

**Junk Kouture**  
Teens make an upcycled  
fashion statement  
p 5

**Stabilized**  
Financial support aids  
Irvington EMS service  
p 11

**County champs**  
Four claim titles at  
track and field meet  
p 17

Vol 1. Issue 36.

May 23, 2025

# RIVERTOWNS Dispatch

Local News,  
Locally Sourced  
~

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

\$2<sup>50</sup>



## Odissi and more

Nandini Guha of the Shibaranjani School of Dance performs the classical Indian dance form Odissi during the Ardsley Multicultural, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee's second annual Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Festival, which was held inside the gym at Ardsley Middle School on Saturday, May 17. Cassie del Pilar served as chair of the festival, which highlighted the cultures of China, India, Japan, Korea, Pakistan, and the Philippines. For additional photos, turn to page 15.

## Campaign aims to add solar power to homes

BY TIM LAMORTE

**REGION** — In the midst of pushback against Con Edison's proposal to raise its delivery rates starting Jan. 1, 2026, Sustainable Westchester has launched a campaign to reduce residential customers' dependence on electricity suppliers.

Earlier this month, Sustainable Westchester announced the start of Residential Solarize, which aims to add solar systems to 3,000 homes in 2025 and to increase the number of homes with solar systems from the current total of about 14,000 to about 45,000 by 2030.

The Residential Solarize process starts with customers filling out a form on Sustainable Westchester's website and then receiving a free solar assessment from Sustainable Westchester, followed by proposals from two or more installers.

For the program, Sustainable Westchester has partnered with four installers: Green Hybrid Energy Solutions of White Plains, Infinity Energy of Mahwah, New Jersey; New York State Solar Farm of upstate Modena; and SunBlue Energy of Sleepy Hollow.

*Continued on page 4*

## Stage with a view underway at park

*Construction to culminate before the end of the year*

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL  
**IRVINGTON** — Construction of a permanent performance stage has begun at Matthiessen Park. The stage, which is being built in the northern part of the park, beyond the playground and pathway loop, is expected to cost \$1.6 million and be completed in about six months. The open-air

facility will include a roof, electrical system, and sound system to be used for a variety of functions including music concerts, cultural presentations, lectures, theatrical performances, graduations, and other community events.

Planning for the stage began in 2022, but the Village halted design plans in early 2023 when the expected price tag ballooned by \$600,000. In November 2023, Irvington received a \$500,000 Parks, Preservation and Heritage Grant from New York State's

Environmental Protection Fund, and updated the design plans soon after.

During a public meeting on Monday, May 19, the board of trustees approved a resolution to award a bid of \$251,835 to Ossining-based construction company JC Land & Site Development to do the electrical work on the project. In April, the same company signed a \$747,022 contract with the Village to do the overall construction of the stage.

During the six months of construction,

*Continued on page 4*

— You Answered —

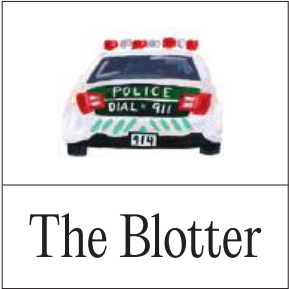
**What local events are you most looking forward to this summer?**

As answered by 164 readers of the Rivertowns Dispatch



Vote at [rivertownsd Dispatch.com/the-weekly-poll](http://rivertownsd Dispatch.com/the-weekly-poll)





The Blotter

ARDSLEY

**Theft of check:** On May 13, a Dobbs Ferry resident reported that a \$2,775.14 check she had mailed at the Ardsley Post Office had been cashed for \$5,000, and that the name of the payee had also been changed.

**Suspended registration:** A 35-year-old Yonkers resident was arrested for a suspended vehicle registration, a misdemeanor, on the Ashford Avenue Bridge on the afternoon of Friday, May 16. He was also cited for tinted windows.

**Unauthorized charge:** On May 17, an Ardsley resident reported that an unauthorized charge of \$1,518.70 was made to his Citibank credit card on May 14.

Six receive commendations for bank robbery arrests

IRVINGTON — Six members of the Irvington Police Department were honored this week for apprehending a man and a woman at the Ardsley-on-Hudson train station following an armed robbery at a Chase Bank in Ardsley on June 20, 2024.

Chief Frank Pignatelli, Lt. Michael Morano, Det. Sgt.

Matthew Eckert, Sgt. Peter Warnke, Officer Scott Dunleavy, and Officer Anthony DiNardo received commendations during the Irvington Board of Trustees meeting this past Monday, May 19.

In the wake of the robbery, Eckert, Morano, and Pignatelli stopped a for-hire vehicle on South Broadway,

near Harriman Road, in which the suspects had fled. The driver stated she had dropped off the suspects at the Dobbs Ferry train station.

In addition to Dobbs Ferry, police checked the Irvington and Ardsley-on-Hudson stations. Dunleavy located the suspects at Ardsley-on-Hudson and made contact with

them as additional officers responded.

The suspects were turned over to the FBI. The handgun and stolen money were found in a wooded area near the bank. The male suspect was wanted for an armed home invasion in a neighboring jurisdiction, and for armed robberies in other states.

DOBBS FERRY

**Deceased dog:** A deceased dog with a rope tied around its mouth and tied to a rock was found on the beach behind Hudson River Landing, 145 Palisade St., on the evening of Wednesday, May 14.

**Theft of check:** On May 16, a Dobbs Ferry resident reported that a \$600 check she had mailed outside the Ardsley Post Office on either April 26 or 27 had been altered and then cashed. The name of the payee had been changed.

**Theft of hammock:** A hammock was stolen from outside a home on King Street on the

evening of Thursday, May 15.

**Suspended registration:** A 30-year-old New Rochelle resident was arrested for a suspended vehicle registration, a misdemeanor, on Main Street on the afternoon of Saturday, May 17.

**Warrant arrest:** A 17-year-old resident of the Children's Village (CV) who was wanted by the NYPD was apprehended on Walgrove Avenue on the morning of Monday, May 19. He was AWOL from CV.

HASTINGS

**DWI arrest:** A 54-year-old Bronx resident was arrested

for driving while intoxicated, a misdemeanor, on Farragut Parkway on the evening of Thursday, May 15. His vehicle's driver's side tires were flat. Officer Wuilber Maldonado made the arrest.

**Fugitive from justice:** A 19-year-old Queens resident who was wanted by the Pocono Township Police Department in Pennsylvania was apprehended on Warburton Avenue on the evening of Friday, May 16. He was charged with being a fugitive from justice, a felony, and for a suspended driver's license, a misdemeanor. He was also cited for five vehicle and traffic violations and remand-

ed to the Westchester County Jail. Officer Wuilber Maldonado made the arrest.

IRVINGTON

**Assault arrest:** A 60-year-old Irvington resident was arrested for assaulting his ex-wife at their home on the morning of Thursday, May 15. He was charged with assault in the third degree, a misdemeanor.

**Theft from vehicle:** Two credit cards, two debit cards, a set of Magic: The Gathering cards, and change were stolen from an unlocked vehicle on Highland Lane between Friday, May 16 and Saturday, May 17.

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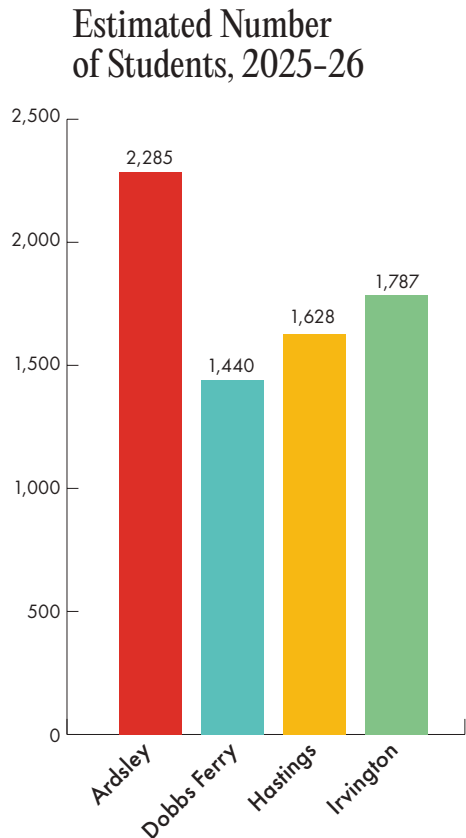
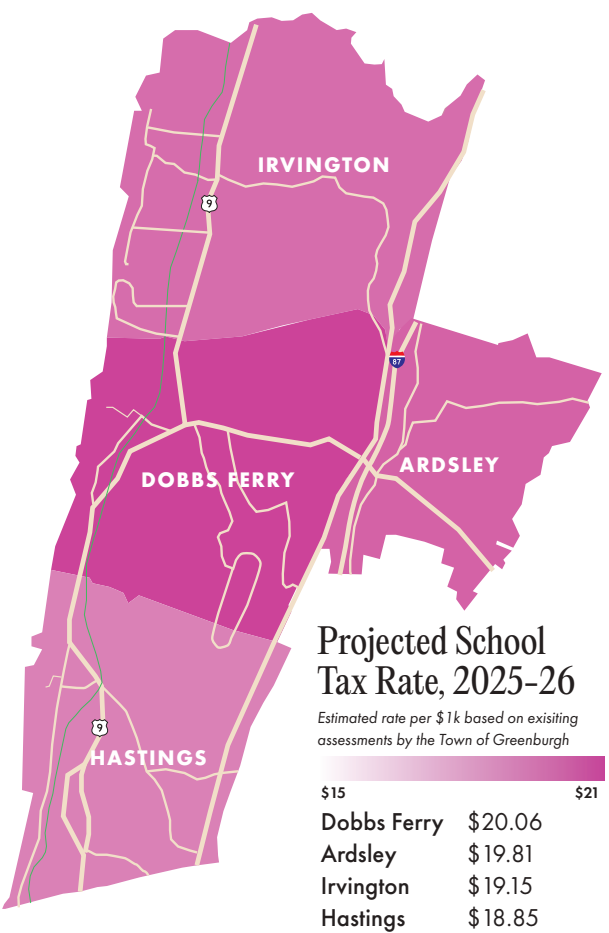
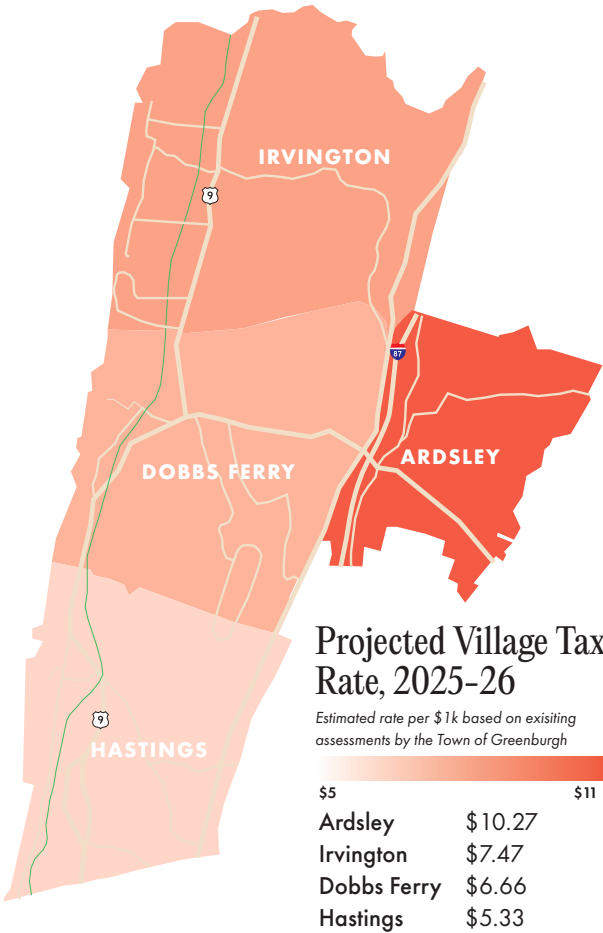
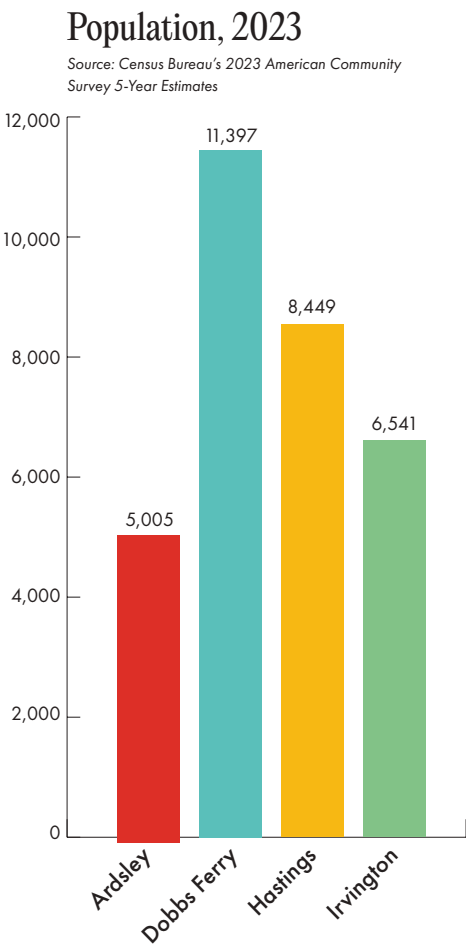
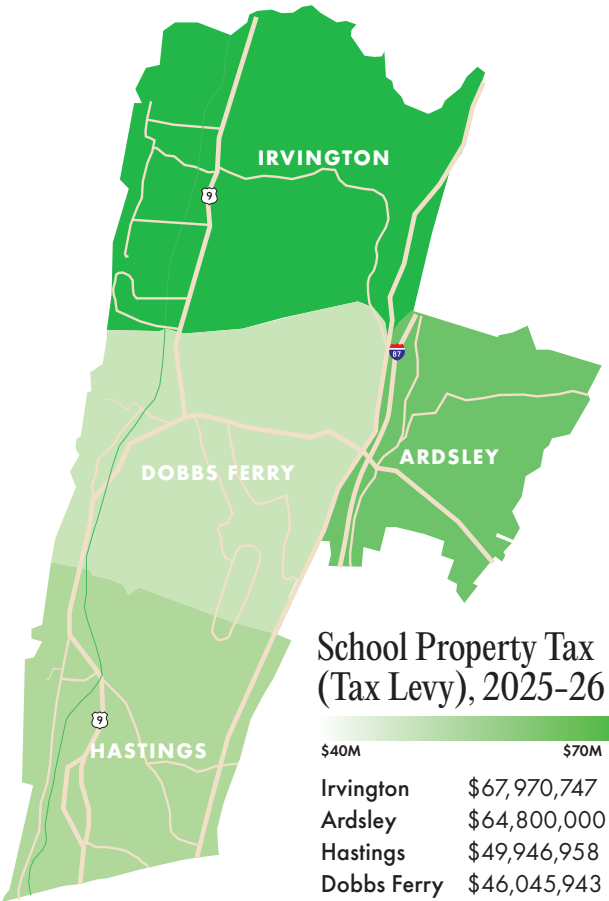
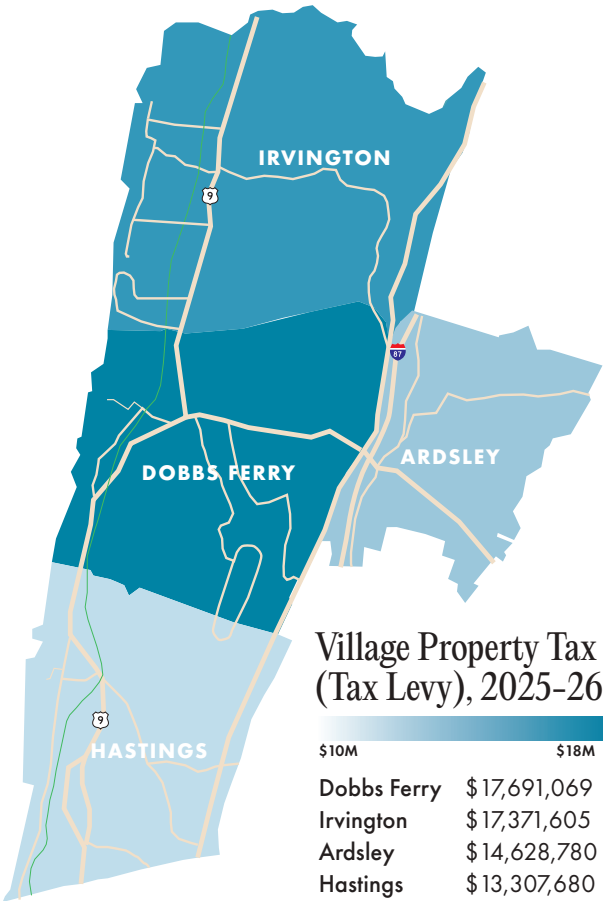


