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Vol 1. Issue 33.

May 2, 2025

# RIVERTOWNS Dispatch

Local News,  
Locally Sourced  
~

\$2<sup>50</sup>

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



## Showtime!

Sofie Jackson, Matteo Tamburini, Lola Lacruz, Owen Baumkirchner, and Maya Ezratty rehearse for the Broadway Training Center's production of "Beetlejuice Jr.," which will be performed at the Irvington Theater, 85 Main St., on May 2 at 7 p.m., May 3 at 7 p.m., and May 4 at 3 p.m. BTC's Junior Ensemble, for grades 4-8, will be led by directors Jason Brantman and Fiona Santos. Tickets cost \$23 for adults and \$19 for students and senior citizens, plus \$3 more at the door. To buy tickets in advance, visit [www.broadwaytraining.com/tickets](http://www.broadwaytraining.com/tickets). Photo by Maddie Sledge

## MTA aims to counter flooding and more

BY TIM LAMORTE

**REGION** — The Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (MTA) \$800 million plan to protect Metro-North Railroad's Hudson Line from the effects of climate change received its first public vetting on the evening of Wednesday, April 23, at the Hastings Public Library.

The Metro-North Hudson Line Climate Resilience Blueprint is part of the MTA's \$68.4 billion capital plan for 2025-2029, which encompasses railroads, subways, buses, bridges, and tunnels. Since the measure had not been funded at the time of the presentation, details were unavailable about future changes for specific locations, such as Hastings, Dobbs Ferry, and Irvington.

Overall, the blueprint focuses on the 20-mile section between Riverdale and Croton-on-Hudson, which the MTA considers "most vulnerable" to events such as flooding and mudslides. Amtrak passenger trains and CSX freight trains also use the

*Continued on page 4*

## Village picks affordable housing partner

### Rental units planned for three downtown sites

**BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL**  
**DOBBS FERRY** — Dobbs Ferry is partnering with Somers-based Kearney Realty & Development Group to construct mixed-income housing on three Village-owned lots in the downtown.

After a year-long process of searching for a partner, the Village announced that it selected Kearney to build rental units on two

vacant lots on Cedar Street and atop the 99 Cedar Street parking lot at the corner of Palisade Street. Thirty-eight units are being considered for 99 Cedar Street, plus six units at each of the other locations.

The Village chose the developer from seven applicants, and worked with the Pace University Land Use Law Center to study potential sites for the buildings.

Housing is considered "affordable" when it costs no more than 30% of a household's gross income. According to the Village, 18%

of renters in Dobbs Ferry are spending 35-50% of their income on housing.

During a board of trustees meeting on Tuesday, April 22, Mayor Vincent Rossillo explained that the developments would provide homes for a diverse mix of residents, including families, seniors, and working professionals, such as teachers, nurses, and municipal workers.

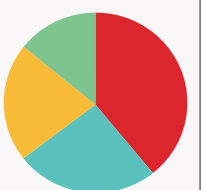
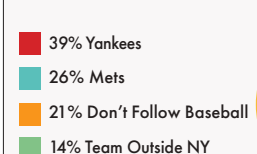
"Affordable housing is often misunderstood as being solely for low-income indi-

*Continued on page 4*

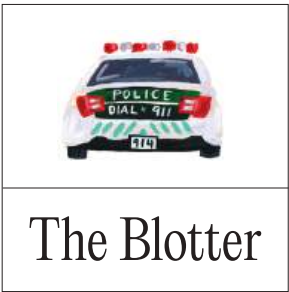
### — You Answered —

#### Who is your favorite baseball team?

As answered by 162 readers of  
the Rivertowns Dispatch



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



The Blotter

ARDSLEY

**Shoplifting arrest:** A 37-year-old Bronx resident was arrested for shoplifting \$247.92 worth of items from the CVS at 725 Saw Mill River Road (Route 9A) on the afternoon of Wednesday, April 23. He was charged with petit larceny, a misdemeanor. Officer Julian Pina made the arrest.

**Suspended license:** A 46-year-old resident of Bridgeport, Connecticut, was arrested for a suspended driver's license, a misdemeanor, on Saw Mill

River Road on the evening of Wednesday, April 23.

DOBBS FERRY

**Theft of jewelry:** An unidentified woman stole a gold chain and pendant from around the neck of a 73-year-old man outside the Dobbs Diner, 444 Broadway, on the afternoon of Friday, April 25. The woman handed him a ring, a watch, and \$20, and then removed the gold chain as she put another necklace around his neck. She and an unidentified man then fled north on Broadway (Route 9) in a rented 2023 GMC Terrain with a Texas license plate.

**Thefts from Ulta:** Two thefts from the Ulta Beauty at Rivertowns Square were reported on April 25. An unidentified man shoplifted \$1,366 worth of items on the morning of Friday, April 18, while an uniden-

tified woman shoplifted \$320 worth of items on the afternoon of Thursday, April 24.

HASTINGS

**Suspended license and registration:** A 44-year-old Bronxville resident was arrested for a suspended driver's license and vehicle registration, both misdemeanors, on Farragut Avenue on the evening of Monday, April 21.

**Mister Softee summons:** A 34-year-old Bronx resident was issued a summons for operating a Mister Softee truck within 250 feet of the Farragut Complex on the afternoon of Tuesday, April 22. Hastings Village Code prohibits the sale of "confectionery, ice cream or other edibles within 250 feet of any school between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on school days.

**Expired registration:** A 22-year-old Bronx resident

was issued a summons for an expired temporary vehicle registration on Broadway on the evening of Thursday, April 24.

**Suspended license and registration:** A 30-year-old Yonkers resident was arrested for a suspended driver's license and vehicle registration, both misdemeanors, on Main Street on the evening of Thursday, April 24.

**DWI arrest:** A 30-year-old Yonkers resident was arrested for driving while intoxicated, a misdemeanor, after he hit a stone wall while northbound on Broadway, at Devon Way, on the morning of Friday, April 25. Officer Wuilber Maldonado made the arrest.

**Hit and run:** The passenger side of a 2021 Toyota RAV4 parked on Fraser Place was damaged between the afternoon of Saturday, April 26, and the morning of Sunday, April 27.

Blue Envelope program launches throughout Westchester County

The enhance communication between police officers and individuals with autism and similar challenges, Westchester County launched the Blue Envelope

Program during a press conference on April 17.

To participate, a driver can pick up a blue envelope from a local police department and use that envelope

to store his or her license, registration, and insurance card.

If stopped by a police officer, the driver should tell the officer that there is a blue

envelope in the vehicle and then hand that envelope to the officer. The envelope includes communication instructions for the driver and the officer.

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# Volunteers <sup>OF</sup> the Month

## Coulehan and Reid honored for half-century of service

BY JANINE ANNETT  
ARDSLEY — Like all fire departments in the Rivertowns, Ardsley's is entirely staffed by volunteers. At Ardsley Engine Company No. 1's 129th Annual Installation of Officers dinner on April 1, two of the department's longtime members — ex-chiefs Vincent (Vinny) Coulehan and Robert (Bob) Reid — were honored for 50 years of service.

Both Coulehan and Reid joined the department in 1975. They served as captains and assistant chiefs at the same time and received numerous accolades along the way.

Reid has also served as president of the Westchester County Firemen's Association and is a director at large with the Southern New York Volunteer Firefighter Association. He is also a member of the Westchester County Parade Judges Association.

Reid, who now lives in Elmsford ("I can get to Ardsley in 12 minutes," he said, ever the emergency responder), grew up in Ardsley, where his father worked for the Village, his uncle was a police officer, and his grandparents ran a grocery store.

Reid was inspired to join the fire department when his older brother joined and he witnessed a fire at a motel near his house. His younger brother joined the Ardsley Junior Fire Department, making it a family affair.

A few days after joining the fire department in 1975, Reid was summoned to a house fire on Wildwood Lane in Ardsley. Two occupants of the house, a father and daughter, did not survive. In 1985, Reid fought a fire at the Selecto Corp., a housewares company where he also worked (and where House of Sports now stands). The building burned to the ground. In 1994, he was also called to a serious fire at The Children's Village in Dobbs Ferry.

Reid said he appreciates the mutual aid system that has developed in the Rivertowns, where local fire departments help each other as needed. "In the last 30 years, it's gotten even better," he said.

Reid, who is retired, stays active by attend-



Bob Reid and Vinny Coulehan

ing firefighting-related meetings. "I make sure that Ardsley is represented around Westchester County and throughout the Hudson Valley," he said. He also stays on top of fire alarms and helps at the firehouse on occasion.

Coulehan serves as president of the Westchester County Association of Fire Chiefs. He is also a senior engineer at Con Edison, and previously served as a control operator at the now-defunct Indian Point Energy Center (where he was also a lead on the fire brigade). He's still involved with the Ardsley Fire Department, including driving rigs and fighting interior fires. He also leads the Westchester County Hazmat Team.

Like Reid, Coulehan has fought significant

fires with the Ardsley Fire Department. "Probably one of the challenging fires was the Water Wheel [a restaurant in Ardsley] fire in December of 1992. Bob Reid was my assistant chief there as well," Coulehan said.

Coulehan also been called upon to help in other crises, including pulling a woman out of a burning car that exploded after she was rescued. Another time, Coulehan was called upon for his expertise when a young boy was stuck in a well.

"The fire department was called after the ambulance and police were there, and they were scratching their heads on how to get the kid out," Coulehan said. "I came up with a plan very quickly and my firefighters and of-

ficers implemented it, and we safely got this 10-year-old boy out of the well. To this day, I still maintain contact with him. He graduated from college last year."

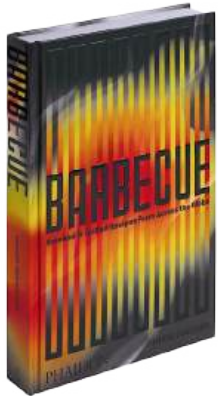
Coulehan's family is also involved in firefighting — his sons, Mark and Michael, joined the ranks, with Mark becoming captain (he also played a role in rescuing the boy in the well). Coulehan's daughter, Marissa, was an Explorer (a member of a program that offers young people the chance to investigate careers in firefighting and other emergency services) in high school.

As for what's changed over his decades fighting fires, Coulehan noted that today's fires get

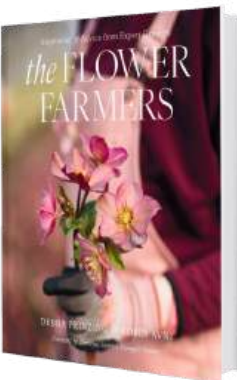
*Continued on page 15*

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Affordable Housing  
Continued from page 1

viduals, but in reality it's typically structured as mixed-income housing because it serves a range of households across different income levels," Rossillo said during the meeting. "Mixed-income housing creates neighborhood stability rather than displacing current residents to make way for condos or high-rent apartments downtown. This type of development will allow middle-class people to live downtown and reflect a broader cross section for our village."

The board of trustees voted during the meeting to authorize a 90-day due diligence period during which Kearney will outline the initial goals of the project, determine what can and cannot be built, and refine development plans before the Village sells the property to Kearney. After the 90-day period, Kearney plans to hold meetings with community stakeholders as well as conduct

town halls for residents. The company will then complete the local entitlement process and secure funding from the State. Sale of the lots and development won't happen until an environmental review and land use approvals are completed.

Kearney is aiming to include one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments, along with indoor and outdoor bike storage, and electric car charging stations.

The proposed developments will have options for potential residents making 30% of the area median income (AMI), which in Westchester ranges from \$32,800 for one person to \$42,200 for three people, as well as 60%, 90%, and 115% AMI.

Sean Kearney, vice president of Kearney Realty and Development, described the group that falls between 80-120% AMI, which for one person ranges between \$87,500 and \$131,200, as the "missing middle".

