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Vol 1. Issue 35.

May 16, 2025

# RIVERTOWNS Dispatch

Local News,  
Locally Sourced  
~

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



Representatives of the Ardsley School District, the Village of Ardsley, Fuller and D'Angelo P.C., and Triton Construction take part in the groundbreaking ceremony.

## Schools kick off \$53M renovation

*First phase focuses on  
Ardsley High School*

BY AMY BOCHNER

ARDSLEY — Ceremonial shovels dug into the football field at Ardsley High School on May 12, symbolizing the start of a districtwide capital project. The \$53,499,000 plan, which will be funded in part by a \$49,999,000 bond that voters approved last May, includes projects that will impact all three of the district's schools.

The first of these projects is the construction of a new synthetic turf field with a track and LED lighting, which is expected to be

completed by the end of the summer, according to Schools Superintendent Matthew Block. The synthetic turf being used is called Pivot, which has no infill and no PFAS chemicals, making it "more environmentally friendly," Block told the Dispatch.

During the groundbreaking ceremony, school district administrators, village officials, students, and representatives of the project's architectural firm (Fuller and D'Angelo P.C.) and contractor (Triton Construction) gathered on the grass to commemorate what Block called in his opening speech "a new beginning."

"The transformation of this field to a state-of-the-art, beautiful, and functional

athletic facility is the first of many projects we'll be doing here in Ardsley... Hopefully this will be the future site of many celebrations of victories earned on this field for many years to come," he said.

The projects pertaining to the high school will be completed first, followed by the middle school, then Concord Road Elementary.

Block shared that the conversion of regular classrooms into two science rooms at the high school is expected to finish by the beginning of the 2025-26 school year. Other projects he anticipates will start during the summer include creating a new main office with a security lobby, replacing the

*Continued on page 4*

## Village seeks firm to plan for future of facilities

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL  
IRVINGTON — The Village of Irvington's 11-member Facilities Planning Committee (FPC) is moving forward with plans to identify an architecture consultant to help develop options for relocating or renovating the fire department, police department, and public works garage.

The FPC was formed in April 2024, after Irvington residents voted down an \$18.2 million bond proposal to revamp the village's facilities in November 2023.

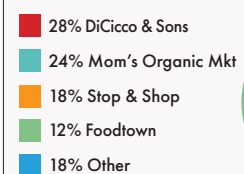
During a public presentation on Saturday, May 10, FPC co-chairs Mike Aziz and Arthur Chabon, who are both architects, shared that the committee has recommended four New York City-based firms to bid as potential consultants. The FPC issued a request for proposals in March, and last month Robert A.M. Stern Architecture, WXY Studio, Perkins Eastman, and Beyer Blinder Belle Architects and Planners all visited some of Irvington's municipal facilities, along with the committee and the mayor.

*Continued on page 4*

— You Answered —

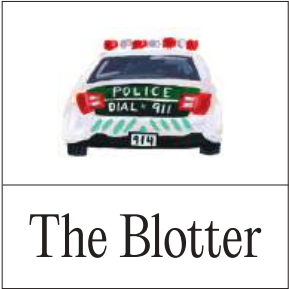
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The Blotter

ARDSLEY

**Harassment arrest:** A 48-year-old Ardsley resident was arrested for harassing a neighbor on the afternoon of Wednesday, May 7. She was charged with harassment in the first degree, a misdemeanor, and harassment in the second degree, a violation. Officers Ken Cordero and Zach Pack made the arrest.

**Unauthorized use arrest:** A 36-year-old woman from upstate Fallsburg was arrested for using a 31-year-old Yonkers resident's car without his permission while both were guests at the Apple Motor Inn, 775 Saw Mill River Road (Route 9A), on the morn-

ing of Sunday, May 11. She was charged with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle in the third degree, a misdemeanor. Officers Zach Pack and Ken Cordero made the arrest.

**Shoplifting arrests:** Two 34-year-olds and an 18-year-old were arrested for shoplifting \$176.20 worth of items from the CVS at 725 Saw Mill River Road on the afternoon of Sunday, May 11. They were charged with petit larceny, a misdemeanor. Officer Jon Goldstein, Officer Ken Cordero, and Sgt. Eric Weinstein made the arrests.

DOBBS FERRY

**Suspended license:** A 23-year-old Verplanck resident was arrested for a suspended driver's license, a misdemeanor, on Broadway (Route 9) on the morning of Thursday, May 8.

**Do not return:** A 61-year-old homeless man was or-

dered to not return to the Hi Smiley Food Mart, 107 Main St., after he stole a donut on the morning of Thursday, May 8.

**Assault arrest:** A 16-year-old student was arrested for throwing rock salt in the eyes of a 48-year-old staff member at The Children's Village residential treatment center on the afternoon of Thursday, May 8. He was charged with assault in the third degree, a misdemeanor.

HASTINGS

**Suspended registration:** A 42-year-old Bronx resident was arrested for a suspended vehicle registration, a misdemeanor, on Villard Avenue on the evening of Tuesday, May 8. She was also issued summonses for improper license plates and for no insurance.

**Hit-and-run:** The driver's-side rear bumper of a 2009 Dodge Caravan parked on Lincoln Avenue

was damaged on the morning of Thursday, May 8.

**Stolen vehicle arrest:** A 15-year-old Yonkers resident was arrested for driving a stolen 2018 Mazda CX-5 on the afternoon of Thursday, May 8. The defendant fled south on Warburton Avenue with a flat tire and hit a parked vehicle in Yonkers. He was apprehended after a foot pursuit. He was charged with criminal possession of stolen property in the fourth degree, a felony, as well as three misdemeanors — resisting arrest, reckless endangerment in the second degree, and reckless endangerment of property. Officer Stephanie Minor and Det. Peter Meyers made the arrest.

**Sign damaged:** A "No Parking" sign was found damaged at the intersection of Farragut and Olin-da avenues on the morning of Saturday, May 10.

**Hit-and-run:** The un-

identified driver of a black Jeep hit the driver's side of a 2016 Kia Sorento at the intersection of Farragut Avenue and The Fenway, and then fled south on Farragut, on the evening of Monday, May 12. The driver of the Jeep was turning from The Fenway onto Farragut while the driver of the Kia was turning from Farragut onto The Fenway. The driver of the Kia was not injured.