# Local Curiosities

— THE DISPATCH GUIDE TO —

## Village and School Property Taxes

The property taxes of Rivertowns residents fund their schools, villages, town, and county. While county and town taxes are spread across all, each village and school district has its own financial needs. *By Christy Knell*





Residential Solarize  
Continued from page 1

The installers were selected based upon 10 criteria, according to Leo Wiegman, the director of solar programs for Sustainable Westchester. The criteria included installing at least 20 systems in Westchester in 2023 and 2024, and installing systems in at least 20 of the 43 municipalities in the county.

Each partner has an average installation cost below the \$3.80/watt average for Westchester, according to Wiegman. To lower the costs, customers can apply for federal and state tax credits. The federal credit is for 30% of the installation cost, while the state credit is for 25% (up to \$5,000).

Installation options include batteries and electric vehicle chargers. Sustainable Westchester recommends owning systems, not renting them, according to Wiegman.

The number of residential solar installations in the Rivertowns, according to Sustainable Westchester, is 153 in Ardsley, 204 in Dobbs Ferry, 190 in Hastings, and 107 in Irvington.

Throughout the Town of Greenburgh, in-

cluding the Rivertowns, the percentage of owner-occupied housing units with solar systems is 8.8%, which is the fourth highest in Westchester. The countywide percentage is 6.8.

To receive a free solar assessment, fill out the form at [sustainablewestchester.org/residential-solarize](https://sustainablewestchester.org/residential-solarize).

Sustainable Westchester, which is based in Mount Kisco, also administers the Westchester Power program, for which it negotiates a fixed-rate contract with a renewable energy supplier on behalf of participating municipalities, including the Rivertowns.

The current one-year contract, which expires Nov. 30, supplies participating customers in 29 municipalities with 100% renewable energy for 13.298 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) or 50% renewable energy for 12.178 cents per kWh. The Rivertowns all opted for 100% renewable energy under the current contract and to continue that option under the next contract.

Customers can opt into the program, or out of the program, at any time, and can switch the percentage of renewable energy they receive. Those who opt out can shift to another

energy supplier, including Con Edison, which has a rate that fluctuates month to month.

On Jan. 31, Con Edison filed a petition with the New York State Public Service Commission to increase electric and gas delivery rates for residential customers in Westchester, which would result in electric bill increases of 11.4% and gas bill increases of 13.3%.

To challenge that petition, the Rivertowns and 34 other municipalities in Westchester agreed to hire Joel Dichter of Dichter Law LLC, who specializes in utility law, to represent them during the review process at a cost of \$100,000.

On Tuesday, May 20, the Westchester County Board of Legislators held a “community listening session” about the proposed rate hikes at Cortlandt Town Hall. The next listening session will be at Irvington Theater on Tuesday, June 3, from 7-9 p.m.

The Westchester County Board of Legislators, including David Imamura, who represents the Rivertowns, opposes the increases. So do County Executive Ken Jenkins, State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, and State Assemblymember MaryJane Shimsky.

streams that help provide water quality improvement, erosion control, and filter pollutants before they enter waterways, reducing the impact of stormwater runoff. The estimated cost of the project is \$212,933 and Irvington’s grant request is for \$159,699. The Village has yet to hear back about the application.

School election results

ARDSLEY

Budget

Yes — 391  
No — 121

Board (2 seats)

Bart Grachan — 434  
Hrishi Karthikeyan — 430

DOBBS FERRY

Budget

Yes — 483  
No — 105

Board (3 seats)

Disan Davis — 300  
\*Sudha Reddy — 440  
\*Darren Wood — 425  
\*Mindy Walker — 415

HASTINGS

Budget

Yes — 1,676  
No — 487

Board (2 seats)

Elizabeth Adinolfi — 697  
\*Maureen Lennon-Santana — 1,360  
Rochelle Nelson — 279  
\*David Weinstein — 1,331

IRVINGTON

Budget

Yes — 630  
No — 146

Capital Reserve Proposition

Yes — 608  
No — 151

Board (2 seats)


Steven Balet — 612  
Andrea Flynn — 633

Matthiessen Park  
Continued from page 1

the park will generally be open, but some of the building process will require the park to be closed for a full day or part of a day. Scheduled closures will be announced in advance at [irvingtonny.gov](https://irvingtonny.gov) and the Village

social media channels.


In April, Irvington also applied for a Green Innovations Grant from New York State to cover 75% of the cost of creating a 210-foot-long and 40- to 50-foot-wide riparian buffer along the park’s Hudson River bank. Riparian buffers are vegetated areas along the edges of rivers and



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# ARDSLEY

— Coming Up This Week —

## Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 26, 10 a.m.

The parade steps off from the corner of Park and Ashford avenues and proceeds to Pascone Park for a ceremony followed by refreshments. In case of rain, the ceremony will be held at the firehouse on Ashford Avenue at 10 a.m. Presented by American Legion Post #458.

## Municipal Offices Closed

Monday, May 26

In observance of Memorial Day

## Executive Functioning and Study Skills Workshop

Tuesday, May 27, 7 p.m.

High school library

Hosted by Ardsley SEPTA

## Board of Trustees Work Session

Tuesday, May 27, 7:30 p.m.

Village Hall

Agenda available at [ardsleyvillage.gov](https://ardsleyvillage.gov).

## Zoning Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 28, 8 p.m.

Village Hall

Agenda available at [ardsleyvillage.gov](https://ardsleyvillage.gov).

## Senior Event: Chocolate Dipping

Wednesday, May 28, noon

Ardsley Community Center

## Library Board Meeting

Thursday, May 29, 7:30 p.m.

Ardsley Public Library

## Summer Music Festival

Friday, June 6, 7-9 p.m.

Addyman Square

## AMP FEST 2025

Saturday, June 7, 12:30-6 p.m.

Ardsley Middle School

Sponsored by Ardsley Music Partners

## Juneteenth Celebration

Saturday, June 14, 1-3 p.m.

Pascone Park

The Multicultural Diversity and Inclusion Committee presents music, dance, arts and crafts, and food trucks.

## Got news?

Email staff writer Amy Bochner at [amy@rivertownsdispatch.com](mailto:amy@rivertownsdispatch.com)



Maddy Robinson and Sabina Chun

# Teens make an upcycled fashion statement

## Seniors to compete in Junk Kouture World Final

BY AMY BOCHNER

Made only of recycled materials, a corseted dress inspired by a mythological sea monster has earned Ardsley High School seniors Maddy Robinson and Sabina Chun a spot in the Junk Kouture World Final 2025.

Junk Kouture is a sustainable fashion competition that challenges 12- to 19-year-olds to design, upcycle, and create couture from excess, discarded, or repurposed items. Six cities around the world, including Paris, Abu Dhabi, and New York City, host finals, sending the top 10 projects to the World Final. On May 12, Chun and Robinson became one of New York City's finalists, allowing them to represent their school and country on the world stage.

Both students fell in love with fashion and art at an early age. Chun, who will study fashion design at Parsons School of Design this fall, recalled learning how to sew at the age of 4 and how to use a sewing machine in fifth grade. Robinson remembered witnessing a fashion show when she was 9 and thinking that the behind-the-scenes hustle and bustle looked like "so much fun." She will study animation at the California College of the Arts in San Francisco.

Chun and Robinson became friends this year through their AP Art class, taught by Stephanie Rosen, who introduced them to Junk Kouture. The two students decided to collaborate on a project for the contest.

They had six months to create and submit their outfit, which is composed of a corset, skirt, headpiece, and decorated shoes. Each participant in Junk Kouture gives their creation a name, with Chun and Robinson choosing "The Leviathan" to reflect its inspiration.

"We both agreed that we wanted to do something sea-based, because of ocean pollution and rising ocean levels," Chun said. "I figured why not tie that with something like a myth, because people are still continuing to disregard the fact that it's rising. Some people just don't believe it... so I was like, 'Well, there's a sea creature that also is "real," and it's rising to the surface.' Why not tie that to rising ocean levels and have that creature be portrayed as the trash that's in the ocean?"

The corset and skirt are constructed from trash bags, cardboard, and old curtains. For the holographic pattern on the corset, Chun and Robinson broke up CDs and peeled off the reflective layer.

Holding the materials together is mod podge and hot glue. Also giving support to the skirt is a bustle made of coat hangers, a nod to Robinson's wish to add a Victorian feature to the dress. The headpiece incorporates the extra materials, including the broken CDs, to create a "reflective fin," Robinson said.

In the production process, the two students took on different roles. Chun did the sewing while Robinson decorated the dress and served as the model. For the virtual con-

test, Robinson wore the dress.

The two first secured a spot for the New York City final in March. On May 12, Junk Kouture hosted a livestream on their YouTube channel, showing 30 designs created by students throughout the United States. Of these, 10 made it to the final round, including "The Leviathan."

A week after their win, Robinson said it still "doesn't feel real."

So far, all stages of the competition have been conducted virtually, but the World Final takes place in person. While the date and location for this year's event haven't officially been announced, Robinson and Chun said it is expected to be held in Dublin, Ireland, and the two plan on attending.

With the competition having a focus on sustainability, Chun shared the link between the fashion industry and pollution.

"Whenever clothes are manufactured or made or produced in masses, scraps come out... and those scraps don't have a use anywhere else," she said. "They ultimately just end up throwing it out, and eventually that goes into the ocean or landfills."

Robinson emphasized the importance of having programs like Junk Kouture raise awareness for environmental issues.

"People are in denial about climate change. It's gonna end up affecting us one way or another," she said. "There are people that are working toward solutions, but [it's] something that more of the general public should be aware of and should be conscious of."