"Those individuals typically make too

much to be eligible for traditional affordable housing, but too little to be able to afford market-rate housing," Kearney explained during the board meeting. "So it's become that income band that's usually underserved in the market."

At the 99 Cedar Street lot, the developer plans to build a deck over the existing parking lot, and construct the apartment building on top of the deck. Since the development would be close to the Metro-North train station, Rossillo expects it to be an attractive place to live for people who don't have cars.

"It can add to foot traffic, which is good for our businesses and our community vitality," Rossillo added in the meeting. "It can produce recurring revenue on land that does not currently generate property taxes for the Village or schools, and on top of the revenue from the land sale — which is good news for taxpayers — the impact for our community will be analyzed as close-

ly as any other development, with public hearings and consideration from both our planning board and board of trustees."

Kearney has built and managed more than 2,000 units throughout New York State, primarily in the Hudson Valley. The company typically handles everything from development to construction of mixed-income facilities, and management after residents move in.

In Beacon, Kearney built and manages the West End Lofts, which has 94 affordable, middle-income, and market-rate apartments, along with amenities such as fitness rooms and performance spaces for artists. Kearney's Hamlet at Carmel development includes 75 mixed-income apartments for residents making 30-90% AMI.

After the initial 90-day due diligence period, receiving community feedback and appropriate approvals, and securing funding, Kearney expects the construction phase would take roughly 18 months.

Hudson Line  
Continued from page 1

74-mile Hudson Line, which terminates in Poughkeepsie.

By the 2050s, the MTA estimates that more than 80 percent of the Hudson Line will be vulnerable to flooding caused by coastal storm surge, while one-sixth will be vulnerable to monthly flooding caused by high tides. Forty-one percent of Metro-North's tracks systemwide are adjacent

to steep slopes, which leaves the rails prone to mudslides.

In 2021, Tropical Storm Ida caused Wickers Creek in Dobbs Ferry to wash out a 110-year-old culvert through which the creek passed under the train tracks and into the Hudson River. The MTA had to replace the culvert. Ida also caused a retaining wall to collapse along Warburton Avenue in Yonkers.

In 2012, Superstorm Sandy flooded more than half of Metro-North's right

of way along the Hudson Line. The MTA has since spent more than \$400 million on coastal surge mitigation measures along the 30-mile electrified section of the line between the Bronx and Croton-on-Hudson.

The MTA's plan to fortify the Hudson Line includes upgrades to bridges, culverts, drainage, retaining walls, and shoreline structures. The presentation in Hastings included a rendering that showed a seawall between the riv-

er and the tracks, electrical equipment on a raised platform, and drainage to prevent water from rushing down a retaining wall and onto the tracks.

The MTA intends to host more public presentations of the Hudson Line Climate Resilience Blueprint, though none had been scheduled as of last week. The capital plan needs the approval of a four-member review board and funding from the federal and state governments as well as New York City.

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# ARDSLEY

— Coming Up This Week —

**Food Truck Festival**  
Friday, May 2, 5-9 p.m.  
Pascone Park softball field

**Classical/Flamenco-style Guitarist: Gladius**  
Saturday, May 3, 1 p.m.  
Ardsley Public Library  
Register by emailing [peggy@ardsleylibrary.org](mailto:peggy@ardsleylibrary.org).

**Mitzvah Mixer**  
Sunday, May 4, noon-2 p.m.  
Middle school gym  
Celebrate Jewish Heritage Month with free crafts, activities, and music, plus food from Liebman's Deli for purchase. Sign up and see the wish list for donations at [evite.me/VuezNRtwXt](https://evite.me/VuezNRtwXt).

**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
Monday, May 5, 7:30 p.m.  
Village Hall  
To attend via Zoom, visit [ardsleyvillage.gov](https://ardsleyvillage.gov) for the link.

**"See the World Through Postcards"**  
Tuesday, May 6, 11 a.m.  
Ardsley Public Library  
Deltiologist Andy Wainer shares highlights from his collection. Register by emailing [peggy@ardsleylibrary.org](mailto:peggy@ardsleylibrary.org).

**School Board Meeting**  
Tuesday, May 6, 7 p.m.  
High school library  
Agenda and link to the livestream available at [ardsleyschools.org](https://ardsleyschools.org).

**Architectural Review Board Meeting**  
Tuesday, May 6, 8 p.m.  
Village Hall  
Agenda available at [ardsleyvillage.gov](https://ardsleyvillage.gov).

**Senior Event: Get-together with Snacks and Beverages**  
Wednesday, May 7, noon  
Ardsley Community Center

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

— CORRECTION —

Last week's story about the Ardsley school budget misattributed statements by school board member Hrishi Karthikeyan to fellow board member Vikas Agrawal. During the April 22 school board meeting, Karthikeyan gave the presentation about the school budget, not Agrawal.



Anthony Piccolino with his wife, Katina, their children David and Christina, their son-in-law Michael, and their grandchildren Matthew and Chloe.

## Piccolino retires after 40 years with PD

### Chief touts benefits of building a rapport

BY AMY BOCHNER

After 40 years serving the community that he grew up in, Ardsley Police Chief Anthony Piccolino has retired. A walkout ceremony honoring his final day on the job took place on April 29. Piccolino moved to Ardsley when he was 7 years old and graduated from the school district in 1980. He earned an associate's degree from Westchester Community College in electrical technology before taking a job with General Electric. But from a young age, he said, he knew he wanted to be a police officer, and in 1985 joined the Ardsley force. As a patrol officer, Piccolino told the Dispatch, he "couldn't wait to put on the uniform and get out there on the road."

"It's dealing with the public. It's talking to people. In a village like Ardsley, an officer really can make a difference in someone's life," he said. "You have the time to follow up on things and try to help people... and refer them to different agencies to get help, whether it's domestic violence or a drug issue." Working with the schools was also a highlight for Piccolino. "When I was a DARE [Drug Abuse Resistance Education] officer, we worked very closely with the counselors," he recalled. "The message that we were sending out is that we're here to try to find out what the problem is and steer these kids in the right direction." After 33 years with the department, Piccolino was promoted to chief in 2018, succeeding Emil Califano. Under his leadership, Piccolino's proud of how the department diversified.

"I hired the first two female police officers. I hired the first two Spanish-speaking officers," he said. "I got the department New York State accredited, and that was something that was started probably 35 years ago and never got done. I got it done in two-and-a-half years." "My newly positioned community policing officer, Tina Abbott, she's in the schools, and she's just doing a phenomenal job," he added. "I see community policing as the bedrock and it's just what the community needs." Piccolino described how he has seen policing change since 1985. "I think that getting back to basics now with police reform, that's actually a very positive thing that came out of it," he said. "The basics are interacting with your community, getting out there. Get out of your car, talk to people, and just build

*Continued on page 15*



**Airtime**  
Sara Cohen-Agha and her 8-year-old daughter, Fairiza, fly a kite during the Eid Festival at Pascone Park on the afternoon of Sunday, April 27. The event was produced Cohen-Agha, her husband Haydur Agha, and Bushra Siddiqui on behalf of the Ardsley Multicultural Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

## ARDSLEY

# Second annual Mitzvah Mixer aims to animate its core message

BY AMY BOCHNER

Booths dedicated to mitzvahs, or good deeds, will fill the Ardsley Middle School gym in a celebration of Jewish Heritage Month, this Sunday, May 4, from 12-2 p.m.

The Mitzvah Mixer, a collaboration between the Village of Ardsley and the Multicultural Diversity and Inclusion Committee, first took place last October, around the Jewish High Holidays. Heading the Mitzvah Mixer subcommittee are Lauren Daub and Marisa Goldberg, who created the event to share and celebrate the Jewish idea of *tikkun olam*, or repairing the world.

"A core part of Judaism is giving back to the world and the local communities around us," Daub told the Dispatch. "*Mitzvot*, or good deeds, are central to everything that we do, and we always look for ways to give back, to help our community, to help those in need."

After the first Mitzvah Mixer, the co-chairs decided to make the next one "bigger, better, and more exciting," Daub said. As of April 26, 135 people had RSVPed.

One way they expanded the event is by including local synagogues and organizations, which will each set up a booth with a different mitzvah activity.

Woodlands Community Temple and the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway will host a booth providing pollinator seeds and teaching about how the regional Jewish community is advo-



Israeli folk dance instructor Leng Tan and her students perform during the Mitvah Mixer at Pascone Park on Sept. 15, 2024.

cating in Albany for environmental justice through RAC-NY (Religious Action Center).

At another booth, run by the Shames JCC on the Hudson, attendees will be able to make friendship bracelets — one for themselves and the other for a child at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital in Valhalla. With the United Jewish Appeal (UJA), attendees will decorate and pack breakfast bags to donate to the United Interfaith Food Bank. The Chabad of Rivertowns will have a table where children can decorate their own tzedakah boxes to collect change at home and

donate to a charity of their choice.

There will also be organizations collecting various donations, such as gently used American Girl dolls, clothing, and accessories at a booth run by Girl Again. PJ Library will have a "reading corner" in the hallway, where people can take a break from dancing and donate books.

Other organizations participating in the Mitzvah Mixer include Scarsdale Synagogue Temples Tremont and Emanu-El; the Israeli youth charity Elem; Westchester Jewish Community Services, and Temple Beth Shalom.

The event will also feature food from Li-

ebman's Deli, glitter tattoos, dancing and a DJ. Attendees can expect a performance by the Makomies, a chorus from Woodlands Community Temple.


While the Mitzvah Mixer centers on Jewish heritage, it is open to all, according to Daub.

"We hope that our Jewish friends feel proud of their own Jewish heritage and that our non-Jewish friends learn something new about Jewish culture," she explained, "especially how strong of a focus the Jewish community has on giving back to our local community and doing good deeds."

She emphasized the importance of the AMDI Committee in strengthening inclusivity within Ardsley.

"Sharing a variety of cultures in the larger community creates understanding and respect. Sharing our Jewish heritage will provide an opportunity to learn about the history and contributions of the Jewish culture, which can help to strengthen respect and break down stereotypes" she added. "We are choosing to share our Jewish heritage through the Mitzvah Mixer to not only share our traditions and celebrate our contributions to society, but to also invite the larger community to better understand the beauty of the Jewish culture and to increase understanding of it."

The link to RSVP to the Mitzvah Mixer is [evite.me/VuezNRtwXt](https://evite.me/VuezNRtwXt).



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# DOBBS FERRY

— Coming Up This Week —

## Dobbs Ferry Schools Foundation Gala

Friday, May 2, 7-11 p.m.

Ardsley Country Club

The silent auction remains open online until May 3, 1 a.m.

For tickets (\$250, \$425 for two), bidding, or to make a donation, visit [dfsfoundation.org](https://dfsfoundation.org).

## Annual Villagewide Cleanup Day

Saturday, May 3, 10 a.m.-noon

Meet at the corner of Cedar and Main streets. Bring gloves; garbage bags will be provided.

## Riverkeeper Sweep

Saturday, May 3, 10 a.m.-noon

Waterfront Park

Register at [riverkeeper.org](https://riverkeeper.org).

## Generation Love Pop-up

Saturday, May 3, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

HudCo, 145 Palisade St.

The clothing sale is a fundraiser for SPRING Community Partners.

## Native Tree and Shrub Planting

Saturday, May 3, 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Chauncey Park

To sign up, visit [eventbrite.com](https://eventbrite.com) and search for the Dobbs Ferry Conservation Advisory Board.

## Dirt Fest

Saturday, May 3, 1-4 p.m. (rain date May 4)

Waterfront Park

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

## Ribbon Cutting: JCK Legends Court

Sunday, May 4, 10 a.m.-noon

Waterfront Park

The ceremony will be followed by a game of knock-out.