IRVINGTON

**Choking arrest:** A 26-year-old Bronx resident was arrested for choking a 24-year-old woman on Dogwood Lane on the morning of Thursday, May 8. He was charged with criminal obstruction of breathing or blood circulation, a misdemeanor.

**Theft of check:** On May 8, an Irvington resident reported that a \$25,752 check she had mailed on Sept. 4, 2024, had been altered and then cashed or deposited. The name of the payee had been changed.

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Rivertowns Dispatch (ISSN XXXX-XXXX)  
(USPS 025-848), is published weekly on  
Fridays, except for the last week of the year,  
for a total of 51 issues annually by  
The Rivertowns Dispatch LLC,  
at 145 Palisade Street Suite 200  
Dobbs Ferry NY 10522.  
Periodicals postage is paid at Dobbs Ferry, NY.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes  
to Rivertowns Dispatch at  
145 Palisade Street Suite 200  
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# Local Curiosities

— ASK THE DISPATCH —

## Why do stuffed animals decorate public works vehicles?

BY JANINE ANNETT

One person's trash is another person's treasure — and that axiom certainly applies here.

Stuffed animals affixed to the front of sanitation trucks and other public works vehicles isn't a phenomenon specific to the Rivertowns. It's difficult to say how the tradition came to exist; maybe it's a universal urge to make something not just utilitarian, but whimsical. The trash-loving character Oscar the Grouch (from the long-running children's television series "Sesame Street") seems to be a favorite among DPW workers — for obvious reasons.

In Jungian psychology, bears can represent a strong, primal force; a connection to the unconscious, or even danger. But when they're turned into teddy bears, they're just cute. Similarly, when a huge truck that's capable of crushing huge amounts of material has a friendly face on the front, it can seem a bit more fun. Plus, many people love to send messages with their vehicles — just look at the enduring popularity of bumper stickers and magnets, which serve no practical purpose aside from letting other people know where you go on summer vacation, which mountain your car has climbed, or how many miles you've run recently.

Rob Wootten, the assistant general foreman the Ardsley Department of Public Works, which is responsible for refuse and recycling pickup, among other duties, put it succinctly when asked why his workers adorn DPW



A stuffed sloth on the front of a garbage truck at the Ardsley DPW

trucks with stuffed animals. "Because it's fun," Wootten said. He added that when they get too dirty, "we swap them out with a new one."

Mark Lester, sanitation foreman for Dobbs Ferry, said, "Often garbage trucks display stuffed animals to make a large and sometimes smelly vehicle seem less intimidating. A stuffed animal found in the trash can sometimes reflect the personality of someone on the crew, and is also a way to connect with our residents." Lester also said the Dobbs sanitation crew fly American flags on their trucks from "from Memorial Day to Veterans Day as a symbol of strength and unity."

Brian Schnibbe is one of three motor equipment operators at the Hastings DPW and is the sanitation route driver for the

DPW's "Truck Three," which mainly covers the downtown and Villard Avenue areas. "We try to always dress up the trucks for the seasons — Halloween, Christmas, etc. — with skulls or wreaths," he said. "The stuffed animals have always been a thing, long before my time here. It's mostly from whatever people toss out, and what guys on the back find funny or like themselves."

"My truck currently has one of those axolotl lizards on the back, and the kids at Hillside [Elementary School] always yell to us about it when we are there early on Wednesdays and Fridays for the garbage," Schnibbe added. "For almost a year we had SpongeBob on the front and around town we were 'the SpongeBob truck.' Kids love

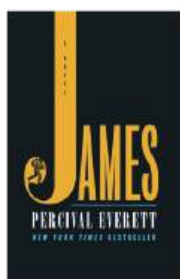
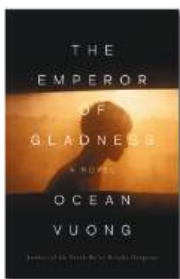
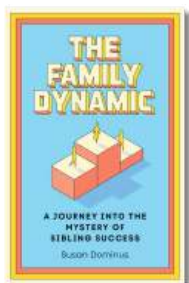
the trucks and the animals, and I think deep down that recognition we get from the kids makes us feel like superstars."

Irvington is the outlier in the Rivertowns: "We don't have any stuffed animals on our vehicles," said Todd Smith, general foreman of the Irvington DPW.

Humans probably do most things for one of two reasons: We have to, or we enjoy it. So if you see a municipal vehicle in Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, or Hastings (and who knows, maybe one day, Irvington) with a toy or stuffed animal affixed to the front, remember that the people who operate it are not just picking up your garbage or collecting your recyclables, they're also trying to bring some cheer to an otherwise quotidian task.

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*Irvington facilities*  
*Continued from page 1*

All four firms were expected to submit proposals by the May 16 deadline. A selection committee made up of FPC members and Village leadership and staff will then determine if all or some of the applicants will deliver oral presentations to the village board during the second week of June. The FPC doesn't have a specific budget in the request for proposals, but will evaluate the applications on both the cost and depth of their project scope.

The committee will notify the selected consultant on June 20, with the FPC estimating that the consulting work will begin in mid-July and last roughly six to nine months, though the exact timeframe would be determined by the firm. The village board will then endorse a plan based on the con-

sultant's work, and begin implementation, which could start with the pursuit of grants, property acquisition, design, or other possibilities, depending on the plan.

"Any planning solution needs to be able to have architecture that's compatible with the village in terms of scale and character, and fit within the site, or wherever it's going to be within the community," Aziz explained during Saturday's meeting. "We're really excited to have what we would consider top-notch, highly qualified types of planning and architecture firms that any community in the country would be lucky to have working in their village, all interested in working here."

The committee's five guiding principles are the enhancement of Irvington's distinctive character and charm; the equitable allocation of village resources in proportion to professionally validated and vetted pro-

grammatic needs; improving the operational efficiency of village services; building a more diverse and resilient community; and striving for the highest practicable design and planning standards.

After dozens of meetings internally and with village administration, and a tour of Irvington's municipal buildings, the FPC held its debut public presentation this past December. The FPC identifies the DPW building on South Buckhout Street; the police department and justice court within town hall; and the firehouse across from town hall, as the highest priority facilities for renovation or relocation.

The FPC also recognized a privately owned, 1.15-acre property at the corner of Station Road and South Broadway (Route 9) as an ideal potential location for the firehouse, police headquarters, and Irvington Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

tors, architects, and those working in the school's business office and facilities department.

