of Palisade Street.

The mayor highlighted the area around the Metro-North train station as a key location to target. That includes sprucing up the

0.91-acre High Street Park adjacent to the station, and adding public art in the area.

"I think it could be transformative as far as people coming into the village from the train station," Rossillo said after the event. "We have a great opportunity to transform the gateway to the village and the downtown experience."

Some of the most enthusiasm residents expressed at the workshop was for a public theater and music performance space. At 39 Cedar Street, a 4,253-square-foot, 117-seat theater sits generally unused in The Muzic Complex, owned and operated by Stolen Moments Entertainment. The theater has been used sparingly for Stolen Moments' private events, video shoots, and occasional public events.

The space, more than 100 years old, hosted vaudeville performances as the Embassy Theatre, and then movies as the Pickwick Theatre, before Stolen Moments bought the building in 1991. Stolen Moments' owners, Paul and Ann Scatt, who attended the workshop, said that they're looking forward to the grant program providing an opportunity to turn the theater into a community-oriented venue with multicultural, art, music, and theater events.

"We have Muzic Store as well, and we have clients that come in every day saying,

"When are you opening the theater?" Paul Scatt said. "We're saying right now we think the timing is right. Having a central location for gathering would be a wonderful kick up for the whole village. It'll help all of the restaurants and stores, and also help the community with all the things we can do."

If approved, the project to reactivate the theater would be partially funded by the grant and partially funded by Stolen Moments. The funds would be used to make required renovations to comply with state and local fire, air and electrical codes, and for refurbishment of the theater.

The open call for projects, which began on the Village's dedicated NY Forward website on June 4, closes on July 31. A second public workshop will take place at the Embassy Center on Oct. 6 before a final list of projects is submitted for multi-agency state review in December. The LPC is scheduled to have at least four more public meetings to come to a consensus on which projects to submit to the State, with the next meeting happening on June 25 at village hall.


The projects application, NY Forward event calendar, and survey for those who missed the first public workshop are available at dobbsferrynyf.com.

Congratulations Graduates!



Congratulations to our bright, curious, joyful prekindergarten graduates as they embark on their kindergarten journey! A heartfelt thank you to the wonderful teachers at Community Nursery School for nurturing our little learners and adventurers.





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HASTINGS- ON-HUDSON

— Coming Up This Week —

Farmers' Market

Saturday, June 7, 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Commuter Lot, Southside Avenue

For details, visit hastingsfarmersmarket.org and follow the market on Facebook.

Rivertown Thrift Pop-up

Saturday, June 7, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

James Harmon Community Center, lower level

Clothing donations accepted until noon.

Local History

Saturday, June 7, 2–4 p.m.

Observatory Cottage, Draper Park,
407 Broadway

See the Hastings Historical Society's current exhibit, "Made in Hastings: Echoes of Our Industrial Past."

Spring Thing

Sunday, June 8, noon – 4 p.m.

Warburton Avenue

Live music, fire department cookout, interactive family crafts, inflatable slide, and home and garden tips from local eco-friendly businesses.

Hastings Flea Pride Market

Sunday, June 8, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (rain or shine)

Commuter Lot, Southside

Handmade, vintage, and upcycled clothing, accessories, and records. Drag queen story hour with Angel Elektra at 11:30 a.m. Visit thehastingsflea.com.

"Once Upon a Musical – Anything Goes!"

Sunday, June 8, 5:30–8 p.m.

The Friends of the Library's annual cabaret and silent auction fundraiser.

Tickets, \$40/\$30 seniors and Library Friends/\$50 at the door, include cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Visit hastingslibrary.org.

Architectural Review Board Meeting

Monday, June 9, 7 p.m.

Village Hall

Intergenerational Discussion Group: "Perspectives"

Tuesday, June 10, 7–8 p.m.

Hastings Public Library

Monthly social hour for teens and seniors with loosely guided discussions about movies, books, music, and podcasts.

Email has@hastingslibrary.org to register.

Got news?

Email staff writer Amy Bochner at amy@rivertownsdispatch.com

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS



A postcard of Longue Vue, postmarked 1914. The restaurant operated from 1910-1927. It is now the site of Andrus on Hudson.

Hastings gets a glimpse of its vanished past

Historian delves into buildings gone, but not forgotten

BY AMY BOCHNER

More than 60 people crowded into the Hastings Public Library on June 1 to learn about the history hidden at sites throughout the village.

In her presentation "Gone But Not Forgotten: Lost Buildings of Hastings," Natalie Barry, the president of the Hastings Historical Society, discussed over a dozen buildings or structures that no longer exist. Most were estates, often given names by their owners. Traces of one such property, Elmcroft, can be seen to this day in the stone walls and stairs beside the Municipal Building.

An imposing home constructed in the mid 1800s, Elmcroft is best known as the residence of James J. Treanor, a prominent businessman and former village mayor (then called "village president"). Treanor's father, Patrick, and Patrick's business partner, George Hurst, established a bluestone

yard and a mill on the waterfront in 1882. Treanor moved to Elmcroft to be the local manager of his father's business, which within a few years grew into one of the largest employers in Hastings. Treanor became the village's fifth president after the passing of Joseph Phillips in 1887.

Barry recounted how Treanor used his estate to help people during the blizzard of 1888.

"Many trains between New York City and Albany were stopped in their tracks, with passengers stuck inside," she said. "James Treanor made his way through the storm into a trapped train just outside of Hastings to tell passengers that his house was open to as many as could fit in. In the Treanor home, an abundance of food and warmth was offered to the stranded passengers. The story of Treanor's hospitality during this blizzard received a lot of newspaper coverage and would enter the annals of Hastings lore."

By the late 1890s, Treanor had left the village for "unknown reasons," Barry said. A succession of owners took possession of

the property, until the Village purchased it in 1928. Elmcroft was demolished the following year to make way for the Municipal Building, as known as Hastings Village Hall, which was designed by Shreve, Lamb & Harmon, the architectural firm behind the Empire State Building. A senior member of the firm, Richmond Shreve, lived on Euclid Avenue in Hastings.

Longue Vue, another vanished artifact, was a "swanky restaurant" located near Hastings' southern border that was frequented by well-known New York City figures of the early 20th century, including opera singer Enrico Caruso and the wealthy Astor family.

Barry shared a 1922 postcard that bore an image of the restaurant with printed text reading "New York's most fascinating suburban resort. Naturally beautiful. Beautifully natural." She painted a picture of what Longue Vue was like in its heyday.

"It was a farm-to-table restaurant before farm-to-table was popular," she said. "The restaurant raised its own livestock, includ-

Continued on page 10

Stage and screen talents to support Hastings Library

The Friends of the Hastings Public Library will host its annual fundraiser, "Once Upon a Musical - Anything Goes," this Sunday, June 8, from 5:30-8 p.m. at the library, 7 Maple Avenue. The event will feature musical performances, a cocktail party, and a silent auction.

Hastings resident Alison Cimmet, an actor, artist, and producer, will direct the entertainment. She will be joined by vocalists Jamie Karen, Anitra Brooks, Jenn Gambatese, Nathan Klau, and Nathan Sch-

erich, all of whom will perform a cabaret of show tunes and standards.

"Six professional performers, most of them from Broadway, will be singing a selection of familiar and new songs with the theme 'Anything Goes' to reflect the variety of selections," Friends president Sharon DeLevie said. "In addition, we have over 80 items for our silent auction ranging from jewelry to massage, gardening packages to an ice cream party. There is really something for everyone... and all

funds raised go directly to projects to improve the library."

For tickets, visit hastingslibrary.org. In advance, tickets cost \$30 for members of the Friends or \$40 for nonmembers. Tickets cost \$50 at the door. Nonmembers can join the Friends for \$30.

Cimmet has been in seven Broadway productions as well as films and TV shows. She most recently appeared on "Law & Order: SVU," "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel,"

Continued on page 10

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON

*'Anything Goes'**Continued from page 9*

and the feature film "The Wrath of Becky."

Brooks is a singer-songwriter, musician, actor and educator who has toured the U.S. and globe with Drama Desk Award-nominated puppet performers and masked musicians Big Nazo, Drama Desk Award-nominated "bad-ass masters of vocabulary" Hotmouth, and with the dance and live-music performance installation echo::system. As a recording artist, she has released two albums of original music — "Flood" and "I Walk in Your Light."

Karen has appeared on Broadway in "Man of La Mancha" and in the first national tour and Las Vegas productions of "Jersey Boys." She also performed in the national tour and Hollywood Bowl productions of Monty Python's "Spamalot," and in "West Side Story," "Grease," and "A Chorus Line," both internationally and at regional theaters across the country. On television, she appeared in "City on a Hill" on Showtime.

Gambatese has performed on Broadway in "Mrs. Doubtfire," "School of Rock," "Tarzan, and "All Shook Up," among other shows. Touring, regional, and Off-Broadway credits include "Wicked," "The Sound of Music," and "Carousel." On TV, she has guest-starred in "The Good Wife," "Law &



Alison Cimmet

Order SVU," and "Blue Bloods."