## School Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 6, 7 p.m.

Middle/high school library

Agenda available at [dfs.org](https://dfs.org).

## Virtual Comedy Open Mic

Tuesday, May 6, 8 p.m.; sign-up starts at 7:30. Hosted on Zoom by the Dobbs Ferry Public Library. Email [tdeery@dobbsferrylibrary.org](mailto:tdeery@dobbsferrylibrary.org) to register. For ages 18 and up.

## Got news?

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

# Firms to outline options for Gould Park

*Ideas range from necessities to indoor facilities*

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Dobbs Ferry is considering a range of amenities for Gould Park, ranging from new permanent bathrooms to an indoor pool. During a public meeting on Tuesday, April 22, the board of trustees passed a resolution hiring Dobbs Ferry-based architect Stephen Tilly to lead a site study into potentially adding one building, or multiple facilities, to the park.

The initiative comes after a fire in March 2024 destroyed the park house next to the pool. That was the structure in which the park's only permanent bathrooms were located.

The Village is hiring Tilly along with Studio Nolan Landscape Architects, and Nasco Construction Services, which will conduct cost estimates for potential plans of various scales. The total cost for the study is estimated to be \$48,600.

The nine-member Parks & Recreation Commission developed a list of immediate needs and desires of what a new building or set of buildings at Gould Park could provide for the community, which is informing the village board's plans for the park. Among the amenities being considered are restrooms, locker rooms, first aid and lifeguard space, storage, indoor space for summer campers when it rains, and an indoor pool or basketball court.

"At a minimum we need facilities for the pool, including permanent bathrooms, changing rooms, showers, and an area for the lifeguards," Village Trustee Matt Rosenberg told the Dispatch. "That is the absolute minimum that we need in order to maintain the pool, but there are some very large ideas, such as an indoor pool



The remains of the building that burned down at Gould Park.

and indoor basketball."

In September of last year, the Gould Park basketball court and playground reopened after being closed for nearly a year as the park underwent \$2.5 million renovation. The Village installed and opened a new pool at the park in 2020.

To begin the site study, Tilly will hold workshops with stakeholders that the village board will designate, including potential users of the facilities and members of the recreation commission. Tilly; Suzanne Nolan of Studio Nolan, who is retained by the Village as a landscape architect and worked on the most recent Gould Park renovations; and Nasco Construction will study the land and refine options for new facilities in line with community feedback.

"Based on the input we'll do a synthesis of various site plans, programs, and

diagrams in an order-of-magnitude budget that we'll then present to the board and any other representatives they want to have included," Tilly explained. "Then we'll go back and make revisions, and present them to the public, and so there will be input on that final presentation."

"All of these things have various scale and cost implications, and without having Mr. Tilly and somebody to put cost estimate plans on the various concept plans he develops, we won't know what we can do with prudently spent funds," Rosenberg added.

There is no exact timeline for when the site study will begin, but Tilly is hoping to start holding workshops by the summer. During the upcoming pool season Gould Park is expected to have temporary bathrooms similar to the ones it had last summer.



## Riverside cleanup

Dr. Alexandra Mazur of Irvington, along with her 8-year-old daughter Sophia and 3-year-old son Zeki, pick up trash off of Lawrence Street during Groundwork Hudson Valley's annual Great Saw Mill River Cleanup on Saturday, April 26. The cleanup also encompassed sites in Ardsley, Hastings, and Yonkers.

DOBBS FERRY

Repairs planned for waterfront bridge and nearby retaining walls

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Dobbs Ferry is moving forward with the \$2 million of repairs on its portion of the High Street Bridge, which stretches over the Metro-North Railroad tracks.

On April 22, the board of trustees approved an estimated \$178,000 proposal from Valhalla-based firm AI Engineers for services that include a site survey and designs for the work, from the preliminary through final design stages. The board also hired AI Engineers to provide design services for the replacement and rehabilitation of retaining walls on Palisade Street and Station Plaza, and to conduct a drainage study for Walgrove Avenue.

The High Street Bridge crosses over the railroad tracks and leads to the parking lot for the train station and Waterfront Park. Dobbs Ferry is responsible for part of the bridge, while the structural steel truss over the railroad tracks is the responsibility of the MTA. Coordination with the MTA is part of the scope of work for the Village's project with AI Engineers, but the Village has yet to receive word from the MTA of any repair plans for its portion of the bridge.

For at least a couple of years the bridge has shown signs of deterioration, with some of the concrete on the side of the bridge



The High Street Bridge

falling off and exposing rusted metal rods. After a firsthand look at the deterioration, State Assemblymember MaryJane Shimsky, whose District 92 includes the Rivertowns, worked with Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie to secure \$2 million from the State in August 2023. No work has been done on the

bridge since.

The \$178,000 design work will be paid for by the Village separately from the State's \$2 million allocation, which is reserved for the physical repair work.

The board of trustees also approved a plan to pay AI Engineers an estimated

\$157,500 for a site survey, geotechnical investigation and report, preliminary and final design, and more engineering services to repair deteriorating sections of retaining walls on Palisade Street and Station Plaza that require full or partial replacement.

The engineering firm inspected the partially collapsed Palisade Street retaining wall and determined that roughly 100 feet of the wall should be rebuilt or replaced and that the remaining areas of the wall will require repairs. After inspecting the wall at Station Plaza, AI determined that it requires repairs to existing cracks, installation of proper drainage behind the wall, and more rehabilitation efforts.

AI is also being hired by the Village to evaluate the current storm drainage capacity within the Walgrove Avenue corridor and potential improvements to mitigate flooding. Their \$82,500 includes watershed analysis, field survey, and development of a conceptual design plan to determine whether or not there is an effective way to increase storm drain system capacity within Walgrove Avenue. Village board members expressed concern over the cost of the study, which doesn't guarantee that work can be done to reduce flooding. A resolution approving the contract passed 5 to 1.

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# HASTINGS- ON-HUDSON

## — Coming Up This Week —

### Villagewide Cleanup Weekend

Saturday, May 3, and Sunday, May 4

Register at [hastingsrecreation.org](http://hastingsrecreation.org).

Trash bags are available at the community center and will be handed out at the VFW beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday.

### Farmers' Market

Saturday, May 3, 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](http://hastingsfarmersmarket.org) and follow the market on Facebook.

### Riverkeeper Sweep

Saturday, May 3, 10 a.m.-noon

River Glen Cove and MacEachron Park

Register at [riverkeeper.org](http://riverkeeper.org).

### Rivertown Thrift Pop-up

Saturday, May 3, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

James Harmon Community Center, lower level

Clothing donations accepted until noon.

### Local History

Saturday, May 3, 2-4 p.m.

Observatory Cottage, Draper Park, 407 Broadway

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

### PTSA Fundraiser: 5K Color Run

Sunday, May 4, 9-11 a.m.

Hillside Elementary School

Sign up (\$45) at [ptsahastings.org/color-run/](http://ptsahastings.org/color-run/).

### Spring Thing

Sunday, May 4, noon-4 p.m.

Warburton Avenue

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

### Architectural Review Board Meeting

Monday, May 5, 7 p.m.

Village Hall

Agenda available at [hohny.gov](http://hohny.gov)

### School Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 6, 6 p.m.

Hillside Multi-Purpose Room

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

### Got news?

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



Maxine Sherman

## RiverArts applauds Sherman at benefit

### *Dance impresario recognized for decades of dedication*

BY AMY BOCHNER

Hastings resident Maxine Sherman, the honoree of this year's RiverArts Spring Benefit, identifies with the Hudson River.

"The thing about a river is that it has a current and an ebb and flow," she told the Dispatch. "Because of the current, it can switch. I feel like I've been open to whatever possibility has come in my path... Knowing that I'm going to live here, I'm going to immerse myself in all that I can while I'm here and give back."

Sherman, who is RiverArts' producer and artistic director of dance, was celebrated at the April 29 event held at the Jazz Forum in Tarrytown. For the past two decades, she has offered her time and guidance to the Rivertowns' creative community, drawing from her career as a dancer and experience working with esteemed choreographers.

Since she was a child growing up in Pittsburgh, Sherman wanted to dance. At age 16, upon seeing a Chicago performance of Alvin Ailey's "Revelations," she knew she wanted to move to New York and join his company. When she was 17, Ailey hand-picked Sherman to join his company — as a principal — after seeing her perform at the opening of Studio 54. That moment, Sherman said, felt like "fireworks."

For the next eight years, she worked with Ailey's troupe before becoming a principal dancer with the Martha Graham Dance Company, where she remained for 12 years.

Working with Ailey and Graham in their last years was a "gift," according to Sherman. Ailey died in 1989 and Graham in 1991.

"You can't reproduce what you learn from the living choreographer," she noted, "as opposed to people now who dance in those companies that have [the choreographer's] name on the company."

After leaving the Graham troupe in 1995, Sherman earned a bachelor's degree in body therapies at New York University and a master's in performing arts studies from Sarah Lawrence College. She and her family moved to Hastings in 1999, where she sought to get involved in the local arts scene, first by joining a dance committee at RiverArts.

From 2004 to 2008, Sherman was president of the RiverArts board. Since 2005, she has produced an annual dance concert, introducing local audiences to distinguished and world-renowned talent: the Paul Taylor Dance Company, Ballet Hispanico, Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE, Trisha Brown, DecaDance, and Caleb Teicher, among others.

Sherman described what factors go into her programming process.

"I want to expose the Rivertowns to all that modern dance has to offer," she said. "Modern dance is eclectic. It can be dramatic; it can be a narrative. Or it could be abstract, funny. And so I have brought a variety of dance companies, and all of them have been terrific."

In addition to producing an annual dance concert, Sherman was one of the featured dancers and choreographers in RiverArts' 2018 production of "Braiding." The original performance piece integrated art, music, dance, and video, and was awarded an NEA grant.

Along with her dedication to RiverArts, Sherman is passionate about body therapies, with certification in Pilates, Gyroki-

nesis, and Gyrotonic. Since 2001, she has owned three studios in the Rivertowns; her current business, Grateful Pilates, is located in Hastings.

Her involvement in body therapies, she said, is a full circle moment back to the start of her career as a dancer.

"I teach people what I know about the body. That's why I was a success. I knew how to keep injury-free, how to stay aligned and strong and stretched. I think that's why I was the dancer that I was," she said. "I knew early on because I was a disciplined dancer... I took care of my body. It was my instrument, and it was how I was getting paid."

Sherman's academic teaching credits include Purchase College's Conservatory of Dance, the North Carolina School of the Arts, NYU School of Education, and Southern Methodist University. She has also choreographed for MAXIMUM Dance, the Ailey School, American Dance Festivals, Point Park College, The Masters School, and Hudson River Museum.

Having been recognized for her 20-plus years with RiverArts, Sherman is looking forward to continuing her work with the organization and is planning to write a memoir about her experiences with Ailey and Graham. She expressed the hope that her impact on the Rivertowns comes from the sharing of what she considers "the mother of all art forms."

"Without the body, you can't create any art," she said. "You need your eyes, your ears, your mouth, your heart, your toes, your fingers, to create anything. I feel like my mission has been to help people fall in love with their bodies and then understand the potential of the human body."

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON

Public weighs in about school bond vote scheduled for June 17

BY AMY BOCHNER

Since its introduction in October 2024, the proposed \$38.4 million Hastings school bond has garnered a mixed reaction from residents. With the vote approaching on June 17, supporters and critics of the bond shared their perspectives with the Dispatch.

Last month, the bond was broken up into three propositions, the first of which features districtwide infrastructure improvements for \$11,254,780, including mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and masonry work.

Proposition 2 covers changes to instructional space and accessibility enhancements in the Farragut Complex for \$19,049,465, which includes constructing five new classrooms and special education spaces, as well as compliance upgrades to meet current accessibility and safety codes. The old cafeteria would be turned into classroom space, while a new, two-story cafeteria addition would be built, featuring glass outer walls. In addition, a glass-enclosed main entrance that is ADA compliant would be added.