"People don't realize the extent to which decisions, plans, applications, and revisions have to happen before any construction takes place," he said. "We are extraordinarily grateful to the board of education, the community leaders... and especially the Ardsley community members for approving the capital projects at last year's school budget vote, which is an investment in our students so we can better prepare them for the future."

Once construction winds down at the middle school, projects at Concord Road will begin: a new security lobby, library renovations, and the restoration of an emergency elevator. The property adjacent to Concord Road will also see the construction of a 3,500-square-foot bus maintenance building, along with a bus lot connected to the existing drive.

While the ceremony marked the start of the capital plan's physical work, Block acknowledged in his speech the time and effort put forth by various members of the community, including attorneys, contrac-

*Student writers excel in environmental contest*

Five Rivertowns students were among the six who placed in the Writers Express Youth Environmental Creative Writing Contest hosted by the Hudson Valley Writers Center (HVWC). Westchester students in grades 6-8 were welcome to submit a poem or short story about an environmental issue they think will be important. The winners were:

**Poetry**

**First Place** – "Oh, Climate Change, What a Beast You Are" by seventh-grader Finlay Albright-Cook of Irvington Middle School

**Second Place** – "Whispers for Rain" by eighth-grader Maddie Kamensky of the Robert E. Bell Middle School in Chappaqua

**Third Place** – "Plastic in the Oceans" by seventh-grader Sophie Katz of Irvington Middle School

**Fiction**

**First Place** – "One Fish Makes a Difference" by seventh-grader Addie Schutzman of Irvington Middle School

**Second Place** – "The Beach Club" by sixth-grader Charlotte Dolinger of Irvington Middle School

**Third Place** – "Puppet Show" by sixth-grader Fiona Zlotnik of Dobbs Ferry Middle School

Each winner received a cash prize — \$50 for first place, \$25 for second place, and \$15 for third place. Their work is on the HVWC's website (<https://www.writerscenter.org/summer-camp-and-writing-contest>).

*Ardsley schools*  
*Continued from page 1*

existing main office with a classroom, and constructing an addition of four new classrooms.

Following the completion of projects at the high school, the middle school will see construction of a new security lobby, a renovation of the auditorium, and a one-story building addition centered on STEM (science, technology, engineering, math). The auditorium will get new floors, seats, lights, curtains, and equipment.



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# ARDSLEY

— Coming Up This Week —

## Ardsley AAPI Festival

Saturday, May 17, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Ardsley Middle School Gym

Celebrate Asian American Pacific Islander Month with live performances, arts and crafts, scavenger hunt with prizes, and storytime.

## “Brick It Again” Lego Drive

Saturday, May 17, noon-3 p.m.

Ardsley High School

Donate used Lego and Duplo bricks and sets to benefit adults with disabilities. No cleaning or sorting required.

## Food Drive for the Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry

Saturday, May 17, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Ardsley United Methodist Church,  
525 Ashford Ave.

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

## Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, May 19, 7:30 p.m.

Village Hall

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

## School Budget Vote and Board Election

Tuesday, May 20, 6-10 a.m. and 2-9 p.m.

High school

## School Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 20, 7 p.m.

High school library

Agenda and link to the livestream available at [ardsleyschools.org](https://ardsleyschools.org).

## Architectural Review Board

Tuesday, May 20, 8 p.m.

Village Hall

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

## Executive Functioning and Study Skills Workshop

Tuesday, May 27, 7 p.m.

High school library

Hosted by Ardsley SEPTA

## Got news?

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



Students from Mei's Dance Studio perform during the 2024 AAPI Festival.

# Cultures to enlarge community at festival

## Committee to host AAPI event on May 17

BY JULIE SCHNEYER

The Village of Ardsley's Multicultural, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (MDIC) will host its second annual Asian American Pacific Islander Festival this Saturday, May 17, offering performances, cuisine, craft activities, and history lessons inside the gym at Ardsley Middle School from 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

The inaugural festival last year was spearheaded by Jeanne Cho and Gina Roh, who wanted to celebrate the diverse Asian Americans living in Ardsley. Hundreds of

attendees embraced a theme of connecting through the arts. The chair of this year's festival, Cassie del Pilar, who is Filipino-American, was inspired by that success.

“One of my motivating factors to be chair this year was seeing how warmly the event was received by the community in 2024, and I'm hoping to build on that,” she told the Dispatch. “People said they learned so much about Asian American communities in Westchester and I would love to find ways for them to stay connected to it after the event.”

The Village is helping to sponsor the free festival. New this year will be three New York-based Asian American advocacy organizations: The Bittermelon, Make Us Vis-

ible, and SPEAK. Bittermelon, which will host a read-aloud and chopstick skills competition, focuses on involving students in project-based activism that raises awareness of Asian American identities and histories. Make Us Visible, a group that champions including Asian American history in classrooms, will set up a coloring station. And SPEAK, which will oversee a chalking activity, works to improve mental health treatment and wellness among Asian Americans.

The Ardsley Public Library will set up a story walk at the festival; Bamboo Haus of Irvington will offer mahjong demonstrations; and Dilshad Vasani will show off the artistry

*Continued on page 6*



## Bubbly baptism

Second Assistant Chief T.J. Knoesel of the Ardsley Volunteer Fire Department breaks a bottle of champagne wrapped in a towel against the front bumper of Engine 165 during a “wet down” ceremony on the afternoon of Saturday, May 10. The 2024 Seagrave is the newest addition to the fire department's fleet.



ARDSLEY

# Grachan and Karthikeyan unopposed for board

BY AMY BOCHNER

Bart Grachan and incumbent Hrishi Karthikeyan are in line to fill the two open seats on the Ardsley Board of Education. The election, along with the school budget vote, will be Tuesday, May 20.

Grachan, a first-time candidate, is running for the seat being vacated by Viktoriya Paroder, who is not seeking re-election after one term. Grachan moved to Ardsley in 2014 and has four children: one in college, one at Ardsley High School, and two at Ardsley Middle School.

Grachan's career in education spans 25 years, beginning with his work as a teacher at Blind Brook and Port Chester high schools. From 2004 to 2023, he worked in or oversaw enrollment and student affairs at Iona College, NYU, St. Thomas Aquinas, CUNY LaGuardia, and SUNY Rockland. In his current role, Grachan oversees the enrollment and financial aid functions for the State University of New York administration, contributing to state policy, legislation, and initiatives. He is also a founding board member of RuleOneNYC, Inc, which is a nonprofit associated with the educational program Achievement Unlocked.