ARDSLEY

Postcard enthusiast meets the world through his (real) mailbox

BY AMY BOCHNER

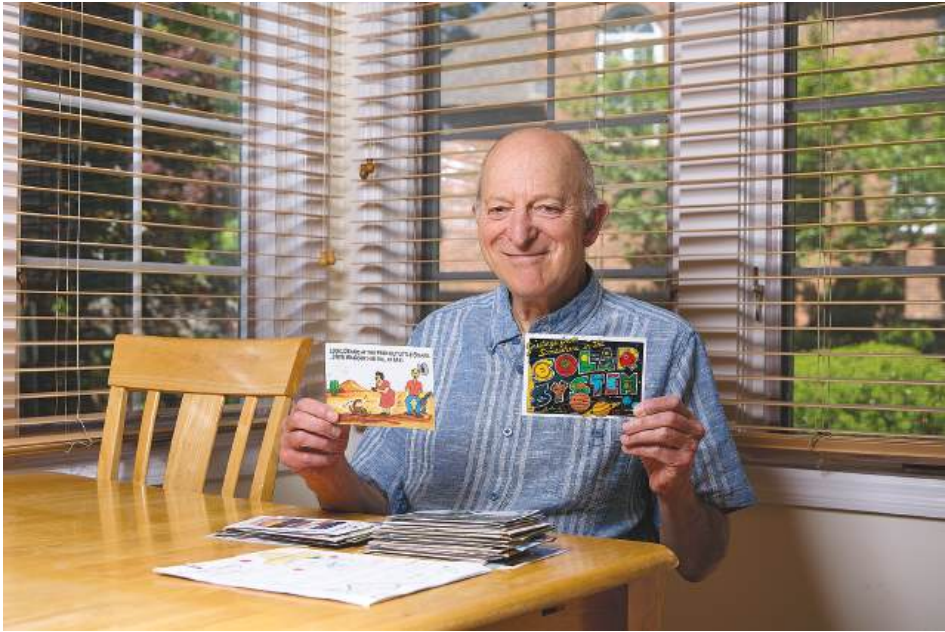
As a deltiologist, Andy Wainer keeps his collection of more than a thousand postcards in a drawer and in albums. Each card features the unique handwriting of a different stranger from around the world. While their countries of origin span continents, what every correspondent has in common is membership in Postcrossing, an international postcard club.

On May 6, Wainer, a 28-year resident at Ardsley, shared his collection in a presentation at the Ardsley Public Library, highlighting his experience with the club that has over 804,000 members from 210 countries and territories. Wainer joined Postcrossing in 2020, when he was looking for ways to fill his time at home during the Covid-19 pandemic.

“I had just retired [from his job as an employment counselor],” he said. “It seemed like a great thing to spend some time doing, and I like writing to people.”

Members of Postcrossing send and receive postcards from each other via a random name generator on postcrossing.com. Since its founding in 2005, nearly 82 million postcards have been sent. The online club is free to join, with the only cost being postcards and stamps.

In the past five years, Wainer has sent



Andy Wainer holds two of the postcards he received through Postcrossing.

over 1,100 cards, receiving about the same number from people all over the world.

At the library, he had with him a few of his binders full of postcards from Texas to Germany, Australia to China. One card tucked inside a glossy plastic sleeve is covered in stamps from Victoria, Canada. Sending or receiving collectible items, Wainer said, is common.

“When you read some people’s profile, they will say they have a preference in collecting things. I have sent people, in an envelope, three things,” he said. “I’ve sent coins — pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters. I’ve sent stamps for people who like to collect stamps, and I’ve sent tea bags.”

Not only has Wainer developed a vast

postcard collection as a result of Postcrossing, but he’s also created long-lasting friendships.

“You’re exchanging postcards with people all over the world who are good, nice, friendly people. That’s probably my favorite thing about Postcrossing, besides just going to the mailbox and getting postcards from different states and countries. I have become friends with several people,” he said.

“I have two pen pals in Germany. We have exchanged numerous letters with each other. One of them, we do a Zoom every couple of months. I have a friend in Ireland. For well over a year, we have sent each other an email every day, without fail. I have a friend in California who [my wife] Gail and I met last September.”

A favorite card Wainer has in his collection is from a 6-year-old child who, he said, “might be the youngest member” of Postcrossing.

“I think it was somewhere in Europe. He wrote maybe a sentence or two himself and his parents helped him with another sentence or two,” he said. “It was just really notable and cool that such a young kid was involved with Postcrossing.”

Another highlight for Wainer is sharing his postcards with his father, who will turn

*Continued on page 15*

Trunk Show

featuring



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# DOBBS FERRY

— Coming Up This Week —

## Art Reception

Sunday, May 25, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Dobbs Ferry Public Library

Artwork by Joy Moon Lee is on view through June 21.

## Spring Thing Community Picnic

Sunday, May 25, 1-4 p.m.

The Mead House, 12 Elm St.

Sponsored by the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society  
RSVP to [SpringThingRSVP@yahoo.com](mailto:SpringThingRSVP@yahoo.com)

## Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony

Monday, May 26, 11 a.m.

From the high school to Waterfront Park

## Municipal Offices Closed

Monday, May 26

In observance of Memorial Day

## Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, May 27, 7:30 p.m.

Village Hall

Agenda available at [dobbsferry.com](http://dobbsferry.com).

## School Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 27, 7 p.m.

Middle/high school library

Agenda available at [dfsd.org](http://dfsd.org).

## Romance Book Club

Wednesday, May 28, 6 p.m.

Dobbs Ferry Public Library

Discuss "The Ex Vows" by Jessica Joyce.

Register by emailing [sbook@dobbsferrylibrary.org](mailto:sbook@dobbsferrylibrary.org).

## Mobile Shredder

Thursday, May 29, 9 a.m.-noon

Waterfront Park

## Screening: "Matter of Mind: My Alzheimer's"

Saturday, May 31, 2-3:30 p.m.

Dobbs Ferry Public Library

## Invasive Species Clearing

Sunday, June 1, 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](http://eventbrite.com) and search for the Dobbs Ferry Conservation Advisory Board.

## Got news?

Email staff writer Julian Caldwell at [julian@rivertownsdispatch.com](mailto:julian@rivertownsdispatch.com)

# Planning phase kicks off for \$4.5M grant

*First public workshop to be held June 3*

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Dobbs Ferry is starting to formulate how it will use the \$4.5 million grant it was awarded in March by the state's NY Forward program to help revitalize the downtown.

On Thursday, May 15, the Village's Local Planning Committee (LPC) for the program held its first public meeting to lay out the roughly eight-month planning process. The 11-person committee includes local business owners and members of various Dobbs Ferry organizations. The LPC is co-chaired by Mayor Vincent Rossillo and former Dobbs Ferry resident Andrew Regenstreich, who is a member of the state's Mid-Hudson Economic Development Council and regional manager at Yonkers-based property management firm Dolphin Property Services. Dobbs Ferry has been assigned New York City-based civil engineering firm Vanesse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) as a consulting team for the program.

Among the specific projects the village included in its application for the grant were: building a facility next to the Memorial Park basketball court, where the American Legion building used to stand; cleaning up and adding benches to High Street Park, adjacent to the train station that is choked with vegetation; and sprucing up the plaza at the intersection of Main and Cedar streets. None of these proposals is guaranteed to go forward, and they all have to be resubmitted as part of an "Open Call for Projects" process that begins June 4 and closes July 31.

NY Forward is a reimbursement program

that requires the sponsors of each individually approved project to complete the approved work before funds are released. While there's no set range for the number of projects that can be funded by the \$4.5 million grant, eligible stand-alone projects have to have a minimum cost of \$75,000 and be shovel ready within two years of being awarded. Sponsors can be public, private, and nonprofit entities.

Eligible projects through NY Forward include public improvements such as streetscapes, public art, and green space; new development or rehabilitation of existing buildings for mixed use, commercial, residential, not-for-profit or public use; and marketing of downtown to target residents, tourists, and investors. Efforts costing less than \$75,000, such as facade improvements and building renovations, can be grouped into one small-project grant fund up to \$600,000.

During the meeting the LPC shared the geographical boundaries within which potential projects can happen. 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 Street and Cedar Street, part of the Old Croton Aqueduct Trailway, and the 99 Cedar Street parking lot, at the corner of Palisade Street.

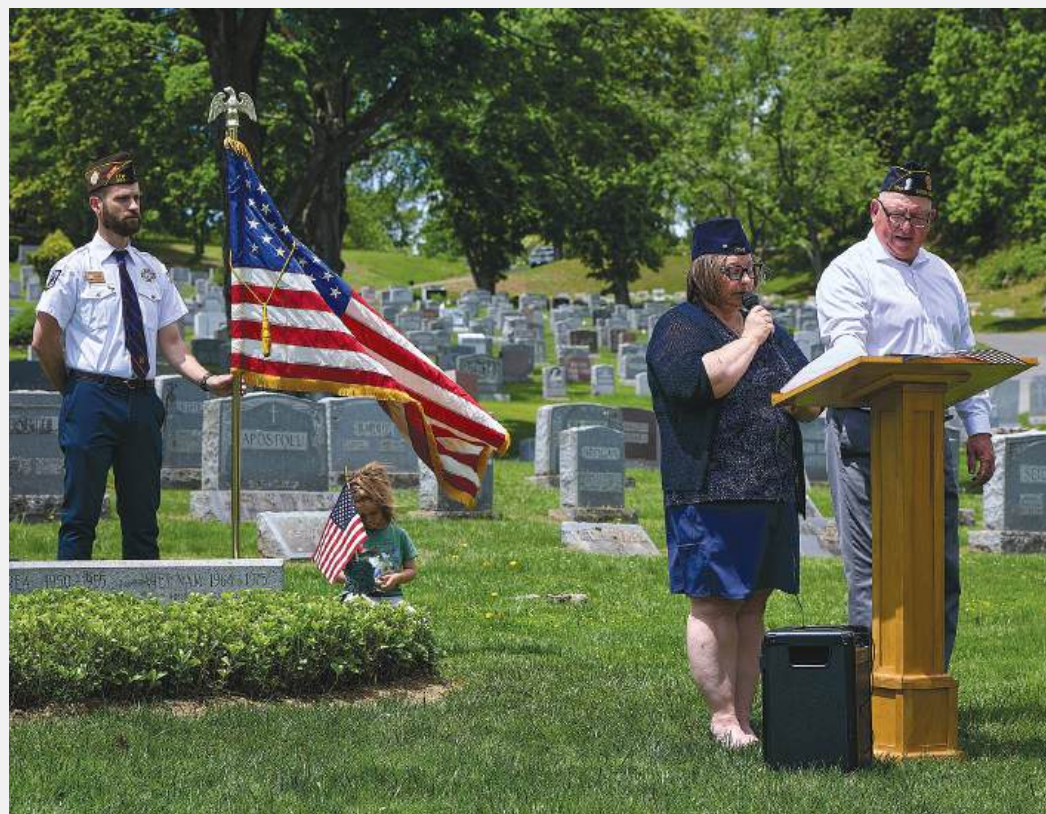
"We think [the parameter] allows for revitalization of the key areas of downtown Dobbs Ferry, gives an opportunity for stores, new businesses, potentially rehabbing old buildings and old businesses, and gives the Village itself an opportunity to rehabilitate our own property," Rossillo explained during the meeting.

Between May and October, the LPC is scheduled to meet at least five times, with an optional sixth meeting, to come to a consensus on which projects to submit to the State. The second meeting will be on June 25, a little more than three weeks after the first public workshop on June 3, and the beginning of the Open Call for Projects on June 4.

Though the State will fund \$4.5 million worth of projects, municipalities participating in NY Forward are encouraged to submit \$6 million to \$8 million of projects to be evaluated. That leaves room for the proposal not funded by NY Forward, but deemed important, to potentially be completed separately from the grant. After the LPC finalizes the list in October, VHB will prepare a strategic investment plan with detailed information about each project and submit it for multi-agency state review in December.

Final award announcements are estimated to come from the State in spring 2026. The State evaluates proposed projects on how well they align with State and local goals, their positive impact on downtown revitalization, cost effectiveness, and the level of clear community support.

The first public workshop meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 3, at the Embassy Center, 60 Palisade St., from 6-8 p.m. There will be a second public workshop in the fall, as the LPC refines its list of proposed projects, in addition to two other public engagement events throughout the spring and fall. Dates for those yet-to-be-scheduled meetings and more information about Dobbs Ferry's NY Forward program can be found at [dobbsferry.nyf.com](http://dobbsferry.nyf.com).



**Tri-Village salute**  
Dobbs Ferry residents Ben Ilany, Lev Ilany, Miriam Soave, and Angelo Soave participate in the annual Tri-Village Memorial Day service at Mount Hope Cemetery in Hastings on Sunday, May 18. Ben Ilany serves as commander of VFW Post 200 of Hastings, while Angelo Soave serves as commander American Legion Post 1048 of Dobbs Ferry. The event was also attended by members of American Legion Post 458 of Ardsley and American Legion Post 1195 of Hastings, as well as elected officials.



DOBBS FERRY

E-bikes on the way, along with electric vehicle charging stations

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Dobbs Ferry is moving forward with plans for seven e-bike sharing stations and 58 electric vehicle charging stations. Neither of the efforts comes at a cost to the village to install.

During a public meeting on Tuesday, May 13, the board of trustees approved a license agreement with Drop Mobility to build e-bike stations at Waterfront Park, Memorial Park, the public library, the intersection of Cedar and Main streets, the middle of Cedar Street, Gould Park, and Danforth Plaza at Rivertowns Square. Drop Mobility has e-bike stations in cities throughout the country, including New Orleans, Albany, and New Haven.

The stations can feature as few as four docking points and e-bikes per location, up to as many as will fit in a space, in denominations of five and four. The exact number of bikes Dobbs Ferry will have at each station has not been determined, but they're expected to appear over the summer.