The final proposition funds changes to athletic facilities at the Burke Estate for \$8,171,250. The proposed work includes the installation of a synthetic turf multisport field, construction of a synthetic turf softball field, bleachers and dugouts, and site grading, irrigation, drainage, and retaining wall upgrades.

Supporters of the bond include Hastings Athletic Booster Club co-president Melissa Dallon Sbrega, PTSA co-president Tanya Rynders, and PTSA liaison for the ninth grade Marit Haahr, who each have children in the district. Rynders described the bond as getting the district up to “standards of what we would expect from schools.” Dallon Sbrega agrees, viewing the bond as “an investment in the entire community and the children of this town.”

“Without a school system that’s thriving, the quality of our lives all go down,” she said. “You can’t resell your house, or you can’t have a town that functions well if its school system is in disrepair.”

A group offering a countervailing view of the bond is Hastings Sustainable Schools, composed of former Village Trustee Daniel Lemons, former school board president Lisa Litvin, former Mayor Peter Swiderski, and retired CBS producer Alan Golds. Each of them has children who graduated from the district. Lemons, who has a granddaughter entering Hillside Elementary this year, is a former college administrator and professor.

While Hastings Sustainable Schools supports proposition 1, the members have concerns regarding the second and third propositions, primarily about the safety of turf fields and the necessity of the additions to the Far-

ragut Complex, which houses Farragut Middle School (grades 5-8) and Hastings High School (grades 9-12). They also question the financial impact on the community at large, with Lemons mentioning that 70% of Hastings households do not have children enrolled in the school district.

“If they can’t afford to be here because it’s just too expensive,” he said, “that’s a problem for the village... We need to find the sweet spot here as best we can, to get the cost to where it’s doing what it needs to do for the schools, but it’s also not driving people away.”

The addition of synthetic turf fields is a point of contention, with Lemons citing, “concerns about the impact on the environment, particularly microplastic leaching into the environment and into the watershed,” as well as potential health issues.

Dallon Sbrega expressed her support for synthetic turf fields, which she stated “are not uncommon” in surrounding districts.

“I understand that people are concerned about health risks, but just because your child wouldn’t play on a turf field in Hastings doesn’t mean that they’re not going to go to the next town over and play on their turf field. The exposure that children have to these fields are in no way going to cause any significant harm,” she said. “Our athletes deserve a field that they can play on, no matter what

the weather, no matter what day or time. We don’t have that right now. We have fields that are very delicate, that need days to dry out after a rain, and they’re shared by thousands of athletes and people every single year.”

Two other major components of the bond are a centralized, ADA-accessible entryway and a cafeteria addition, which Haahr endorses.

“I didn’t realize that kids were going out of district because large parts of FMS [Farragut Middle School] are not accessible,” she said. “To me, for a public school to be inaccessible to a kid in a wheelchair or with [a] disability is really terrible.”

Dallon Sbrega also described the current conditions of the cafeteria, which serves both the middle and high schools and, according to the school board, is undersized for the enrollment by New York State standards.

“Kids are eating in dark hallways. I think that they deserve a cafeteria where they can meet and mingle and talk,” she said. “Why wouldn’t they be able to sit together [like] every other school that offers that?”

Lemons believes that the connection between the size of the addition and educational needs is not clear.

“We’ve sat through many board meetings, and we’ve read documents... but it’s still very hard for us to see the linkage,” he said. “If there’s

*Continued on page 17*

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# IRVINGTON

— Coming Up This Week —

## Friends of the Irvington Library Book Sale

Friday, May 2, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Saturday, May 3, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Irvington Public Library

## May Exhibit: "Through My Lens"

Martucci Gallery at the Irvington Public Library  
This month's exhibit features photography by  
Pam Grafstein.

## Old Croton Aqueduct Cleanup

Saturday, May 3, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.  
(rain date May 4)  
Meet at Main Street School  
Register at [aqueduct.org](http://aqueduct.org).

## Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, May 5, 7 p.m.  
Village Hall  
To attend via Zoom,  
visit [irvingtonny.gov](http://irvingtonny.gov) for the link.

## School Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 6, 7:15 p.m.  
High school library  
Agenda available at [irvingtonschoools.org](http://irvingtonschoools.org).

## Climate Talk:

Disaster Preparedness  
Wednesday, May 7, 7 p.m.  
Irvington Public Library

## Planning Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 7, 7 p.m.  
Village Hall  
To attend via Zoom,  
visit [irvingtonny.gov](http://irvingtonny.gov) for the link.

## Irvington Education Foundation Gala: "SxSWestchester"

Friday, May 9, 7-10 p.m.  
Captain Lawrence Brewing Company,  
444 Saw Mill River Road, Elmsford  
For tickets (\$200, \$390 for two)  
and auction, visit [iefny.org](http://iefny.org).

## Halsey Pond Spring Cleanup

Saturday, May 10, 10 a.m.-noon  
Northeast corner of Halsey Pond between  
Legend Hollow and Palliser paths  
Register at [irvingtonny.gov](http://irvingtonny.gov).

## Got news?

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



Eleanor Mire and Debra Bruno at the Main Street School

# Two women share history of enslavement

## Research reveals connections among ancestors

BY LAURA SCHILLER

On the afternoon of April 27, a full house gathered at the Main Street School to hear Debra Bruno and Eleanor Mire share the remarkable truths they uncovered about their ancestries.

Presented by the Irvington Historical Society, the event centered around Bruno's book, "A Hudson Valley Reckoning: Discovering the Forgotten History of Slaveholding in My Dutch American Family" (Cornell University Press, 2024). Sharing a podium, the two women recounted the profound and unexpected connections they unearthed while tracing their family histories, challenging the familiar narrative that frames slavery as a Southern institution and the North as the land of abolitionists.

Bruno, a longtime Washington, D.C., journalist, grew up in upstate Greene County, the daughter of an Italian father and a Dutch-descended mother. Throughout her early life, she identified with her Italian roots. Although she knew that her Dutch ancestors had settled in the Hudson Valley in the 1600s, she had assumed they were farmers.

"I was very, very ignorant about my own ancestry," she admitted. That changed after a historian friend suggested that Dutch families in New York were likely to have been enslavers.

Determined to learn more, Bruno turned to Ancestry.com and pored over old wills and estate records. In a 1796 will written by her five-times-great-grandfather, she found chilling confirmation — enslaved people were listed alongside property lines and livestock.

"In a matter-of-fact way," Bruno recounted, "he distributed a *male named Samson* to his daughter Hannah, a *boy named Will* to his

son Joel, and a *Negro wench* named Marie to his granddaughter." What struck her most was the closeness of it all: "This happened right under my feet, right where I was born and grew up" in rural New York.

Yet the topic was never discussed, not at home, not in school.

As her research widened, Bruno realized that nearly every one of her 18th-century Dutch ancestors had been enslavers.

Seeking to uncover the fates of the people her family had enslaved, Bruno posted on a Facebook group called "I Traced My Enslaved Ancestors and Their Owners," mentioning her personal ties to Northern slavery. That's where Eleanor Mire, a retired construction engineer and resident of Malden, Massachusetts, reached out.

Although Mire's grandmother had long insisted there were no enslaved people in their family line, Mire's own research told a different story. Encouraged by a distant cousin's wife, she discovered ancestors with Dutch surnames — names inherited from families who had once enslaved them, many of which now appeared on Bruno's family tree.

That first tentative connection online blossomed into a friendship and shared mission. Together, Bruno and Mire sifted through census records, photographs, and birth and death certificates, many of which they shared with the audience on Sunday via projected slides. They also took thoughtful questions from the audience, including one from a participant who asked why it is important to trace such painful family histories and how to begin.

"Not everyone has to write a book," Bruno said, "but my advice is to at least learn the story because it expands our knowledge and deepens our sense of who we are as individ-

uals and as a nation. It gives us a larger context for understanding America. And write it down, so future generations can know. Don't be afraid to look."

The setting gave their words even deeper resonance. Just steps from Main Street School stands "Yesterday," a 2022 monument by sculptor Vinnie Bagwell depicting an enslaved African girl and others clearing land — a stark, visual reminder of Irvington's entangled history. Beneath the sculpture, a plaque lists the names of 14 enslaved individuals recovered from archival records, followed by the statement: "The personal identities of the rest of Irvington's enslaved Africans have been lost forever, appearing as mere numbers in census records, wills, estate inventories, and bills of sale."

A few blocks away on South Buckhout Street, a sign marks the future site of the Enslaved African Burial Ground Memorial Garden, another project in Irvington's ongoing effort to reckon with its past.

"It's the people who got up in the morning and did the laundry, tended the cows, and worked for the master... those are the people who brought us here," Mire said. "They've been nameless for too long. We must give them a name."

Bruno echoed that sentiment, quoting author Toni Morrison: "If you are really alert, then you see the life that exists beyond the life that is on top."

"For me," Bruno added, "having a genetic and ancestral link to America's original sin makes telling this story my responsibility."

Mire closed by reflecting on their shared journey: "Together, we tried to tell the stories of real lives, real people, so we can better understand what happened before us. Through that work, our families are coming together again — full circle — in us."

IRVINGTON

# School budget set to decrease tax rate for fourth consecutive year

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

The Irvington School District has adopted a \$79,576,400 budget for the 2025-26 school year that includes a tax rate decrease of 3.77% from the previous year, and a spending increase \$3,488,300, or 4.58%. It's the fourth consecutive year that the tax rate has gone down and the budget has gone up. District residents will vote on the proposal on May 20.

Property taxes make up 85.4% of the spending plan at \$67,970,747, which is a 3.9% increase from 2024-25. State aid, which is up 8.9%, accounts for \$8,115,091, or 10.2%. At \$1 million, sales taxes are the third highest contributor to the budget, making up 1.3%.

Salaries account for 48.3% of the district's expenses, for a total of \$38,426,912. That's a 3.7% increase from the previous year. Employee benefits make up 24.8%, or

\$19,712,425, which is an 8.8% increase from the 2024-25 budget.

Operations and maintenance fees account for \$5,726,530, or 7.2% of the budget. Transportation costs, which make up 5% of this year's budget, are increasing from \$3,526,261 to \$3,999,225. That's a 13.4% hike. Equipment and supplies account for \$1,216,360 of the proposed budget, which is a 9.4% increase in cost.

The school board will hold a public hearing on the proposed budget during its meeting on Tuesday, May 6, at the middle/high school campus presentation room. The hearing will begin at 7:15 p.m.

If a majority of residents vote "no" on May 20, the district would adopt a contingent budget that would require cuts of approximately \$2.6 million from the proposed bud-

get, and entail an increase of \$918,838 from the 2024-25 budget.

On May 20, residents will also have the opportunity to vote on the Irvington School District's capital reserve plan. The district is proposing to spend \$3,950,000 from the reserve on projects that include the replacement of the Meszaros Turf Field, resurfacing the Peter Oley Track around the field, and adding field lights so that sporting events can be hosted at night.

The plan calls for using nearly all of the \$4,034,571 that's currently available in the capital reserve, which was approved by voters and established in 2015 in anticipation of replacing the synthetic turf field and track. The field and track were installed in 2016 with an expected life span of eight to 10 years. Since then, funds have been added whenever the

district ended the year with a surplus. The reserve allows the district to fund projects without borrowing money.

In addition to the upgrades to the field and track, the plans include paving the Dows Lane and middle school basketball courts, refurbishing Dows Lane's "Peaceful Play" area, repairing concrete districtwide, removing outdated cabinets in high school classrooms, renovating a high school girls' bathroom, and replacing windows at the middle school. The district estimates that, if approved, the proposed work would begin in the summer of 2026.