Klau has appeared on TV in "Law & Order SVU," "Boardwalk Empire," and "The Blacklist," and on stage in "The Lion King" and "Jersey Boys."

Scherich performed on Broadway in "Jersey Boys" and "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical." He also toured with "Billy Elliot" and "West Side Story," and with a band called The Doo Wop Project.

*Lost Buildings**Continued from page 9*

ing snapping turtles for their special soup. Waiters, kitchen staff, and groundskeepers were often Hastings locals. Chauffeurs and footmen who were not local would be served from a lower-price menu in a separate dining area while they waited to bring their employers back to the city."

Due to Prohibition, the restaurant saw a decline in patronage during the 1920s, and was forced to close in 1927. Following the end of Prohibition, the owner, Ralph Gushee, tried to reopen Longue Vue, but was hindered because of the Great Depression. The restaurant closed for good in 1933 after Gushee's death.

After years of falling into disrepair, Longue Vue was demolished in 1953. The property was purchased by several nonprofit organizations related to the family of John E. Andrus, who was a wealthy philanthropist. Andrus died in 1934, and 19 years later his family transformed the Longue Vue property into the John E. Andrus Memorial, a home for the elderly. The facility, now known as Andrus on Hudson, remains in use as a long- and short-term nursing home.

Another ghost of Hastings' past, the Hudson River Steam Sugar Refinery, operated where now only a concrete slab next to the riverfront water tower exists. German-born

immigrant Henry Katterhorn purchased the site in 1853, where he built the six-story plant. He partnered with Eide and Matthias Hopke in 1861, and passed away nine years later. In 1875, the company spent \$25,000 on improvements to the refinery, which increased the sugar output.

That December, a fire broke out.

"It raged uncontrollably with no fire company in Hastings," Barry said. "Frantic telegraphs went out asking for help from Manhattan's fire boats. I have heard that sugar dust is very flammable... even though it was brick, the entire building was consumed."

The approximately 200 workers, mostly German immigrants, ended up jobless, and many left Hastings. As a result of the sugar refinery fire, the Village was motivated to organize a firefighting company, Barry said.

"Bricks retrieved from the fire's rubble were used to build Hastings' first firehouse, Protection Engine Company No. 1," she said, "Note the bell, which for many years was in a tower above the firehouse [on Main Street]. Today, it sits in front of the building. Old newspaper accounts say that the bell salvaged from the fire was used to toll the working hours of the sugar refinery."

The site passed to the Treanor Stone Works in the 1880s, the Hastings Pavement Co. in the 1890s, and then Anaconda Wire & Cable Co., the last manufacturer to operate there.

HASTINGS DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

✓ TOM DRAKE FOR MAYOR VOTE JUNE 24

As MAYOR of Hastings, TOM pledges to:

- Strengthen infrastructure while protecting the environment
- Advocate for free downtown parking to boost local business
- Engage with all points of view to rebuild trust and foster stronger relationships across our village

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✓ Hastings-on-Hudson

YOUR VOTE COUNTS

CAPITAL BOND PROPOSALS 1, 2 & 3

THE HASTINGS PTSA
encourages all Hastings residents to

VOTE YES
on Tuesday, June 17

Hastings High School, Cochran Gym
Polls Open 7:00 am - 9:00 pm

HASTINGS PTSA

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
<https://www.hohschools.org/boe/budget-bond-information/2025-26-budget-informaiton>



IRVINGTON

— Coming Up This Week —

“Resting Place of Legends”

Saturday, June 7, 4 p.m.

The Irvington Historical Society presents a virtual tour of Sleepy Hollow Cemetery.

Register for the Zoom link at irvingtonhistoricalsociety.org.

Farmers’ Market

Sunday, June 8, 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Main Street School, 101 Main St.

Visit theirvingtonfarmersmarket.org and follow the market on Facebook.

Bulldog Art & Food Festival

Sunday, June 8, 1–4 p.m. (rain date June 15)

Main Street

Kick off this summer’s display of 23 decorated bulldog statues handcrafted by local artists and sponsored by Rivertowns businesses.

Pride Month Screening: “The Birdcage”

Monday, June 9, 11 a.m.

Irvington Public Library

Board of Trustees Work Session

Wednesday, June 11, 7 p.m.

Village Hall

To attend via Zoom, visit irvingtonny.gov for the link.

Butterfly Storytime and Release

Thursday, June 12, 4 p.m.

Irvington Public Library

Registration required at irvingtonlibrary.org.

“The Value of Local News”

Friday, June 13, 5 p.m.

Andrus on Hudson,

185 Old Broadway, Hastings

Allison Schulte, founder and publisher of the Rivertowns Dispatch, speaks at a light supper hosted by the League of Women Voters of the Rivertowns. Suggested donation: \$20. RSVP by emailing info@lww-rivertowns.org.

RiverArts Music Tour

Saturday, June 14, 11 a.m.–9 p.m.

(rain date June 15)

Free performances at almost 30 venues throughout the Rivertowns

For map and schedule, visit RiverArtsMusicTour.com.

Got news?

Email staff writer Julian Caldwell at julian@rivertownsdispatch.com



Stanislav Skocik plays a zombie inside the inflatable obstacle course.

Zombies bring neighbors together

Resilience game prepares residents for emergencies

BY LAURA SCHILLER

Shrieks pierced the grounds of Irvington Presbyterian Church on the evening of May 30, as zombies chased families in an entertaining, yet informational exercise in emergency preparedness.

“Irvington Zombies: A Game of Neighborhood Resilience and Survival” was hosted by the church, the Irvington Green Policy Task Force, and the Rivertowns Playhouse, which is the theater company in residence at Irvington Presbyterian.

The event was conceived by Charlotte Binns, the sustainability director for the Village of Irvington and the force behind the Village’s Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan, which outlines strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change.

Rather than focus on dry statistics, “Irvington Zombies” tapped into something more powerful — community spirit and old-fashioned fun.

“We know climate change is coming —

bigger hurricanes, fires, more floods, longer power outages,” Binns told the Dispatch. “I do monthly climate talks, but it’s usually the same 20 people. So how do we reach new folks, especially families? How do we spark real conversation about preparedness?”

The answer, it seems, is zombies.

From 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., six teams of mostly children (with a few brave parents in tow) tackled physical and mental challenges while trying to outsmart the undead. Fifteen Irvington High School students decked out as zombies brought theatrical energy to the pursuit, adding tension and excitement at every turn.

For the challenges, teams had to:

- Cross a “flooded” bridge littered with debris while being chased by a zombie.
- Navigate a zombie-infested playground where mulch stood in for downed power lines.
- Brave an inflatable obstacle course full of zombies.
- Gather emergency go-bag supplies while fending off the undead with Nerf guns.
- While evading zombies, hunt for hidden Lego pieces needed to build a symbolic pandemic vaccine (which would also immunize against — you guessed it — zombies!).

Bonus points were awarded for standout

teamwork, creativity, and inclusivity, because those skills could make a difference in an actual emergency.

The challenge started before the zombies showed up. In the weeks leading up to game day, participating neighborhoods were encouraged to start communication channels, like WhatsApp or Facebook groups, and even conventional phone trees. They were also asked to identify which streets made up their “zones” and to collect information about who might need extra assistance during an emergency.

The program highlighted Irvington’s new online Neighborhood Networks Map (www.irvingtongreen.org) and Vulnerable Persons Registry, which aims to ensure that the elderly, people with disabilities, and others with specific needs are accounted for during crises.

“We already had a neighborhood directory,” Diana Rubin of the Cedar Ridge enclave said. “But this month we updated it, added new neighbors, made notes about who has a generator, who might need help evacuating, that kind of thing. My kids even helped deliver emergency checklists to everyone’s mailbox.”

Sixth-grader Kate Weiss came away from

Continued on page 17

Irvington Theater to host ‘Gonzo Girl’ and its creators

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

A film based on one woman’s real experience as an editorial assistant to the late writer Hunter S. Thompson will be shown on June 13 at Irvington Theater, one day after its U.S. premiere at the 2025 Tribeca Festival. “Gonzo Girl” was produced by Irvington resident Tom Heller, who also produced the Academy Award-winner “Precious,” and marks the directorial de-

but of actress Patricia Arquette. Following the Irvington screening, Heller, Arquette, and the author of the book that inspired the film, Cheryl Della Pietra, will take part in a Q&A session.

Both the film and novel include fictional characters, but were inspired by Della Pietra’s five-month stint working for Thompson in 1992, one year after she graduated from the University of Pennsylvania.

The story follows a young bookish woman named Alley Russo as she moves from New York to Colorado to work with a legendary, enigmatic writer named Walker Reade, who resembles Thompson for his struggles with fame and substance abuse. In the novel, Russo finds herself immersed in what Heller describes as a “wild ride” filled with sex and drugs and celebrities,

Continued on page 12

IRVINGTON

*'Gonzo Girl'**Continued from page 11*

all of which the film portrays.