Dobbs Ferry is one of six municipalities, along with the Town of Ossining and the villages of Ossining, Tarrytown, Sleepy Hollow, and Croton-on-Hudson, that signed up to partner for one of three Westchester County Project MOVER programs. The e-bike sharing program was piloted in the Village of Ossining in September 2024 with the installation of 50 e-bikes. After

being deemed successful there, the program is expanding to the five other partner municipalities.

The cost of installing the stations is covered by New York State. Project MOVER also includes an e-bike incentive program providing discount vouchers to cover personal e-bike purchases, and an upcoming program that will allow participants to rent an e-bike for weeks at a time. Neither of those programs is available in Dobbs Ferry.

In Dobbs, phase one of the program will include the seven aforementioned hubs, while Drop Mobility is also considering potential locations at Hudson River Landing (145 Palisade Street), Stop & Shop, and Mercy University, which began the first bikeshare program in the village in 2017. Ridership patterns and local preferences will help determine if more stations will be added.

On April 22, the Village approved locations for 58 EV charging stations, the installation of which will be paid for in full by a grant awarded to the Village through a partnership between Westchester County and Con Edison. Twenty-two of the charging stations will be located at the waterfront parking lot abutting the train station, with another 24 at the 99 Cedar Street municipal lot at the corner of Palisade Street, 10 at the village hall lot, and two on Main Street. All stations are expected to be installed toward the end of the summer.



Roadside tributes

Eighty-two banners honoring veterans with connections to Dobbs Ferry were installed throughout the village earlier this month to coincide the Memorial Day. The banners will remain in place through Veterans Day, Nov. 11. Following Veterans Day, it will be possible to purchase additional banners for 2026. U.S. Navy veteran Ed Hennessy of Dobbs Ferry led the effort to install the banners, one of which honors his father, Ed, and uncle, James, who also served in the Navy. Each banner cost \$225. The annual Dobbs Ferry Memorial Day Ceremony will be held outside the high school on Monday, May 26, at 11 a.m., followed by a parade to Waterfront Park. The ceremony will, in part, honor Bill Florin, the former commander of Dobbs Ferry American Legion Post 1048.

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Saturday 12 p.m. – 12 a.m.

Sunday 11 a.m. – 12 a.m. Brunch!





# HASTINGS- ON-HUDSON

— *Coming Up This Week* —

## Memorial Day Parade

Sunday, May 25, 2 p.m.

On Main Street,

then north on Warburton Avenue,

followed by a ceremony at the VFW building

## Municipal Offices Closed

Monday, May 26

In observance of Memorial Day

## Local Luminaries: “The Family Dynamic”

Thursday, May 29, 7 p.m.

Hastings Public Library

Award-winning New York Times journalist and Hastings resident Susan Dominus discusses her new book about sibling success with neighbor and fellow writer Melanie Hoopes.

## Keeping It Real Book Club

Friday, May 30, 11 a.m.

Hastings Public Library

Discuss “The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York” by Robert Caro.

Email [has@hastingslibrary.org](mailto:has@hastingslibrary.org) to register.

## Juneteenth Celebration

Sunday, June 1, 1-5 p.m.

Commuter Lot, Southside Avenue

Live music, food, and family fun by Hastings Parenting Children of Color.

## “Gone But Not Forgotten: Lost Buildings of Hastings”

Sunday, June 1, 2-4 p.m.

Hastings Public Library

Hastings Historical Society president Natalie Berry discusses the historic structures that have disappeared from the village landscape.

## Farmers’ Market

Saturday, June 7, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Commuter Lot, Southside Avenue

For details, visit [hastingsfarmersmarket.org](http://hastingsfarmersmarket.org) and follow the market on Facebook.

## Spring Thing

Sunday, June 8, noon-4 p.m.

Warburton Avenue

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

## Got news?

Email staff writer Amy Bochner at [amy@rivertownsdispatch.com](mailto:amy@rivertownsdispatch.com)



Katie Tolson at her flower farm on Nov. 3, 2024.

# Seedling business blooms into microfarm

## *New book highlights Hastings flower farmer*

BY AMY BOCHNER

On a recent rainy Wednesday, Katie Tolson was decked out in weather-proof gardening attire, tending to her flower farm overlooking the Hudson River. As she provided a tour, she gestured to a bed of recently harvested tulips, pointing out how, on her less-than-half-acre plot, she “does almost everything by hand.”

A drier, sunnier version of the scene appears in the pages of “The Flower Farmers: Inspiration & Advice from Expert Growers,” written by Debra Prinzing and Robin Avni and published by Abrams Books on May 6. The book highlights 29 flower farmers across the United States and Canada, including Tolson, the owner of Seed-on-Hudson in Hastings.

Five years ago, Tolson was far from cultivating eucalyptus and zinnias, instead working for an auction house in Manhattan, a career she had been in for more than 20 years. During the Covid-19 pandemic, 60% of the company’s office was furloughed, Tolson included. She turned to gardening, a practice she first adopted during her childhood in Los Angeles before taking it with her to the various places she’s called home, among them London and, since 2016, Hastings.

In 2020, instead of composting her extra seedlings as she normally would, she decid-

ed to sell them, noting how “everyone was home and wanted to be gardening.”

Tolson held her first pop-up on her curb that Mother’s Day, where she peddled a variety of native plant, vegetable, and fruit seedlings. The following spring, a friend helped her put a website together for Seed-on-Hudson and Tolson hired an illustrator to create a logo. While she still grows at her home, Tolson’s farm now includes the aforementioned plot on a satellite property, also in Hastings. She sells to consumers through her website ([seedonhudson.com](http://seedonhudson.com)), as well as wholesale to designers and florists.

Currently, she offers a variety of heirloom tomato plants for \$8 each, as well as a four-week subscription of late spring bouquets (\$180), which started May 19. Her individual bouquets range from \$35 to \$80. Each order, she said, is fresh cut and “right out of the field.” A pottery line that’s in the works should be available on her website this summer. In addition, she owns a consultancy called Tolson Art Advisory, LLC, which she founded in 2022.

Tolson is a member of a growing movement of microfarmers, who participate in a practice called succession planting.

“You might have a bed that has two to four crops in it in one year,” she said. “It’s intensive — you can get a lot of flowers out of a small space. There is definitely this movement that started more than 10 years ago, where there’s a lot of small growers popping up everywhere,” she said. “Even just with the

pandemic, there’s a huge increase of gardeners. It means that people are more aware of their environment, more aware of nature.”

Before the 1990s, she explained, the bulk of flowers bought in the United States were grown domestically. In 2023, U.S. Customs and Border Protection reported that about 80% of cut flowers bought in the United States were imported, which comes with a set of environmental and ethical concerns.

“They’re all very heavily sprayed,” Tolson said. “The people working [on the farms] aren’t always treated the best, not equitably compensated or their healthcare taken into consideration. Also, all of that fuel is expended to get [the flowers] here from thousands of miles away. [There’s] definitely this movement to encourage people working in the floral industry, like the designers and florists, to buy locally, support the farmers that are growing, and then to shift the consciousness of buyers.”

One organization bringing together domestic farmers, florists, and designers is Slow Flowers, started by Prinzing. Since 2022, Tolson, inspired by the organization’s goals, has attended Slow Flowers’ annual conference.

“I loved everything that they were trying to accomplish, as far as supporting local farmers, really thinking holistically about the environment and sustainability, and also encouraging florists and consumers to think about seasonal crops that are better for the

*Continued on page 15*



## HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON

# Mental health drama, mixed with romance, takes center stage

BY LAURA SCHILLER

Meet Max and Whitney. It's week two of an 18-week drug trial at a medical facility, where they are enrolled in hopes of being "cured" of a schizophrenic personality disorder. For more than 30 years, both have lived in the quiet seclusion of their own minds. But the experimental drug they're now taking is designed to dismantle those inner sanctuaries, erasing the only reality they have ever known.

As the medication takes effect, Max and Whitney begin to experience vulnerability and the stirrings of intimacy, as if waking up for the first time. And with that awakening comes a choice: keep taking the pills and risk the pain of human connection or retreat into the safety of solitude.

That dilemma is the premise of the play "World Builders" by Johnna Adams, which will be staged on May 30, 31, and June 1 at River's Edge Theatre Company's studio in Hastings. The production is presented in honor of Mental Health Awareness Month, and in keeping with the play's theme, River's Edge will collect donations to benefit the Mental Health Association of Westchester.

"With every one of our productions, we try to give back to a nonprofit that's driving positive change in the world," said artis-



Julia Schonberg and Chris Moore rehearse at the River's Edge studio.

tic director Meghan Covington of Ardsley, who co-founded River's Edge in 2019. Her motivation for presenting "World Builders" is personal. "Mental health *is* health, and these issues have affected my friends, family, and so many people in our community. The more we talk about it, the less frightening it becomes."

For the play's director, Mark Cajigao of Hastings, "World Builders" offers a deeply

human spin on the classic love story. "It's kind of a twist on 'Romeo and Juliet,' only Romeo and Juliet didn't have a choice. They saw each other and fell in love immediately," he said. "Whereas Max and Whitney can pursue the feelings they're just beginning to have by continuing with the meds, or they can go back into their own inner worlds, where it's safe."

The play also raises questions about phar-

maceutical therapy, consent, and morality. Are Max and Whitney being helped or coerced? Who decides what constitutes a life worth changing? If they weren't hurting, if they were content in their private worlds, why force them into a new reality halfway through their lives?

When Cajigao first read the play, he knew it would spark conversation. But he didn't anticipate how emotionally demanding it would be to stage. "The vulnerability it asks of the actors is immense," he said, and is intensified by the intimacy of River's Edge's unique venue: a black-box space that seats about 30 people. "Sometimes the audience is literally inches from the actors. They're right there as the characters talk, struggle, and fall in love," Cajigao said. "There's no curtain, no distance. It's raw and immediate, and that closeness changes everything."

For the actors, Julia Schonberg of Nyack and Chris Moore of Ardsley, the play is a 90-minute emotional and intellectual marathon, with no break (aside from a quick costume change backstage). The script, a continuous dialogue between the two characters, begins with tentative, monosyllabic exchanges, as Max and Whitney navigate the unfamiliar terrain of human connec-

*Continued on page 15*



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# IRVINGTON

## — Coming Up This Week —

### Farmers' Market

Sunday, May 25, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Main Street School, 101 Main St.

This is the last market of the month. The season of weekly markets begins June 1, opening at 9 a.m.

For details, visit [theirvingtonfarmersmarket.org](http://theirvingtonfarmersmarket.org) and follow the market on Facebook.

### Memorial Day Ceremonies

Monday, May 26, 10 a.m.

Main Street Memorials

### Municipal Offices Closed

Monday, May 26

In observance of Memorial Day

### Zoning Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 27, 7:30 p.m.

Village Hall

To attend via Zoom, visit [irvingtonny.gov](http://irvingtonny.gov) for the link.

### School Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 27, 7:30 p.m.

High school library

Agenda available at [irvingtonschools.org](http://irvingtonschools.org).

### Architectural Review Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 28, 8 p.m.

Village Hall

To attend via Zoom, visit [irvingtonny.gov](http://irvingtonny.gov) for the link.

### Zombie Survival Game

Friday, May 30, 5:30 p.m.

Irvington Presbyterian Church, 25 N. Broadway

The Green Policy Task Force, Presbyterian Church, and Rivertowns Playhouse wrap up a month of challenges to help residents with emergency preparedness.

Learn more at [IrvingtonGreen.org/climate/emergency-preparedness](http://IrvingtonGreen.org/climate/emergency-preparedness).

### Closing Reception: "Through My Lens"

Saturday, May 31, 2 p.m.

Irvington Public Library

Last chance to view Pam Grafstein's photography exhibit.

### Irvington Green Policy Task Force: Video Contest

Register by May 31

Irvington High School students are invited to create an instructional video on how to sort cafeteria resources. The submission deadline is Sept. 15.

Registration and details at [irvingtongreen.org/waste](http://irvingtongreen.org/waste).

### Got news?

Email staff writer Julian Caldwell at [julian@rivertownsdispatch.com](mailto:julian@rivertownsdispatch.com)



IVAC members Nancy Adler, Mitchell Koch, Heather Thomas, David Graybeal, 2nd Lt. Martina Eng, Captain Lucas Isola, 1st Lt. Adrianna Rivera and her 10-year-old son, Sofian, Frank Wortner, Jakub Kubina, Harry Troy, and Samuel Andrade with the department's two new ambulances.

## Financial support stabilizes EMS service

### *Donations and grant fund two new ambulances*

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

In its second year of municipal funding, the Irvington Volunteer Ambulance Corps (IVAC) is seeing a \$4,800 increase in those funds, plus the addition of two new ambulances. Both measures were taken to provide emergency medical services to the community 24 hours a day, seven days per week.

On Monday, May 19, the village board of trustees renewed a year-long contract with IVAC for a maximum of \$124,800, beginning June 1. Last year the Village signed a contract for \$120,000, marking the first time since the ambulance corps' founding, in 1963, that the organization received money directly from the Village of Irvington. The increase for the upcoming contract comes as a result of higher costs for medical supplies and equipment, and a raise in pay for non-volunteer emergency medical technicians (EMTs).