Voting on the budget, capital reserve spending, and two school board seats will take place on Tuesday, May 20, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., at the Main Street School Gymnasium.

# Month-long survival game aims to strengthen networks among neighbors

In Irvington, Earth Month transitioned into "Zombie Month" as the calendar shifted from April to May this week.

From May 1-8, school district residents can register for "Irvington Zombies: A Game of Neighborhood Resilience and Survival," which will begin May 8 and culminate with a zombie survival game at Irvington Presby-

terian Church on May 30 (rain date May 31).

In between those dates, organizers will form teams of neighbors who will accumulate points through activities such as attending or watching a climate talk about emergency preparedness. That event, hosted by the Irvington Green Policy Task Force, will take place at the public library on Wednes-

day, May 7, from 7-9 p.m.

The rules of the zombie survival game will be announced during that talk. In addition, teams could earn points by completing a mutual aid survey to help map neighborhood vulnerabilities and resources, and by handing out disaster preparedness material to neighbors.


For more information, and to register,

visit [IrvingtonGreen.org/climate/emergency-preparedness](https://IrvingtonGreen.org/climate/emergency-preparedness).

"Irvington Zombies" is a collaboration among the Green Policy Task Force, Irvington Presbyterian Church, and Rivertowns Playhouse, and is part of the task force's effort to form a mutual aid network for Irvington.

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# Opinion

The Dispatch welcomes letters to the editor about subjects related to the Rivertowns. Letters must be no more than 300 words, submitted by Monday at noon for that week's issue, and include the names, home addresses, and phone numbers of their writers. No letter is guaranteed publication. To submit a letter, visit [rivertownsdspatch.com/contact-us](http://rivertownsdspatch.com/contact-us).

## *Bond was shaped by a 14-month process*

To the Editor:

The Hastings Board of Education is pleased to present for the community's consideration our recently passed school bond proposal, to be voted on this June 17. Our district is currently programming public events to clarify and illuminate the proposal details. Residents who wish to receive updates directly can do so by submitting their email to [bond@hohschools.org](mailto:bond@hohschools.org).

Our board would like to thank all who have contributed. This process began in December 2023 with PBDW Architects performing an unprecedented space-use analysis over the course of 10 weeks. Their work considered the usage and demands placed upon every square foot within the FMS/HHS complex. This report, together with a State-mandated school buildings condition survey, formed the early basis of our bond proposal.

From there, and during the intervening 14 months, the district heard from hundreds of residents, took in 100-plus letters, listened to public commentary across some two dozen public board meetings, replete with presentations from our technical partners and

school officials. The district and trustees also met directly with community members at their request. Even more critically, foundational input came from our students, educators, coaches, and administrators — the 1,900-plus people who spend their careers and childhoods within our buildings and know the schools intimately.

It is this cumulative work of the Hastings community that has shaped and iterated the bond several times over — deciding the spend level, what has been left in, what has been left out, which alternatives were considered further, and the three-part structure of the bond itself.

Our board's 7-0 vote to certify and advance the bond is our endorsement of how strongly we feel this proposal captures the reality of where our schools are and what may be required to ensure their continuing value for our students, homeowners, and our broadest Hastings community in the future.

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

## *Support the Hastings budget and bond*

To the Editor:

My wife and I will be voting "yes" on the proposed school budget and bond. We are 21-year residents of the Village of Hastings and we have three children, one of whom graduated from the Hastings schools, the second will be graduating in June, and the third will graduate in 2027. We are both civil servants; we worked hard to afford our home in Hastings and plan on remaining here for as long as possible. As parents and community members, we appreciate the importance

of investing in a high-performing school district that attracts and retains quality educators and provides opportunities for all children. Recognizing the financial challenges many of us face, we encourage the community and the Village of Hastings to focus more on expanding the tax base as an alternate source of revenue. Failing to invest in the school system is short sighted, and cannot be the only way to reduce taxes.

CHRISTOPHER THOMAS  
*Hastings*

## *Board needs to answer turf question*

To the Editor:

Why won't the Hastings Board of Education specify the materials they want voters to approve for their "two turf fields"? Is the board considering turf with PFAS?

Such forever chemicals — according to Mari-ah Blake in this past Sunday's New York Times — "have been increasingly recognized as one of the most significant environmental threats of our time. They persist in the environment for millennia. They spread rapidly through air and water, polluting ecosystems and human bodies everywhere, and there they stay, with the po-

tential to damage cells and alter our DNA. The best-studied of these chemicals have been linked to obesity, infertility, testicular cancer, thyroid disease, immune suppression, and life-threatening pregnancy complications, among other maladies" ("Meet the Warriors in the Fight Against Forever Chemicals," Sunday Opinion. April 27, 2025).

And where is all this toxic material to go when the children playing on it have worn it out in eight or so years?

RABBI MARK SAMETH  
*Hastings*

*Continued on page 16*

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# The Agenda

**SAT**  
**3**

**Live Music: Damani Quartet**  
**ARDSLEY**  
9 p.m. / No cover charge. Saw Mill Tavern, 925 Saw Mill River Road. The band plays classic rock, blues, and R&B. Reservations encouraged. [smtavern.com](http://smtavern.com)

**Dirt Fest**  
**DOBBS FERRY**  
1-4 p.m. / Free. Waterfront Park. Stop by for free compost, sunflower seeds, backyard compost demos, vegetable and herb seedlings for purchase, games, and prizes. [sustainabledobbs.com](http://sustainabledobbs.com)

**Generation Love Pop-up**  
**DOBBS FERRY**  
11 a.m.-4 p.m. / HudCo, 145 Palisade. The clothing sale is a fundraiser for SPRING Community Partners.

**Farmers' Market**  
**HASTINGS**  
9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Commuter Lot, Southside Avenue. [hastingsfarmersmarket.org](http://hastingsfarmersmarket.org)

**Rivertown Thrift Pop-up**  
**HASTINGS**  
10 a.m.-3 p.m. James V. Harmon Community Center, 44 Main St., lower level. Clothing donations accepted until noon.

**"Beetlejuice Jr."**  
**IRVINGTON**  
7 p.m. / \$27, \$23 for students and seniors. Irvington Theater, 85 Main St. Broadway Training Center's cast of student performers stage the musical. Also Sunday, 3 p.m. [broadwaytraining.com](http://broadwaytraining.com)

**Lyndhurst Spring Craft Festival**  
**TARRYTOWN**  
10 a.m.-6 p.m. / \$6-\$13 online; \$3 more in person. 635 S. Broadway. Shop for original clothing, accessories, jewelry, home décor, and art, plus gourmet specialties, food trucks, and family activities. Also Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. [lyndhurst.org](http://lyndhurst.org)

**"American Tune: A Paul Simon Tribute Concert"**  
**TARRYTOWN**  
7-9 p.m. / \$50-\$75. Shames JCC, 371 S. Broadway. The concert is followed by a dessert reception. [shamesjcc.org](http://shamesjcc.org)

**"Yacht Rock Gold Experience"**  
**TARRYTOWN**  
8 p.m. / \$40-\$50. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. Featuring hits of the late 1970s and early 1980s. [tarrytownmusichall.org](http://tarrytownmusichall.org)

**Live Music: Paquito D'Rivera**  
**TARRYTOWN**  
7 and 9:30 p.m. / \$50, \$45 for students.



Spring Crafts at Lyndhurst returns to Tarrytown this weekend, May 2-4.

Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. The Grammy-winning saxophonist/clarinetist performs Afro-Cuban jazz. [jazzforumarts.org](http://jazzforumarts.org)

**"Visual Geometries: A Performance by Kite"**  
**YONKERS**  
3 p.m. / \$13 for adults, \$8 for ages 3-18, \$9 for students and seniors, free for members and children under 3. Hudson River Museum, 511 Warburton Ave. Immersive, improvisational performance blends sound, image, and technology. [hrm.org](http://hrm.org)

**SUN**  
**4**

**Mitzvah Mixer**  
**ARDSLEY**  
Noon-2 p.m. Ardsley Middle School gym, 700 Ashford Ave. Celebrate Jewish Heritage Month with crafts, activities, and music, and food from Lieberman's Deli for purchase. Sign up and see the wish list for donations at [evite.me/VuezNRtWxt](http://evite.me/VuezNRtWxt)

**Spring Thing**  
**HASTINGS**  
Noon-4 p.m. Warburton Avenue. Featuring live music, fire department cookout, interactive family crafts, inflatable slide, and home and garden tips from local eco-friendly businesses. [destinationhastings.org](http://destinationhastings.org)

**Holocaust Survivor Lecture**  
**DOBBS FERRY**  
11:30 a.m. / Free. Greenburgh Hebrew Center, 515 Broadway. Anna Leiser-Kleinhaus describes her experience hiding during World War II and her life since then. RSVP to [AdultEducation@ghcny.org](mailto:AdultEducation@ghcny.org).

**Family Meander: A Short Aqueduct Adventure**  
**DOBBS FERRY**  
10 a.m. / Free. Old Croton Aqueduct Trail, 15 Walnut St. Easy walk for families with children up to age 7 with nature-based activities and local history. Registration required. [aqueduct.org](http://aqueduct.org)

**"The Especially Everyone Experience"**  
**TARRYTOWN**  
1:30-3:30 p.m. / \$30. Shames JCC, 371 S. Broadway. The ensemble leads a sensory-friendly show. [shamesjcc.org](http://shamesjcc.org)

**Folk-Rock Double Bill: Al Stewart and Livingston Taylor**  
**TARRYTOWN**  
7 p.m. / \$51-\$71. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. [tarrytownmusichall.org](http://tarrytownmusichall.org)

**Open Jam Session**  
**TARRYTOWN**  
8 p.m. / \$10 for listeners, \$5 for players. Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. Hosted by longtime Hastings resident and jazz pianist David Janeway and his trio. [jazzforumarts.org](http://jazzforumarts.org)

**Friends of Music Concerts: Jerusalem String Quartet**  
**SLEEPY HOLLOW**  
3 p.m. / \$40, free for ages 18 and under. Sleepy Hollow High School, 210 N. Broadway. [friendsofmusicconcerts.org](http://friendsofmusicconcerts.org)

**Rivertowns Repair Café**  
**SLEEPY HOLLOW**  
10 a.m.-2 p.m. / Free. James F. Galgano Senior Center, 55 Elm St. Bring broken household items for volunteers to fix. [repaircafehv.org](http://repaircafehv.org)

**President's Garden Tour**  
**YONKERS**  
11 a.m. / \$25. Untermyer Park and Gardens, 945 N. Broadway. Purchase tickets online. [untermyergardens.org](http://untermyergardens.org)

**Guided Wildflower Walk**  
**PLEASANTVILLE**  
10 a.m. / \$4; \$6 parking fee. Rockefeller State Park Preserve, 125 Phelps Way. Registration required. [rockefellerstateparkpreserve.eventbrite.com](http://rockefellerstateparkpreserve.eventbrite.com)

**WED**  
**7**

**Climate Talk: Disaster Preparedness**  
**IRVINGTON**  
7 p.m. / Free. Irvington Public Library, 12 S. Astor St. [irvingtongreen.org/events](http://irvingtongreen.org/events)

**Astronomy for Adults: Halley's Comet**  
**YONKERS**  
2 p.m. / \$20 for adults, \$13 for ages 3-18, \$15 for students and seniors, free for members and children under 3. Hudson River Museum, 511

Warburton Ave. Planetarium show, followed by Q&A. Reservations recommended. [hrm.org](http://hrm.org)

**"Roll & Stroll"**  
**PLEASANTVILLE**  
9 a.m. / Free; \$6 parking fee. Rockefeller State Park Preserve, 125 Phelps Way. All-terrain mobility devices may be reserved for the 1.1-mile hike around Swan Lake. Registration required. [rockefellerstateparkpreserve.eventbrite.com](http://rockefellerstateparkpreserve.eventbrite.com)