Grachan believes education is at an "inflection point," which guided his decision to run for the school board.

"We're in an unprecedented time of people challenging education, not always in a healthy way," he said. "The signs I've got all over our town right now [say], 'for every student.' That's because I think there is a need for every student to have a voice in their educational journey... Ardsley has done

a good job of that, but I think that is something that is being challenged in a variety of ways right now nationally. This is the opportunity for me to get involved at a local level."

Grachan described his goals going into his first term on the board.

"It's really to sustain the good work that's been going on, but also... I want to make sure that we continue to develop those resources for students all up and down the academic chain, to make sure that they are all supported in their journey," he said. "That's the biggest thing, and make sure that our teachers are supported in that work as well. Having done that, I know how hard it is, I know how thankless it can be from time to time, and I want to make sure that they are as supported as they can possibly be in that work."

Running for his third and final term on the board is Karthikeyan, an Ardsley resident since 2008 who has two children at AHS.

Karthikeyan earned an undergraduate degree from Northwestern University and a law degree from NYU School of Law. In 2008, after working for law firm Covington & Burling in Washington, D.C., for five years, he joined the National Basketball Association's (NBA) legal department. He recently transitioned into a business role at the NBA, in which he leads the company's efforts to build an integrated commercial strategy around fan data.

Karthikeyan's work on the school board stems from his belief in "the importance of community engagement and public service." He first ran for the board in 2017, serving until 2020. After tak-

ing a two-year hiatus, he was re-elected in 2022, and is now seeking his third term. He shared his perspective on the upcoming election.

"I've heard from a lot of community members in recent weeks about the need for strong and steady local leadership amid uncertainty at the national level, which I interpreted as a certain desire for stability," he said. "At the same time, I wanted to make space for new voices, especially those who have a clear vision for the district, to join the conversation. I'm glad that Bart answered the call to serve, and I'm pleased that we're poised to achieve both stability and fresh perspectives in this year's election."

Karthikeyan described the priorities he has for his final term.

"First, I want to give our new superintendent the support and guidance he needs to continue our collective efforts to rigorously identify areas for improvement and implement needed reforms to benefit all Ardsley students," he said. "Second, I want to continue our progress in building a responsible budget that funds our priorities while keeping property taxes in check. Third, as we continue to experience turbulence and polarization across the broader political landscape, I want to ensure our schools don't become collateral damage in distracting political fights."

He continued: "By providing steady, principled leadership at the local level, we can ensure that providing a high-quality education to all Ardsley students remains our top priority and focus."

## AAPI Festival

Continued from page 5

of henna designs. There will also be a karaoke competition, followed by a performance of Odissi (a classic Indian dance form), a taekwondo demonstration, and a Korean Nanta performance, which involves nonverbal theatrics and percussion instruments. Students from Ardsley and Edgemont will play *buk* (Korean for drum), led by teacher Haesung Kim, the principal of Dongsan Korean School.

Members of the Ardsley community will share customs and traditions from their cultures, with tables representing China, India, Japan, Korea, Pakistan, and the Philippines. Tables will offer hands-on activities and crafts.

There will be a scavenger hunt for attendees; all completed game boards will be entered in a raffle for prizes. Food will be available for purchase from the Yumbro food truck, which offers Asian and Hawaiian fusion cuisine, and the Pokemotion food truck, which offers Hawaiian-style poke bowls, as well as specialties from Raasa, the Indian restaurant in Elmsford.

Del Pilar credits community volunteers with helping plan the festival, including Mona Swanson, co-chair of the Ardsley MDIC, and the Ardsley PTSA.

"As an Asian American parent, I hope the festival gives the community an introduction to resources, in Ardsley and beyond, and can use them in whatever way is meaningful for them," del Pilar said. "I hope the day is inspiring and opens doors to continue their connections."



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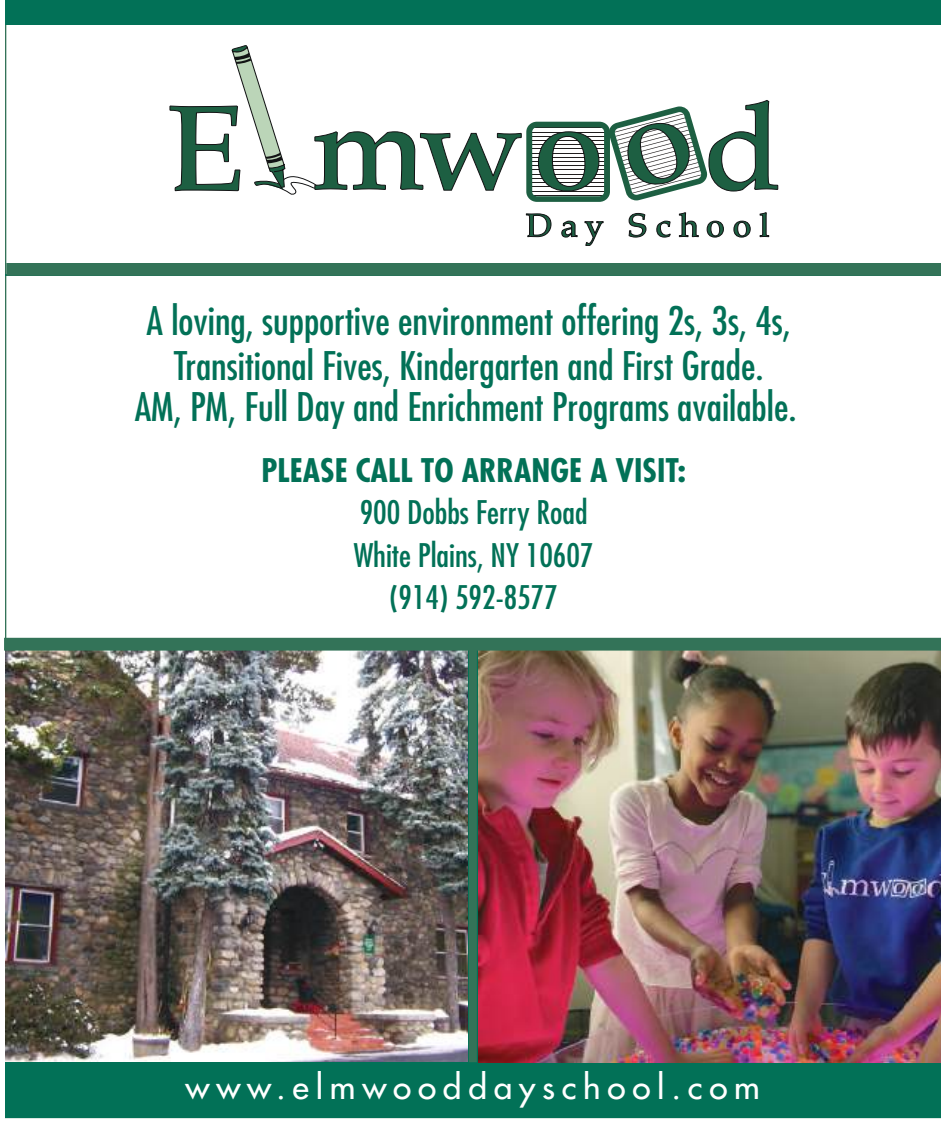
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# DOBBS FERRY