IVAC is an independent volunteer organization that also hires paid-per-diem EMTs to cover shifts when volunteers aren't available. IVAC captain Lucas Isola, who took over the leadership position from Ellen Lewit in October, explained that in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, volunteer availability has declined. Until June 2024, the cost of per diem shifts and other expenses was covered by donations and reimbursement from insurance companies after IVAC took patients to the hospital.

"We bill insurance companies, and that's where we derive a good source of our revenue, and we're lucky to have a population that is well insured," Isola told the Dispatch. "And we have some really generous donors, and we basically survived like that from 1963 until 2024. But finding and keeping volunteers was challenging."

Isola estimates that now roughly 48% of IVAC funding comes from reimbursements, 22% from the Village, 20% from donations, and 10% from other sources or grants. If a person refuses medical assistance after a 911 call, isn't transported to the hospital, or doesn't have medical insurance, IVAC is not reimbursed. In fiscal year 2022-23, without direct financial support from the Village, IVAC operated at a deficit of more than \$32,000. From January 2024 through January 2025, IVAC had a deficit of \$6,000.

Since Irvington began funding IVAC last year, Isola explained that the Village "has gone above and beyond" what most municipalities are doing to support their local volunteer ambulance group, but acknowledged that expenses for paid-per-diem EMTs still exceed the contribution from the Village. IVAC's senior EMTs, who comprise the majority of the corps' per diem staffing, earn \$21 per hour. IVAC operates with 12-hour shifts beginning at 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., and has recently found it most difficult to find volunteers for night and weekend duty.

"We don't answer a lot of calls nights and

weekends in Irvington," Isola explained. "So these are interesting shifts to cover because we have to provide this 911 EMS service, and we don't generate a lot of call volume, meaning we don't collect a lot of insurance revenue on nights and weekends, but we still have to staff them."

For each 12-hour shift, an ambulance is required to have a driver and qualified EMT on board to be considered fully staffed. When an ambulance isn't fully staffed, a shift goes uncovered. From January through October 2023, IVAC was fully staffed for 74% of potential shifts, with two-thirds of that time covered by paid-per-diem EMTs. For roughly six months between November 2024 and mid-May, only one shift went uncovered. In the past, Dobbs Ferry's ambulance corps has covered for IVAC when it's out of service, and vice versa.

Under IVAC's new contract with the Village, Irvington will pay IVAC every four weeks at a rate of \$185 per every 12-hour shift that it's fully staffed. That comes out to \$9,600 every four-week period.

"It's very wise for the taxpayers because then the taxpayers know they are providing money to a service for adequate staffing, and it also incentivizes our agency to be fully staffed and ready for emergencies," Isola said.

On Monday, May 19, IVAC started operating the second of its two new ambulances (the first one went into service on April 22). IVAC

*Continued on page 12*



IRVINGTON

— COMMUNITY BRIEFS —



Sofia Teich, Benjamin Zbeda, and Oren Fielman

First in Math winners

Dows Lane Elementary School third-graders Oren Fielman, Sofia Teich, and Benjamin Zbeda were winners in the First in Math Virtual Regional Tournament on March 20. The trio earned spots at the upcoming statewide competition in Albany on May 31. The students tackled problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.



Amber Lai, Daisy Lamb, Max Bloom, Lucy Acharekar, and Laurel Neubauer

IHS students excel at science fair

Five students in Irvington 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. Guided by advisers Amy Ma and Nadia Parikka, the students submitted digital posters and recorded 12-minute video presentations showcasing their original research projects.

Max Bloom placed second in medicine and medical science and technology; Laurel Neubauer placed second in health and nutrition; Lucy Acharekar placed third in health and nutrition; Amber Lai placed third in physiological and experimental psychology; and Daisy Lamb placed third

in environmental science.

In addition, Bloom was selected as a nominee for the New York State Science Congress, an honor extended by the Science Teachers Association of New York State. He will join regional finalists from across the state to present his research at the Science Congress in Syracuse on June 8. The Science Congress is a culminating recognition for students who demonstrated excellence through regional science fairs.

MSS students support green causes

In celebration of Earth Day, fourth and fifth graders at the Main Street School raised \$764 for environmental organizations during a weeklong fundraiser. Led by the school's Environmental Club, the students also educated their peers about environmental issues such as energy conservation, ocean pollution, and the protection of sea turtles. The students selected three organizations to support: the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, Oceana, and the Sea Turtle Conservancy. Their fundraising efforts took place during Spirit Week, where they invited classmates to donate \$1 per day to participate in themed days such as Inside Out Day, Jersey Day, Pajama Day, and Tie-Dye Day. A bake sale further boosted contributions.

IVAC

Continued from page 11

was able to pay for the vehicles, which cost \$200,000 each, thanks to a \$125,000 grant from the Phelps Community Corporation, \$250,000 from an anonymous donor, and \$50,000 from donations. In March, the Village also donated a former police department SUV to IVAC as a rapid response vehicle used to help EMTs supplement the ambulances.

"Our ambulances were 26 and 28 years old respectively — well beyond their usable life spans," Isola explained. "Even though they were still functioning well, they frequently had mechanical issues that needed to be addressed."

IVAC provides an intermediary level of advanced life-support care that, according to Isola, most ambulance corps in Westchester do not. That includes the capability to start IVs and administer more medications than an EMT usually would, before arriving at the hospital.

"We're really trying to push ourselves to improve and provide more treatments and medical interventions for our patients," Isola said. "Sometimes calling 911 feels like a very extreme kind of thing, but our agency can actually provide transport for any type of medical emergency. And there are a great many treatments that we can provide right at the patient's side that normally they would receive at the hospital."



# LADIES COMEDY NIGHT

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# 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](http://rivertownsdspatch.com/contact-us).

## Hastings school bond would fund needed infrastructure investments

To the Editor:

We find ourselves in a moment where every tax dollar is being scrutinized. For any one of us, there is a long list of government expenses we would rather our dollars not contribute to and ones we'd rather double down in government investment. Paying taxes always has a moral tension between contribution to the greater good and inability to determine where those tax dollars go. But the value of living in a village that is 3 square miles and a direct-to-schools tax model is we can see exactly where our dollars are going.

The upcoming Hastings-on-Hudson school bond vote provides much-needed investment in our schools' infrastructure. Our school campuses should be ADA accessible to provide a welcoming and equitable space for all learners. All students should have access to space for therapy and interventions. We want our kids to have choices for challenging, engaging electives.

Public education is a commitment we make as a community. We give our own individual money to this common good. In a moment where our federal government has decided that public education isn't worthy of investment, let us make a bold vote in opposition and declare that here in our 3 square miles, it's essential.

JETA DONOVAN WILSON  
HASTINGS

## School district has not proven need for second bond proposition

To the Editor:

I have always voted for school bonds. I want our students to get a great education, in a building that is safe. Even now I will be voting for Phase 1, as it is for school maintenance and infrastructure. However, I will not be voting for Phase 2. It includes constructing new classrooms, creating a new two-story cafeteria, and building a glass-enclosed entrance that would be ADA compliant.

The Board of Education has said we need a new cafeteria because it is too crowded now. In looking at the total numbers of enrollment for K-4th, 5th-8th, and 9th-12th for the years 2020-2025,

the smallest number of students in grades 5th-12th at the Farragut Complex was 506 and the largest was 537 students. These enrollment numbers do not match what the Board of Education says about overcrowding. While far from being a statistic, I asked my son and his friends about the cafeteria now and they said absolutely not.

Additionally, the students regularly do lockdown drills in case there is a shooter in the building. Can you imagine how much more destruction an intruder could wreak between the raining glass and a security breach. Furthermore, safety concerns aside, with a two-story atrium they are missing an opportunity to build more classrooms

on a second floor.

I also have no idea why we need a new glass-enclosed main entrance in order to be ADA compliant. We already have an ADA ramp in front of the school. Are we paying for something we don't need? Do the architects usually build entrances for private schools? Are there other less expensive ways to fulfill compliance goals?

We don't know about this or any of the other concerns mentioned above and by others, because the Board of Education will not answer specific questions. Please vote "Yes," "No," "No."

NICOLE LESSER  
Hastings

## Despite clarification, not all votes will count for school bonds

To the Editor:

Comes now our new local paper of record, saying prior reporting on the Hastings school bond was "misinformation." The Dispatch reported that "for their votes to count," voters "would need to support the first proposition for their votes on the second to count." This was "inaccurate," they now say.

But was it? The latest "clarification" is that your bond vote is indeed contingent on prior votes. The schools superintendent says now: "Whether you voted 'yes' or 'no' on either one, two, or three... we'll SHOW all the totals. Even if we end up with

Proposition 1 going down, which means that neither of the other two could pass, we'll still SHOW those counts in the outcome." Emphasis mine.

So comes now too the Hastings School District, playing games with the word "count." They will SHOW votes that do not COUNT. If over half of voters vote "no" on number one, no votes on the other two will "count." Oh, they will be "counted" — the machines will tally and show them — they have to. But these votes will not "count" because they will not matter. Votes are in fact contingent.

When your vote "counts," it means it had an

effect on the outcome. It means your vote is not just shown, and then ignored. But that is what "counting" means under this scheme. You could vote for turf, and your vote could be thrown away.

It's manipulative wordplay by the school district. A vote is "counted" for or against something, not as a mere showing. Votes ignored on a contingency are not "counting" for anything. If this is the level of the English language used by the school district for a vote to "count," one wonders what in the world is being taught in the school.

BRIAN E. ALLEN, ESQ.  
Hastings

## A stable and diverse population also benefits Hastings children

To the Editor:

As 31-year Hastings residents with two children who graduated from our public schools, we would like to add a few comments to the present school bond discussion.

The refrain that "Your kids had the advantages..." or "You voted increases for your kids..." does not apply. We have always been aware that our school district is privileged beyond our size. Our children did receive many benefits from attending the Hastings schools, but

they did so minus many of the benefits that exist today. The improvements to the Burke Estate, Farragut Middle School auditorium, Hillside cafeteria, and new track at Reynolds Field did not exist during our children's tenure. Despite the lack of these amenities, our children and many others, as far as I can see, are successful, productive adults.

This paper recently published a pie chart noting, out of all the Rivertowns, Hastings home ownership is the eldest. The main reason many

of us choose to leave is our taxes. We love our village, but can no longer afford the ever-increasing tax burdens on fixed incomes. We believe a stable community population, diverse in all aspects, is also "for the kids."

Lastly, many of us, despite financial constraints, are happy to vote "yes" to proposition 1 of the proposed bond.

MINDY FARKAS AND MICHAEL ADAIR  
Hastings

*Letters continue on page 16*

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## Trauma - an emotional response to a terrible event that can cause long-lasting distress.

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**Robert Buck, LCSW**

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# The Agenda

**SAT**  
**24**

**Live Music: Mariana Overdrive**  
**ARDSLEY**  
8 p.m. / No cover charge. Saw Mill Tavern, 925 Saw Mill River Road. Reservations encouraged. [smtavern.com](http://smtavern.com)

**Teen Open Mic**  
**DOBBS FERRY**  
7:30 p.m. / Free. South Presbyterian Church, 343 Broadway. Sign up in advance. [instagram.com/the\\_lab\\_open\\_mic](https://www.instagram.com/the_lab_open_mic)

**Nature Excursion: Lenoir to Untermyer**  
**YONKERS**  
10 a.m. / Free. Lenoir Nature Preserve, 19 Dudley St. Guided 3-mile loop walk along the Old Croton Aqueduct Trailway, with time spent exploring Lenoir and Untermyer Gardens. Register online. [aqueduct.org](http://aqueduct.org)

**Waterfront Walking Tour**  
**YONKERS**  
10:30 a.m. / \$3-\$6. Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site, 29 Warburton Ave. Learn about the daylighted Saw Mill River and Yonkers' Hudson River waterfront on a 2-mile walk. [philipsemanorhall.com](http://philipsemanorhall.com)

**History Walk**  
**SLEEPY HOLLOW**  
10 a.m. / \$4. Rockwood Hall, park in the lot behind Phelps Memorial Hospital, 701 N. Broadway. A 2-mile guided trek to explore the former estate of William Rockefeller. Registration required. [rockefellerstateparkpreserve.eventbrite.com](http://rockefellerstateparkpreserve.eventbrite.com)

**Bird Walk with Saw Mill River Audubon**  
**PLEASANTVILLE**  
7-9 a.m. / Free. Rockefeller State Park Preserve. For adults and ages 8 and up. Also on May 26. Registration required. [sawmillriveraudubon.org](http://sawmillriveraudubon.org)

**Live Jazz: Ted Rosenthal Quintet**  
**TARRYTOWN**  
7 and 9:30 p.m. / \$40, \$35 for students. Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. [jazzforumarts.org](http://jazzforumarts.org)

**Pinkster Festival**  
**SLEEPY HOLLOW**  
1-4 p.m. / \$14, \$12 for ages 18-25 and 65+, free for kids. Philipsburg Manor, 381 N. Broadway. Celebrate the region's African American history and culture with music, dance, storytelling, and hands-on art activities. [hudsonvalley.org](http://hudsonvalley.org)

**Music in the Box: La Pompe Attack**  
**OSSINING**  
7:30 p.m. / \$30. Westchester Collaborative Theater, 23 Water St. The gypsy swing band plays in the theater's black box performance space. [wctheater.org](http://wctheater.org)

**SUN**  
**25**

**Artist Reception**  
**DOBBS FERRY**  
11 a.m.-6 p.m. / Free. Dobbs Ferry Public Library, 55 Main St. Paintings by Joy Moon Lee are on display through June 21. [dobbsferrylibrary.org](http://dobbsferrylibrary.org)



Spoken word artist Malik Work is among the performers at the Pinkster Festival, featuring live music, hands-on art, dance, and storytelling, this Saturday, May 24, at Philipsburg Manor in Sleepy Hollow.