**THURS**  
**8**

**Interactive Murder Mystery Dinner: Killing for the Crown**  
**HASTINGS**  
6:30-9:30 p.m. / \$80. Divino's Speakeasy, 524 Warburton Ave. Fee includes a three-course meal, a drink ticket, and the live-action game to solve the mystery. [divinohastings.com](http://divinohastings.com)

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

**Science-on-Hudson Lecture**  
**IRVINGTON**  
7 p.m. / Free. Nevis Science Center, 136 S. Broadway. Columbia physics professor Mark Ross-Lonergan discusses "Neutrinos! Our Friendly Portal to the 'Dark Sector,'" followed by a reception. Registration required. [nevis.columbia.edu](http://nevis.columbia.edu)

**FRI**  
**9**

**Live Music: 9th Genextra**  
**ARDSLEY**  
9 p.m. / No cover charge. Saw Mill Tavern, 925 Saw Mill River Road. The band plays '80s and '90s hits. Reservations encouraged. [smtavern.com](http://smtavern.com)

**The Byrds Legend Roger McGuinn**  
**TARRYTOWN**  
8 p.m. / \$41-\$50. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. [tarrytownmusichall.org](http://tarrytownmusichall.org)

**Jazz Singer and Trumpeter Bria Skonberg**  
**TARRYTOWN**  
7 and 9:30 p.m. / \$35, \$30 for students. Jazz Forum Club, 1 Dixon Lane. Also May 10. [jazzforumarts.org](http://jazzforumarts.org)

**Stroller Tour**  
**YONKERS**  
11 a.m.-noon / \$13 for adults, \$8 for ages 3-18, \$9 for students and seniors, free for members and children under 3. Hudson River Museum, 511 Warburton Ave. Gallery conversation, followed by storytime, art-making, puppetry, music, or movement for ages 2 and under with their caregivers. [hrm.org](http://hrm.org)

## Coulehan and Reid

*Continued from page 3*

a lot hotter than they used to. That's partly due to the way homes are built and the types of furnishings in them; there's more plastic in homes, which generates heat, whereas previous generations had more wood. In addition, both residential and commercial properties are now built to be more energy efficient, so they retain heat. In good news, the turnout gear — the protective equipment used by firefighters — is superior to what was available 50 years ago, according to Coulehan.

Both Reid and Coulehan said one of the best parts of being part of the Ardsley Fire Department has been the camaraderie.

"We've been on camping trips, we've canoed the Delaware River, we used to play

softball every Friday night. We had a lot of fun," Reid said.

When it comes to fire safety, Coulehan advises people to make sure they have functioning smoke detectors in their homes and to have an evacuation plan. He also recommends being cautious with lithium-ion batteries, which are found in household items such as phone chargers, battery packs, computers, cordless drills, and electric lawnmowers. When it comes to lithium-ion batteries, "You have to follow the manufacturer's requirements to operate this equipment. You can't abuse the batteries. If it gets submerged in water, don't use it," Coulehan said.

Call 911 as soon as possible if there's a fire in your home or business. If you're in Ardsley or any of the other Rivertowns, one of the many people who volunteer their time and skills to fight fires will show up and help.

## Piccolino

*Continued from page 5*

a rapport. That's policing one on one, and we're getting back to that."

Piccolino offered a word of advice to the new chief, John Pignatelli, who has been with the Ardsley Police Department for 13 years.

"Listen, listen, and listen," Piccolino said. "Before you actually act, take a step back and assess your situation before you react, because you may not be getting 100% accurate information."

In retirement, Piccolino plans to spend more time in Florida and more time with his family and grandchildren. He expressed his gratitude to

his family, as well as to the Ardsley community for their support throughout his career.

"When you're a police officer, it's not just about you. Your family lives the life too. They worry about you. You're out there doing God knows what, not coming home... getting called in at 2, 3 o'clock in the morning because something's going on," he said. "I just would thank my family for standing behind me and always supporting any decision that I made. I also thank the residents, because without [their] support, we can't do this job. The residents of Ardsley have always been supportive of the police department. We respect that, and we're thankful for it."

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## Opinion

*Hastings School Board needs to host a meeting to answer questions about bond*

To the Editor:

I've been following the developments concerning the Hastings proposed school bond in the pages of the Dispatch. I've read articles that lay out the various versions of the bond, as well as letters, both pro and con. It concerns me that, as far as I know, no meetings have been scheduled by the Hastings Board of Education to present the bond to the general Hastings public about

this major financial decision. As far as I know, there have been presentations, but only to parents. Like many others in Hastings, we do not (currently) have children in the school system, but as residents we have always been supportive of Hastings public schools.

Lots of questions come to mind that I believe could be answered if the board would present the bond to the full community of

Hastings. For example, I'm hearing different reports about how many new classrooms will be created.

I also don't understand the new voting system for the bond. According to your latest article (April 25 front-page article by Amy Bochner), we can only vote for Proposals 2 and 3 if we vote "yes" for Proposal 1. But that makes me wonder, if someone votes "no" on Proposal 1, will they be allowed

to vote "no" on the other two proposals? I think the exact wording of the ballot will have to be very clear.

To the Hastings School Board, I ask you to please meet with all Hastings residents, not just parents of schoolchildren. I don't think I'm the only resident with questions. We all vote and we all pay taxes. We need answers!

SUSAN MANLEY LOPEMAN

Hastings

*Town of Greenburgh should not penalize Village of Ardsley for overdue tax bill*

To the Editor:

Recently it has come to light that the Village of Ardsley owes taxes to the Town of Greenburgh for 220 Heatherdell Road, the new DPW garage. Upon learning about this the Village immediately contacted the Town seeking to rectify the situation. Mayor Nancy Kaboolian appeared before the Green-

burgh Town Board during a work session on April 22 seeking relief for the late fees and penalty charges — a very sound position given Ardsley did not know about the tax bill until recently and it would be unfair to already overburdened taxpayers in Ardsley.

Only Greenburgh Town Supervisor Paul Feiner spoke in favor of giving the Village

this relief. Council members Gina Jackson and Francis Sheehan expressed outright hostility to Ardsley and even suggested we weren't good neighbors. This could not be further from the truth and pits unincorporated Greenburgh against the villages. These types of divisive tactics are counterproductive; we are all one community.

I hope the Town will take Ardsley's request seriously in relieving the late fees and penalties since it wasn't Ardsley's fault as it pays the main principle of the balance of the initial tax bill. We all need to work together for our community.

ANDY LAUB

Ardsley

*LWV to host online forum for Hastings Board of Education candidates on May 7*

To the Editor:

The League of Women Voters of the Rivertowns and the Hastings PTSA are co-sponsoring a candidate forum for the Hastings School Board. The forum will be a Zoom webinar on Wednesday, May 7, from 7-8:30 p.m. The forum can be viewed live

by pre-registration at <https://bit.ly/HastingsSchBd>.

Questions must be submitted ahead of time, either at registration or by email, to [info@lwv-rivertowns.org](mailto:info@lwv-rivertowns.org). The deadline for submission of questions is 9 a.m. on Monday, May 5. Questions will be reviewed by a

committee of League and PTSA members who will submit them to the moderator prior to the start of the forum.

There are four candidates vying for two open seats: incumbent Maureen Lennon-Santana and challengers Elizabeth Adinolfi, Rochelle K. Nelson, and David Weinstein.

The event will be recorded and made available following the forum on the Rivertowns League YouTube channel, LWV Rivertowns, and website [www.lwv-rivertowns.org](http://www.lwv-rivertowns.org)

SUSAN MAGGIOTTO

President, LWV Rivertowns



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## Bond perspectives

*Continued from page 10*

an average class-size problem, are we getting more classrooms that will address that problem? If there is some other kind of instructional space that has been talked about, how does that link to the instructional program?”

Lemons shared his perspective that the district has not done enough outreach to the larger Hastings community.

“Back in November, the [school] board did lay out a very detailed communications plan, which did include workshops in the community,” he said. “Unfortunately, we haven’t had them. They’ve spoken about having workshops after they’ve set the scope, but to us, the key was, work together with us so that when you set the scope, it’s a scope that will sail through.”

Currently, the Hastings district receives a 47% reimbursement rate from New York State, which may change in the future. Haahr believes that this uncertainty reinforces the need to pass the bond sooner rather than later.

“The buildings really are inadequate at the moment. They’re not up to standards. Literally, ceilings are collapsing. We have to invest in the buildings at some point. We’ve put it off for a very long time,” she said. “There’s never a perfect time. It’ll be even more imperfect if the rate we get back drops to a much lower number. I just feel like it makes sense to vote ‘yes’ now.”

Swiderski’s opinion is that there is an additional “level of insecurity that’s laying down on people in this community” as a result of policy changes in Washington, D.C., which warrants more caution when it comes to passing

the bond. Golds agreed, saying that the board should take advantage of the 47% reimbursement rate to support the necessary repairs in proposition 1, and then “work out what else we need with the community.”

At the April 22 meeting, the school board decided to split the bond vote into three propositions, which would be voted on separately. Propositions 2 and 3 are contingent on proposition 1 passing. To vote on propositions 2 and 3, a constituent would first have to vote in favor of proposition 1. Then, a “yes” vote on proposition 2 would be required before one could vote on proposition 3. According to the school district’s treasurer, Maureen Caraballo, voters could technically cast votes on all three propositions. However, one must vote yes on proposition 1 for their votes on propositions 2 and 3 to count. Similarly, one must vote yes on proposition 2 in order for a vote on proposition 3 to count. If one votes “no” on Proposition 1, subsequent votes on 2 and 3 won’t be counted at all, and if one votes “no” on proposition 2, a vote on 3 also won’t count.

Dallon Sbrega expressed disappointment with the split, concerned that some will vote only for what they consider essential.

“I don’t think that having working, functioning fields is a luxury. I think it’s a necessity,” she said. “Same with compliant entryways... and a functioning cafeteria that fits our students.”

Meanwhile, Swiderski approved the board’s choice to split the bond vote into three propositions:

“It gives the community at least a chance to express by vote their opinion on which components of this bond they want to support.”

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## What is the Best Team for You? Rec. vs. Travel

BY ALFIE, AGE 10. ART BY GREY, AGE 10

If you're planning on playing a sport, you will need to choose the right team. A travel team goes around to different towns. On a recreational (rec.) team, you play in your town. This is the good and bad of travel and rec. sports teams:

### Travel Team Pros & Cons

#### PROS

- You get a lot better because you're playing with more experienced kids
- You meet new people

#### CONS

- You have to try out, which means sometimes you don't make the team
- You might not get a lot of playing time
- Many people think the timing of practices is tricky
- Longer drives to games



### Rec. Team Pros & Cons

#### PROS

- Anyone can play
- Usually costs less money and the money parents pay goes to the town
- There are no tryouts so everyone can make the team
- Short drive to games
- Usually everyone gets equal playing time
- You spend time with people in your town



#### CONS

- For kids who are very good at a sport, you might get better on a travel team

### You answered... what do you like most about sports?

As answered by 14 readers of the Little Dispatch



NO RESPONSES RECORDED

- 0% Improve skills
- 0% Work together on a team
- 0% Meet new people
- 0% Get exercise



## SUPER COOL WAYS CATS USE THEIR BODY PARTS

By Sadie, age 10

A cat's paw pads protect their paws.

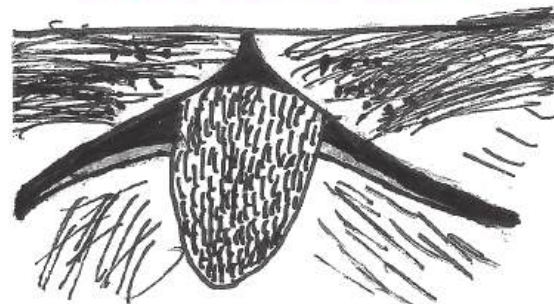


Cats' whiskers feel the environment.



