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RIVERTOWNS Dispatch

Local News,
Locally Sourced
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ARDSLEY — DOBBS FERRY — HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON — IRVINGTON



Volunteer Bill Constant prepares for the opening of the Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry on April 16.

Federal cuts impact food pantries

*Reduced funding leads to
reduced selection*

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL
REGION — Rivertowns food pantries are beginning to feel the effects of federal government cuts to programs supporting food banks around the country. In March, the U.S. Department of Agriculture suspended the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program and Local Food for Schools program, which collectively spent more than a billion dollars per year helping food banks and schools nationwide purchase food from farmers at discounted prices.

Both the Hastings Food Pantry and Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry receive much of their produce either for free or at discounted prices

from local food bank Feeding Westchester, which is impacted by the cuts. It didn't take long for Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry co-chairs Donna Assumma and Vera Halpenny to see the impact of the cuts.

"We're already feeling it," Assumma told the Dispatch. "It just happened this past couple of weeks and it's been pretty dramatic."

"Our pallets [of food from Feeding Westchester] used to be maybe about 5 feet tall; they're about 3 feet," Halpenny added. "Feeding Westchester has an inventory, and we can pick and choose, and the person who does our inventory in-house is saying there's nothing on this inventory that we even want."

Feeding Westchester communications director Bruce Jackson explained that the food bank received a lot of its food through the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative

Agreement Program, which allows Feeding Westchester to purchase surplus goods from local farmers at a lower price than normal, and pass those lower prices on to local food pantries. With the suspension of that program, Feeding Westchester, which provides food for 175 partners throughout the county, is estimated to lose 1 million pounds of food for the last nine months of 2025. For all of 2024, Feeding Westchester distributed approximately 23 million pounds of food.

"It's enough to have us making some adjustments and make us concerned, but it's not catastrophic at this point," Jackson told the Dispatch. "Demand is going up unfortunately, so we'd like to be increasing things by 10, 20 percent. So if we get 10, 20 percent cuts, we've got twice the amount of food to make up."

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Latimer opens up about state of the union

BY TIM LAMORTE
AND TIMOTHY REUTER

REGION — In January, George Latimer transitioned from serving as the ninth county executive of Westchester to serving as one of 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives. He had been county executive since Jan. 1, 2018.

Latimer was among 63 new House members sworn in on Jan. 3. Seventeen days later, Donald Trump was inaugurated the 47th president of the United States, which cemented Republican control of the federal government.

Republicans outnumber Democrats 220-213 in the House (plus two vacancies) and 53-47 in the Senate. In Westchester, Latimer worked with a 17-member Board of Legislators that has a Democratic majority.

"I don't feel bigger now that I'm in Congress..." Latimer told the Rivertowns Dispatch Podcast. "I feel smaller because I see the scope of history that's at hand in Congress, and I am an extremely small part — a first-term, in-the-minority freshman who's 71 years old already."

During his first three months in office, La-

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— You Answered —

**How has your retail spending changed
after this week's financial market volatility?**

As answered by 126 readers of
the Rivertowns Dispatch



Vote at rivertownsdispatch.com/the-weekly-poll



The Blotter

ARDSLEY

Fraud attempt: On April 8, an Ardsley resident received a phone call from someone posing as an investigator from the Social Security Administration. The caller claimed the resident's Social Security number had been compromised and that the resident would be arrested if money that was owed was not paid.

Stolen vehicle arrest: A 22-year-old homeless man was arrested, and a stolen vehicle recovered, on the southbound Saw Mill River Parkway at Lawrence Street on the afternoon of Wednesday, April 9. The defendant was charged with criminal possession of stolen property in the third degree, a felony, and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle in the third

First responders aid accident victim on NYS Thruway

REGION — Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, and Tarrytown volunteer firefighters, along with Greenburgh paramedics, extricated and re-

suscitated a driver who crashed into the median along the northbound New York State Thruway (I-87) on the morning of Wednesday,

April 2. Firefighters trained as EMTs provided lifesaving care alongside paramedics. The patient stopped breathing, then re-

gained consciousness before being transported to a trauma center by the Ardsley-Secor Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

degree, a misdemeanor. Officer Jon Goldstein made the arrest. The 2019 Honda CRV was registered in New Jersey and was stolen in New York City.

DOBBS FERRY

Check fraud: On April 8, a Dobbs Ferry resident reported that a \$4,366.78 mortgage payment check he placed in a mailbox at the Dobbs Ferry Metro-North Station on March 21 was altered and then deposited. The name of the payee had been changed.

Building entered: First- and second-floor rear doors to an unoccupied building on Main Street were forced open between Wednesday, March 12, and Wednesday, April 9.

Shoplifter apprehended: A 37-year-old White Plains resident shoplifted \$30.65 worth of items from Walgreens, 11 Ashford Ave., on the afternoon of Wednesday, April 9. Walgreens declined to press charges.

Identity theft: On April 10, a Dobbs Ferry resident reported that \$1,320.32 had been charged to her Ulta Beauty credit card, which she had not used since she had obtained the card in April 2023.

Burglary arrest: A 14-year-old resident of The Children's Village residential treatment center was arrested for stealing from the package room at The Danforth apartments at River- towns Square on the evening of Friday, April 11. He was charged with burglary in the second degree, a felony, and petit larceny, a misdemeanor. Officers Denis Brucciani and Julius Derevjani- ik made the arrest.

Fraudulent license plate: A 25-year-old Bronx resident was arrested for a fraudulent temporary license plate and for a suspended driver's license on Ashford Avenue on the afternoon of Sunday, April 13. He was charged with criminal possession of a forged instrument in the third degree and aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree, both misdemeanors. Officers Julius Derevjanik and Kelly Conklin made the arrest.

HASTINGS

Leafblower violation: A landscaper was issued a summons for using a gas leaf blower on Crossbar Road on the morn- ing of Tuesday, April 8. Hast- ings Village Code prohibits the use of gas leaf blowers except from Oct. 15 to Dec. 31.

Hit and run: The driver's-side rear bumper of a 2015 Toyota Prius parked on Washing- ton Avenue was damaged between the evening of Wednes- day, April 9, and the morning of Thursday, April 10.

Contempt arrest: A 39-year- old man was arrested for en- tering the apartment building at 565 Broadway, in violation of an order of protection, on the afternoon of Saturday, April 12. He was charged with criminal contempt in the second degree, a misdemeanor, and remanded to the West- chester County Jail. Bail was set at \$2,500. Officer Ed Fat- torini made the arrest.

RIVERTOWNS

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ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS

Local Curiosities

— ASK THE DISPATCH —

How has flooding affected the Rivertowns?

BY JANINE ANNETT

In recent years, climate change has coincided with an increase in flooding in the Rivertowns. Roads, homes, and businesses — particularly those in low-lying areas — experience flooding during steady downpours. In response, local municipalities had to rebuild infrastructure and adapt it to prevent future flooding.

Ardasley

Ardasley has several areas prone to flooding, including stretches of Saw Mill River Road (Route 9A). The Village completed a Flood Damage Reduction Project in 1989, which included enhancements to the Ashford Avenue viaduct and flood relief measures between that viaduct and the New York State Thruway (I-87). The project included channels, flood walls, interceptor ditches, and ponding areas.

According to Village Manager Joseph Cerretani, “Ardasley has been extremely proactive in completing projects that mitigate flooding within the village. These extensive projects include lining open brooks with stone, vacuuming catch basins on a regular basis to ensure they’re free of debris, jetting storm-drain lines to clear any accumulated debris and sediment, and rebuilding catch basins that have deteriorated over time that will accommodate higher volumes of waterflow. In addition to an aggressive maintenance plan, the Village has installed new catch basins and piping that tie into the existing storm system that provide drainage in areas where there previously was no stormwater infrastructure. The Village has submitted grants for a pump for the flood control project behind the Village Green, as well as grant applications to add catch basins and piping in additional residential areas. The combination of efforts has resulted in improved conditions and reduced impacts of flooding. The Village will continue to be proactive in our maintenance



The flood control area behind the Village Green in Ardsley

plan, as well as forward-thinking in ways in which we can mitigate flooding through various infrastructure projects.”

Dobbs Ferry

In September 2024, Gould Park reopened after a nearly year-long renovation that cost \$2.5 million. The upgrades included Phase 1 of a new stormwater drainage system, a new retaining wall along Ashford Avenue, a new staircase and ramp, and a new basketball court, as well as curbs, sidewalks, fencing, landscaping, irrigation, and lighting.

The new drainage system channels rainwater under the park from new catch basins on Ashford Avenue. Future plans include installing pipes to carry the water north toward the Maple Street and Pietro Place drainage system. There, more stormwater will be collected from the streets and connected to channels

that will drain into the Hudson River.

According to Village Administrator Robert Yamuder, Phase II of the stormwater mitigation project is being studied by the Village’s engineers, who will provide a recommendation that will lead to plan, a public bidding process, and construction (pending finalization of funding for the estimated \$2.5 million cost).

“Additional funding sources are being investigated,” Yamuder said.

Hastings

During Hurricane Ida in September 2021, Sugar Pond in Hillside Woods overflowed and flooded Chemka Pool, downhill from the pond. Before the pool reopened 2023, much of the equipment in the below-grade pump room was replaced and a staircase to the pump room was built in place of a door

at the bottom of a driveway. The driveway was filled in. Including other repairs to the bathhouse and the pool, the total cost was \$1.36 million.

The Village also repaired the stairs that connect the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail to the Quarry Park Trail, which leads down to Southside Avenue, near the Department of Public Works.

To address future flooding, a village-wide study, completed in 2023, identified 21 sites as being problematic or requiring further investigation. Since then, the Village has solicited bids, which should be awarded this spring, for updating the drainage and watershed maps.

In addition, the Village received a \$200,000 grant from the New York State Resilient Investment Through Support &

Continued on page 4



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RiverArts.org

Call for musicians: Register by April 21st

Flooding

Continued from page 3

Capital (RISC) program and a \$75,000 grant from Hudson River Estuary Program, both to investigate and to address flooding in the Zinsser watershed, which is between the Hudson River to the west and Euclid Avenue to the east, and between Broadway at Travis Place to the south and the Dobbs Ferry border to the north.

The Village also obtained a \$2.5 million State grant for Boutillier’s Brook drainage improvements at Farragut Parkway, including a detention pond to store runoff, “holding it in place for pollutants to settle out and for infiltration and evapotranspiration,” Village Manager Mary Beth Murphy said.

“This will reduce the amount of water going into Boutillier’s Brook at The Fenway,

thereby reducing the amount of flooding on properties south of The Fenway,” Murphy continued. “It also sets the stage for additional improvements to be made to the area north of The Fenway and improves water quality entering the Saw Mill River.”

The Village also continues to invest in curbing and drainage improvements, such as drainage on Farlane Drive and curbs on Lincoln and Horner avenues.

Irvington

“Over the past 15 years, Irvington has been quite proactive when it comes to addressing flooding concerns,” Village Administrator Larry Schopfer said. “Back in 2011, we completed a village-wide flood study that identified all of the locations that were prone to flooding and proposed solutions to those problems in a phased approach.”