"One of the most meaningful things about the film was the author's reaction," Heller told the Dispatch. "It's inspired by her own experience and I felt a lot of responsibility to do right by her. The fact that she really responded to the film, and felt it was true to her experience and her work, was to me one of the most satisfying parts of it."

Heller first came upon Della Pietra's novel, which was published in 2015, in a Brooklyn bookstore more than nine years ago, months short of his move to Irvington. "Gonzo" was a colloquialism used to describe Thompson's style of journalism, and as a longtime fan of Thompson's writing, Heller was drawn to the book by the cover alone.

"It looked interesting, I read it right away, and I really saw it as a movie," Heller said. By then, he had produced several films, such as 2012's "Mud," starring Matthew McConaughey, in addition to 2009's "Precious," starring Gabourey Sidibe. "I just thought it was a really compelling coming-of-age story that I related to for a number of reasons, and it felt very commercial and cinematic, and it felt like there would be great roles for actors."



Willem Dafoe and Camila Marrone in a scene from "Gonzo Girl."

"For it to actually come to fruition and come to fruition with this group of people, it was sort of like winning the lottery," Della Pietra added. "Tom and Frank [co-producer Frank Hall Green] really understood the book, and when we had our initial conversations, it just sounded like we were on the same page."

Reade, the Thompson stand-in, is portrayed by Willem Dafoe, while Camila Morrone plays Russo, who mirrors Della Pietra at a time when she admired the eccentric Thompson and was hoping to embark on a writing career of her own.

"I had this experience in my early 20s,

and I didn't write the book until my 40s," said Della Pietra, a magazine editor, writer, and copy editor who lives in Branford, Connecticut. "It was reflecting back 20 years and realizing that that experience meant a great deal to me as an aspiring writer and young woman, and having more wisdom two decades later to reflect on that."

Heller's love for Thompson's work began when Heller read his "Hell's Angels" (1967) in high school, and was inspired to write his college application essay on the motorcycle club. That led to him attending the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated four years after Della Pietra.

Heller credits Thompson with helping him get into college.

"It's a fun movie, it's a wild ride," Heller said. "When I read it I thought of 'Devil Wears Prada,' which is similar in some ways, in the sense that in 'Devil Wears Prada' the Meryl Streep character wasn't called Anna Wintour, but you kind of knew that was her. And it's similar here ... in some ways you can call this 'Devil Wears Prada' on acid."

"Gonzo Girl" had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2023, following which revisions were made based on audience feedback. The Tribeca Festival screening of "Gonzo Girl" one day before the Irvington Theater event will be the first official showing since changes were made.

"I love this theater that we have in our community," Heller said. "So part of my interest in doing this screening was just to bring attention to the theater and hopefully launch the beginning of a larger series of programming like this."

"Gonzo Girl" will be shown at Irvington Theater, 85 Main St., at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 13. Tickets, \$33, are available at irvingtontheater.com. A Q&A will take place right after the screening, followed by an after-party at Mima Vinoteca, 63 Main St., which will include free appetizers and a cash bar. The film is rated R.

Looking to make a move in the Rivertowns?

Are you ready to sell your current home for top dollar and transition smoothly into a space that better fits your lifestyle? Whether you're empty-nesting, retiring, or just ready for less maintenance- I can make downsizing simple and stress-free.

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lisacarroll
Real Estate Salesperson
M 914.588.4655
lisacarroll@houlihanlawrence.com

HOULIHAN LAWRENCE
IRVINGTON BROKERAGE
113 MAIN STREET, IRVINGTON, NY 10533

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 rivertownsdspatch.com/contact-us.

Grass field puts field hockey team at a disadvantage

To the Editor:

Our field hockey team is like a family. We are passionate and committed, but we've been stuck playing at a complete disadvantage for years. Right now, we practice and play on a grass field at the Burke Estate that honestly isn't in great shape. It's uneven, it shares space with a dirt baseball diamond, and it's used by all three teams — modified, JV, and varsity. It's the worst of the grass fields at Burke, and it seriously affects how we play.

Last season, we had to cancel practices and reschedule games because of flooding from heavy rain. This season, it was the opposite — was barely any rain, and the field was way too dry. The grass was dying, and there were patches of dirt everywhere that kicked up dust and made it hard to play. On top of all that, it's not safe. These conditions make it easier for our team and visiting teams to get hurt.

Hastings is one of the only high schools in our area still playing field hockey on grass. Club teams and college teams all use turf now. The game on turf is faster, features smoother passes, and demands a different set of stick skills. Without turf, we're not able to properly train and compete against other high schools.

For these reasons, we are asking you to vote "yes" on Proposition 3. Having turf fields wouldn't just help the field hockey team — it would support all athletes in our school and the community.

CELIA AYUSO, NORAH DESTIN,
MADDY THOMAS, ANNIE DRUEHL,
PEYTON SUTHERLAND,
KAYLEE ARAU, CARLIN MCKINNON,
AND MAYA SANZEL

Hastings High School field hockey team

Proposition 3 reflects compromise and supports student athletes

To the Editor:

Compromise is the foundation of healthy communities — at home, among friends, and in our village. Proposition 3 exemplifies this principle.

After extensive debates during the many public meetings since October 2024, the athletics fields proposition has been substantially revised and reduced through genuine compromise. The current plan includes only two of seven fields using turf, employing organic infills instead of harmful crumb-rubber, and utilizing recyclable materials. This shows a reduction of nearly \$4 million with the removal of lights, and organic infill means heat concerns are much reduced — it doesn't retain and reflect heat like rubber, and without any PFAS chemicals. This thoughtful revision leaves over 70% of Hastings fields

as natural grass.

Yet opponents seem to accept nothing less than complete rejection. We kindly ask for acceptance of these meaningful concessions in the spirit of civic compromise.

Our student athletes deserve equitable opportunities. Two turf fields would enable more regular play, fostering teamwork and leadership development. Most importantly, the softball team could finally feel integrated into the high school athletic program instead of being sidelined at the Hillside location.

Those of us supporting enhanced athletics wanted more fields and greater investment — we didn't get everything we requested. That's called compromise.

Ninety percent of our student-athletes are requesting turf fields to access the same training opportunities available to

kids in neighboring communities. Meanwhile, residents preferring natural grass still have the vast majority of fields available to them.

This is about fairness and student opportunity. Please don't force the complete rejection on families and students who simply want just two options for their children's athletic development.

Participate in this civic exercise of compromise and vote "yes" on the much-revised Proposition 3.

GISELA ABRAMS,
NICOLE DAVIS,
MIKE DIDOVIC,
SAM EFFRON,
BRYAN KINKADE,
KANCHAN KINKADE,
AND SAVANNAH SHYNE
Hastings

Health and environmental concerns remain about synthetic turf

To the Editor:

In 2013, the Hastings community considered installing an artificial turf field at Reynolds. There were vigorous debates and strong feelings on both sides. Those in favor argued Hastings athletes needed better and more reliable fields to make them competitive with nearby towns that had turf. Those against, argued turf posed serious health and environmental threats.

In the end, the bond didn't pass. If it had, Hastings would have artificial turf containing heavy metals and other toxic materials, dangers acknowledged at the time which proponents said were not a big deal. It also would have had PFAS,

which were not discussed in 2013 because they were only beginning to be studied. Twelve years on, we know PFAS are a serious health threat and that 15% of plastic in our oceans may be from artificial turf. What we didn't know then could have had serious implications for the health of our kids.

I heard someone say recently that turf is the "the future" so we have to pass proposition 3 of this year's bond to pay for two turf fields at Burke. Just like in 2013, we are promised the benefits outweigh the health concerns and turf is "safe". This time around turf is also touted as "eco-friendly", "recyclable" and "manufactured without PFAS" (meaning PFAS

aren't added during fabrication).

As the mom of two young Hastings athletes, I'm wondering what we will know in five or 10 years about turf that could affect our kids' long-term health, not to mention the future of the planet they live on.

In addition, the future may hold passage of two bills currently moving through the New York State legislature (SB3797 and A4021) that would ban installation and replacement of artificial turf fields at schools.

Let's keep Burke green for a healthy future.

CHLOE TEASDALE
Hastings

Caring and thoughtfulness define Drake, who offers an inspiring vision for Hastings

To the Editor:

We are supporting Tom Drake in the Hastings-on-Hudson Democratic mayoral primary on June 24.

We've known him since our son joined the Hastings summer swim team in first grade. Tom was one of the "older guys," and his kindness to the younger boys was extraordinary — he made them laugh and feel like important members of the team. This kind of caring has continued.

Tom is a volunteer firefighter and a coach for Little League, as well as a vil-

lage trustee. We also know him as an unusually thoughtful person who listens to all points of view before making decisions and whose decisions are based on both real-life, practical considerations and an inspiring vision for Hastings' future.

To learn more about Tom's ideas and experience as a village trustee, go to his website, tomdrakeforhastings.com. We hope you'll agree that Hastings would be very lucky to have him as its mayor.