— Coming Up This Week —

## Food Drive for the Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry

Saturday, May 17, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Ardley United Methodist Church,  
525 Ashford Ave.

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

## Invasive Species Clearing

Sunday, May 18, 10 a.m.-noon  
Juhring Preserve

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

## Food Truck Festival

Sunday, May 18, noon-6 p.m.  
Waterfront Park

## Open Space Cleanup

Sunday, May 18, 2 p.m.  
Meet at 167 Judson Ave.

## School Budget Vote and Board Election

Tuesday, May 20, 7 a.m.-9 p.m.  
High school gym

## Chalk the Walk Kickoff

Tuesday, May 20, 4 p.m.  
Dobbs Ferry Public Library plaza

## School Board Special Meeting

Wednesday, May 21, 9 a.m.  
Board Room, 505 Broadway

## Library Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 21, 7:30 p.m.  
Dobbs Ferry Public Library

## Jewish Olympian's Story

Monday, May 19, 7 p.m.  
Dobbs Ferry Public Library

Friends of the Dobbs Ferry Library presents Michael Gyory recounting the life of his cousin, Agi Keleti, who survived the Nazis and won 10 medals in women's gymnastics.

## Art Reception

Sunday, May 25, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Dobbs Ferry Public Library  
Artwork by Joy Moon Lee is on view through June 21.

## Got news?

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

# Four campaign for three seats on board

*Wood, Davis, Reddy, and Walker on the ballot*

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Incumbent board member Darren Wood and first-time candidates Disan Davis, Sudha Reddy, and Mindy Berry Walker are vying for three open seats in the Dobbs Ferry Board of Education election on Tuesday, May 20.

## Darren Wood

Wood, 46, whose first three-year term will end on June 30, has one child in each of the district's three schools. A Dobbs Ferry resident since 2008, he is an English teacher and dean of the class of 2026 at The Masters School. Wood wants to help the board continue the trends he experienced during his first term of being attentive to issues of equity and diversity, and delivering budgets on time.

"I think we have set in place a number of policies on the board that have helped maintain the schools' direction, and that's been very challenging in a shifting political landscape," Wood said. "We're really interested in continuing to monitor results on reading assessments, and think about what supports we can put into place to increase student reading and writing scores, and to support teacher growth and professional development in order to support student learning."

If re-elected, Wood would be one of five members of the seven-person school board to return in July. Jean Lucasey and Shannon Stringer, who have a combined 17 years of experience on the board, decided to not run for re-election.

## Disan Davis

Davis, 41, has children in the first and fourth

grades at Springhurst Elementary School. Davis has lived in Dobbs Ferry for eight years and is a former middle and high school science teacher who now works as a research associate with STEM PUSH (Pathways for Underrepresented Students to Higher Ed) Network, which is a national alliance of pre-college science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programs.

Davis is a member of the Dobbs Ferry Parks and Recreation Commission, and during the Covid-19 pandemic, she worked with then Schools Superintendent Lisa Brady to help write a survey for families to help inform how the district should operate throughout the pandemic and the transition out of it. Davis is also looking forward to using her science research background to work with the current superintendent, Ken Slentz, on data-driven improvements.

"I think he's interested in expanding the data infrastructure in the schools and making improvements, and I think I can provide a lot of perspective and context for thinking about that data and not just using it as numbers, but really thinking about the whole range of information we should be collecting to get an effective story about what's happening, and where we can be improving as a district," Davis told the Dispatch.

## Sudha Reddy

Reddy, 52, has lived in Dobbs Ferry since 2012 and is the parent of two district graduates now in college and a third child who is a junior at the high school. Reddy has worked in public service for 25 years as an infectious disease epidemiologist with the New York City Department of Health, where she also does grant writing. Reddy has volunteered with athletic

booster clubs and the Dobbs Ferry Schools Foundation, and done community volunteer work for individual events over the years.

"All three of my children are very different, and I think all three of them have really loved being part of the school," Reddy said. "They've gotten a really good education, and they've been able to be involved in extracurricular activities, and I've really appreciated how the school supports the diversity in the way my kids are, and also the diversity in the school community. We've had such a positive experience, and that's really the reason I wanted to run for the board of ed."

## Mindy Berry Walker

Walker, 50, has lived in the village for 21 years, and has two daughters who are students at the high school and older one who graduated in 2023. Walker is the executive editor of The Week Junior, which is a children's magazine for kids ages 8 to 14. Walker was a member on the board of the Dobbs Ferry Schools Foundation for roughly seven years, until 2019, and is currently president of the Goal Club Foundation, which supports Dobbs Ferry High School soccer players.

"We have to work hard as a small district to make sure we're offering the best variety of courses for our students, and doing the best we can to support all levels of learning," Walker said. "I think we're doing a great job of that, but it's something you always have to keep your finger on the pulse for."

Voting for the Dobbs Ferry School Board, as well as for the proposed school budget, will take place Tuesday, May 20, from 7 a.m.-9 p.m. at the high school gymnasium, 505 Broadway.

# School district voters to decide on \$59M budget

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

The Dobbs Ferry School District has adopted a \$59,842,452 budget for the 2025-26 school year that district residents will vote on during the May 20 election. The amount is a \$2,248,044 or 3.9% increase from the current school budget, and includes a tax levy increase of \$1,414,259, which is 3.18% more than this school year's tax levy.

Property taxes provide \$45,851,287 or 76.62% of the funds for the 2025-26 budget, while the district is receiving \$9,137,942 in state aid, accounting for 15.27% of the budget. Salaries account for \$30,645,320, or 51.21% of spending, while employee benefits make up \$13,141,402, or 21.96%.