Since that time, Irvington has completed culvert projects at Station Road, Hudson View Park, and Fargo Lane and is about to start a fourth project (Harriman Road). Projects five, six, and seven (Downingwood, West Sunnyside Lane, and Riverview Brook) are scheduled for 2026 and 2027.

Irvington has been “tremendously successful with obtaining state assistance for these projects,” Schopfer said. Hudson View Park and Harriman Road were partially funded by a Department of Environmental Conservation Climate Smart Communities grant, and Downingwood and Riverview Brook were partially funded by a Department of Transportation BridgeNY grant. West Sunnyside Lane will be partially funded by a Westchester County Flood Control grant.

“We believe our success in obtaining grants is directly attributed to the existence of the

2011 flood study and our methodical approach to implementing it,” Schopfer said.

Countywide

In 2024, the Westchester County Department of Planning hired Dean Tarulli, whose role is to help develop and manage flood prevention and mitigation projects. His responsibilities include maximizing state and federal funding in communities plagued with flooding issues. Tarulli is tasked with administering the county’s Flood Mitigation Program, funded in the capital budget; addressing concerns from municipalities as the county’s floodplain coordinator; and collaborating with county departments, including the Department of Emergency Services, Department of Environmental Facilities, and Department of Public Works and Transportation.

Latimer podcast

Continued from page 1

timer has had to learn the ins and outs of the Beltway while reacting to a firehose of executive orders and other news from the White House.

“I’m in a new government, and I’m trying to learn it as I go along in the most chaotic time that the government has had,” Latimer explained. “So, while I’m in the process of learning, you know people are saying, ‘Well, what are you doing about this? I don’t know what you’re doing, you know you have to speak out...’”

That news from the White House has included cuts to federal staff and programs by the Department of Government Efficiency, which Trump established through an executive order.

“Having been in a corporate career for 20 years, I have some experience in corporations that want to reduce costs and how they go about doing it. And this ain’t that...,” Latimer said. “So this, to me, is an ideological decision. This is a decision to change the structure of the United States government. I read Project 2025... and it’s clear that they’re executing a plan to change America.”

In between his corporate career and his two terms as county executive, Latimer served as a

member of the Rye City Council, starting in 1987, and then the Westchester County Board of Legislators from 1992 to 2004, the New York State Assembly from 2005-12, and the New York State Senate from 2013-17.

Latimer was elected to represent the 16th Congressional District by first defeating two-term Democratic incumbent Jamaal Bowman in a primary last June, and then Republican Miriam Levitt Flisser in the general election last November. His district encompasses the lower half of Westchester and part of the Bronx.

For the Dispatch Podcast, Latimer talked about what voters want from him and how to

push back against the Trump administration. Regarding concerns about voters tuning out politics, he said “That’s how dictatorships take over. You’re not paying any attention. You don’t care until all of a sudden there’s a guy on a street corner with an M16, and he says, ‘Mr. Latimer, you need to be in the house right now, sir...’ That’s a different America, and it’s too late. Because when you had the chance to use your citizenship, you didn’t use it.”

To listen to the full interview, search for the Rivertowns Dispatch Podcast on Apple Podcasts or Spotify, or visit the Podcast page at www.rivertownsdispatch.com.

DOBBS FERRY ER



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Left: Raffaele Milizia, MD
Emergency Department Medical Director

Right: Evan Ou, MD
Dobbs Ferry ED Site Director

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ARDSLEY

— Coming Up This Week —

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 19, 11 a.m.
Pascone Park softball field
Bring your own basket.

AHS Sophomore Fundraiser: Egg My Yard

Saturday, April 19
Plastic eggs filled with toys will be delivered and hidden on your front lawn.
Sign up at eggmyyard2027.cheddarup.com:
\$30 for 25 eggs, \$45 for 50.

Food Drive for the Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry

Saturday, April 19, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Ardsley United Methodist Church,
525 Ashford Ave.
Drop off donations of nonperishable foods,
grocery gift cards, diapers, and monetary gifts
or call 914-693-4225 or
914-473-3910 for a pickup.

Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, April 21, 7:30 p.m.
Village Hall
To attend via Zoom,
visit ardsleyvillage.gov for the link.

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 22, 7 p.m.
High school library
Agenda and link to the livestream available at
ardsleyschools.org.

Architectural Review Board

Tuesday, April 22, 8 p.m.
Village Hall
Agenda available at ardsleyvillage.gov.

Senior Event: Birdhouse Painting

Wednesday, April 23, noon
Ardsley Community Center
Register at ardsleyrec.com

Zoning Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 23, 8 p.m.
Village Hall
Agenda available at ardsleyvillage.gov.

Library Board Meeting

Thursday, April 24, 7:30 p.m.
Ardsley Public Library

Got news?

Email staff writer Amy Bochner at
amy@rivertownsdispatch.com



Stephanie Marquesano

Magazine highlights nonprofit's mission

'The Missing Issue' focuses on co-occurring disorders

BY AMY BOCHNER

Us Weekly magazine and the Harris Project, founded by Ardsley resident Stephanie Marquesano, have collaborated to shed light on co-occurring disorders — the combination of mental health challenges and substance misuse — by reframing celebrity stories and sharing the struggles of everyday people.

Published March 26, "The Missing Issue" is a 48-page special edition available for \$8.99 at magazineshop.us. Marquesano wrote the foreword, in which she describes her son, the Harris Project's namesake, as "a deeply loving and brilliant young man whose energy, humor, and passion touched everyone who knew him."

From an early age, Harris struggled with an anxiety disorder, receiving an ADHD diagnosis in eighth grade. In 2013, he passed away from an accidental overdose, at age 19.

"The first substance he self-medicated with was marijuana; in 11th grade, prescription pills entered into his life," Marquesano told the Dispatch. "Midway through his senior year of high school, Harris was dead. He had been in four inpatient programs, two outpatient programs, each saying that they addressed and treated co-occurring disorders, and that's what he had."

After the loss of her son, Marquesano, who has lived in Ardsley for 33 years, launched The Harris Project, hoping to use her background as an attorney, former PTA president, and school board member to raise awareness about co-occurring disorders.

In 2022, The New York Times published an opinion piece on the Harris Project and Westchester County's initiatives to establish

a co-occurring system of care, which encompassed prevention, treatment, and recovery. The article garnered significant attention, including from Josh Kornrich, then a senior producer at media firm Havas New York. Kornrich contacted Marquesano, inquiring about developing a public service campaign. More than a year later, the "I'm Sorry You Don't Know the Half of It" campaign was launched in October 2023, coinciding with the 10th anniversary of Harris' death.

The campaign received more than 40 national and international awards. As a result, Havas and the Harris Project continued their collaboration, and began brainstorming the next phase of their campaign, which led to the idea of an article in Us Weekly. After meeting with the magazine's editor in chief, the idea evolved into "The Missing Issue," dedicated to co-occurring disorders.

The special edition reframes past celebrity stories published by Us Weekly, incorporating first-person interviews and exploring the connection between mental health challenges, substance use, and co-occurring disorders.

"It creates this opportunity for de-stigmatization," Marquesano said. "We tend to hold celebrities up to a standard, and then when they tumble, there tends to be this sort of pile-on. I think Us Weekly had the dual commitment of changing how they report, hoping to lead other news media outlets to change how they report as well, and to also really educate about co-occurring disorders."

One way The Harris Project hopes to challenge stigma is through mindful language, such as using the term "substance misuse" over "substance abuse."

"When you say that somebody's abusing something, it's this negative connotation,"

she said. "There is so much shame and blame that goes on. We can be person-first in our language, less blaming, more acknowledging [of] what's going on."

"The Missing Issue" includes original and updated versions of articles about celebrities like Amy Winehouse, Liam Payne, Juice WRLD, and Matthew Perry, with noticeable differences.

"You've taken away a lot of the alarmist horror — where they were found and what went wrong," Marquesano said. "The pivot is more about how the mental health challenges drove the use, how these were sitting right in plain sight, hence the title of 'The Missing Issue,' and what we can do, as a nation, to galvanize around best practices... Using a lot of the words of the celebrities themselves really shows that the story was sitting there and that we all have the power to do better."

The issue also includes narratives from celebrities, among them actress Drew Barrymore and singer Kelly Osbourne, who share their paths to overcoming substance misuse and co-occurring disorders.

"It's this acknowledgement that they got to a certain point and they knew that there was more that needed to be unpacked, and recognizing... if you could get the right care and support sooner, a lot of the shame, a lot of the things that go along with that wouldn't be happening," Marquesano said. "Acknowledging that you've made it out the other side, but that we can do better for everybody else who might be coming into this situation, is really powerful."

Alongside the stories of well-known figures are those of everyday people, highlighting how widespread co-occurring disorders are. There are

Continued on page 16

ARDSLEY

Gardener digs deep into options for protecting plants from deer

BY AMY BOCHNER

With spring underway, keeping one's garden safe from browsing deer was a timely topic for the virtual presentation hosted by the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway on April 9.

The presenter, Kathie Clements, is an Extension Master Gardener from Arlington, Virginia, who focuses on sustainable landscaping and using native plants to beautify gardens and support the ecosystem. Her tips for deterring deer are based on her belief that humans should "treat deer with respect and have a responsibility to be better stewards of our wildlife."

Clements began the talk with a brief history of the issue of deer browsing. In 1942, she said, there were only 500,000 white-tailed deer in the United States, 20,000 of them in New York State. Today, there are 30 million deer in the country, with 1.2 million in New York. According to Clements, this change occurred as a result of transitioning agricultural spaces to suburban and urban spaces, which creates an ideal habitat for deer.

Deer, she said, are "eating machines" that require 6 to 8 pounds of food per 100 pounds of body mass daily. Clements described how to tell if deer have been in your yard, as opposed to rabbits or "an errant weed wacker."

"Deer don't leave any tooth marks," she stated. Their presence may first be noticeable from thinning on lower branches, however "plants shorter than 3 inches are often prime targets.

"You might find some plants that are uprooted, crushed from hooves, or you might notice a round or oval group of plants bent down from where a napping deer's body has been," she continued. "Trees may have damaged trunks or branches from when bucks rub their antlers against them to remove the antler velvet in late summer and early fall... Anything growing from ground level to 6 feet is on the menu. You can see a browse line on plants they continually eat."

Other signs to look for include deer droppings, which are black, jelly bean shaped, and usually in large clusters, as well as deer tracks, which appear as upside-down hearts.

Clements offered recommendations and strategies for warding off deer, the most effective of which is a motion-activated sprinkler.

"When the sprinkler detects motion, it sends out a sharp spray of water. The spray can be adjusted to target specific areas of the yard or individual plants," she said. "One sprinkler can protect a small-to-medium-sized yard, and more than one is needed for a larger area. It's helpful to move the sprinkler every few days for best protection. Mixing it up helps surprise the deer and makes your yard less inviting."

Repellants are also an option. These take advantage of a deer's sense of smell by covering plants with an unappealing taste or odor.

Clements emphasized the need to read product directions, because some repellants may be safe

for ornamental plants but not for edible ones. The timing of use, she said, is also crucial.