**Farmers' Market**  
**IRVINGTON**  
9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Main Street School, 101 Main St. The season of weekly markets begins June 1, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., and runs through Nov. 23. [theirvingtonfarmersmarket.org](http://theirvingtonfarmersmarket.org)

**Live Jazz: Bill O'Connell Trio**  
**TARRYTOWN**  
4 and 6 p.m. / \$25, \$20 for students. Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. [jazzforumarts.org](http://jazzforumarts.org)

**History Tour: Vegetable Garden to the Temple of Love**  
**YONKERS**  
11 a.m. / \$15. Untermyer Park and Gardens, 945 N. Broadway. Purchase tickets online. [untermyergardens.org](http://untermyergardens.org)

**MON**  
**26**

**Memorial Day Commemoration**  
**MOUNT VERNON**  
11 a.m. / Free. St. Paul's Church, 897 S. Columbus Ave. Guided tour of the historic cemetery, 11 a.m., and live performance and sing-along of songs of the American Revolution and the Civil War, with historical commentary, 1 p.m. [nps.gov/sapa/sapaprogsched.htm](http://nps.gov/sapa/sapaprogsched.htm)

**TUES**  
**27**

**Jazz Duo: Singer Kat Gang and Bassist Phil Palombi**  
**HASTINGS**  
7-9 p.m. / No cover charge. Uncle Lefty's, 583 Warburton Ave. [uncleleftys.com](http://uncleleftys.com)

**WED**  
**28**

**"Raise the Curtain" Fundraiser**  
**IRVINGTON**  
7-8:30 p.m. / Donations welcome. Rivertowns Playhouse, 25 N. Broadway.

Proceeds benefit Rivertowns Playhouse. [rivplayhouse.org](http://rivplayhouse.org)

**"Jewish Joy: Resilience Through Art"**  
**IRVINGTON**  
7-9 p.m. / \$60. The Lark, 50 S. Buckhout St. Ardsley artist Sara Annapolen talks about using art to cope with anxiety and creates custom Judaica works onsite. Register online. [ujafedny.org](http://ujafedny.org)

**THURS**  
**29**

**Picture Book x HudCo Book Club**  
**DOBBS FERRY**  
8 p.m. / Free. HudCo, 145 Palisade St., Suite 200. Discuss "Audition" by Katie Kitamura. RSVP online. [picturebookny.com/calendar](http://picturebookny.com/calendar)

**Spring Picnic**  
**DOBBS FERRY**  
5-8 p.m. Doubleday's, 83 Main St. Featuring vendors, food, and drinks. [doubledaysdf.com](http://doubledaysdf.com)

**Outdoor Live Music: Sonnie Daze**  
**DOBBS FERRY**  
6-9 p.m. / No cover charge. Hudson Social, 11 Station Plaza. [hudsonsocial.com](http://hudsonsocial.com)

**Local Luminaries: "The Family Dynamic"**  
**HASTINGS**  
7 p.m. / Free. Hastings Public Library, 7 Maple Ave. Award-winning New York Times journalist and Hastings resident Susan Dominus discusses her new book about sibling success with neighbor and fellow writer Melanie Hoopes. [hastingslibrary.org](http://hastingslibrary.org)

**Community Pints**  
**ELMSFORD**  
4:30-10 p.m. / \$10. Captain Lawrence Brewing Co., 444 N. Saw Mill River Road. Fundraiser for Cottontail Cottage Wildlife Rehab. [captainlawrencebrewing.com](http://captainlawrencebrewing.com)

**FRI**  
**30**

**'80s Rock Band: 80 Proof**  
**ARDSLEY**  
9 p.m. / No cover charge. Saw Mill Tavern, 925 Saw Mill River Road. Reservations encouraged. [smtavern.com](http://smtavern.com)

**Movie on the Trail: "Inside Out 2"**  
**DOBBS FERRY**  
8:30 p.m. / Free. Keeper's House, 15 Walnut St. Bring your own chair or blanket and refreshments. [aqueduct.org](http://aqueduct.org)

**Reception for Two Solo Shows**  
**HASTINGS**  
5:30-8 p.m. / Free. Upstream Gallery, 8 Main St. Opening reception for "Dissolving Boundaries" by longtime Hastings resident Susan Richman and "A Sense of Place" by Rachel Weatherford Whitlow. On view through June 15. Hours: Thursday-Sunday, 12:30-5:30 p.m. [upstreamgallery.com](http://upstreamgallery.com)

**"World Builders"**  
**HASTINGS**  
7:30 p.m. / \$30, \$20 for students and seniors. River's Edge Theatre Company Studio, 546 Warburton Ave. A dark comedy takes a tender look at mental health and imagination. Also on May 31, 7:30 p.m., and June 1, 3 p.m. [riversedgetheatre.com](http://riversedgetheatre.com)

**Sip and Paint**  
**HASTINGS**  
6:30 p.m. / \$39. Divino's Speakeasy, 524 Warburton Ave. Includes happy hour pricing. [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.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 May 31 and June 1, 7, and 8.

**Dead on Live: Grateful Dead Tribute Concert**  
**TARRYTOWN**  
8 p.m. / \$39-\$49. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. [tarrytownmusichall.org](http://tarrytownmusichall.org)

**Nilson Matta Samba Meets Jazz Quintet**  
**TARRYTOWN**  
7 and 9:30 p.m. / \$35, \$30 for students. Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. Also on May 31. [jazzforumarts.org](http://jazzforumarts.org)

**Sensory Hike: Awaken Your Senses**  
**PLEASANTVILLE**  
9 a.m. / \$4, plus \$6 parking fee. Rockefeller State Park Preserve, 125 Phelps Way. Registration required. [rockefellerstateparkpreserve.eventbrite.com](http://rockefellerstateparkpreserve.eventbrite.com)





Priyadarshini Banerjee of Ardsley performs the Odissi form of Indian dance.



Students from Mei's Dance Studio perform the Chinese "Water Dragon Chant."

### Celebrating AAPI Culture

The Ardsley Multicultural, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee hosted its second annual Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Festival on Saturday, May 17, at Ardsley Middle School. The event featured performances by the Shibaranjani School of Dance in Ardsley, Master Kim's Taekwondo of Scarsdale, the Dongsan Korean School of Yonkers, and Mei's Dance Studio of Ardsley. There was also a karaoke contest, a chopstick contest, and tents for China, India, Japan, Korea, Pakistan, and the Philippines.



Lucas Huang of Dobbs Ferry plays the "buk" with students from the Dongsan Korean School.



Students from Mei's Dance Studio perform the Mongolian dance "Winds to the South."

### Tolson

*Continued from page 9*

environment," Tolson said.

In 2023, Prinzing and her writing partner, Avni, reached out to Tolson about "The Flower Farmers," asking if she'd like to be a part of the book. The art design for the book was done by fellow Hastings resident Emily Wardwell.

For the book, each farmer interviewed highlighted a flower, with a guide on how

to plant and maintain it. Tolson chose nicotiana, a species of tobacco native to North America. She traces her fondness for the plant to her childhood on the West Coast, where she and her friends played among the tall stems. Years later and on the opposite side of the country, Tolson feels her homage to nicotiana is a "full circle" choice.

As the rain pattered on the plastic cover of the enclosure at her farm, Tolson expressed gratitude for her inclusion in "The Flower Farmers," as well as for the people she's

met in the five years since her first pop-up.

"I would have never imagined that that would be something I'd have an opportunity to do," she said. "Not only to be published and to share with my kids and my family and be recognized as a real grower, but to be part of this community is really amazing."

According to Tolson, she and other Hudson Valley farmers share an active group chat where they talk about "everything," from price comparisons ("so we're not gouging each other") to asking for advice.

"Nobody's keeping it to themselves. Nobody's like, 'Oh, this is my client,' or, 'Oh, this is my special trick,'" Tolson said. "None of that is happening, and we're all competitors with each other. I think we all really appreciate how much hard work goes into this."

Buy your copy of this book at  
Picture Book:  
[www.picturebookny.com](http://www.picturebookny.com)

### 'World Builders'

*Continued from page 10*

tion. But by week 18, their conversations blossom into rich, philosophical talks that reveal how far they've come from their co-cooned fantasy lives.

"World Builders" is one of several bold and innovative works in River's Edge's 2025 season, which kicked off on March 29 with "Women's Writes: 24-Hour Play Fest" and will continue through December, culminating in a wordless adaptation of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." This summer, the compa-

ny will present an eco-conscious "Romeo & Juliet," for which the cast will design their own costumes and props, and then assemble only for the performance weekend, creating theater with virtually no carbon footprint.

"We like to think outside the box when it comes to staging," Covington said. "Our goal is to show the community that theater is a versatile, living art form. 'World Builders' is particularly beautiful — playful, deep, and a little weird — which is exactly the kind of work we love to do at River's Edge. It definitely has a kind of edge to it."

While River's Edge has cultivated a loyal

following, Cajigao hopes this thought-provoking play will bring new faces through the door. "One of the great things about the Rivertowns is how much is going on creatively," he said. "My hope is that people come and say, 'Wow, you're doing really meaningful, intimate theater work here, and I didn't even have to get on the train to the city to experience it.'"

Performances are May 30-31 at 7:30 p.m., and June 1 at 3 p.m., at 546 Warburton Ave. (enter from the Boulanger Plaza parking lot). For tickets, which cost \$30 for general admission and \$20 for students and senior citizens, visit [riversedgetheatre.com/onstage](http://riversedgetheatre.com/onstage).

### Wainer

*Continued from page 6*

100 this September.

"I visit him every week on Long Island, and I bring the postcards I've received since the last visit," he said. "He's read every one, and he loves it."

Wainer encouraged those interested to check out the club's website. With over 1,100 postcards sent and received, he hopes to grow his own Postcrossing network even further.

"There's people who have done 30,000," he said. "I like writing them, receiving them, and the opportunity to make even more new friends."



## Opinion

*Vote against school bond proposition due to risks associated with artificial turf*

To the Editor:

I am a retired gynecologist who has advocated for women and girls my entire life. I raised three children in Hastings; all were active in sports programs. I understand how the advantages of artificial turf may seem too good to pass up. However, as a mother, grandmother, and physician, I feel strongly that its risks are too great.

The Mount Sinai Children's Environmental Health Center issued a position statement recommending "against the installation of artificial turf playing sur-

faces and fields due to the uncertainties surrounding the safety of these products and the potential for dangerous heat and chemical exposures."

Recent studies found the presence of known carcinogens and neurotoxins in virtually all infill materials examined. Communities that previously used PFAS in turf must live with the knowledge that their children have been playing on fields with substances now banned because of their dangers. I would not want that for us.

Although the board of education has

asserted that PFAS and infill will not be used, all plastics contain potential toxins whose effects we may not know about for years.

Cancer is increasing in young people. The number of early-onset cancer cases — those that occur in adults under age 50 — is rising by 1-2% per year. As a gynecologist, I know that early menarche and infertility are also on the rise, thought to be due to the hormone disruptors known to be present in environmental toxins.

We know that children and young adults

are uniquely vulnerable to harmful exposures and transport the chemical hazards home. On hot days artificial turf can reach temperatures 20-60° higher than ambient temperature leading to atypical skin burns and injuries. Runoff causes environmental contamination.

The risks of artificial turf are simply not worth it. The health and well-being of our children and communities must come first. I urge a "no" vote on Proposition 3.

SHARON DIAMOND  
Hastings

*Reject bond proposition for synthetic turf fields due to the dangers of plastics*

To the Editor:

As a primary-care physician who lives in Hastings and raised two children here, I urge you to vote "no" on proposition 3 (plastic turf for two sports fields) on the June 17 school bond referendum. I have recently become so alarmed by the growing scientific evidence about the dangers of plastic that I joined Beyond Plastics, an organization committed to passing legislation in New York State to reduce plastic and chemicals in single-use packaging.

Plastic is everywhere. From our oceans to

our bodies. We breathe and ingest it daily in our bottled water (approximately 240,000 nano and microplastic particles in one liter of water), food (so often packaged in plastic), plastic cups, clothes, cosmetics, and playgrounds. Let's not cover our children's playing fields with a massive carpet of plastic that will pollute their bodies as well as the planet.

The world produces 400 million tons of plastic annually. Over 16,000 chemicals are added for color and malleability — most have not been studied, but many are quite

toxic including PFAs, phthalates, lead, vinyl chloride, benzene, formaldehyde, bisphenol, mercury, and more.

Technology has improved recently to detect not only microplastics, but nanoplastics, which are small enough to permeate our blood-brain barrier. Plastic has been detected in our brains, blood, placenta, breast milk, testicles, heart, cholesterol plaques, kidneys, and more.

We are exposing our most vulnerable — fetuses, newborns, and children — to the plastic and chemicals that cause in-

flammation and toxicity and are increasingly being linked to more heart attacks, strokes, death, cancer (on the increase in young adults), infertility, endocrine disruption, obesity, dementia, Parkinson's disease, and more.

By voting "no" on proposition 3, you will help diminish the repeated exposure of Hastings children to these dangers. There are nonplastic alternatives to improving our fields. Let's please implement them.