If a majority of residents vote "no" on May 20,

the district would adopt a contingent budget that would require cuts of \$1,608,655 from the budget, and take away proposed equipment purchases, some student supplies, and reduce the number of proposed staff districtwide, including staff for extra and co-curricular activities and athletics. The contingent budget would provide a \$639,389 increase over the current budget.

## — OBITUARY —

## Joan Henderson McCain

Joan Henderson McCain, a longtime resident of Dobbs Ferry and formerly of Irvington, passed away peacefully at home on April 25.

Joan was predeceased by her husband, Eugene (Gene) A. McCain; her parents, Robert and Caroline Henderson; and brother, Richard. She leaves behind two daughters, Marcy Busch of South Dartmouth, Massachusetts, and Melanie Dobbs of Dobbs Ferry, and their spouses, John and A.J., as well as two grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Born and raised in New York City, Joan was a true uptown girl. She graduated from Barnard College in 1951, where she studied English, cultivating a lifelong love of litera-

ture and the arts. Joan was a book lover who enjoyed novels, poetry, and The New Yorker, reading every issue (eventually).

Joan was career-minded and entrepreneurial. She and Gene established a fashion company on Seventh Avenue in the 1980s, where Joan designed women's sportswear that was sold nationwide. Her sense of style, elegance, and business acumen were hallmarks of her personal and professional life.

An avid golfer, Joan found camaraderie at clubs where they resided, including Ardsley Country Club, Maidstone, and Hammock Dunes in Florida. She and Gene shared a love of travel.

Joan was also active in her community. She was a member of both the Irvington and

Dobbs Ferry garden clubs and volunteered to teach English to recent immigrants. A natural hostess, Joan loved bringing people together. She took pride in being the first woman on her block to serve quiche after spotting the recipe in The New York Times, a reflection of her curious spirit and good taste.

A lifelong dog and cat owner, Joan loved all animals and supported causes to help endangered species around the globe.

Joan lived her life with intelligence and grace.

Donations in Joan's memory may be sent to Paws Crossed, 100 S. Warehouse Lane, Elmsford NY 10523. Condolences in Joan's memory may be sent to McCain Family, 38 Livingston Ave. Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522.



DOBBS FERRY

Dobbs Ferry Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Report for April

New chiefs start new terms

Second Assistant Chief Ryan Cullen, Chief Joseph Giuliano, and First Assistant Chief Billy Osborn.



The fire department welcomed new leadership on April 3, as 33-year-old Joseph Giuliano was promoted from first assistant chief to chief, 37-year-old Billy Osborn was promoted from second assistant chief to first assistant chief, and 31-year-old Ryan Cullen became the second assistant chief.

Giuliano has been a member of the department since 2009, while Osborn joined in 2006 and Cullen joined

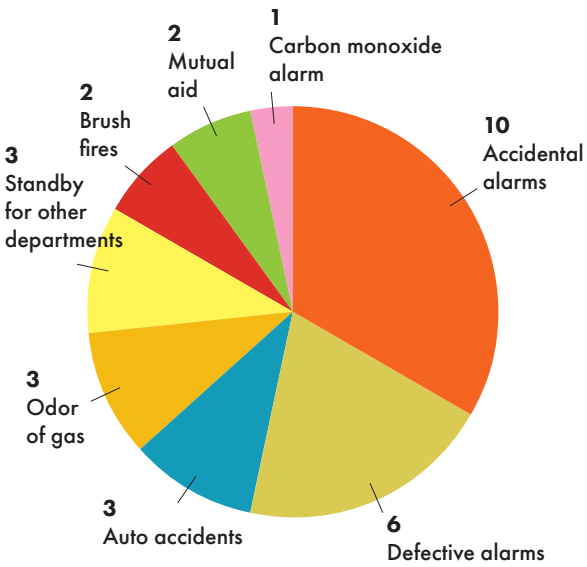
in 2011. Osborn served as chief from 2021-24. Giuliano and Osborn work for the Dobbs Ferry Department of Public Works, while Cullen is a 911 dispatcher for the Westchester County Emergency Communications Center, known as 60 Control.

Giuliano and Cullen graduated from Dobbs Ferry High School in 2009 and 2011, respectively. Osborn graduated from Ardsley High School in 2005.

— THE DATA DISPATCH —

Types of calls

30 calls for March | 132 total calls for 2025



For information about joining the department, visit [www.dffd.org/content/recruitment/](http://www.dffd.org/content/recruitment/)

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# HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON

— Coming Up This Week —

## Farmers' Market

Saturday, May 17, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Commuter Lot, Southside Avenue

This is the last market of the month. The season of weekly markets begins June 7, opening at 8:30 a.m. For details, visit [hastingsfarmersmarket.org](http://hastingsfarmersmarket.org) and follow the market on Facebook.

## Tech with Teens

Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m.-noon

James Harmon Community Center

Senior citizens learn how to navigate email, Canva, and Excel.

Co-sponsored by the Hastings Senior Council and KIDS (Kids Involved in Doing Service)/Hastings Youth Council.

## School Budget Vote and Board Election

Tuesday, May 20, 7 a.m.-9 p.m.

High school gym

## Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, May 20, 7 p.m.

Village Hall

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

## Author Talk

Tuesday, May 20, 7:30 p.m.

Hastings Public Library

Jonathan Rosen discusses his book "The Best Minds: A Story of Friendship, Madness, and the Tragedy of Good Intentions," about his childhood friendship with Michael Laudor who killed his pregnant fiancée in Hastings in 1998.

## Senior Thursday

Thursday, May 22, 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Screening of "Little Miss Sunshine" at the public library, 1 p.m. (RSVP at [has@hastingslibrary.org](mailto:has@hastingslibrary.org)); cookies and games at the community center; and discounts for dining and shopping for residents over 65. Pick up a free parking pass at the library or community center.

## "Real Bodies, Real Talk: Helping Parents Navigate Social Media and Teen Body Image"

Thursday, May 22, 7 p.m.

Hastings Public Library

Register by emailing

[amanning@hastingslibrary.org](mailto:amanning@hastingslibrary.org).

## Got news?

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

# Author revisits murder and its backstory

## Library to host talk about 'The Best Minds'

BY TOM GAMBARDILLA

"A story isn't an answer," author Jonathan Rosen of Manhattan told the Dispatch. "It's a framing of questions."