"Think about seasonal feeding habits — apply repellents before the expected periods of browsing," she said. "In the spring, start applications within two weeks of bud break, then apply to new growth every three to four weeks. For winter protection, mid-fall and early winter applications are good. Be diligent about reapplying.... Spray late in the day after the pollinators have visited and target the foliage. If using a taste-based formula, spray from 6 feet down to the base of the plant, as deer typically browse from top to bottom. It's best to rotate products to surprise the deer so they don't get used to them."

Another solution is creating barriers in gardens. This can include tree tubes or guards to protect young trees from buck antlers, wire cages, and plastic netting. Fences, Clements said, are the most effective barriers for keeping deer out.

"Fencing deer out is the only true option for protecting vegetables and fruit," she said. "When thinking about fencing, it helps to consider what we know about deer behavior. Deer are confident jumpers of high fences when they have a view of the landing area. They don't like to jump into areas they can't see. They can jump a 10-foot fence, but prefer not to. They don't like to exert themselves any more than necessary. Poor depth perception makes them less confident in judging horizontal jumping distances."

Ensuring that the fences are properly anchored

is important, she said, because deer can crawl under barriers that allow a 7.5-inch clearance.

In addition, certain landscaping practices, like berms, hedges, stairs, or rocky surfaces, can deter deer.


"Deer don't like changing levels, particularly when they're on the run," Clements said. "They are comfortable walking up and down sloping ground, but very uncomfortable jumping from level to level. Create berms or sunken levels to make your yard more difficult for deer to manage."

She encouraged people to focus on implementing strategies at the entry points of their garden to discourage deer from coming in.

"You can plant deer-resistant flowers and shrubs on berms to protect [the entry] and provide extra height to hide the garden beyond," she said. "Deer won't want to [come in] if they can't see the garden. They won't know if there are delicious plantings or if a predator is waiting."

While there are no "deer-proof plants," there are plants that deer are less likely to eat. First, Clements shared which plants — "deer candy" — to avoid. This includes ones with soft, narrow but not stiff, broad, smooth, or sweet leaves and flowers. Instead, she recommended plants that have a bitter taste, a pungent aroma, a limited color scheme, or are fuzzy, hairy, or bristly. Plants with thick, fibrous foliage and sharp edges are also better at deterring deer. Clements encouraged

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Alcott School

535 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry

A MONTESSORI PRE-SCHOOL

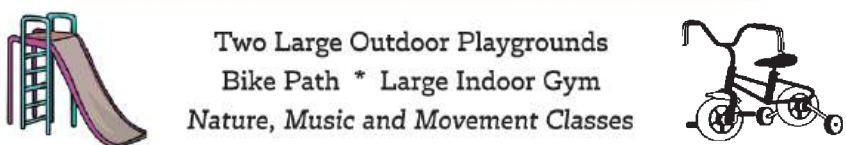
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DOBBS FERRY

— *Coming Up This Week* —

Food Drive for the Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry

Saturday, April 19, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Ardley United Methodist Church,
525 Ashford Ave.

Drop off donations of nonperishable foods,
grocery gift cards, diapers, and monetary gifts
or call 914-693-4225 or
914-473-3910 for a pickup.

Anime Streaming Party for Teens

Saturday, April 19, 2-4:30 p.m.
Dobbs Ferry Public Library

Hybrid Program: Earth Day National Poetry Month Workshop

Tuesday, April 22, 6:30-8 p.m.
Dobbs Ferry Public Library

Westchester County Poet Laureate Phylisha Villanueva leads "Writing the World: Ekphrastic in Nature and Beyond." Register by emailing reference@dobbsferrylibrary.org.

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 22, 7 p.m.
Middle/high school library
Agenda available at dofsd.org.

Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, April 22, 7:30 p.m.
Village Hall
Agenda available at dobbsferry.com.

Annual Villagewide Cleanup Day

Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m.-noon
Meet at the corner of Cedar and Main streets
Bring gloves; garbage bags will be provided.

Annual Great Saw Mill River Cleanup

Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
(rain date May 3)
Lawrence Street by the
South County Trailway bike path
Sign up to volunteer at
groundworkhv.org/events.

DirtFest

Saturday, April 26, 1-4 p.m.
(rain date May 3)
Waterfront Park

Stop by for free compost, sunflower seeds,
backyard compost demos, vegetable and herb
seedlings for purchase, games, and prizes.

Got news?

Email staff writer Julian Caldwell at
julian@rivertownsdispatch.com

Paintings reflect artist's regard for nature

*Library exhibits
'Views' through May 17*

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Yonkers resident Rick Weaver brings his "recycled art"-making process and love of the natural world to the Dobbs Ferry Public Library in an exhibit titled "Views of Nature." The show features 24 acrylic paintings on pieces of wood, the material repurposed by Weaver as his canvas.

"I said, 'Why do we throw this all away when we could do something with it?'" Weaver told the Dispatch. "Like pieces of plywood that are sanded on one side and in good shape, paneling that we take down that we would normally take to the dump that is good on one side. I use latex paints to get the surface nice and smooth for painting."

Weaver, 74, began developing carpentry skills when he was growing up in Yonkers and refinishing furniture as a way to help with his parents' antique business. That's when he learned to take furniture that might have been broken beyond repair, but still have good pieces, and work the remnants into picture frames. Some of the frames and canvases included in the "Views of Nature" exhibit Weaver made out of scrap wood from friends and family. He also found antique frames on eBay or at estate sales.

The subjects of Weaver's paintings reflect his innate attraction to the sea. Among the pieces at the library are paintings of lighthouses and ships, current and historic, as well as the birds that have caught his eye while spending time around water.

"I have a lake house upstate [in Albany County], so I would see blue herons on the shore, and storks. And then I went to Mystic Seaport [in Connecticut] a couple of times, and while I was up there, I saw a pelican and bunch of different birds, and I was interested in hopefully someday drawing them."

A stand-out piece in Weaver's show is his own take on an oil painting of a battle scene, from the early 1800s, between the USS Enterprise and Barbary pirates from Morocco, Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli. Weaver appreciates how the gray



One of Rick Weaver's paintings at the library.

antique wood frame he picked out for the piece looks in contrast with the red-striped sails and blue-grey ocean.

Weaver earned his associate's degree in civil engineering from Westchester Community College, where he applied his talent to doing perspective drawings for buildings in ink. After college he produced engineering drawings and revisions for Penn Central Railroad, which operated until the 1970s. Weaver then worked for Metro-North, where he rendered revisions for the Grand Central Terminal plans, and retired in 2011. Retirement has allowed Weaver to tap into his creative side as a painter.

One of the artist's biggest influences is Canadian oil painter Roland Gissing, known for his images of mountains, foothills, and streams. The other is Weaver's mother, an oil painter who often depicted fields, farms, and lighthouses. She passed away in 2022 at age 101.

"She painted all the way up until about 90," Weaver said. "And a couple times she had to go into the hospital for different things, and I would paint her a picture, and she would always enjoy whatever I would paint to bring her. And she would give me a little critique here and there, which I wish she was here to do today."

Weaver and his mom used to create paintings on plaques as decorations to brighten up their antique display when his family would sell furniture at craft shows, and the paintings became their bestsellers. Weaver wants his paintings at the library to bring viewers the same kind of pleasure.

"I'm hoping that they take away, first, an enjoyment of what they're seeing, and secondly, a drive to do something like it, or change it a bit in their own way."

"Views of Nature" is on display at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library, 55 Main St., until May 17.



Spring cleaning

Friends of Waterfront Park board members Penny and Peter Hofmann, along with Dobbs Ferry High School seniors Eliza Watkins and Helen Kupershlak, were among the volunteers who cleaned up planting beds at the park on the morning of Sunday, April 13. To learn more about the Friends, visit www.dfwaterfront.org.

DOBBS FERRY

Upcoming DirtFest to kick off composting campaign for Dobbs

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Sustainable Dobbs will host its fourth annual DirtFest at Waterfront Park on Saturday, April 26, centered around encouraging village residents to compost food scraps. By getting more people to let leftovers of fruits, vegetables, grains, and meat decompose naturally, instead of throwing them in the trash, Sustainable Dobbs estimates the Village could save tens of thousands of dollars per year spent on trash disposal.

DirtFest was launched in 2022 as a compost giveback event where attendees could pick up free, nutrient-rich compost to use in their gardens. As Sustainable Dobbs Zero Waste Committee co-chair Janet Roseff explained, this year the star of the show is a game called “Get Scrappy” which is part of the group’s larger “Get Scrappy, Dobbs” campaign to educate residents about composting.

“This game will be a fun way to have residents learn about food scrap collection — what can be collected and where it goes,” Roseff told the Dispatch. “What the game is supposed to show is when you pull things out of the garbage, where you can put them if you want to reduce your trash.”

The game will pit teams against each other as they pull out photos of items from a mock garbage can and determine whether each item should go in a backyard compost

bin, municipal compost area, or the trash. Each team will have a board labeled with all three options where players will have to put the items in the appropriate columns. The game will be timed, and whoever has the most items in the correct columns wins.

“At the end of the game, when you look at the board, you’ll see a lot of things end up in compost, and you’ll see very little in your trash,” Roseff explained.

“After doing this [game], you see people throwing food in the garbage and you think about them taking this gold and bringing it to an incinerator and burning it when, if you just let it sit and become compost, it’s the best thing for the earth,” Zero Waste Committee co-chair Holly Malekian added.

The winner of each game will get a free, four-month subscription to Hudson Compost Services, which is a private business founded in 2019 by Hastings High School students that picks up compost curbside once a week for residents in the Rivertowns. The company charges \$33 per month and provides a bin to dispose of the compost.

Beyond using a private service like Hudson Compost, the free options for residents to compost in Dobbs Ferry are leaving the scraps in a pile or in a bin in their own backyard or bringing the compost to the food scrap drop-off site at the Dobbs Ferry

Department of Works, south of Rivertown Square, any day of the week. Dobbs Ferry is part of a collective of municipalities that includes Hastings, Ardsley, Irvington, Sleepy Hollow, Tarrytown, and Elmsford that have begun researching options to provide free curbside pickup of compost in the future.

In 2024, Sustainable Dobbs earned \$5,000 from New York State for a food scrap awareness campaign as part of a series of Clean Energy Communities grants the Village received for its efforts to implement clean energy actions. This year the group is using that money to launch the “Get Scrappy, Dobbs” campaign, which includes a survey, filled out by 280 people, to understand residents’ relationship to composting.

Fifty-four percent of respondents said they regularly compost food scraps, while 34% said they never have. A third of the residents who said they compost added that they do so only via backyard composting. Certain food scraps, such as dairy products, meat, and bones, aren’t recommended for backyard composting because they can attract pests and can carry pathogens, but those items can be picked up by a private service or taken to a municipal composting area, like the one at the DPW.

According to the Westchester County Department of Environmental Facilities, food

waste that could be composted makes up 22% of the county’s residential trash. Sustainable Dobbs estimates that if all Dobbs residents composted all of the scraps that they could, it would save the Village roughly \$30,000.

“We figured out that at \$33 a ton to cart trash, Dobbs Ferry last year averaged about \$11,000 a month carting trash to the incinerator for it to get burned up and emit toxins,” Roseff said. “Compost, however, is just a flat \$400 a month.”