CAROL AND SPIKE BARKIN
Hastings

Bonds would create a 'third mortgage'

To the Editor:

We moved to Hastings in 1975, pleased to enter our three children into fine public schools, where they received excellent educations from superlative teachers. It was difficult for us to pay mortgage and taxes on an astronomer's salary, but we shouldered on. We never contemplated the folly of seeking a second mortgage on our house, never mind a third mortgage.

Our local tax burden has increased steadily, becoming a larger and larger percentage of our income over the years. We will always support increased teachers' salaries, and will support repairs and maintenance, but not enormous remodeling of school buildings, and not oversized and ill-planned sports budgets.

In trying to understand better the tax burden, I was stunned to discover the bond burden we are paying. The school district website informs us that we already have, in essence, the equivalent of two mortgages, and are now being asked to support a third. I quote the numbers:

- The 2016 bond will be fully paid in 2031
- The 2022 bond will be fully paid in 2037
- The new proposed bond would be fully paid in 2048-2049

So we would be suffering under three simultaneous "mortgages" for at least the next six years. Please consider this when you go to the polls.

DAVID COFFEEN
Hastings

Continued on page 15

The Agenda

SAT
07

Rivertown Thrift Pop-up

HASTINGS

10 a.m.–3 p.m. James V. Harmon Community Center, 44 Main St., lower level. Clothing donations accepted until noon.

Crochet Workshop: Pride Flags

IRVINGTON

11:30 a.m. / \$25. New Kawaii, 1 Bridge St. Open to all skill levels. Materials will be provided. newkawaii.com

“Resting Place of Legends”

IRVINGTON

4 p.m. / Free. The Irvington Historical Society presents a virtual tour of Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. Register for the Zoom link at irvingtonhistoricalsociety.org.

“In the Future”

IRVINGTON

1:30 and 5:15 p.m. / \$30, \$20 for seniors and students. Irvington Theater, 85 Main St. Amanda Kupillas Dance presents an end-of-year showcase. irvingtontheater.com

“Twelfth Night”

TARRYTOWN

7 p.m. / \$50 (includes a beer, wine or soft drink). Makers Central, 84 Central Ave. Anywhere Theater Company’s Shakespearean production is set to a live soundtrack by the folk-rock group The Altogether. Also on Sunday.

Live Jazz: Bill Charlap Trio

TARRYTOWN

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

Sleepy Hollow Music Festival

SLEEPY HOLLOW

Noon–9 p.m. / \$85. Kingsland Point Park. Headliner Jake Wildhorn performs on the regional stage at 6:45 p.m. and Band of Horses closes out the festival on the main stage at 7:30. sleepyhollowmusicfestival.com

SUN
08

“Stories from Suburbia”

ARDSLEY

2 p.m. / Ardsley Public Library, 9 American Legion Drive. The Ardsley Historical Society presents Tim Lamorte, editor of the Rivertowns Dispatch and former editor of

the Rivertowns Enterprise, to reflect on 25 years of reporting about the Rivertowns.

Hastings Flea Pride Market

HASTINGS

10 a.m.–4 p.m. (rain or shine) / Free admission. Metro-North Commuter Lot, Southside Avenue (across from the railroad tracks). Outdoor bazaar featuring handmade, vintage, and



Irvington Theater hosts a screening of “Gonzo Girl” followed by a discussion with film director Patricia Arquette, writer Cheryl della Pietra, and producer and Irvington resident Tom Heller on Friday, June 13.

upcycled clothing, accessories, and records. Drag queen story hour with Angel Elektra at 11:30 a.m. thehastingsflea.com

Spring Thing

HASTINGS

Noon–4 p.m. / Free admission. Warburton Avenue. Featuring live music, fire department cookout, interactive family crafts, inflatable slide, and home and garden tips from local eco-friendly businesses. destinationhastings.org

“Once Upon a Musical – Anything Goes!”

HASTINGS

5:30–8 p.m. / \$40, \$30 seniors and Library Friends in advance; \$50 at the door. Hastings Public Library, 7 Maple Ave. The Friends of the Library’s annual cabaret and silent auction fundraiser features musical performances, plus wine, beer, hors d’oeuvres, and a silent auction. hastingslibrary.org

Bulldog Art & Food Festival

IRVINGTON

1–4 p.m. (rain date June 15) / Free. Main Street. Kick off this summer’s display of 23 decorated bulldog statues handcrafted by local artists and sponsored by Rivertowns businesses with music, food, and activities.

Rose Day

TARRYTOWN

10 a.m.–2 p.m. / \$10. Lyndhurst, 635 S. Broadway. Garden events are held throughout the property. lyndhurst.org

Rose Tea and Tour

TARRYTOWN

10 a.m.–12:30 p.m. and 2–4:30 p.m. / \$70. Lyndhurst, 635 S. Broadway. Presented by Bridget Bray, creator of boutique experiences. Recommended for ages 12 and up. Reservations required. lyndhurst.org

Strawberry Festival

TARRYTOWN

Noon–3 p.m. / \$10. Jacob Odell House, One Grove St. Presented by the Historical Society of Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown. thehistoricalsociety.net

Goat Yoga

TARRYTOWN

10 a.m. (adults only), 10:30, and 11 a.m. (all ages) / \$35, \$42 for nonmembers. Shames JCC, 371 S. Broadway. shamesjcc.org

Comedy Open Mic

HASTINGS

8 p.m. / One-drink minimum for performers. Divino’s Speakeasy, 524 Warburton Ave. Presented by the Dobbs Ferry Public Library. Intended for ages 18 and up. Sign up by emailing tdeery@wlsmail.org.

Live Music: Leo Belskey and Friends

HASTINGS

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

Curator Talk: Love is Love

YONKERS

2 p.m. / \$13 for adults, \$8 for ages 3–18, \$9 for students and seniors, free for members and children under 3. Hudson River Museum, 511 Warburton Ave. Discuss romance, love, and affection in LGBTQIA+ contemporary art. Reservations recommended. hrm.org

Virtual Lecture: “Black Oystermen in New York”

YONKERS

7 p.m. / Free. Presented by Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site, 29 Warburton Ave., on YouTube Live. philipsemanorhall.com

THU
12

Outdoor Live Music: Vinny Piazza

DOBBS FERRY

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

Trivia Night: Sports Edition

IRVINGTON

7 p.m. / \$15. Irvington Theater, 85 Main St. Sponsored by Chuck, a sports app based in Irvington. irvingtontheater.com

FRI
13

Car Show Benefiting Ardsley First Responders

ARDSLEY

5:30–8:30 p.m. / \$20. Ardsley Middle School, 700 Ashford Ave. Featuring classic cars and motorcycles, food trucks, music, and raffles.

Cult Classic Movie Night: “Wet Hot American Summer”

DOBBS FERRY

8 p.m. / Free. Climbing Wolf, 78 Main St. Presented by the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.

“The Value of Local News”

HASTINGS

5 p.m. / \$20 suggested donation. Andrus on Hudson, 185 Old Broadway. Allison Schulte, founder and publisher of the Rivertowns Dispatch, speaks at a light supper hosted by the League of Women’s Voters of the Rivertowns. RSVP by emailing info@lww-rivertowns.org.

Friday Night Pride

HASTINGS

6–9 p.m. / Free. Warburton Avenue. Live concert, activities, and food vendors. Pre-event, 3:45–5:45 p.m., at The Good Witch Coffee Bar, 134 Southside Ave., followed by a march to Warburton to kick off the event. DestinationHastings.org

Film Screening: “Gonzo Girl”

IRVINGTON

7 p.m. / \$30. Irvington Theater, 85 Main St. Following the screening, Patricia Arquette discusses her directorial debut with writer Cheryl della Pietra and producer and Irvington resident Tom Heller. irvingtontheater.com

Juneteenth Celebration

GREENBURGH

5:30 p.m. / Free. Greenburgh Town Hall, 177 Hillside Ave. Featuring food, games, arts and crafts, and music. greenburghny.com

Live Jazz: John Pizzarelli

TARRYTOWN

7 and 9:30 p.m. / \$50, \$45 for students. Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. The guitarist and singer gives contemporary interpretations of classic pop compositions. Also on June 14. jazzforumarts.org

Opinion

Urge New York State Assembly to reduce plastic packaging by passing PRRIA

To the Editor:

New York faces a growing plastic pollution crisis. We produce 6.8 million tons of plastic packaging waste annually, and it never truly disappears. It contaminates water, air, and land in New York and beyond, as New York sends millions of tons of its waste elsewhere each year. We are learning more every day about how plastic is also finding its way into our bodies — it is in our lungs, our brains, our hearts.

Adults often say that it will be up to my generation to solve climate and pollution crises. Which is why I've twice travelled to Albany to speak face-to-face with lawmakers on these issues. I'm now writing this letter to try to reach more people, to let you know that we have — for the next week or so — an opportunity to make a difference.

Our state legislators have before them a critical bill that has been years in the making: the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (PRRIA). PRRIA would require big companies selling

products in New York to cut plastic packaging by 30% over 12 years and ban 17 highly toxic chemicals used in packaging. It could save New Yorkers \$1.3 billion over 10 years, lifting weight off taxpayers and shifting responsibility to companies creating the waste.