SANDRA SELIKSON  
Hastings

*Consider economic diversity, not just fancier school buildings*

To the Editor:

I am writing out of concern with the upcoming school bond options in relation to the changing character of the Village of Hastings. Part of the ostensible motivation for these proposals seems to be to protect the excellence of our schools. No one disputes that education requires investment, and the school board's basic proposal for the most urgent building maintenance appears reasonable. For the other two proposals (entrance/cafeteria and turf fields), I am skeptical about their usefulness in protecting the reputation of Hastings' schools and see ways in which they may be counterproductive.

Our reputation is based on academic excellence. Of course, athletics and aesthetic aspects of the school facilities also have their places. But speaking as someone who grew up here, went through the entire Hastings school system, and has lived here as an adult for 30 years, it seems to me that these things have already been considerably more emphasized in recent years than in earlier times. Major prior improvements also took place when there was less economic uncertainty, and less acrimony about the quality of the schools. Redoubled investments in fancier buildings and grounds will lead to greater financial pressure that may ultimate-

ly push out some of the people who make Hastings an interesting village.

The long-term foundation of our schools' success has been a spirit of appreciation for intellectual and artistic values, which is in turn nurtured by a diverse citizenry. My personal take is that for Hastings, economic diversity is an important part of the mix, one that is not receiving enough consideration by the current school board. I hope my fellow residents will take time to give these matters some serious thought, and will turn out for this important election.

NICHOLAS REITTER  
Hastings

*Unaffordable school taxes punish longtime residents*

To the Editor:

In the May 2 edition of the Dispatch, Daniel Lemons mentions the most important aspect of the Hastings school bond vote — that 70% of Hastings households do not have children enrolled in the school district. Many of us have children that went through the system and have been out for many years and yet we continue to pay that tax. I have several times proposed that if we have not had children in the system, but have paid for at least 30 years, we should now be exempt. Where is the common sense? Even if my child were still in the system, I would not want to pay for the fancy new cafeteria. My son played football, but I would still not want to pay for the fancy new sport facilities. Our facilities are better than most. And with a new front entrance we definitely lose the charm of our Hastings-on-Hudson architecture. I am begging people to be rational here. The taxes in Hastings are high enough. The school taxes alone in Hastings are incredibly high. Do we really need to make Hastings unaffordable to people who have been loyal to the village for decades and have made it their home? How many people put their kids in school and then move out when they graduate? Don't punish the people who have seen their children graduate and then continue on in Hastings because they have made it their home.

MARYANN MANCHESTER  
Hastings

*Bond phases 2 and 3 would be unnecessary and irresponsible*

To the Editor:

As former chair of the Hastings-on-Hudson Conservation Commission, I urge residents to approve phase 1 of the bond issue, but vote against phases 2 and 3. I find that phases 2 and 3 of the proposal to be largely unnecessary and contrary to responsible environmental stewardship.

Children currently in school, as well as future students, will face a world with increasing challenges caused by global warming. Many students seem much more environmentally aware than their parents about the world they will confront. They know that bigger is not necessarily better and may prefer to eat

in the current cafeteria than in one that entails so much additional embodied carbon in the construction and maintenance which would go into the proposed glass behemoth in the courtyard.

And what does phase 2 and phase 3 say to the community and world in which these students will live? It may well say to current residents, more than two-thirds of whom do not even have students in the system, that even though there are basically the same number of students as recently, that the school board wants to build a monument that is not essential and new fields that may not be much better than those we already have, which will result in substan-

tially higher taxes and is not environmentally responsible.

So, even if the community would favor an expansion of the schools, which is dubious at best, it should be done in a much more environmentally sensitive manner than what is proposed. Regarding phase 1, the school needs to have an updated infrastructure, including a much more efficient HVAC system. The school board should focus on providing the district's children with high-quality education provided by dedicated teachers, while promoting energy efficiency within the existing facilities.

PETER D. WOLF  
Hastings



## Sports

EDITED BY ROB DIANTONIO

# Four claim titles at county championship meet

## Track and field roundup

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Hastings' Caitlin Thomas said she wasn't feeling well leading up to her race at the Westchester County championship meet on a hot May 17.

But that did not stop her from another first-place finish as the Georgia Tech-bound senior won the 3,000 meters in a personal best clocking of 9:48.74. Scarsdale's Adriana Pettinelli was second (9:55.42).

"I was a bit sick, and the heat definitely made it a less-than-ideal situation, but I'm happy I was able to pull through," Thomas reported. "It was a great race with a bunch of talented girls, which made it a super-fun run. I think my key to success was consistency."

The county meet took place on May 16-17 at Hendrick Hudson and Yorktown high schools.

Hastings junior Danae Morgan continued to thrive in the throwing events, winning a county title with a personal best in the shot put (37-0 1/4) while placing second in the discus (104-3).

Dobbs Ferry senior Jayden Smith captured a pair of county championships in the 100- and 200-meter dash. Smith won the 100-meter dash on the first day in a clocking of 10.92 seconds. He returned on the second day to win the 200-meter dash in 21.95 seconds.

"It has a lot to do with his work ethic and knowledge of the sport," Dobbs Ferry coach Curtis Brown said. "He works hard. If he keeps focused on the right things, I expect him to keep improving. He seems to be getting better every meet. It's fun to watch his progression."

Ardasley senior Gabrielle An is new to the pentathlon but you would never know it. She finished first with a personal best of 2,241 points. An placed first in the high jump (5-0 3/4), long jump (15-0), and shot put (23-6 3/4). She was third in the 800 meters (2:46.74) and fourth in the 100-meter hurdles (20.22).

"She wanted to try [the pentathlon] this year and every time she competes, she breaks our school record," Ardsley coach Henry Leone said. "We're very proud of her and hope for a good finish at the Section 1 Class B championships."

Other notable performances for girls' squads included Irvington's Syian Sawian placing third in the pentathlon. "She showed such grit and determination," Bulldogs girls' coach Mike McQuillan said. Teammate Jessica Nierman was sixth in the shot put (31-8, PR) and eighth in the discus (83-4, PR). The 4x400-meter relay team took sixth in 4:24.65 with a squad of Jelena Herceg, Ruthie Liang,



Dobbs Ferry senior Jayden Smith runs in the 200-meter dash at the Westchester County championship meet. Photo by Rob DiAntonio.

Liliana Brandwein, and Kylie Canton.

Hastings' 4x800-meter relay took fourth in 10:24.61 with a team of Thomas, Hazel Kuniholm, Sage Wrzesinski, and Claire Grushko. The Yellow Jackets placed seventh overall and second out of Class C schools.

Ardasley's Niamh O'Donovan (34-6 1/2) and Czarina Adewunmi (34-5 1/2) finished third and fourth, respectively, in the triple jump. Alessandra Finnerty-Vidal was sixth in the 3,000 meters (11:11.73). Ananya Shukla took fifth in the high jump (4-10). The Panthers' 4x100-meter relay was fifth with a school record time of 51.31. O'Donovan, Adewunmi, Zaniya Bell, and Margo Gellman made up the relay. Ardsley's girls were 10th overall and third in Class B.

On the boys' side, Ardsley's 4x100-meter relay placed third in 43.23 seconds with a team of Zaire Bell, Derin Adewunmi, Peyton Francis, and Andrew Herceg. Sean Tierney was seventh in the discus (113-9). Lou Baousson took eighth in the 400-meter hurdles (1:00.82).

For the Bulldogs, Brody Schimmel was second in the javelin (150-1) with teammate Ryder Spino eighth (118-2). Aaron Schwartz took fifth in the pole vault (12-0).

For the Eagles, Evan Schwartz was seventh in the 200-meter dash (22.84). Dobbs was 13th overall and second in Class C.

### Irvington boys, Hastings girls win leagues

Irvington's boys' team cruised to the League 3C title with 238 points on May 14. Dobbs Ferry was a distant third with 96 points.

Placing first for host Irvington were Declan Lyons (3,200, 10:12.89) and Sam Andrade (long jump, 19-11 1/2). Second-place finishers included Shaleen Thaker (triple jump, 37-1 1/2), Aaron Schwartz (110-meter hurdles, 18.36), Kevin Lyons (3,200, 10:56), Anish Joshi (1,600, 4:37.13), Luke Calabrese (800, 2:07.39), and Alex Shevrin (400, 54.75). The Bulldogs also won the 4x800-meter relay (9:26.32) with a foursome of Ethan Gartlan, Joshi, Calabrese, and Noah Brenner.

"Our team showed off its impressive depth, scoring points in field events, distance events, and sprints," Bulldogs boys' coach Chris Barry said. "They've worked hard all season and built themselves into one of the best Class C programs in Section 1."

Hastings' girls' squad narrowly won the League 3C crown with 78 points. Albertus Magnus was second (76.5) while Irvington took third (70.5).

"Winning leagues means a lot considering that it's my senior year and was my last chance to do so outdoors," Thomas said.

"The girls on this team are absolutely amazing and I'm honored to train and race alongside them. Everyone worked super hard and put their best foot forward. I'm looking forward to the rest of our season."

Thomas tripled up, winning the 800 meters (2:26.78), 1,500 meters (5:18.82), and 3,000 meters (13:15.03). Morgan took first in the shot put (32-11 1/2). Samantha Guilfoyle won the 400-meter hurdles (1:15.57) and was second in the high jump. Kuniholm was second in the 800 (2:30.57). The 4x400 relay team — Guilfoyle, Louise Durietz-Bourdain, Maya Ganeshananthan, and Georgia Schmit — placed first (4:29.94). Schmit also won the 400-meters (1:03.22).

Placing first for the Irvington girls were Liang (100-meter dash, 13.62) and Sawian (100-meter hurdles, 18.72). Liang was also second in the 400-meters (1:05.54). The Bulldogs won the 4x100 relay (55.86) and 4x800 relay (11:52.91). Liang, Canton, Herceg, and Sawian made up the 4x100 while Lily Korb, Julianna Flamm, Heidi Blanton, and Brandwein were on the 4x800.

Smith paced the Dobbs Ferry boys, winning the 100-meter dash (11.06) and 200-meter dash (22.46). Evan Schwartz won the 400-meters (53.16) and was sec-

*Continued on page 19*



# Panthers advance to sectional title game in first season

## Flag football roundup

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Clinging to a six-point halftime lead over Bronxville in the Section 1 Class C semifinals, Ardsley senior Joie Levy had a message for her teammates:

"I looked them in the eye and I told everyone to lock in and get the job done."

Her teammates heeded Levy's words and the second-seeded Panthers held No. 3 Bronxville scoreless in the second half on their way to a 26-13 victory on May 21. The Panthers advanced to the championship game in their first season as a program.

"I'm proud of these girls and they responded today," Ardsley coach Sean Cappiello said. "We weren't sure exactly how serious they were going to take it, but they've taken it seriously since day one. They've done everything we've asked. They show up to practice every day ready to work."

Host Ardsley started the second half by forcing the Broncos to punt. The Panthers then went on a clock-eating drive, capped off by a 1-yard touchdown run by Levy. She ran in the extra point to give Ardsley a 26-13 lead with 14:07 to play.

Elise O'Brien and Khloe Knoesel had multiple key flag grabs in the second half. Bronxville never threatened to score over the final 25 minutes.

Ardsley struck first on its second drive of the game. Levy connected on passes to Ava Santavicca, Madison Bortstein, and Morgan Macri to get the Panthers in business. Bortstein took a sweep to the left and scored from 15 yards out. Levy found Dylan Paley for the extra point to give Ardsley a 7-0 lead.



Madison Bortstein looks to elude a Bronxville player. Photo by Rob DiAntonio.

Levy extended the lead to 13-0 with a 14-yard touchdown run with 8:35 left in the first half. Bronxville answered a minute later with a touchdown, but the Panthers had a quick response of their own. Levy threw a swing pass to Paley, who jetted 70 yards for a score to extend the lead to 19-6 with 6:35 left.

The Broncos scored with 1:21 on the clock as the game went into the half with Ardsley leading 19-13.

Cappiello said a key reason for the team's

success is assistant coach Ricky Chenard, a former Ardsley football player who went on to play at SUNY Cortland. "He's really done a lot of the heavy lifting," Cappiello noted. "He deserves a lot of the credit too."

Ardsley (11-3) will face top-seeded Hendrick Hudson in the Section 1 Class C championship game at Lakeland High School on May 24. The Panthers fell to Hen Hud 40-0 on May 8.

"The opportunity of being in the section championship means everything to me,"

Levy said. "These girls have put in a lot of hard work throughout the season. But this isn't our goal — winning is our goal. We're happy we're here but we've got to finish the game."

Levy has seen the Panthers take substantial strides since the preseason.

"We've had a lot of progress," she said. "We came into the season and no one knew anything about football. But we've had a lot of film and classroom sessions. We've put our heads down and really worked for it."

## Dobbs Ferry falls in quarterfinals

Sixth-seeded Dobbs Ferry lost to host Bronxville 20-12 in the Section 1 Class C quarterfinals on May 17.

Bronxville built a 13-0 first-half lead, but Mya Ustares returned an interception 40 yards for a touchdown to send the Eagles into halftime trailing 12-6. The Broncos scored again with 12 minutes left to go, up 20-6. Dobbs answered with a late touchdown as Ustares threw a 50-yard pass to Ella Moon with 30 seconds left.

Coach Vinny Garofalo said the Eagles (6-10) grew as a team in their inaugural season.

"Making the playoffs in our first season was a great success," Garofalo said. "Every player on the team was able to improve their overall skills and understanding of flag football. This is going to help us be an even better team next season."