Cats' whiskers feel the environment.

A cat's tongue acts as a comb.



A cat's tail expresses emotions.





# Monica Shulman's Colorful World

by Mia, age 10 and Grey, age 10,  
with additional reporting by Sadie, age 10, and the Little Dispatch team

COMMUNITY  
SPOTLIGHT

Monica Shulman is an artist who lives in Dobbs Ferry. Monica used to be a lawyer but she moved on to being an abstract artist who uses a variety of colors and paints.

Monica painted as a teenager and found her love of painting again later in life. While getting art supplies for a kid's birthday, she bought a sketchbook, not knowing this sketchbook would change her life.

Today, she paints almost every day. Her paintings are abstract and vibrant. She dabs her brush on the canvas to make blotches of feeling and color. The process of her art begins by making an idea in her sketchbook, and if it's good in her eyes, it soon may become a painting.



**Monica talks to the Little Dispatch in her studio in Dobbs Ferry. Photo by Alfie, age 10.**



**Monica shares a painting she made as a teenager. Her work was more realistic then. Photo by Alfie, age 10.**

She gets inspiration from the world around her, from her friends, family, and nature. Monica is also inspired by meeting new people and by learning about people's different backgrounds and interests.

Monica likes feeling outside her comfort zone and likes being challenged. She loves being an artist and wants kids to know that "anyone is able to do anything that they want to do, if they really work hard enough, and if they really pursue their interest."

Find out more:

THE LITTLE  
Dispatch



## Sports

EDITED BY ROB DIANTONIO

# Hosts win annual Breast Cancer Tournament

## Softball roundup

BY ROB DIANTONIO

It was about more than just softball when Ardsley hosted its annual Rivertowns Breast Cancer Tournament with Hastings, Dobbs Ferry, and Irvington. Each season, the communities come together and raise money for breast cancer research.

Ardsley won the tournament, defeating Hastings 7-2 in the championship game on April 27.

"It means everything to us," Ardsley junior captain Sofia Haber said of the cause they play for. "Personally, I know a bunch of people who have battled with breast cancer. It's a really personal issue for I think everyone here. To play for such a good cause, it's something special to be a part of."

This year, the tournament honored Samantha Kearns, a Dobbs Ferry resident who passed away from breast cancer in 2024. She was a teacher and cheerleading coach in the Eastchester district, and had a big impact on the Dobbs Ferry community. "Just think about Samantha Kearns in your heart," Ardsley coach Noreen Degnan included in a postgame speech. "What a wonderful teacher and coach."

Hastings coach Kaitlin Degnan played in the tournament when she was in high school at Irvington and says it has changed in a big way.

"It's become one of our favorite days of the year, as all the girls say," she explained. "A bunch of our girls were saying that they were so excited and it was like Christmas morning for them. They love this and I love this. It's a beautiful day of community amongst the four teams."

Haber was named the tournament MVP. She struck out 27 batters over two games and allowed zero earned runs. Haber struck out 15 against Hastings in the championship.

"In center field, I know that whatever's coming to me, it's going to be pretty much right to me," Ardsley junior captain Haley Albano said of Haber's accuracy. "She's such a confident pitcher. She's so impressive."

One player from each team received the Heart and Hustle award: Ardsley's Albano, Hastings' Ruby Wallach, Dobbs Ferry's May-sin Kannapin, and Irvington's Kayla Clinton.

"It's so special," Albano said of the tournament. "Just having everyone here in the community is so great. It's such a special experience. It's one of the best things we do all year and I would never want to switch it for anything else."

In the championship game, Sofia Ramirez blasted a three-run home run to drive in Tessa Guernah and Morgan Doherty and give Ardsley a 3-0 lead in the bottom of the second.

Hastings answered with two runs in the top of the third with Lexie Schur and Izzy Doherty scoring runs.



Ardsley's Sofia Ramirez is greeted at the plate after a home run in the championship game of the Panthers' tournament. Photo by Rob DiAntonio.

"Overall, we're happy that we played clean and the best that we could today," Kaitlin Degnan said. "We didn't get the win we wanted, but every single day we're getting better. When we play better competition, it just makes us better."

Guernah's sacrifice fly drove in Emma Philp (3 for 3) to give Ardsley a 4-2 lead in the third inning. Albano blasted a deep, three-run homer in the fourth inning to stretch the lead to 7-2.

Ella Rizzo went 2 for 4 for Hastings. Sophia Pereira and Wallach had one hit each. Wallach made six catches in left field.

Behind a one-hitter from Haber, Ardsley cruised past Dobbs Ferry 12-0 in the first round. She struck out 12, had no walks, and went 4 for 4 with a triple and an RBI. Philp (3 for 3, two RBIs, two runs), Doherty (double), and Albano (double, three RBIs) aided the Panthers' offense.

Dobbs defeated Irvington 17-5 in five innings in the consolation game. Emily Marron (4 for 4, double, two RBIs), Nicolette Giorgio (3 for 4, home run, four RBIs), Alexa Vicchio (3 for 4, double, four RBIs), and Victoria Baron (4.1 innings, seven strikeouts, one earned run) led the Eagles.

Clinton and Madison Maldonado each had a hit and a run scored for Irvington.

Hastings defeated Irvington 15-2 in the opening round. Siri Rosenberg (14 strikeouts,

win), Doherty (save), Lola Norlander (3 for 5, four RBIs), Kylie Vulpone (triple, four RBIs), Wallach (double, RBI), and Haley Ehrlich (two RBIs) led the way.

Rosenberg notched her 200th career strikeout in an 8-4 loss to visiting Lakeland on April 28. She had eight strikeouts. Ella Rizzo had an RBI double.

Hastings rebounded with a 17-2 win over host Lincoln on April 29 to improve to 10-3. Doherty (two-hitter, 10 strikeouts), Rosenberg (4 for 5, RBI, triple), Rizzo (4 for 4, two RBIs, triple), Norlander (4 for 5), Schur (3 for 5, double two RBIs), and Sophia Pereira (2 for 5, three RBIs) sparked the team.

The Jackets edged Yonkers 11-8 on April 24. Pereira (four RBIs), Doherty (two RBIs), and Rosenberg (3 for 5, double, nine strikeouts) led the way.

Dobbs lost to visiting Albertus Magnus 5-1 on April 29. Madison Piacentino had an RBI. Abby Dann doubled. The Eagles also fell to host Edgemont 4-2 on April 24. Riley Sullivan (2 for 4), Kannapin (RBI double), and Vicchio (RBI) led the offense.

The Eagles (7-5) bounced back with a 14-5 win over host Byram Hills on April 30. Piacentino (4 for 4, four RBIs), Kannapin (3 for 4, triple), Dann (2 for 4, home run), Emily Marron (two RBIs), Giorgio (two RBIs), and Baron

(2 for 4, win, four strikeouts) led the team.

Irvington cruised past host Woodlands 16-1 on April 24. Alex Barth (five innings, seven strikeouts), Clinton (home run), Cassidy Reichgott (3 for 4, double), and Ashley Shapiro (3 for 3, double) sparked the Bulldogs.

Irvington (6-5) was blanked by host Brewster 7-0 on April 29.

Behind a no-hitter from Haber, Ardsley topped visiting Saunders 8-0 on April 24. She struck out 17. Bella Feldman (3 for 3, home run, three RBIs), Philp (2 for 4, RBI, two runs), and Noemi Ippolito (2 for 4, run) led the offense.

"I think every single game there's progress, and it shows," Haber said. "Every single day we're out in the cages working hard. I feel really good about where we're going to go in the postseason."

Ardsley earned an 8-2 victory over host Hendrick Hudson on April 29 to improve to 8-2. Haber (nine strikeouts, no earned runs, RBI), Albano (4 for 4, two RBIs, three runs), and Feldman (home run, three RBIs) led the way.

"We've come really far from the beginning of the season," Albano said. "Our chemistry's great. It's just such a happy experience in the dugout. On and off the field we're such a family. Our skills are definitely coming along as well."

# Rollercoaster season rolls on as Panthers defeat Eagles

## Baseball roundup

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Picking up a game in the fourth inning is not something that happens every day, but that was the case when Ardsley and Dobbs Ferry met on the diamond on April 25.

In a game stopped due to thunder on March 31, with Ardsley leading 9-5 in the bottom of the fourth inning, the game resumed last Friday with the Panthers at the plate. Ardsley pounced for six runs to take a commanding lead and held Dobbs scoreless in the top of the fifth to win by the 10-run rule, 15-5.

Nate Caldara started the bottom of the fourth with a single. Mike DePasquale reached on an error. Caldara and DePasquale stole second and third and then were driven in by a two-run double by Kelvin Almonte to make it 11-5.

Nate Moskowitz ripped an RBI single. A two-run single by Steven Degree stretched the lead to 14-5. DePasquale walked with the bases loaded.

"It was nice that they were ready to go," Ardsley coach Jeff Caldara said. "It's a positive to finish a game that quickly after a long week of four games. They were ready and they showed it with the bats."

Ryan Lockwood (two innings, two hits, two earned runs), Justin Jaeger (two innings, one earned run, four hits), and Degree (one inning, one hit) pitched for the Panthers.

Degree (three RBIs), Caldara (two runs), DePasquale (two runs, RBI), Will Liu (RBI, run), Ryan Adams (RBI, two runs), Almonte (two RBIs, run), Hunter Hamlet (2 for 2, three RBIs, two runs), and Moskowitz (two RBIs, run) led Ardsley's offense.

Dobbs Ferry trailed Ardsley 7-0 after one inning. Coach Frank Adamo was happy that the Eagles were able to get back in the game after falling behind early. "I was excited to see how the team responded," he said. "A few really good at-bats from the bottom of our lineup helped us get back in the game early on."

Luc Maass (three RBIs, run), Sam Sellitti (2 for 4, run), Colin Dubilier (double, RBI), and Andrew Zendel (RBI) sparked Dobbs' offense.

The Panthers lost to visiting Nyack 8-2 on April 24. The game was tied 2-2 in the



Ardsley's Steven Degree pitches against Dobbs Ferry. Photo by Rob DiAntonio.

sixth, but Nyack erupted for six runs.

Jaeger scattered five hits over the first five innings and struck out five. Caldara (two hits, RBI), Liu (two hits), Almonte (hit, run), and Drew Herrick (hit, run) led the offense.

Ardsley (5-8) lost to host Albertus Magnus 13-1 on April 28. Degree had the lone hit. Liu had an RBI and Moskowitz scored a run.

Ardsley earned wins over visiting Port Chester (6-4, April 19) and Hendrick Hudson (7-4, April 23). The Panthers dropped road games to Valhalla (4-3, April 17) and Nyack (8-1, April 21).

In the win over Port Chester, Drew Herrick had two hits and three RBIs. Degree and DePasquale each had two hits. Jaeger pitched four innings and got the win. Lockwood tossed the next two innings and Liu went one inning for the save. The trio combined for seven strikeouts and three walks.

In the loss to Valhalla, Caldara had two hits and scored a run. DePasquale and Leo Blank each had one hit and one RBI. James Sheerin tossed 4.2 innings and allowed one earned run.

Jonah Kleinman pitched admirably in defeat in the loss to Nyack. After allowing four runs in the first inning, Kleinman settled in and went 5.1 innings, which was the longest

outing for a Panther this season. "He kept us in the game and gave us a shot to win," coach Caldara said.