Dobbs Ferry and Hastings have signed resolutions supporting PRRIA and, last week, the NYS Senate passed the bill. However, to become a law, it must also pass in the Assembly — where it faces powerful opposition from paid corporate lobbyists — before that body adjourns on June 12.

Your help is needed. Please make two crucial calls to:

- Assemblymember Carl Heastie (518-455-3791), urging him to bring PRRIA (#1749) to a floor vote.

- Our assemblymember, MaryJane Shimsky (914-631-1605), asking her to vote "yes" to protect our Rivertowns, state, and world.

CLEO REISINGER

Dobbs Ferry High School Class of 2028

Propositions 2 and 3 of school bond are out of sync with 'what we prize the most'

To the Editor:

I'm writing this letter in support of voting "Yes-No-No" on the upcoming Hastings school bond.

When my wife and I were choosing where to buy a home, we picked Hastings for several reasons: not only was it beautiful and a quick commute to our jobs, the village had qualities we admired. The residents were friendly and an interesting mix of financial and professional types, along with writers, musicians, and artists. The culture emphasized community and ecological awareness. The school district had a heavy focus on academic excellence, which suited our growing family. It was a good mix of newcomers like us and multi-generational families of long standing.

This bond is not in keeping with those aspects of our village that we prize the most, with an architectural design that favors flash over substance, and a price tag likely to accelerate the exit of our long-term, less-moneyed residents.

I support essential improvements and

will vote "yes" to Proposition 1. In terms of enhancements to the Farragut Complex, it's the scale of what's being proposed in Proposition 2 that goes against the grain. If the school needs a bigger cafeteria, why choose a double-height glass enclosure? Do we need a wraparound glass entrance area to fix an accessibility problem? And, in terms of Proposition 3, Hastings is a certified Climate Smart Community, so why would we install artificial turf fields?

As homeowners, when we renovate, we look at our finances and balance what we'd like to improve with what we can afford. The district should use the same care and thoughtfulness in putting together an affordable plan to update the schools. That's especially true these days, given the chaos and uncertainty emanating from the top levels of government, which very likely will negatively impact us personally and as a community.

TIM BARRY

Hastings

Continued on page 16



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Opinion

Synthetic turf would provide a consistent, safe surface for athletes

To the Editor:

Without turf, Hastings is falling behind. Vote “yes” on Prop 3.

Student voices matter. As Hastings’ varsity softball team captains, we urge you to vote “yes” on the bond, not just for us, but for every athlete in our community.

Location and Equity — Our field is the farthest from the high school, removed from the Hastings community; the field is up a hill and through the woods at the elementary school. This bond, with a turf field, is a necessary step toward equity. It’s not just softball. Our lacrosse, soccer, and field hockey athletes all deserve facilities that are up to par. Prop 3

brings softball to the main athletic complex, in turn, strengthening our village pride.

Weather Challenges — Turf provides stability. Our grass field, like many, struggles with poor drainage and inconsistent playability. In the past two varsity seasons, two playoff games were moved or postponed due to rain — costing us home field advantages as our games were moved to turf fields. These setbacks disrupt our seasons and hurt our athletes.

Injury Risk (athlete testimony) — I’ve spent the last year in physical therapy recovering from an overuse injury, one that could have been prevented with safer, more consistent field conditions. Uneven grass, standing water,

and compacted soil wear down our bodies. Turf offers better traction, shock absorption, and reliability, helping to prevent injuries, keeping athletes healthy and on the field.

Why vote “yes”? — This isn’t just about up-grading fields, it’s about building a stronger Hastings. Turf provides a consistent, safe surface that allows athletes to compete, rain or shine. Voting “yes” on Prop 3 means investing in the future of Hastings athletics.

Support athletes. Support equity. Support safety. Support Hastings. Vote “yes” on Prop 3.

SIRI ROSENBERG AND

LOLA NORLANDER

Hastings varsity softball team co-captains

Fleisig has been a leader who collaborates and compromises

To the Editor:

I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Morgen Fleisig for the last seven-plus years. This time together came with moments of complete agreement and collaboration, but also with moments of disagreement and frustration. I view these latter moments as the most important — being able to disagree and discovering compromise are what makes for a true leader.

Morgen and I worked closely together on several projects — from the difficult southern corridor, to the Ravensdale Bridge, to Farragut Avenue. Morgen spent countless hours diving

into the complexities of road diets and tree calipers, to public forums and one-on-one conversations. Morgen’s superpower is that he doesn’t pretend to know anything going in. He arms himself with facts and research. He studies details down to the very minutiae and uses this to inform decision-making. We would spend days, weeks, and months discussing our ideas, concerns, and solutions. Morgen always picked up the phone and called experts, his colleagues, and his constituents before finalizing the work.

And now, as we head into a more serious climate of denial in research, there is no one I would trust more on the waterfront. Morgen

has the relationships with the land owners and environmental experts that he’s cultivated for years; and his deep knowledge of the issues presented there is unmatched. I believe he will continue the important work of revitalizing our downtown, making safe spaces for all members of our community, and having those hard conversations necessary to move our village into the future. I wholeheartedly endorse Morgen Fleisig for mayor of Hastings-on-Hudson and am proud to have had the opportunity to call Morgen a colleague and a friend.

GEORGIA LINDAHL LOPEZ

Hastings

Three bond propositions will fund needs for Hastings School District

To the Editor:

As a former president of the Hastings-on-Hudson Board of Education, I’m writing to urge you to join me in voting “yes” on all three school bond propositions on the ballot in Hastings on June 17.

These propositions are about investing in the future of our students and community. Each proposal was carefully developed with input from educators, community members, and facilities experts, focusing on the most urgent and long-standing needs in our schools.

These are responsible priorities, not extravagant projects. The proposed work — infrastructure improvements at Hastings High School, vital renovations to Farragut Middle School’s entrance, cafeteria, and learning spaces, and upgrades to athletic facilities — will have a lasting impact on student learning, safety, accessibility, and opportunity.

Importantly, this investment is shared by all of us — and the benefits will be too. Compared to neighboring districts, Hastings has underinvested in its school facilities for years. By acting now — while the district qualifies for a

47.5% reimbursement rate from New York State — we have a smart, cost-effective opportunity to make entry to the Farragut building ADA compliant, bring learning spaces up to state code, and provide modern athletic facilities.

I’ll be honest — it’s been disheartening to see some former village and school board leaders campaign against these much-needed improvements. Rather than offering constructive solutions, they’ve chosen to sow doubt, and appeal to fear. I’ve been directly involved in past facilities planning — and I am confident that these proposals are necessary, fiscally responsible, and deeply in line with our community’s values.

Our schools should provide students safe, inclusive learning environments and strong academic and extracurricular opportunities. A “yes” vote on all three propositions is a meaningful investment in their future — and in the long-term strength and vitality of our village.

Please vote YES on all three school bond propositions on June 17.

LAUREN BERMAN, M.S.E.D.

Hastings

The Blotter

Continued from page 2

Trespassing arrest: A 38-year-old Hastings resident was arrested for entering a home on Warren Street without permission on the evening of Tuesday, May 27. She was charged with criminal trespass in the second degree, a misdemeanor. She was also charged with two counts of endangering the welfare of a child, a misdemeanor, because two children were inside the home.

Suspended license and registration: A 56-year-old Bronx resident was arrested for a suspended driver’s license and a suspended vehicle registration, both misdemeanors, on Farragut Avenue on the morning of Thursday, May 29.

Check fraud: On May 29, a Hastings resident reported that an \$800 check she had mailed in Hastings was cashed for \$23,000 on May 28. The name of the payee was also changed.

Contempt arrest: A 37-year-old Yonkers resident was arrested for violating an order of protection on the morning of Friday, May 30. The order prohibited her from being with another Yonkers resident, who was with her in a vehicle that police stopped during a seatbelt checkpoint on Farragut Avenue. She was charged with criminal contempt in the second degree, a misdemeanor.

**Welcome to St. Barnabas Episcopal Church**

Welcome to St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Ardsley, New York. We are delighted to have you here. As a faith community, we believe in the holiness of every human being and, following in the teachings of Jesus, are committed to being an inclusive and heart-centered group.

Each of us has experienced God's amazing love and grace in the moments when we stumbled, and seek to hold each other up as an outwardly expression of that love.

Regardless of your national origin, sexual orientation, race, color, creed, gender identification, and anyone not mentioned here, you are welcome — ALL ARE WELCOME — to be part of our church family.

Holy Eucharist every Sunday at 10 AM

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914-693-3366
www.stbarnabasardsley.com

Rate Hikes

Continued from page 1

Dobbs Ferry, Hastings, and Irvington.

“It is unfathomable to me that Con Edison is profiting off of people’s daily need to keep their lights on and their homes warm,” Imamura said at the hearing. “It is unfathomable to me that the need for corporate profits are trumping people’s need to have basic necessities.”