“It’s bigger than just what you’re doing to reduce waste in the village,” Malekian noted. “It actually really helps the environment and climate change.”

At this year’s DirtFest, Climbing Wolf Coffee & Bar will provide free coffee ground fertilizer, and Hudson Compost will hand out free compost. Sustainable Dobbs will give out free giant sunflower seeds to take home and pot, and provide backyard composting demos. There will also be vegetable and herb seedlings for purchase.

DirtFest will be from 1-4 p.m. The rain date is Saturday, May 3. The Dobbs Ferry Food Scrap drop-off site can be accessed from Ogden Avenue. To find the exact location, input “Dobbs Ferry DPW” in the GPS. The drop-off site is open from dawn until dusk seven days a week.

Sustainable Dobbs 4th Annual

DIRT FEST

SATURDAY, APRIL 26th 1-4pm
Waterfront Park - near Playground
Rain Date: May 3rd - same place, same time!

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- BYOB -Bring-Your-Own-Bucket for **5 gallons of free compost** while supplies last
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- Climbing Wolf cold brew + **FREE coffee-ground fertilizer**
- Free seed packets, while supplies last
- Native plants + lush veggie & herb seedlings to purchase
- Meet the Deep Roots CSA Farmers
- Backyard compost demos by Roots & Wings
- Electric lawn equipment demos

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HASTINGS- ON-HUDSON

— Coming Up This Week —

Farmers' Market

Saturday, April 19, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Commuter Lot, Southside Avenue

The market convenes the first and third Saturdays of each month through May. For details, visit hastingsfarmersmarket.org and follow the market on Facebook.

Downtown Eggstravaganza

Saturday, April 19, 10 a.m.-noon

Children ages 3-8 search for plastic eggs filled with candy and toys hidden on the grassy areas of the VFW, public library, and Village Hall.

Earth Day Community Cleanup

Tuesday, April 22, 3-5 p.m.

Old Croton Aqueduct Trail

Register for the "litter hunt" by emailing amanning@hastingslibrary.org.

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 22, 6 p.m.

Hillside Multi-Purpose Room

Agenda available at hohschools.org.

Intergenerational Paint and Pizza

Wednesday, April 23, 6-7:30 p.m.

James Harmon Community Center

A high school student artist leads a painting workshop for seniors.

Register by emailing

senioroutreach@hohny.gov.

Zoning Board Meeting

Thursday, April 24, 7 p.m.

Village Hall

Agenda available at hohny.gov.

Local Luminaries: Solly Granatstein

Thursday, April 24, 7 p.m.

Hastings Public Library

Join the Emmy- and Peabody-winning TV producer and director for a screening and discussion of "The Real Death Valley," his short documentary about migrants crossing the Texas ranchlands and the response of the U.S. Border Patrol.

Senior Book Club

Friday, April 25, 1:30 p.m.

Hastings Public Library

Discuss "The Measure" by Nikki Erlick.

Got news?

Email staff writer Amy Bochner at amy@rivertownsdispatch.com



Kimberly Janeway at her home in Hastings

Honoree promotes the power of reading

Nonprofit recognizes volunteer for literacy efforts

BY AMY BOCHNER

As the recipient of Volunteer New York!'s 2025 Education & Literacy Award, Kimberly Janeway, a 30-year Hastings resident, credits her grandmother for instilling her love of reading.

"I grew up in Western Pennsylvania, across the street from a steel mill, a very working-class area," Janeway told the Dispatch. "My grandmother used to take me to the library on Saturdays, and she told me that if I became a great reader, that was my ticket out of that neighborhood. My grandmother only had an eighth-grade education. She wanted me to go to college, to have a dream job, to really succeed and dream big."

This encouragement led Janeway first to Penn State, where she graduated with a business degree. She then embarked on a 10-year career in advertising market research before earning a master's from Columbia University's School of Journalism. For 20 years, she wrote for publications such as Consumer Reports magazine and the Record Review, the now defunct weekly newspaper that served Bedford, Pound Ridge, and Lewisboro.

Upon retiring four and a half years ago, Janeway felt she needed a new focus, and found purpose in volunteer work.

"I love to look at a problem, try to come up with solutions, try to give back and feel part of something," she said. "I feel like everyone needs to pitch in, whatever they're

passionate about."

Janeway volunteers with the Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry, the Hastings Historical Society, and the Family Service Society of Yonkers. It's her work with the latter organization that led to her Education & Literacy Award.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Janeway read about how children in schools across the country were falling behind in reading and math. Knowing how important reading was in her own life, she felt moved to volunteer with the Family Service Society of Yonkers.

In 2022, Janeway started the Reading Buddies program, in which she meets with six elementary students from under-resourced schools every week. In one-on-one or small group sessions, she offers remedial support and emotional encouragement.

"I see them improving their reading skills. I see them building confidence. Then there's just that connection," Janeway said. "They tell me about their day. They tell me about when things are great, and they also sometimes vent their frustrations or something that happened in the classroom or at home. To me, it's so important. These are terrific kids. They're really trying a step at a time to become good readers."

Janeway feels she plays a similar role in the children's lives that her grandmother played in hers.

"She was planting this idea that I could dream," she said. "The life I knew looking at steel mills and people who had never been to college — they worked hard, but they struggled to get by — she gave me this idea that this is not all that the world offers. That's

what I do with these children that I read with... I'm trying to build their confidence, to see life outside of their school, outside of their neighborhoods."

The Education & Literacy Award is granted by Volunteer New York!, a nonprofit based in Tarrytown that encourages volunteerism and civic engagement in Westchester, Rockland, and Putnam counties. During the award ceremony, which took place at the Westchester Marriott Hotel in Tarrytown on April 11, Janeway gave a 3-minute speech in which she emphasized the importance of literacy.

"Reading is a fundamental skill that leads to opportunities," she told those in attendance, including her husband, David, and Claudia Barbieri from the Family Service Society of Yonkers. "That's why each week I read with children who struggle with reading. If our kids can't read, how can they dream of a life filled with possibilities?"

Janeway stated that her commitment to volunteerism is just getting started.

"I want to get more involved with these literacy programs and become better at it, keeping up to date with how we teach children to read, because that's ever changing," she said. "I want to really devote myself to the Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry, because being able to read and having food, that's what gets humans through. That's what allows them to grow in all ways. I want to keep doing this volunteer work and take it as far as I can go. I don't know what it will look like in 10 years, but it won't look like what I'm doing now. It'll be much, much more."

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON

Launch scholarship program opens up after-school opportunities

BY AMY BOCHNER

As a result of the new Hastings Launch scholarship program, local children who would otherwise be unable to afford after-school activities, from dance class to Little League, are now participating.

Jennifer Altman, chair of the Friends of the Hastings Youth Council, explained what spurred the nonprofit to create the Launch committee last fall.

"We've been really successful with supporting other programs from the youth council, the YAP after-school program, and the food pantry," she said. "Since the fundamental goal that we have is to try to level the playing field for all children and give them as many opportunities as possible, it occurred to me that extracurricular activities were something that are quite unequal, and that could be something that we could help with."

According to fellow youth council member Laura Light, Hastings Launch seeks to address the issue by enabling Hastings children whose parents can't afford the fees to participate in local programs.

"There's a lot of after-school programs in arts, sports, robotics, that all cost money. Some kids aren't able to participate just because there's a financial barrier," she said. "Our goal is to provide that access so that people can

fulfill their interests and participate."

Youth council board member Diane Lewis emphasized the impact of after-school activities on a child's development.

"[Extracurriculars] are part of what makes them who they are," she said. "They discover their identity, they learn to socialize with other children, and they figure out their own strengths."

To test the waters, the Friends of the Hastings Youth Council launched a pilot program with Amanda Kupillas, owner of the eponymous dance center on Main Street and a 2000 graduate of Hastings High School.

"She was really wonderful and generous in letting us suggest some kids through the youth advocate program who would love to do dance," Altman said. "She gave them free tuition, free tickets [for guests] to the recital, and free costumes. It really heartened us to realize that maybe other people will do that too, and that has certainly been the case."

After the success of this pilot, the youth council included Hastings Launch among the initiatives that would benefit from their December fundraiser. Hastings Launch is working with more than 10 after-school programs, ranging from arts to sports to college prep.

In addition to Kupillas, participants include Creative Hearts Art, Jeff Pucillo (gui-

tar lessons), Hudson River School of Music, Maker's Hive, Urban Illustration, Hastings Little League, Hastings Rec Basketball, Marek Fuchs (SAT/ACT prep), Marisa Silverstein (college essay prep and application support), and all programming offered at the James Harmon Community Center.

While some participants are offering free spots, December's fundraiser allows Hastings Launch to provide assistance to the programs with higher fees. As a result, 15 children, from kindergarten to high school, have been awarded scholarships.

Hastings Launch finds eligible children through referrals by verified community members, including the village recreation department's Lisa O'Reilly, Youth Advocate Department director JoAnn Reed-Stokes, and school district guidance counselors and officials. Parents have also reached out to Hastings Launch to inquire about scholarships. To help parents find the best extracurricular activities for their children, Lewis set up office hours, at the public library, during which she meets with families one on one.

Light described the response Hastings Launch has received from parents.

"All the emails have been filled with gratitude," she said. "I just think people are really grateful for the chance to have their kids in classes that they may have seen their peers

participate in, but they haven't been able to." She continued:

"We're loving the direct impact, and we're loving the response. I feel like we just identified a gap. There were kids who wanted to participate, and the programs were willing to give spots. It was just about being the liaisons to match the kids with those programs, because everybody's been really open [to] helping."

Hastings Launch, Altman said, is still "a work in progress" and is welcoming of all feedback from potential sponsor programs and volunteers. Those interested can reach out to hastingslaunch@gmail.com.

— COMMUNITY BRIEFS —

Clark dean's list

Cami Ratzkin was named to the dean's list, with second honors, at Clark University for the fall 2024 semester.

Albany dean's list

Hazel Pucillo, Kevin Wu, and Tammy Wu were named to the dean's list at SUNY Albany for the fall 2024 semester. Pucillo intends to major in human development, while Kevin Wu intends to major in business economics. Tammy Wu is majoring in human biology.



Weaving Workshop

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Saturday, 5/10 from 1 - 4 PM

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IRVINGTON

— Coming Up This Week —

Spring Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 19, 10 a.m.

(rain date Saturday, April 26)

Memorial Park

For toddlers to 9-year-olds; bring your own basket.

Aqueduct Cleanup

Saturday, April 19, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Old Croton Aqueduct Trail between Main Street

School and Matthiessen Road

Register at IrvingtonGreen.org.

Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, April 21, 7 p.m.

Village Hall

To attend via Zoom,

visit irvingtonny.gov for the link.

Earth Day Craft: Upcycled Mazes

Tuesday, April 22, 5:15 p.m.

Irvington Public Library

Register at irvingtonlibrary.org.

Zoning Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 22, 7:30 p.m.

Village Hall

To attend via Zoom,

visit irvingtonny.gov for the link.

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 22, 7:30 p.m.

High school library

Agenda available at irvingtonschools.org.