For Rosen, it took a decade of research and writing to finish the story that became his 2023 memoir, "The Best Minds: A Story of Friendship, Madness, and the Tragedy of Good Intentions." Two years later, the book will be the subject of an author talk at the Hastings Public Library on May 20 at 7:30 p.m.

"The Best Minds" tells the story of Rosen's upbringing in New Rochelle alongside his childhood friend Michael Laudor. In 1998, Laudor, then 35, fatally stabbed his pregnant fiancée, Caroline Costello, 37, at their Maple Avenue apartment in Hastings. Laudor had been diagnosed with schizophrenia. He was found mentally unfit to stand trial and was sent to a maximum-security psychiatric hospital. The title of the book is a reference to Allen Ginsberg's poem, "Howl," which begins with the words, "I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness."

While Laudor and Rosen are at the heart of the story, Rosen also used the book to explore the culture in which the boys grew up, examining how protocols and experts in Laudor's life failed to identify and treat his schizophrenia.

"It has to do with the experts who felt they knew best. It has to do with law professors, judges, psychiatrists, the whole world," Rosen said. The 1981 New Rochelle High School graduate added, "It's... in part about our childhood, but it tries to get its arms around the world that we grew up in, that I never thought of at the time as having any influence on the way that we care for people



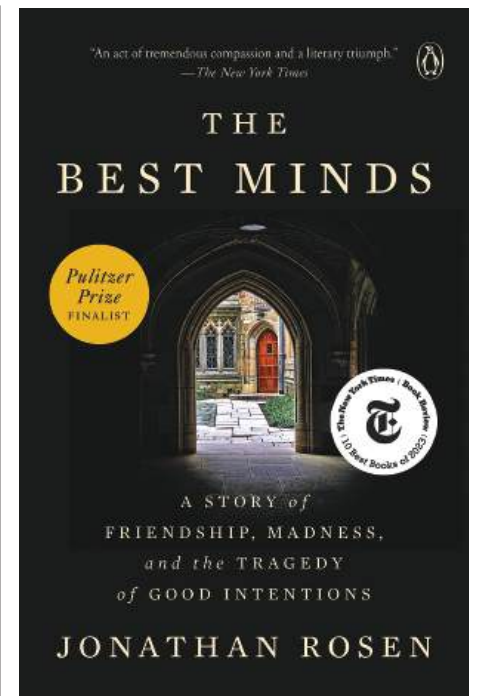
Jonathan Rosen and the cover of his 2023 book

with severe mental illness."

The talk at the library will feature readings from the book, group discussion, and a Q&A with Rosen, who has a bachelor's degree in English from Yale and a master's degree in English from the University of California, Berkeley.

The author said he was "completely transformed" by the process of writing the book. While part of that transformation was temporal — the natural change that occurs as one ages a decade — Rosen said that revisiting his and Laudor's shared childhoods led him to re-examine their lives with a more objective lens.

"That's the thing about writing a book — the world is changing around you and you're trying to fix a moment in the past," Rosen said. "But it's never a moment in the past, anyway. There were moments leading up to the story I was telling, there was a world of people around it, involved in it, and there was a world of aftermath. All of those things were connected. So, for me, it was encountering my childhood again, it was encountering the world I grew up in with-



out the unselfconsciousness that you grow up [with] inside something, or some place."

Rosen described writing as a "lifelong calling." He has three nonfiction books to his name and two works of fiction, with bylines in The Atlantic, The New Yorker, The New York Times, and The Wall Street Journal. Even with over three decades of experience, Rosen said chronicling his own childhood presented a unique task.

"I was sort of inside of it and also visiting it," Rosen said. "And that was the challenge of writing it — how to inhabit it, have it unfold like a story, but also with a critical awareness all of the time."

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



## May Day

Concerned Families of Westchester (CFOW) hosted a "May Day" rally at VFW Plaza on Saturday, May 3. Similar protests against the Trump administration were held nationwide on May 1. In Hastings, a flier was handed out titled "Trump Targets Workers and Immigrants. We Will Stop Him!" CFOW has organized four sizable rallies at VFW Plaza this year. The first happened on Jan. 18 — two days before Trump's inauguration.



HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON

Voters to weigh in on \$62.4 million school budget for 2025-26

BY AMY BOCHNER

The Hastings Board of Education voted to adopt a 2025-26 budget of \$62,465,988 at their April 22 meeting. The budget, which will be on the May 20 ballot, is a 4.73% increase from last year's spending. The proposed tax levy change is 3.66%.

Included in the proposal are various staffing additions and reductions at each of the district's three schools.

At Hillside Elementary, art would be increased by 10 minutes per cycle for all students, shifting the minutes from the innovation learning commons. Reductions include a .2 full-time equivalent (FTE) physical education teacher, one FTE teaching assistant, one FTE permanent substitute, and two lunch/recess monitors.

Farragut Middle School would see the

equivalent of three additional full-time faculty: a fifth-grade teacher, an English language arts (ELA) multi-tiered system of supports specialist, and a staff member focused on executive functioning. The spending plan also includes the addition of a .6 FTE science teacher and .5 FTE shared teaching assistant in the testing center. Reduced staffing would be one FTE special education teacher, .4 FTE physical education/health teacher, and one FTE permanent substitute.

At Hastings High School, one FTE special education teacher would be added. After taking into account internal shifts and retirements, the ELA and math departments would see a reduction in .2 and .5 full-time equivalent staff members, respectively.

Districtwide, there would be a reduction of 1.4 FTE in English as a New Language

faculty based on student enrollment and service needs.

According to the 2025-26 budget book, 80% of the proposed revenue would come from property taxes, 13.7% would come from state aid, 3.3% from miscellaneous receipts, and 3% from appropriated balances. For the proposed appropriations, 56.9% would go to instruction, 29.9% to undistributed (which includes employee benefits, debt service, and interfund transfer), 9.9% to general support, and 3.3% to transportation.

At the April 6 meeting, district treasurer Maureen Caraballo shared a list of budget and staffing considerations. From now until September, the budget could be impacted by unexpected student enrollment, out-of-district busing requests, unforeseen building and infrastructure repairs, and more. If

the budget does not pass on May 20, then the district would be forced to adopt a contingency budget, which would require \$1.7 million in reductions.

Before the board approved the resolution on April 22, its president, Alex Dal Piaz, told his fellow members that this was "the most complex budget that I've seen in my four years on the board."