Two residents spoke during the hearing about the impact of Con Ed’s rate increases in recent years, and the hardship further increases would cause. Susy Gevarguize of Yonkers suggested the company has too much control over the local energy market, which legislators seconded.

“Con Ed is a monopoly and it’s a monopoly created by the State,” Imamura responded. “You don’t have a choice as to whether to be a Con Ed customer or not, you have to pay Con Ed. So that’s why I’m frustrated by this, because you have a state-created monopoly that’s supposed to be benefitting the public, but instead is benefitting their shareholders.”

While Westchester residents can opt to not pay Con Ed for their energy supply, and use programs like Westchester Power, using Con Ed for the energy delivery is required. Irvington Deputy Mayor Arlene Burgos asked a question during the hearing, and challenged Con Ed’s reasoning for the proposed increases.

“The infrastructure upgrades and the cost burden is on Westchester, and [a majority of] the upgrades are happening in New York City,” Burgos told the Dispatch after the hearing. “So



Marjorie Hsu of Sleepy Hollow addresses the Board of Legislators on June 3.

I think it’s hard to justify across-the-board rate increases that are the same, when you’re not getting the same service or upgrades.”

In April, Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings, Irvington, and the Town of Greenburgh and 33 other Westchester County municipalities collaboratively hired attorney Joel Dichter of Dichter Law LLC to challenge Con Edison’s proposed higher rates, which would start Jan. 1, 2026. In February, Gov. Kathy Hochul sent a letter to the PSC calling for the rejection of Con Ed’s proposed rate hike. As of June 5, nearly 1,700 public comments on the rate case had been filed New York State’s Department of Public Service.

“I do think that the time is now,” Imamura said. “This is the moment when we will be able to take action, this is the moment when we will be able to make change, if only because

these rates are so absurd.”

“It’s a very tough thing when you have a necessary expense that you cannot control,” Burgos added. “You can’t even opt to do things differently in a way that would impact what you actually have to pay. So that is an unfair burden on your average family, and I think Con Ed would have to justify those rates in a way they’ve been unable to do. I think what they’ve said is not a sufficient justification for raising the rates at what they’re proposing.”

In April, Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins announced that the PSC had agreed to hold a public hearing at the County Center in White Plains, which has not happened yet.

Through a series of private hearings, the PSC will hear from attorneys like Dichter, to determine the rate increase.

Zombies

Continued from page 11

the experience with a new sense of awareness. “I didn’t know some of the things on the list were so important,” she said. “Like the pet sticker... we put one on our front door now, just in case there’s ever a fire or something.”

Of course, no community event is complete without food. The Kinwich food truck kept everyone fueled, serving burgers and marinated tofu, local bread, and more crowd-pleasing bites.

While this was the first run of the event — a sort of test phase — organizers are thinking about what’s next. Another zombie edition might pop up around Halloween, and other resilience-focused events are in the works.

“We’re still figuring out what the community’s appetite is,” Binns said. “But there’s nothing like a block party to get people talking. Maybe we bring in pizza, a bouncy castle, solar panel folks, sustainable landscaping experts... whatever helps people make their homes and neighborhoods stronger.”

In Irvington, surviving a zombie apocalypse may have been a game, but the lessons it taught were real.

“Beyond emergency preparedness,” Binns added, “life is just better when you know your neighbors. There’s something powerful about building that camaraderie. It makes us all more resilient, together.”

To learn more, visit irvingtongreen.org/climate/emergency-preparedness.



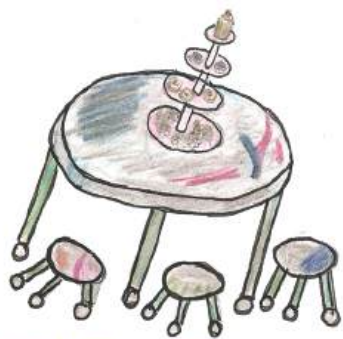
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THE
FICTION
ISSUE

THE LITTLE Dispatch



This Room is All Wrong! by ELA age 11

It was just an average busy day for everyone in the big city, except for Mia. Her dad was finally letting her come to work with him. Once they walked through the revolving doors, Mia went straight to the elevator and pressed the button. She loved elevators — the way they jolted whenever they stopped, the ding noise they made at each floor — they were just her favorite thing.

Her dad's office was on the 12th floor, so she had a lot of time in the elevator. "Uuuuugh." They had gotten to her dad's floor. Mia's dad tried to pull her off, but she held on to the elevator's railing. Suddenly, the lights went dark and a door opened on the other side of the elevator. There were just stairs with a sign that said "Floor 13." Mia's dad wondered out loud, "I thought there were only 12 floors."

They ascended the stairs into a bleak, gray hallway with many rooms. Mia stepped into the first room, and her dad followed close behind. Mia thought it looked like a regular office, but her dad disagreed. "I'm disgusted! The desk is in the wrong corner, and the coffee's cold!" Mia sighed and moved on to the next room. This time she was the disgusted one. "Why is the cookie table next to the rock wall? Everyone knows cookie tables go next to the ball pit, not the rock wall! No one can make a worse floor plan!"

"I think it's fine," said her dad. The next room weirded them both out. It was just a big slide. Mia pushed her dad in and then went down herself. They landed in an empty office. Then Mia's dad said, "When did we get back to my office? Wait — why is my desk in the wrong corner?"

"Wait, what? It's already 7:34 PM! I've slacked off on so much of my work." He reached for his coffee. "Noooooooooooo! My coffee's cold! Ugh, let's just go to the kids' room." While her dad went to get a hot coffee, Mia went to the kids' room (using the help of maps). When she got there, she couldn't help but scream. The cookie table was next to the rock wall instead of the ball pit. Everyone knows cookie tables go next to ball pits, not rock walls!

It's NOT a Cookie?



BY

Senna

AGE 10

ART BY ELLA,
AGE 11



There once was a dolphin who lived under a rock. He was very weird, funny, creative, and ambitious. The dolphin's home was a little dark area with a bathroom, a TV, a bed, and books. It was cozy, so the dolphin liked it very much. The dolphin had always wanted to go to Saturn to be the first dolphin on Saturn so he could be famous. But the dolphin didn't know anything about Saturn. He thought it was a giant cookie to eat.

The next day, the dolphin was digging and found a stuffed platypus that he thought was alive and a monkey. When the dolphin saw the platypus (that he thought was a monkey), he thought they were besties and they were "meant to be." At night, the dolphin dreamt that he and the platypus (that he thought was a monkey) built a giant slingshot on Mount Everest to slingshot the dolphin to Saturn. So, the dolphin woke up, and immediately went to get the platypus (that he thought was a monkey), grabbed him, and yelled, "We're going to Mount Everest to build a giant slingshot to slingshot me to Saturn!"

The next day, the dolphin and the platypus (that he thought was a monkey) went to the tool store. But nobody was there, so they stole the tools because they didn't know any better. Then they took a plane to Mount Everest to start building the giant slingshot.

But one day when the dolphin was building the slingshot, he got mad and screamed, which knocked the platypus (that he thought was a monkey) off Mount Everest! The dolphin raced to the hospital where they told him that the platypus (that he thought was a monkey) was just a platypus that was stuffed, so they couldn't do anything. So, the dolphin went off to find a real platypus to throw off Mount Everest. But as the dolphin was going to get a platypus, he happened to stop by the library to research platypuses. While he was doing that, the dolphin decided to research Saturn and found out that... that... SATURN ISN'T A COOKIE! So, the dolphin gives up on the search for a platypus and takes swim lessons with his friend Giraffe, who's a stuffed animal.

THE HIDDEN MAGIC WITHIN

BY  Basil AGE 10  Alfie AGE 10



Janer, the Halfling magic user, woke up to the sound of thunder. He looked outside but saw no storm. He felt like he knew why it was happening, but he couldn't quite grasp it. He knew his parents were up to something. They had been whispering and having private conversations with his brother, but would stop as soon as he came in. He was also never allowed into the basement when his brother Dragoor was practicing his "instrument," which he never heard when he put his ear against the door. No matter how much Dragoor practiced, he never got any better!

Janer listened more closely, and he heard it coming from somewhere in his house. He grabbed his enchanted bow staff, which he took everywhere he went. It was enchanted with a spell that made anyone he hit go flying. He went downstairs and kept his ears alert. Janer followed the noise all the way to the basement door... and struck it, breaking down the door to find his brother holding a staff pulsing with glowing red lightning. Everyone knew that this meant dark magic, which was highly forbidden! His brother turned his head towards Janer slowly with an awkward smile on his face.

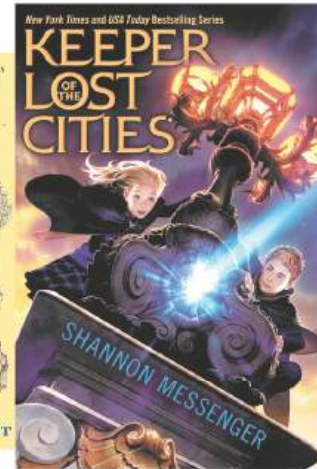
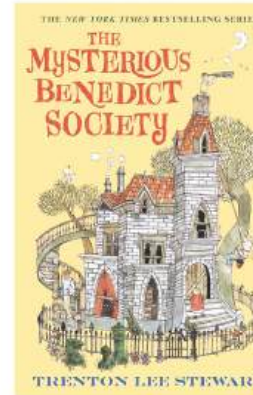
"Now that you know our secret, you die! Just kidding, did I get you?"