In the win over Hen Hud, Liu (2 for 3, double, two RBIs, run), Jaeger (2 for 4, double, RBI, run), Caldara (triple, RBI), DePasquale (double, RBI), Herrick (RBI), Degree (triple, two runs), and Almonte (2 for 4, run) led the offense. Sheerin pitched 3.1 innings and struck out four while allowing four earned runs. Jiei Tomioka and Liu blanked the Sailors over the final 3.2 innings. Tomioka allowed three hits. Liu pitched a one-two-three seventh and struck out two.

"Our pitching has gotten much better and we've had much less walks," coach Caldara said. "The defense has been consistent all year. We've got to put the whole thing together. The goal every year is to make the sectionals. But I like where we're at right now."

Dobbs (5-7) split a pair of games with Blind Brook, falling 8-2 on the road on April 26 and winning 13-2 at home on April 28.

Zendel and Will Kelly each had an RBI in the first meeting. In the second game, Dubilier (double, triple, five RBIs, two runs) and Logan Sullivan (double, three RBIs, run) led the offense. Maass (double, RBI, two runs), Mike Rodriguez (three runs), Jack Mastin

(RBI), Brendan Marron (RBI), and Jake Evan (RBI) also contributed.

Mastin (two innings, one hit, one earned run, four strikeouts), Zendel (win, 1.1 innings, zero hits, zero runs), and Eric As-treicher (1.2 innings, zero hits, zero runs, two strikeouts) combined on the mound.

The Eagles fell to host Tuckahoe 11-4 on April 21. They suffered a pair of shutout losses to Briarcliff, falling 11-0 at home on April 22 and 10-0 on the road on April 24.

Against Tuckahoe, Mastin (2 for 3, two RBIs), Dubilier (home run), Maass (2 for 3, triple, run), and Zendel (RBI) paced the offense.

"Probably every aspect of the game we can improve on right now," Adamo said. "It doesn't mean that I don't think we can do it. It can be a pretty quick turnaround, knowing the guys that we have."

## Hastings sweeps Valhalla

Hastings (7-7) swept a league series with Valhalla, defeating the visitors 8-5 on April 22, then going on the road for a 16-6 win on April 24.

In the first meeting, Kieran McGrath sparked the team at the plate, going 2 for 2 with two home runs and five RBIs. Charlie Richardson (2 for 3, two runs), Julius Stephens (2 for 4, double, two RBIs), Johnny Sbrega (3 for 3, run), and Jackson Acree (winning pitcher, 3.2 innings, four strikeouts) were key contributors.

In the second contest, Nathan Krapf (win, 5.1 innings, seven strikeouts), McGrath (2 for 2, home run, double, three RBIs), Stephens (3 for 5, double, four RBIs), Dylan Heilakka (triple, two RBIs), and Acree (grand slam, four RBIs, 1.2 innings, three strikeouts) led the way.

The Jackets edged visiting Tuckahoe 6-4 on April 28. Krapf (4.2 innings six strikeouts, double), Acree (win, 2.1 innings, three strikeouts, double, RBI), McGrath (home run, two RBIs), Matt Corbo (2 for 4, home run, RBI), and Aidan Curtis (2 for 4, double, RBI) paced Hastings.

Hastings was blanked 4-0 by visiting Eastchester on April 19. Richardson had two hits and stole a base. Krapf pitched 4.1 innings and struck out three. He also had a hit. Acree tossed 2.1 innings in relief and

*Continued on page 22*

# Ardsley rebounds from loss to Greeley with back-to-back wins

## Flag football roundup

BY ROB DIANTONIO

After sprinting out to a 4-0 start, Ardsley had its first setback of the season in a 26-7 loss to host Horace Greeley on April 22.

However, it did not take the Panthers long to rebound. They picked up a 33-12 road win over Hudson River on April 24 and a 34-6 victory over visiting Dobbs Ferry on April 28.

"Greeley was a tough game," Ardsley coach Sean Cappiello admitted. "We hadn't

played over the break and we made some mistakes. But we bounced back well in the last two games."

The Panthers, who improved to 6-1, were led by senior Joie Levy in both wins. She threw three touchdown passes and rushed for two in both games.

Ava Santavicca and Morgan Macri had a receiving touchdown in each game. Madison Bortstein had two interceptions against Dobbs Ferry.

"Our offense is coming along," Cappiello said. "We scored our season high [against

Dobbs], and other girls are learning their roles on defense. We're progressing well. We're looking forward to more challenging games as well as the playoffs."

Levy threw a touchdown pass to Santavicca in the loss to Greeley.

Dobbs Ferry dropped to 3-6 with the loss to Ardsley. The Eagles earned wins over host Irvington (12-10, April 24) and visiting Hudson River (43-13, April 26).

In the win over Irvington, Dobbs trailed 10-0 at halftime but rallied with two scores in the final

12 minutes. Quarterback Renata Assanova fired a pass to Leia Brandon for a 15-yard touchdown to trim the deficit to 10-6. Then, with 2:45 left, the duo connected again, this time on a 30-yard route for the game-winning score.

Emma Silverman scored Irvington's lone touchdown.

In the win over Hudson River, Dobbs' Mya Ustares returned two interceptions for touchdowns. The Eagles' touchdown against Ardsley came on a pass from Assanova to Olivia Nunez.

# An buries six goals as Panthers best Hastings by nine

## Girls' lacrosse roundup

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Coming off a one-goal win over Rye Neck, Ardsley went on the road and defeated Hastings 16-7 on April 24.

"We're gaining confidence, watching a lot of film, and we're learning from that," Ardsley coach Scott Miele said. "In the past three years I've noticed how much better we've been getting. It's all showing today."

Freshman Juliette An, who was on varsity last year as an eighth-grader, sparked the Panthers with six goals and an assist. "Juliette is incredibly skilled," Miele said. "She has confidence and knows she can play with anybody."

Lyla Vega and Krista Kelly had three goals and one assist apiece. Anna Gallante (two goals, one assist), Mairead Gowran (two goals, two assists), Lyvia Pulver (one assist), and Liliana Champion (one assist) also contributed.

Junior goalie Sienna Kay, who is committed to Muhlenberg College, had another standout day in net with 10 saves. "She's our backbone and our brick wall back there," Miele said. "When she's calm, our defense is calm. We like to say all our offense starts on the defensive side of the ball. It starts with her."

Alina Abrams sparked Hastings with three goals. Mila Angoff had two goals. Sophia Ballard and Julia Serbee scored one goal each. Teresa Kalaj made 13 saves.

Hastings led 2-1 after one quarter but Ardsley came to life in the second quarter. An and Gallante scored goals late in the quarter to send the Panthers into halftime with a 6-3 lead.

"I think they just found their groove and the spark they needed to have," Miele said. "We had a great game in our last game against Rye Neck and I think we just needed to get back to that level of standard that they know they can play at."

Ardsley started the second half on a 4-0 run



Ardsley's Juliette An goes on the attack as Hastings' Alina Abrams defends. Photo by Rob DiAntonio.

behind two goals from Vega and a goal apiece from Gallante and An. Serbee and Angoff stopped the run with a pair of Hastings goals, but An and Vega scored for Ardsley to make it 12-5 at the end of the third quarter.

Abrams scored twice early in the fourth quarter to cut the deficit to 13-7. Ardsley finished off the win with goals from Gowran, Kelly, and An.

"Defensively, we had our best game to date," Hastings coach Shaun Mullen said. "If we measure games in small successes, that was very successful for us. Offensively, it takes a little bit more work. We're panicking with some passing, but that happens. This could have been a win for us today, so we've just got to take that and build on it."

Hastings' record dropped to 2-7 with losses to visiting Rye Neck (13-11, April 25) and Pawling (20-9, April 28). Angoff (five goals), Ballard (three goals), Abrams (two goals), Brenna Drago (one goal), and Kalaj (six saves) led the team against Rye Neck. Against Pawling, Ballard (four goals), Abrams (two goals), Angoff (two goals), Drago

(one goal), and Kalaj (six saves) contributed.

"Sophia Ballard and Mila Angoff have been standouts for us," Mullen said. "Alina Abrams just had her first real standout game [against Ardsley]. Teresa Kalaj, our goalie, has had a phenomenal season. She's making strides every game."

Ardsley lost to visiting North Salem 13-2 on April 29. Kay made 11 saves. Hazel McGourty (one assist) and An scored one goal each.

The Panthers (5-6) rebounded with an 11-8 win over visiting Ossining on April 30. Vega and Gowran each had three goals. Gowran won seven draws. McGourty had one goal and two assists. Lily Tiernan, Champion, and An scored one goal each.

### Irvington wins two of three

Irvington (7-3) defeated hosts Tuckahoe (19-8, April 26) and Croton-Harmon (20-16, April 28) but lost to visiting Briarcliff (13-9, April 30).

Against Tuckahoe, Sadie McRae (five goals, two assists), Isi Doncov (four goals, three assists),

Federica Ricciardella (three draws), Alexis Canfin (three goals, four caused turnovers, three draws), Aly Raimondo (one goal, two assists), Tessa McRae (two goals, one assist), Peyton Clinton (one goal), Lillian IsoOm (one goal), Ella Weiss (one goal), Sophia Im (one goal), Mia Cantillana (five saves), and Sadie Kilbury (five saves) helped stuff the stat sheet.

In the win over Croton, Sadie McRae (eight goals, one assist), Raimondo (five goals, eight draws), Canfin (four goals, seven draws), Doncov (one goal, two assists), Ricciardella (one goal), Tessa McRae (one goal, one assist), Cantillana (four saves), and Kilbury (six saves) led the Bulldogs.

Against Briarcliff, Raimondo (four goals), Sadie McRae (one goal, four assists, nine draws), Doncov (two goals, one assist), Canfin (one goal, six draws), Tessa McRae (one save), Cantillana (eight saves), and Kilbury (four saves) led the team.

### Georgioudakis makes 500th save

Dobbs Ferry senior goalie Eleni Georgioudakis made her 500th career save and finished with 10 saves in a 14-7 loss to visiting Clarkstown South on April 28.

Hope McCormack (one goal, six draws), Molly O'Brien (two goals, one assist), Hollen Peet (two goals), Juliet Curanovic (one assist), and Mary O'Dea (two goals) also contributed.

The Eagles fell to host Sleepy Hollow 14-8 on April 26. O'Dea (two goals, two assists), Ella O'Connor (four goals, one assist), Curanovic (one goal), Peet (one goal), and Georgioudakis (10 saves) led the way.

Dobbs (4-5) rebounded with an 18-10 win over visiting Ossining on April 29. McCormack (five goals, one assist, six draws), O'Dea (four goals, two assists, five draws), Megan Hartnett (two goals, four assists), O'Brien (two goals, one assist, four draws), Peet (one goal), O'Connor (two goals, two assists), and Curanovic (two goals) sparked the team.

He struck out six.

Irvington lost road games to Nyack (16-3, April 19) and Pearl River (10-2, April 22). Against Nyack, Harrison Lorenz got his first varsity hit and drove in two runs. In the loss to Pearl River, Edwards had two hits and one RBI.

## Baseball

*Continued from page 21*

fanned three batters.

### Bulldogs top Leffell

Irvington defeated Leffell School 4-1 on

April 24 at Clover Stadium in Pomona. Scott Edwards (RBI), Ben Epple (RBI), Sawyer Chalsen (win, 6.2 innings, one-hitter, one earned run, 14 strikeouts), and Indy Minkoff (save) led the team.

The Bulldogs fell 11-5 to visiting Nyack on April 28. Edwards (RBI), Chalsen (RBI),

Massimo Ferrari (double, two RBI), and Minkoff (triple) led the offense.

Irvington (3-8) was edged by host Hendrick Hudson 4-3 on April 29. Justin Corniel (two RBIs) and Jack Reichgott (3 for 3) led the offense. Chalsen tossed six innings of two-hit ball and allowed one earned run.

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