He continued, "We'll be sad to see our seniors graduate. They were a big part of our team's success this year. We have a lot of talented student-athletes returning and I hope that more students will join us in our journey next year."

# Panthers secure league championship en route to sectional playoffs

## Softball roundup

BY ROB DIANTONIO

A league title is on most teams' list of goals at the start of the season. Now, that the Panthers have secured the Conference 2 League C championship, they are hungry for more.

"Winning the league title means a lot to us, but honestly it's just a steppingstone for where we want to go," Ardsley junior pitcher Sofia Haber said. "It's a reflection of all the early mornings, late nights, and hard work we've put in as a team."

Host Ardsley bested league opponent Sleepy Hollow 10-3 on May 16. Bella Feldman earned the win in a complete game effort. She struck out seven, scattered five hits, and allowed no walks.

Haley Albano (home run, 2 RBIs), Haber (3-4, 2 doubles, 3 runs), and Emma Philp (2-3, triple, double) paced the offense.

The Panthers won their sixth-straight game in their regular-season finale, edging visiting Hendrick Hudson 4-3 on May 17. Mia King had the game-winning walk-

off RBI. Sofia Vaccaro also had a big hit in the seventh. Haber (win, 7 innings, 1 earned run, 7 strikeouts, 5 hits), Feldman (home run), Albano (double, run), and Philp (double, RBI) were key contributors.

Ardsley (14-5) earned the No. 2 seed in the Class A sectionals and receive a bye going into the quarterfinals. The Panthers host the winner between No. 7 Pleasantville and No. 10 Rye on May 24.

"We have incredible team chemistry and support each other on and off the field," Haber said. "For sectionals, the key will be staying focused, not letting the moments feel too big, and continuing to play like we have all season."

Haber said that coach Noreen Degnan has preached "attitude, effort, and energy" to the team this year.

"When we put all three together, we play our best softball," said Haber, who recently recorded her 500th career strikeout. "We're staying focused and giving 100 percent all the time. The competition gets better at this level and I know we're all ready for it."

## Eagles avenge loss to Hastings

Dobbs Ferry rallied from a 5-0 deficit to defeat visiting Hastings 7-6 on May 16. Riley Sullivan laid down a perfect squeeze bunt to bring home Alexa Vicchio for the game-winning run in the bottom of the seventh. The Eagles, avenged a 4-3 loss to Hastings back on May 7.

Victoria Baron recorded the win for Dobbs, pitching a complete game with five strikeouts. She added two hits and an RBI. Kamryn Addis (double, 2 RBI), Vicchio (double), and Sullivan (2-3, RBI) also led the offense.

Sophia Pereira (3-3, double, RBI), Lexie Schur (2 RBIs), Hazel Sabella (3-4, double), Kylie Vulpone (double, RBI), and Siri Rosenberg (RBI) paced Hastings.

The Yellow Jackets (13-6) earned the No. 1 seed in the Class B sectionals. They will host No. 8 Briarcliff in the quarterfinals on May 25.

The Eagles defeated host Scarsdale 2-0 on May 15. Nicolette Giorgio (2-4), Emily Marron (2-4, double), Gianna Stone (RBI), Ella Rizzo (win, 5 strikeouts, double), and

Baron (save, RBI) led the team.

Dobbs Ferry (12-7) received the No. 2 seed in Class B and will welcome No. 7 Blind Brook for the quarterfinals on May 25.

## Irvington ends losing streak

Irvington ended a nine-game losing skid in its regular-season finale with a 15-8 win over visiting Croton-Harmon on May 18. Alex Barth picked up the win, tossing 5.1 innings. Nia Kilbury closed out the game, pitching the final 1.2 innings. Kayla Clinton led the offense with a home run and three RBIs.

The Bulldogs lost to visiting Pleasantville 9-6 on senior day on May 17. Senior Emma O'Donnell (2-4, 3 RBIs), Ashley Shapiro (2-4, 2 RBIs), Clinton (3-5, 2 runs, 3 doubles), senior Aniya Walker (3 steals), senior Hannah Blanco (strong defense), and Madison Maldonado (RBI) paced the squad.

Irvington (7-11) received the No. 12 seed in the Class A sectionals. The Bulldogs were scheduled to travel to No. 5 Pearl River for the first round on May 22.



# Ardsley tops Edgemont, then falls to Panas in first round

## Baseball roundup

BY ROB DIANTONIO

It was the final opportunity for Ardsley's seniors to shine, and they did not miss out. A member of the Class of 2025 drove in every run for the No. 16-seeded Panthers in their 5-4 win over No. 17 Edgemont in the Section 1 Class A out-bracket round on May 17.

Mike DePasquale roped a double, had two RBIs, and scored a run. Leo Blank drove in DePasquale on an RBI groundout to give the Panthers a 5-2 lead and what proved to be the game-winning run in the fifth inning. Kelvin Almonte and Nate Moskowitz had one RBI apiece.

"Leo was behind 0-2 and battled back," Ardsley coach Jeff Caldara said. "It was nice that the seniors really contributed to the win."

Steven Degree finished 2 for 2 with a run scored. Nate Caldara had a hit and scored twice. Will Liu had a hit and scored a run.

Carter Bucci picked up the win in relief, tossing 1.2 innings while allowing one hit and no runs. Jiei Tomioka pitched the first three innings, allowing no earned runs while striking out two. Degree closed the final 1.2 innings, striking out three while letting up just one hit.

The Panthers' season ended with an 11-0 five-inning loss to top-seeded and host Walter Panas on May 19.



Ardsley second baseman Nate Moskowitz tries to turn a double play. Photo by Rob DiAntonio.

Panas pounced for five runs in the bottom of the first inning and scored six more in the fourth inning.

"The top four in their lineup is as good as anybody in A and that's why they are the one seed," coach Caldara said of Panas. "That first inning — we could have got out of it a little earlier. A fly ball and ground ball we could have caught, and 2-0 instead of 5-0 is a big difference."

Moskowitz notched two hits while Drew

Herrick had one hit.

Ardsley completed the campaign with an 8-14 record.

"It was a fun season," the coach said. "I've never had a younger team. We had four ninth-graders and an eighth-grader. We lost some guys to injury early on, but that's not an excuse. Our job is to put these guys in positions to succeed and I think we did. The key in the end is to have fun and just teach these guys to be good human beings."

## Hastings advances to semifinals

Third-seeded Hastings edged No. 6 Blind Brook 5-4 in the Section 1 Class B quarterfinals on May 21.

The Yellow Jackets built a 4-0 lead but the Trojans rallied to tie the game at 4-4 in the top of the sixth inning. Senior Kieran McGrath, who was named the MVP of League BC-1, blasted a solo home run for what proved to be the game-winning run in the bottom of the sixth.

McGrath (2-4, 2 RBIs, run), Jackson Acree (2-3), Matt Corbo (2-4, double, run), Aidan Curtis (double), Johnny Sbrega (run), and Avi Rothstein (run) sparked the offense.

Nathan Krapf started on the mound, pitching 5.1 innings while striking out seven and allowing three earned runs. Acree got the win in relief, tossing 1.2 innings while letting up one earned run.

Hastings (12-9) travels to No. 2 Briarcliff for the semifinal round on May 24. Once teams reach the semifinals, the tournament becomes double elimination. The Jackets were co-champions of League BC-1 with Briarcliff and split their meetings during the regular season.

## Eagles fall in quarterfinals

No. 7 Dobbs Ferry was blanked by No. 2 Briarcliff 6-0 on the road in the Section 1 Class B quarterfinals on May 21.

The Eagles finished the season with a 6-14 record.

# Bulldogs close strong with victory over Briarcliff

## Lacrosse roundup

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Irvington's boys' lacrosse squad closed the regular season with a 7-6 win over visiting Briarcliff on May 19, improving the Bulldogs' record to 16-4.

Saxon Frank (3G), Bowie Frank (2G, 1A), Alex Zinman (1G, 2A), Liam Wade (1G), and Harrison Malakoff (18 saves) led the way.

Irvington earlier earned wins over visiting Hastings (17-4, May 15) and host Nyack (14-9, May 17).

Against Hastings, Zinman (1G, 7A, 17 face-off wins), Wade (2G, 2A), Saxon Frank (1G, 1A), Bowie Frank (4G, 1A), Ryan O'Hagan (2G, 2A), Max Edibe (1G), Jack Van der Spuy (1G), D.J. Ufer (2G), Grant Malakoff (1G), Soren DeYonker (1G), and Harrison Malakoff (4 saves) stuffed the stat sheet.

Max Meisner scored three goals for Hastings' Yellow Jackets, who came up shy of qualifying for the Class D sectionals.

Zinman (6G, 1A), Bowie Frank (4G, 1A), Wade (2G), and Ufer (1G, 1A) sparked the Bulldogs against Nyack.

Irvington earned the No. 3 seed in the Class D sectionals and will host the winner of No. 6 Blind Brook and No. 11 Tuckahoe in the quarterfinals on May 28.

Dobbs Ferry ended the season on a four-game losing skid and fell to host Pleasantville (20-11, May 17) and visiting North Salem

(20-8, May 19) to close the regular season.

Against North Salem, Jackson Kearns netted his 100th career goal. Jake Broccoli broke the Eagles' single-season scoring record, netting his 60th goal. Broccoli (4G, 1A), Kearns (2G, 1A), Ryan Mohl (2G), Killian O'Connor (17/25 face-offs), Kevin Hartnett (5 ground balls), and Kola Rukaj (16 saves) led the team.

The Eagles (6-10) received the No. 10 seed in the Class D sectionals and will travel to No. 7 Haldane for the opening round on May 23.

Ardsley (3-13) finished the regular season with a win over visiting Tuckahoe (10-8, May 16) but lost home games to Clarkstown North (11-10, May 17) and Eastchester (15-9, May 19). The Panthers did not qualify for the Class C sectionals.

## Girls' lacrosse

Irvington finished the regular season 11-5 and earned the No. 4 seed in the Class D sectionals. The Bulldogs will host the winner between No. 5 North Salem and No. 12 Dobbs Ferry in the quarterfinals on May 27.

The girls dropped their regular-season finale, falling to host Pleasantville 21-5 on May 16. Peyton Clinton (2G), Alexis Canfin (1G), Sadie McRae (1G), Federica Ricciardella (1G), and Sadie Kilbury (4 saves) led the team.

Dobbs Ferry (7-8) closed the regular season with a 13-1 win over visiting Yonkers

on May 16. Mary O'Dea (3G), Ella O'Connor (1G), Megan Hartnett (1G, 1A), Hollen Peet (1G), Molly O'Brien (2G, 1A), Juliet Curanovic (1G), Jenna Lacey (1A), Irma Bravo (1G), Nola Bass-Weiss (1G), Katherine Baizan (1G), and Chloe Hogan (1A) led the way.

The Eagles received the No. 12 seed in the Class D sectionals. They were scheduled to travel to No. 5 North Salem for the first round on May 22.

Ardsley (7-9) closed the regular season with a 19-15 loss to host Sleepy Hollow on May 15. Lyla Vega (4G), Juliette An (4G), Anna Gallante (2G), Mairead Gowran (2G), Lyvia Pulver (1G), Lily Tiernan (1G), Lily Champion (1G), Helene Dillon (1A), and Sienna Kay (9 saves) paced the Panthers.

The Panthers received the No. 13 seed in the Class C sectionals and travel to No. 4 Pelham for the opening round on May 23.

Hastings (4-12) lost home games to Ossining (10-6, May 16) and Eastchester (21-10, May 19) to finish the regular season.

Against Ossining, Mila Angoff (4G), Sophia Ballard (1G), Alina Abrams (1G), and Teresa Kalaj sparked the squad.

Angoff, who finished with three goals, scored her 100th career goal against Eastchester. Abrams (3G), Ballard (3G), Julia Serbee (1G), and Saydi Landon (3 saves) also contributed.

The Yellow Jackets did not qualify for the Class D sectionals.

## Track and field

*Continued from page 17*

ond in the 200-meter dash (23.50). Chris Doherty placed first in the 800 meters (2:01.14). The Eagles took first in the 4x100 relay (45.02) and 4x400 relay (3:42.49). Smith, Haden McClinchy, Evan Schwartz, and Chase Colyer were on the 4x100 with Colyer, Evan Schwartz, McClinchy, and Doherty on the 4x400.

Leading Hastings with second-place finishes were Kai Ghalib (100-meter dash, 11.84) and Alexander Lai (400-meter hurdles, 1:04.86).

Dobbs' girls' team was led by Mariah Loran, who was second in the 100-meter (13.77) and 200-meter dash (28.69).

Back on April 30, Ardsley's boys' and girls' squads each took second at the League 2B championships at Hen Hud.

Taking first place for the girls were Siera Takamatsu (400-meters, 1:05.57), Finnerty-Vidal (3,000, 11:30.14), Zaniya Bell (100-meter hurdles, 18.66), Claudia Strum (400-meter hurdles, 1:18.01), and O'Donovan (long jump, 15-9 1/2; triple jump, 33-6 1/4). The 4x400 relay (4:40.39) was first with a team of Takamatsu, Emma Puran, Anya Fort, and Strum.

Leading the Panthers' boys with first-place finishes were Zaire Bell (100-meter dash, 11.40; 200-meter dash, 23.49), Francis (400-meters, 53.50), Aidan Maher (long jump, 18-5 1/4), Anhad Kataria (discus, 123-5), Tierney (hammer, 119-11), and Dorart Gashi (shot put, 34-7).



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