Janer was discombobulated. He knew that dark magic was outlawed because people used its great power to try to take over the world. The DMN group (Dark Magic Necromancers) had even succeeded for a while, but then they were finally defeated.

Dragoor said, "I know what you're thinking, but our family is part of the GOOD dark magic users! We use dark magic for good, but we have to hide it so that people don't get suspicious. Don't worry, we are licensed! Now that you've discovered this, we'll teach you." He handed over a basic spellbook. Janer went on to become one of the greatest magic users that ever lived!



ADVENTURE AWAITS Discover Your Next Favorite Series this Summer



BY  Pearl AGE 10

If you love... Keeper of the Lost Cities

In **KEEPER OF THE LOST CITIES** (written by Shannon Messenger), there's a girl named Sophie who thought she was a human but then she finds out she's an elf. There's a whole different part of the world and in that world she makes friends, goes on adventures and finds out who she is — an elf! — and who she's supposed to be.

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In **THE MYSTERIOUS BENEDICT SOCIETY** (written by Trenton Lee Stewart), there is a team of kids who go through a series of tests to prove they are smart, cunning, and creative enough to make the society. The kids go on adventures, build their friendships, and try to defeat their enemies. They face their individual challenges, too — such as being too smart for the world or growing up as orphans.

Or you might love... The Unwanteds

In **THE UNWANTEDS** (written by Lisa McMann), twins Alex and Aaron live in the dark, desolate land of Quill. Alex is an Unwanted, so he'll get eliminated because of his creativity. But he and the other Unwanteds get saved by magician Marcus Today, and they go to the magical land of Artime. Aaron is a Wanted, so he goes to the University of Quill and prepares to fight for the battle that the leader of Quill is convinced will happen. Alex discovers who he was meant to be, builds friendships, and goes on adventures.

All three of these Middle Grade series (recommended for ages 9-12) are filled with suspense, adventure, and mystery.

Find out more:

Story
Salon



Sports

EDITED BY ROB DIANTONIO

Hastings edges Dobbs for first sectional title

BY ROB DIANTONIO

After a pair of one-run games during the regular season, with each team winning once, top-seeded Hastings and No. 2 Dobbs Ferry were destined to meet again in the softball finals. And, of course, it was another down-to-the-wire game decided by one run.

It was Hastings that came out on the winning end, defeating rival Dobbs 10-9 in the Section 1 Class B final to claim its first section title in program history on May 31 at Haverstraw Sports Complex.

“The postseason, we knew it was a completely new record,” Hastings senior captain Kylie Vulpone said. “We knew that this is what everything was leading to. We had 6 a.m. workouts from the end of December. We worked our butts off for this. We knew from the beginning this was possible. Even through the lows, we never stopped.”

Hastings coach Kaitlin Degnan is in her 13th season as head coach and said winning the championship is “incredible.”

“This is a testament to the program from the start,” Degnan said. “From Joe Vaccaro who was the head coach in the ‘90s, to Melissa Otivich who was instrumental in me getting this job. To all those players who came before, and we had a lot of great teams. But for this one to be the one, these girls worked extremely hard. This is a testament to them and the work that they put in. We’re extremely proud of them.”

The game was tied 7-7 heading into the bottom of the fourth. Hastings junior captain Lola Norlander started the inning with a walk. Senior Abby Foster singled, and then Lexie Schur walked to load the bases. Norlander scored on a wild pitch to give the Jackets the lead. Next up, Vulpone ripped a two-run single, driving in Schur and Foster to give Hastings a 10-7 lead. “Those are our two seniors and they stepped up in the biggest moment,” Degnan said.

The Eagles answered in the top of the sixth. Senior Maysin Kannapin singled and went to third base on an error. Nicolette Giorgio dropped down a bunt single to bring home Kannapin. Riley Sullivan ripped an RBI single to plate Giorgio as Dobbs cut the score to 10-9.

Hastings sophomore Hazel Sabella, who relieved junior captain Siri Rosenberg in the fifth, pitched a one-two-three seventh inning to close the game. She induced a pop out to Izzy Doherty at third base for the first out and struck out the second batter on three pitches. Kamryn Addis ripped a liner to right field but Rosenberg was there to secure the final out as the celebration commenced.



Hastings senior captain Kylie Vulpone holds on to the trophy while celebrating with teammates after winning the section title. Photos by Rob DiAntonio.

“No one wanted it as badly as us,” Sabella said. “I think that’s why the outcome was what it was. We’re really used to the pressure and the battling back and forth, especially with [Dobbs Ferry]. They’re a great team. We knew it was going to be a battle, so we were ready for it.”

Hastings took an early lead in the first when Sabella drove in Rosenberg and Norlander with a two-run double. Schur’s triple to right field brought home Sabella as the Jackets took a 3-0 lead.

Dobbs responded when senior Maddie Piacentino drove in senior Abby Dann with a single in the second inning. The Eagles added another run in the third on a solo home run by Kannapin to trim Hastings’ lead to 3-2.

“It’s been a battle with Dobbs,” Degnan said. “We won by one, they won by one, and here we are winning again by one. That just shows the depth of the Rivertowns as a whole. [Dobbs Ferry coach] Kim Reznicek is my best friend and I have a tremendous amount of respect for them and what they’ve done. Maysin Kannapin is one of the greatest players to ever play at their school. I think that we just matched that and we came ready to play today.”

Norlander, who scored three runs, started the bottom of the third with a triple to right-center field. Sophia Pereira drove her

in with a single to extend the lead to 4-2. Pereira scored on a wild pitch, then Sabella scored on an error to make it 6-2. Rosenberg’s RBI single extended the lead to 7-2.

“Our coach has this saying, ‘It’s one pitch, one hit, and one inning at a time,’” Rosenberg said. “It’s our drive and how much we wanted it. The grit and determination. We wanted it and we got it.”

The Eagles were not going to go down



Dobbs Ferry senior Maysin Kannapin rounds the bases after hitting a home run.

easily. They erupted for a five-run fourth inning to tie the game at 7-7. Piacentino’s RBI double drove in Sullivan and Dann. Kannapin sent a fly ball deep into the outfield and Piacentino and Ella Rizzo scored on the sacrifice fly. Addis scored on a wild pitch to tie the game.

“I knew it was going to be a back-and-forth battle,” Reznicek said. “When Hastings’ lead grew to 7-2, it became a crucial moment. Either the game could get out of hand or we could find a way to motivate the team to keep clawing back. Scoring five runs to tie things up was a testament to their resilience and determination.”

She continued, “Unfortunately, we came up just one run short. I expected it to be a close game given how our matchups played out during the regular season. Although the outcome wasn’t what we wanted, I believe this game was a great learning experience for the team.”

Dobbs Ferry concluded the season with a 14-8 record. The Eagles’ five seniors — Kannapin, Dann, Piacentino, Alexa Vicchio, and Kim Gregorio — helped bring the program from a below .500 team to a championship contender. Reznicek is proud of the progress the team made and said it took plenty of “work, effort, and dedication” to become one of the top teams in Class B.

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Sports

— TRACK AND FIELD ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Irvington boys finish second

After nearly sweeping first place in the high jump, long jump, triple jump, and pole vault, it was Irvington's competitors in field events who sparked the Bulldogs to a second-place finish out of 15 teams at the Class C sectionals on May 30 at Pawling High School. Irvington netted 83.5 team points while Bronxville was in first with 165 points.

"I was very pleased with the effort," Irvington boys' coach Chris Barry said. "They were locked in all day and we had many personal bests and many different scorers. Given how strong the Bronxville team is, we knew going in that the runner-up plaque would be our target and that we'd have to battle teams like Briarcliff, Dobbs Ferry, and Valhalla for it."

Senior Tane Kim took home section titles in both the long jump (20-6) and triple jump (42-1 1/2). He also anchored the 4x100-meter relay to a second-place finish (45.21), teaming up with Sam Andrade, Kian Vasudev, and Alex Shevrin. "Tane Kim had a huge day, scoring 22 points for us with his two wins," Barry said.

Senior Matt Jacoby leaped to first in the high jump with a 5-10. "Matt's sectional title was a highlight," Barry said. "He's worked very hard for years to take himself to this level."

Aaron Schwartz was second in the pole vault (10-6). Senior Anish Joshi ran to second in the 3,200 meters (10:09.59) and was third in the 1,600 meters (4:34.60) to score 14 team points. Declan Lyons was third in the 3,200 (10:12.12). Srihith Puri took fourth in the pole vault (9-0).

The 4x800 relay took third (8:39.34) with a squad of Luke Calabrese, Glen Feng, Matt O'Reilly, and Haidan Wiles.