Invasives Cleanup

Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

O'Hara Nature Center, 170 Mountain Road

Volunteer to remove Japanese barberry from Irvington Woods Park and at the same time learn best practices for identification, removal, and tool usage.

Registration required at register.capturepoint.com/villageofirvington.

Annual Great Saw Mill River Cleanup

Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (rain date May 3)

Great Hunger Memorial / Woodlands Lake

Sign up to volunteer at ecoirvington.org/events.

Farmers' Market

Sunday, April 27, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Main Street School, 101 Main St.

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

Got news?

Email staff writer Julian Caldwell at

julian@rivertownsdispatch.com



"A Cow in the Sky" by C. Fraser Press and Darren Press

Short films mark happy return to theater

Festival to feature 11 films from 5 countries

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Ten years after its debut, the All Shorts Irvington Film Festival (As iFF) is returning to the Irvington Theater for the first time since 2019. The event, on Saturday, April 26, features 11 films — each under 20 minutes long — from the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, India, and Iran, and a jury of award-winning directors, producers, and writers.

This year's festival is being produced by Irvington Theater Commission co-chair Shana Liebman. She is taking the reins from former co-chair Laurie Chock, who founded As iFF in 2015. In her role with the commission, Liebman has overseen a series of documentary screenings and produced two filmmaking classes for teens.

"I really, truly believe that these films are of the highest quality," Liebman told the Dispatch. "They just run a really wide gamut of topics, personalities, nationalities. They're really different from one another, but each one is a masterpiece."

Liebman and other commission members put together the program from online submissions and by connecting with filmmakers at other festivals over the past year. Liebman selected "Favourites," by Australian director Nick Russell, after seeing it at the Tribeca Film Festival last June. The five-minute film, about a family camping trip that goes terribly wrong, provides a twist that Liebman believes most audience members won't see coming. Director Julia Sub sent in her entry, "Make It Last Forever," which centers around a young man confronting how quickly time is slipping away, hours

after she completed it.

Before finalizing the lineup, the theater commission came up with a theme to steer their choices. The group decided upon "Take Two," referring to the revival of As iFF after the Covid-19 lockdown and subsequent renovations to the theater, which reopened this past fall.

"Terminally Ill," directed by Chris Cole, explores the theme by telling the story of a rapper who helps give new life to his grandmother by rapping to her while she's on her deathbed. "The idea is that all of the films we chose in some way embodied the idea of rebirth and sort of starting over and new beginnings," Liebman explained. "The theater was reopening, and it was a fresh start for us. It's the first time we've done this event in five years [and] I'm doing it instead of Laurie. So, it was all of these sort-of do-overs that were happening, and we thought it would be a good theme for the films as well."

Chock returns to As iFF in a new role. As part of the 11-member jury, she is tasked with evaluating the films and giving out awards for Best Directing, Best Editing, and a new honor called The Irvy, for the film that best capitalizes on the under-20-minute format. Also on the jury are Irvington residents Tom Heller, who produced the Academy Award-winning film "Precious," and his wife, Carolina Heller, who has edited popular television series like "Say Yes to the Dress" and "The Real Housewives of New Jersey." Jurors Ali Moss, an Emmy-nominated documentary filmmaker, and documentary producer John Bardin are both Dobbs Ferry residents.

Chock, who directed and produced the Emmy Award-winning documentary "Iron-bound Ties to Portugal" and other documentaries, believes the quality of jurors

has helped make As iFF a success from the beginning.

"A few of us [at the start] were filmmakers, and a few of us had gone to film festivals all over the world, and knew what it was like from a filmmaker's point of view to be at a top-notch film festival," Chock told the Dispatch. "So, number one, we wanted to create a film festival that honored the filmmaker, and then also it became an evening that was so much fun. And the audiences loved coming, because it's a blast."

In addition to the nearly 2 hours of collective screentime for the films, this year's As iFF includes a step-and-repeat for audiences and filmmakers alike to take photos; an Audience Award for viewers to assign via a QR code in their programs; an on-screen, post-screening Q&A with several of the filmmakers; and an after-party at Mima Vinoteca on Main Street.

"As iFF from 2015 immediately shot up as a film festival that both filmmakers and film audiences looked forward to," Chock recalled. "We quickly entered the ranks of film festivals that filmmakers knew about. And I have no doubt that under the leadership of Shana, after these five years of sleeping, we are going to hit our stride right away."

The films featured this year range in length from 2 minutes to just over 19 minutes. The films "3.400KG" from Iran and "Madhu (Honey)" from India have English subtitles.

"We tried to choose films that, one, were incredible art, fun to watch, and well made, but also that brought up an interesting issue or have a lens into a world that we don't normally see," Liebman said.

As iFF will start at 7 p.m. For tickets, which range from \$30-\$33, visit www.irvingtontheater.com.

IRVINGTON

Grados launches independent mayoral campaign for spot on ballot

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Former Irvington School Board president Robert Grados has announced he will run for mayor of Irvington as an independent, challenging Democratic Party nominee Arlene Burgos, who won the party's nomination in February. Burgos has been a trustee since 2021. Grados, 56, works as a real estate attorney and has lived in Irvington for 19 years.

Grados announced his campaign on April 11, in advance of the state Board of Elections' designated first day (April 15) for independent candidates to begin collecting signatures. He has until May 27 to collect at least 75 signatures in order to appear on the ballot in November. In Irvington, a prospective Democratic candidate needs 149 signatures, while a potential Republican candidate needs 37 signatures.

"What I've heard from many residents was that people are feeling that the current board [of trustees] is a bit disconnected from what is happening, and the issues that face Irvington," Grados told the Dispatch. "And people really feel that what we need is someone who truly understands Irvington, and can bring consensus to the issues that face us."

Grados, a registered Democrat, said he is running as an independent in part because he

decided to enter the race after the Irvington Democratic Convention, and in part because he doesn't want to be beholden to a single party.

"I would have run as an independent regardless because I don't believe that local politics should be governed by national political parties," Grados said. "I think there are many things that national political parties want to do that really have nothing to do with how we run a village here in Irvington. I want to be able to run so I can do what's in the best interest of Irvington regardless of what any political party thinks."

After serving on the board of education from 2010-2016, including two years as the president, Grados served as chair of the Irvington Fundraising and Community Event (FACE) Committee and president of Irvington Youth Lacrosse during roughly the same years, from 2019-23. He joined the Irvington Zoning Board of Appeals in 2024.

"The issues that face the village right now are similar to issues that I faced when



Robert Grados

I was on the board of education," Grados explained. "I was able to lead the effort to pass a bond related to our athletic fields that had previously been defeated by the voters twice before I was on the board. I was able to bring consensus and address people's concerns, and it passed handily."

Grados sees parallels between the approved proposition to build the turf Meszaros Field and Oley Track, a project completed in 2016, and the \$18.2 million bond proposal to revamp Irvington's firehouse and other facilities, which residents voted down in November 2023. Both Grados and Burgos, who was interviewed by the Dispatch in February and sat on the board of trustees at the time of the vote on the proposal, shared that they had issues with the \$18.2 million bond before the vote.

"I understand that my opponent says now that there were problems with the bond, but the fact of the matter is she voted to let the bond go out to the public," Grados said. "When I was on the board of education and I was doing the bond for the fields, one of the things I said to the board at the time was that I was not going to let a bond issuance go out into the public until all of the concerns of the community were addressed to the best of our ability."

Another main area of focus for Grados is

streamlining the approval process for construction work in the village. Under current Mayor Jon Siegel, who has chosen not to run for a third term, a Land Use Streamlining Committee was established this year to address the issue.

"To ultimately get that done, it's going to take leadership beyond Mayor Siegel's term," Grados said. "My day job is I've been a real estate attorney for 30 years. I understand the land use process and zoning as well or better than anyone."

Grados recommends a two-pronged approach to address the problem. The first step, he suggests, is adding an architect as a regular member of the architectural review board. Second, he believes the planning board should be limited to overseeing projects related to subdivision, larger commercial development, combining lots, and oversight of the overall plan for the village.

"I do not think that the planning board should be involved in straight building considerations," Grados explained. "Those should be the purview of just the architectural review board, along with the building department."

Grados plans to hold meet-and-greet events with residents in various neighborhoods, starting before the end of the month.

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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.

Student athletes need reliable playing fields in Hastings

To the Editor:

Having at least one playable, sustainable turf field for our hundreds of athletes to share is not a luxury, it is a necessity. The current state of our fields is abysmal; they are out of date, ill-equipped, hard to navigate, costly to maintain, and need days to recover from inclement weather. To argue that our athletes don't deserve better circumstances because the generations before them didn't have better is short-sighted and selfish.

Last year's data shows that our fields were home to 516 high school athletes as well as 274 middle schoolers, not to mention the accommodations we try to make to outside organizations like Little League, AYSO, Ultimate Frisbee, etc.

Well over one thousand kids rely on these fields to achieve their goals, better themselves, stay in shape, get off their screens, and live out their dreams, year after year. Having at least one sustainable field will allow for longer practice times, more options for home games, play time during inclement weather, and take the burden off of the grass fields that require so much care.

Our athletes deserve the chance to reach their true potential and we proudly support this long-awaited, much-needed enhancement for our community — the athletes, the fans, the next generation, and the grandparents, all of whose lives are made richer by spending time on the bleachers watching our student athletes represent our village.

SUE MALAT AND MELISSA SBREGA
Presidents of the Hastings Yellow Jackets Booster Club

Hastings Board of Education responds to message about bond

To the Editor:

The Hastings-on-Hudson Board of Education would like to address incorrect information put forth by "Hastings Sustainable Schools" in a donation-seeking email sent on April 9 to a wide yet select swath of the Hastings community. While much of this information has already been clearly presented by our board, the misstatements have created a need for further clarification.

Specifically,

- It is inaccurate to characterize that the middle and high schools have only "access issues" and simply because the district says so. The entire complex lacks a required ADA-compliant entry and this affects the ability of actual students within our district to attend school in Hastings, to say nothing of staff, parents, or visitors.

- It is neither true nor accurate that in 2023 an architectural firm "proposed solving the maintenance and space issues at FMS as well as the Burke athletic fields for a total estimated cost of \$10.98 million." The space study from 2023 focused on adding a locker room addition and repurposing existing locker rooms for high school classrooms; it did not address any aspect of the FMS space issues or maintenance.

- It is neither true nor accurate that the bond would net "only one classroom." The bond would return 6,000 square feet of the Farragut Complex to educational use, as it was years ago — providing a 20-plus percent increase in dedicated middle school instructional space. We project a net gain of up to seven classrooms.

- It is incorrect that New York State aid for our

bond will "shrink" depending on fluctuations in state or federal policy or funding. A school bond and its funding from the State are set at the time of bond passage. A bond is a legal contract and is not open to, much less dependent upon, further considerations of state or federal aid.

Our board looks forward to elaborating on the proposed school bond in our meetings and community forums to come. As always, we welcome questions, observations, or fact-checks regarding our bond at bond@hohschools.org.