Next up is the state qualifying meet, which is scheduled to take place on June 5-6. The first day is at Arlington with the second day at Suffern.

Smith sprints to pair of firsts

Dobbs Ferry senior sprinter Jayden Smith won the 100-meter dash (10.75) and 200-meter dash (21.93) at the Class C sectionals.

"The key to my success was approaching sectionals with the mindset that I was already the champion in both the 100 and 200," Smith said. "Having the confidence of being the favorite to defend my titles for a second consecutive year definitely gave me a boost."

Smith noted that the 100-meter was the closer race of the two. His longtime friend, Damien White of Briarcliff, finished in 10.94 to Smith's 10.75. "While I won with nearly a 5-meter gap, it was intense in the first 30 meters," Smith said. "Knowing Damien is a strong starter, I made sure to stay patient and trust my top-end speed. That strategy paid off, helping me pull away from the pack and set a new school record as well as the

No. 14 time in New York."

Smith has automatically qualified for states in the 100 and 200, so he heads into the state qualifier meet without any pressure. "I'm just focused on racing and staying sharp," he said.

Evan Schwartz placed second in the 400-meters (50.87). Chris Doherty was second in the 800 meters (1:57.84). Etien Dega took fifth in the discus (102-4) for the Eagles, who finished sixth in the team standings.

Leading Dobbs Ferry's girls' squad was Mariah Loran, who raced to fifth in the 100-meter dash (13.08).

Thomas triples up for Hastings

Hastings senior Caitlin Thomas continued her winning ways, claiming three titles at the Class C sectionals. She won the 1,500 meters (4:51.37) and 3,000 meters (10:34.49), and ran the anchor leg of the first-place 4x800-meter relay (10:43.87).

"I felt good about my performances and tried to keep all my efforts pretty controlled," Thomas said. "I was looking for a good time in the 3,000 but decided to dial it back about 800 meters in because of the wind and heat, to save my energy for the other events and the next few weeks. I'm happiest with my 1,500 since it was a solid time and I felt super easy and in control, especially after one of my most difficult training weeks of the season."

Hazel Kuniholm, Sage Wrzesinski, and Claire Grushko teamed up with Thomas in the 4x800.

Thomas has already met the super standard in both the 1,500 and 3,000, so she has automatically qualified for states.

Junior Danae Morgan won the shot put (35-10 3/4) and was second in the discus (93-11). Morgan has met the at-large qual-



Hastings senior Caitlin Thomas won the 1,500 and 3,000 meters, and was a member of the first-place 4x800-meter relay at the Class C sectionals. Photo by Rob DiAntonio.

ifying standard for states for the shot put.

Samantha Guilfoyle finished third in the 400-meter hurdles (1:12.46). Grushko was third in the 1,500 meters (5:06.46). Kuniholm took fourth in the 800 meters (2:25.26). Georgia Schmit was fifth in the 400-meters (1:01.51).

The Yellow Jackets placed third out of 17 teams at sectionals behind first-place Bronxville and second-place Rye Neck.

Liang leads with two titles

Irvington girls' coach Mike McQuillan describes sophomore Ruthie Liang as a "quiet workhorse." Liang let her abilities do the talking at the Class C sectionals as she won the 400-meter dash in a clocking of 59.75 seconds.

"For her to run 59.75, breaking 60 for the first time, was a special moment," McQuillan said. "It's something that she was chasing all year, so for her to do it at sectionals in winning fashion speaks to the effort she puts in at practice."

Liang also ran the anchor leg on the first-place 4x400-meter relay. She teamed up with Jelena Herceg, Kylie Canton, and Liliana Brandwein as they narrowly edged Bronxville with a time of 4:20.16 to the Broncos' 4:20.32.

"That girls' 4x4 team is special," McQuillan said. "They're all in sync with each other, and love and care for one another. For them to edge out that incredibly tough Bronxville team was one of the special moments of the day."

Syian Sawian was second in the pentathlon with 2,019 points. She was first in the 100-meter hurdles (17.95) and took second in the high jump, long jump, and shot put.

Jessica Nierman placed second in the shot put (30-1) and third in the discus (83-10) for Irvington, which finished fifth as a squad.

Ardsley led by relay, Tierney

Ardsley competed in the Section 1 Class B championships on May 28 at Hendrick Hudson High School. The boys' team finished sixth out of 14 schools.

The 4x100-meter relay sparked the Panthers with a second-place finish in 44.68 seconds. Zaire Bell, Ahmady Dolcine, Peyton Francis, and Andrew Herceg made up the relay. Bell was also third in the 100-meter dash in a clocking of 11.37 seconds.

Sean Tierney hurled the shot put 38-9 1/4 to finish second. Anhad Kataria was third in the discus (123-10) with Tierney in fifth (118-8).

For the Panthers' girls, Gabrielle An was third in the pentathlon with 2,286 points. She was first in the high jump (5-0 3/4) and second in the long jump (15-3 3/4).

Ananya Shukla took second in the high jump (4-9). In the triple jump, Matilda Aguero (33-9) and Niamh O'Donovan (33-8 3/4) placed fourth and fifth, respectively.



Irvington's Alexis Canfin goes on the attack against Pleasantville in the semifinals.

Bulldogs fall to relentless Panthers in semifinals

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Irvington coach Pat DiBenedetto knew the Bulldogs were up against a juggernaut when they reached the Section 1 Class D girls' lacrosse semifinals and faced Pleasantville's Panthers.

It was a tight game early on until top-seeded Pleasantville turned up the intensity and pulled away for a 21-7 win over No. 4 Irvington on May 30.

Following a goal from Federica Ricciardella, Irvington and Pleasantville were tied 4-4 late in the first quarter.

"They had a lot of fight and they were having fun," DiBenedetto said of his players. "That was what our game plan was going into this game. We knew it was going to be a tough competition. The girls left it all out on the field. They played their hearts out and tried to contain whatever they're able to contain and play defense for as long as you can maintain and play defense."

The Panthers went on a 7-0 run to take an 11-4 lead with 8:28 left in the second quarter. Irvington senior Sadie McRae halted the run when she scored with 6:08 left in the half. Pleasantville scored three of the next

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Sports

Softball

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“They remember what it was like when we weren’t winning as much and took it upon themselves to create a culture of success,” Reznicek said of the seniors. “They recognized the younger players coming up and embraced pivotal leadership roles, welcoming them and making the effort to win together.”

To get to the finals, Hastings had to dig out of a deficit against No. 5 Putnam Valley in the semifinals. The game began on May 28 but was stopped due to poor weather conditions, with the Tigers leading 2-1 in the third inning. Behind a walk-off single from Ruby Wallach, the Jackets rallied to earn a 6-5 win on May 29. Wallach, who went 2 for 4, drove in Doherty. Sabella (2-4, 2 RBIs), Pereira (2-4, RBI), Rosenberg (2-4), and Ella Rizzo (2 RBIs) also had strong days at the plate.

“Our parents, our coaches, the athletic department, and especially the grounds crew, everyone has brought it in together to make this a team effort,” Vulpone said of what has triggered their success this season.

Hastings (16-6) received a bye into the regional championship game of the state tournament. The Yellow Jackets will face Section 9’s Highland on June 7 at Monroe-Woodbury High School.

“We’re not done yet,” Sabella said. “We have a lot more to do. We’re excited for regionals.”

Lacrosse

Continued from page 21

four goals to take a 14-6 lead into halftime. The Panthers outscored the Bulldogs 7-0 in the third quarter to take a 21-6 lead into the fourth.

A relentless Pleasantville team was in firm control when it came to the draw. Faith Brown won nine draws for the Panthers and scored six goals.

“Draw control is obviously the name of the game here,” said DiBenedetto, whose squad also fell to Pleasantville 21-5 in its regular-season finale on May 16. “When we did have possession on our attack end, I think we did a pretty good job of converting and taking care of opportunities.”

On top of their strength on the draw, what makes the Panthers difficult to contain is their “quickness in terms of their passing,” DiBenedetto noted. “I know they have a young team so they’ll probably be a threat for a little while,” he added.

Aly Raimondo finished with four goals and one assist for Irvington. McRae had one goal, two assists, and won five draw controls. Ricciardella and Peyton Clinton scored one goal each. Isi Doncov had one assist. Sadie Kilbury and Mia Cantillana split the game in net, making three saves each.

Irvington, which finished the season with a 12-6 record, loses seven seniors to grad-



Sophia Im heads up the field in the semifinals. Photo by Rob DiAntonio.

uation in Sadie McRae, Tessa McRae, Raimondo, Doncov, Cantillana, Alexis Canfin, and Ella Weiss.

“I’m really proud of the girls,” DiBenedetto said. “Making a semifinal return like we did last year is awesome. We did what we needed to do with the talent that we had. The seven seniors, I’m super proud of them

and all their hard work over the last four years that they’ve given to the program.”

He continued, “Year in and year out we kind of fall in that top five within our class. That says a lot about the kids and how hard they work and how much time they put in. Hopefully, we’ll be back again next year and in a similar spot.”

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