ALEX DAL PIAZ, SILVIA ROBLES,
DAVID BARONE, CATHERINE
DIMARTINO, THERESA
MCCAFFREY, JODIE MEYER, AND
MAUREEN LENNON-SANTANA
Hastings-on-Hudson Board of Education

Congressman should express support for impeaching Trump

To the Editor:

Last week, our congressional representative for the Rivertowns, George Latimer (NY-16), did not directly respond to questions about whether he supports impeaching Trump from office. I wrote to him as a volunteer with Citizens Impeachment and was one of 600 people from all 50 states who asked their representatives for their stance on impeaching Trump.

As a concerned citizen and voter from Hastings-on-Hudson, it's obvious that

Trump is leading the country into authoritarianism. His threats not to leave at the end of this term are highly credible. Hyperbole about the danger of his administration, from immigration to the economy, has become reality. He and his cabinet are lawless and unaccountable to our justice system. If we don't impeach him now, American democracy may not survive his path of destruction.

I'm not willing to risk that.

I am encouraging Congressman Latimer to publicly commit to upholding his most fundamental democratic role — removing tyrants from office. Commitment to these basic facts — that Trump is a tyrant, and Congress needs to act now to get him out of the White House — will be a major litmus test for any 2026 candidate. I hope the Rivertowns get a good response from him on this critical issue soon.

JOHN HALPIN
Hastings

Support schools, and the community, by voting for the bond

To the Editor:

I urge our community to vote "yes" on the proposed school bond in Hastings. Together, we share the responsibility of funding schools for the benefit of all Hastings children; it is unacceptable for our public schools' facilities to either stagnate or, worse, as we've already seen, deteriorate to the point of collapse.

Living in a commuter suburb of New York, our home values are tied to the quality of our schools. Instead of investing in those schools,

we've been applying band-aid fixes to crumbling infrastructure. That is not only financially short-sighted, but it is fundamentally unfair to our children, the educators, and the entire school. Our kids deserve better than outdated, unsafe, and, for some, inaccessible facilities.

When public education is under attack all around us, we must stand up and ensure our schools remain strong, modern, and supportive of each and every student. This is not just an issue for those of us with school-aged children.

Our public schools are a cornerstone of this community, not just for today's students, but for the future well-being of the entire town. To those whose children have already been through the schools, please help ensure that future generations get the same quality education.

Let's support our schools, our kids, and our community by voting "yes" for all parts of the bond.

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Hastings

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The Agenda

SAT
19

Farmers' Market
HASTINGS
9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Commuter Lot, Southside Avenue. hastingsfarmersmarket.org

Old Croton Aqueduct Spring Cleanup
IRVINGTON
10 a.m.-1 p.m. / Free. Meet on the trail near Main Street School. Register online. aqueduct.org

"The Jackie Mason Musical"
IRVINGTON
7:30 p.m. / \$48-\$63. Irvington Theater, 85 Main St. Also April 20, 5 p.m. irvingtontheater.com

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

Platform Magic: Noah Levine
SLEEPY HOLLOW
7-8:30 p.m. / \$65. Hudson Valley Writers' Center at Philipse Manor Station, 300 Riverside Drive. Purchase tickets online. Recommended for ages 12 and up. writerscenter.org

Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse
WHITE PLAINS
7:30 p.m. / \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door.



"The Jackie Mason Musical" depicts the comedian's whirlwind romantic misadventures on Saturday, April 19, and Sunday, April 20, at Irvington Theater.

Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 468 Rosedale Ave. This month's folk concert features Betty and the Baby Boomers. walkaboutchorus.org

Live Jazz: Enrique Haneine Quartet
OSSINING
7:30 p.m. / \$25. Westchester Collaborative

Theater, 23 Water St. wctheater.org

Arts and Crafting Day: Riverkeeper Fish Migration Celebration
OSSINING
10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. / Free. Bethany Arts Community, 40 Somerstown Road. Registration required. bethanyarts.org

Westchester Songwriters Circle
OSSINING
8-9:30 p.m. / \$20. Bethany Arts Community, 40 Somerstown Road. bethanyarts.org

SUN
20

History Tour: Walled Garden to the Vista
YONKERS
11 a.m. / \$15. Untermyer Park and Gardens, 945 N. Broadway. Purchase tickets online. untermyergardens.org

TUES
22

Live Music: Tom Simmons and Paul Belading
HASTINGS
7-9 p.m. / No cover charge. Uncle Lefty's, 583 Warburton Ave. uncleleftys.com

International Film Festival
DOBBS FERRY
6:30 p.m. / Free. The Lecture Hall at Mercy University, 555 Broadway. Nightly screenings, April 22-25, are followed by refreshments and discussions with guest speakers. The lineup of films is posted at mercy.edu/academics/school-liberal-arts/international-film-festival.



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The Agenda

Boxing Day Café Homebrew Club: French Press

DOBBS FERRY

Noon-1 p.m. / \$30, \$20 for members. HudCo, 145 Palisade St., Suite 200. Learn the basics of making coffee in a French press, compare brew tastes, and improvise brew techniques. hudco.eventbrite.com

WED
23

Picture Book x HudCo Book Club

DOBBS FERRY

8 p.m. / Free. HudCo, 145 Palisade St., Suite 200. Discuss "Dream Count" by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

RSVP at picturebookny.com/calendar.

Jewish Film Festival

PLEASANTVILLE

Various times through April 29 / \$13-\$25. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Road. A wide range of fiction films and documentaries showcase personal stories and a broad perspective on history, culture, and society. burnsfilmcenter.org

THURS
24

Local Luminaries: Solly Granatstein

HASTINGS

7 p.m. / Free. Hastings Public Library, 7 Maple

Ave. Join the Emmy- and Peabody-winning TV producer and director for a screening and discussion of "The Real Death Valley," his short documentary about migrants crossing the Texas ranchlands and the response of the U.S. Border Patrol. hastingslibrary.org

Two Solo Art Shows

HASTINGS

Upstream Gallery, 8 Main St. Opening of exhibitions by Jo Zalon Meer and Eleanor Goldstein. Reception April 27, 2-5 p.m. On view through May 18. Hours: Thursday-Sunday, 12:30-5:30 p.m. upstreamgallery.com

Octagon House Spring Tours

IRVINGTON

Various times Thursday-Monday / \$29. The Armour-Stiner Octagon House, 45 W. Clinton Ave. The Victorian Springtime Tour features the architecture and landscape of this unique National Historic Landmark (through June 23), while the Preservation Tour explores its restoration (through Sept. 21). For ages 7 and up. Advance tickets required. armourstiner.com

Outdoor Live Music: Vinny Piazza

DOBBS FERRY

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

Documentary Screening: "Blind Spot"

TARRYTOWN

6:30 p.m. / \$10, \$5 for members. The Ark at Shames JCC, 371 S. Broadway. Followed by discussion with Lenny Gold, executive producer of the film, and Rachel Klein, executive director of Hillels of Westchester. Purchase tickets online. shamesjcc.org

"Dawn Chorus" with Saw Mill River Audubon

PLEASANTVILLE

6 a.m. / Free. Rockefeller State Park Preserve, 125 Phelps Way. Bird walk for adults and ages 8 and up. No registration required. sawmillriveraudubon.org

Community Pints

ELMSFORD

5-10 p.m. / \$10. Captain Lawrence Brewing Co., 444 N. Saw Mill River Road. Fundraiser for The Nicholas Center, which creates programs and services for adults with autism. captainlawrencebrewing.com

FRI
25

Opening Reception: "A Winter Romance"

HASTINGS

5-9 p.m. / Free. Denouement Fine Art, 579 Warburton Ave. Featuring paintings by Stephen Stoller. denouementfineart.com

MorDance Open Rehearsal

YONKERS

6:30-8 p.m. / \$15 suggested. 86 Main St., 6th floor. See the expressive choreography of "Trees," a ballet in the making about nature's resilience, followed by the opportunity to mingle with the artists. RSVP online. mordance.org

Teen Night: By the Decades

YONKERS

5:30-9 p.m. / Free. Hudson River Museum, 511 Warburton Ave. Stargazing in the planetarium, talent show, karaoke, face painting, games, and refreshments. hrm.org

Duke Ellington Tribute

TARRYTOWN

7 and 9:30 p.m. / \$35, \$30 for students. Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. Bill Mays and his quintet interpret the songs of the legendary jazz pianist. Also April 26. jazzforumarts.org

Open Mic

SLEEPY HOLLOW

7:30 p.m. / \$5 per performer. Philipse Manor Station, 300 Riverside Drive. Pre-register for free virtual and in-person audience seats for a hybrid performance hosted by the Hudson Valley Writers Center. Registration required. writerscenter.org



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17 APR

Maundy Thursday
7pm The Last Supper
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18 APR

Good Friday
7pm Tenebrae Service
Reflective time of prayer, readings and music






20 APR

EASTER SUNDAY
6am Sunrise Service at Waterfront Park
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April 20 Easter Sunday	10:00 AM Live and via Zoom Holy Eucharist with Choir, Guest Singers and Trumpet Gala Coffee Hour and Easter Egg Hunt	

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Food Pantries

Continued from page 1

JoAnn Stokes is the director of the Hastings Youth Advocate program that oversees the food pantry that serves 60-70 households weekly. While the food pantry hasn't seen a dramatic impact, it's seen the cost of items from Feeding Westchester go up and availability of items like eggs and dairy products go down. Outside of receiving food from Feeding Westchester, the Hastings Food Pantry purchases food from supermarkets, where it's seen prices go up, and receives donations from the Hastings Farmers Market, which is experiencing shortages.

The Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry, which serves about 100 families from Dobbs Ferry, Ardsley, Irvington, and parts of unincorporated Greenburgh each week, has seen the variety of food offered by Feeding Westchester, and the number of items available for free or at discounted prices, decrease. Most of what the pantry can't receive from Feed-

ing Westchester, it purchases from Driscoll Foods, or receives as contributions from local organizations and residents.

"So while Feeding Westchester would probably, I would say, give us at least 60% to 70% of our produce, now we're only getting carrots," Halpenny explained. "So that means when we purchase from Driscoll, we have to spend our money to augment even more than what we have historically. And historically we were spending \$3,000 to \$4,000 a month on food. So now when you take away the majority of produce that Feeding Westchester was giving us, you can imagine how that number will jump."

Assumma added that in recent weeks, Driscoll's prices for certain items have been cheaper than Feeding Westchester's prices, which used to rarely happen. She also anticipates Driscoll's prices increasing further due to tariffs. This comes at a time when she also expects that the number of people who rely on the food pantry's services to go up as the cost of living increases.

Harris Project

Continued from page 5

21 million people in the United States struggling with substance misuse, Marquesano noted, half of whom also experience mental health challenges.

"The more we can show different parts of the country where it's impacting communities and individuals and families, the more it shows that we're kind of all in this together," she explained. "It's so exciting to educate and empower young

people about this, because they can think about the decisions they make early on around substance and alcohol use. They can support their friends, help and support sooner, before they become complicated. Those are all really powerful opportunities."

Marquesano hopes that readers can take away the knowledge that they are not alone, as well as the information to help others.

"It's so important not to wait until somebody is in crisis to act, to share what you've noticed,

"A lot of our families are working two or three jobs, or they're senior citizens on Social Security, or they are families with young children, single moms," Assumma said. "They were just getting by and now it's going to be even tougher for them as consumers. If they don't have the food pantry, they're not going to be able to eat healthy foods and feed their families."

The Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry and Hastings Food Pantry rely on volunteers to pack and distribute food, and community donations to purchase what they can't get for free from Feeding Westchester.

"Please consider contacting your local pantry to find out what the exact needs are," Stokes said. "While stocking our shelves is always the main objective, also consider donating your time to help support local pantries as a volunteer to help pick up donations or assist in organization."

Feeding Westchester has a history of working with government officials at the state and local level, and is in communication with officials to look for opportunities to either push back on the federal cuts or

other ways to supplement what was lost. In the meantime, Feeding Westchester is also looking to the community for donations.

"Historically when the need is greater, the community steps up," Jackson said. "So short term, if we're able to make that happen, that's a huge help, and long term, that may become more of necessity depending on how big and how extended some of these cuts are."

To donate to or volunteer with the Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry, which operates out of South Presbyterian Church, 343 Broadway, on Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to noon, visit dobbsferrypantry.org. To do the same with the Hastings Food Pantry, which operates out of the James Harmon Community Center, 44 Main St., on Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., e-mail hohfoodpantry@hohny.gov or call 914-478-2471. Feeding Westchester accepts donations at feedingwestchester.org.

Deer webinar

Continued from page 6

gardeners to consult with local plant guides to help them make the best choices for their yards

At the end of her presentation, Clements shared what she hopes viewers will take away from her advice.

"Gardening is a dance with nature, and we're all creatures in the garden," she said "I hope that you're going to be able to develop a positive mindset so that you can make gardening with deer a more joyful experience."

Material from the presentation is available at www.ardsleypollinatorpathway.org.



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Sports

EDITED BY ROB DIANTONIO

Ardsley flag football program off to flying start

BY ROB DIANTONIO

When Joie Levy was young, she played flag football with the boys.

Levy, now a senior at Ardsley, played varsity lacrosse in the spring for the past few seasons, but deep down she knew she wanted to play flag football, which was introduced in New York State in 2022. However, it was not available at Ardsley.

For the past few years, Levy, along with others, advocated for the Panthers to start their own team.

This spring, flag football became a reality at Ardsley and the Panthers are off to a fast start with a 4-0 record.

"I was probably fighting for this for four years with my co-captain Samantha Amir," Levy said. "The both of us have been fighting for this and finally it got passed. Honestly, it just means the world to me and my community because we're bringing this sport to our town and for the younger girls who are going to build our program up."

Ardsley is already ranked in the top 10 in the state in Class C under head coach Sean Cappiello. The team's assistant coach is Ricky Chenard. Levy, Amir, and Emily Nudelman are the team's captains, with a rotating gameday captain.

"The girls have been great and I knew they'd be good," Cappiello said. "Coach Chenard does a really good job preparing them. I've been with coach Chenard for years, coaching him and everything. I knew he'd have them ready. I know these girls from other seasons, obviously state championship



Ardsley's Joie Levy picks up yards as Irvington's Cecilia Kadro chases. Photo by Rob DiAntonio.

basketball girls. We knew we have athletes."

Besides Levy, the majority of the team is first-time flag football players, but they have caught on fast.

"I've never played the sport in the past,"

Nudelman said. "But since I was a kid, I've watched football and I've looked up to those kinds of people and the character that you build from that."

The Panthers have a wealth of talent-

ed and experienced athletes on the team. Levy, Dylan Paley, Madison Bortstein, Elise O'Brien, Morgan Macri, Whitney Butler, Mia Stanton, and Ava Santavicca

Continued on page 19

Irvington's McRae reaches milestone in victory over Edgemont

Girls' lacrosse roundup

BY ROB DIANTONIO

In her junior season, when Irvington's Sadie McRae dished out 60 assists, coach Pat DiBenedetto dubbed her "the soup kitchen" — referring to her ability to feed her teammates.

It turns out McRae is quite the scorer as well.

Now a senior, she notched her 100th career goal in an 18-7 victory over host Edgemont on April 10, finishing the game with three goals and five assists.

McRae, who is committed to Rhodes College in Tennessee, scored 20 goals in her freshman season. She then netted 32 goals in each of her sophomore and junior seasons. On top of her 60 assists last year, she had 50 as a sophomore.

"Sadie has consistently shown improvement in her four-year varsity career," DiBenedetto said. "She's a great leader, teammate,

and of course, person. Her resilience and determination allow her to be a strong scorer. Scoring her 100th career goal was definitely a proud milestone to celebrate."

Federica Ricciardella and Aly Raimondo scored three goals each for the Bulldogs. Ricciardella collected four draw controls. Isi Doncov added two goals and two assists. Alexis Canfin had one goal, one assist, and seven draw controls.

Natalie Rushford and Peyton Clinton (one assist) had two goals apiece. Tessa McRae and Sophia Im (one assist) each scored one goal. Lillian Isom had an assist. Mia Cantilana (four saves) and Sadie Kilbury (three saves) led the way in goal.

DiBenedetto said that "draw control coupled with a pressing attack and locked-in defense" were critical in keeping the momentum on the Bulldogs' side.

"In the end, it was definitely a full-field effort," DiBenedetto said. "Kudos to

Edgemont's Addie Kaplan on her 100th career goal as well. We had her on our radar to limit her scoring opportunities. We adjusted as the game progressed."

Irvington (4-2) lost to host White Plains 12-7 on April 12. Doncov paced the team with four goals and an assist. Canfin (two goals, one assist), Clinton (one goal), Sadie McRae (six draws), Ella Weiss (one assist), and Kilbury (11 saves) contributed.

The Bulldogs return to action when they host Putnam Valley on April 23.

Ardsley tops Tuckahoe

Ardsley defeated host Tuckahoe 13-9 on April 10. Lyla Vega (one assist) and Mairead Gowran scored three goals apiece. Lily Tierman had two goals and passed for four assists. Juliette An (two goals), Anna Gallante (one goal, three assists), Lily Champion (one goal), Helene Dillon (one goal, one assist), Lyvia Pulver (two assists), and Sienna Kay

(eight saves) contributed to the win.

The Panthers, who improved to 2-4, host Croton-Harmon on April 21.

Hastings held off by Haldane

Hastings came up short in a 19-8 setback to visiting Haldane on April 10.

Mila Angoff sparked the Yellow Jackets with four goals. Sophia Ballard had two goals. Sienna Radley and Alina Abrams had one goal each. Teresa Kalaj made eight saves.

Hastings (2-3) returns to the field on April 22 when it travels to New Rochelle.

Eagles fall to Arlington on road

Dobbs Ferry lost to host Arlington 13-4 on April 10. Hollen Peet, Molly O'Brien, Ella O'Connor, and Hope McCormack scored a goal each for the Eagles. Eleni Georgioudakis made four saves in net.

Dobbs (3-2) next takes the field when it travels to Byram Hills on April 22.

Late surge propels Eagles to 8-goal win over Panthers

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Most sports are games of momentum and lacrosse is no different.

Each time Ardsley gained any momentum on a rainy April 9, Dobbs Ferry quickly snapped it. The Eagles pulled away late in the game for a 15-7 win.

Midway through the third quarter, it was a 7-6 game after Ardsley goals from Shahz Naqvi and Robbie Miele. But Dobbs answered with a goal from Jake Broccoli with 1:33 left and another tally from Jackson Kearns with 40.4 seconds remaining. The Eagles took a 9-6 lead into the fourth quarter.

Kearns unleashed a deep shot for a goal to make it 10-6 early in the fourth quarter. Naqvi ended Dobbs' run midway through the fourth quarter. But the Eagles ended the game on a 5-0 run with two goals from Ryan Mohl and a goal apiece from Kearns, Broccoli, and Jack Shemonski.

"It was a big response from our guys," Dobbs Ferry coach Drew Maier said. "The offense was working really well today and the defense clamped down. Obviously, Killian [O'Connor], our face-off guy, made a big impact for us. He helped us out a lot with the possession. Our guys just kept fighting."

Maier added that the defense was being "more aggressive" in the second half, which resulted in holding the Panthers to just one goal over the final 18 minutes.

Broccoli and Kearns finished with five goals and two assists each. Broccoli, a senior, also registered his 100th career point. Mohl added three goals and two assists. Shemonski had two goals and one assist. Peter Kilroe had one assist.

While Broccoli and Kearns are the team's



Dobbs Ferry's Jake Broccoli and Jackson Kearns celebrate a second-half goal. Photo by Rob DiAntonio.

top scorers, "When we get contributions from the other guys, it definitely helps," Maier said. "We've got Ryan and we've got Dylan [Ravage]. We've got other guys out there. Jack Shemonski, today was his first

game back from injury. He made a big difference for us on offense."

Kevin Hartnett picked up six ground balls and caused four turnovers for the Eagles. O'Connor was 9 for 15 on face-offs. Rav-

age secured five ground balls. Kola Rukaj made 10 saves.

Ardsley was led by Naqvi, who finished with three goals. Miele, Liam Gallante, Tyler DeCosta, and Tristen Roberts had one goal each. Goalie Jackson Rosenfeld made 13 saves.

"Our goalie played a great game," Ardsley coach Brendan Curran said of Rosenfeld. "He kept us in the game."

The Panthers took a 4-3 lead after one quarter, but the Eagles regained the momentum in the second quarter and went into halftime up 7-4.

"We got off to one of the better starts we've had all season," Curran said. "But we still need to take better care of the ball. I think we had some opportunities offensively that we could've scored on earlier in the game to go up by maybe two or three goals to get more of the momentum going. But we just need to do a better job of possessing the ball. We turned it over too much. That was the difference in the game."

Ardsley dropped to 1-3 with the loss. The Panthers were scheduled to host Rye Neck on April 17 then travel to Putnam Valley on April 21.

"We just need to be more patient on offense and possess the ball," Curran said when asked how the Panthers could improve. "We just need to be able to handle pressure better. We're not moving to help our teammate or make the next pass. Then we're turning the ball over and running back playing defense."

Dobbs improved to 3-2 and returns to the field when it hosts North Salem on April 21.

"It's still early and we're figuring stuff out," Maier said, "but we're learning as we go."

Yellow Jackets win two and lose two to remain just shy of .500

Baseball roundup

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Hastings won two out of its four games over the last week as the team's record sits at 4-5.

The Yellow Jackets bested host Bronxville 14-7 on April 10. Nathan Krapf earned the win, pitching 4.2 innings with eight strikeouts.

Leading the offense were Johnny Sbrega (two RBIs), Andrew Rizzo (three runs), Kieran McGrath (2 for 3, double, three RBIs), Matt Corbo (1 for 2, two runs, two RBIs, two steals), Jackson Acree (2 for 4, two RBIs), and Drew Ciszewski (3 for 4, two runs, RBI).

Hastings hosted Pawling for a doubleheader on April 15 and split the two games.

The Jackets were blanked by Pawling 6-0 in the first game. Ciszewski allowed just two hits over 5.1 innings while striking out six. McGrath (double), Corbo, and Sbrega each had one hit.

With the game tied in the bottom of the seventh, McGrath blasted a walk-off grand slam to propel Hastings to a 10-6 win in the second game of the doubleheader. He finished 3 for 4 with six RBIs and two runs scored.

Acree pitched the first five innings and struck out three. Krapf got the win in relief, tossing two innings with two strikeouts.

Aidan Curtis (3 for 4, RBI), Charlie Richardson (one hit, three walks, two runs scored, five steals), Ciszewski (one hit, run), and Julius Stephens (two RBIs) contributed at the plate.

Hastings lost to visiting Edgemont 8-5 on senior day on April 16. Rizzo (3 for 3, double, RBI), McGrath (2 for 3, two RBIs), and Krapf (RBI) led the offense. Stephens struck out five over three innings.

The Yellow Jackets host Eastchester on April 19.

Eagles sweep Haldane, fall to Tigers

Dobbs Ferry swept Haldane, defeating them 5-1 at home on April 10, and 10-3 on the road on April 14. The Eagles fell to host Putnam Valley, 7-6, on April 16.

In the first meeting with Haldane, Jack Mastin was the winning pitcher. He allowed just one hit over five innings and struck out seven. Logan Sullivan drove in two runs while Matthew Rodriguez, Mastin, and Luc Maass had one RBI each.

In the rematch with Haldane, Sullivan earned the win on the hill. He allowed zero earned runs, one hit, and struck out 10 over five innings. Maass closed out the game, pitching the final two innings while striking out four and allowing two hits and no earned runs.

Maass had a triple and an RBI. Mastin drove in a run with a double and scored two runs. Brendan Marron had a hit, walked twice, and had two RBIs. Colin Dubilier, Rodriguez, and Carter Rowland had one RBI apiece.

In the loss to Putnam Valley, Mastin pitched three innings of three-hit ball and let up one earned run. He struck out three. Offensively, he had a hit and scored twice. Dubilier (3 for 4, double, triple, two runs), Sam Sellitti (two runs, RBI), Marron (two RBIs), and Rowland (RBI) contributed.

Dobbs (4-2) returns to the diamond when it travels to Tuckahoe on April 21 and hosts Briarcliff on April 22.

Ardsley has 1-2 week

Ardsley cruised past host Sleepy Hollow 23-1 on April 10 but endured losses to visiting Bronxville (8-5, April 14) and John Jay-

Cross River (13-6, April 16).

In the win over Sleepy, Jonah Kleinman recorded the win and tossed four innings. Offensively, he had two hits and drove in five runs.

Mike DePasquale (three hits, home run, four RBIs), Hunter Hamlet (two hits, home run, five RBIs), and Nate Caldara (two hits, home run, three RBIs) also had big days at the plate.

Against Bronxville, Jesse Jaeger (2 for 4, RBI), Steven Degree (RBI, run), Kleinman (two runs), Nate Moskowitz (one hit), and Caldara (one hit) led the offense.

Ardsley (2-4) was scheduled to travel to Valhalla on April 17. The Panthers welcome Port Chester on April 19.

Irvington edged by Briarcliff

Irvington lost to Briarcliff 12-11 in the opening round of the Bears' tournament on April 10. Sawyer Chalsen went 3 for 4 with four RBIs to spark the offense. Scott Edwards (1 for 2, three runs) and Justin Corniel (1 for 1, two RBIs, two walks) also contributed.

The Bulldogs (2-4) return to action when they travel to Nyack on April 19.

Hastings' hot start turns into a streak with 3 more wins

Softball roundup

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Coach Kaitlin Degnan and her Yellow Jackets do not want to get too far ahead of themselves, but Hastings is off to a strong start on the softball diamond with a 6-1 record.

Hastings earned three more wins over the last week, defeating visiting Briarcliff (23-7, April 10), host Putnam Valley (14-4, April 14), and visiting Rye Neck (9-7, April 15).

"It's our team dynamic," junior captain Lola Norlander said when asked what has triggered the team's early success. "We're all really good friends. We all love and support each other."

The Jackets endured their first loss of the season, 10-3, to host Haldane on April 16.

Siri Rosenberg and Abby Weiss each went 3 for 3 with four RBIs against Briarcliff. Kylie Vulpone also drove in four runs and had a double. Sophia Pereira doubled twice. Lexie Schur was 2 for 3 with a triple. Hazel Sabella picked up the win in relief.

Against Putnam Valley, Sabella pitched the first four innings and Rosenberg closed it out in relief. Both pitchers had zero walks and escaped a few jams to keep the Tigers in check. Degnan and the Jackets have plenty of faith in the combo of Sabella and Rosenberg on the mound.

Sabella, a sophomore, is a right-handed pitcher while Rosenberg, a junior captain, is a left-hander. Degnan said this is their second season as the team's pitching staff and they are a "great combo."

"Our pitchers are really great," said Norlander, the team's catcher. "They support each other when they need it. If someone's not doing so well, the other one can hop in. They're really good pitchers and I love being their catcher."

Norlander finished 3 for 3 with a two-run



Hastings' Siri Rosenberg connects with a pitch against Putnam Valley. Photo by Rob DiAntonio.

double that gave Hastings an 8-2 lead in the fifth inning against Putnam Valley. Pereira drove in two runs. Izzy Doherty was 2 for 3. Ruby Wallach had a double and scored on a Rosenberg single. Vulpone had an RBI single. Sabella drove in a run with a double.

"Every single at-bat, we were in it," Degnan said. "We stayed in each pitch. We didn't have a lot of strikeouts and we were putting the bat on the ball. We were getting those extra bases and putting the pressure on with our running. And I think we had some timely hits."

Degnan said there has not been a set lineup yet, adjusting game-to-game based on how each player is swinging the bat.

"I think the lineup is pretty balanced,"

Norlander said. "At the top we've got a bunch of speed, and throughout our whole team we've got really good hitters."

On her birthday, Pereira gave Hastings the lead over Rye Neck in the bottom of the sixth with a two-run double. She then made two highlight-reel catches in center field in the seventh inning.

Ella Rizzo went 2 for 4 with three RBIs. Sabella picked up the win in relief, pitching the final 1.2 innings. Rosenberg struck out seven over 5.1 innings and allowed three earned runs. She also had two hits.

In the loss to Haldane, Rizzo (2 for 4), Norlander (2 for 3), and Sabella (RBI) sparked the offense.

The Jackets return to the diamond when they travel to Pleasantville on April 21.

"I'm extremely happy, but we're not satisfied," Degnan said of the 6-1 start. "We're just going one game at a time. As we just said in the outfield [after defeating Putnam Valley], 'We're just going to turn the page to the next game.'"

Irvington cruises to two wins

Irvington picked up two wins in blowout fashion over hosts Blind Brook (22-9, April 10) and Port Chester (17-1, April 15).

Alex Barth picked up the win against Blind Brook and struck out five over five innings. Barth (3 for 5, double), Kayla Clinton (4 for 5, three-run home run, double), Cassidy Reichgott (2 for 5, double), Nia Kilbury (3 for 3, triple, double), Chloe Swift (home run), and Madison Maldonado (home run) led the offense.

"We've been patient and have been putting the ball in play," Irvington coach James Madison said of the success offensively. "We're also finding our stride to keep playing till the end of a game with really good leadership this season."

Kilbury, Maldonado, and Barth paced the offense in the victory over Port Chester.

The Bulldogs, who improved to 3-2 with the two wins, host Leffell School on April 22.

"Since November we've averaged 13 girls at preseason, and those girls have played a major role on our team," Madison said. "I feel really good for this season and the future."

Eagles fall to Tuckahoe

Dobbs Ferry lost to host Tuckahoe 9-1 on April 11. Abby Dann (double), Kamryn Addis (RBI), Madison Piacentino (double), and Maysin Kannapin each had one hit.

The Eagles (3-2) next take the field when they travel to Valhalla on April 21.

Flag Football

Continued from page 17

were members of Ardsley's girls' basketball squad, which won the program's first state championship in March.

"The chemistry's great," Cappiello said. "They play with each other in other sports and get along really well. This is what I always talk about in terms of athletes playing multiple sports. It translates well. The girls who play volleyball can jump and get it; the girls who play basketball can run and they understand angles and pursuit. It carries over. They've got a really good sports program at Ardsley and this is just another aspect of it."

Ardsley most recently defeated host Irvington 31-18 on April 11. The Panthers built a 31-0 lead at halftime.

Levy, who is lightning quick and the team's quarterback, had a hand in four touchdowns in the first half. She rushed for two, had a receiving touchdown, and threw a touchdown pass.

On the Panthers' opening drive, Levy completed passes to Macri and O'Brien,

and had a big run of her own. She completed the drive with a 1-yard touchdown run to give Ardsley a 6-0 lead with 20:57 left in the first quarter.

Paley's interception set up Ardsley's next drive. Levy threw a 40-yard touchdown pass to Maya Lubell and then ran in the extra point to make it 13-0 with 19:16 left in the half.

Nudelman found Levy for a 12-yard touchdown strike to make it 18-0. The fast-footed Levy then zigzagged across the field for a 45-yard score to stretch the lead to 25-0 with 6:52 left in the first half.

Bortstein rushed for a 6-yard touchdown to cap off the first-half scoring as Ardsley went into the break with a commanding lead.

Cayden Barrocas had a strong day on defense for Ardsley as she led the team in flag grabs.

Irvington came to life in the second half, led by Sara Welter, who scored all three of the Bulldogs' touchdowns.

"I was very impressed," Irvington coach Justin Myers said of the second-half effort. "That's what we said at halftime, 'Let's

try to win the second half.' And we did. I know they had some of the [backups] in, but we were moving the ball and playing better defense."

He continued, "Sara Welter, she came in and played a little QB. We were like, 'Let's see what she has,' and she was running all over the place. It's something that's going to hopefully continue into next week. She also played great on D. And Piper Keltz, she's been awesome on D pulling flags."

Irvington combined with Bronxville last year but is solo in its second season. The Bulldogs are 0-6, but Myers is hopeful for a turnaround. The team returns to the gridiron when it hosts Tappan Zee on April 21. Myers believes the team needs to work on "consistency and football IQ."

"We gave up three scores where one was fourth-and-19, one was fourth-and-15, and the other was third-and-18," he said. "We've just got to be a little better situationally and hopefully that leads to some better results."

Ardsley opened the season with a 25-21 win over host Woodlands on April 4. It then defeated visiting Westlake/Briarcliff 33-20 on April 9 and edged host Byram Hills 25-

18 on April 10.

In the win over Westlake/Briarcliff, Levy threw four touchdown passes and rushed for over 50 yards. Paley had three receiving touchdowns.

Macri returned an interception for the game-winning touchdown against Byram Hills. Levy rushed for a touchdown, caught a touchdown pass from Nudelman, and threw a touchdown pass to Macri.

Through four games, Bortstein and Nudelman have had the most stops on defense, according to Cappiello.

Ardsley will look to stay unbeaten when it travels to Horace Greeley on April 22.

Nudelman is hoping the Panthers can follow in the footsteps of the boys' football team, which won the section title in the fall.

"They really proved everyone wrong," Nudelman said. "That really motivated us. Obviously, with coach Cap and coach Chenard, they really took what they did in the fall and moved it over here."

And the goals are high.

"We're building up our chemistry now," Levy said. "We want to win the section first and then we'll worry about states later."

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