"One of the baselines that we said: 'This has to be a tax-cap-compliant budget no matter what difficulty that is,'" he said. "That was a standard that you all met, even after we had to go back and reiterate it and reiterate it again... You always wish it could be even better or cost even less, but it's a realistic outcome that supports the students and supports the village, and I'm very happy to vote 'yes' on this one."

Sergeant and officers awarded Lifesaving Medals for reviving 84-year-old

Sgt. Emilio Rojas, Officer Kevin Barry, and Officer Thomas Gunther of the Hastings Police Department received Lifesaving Medals during the annual Westchester County Police Memorial Service and Honor Awards ceremony at the Westchester County Center in White Plains

on May 14.

Rojas, Barry, and Gunther were recognized for reviving an 84-year-old man in the Foodtown parking lot on Sept. 6, 2024. The man was transported to the Westchester Medical Center and then released.

The awards honored members of multiple departments for incidents and investigations that occurred between April 1, 2024, and March 31, 2025. The winners were selected by a panel of chiefs and commissioners from Westchester departments.

The event was presided over by County Executive Ken Jenkins and Public Safety Commissioner Terrance Raynor. Before the awards, the names of 93 officers who lost their lives in the line of duty in Westchester were read aloud and taps were played to honor their memory.

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# IRVINGTON

## — Coming Up This Week —

### Irvington Garden Club: Plant Sale and Garden Fair

Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Road,  
Scarsdale

### Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, May 19, 7 p.m.  
Village Hall

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

### School Budget Vote and Board Election

Tuesday, May 20, 7 a.m.-9 p.m.  
High school gym

### Book Talk: "The Upside of OCD"

Tuesday, May 20, 7 p.m.  
Irvington Public Library  
Author Michael Alcee discusses how to get past anxiety and doubt.

### Farmers' Market

Sunday, May 25, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Main Street School, 101 Main St.  
This is the last market of the month. The season of weekly markets begins June 1, opening at 9 a.m. For details, visit [theirvingtonfarmersmarket.org](http://theirvingtonfarmersmarket.org) and follow the market on Facebook.

### Zombie Survival Game

Friday, May 30, 5:30 p.m.  
Irvington Presbyterian Church, 25 N. Broadway  
The Green Policy Task Force, Presbyterian Church, and Rivertowns Playhouse wrap up a month of challenges to help residents with emergency preparedness. Learn more at [IrvingtonGreen.org/climate/emergency-preparedness](http://IrvingtonGreen.org/climate/emergency-preparedness).

### Closing Reception: "Through My Lens"

Saturday, May 31, 2 p.m.  
Irvington Public Library  
Last chance to view Pam Grafstein's photography exhibit.

### Juneteenth Screening and Panel Discussion

Thursday, June 5, 6-7:30 p.m.  
Irvington Public Library  
Screening of "The Hidden Cost of Progress: Urban Renewal in Ossining," followed by a panel discussion with the director, the videographer, and Ossining community members interviewed in the documentary. Q&A panel moderated by director Joyce Sharrock Cole.

### Got news?

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

# 'FIERAS' channels fierce female energy

*Performance reflects strength of domestic violence survivors*

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Tarrytown resident Rebeca Tomás uses music and the traditional Spanish dance form flamenco to showcase the fiery resilience of women survivors of domestic violence. She shares their story in a production the A Palo Seco Flamenco Company is presenting at the Irvington Theater on Thursday, May 22. The hour-long performance of mostly original songs and choreography created by Tomás and the musicians of A Palo Seco, which Tomás founded in 2010, is the fruit of a \$10,000 "Voices for Change" grant she received through ArtsWestchester in 2023.

Tomás chose the production's title, "FIERAS," because it's "a Spanish and, more specifically, Flamenco, expression that refers to a fierce female energy full of strength and force," Tomás told the Dispatch. "It really encapsulates the whole essence of these women I'm trying to pay homage to."

Tomás created "FIERAS" in partnership with the Hawthorne-based organization Hope's Door, which provides emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence as well as a 24/7 support and information hotline. Through Hope's Door, Tomás connected with survivors and wrote lyrics using their experiences, as well as those of women she already knew.

"The base was the inspiration of working with survivors of domestic violence, telling stories, and giving this idea of hope, of the ability to move forward, or the fierceness that it takes from these women to either leave or continue on," Tomás said.

Tomás grew up hearing stories of her grandmother being physically abused by her grandfather. Domestic violence again hit close to home when, as a child, Tomás saw her schoolteacher come into class with a black eye. She later became friends with the teacher's daughter, and saw her endure a relationship with an abusive boyfriend in high school. Both the teacher and her daughter's stories serve as inspiration for specific pieces in "FIERAS," which debuted at the David Rockefeller Creative Arts Center in Tarrytown in December 2023.



A Palo Seco will perform "FIERAS" at the Irvington Theater on May 22.

Tomás created the music, which includes drums, guitar, violin, and vocals, with the musicians in her company. She researched existing flamenco songs for reference, and wrote the lyrics (all in Spanish), including the accounts of some of the women she interviewed that were then recorded by a voice actor who is a domestic violence survivor. The segment titled "Every Nine Seconds" is named for a statistic Tomás came upon in her research: On average, every 9 seconds a woman somewhere in the world is undergoing physical, emotional, or mental abuse.

"It may not be physically, it may be economically, it may be emotionally, verbally, but if there is someone in the audience who is experiencing that, or has experienced it, or knows someone who has, I would really hope that it would give them the strength and courage to be able to do what they need to do to get out, and get the support, and to know that they are not alone and it happens a lot," Tomás said.

Tomás fell in love with Flamenco in 1997, while in Grenada, Spain, during her junior year at the University of Rochester. She was studying piano, but witnessing Flamenco inspired her to pursue dance. In 2000, Tomás returned to Spain to take dance lessons and study with an ethnomusicologist at the University of Grenada, and lived in Spain off and on for seven years. The experience

inspired her to launch A Palo Seco with an all-female dance group in 2010, and focus on the stories of women in her productions.

"In a show there would always be a big male dancer who would end the show, and I was like, 'I want women — we are powerful too, and we have something to say,'" Tomás said.

A Palo Seco literally translates to "in the manner of a dry stick," but is figuratively used to describe something that is bare, simple, or unaccompanied. The name fits with what Tomás describes as the "deep-raw-guttural emotive force" she finds at the heart of Flamenco. "It's bare-bones, and it cuts straight to the core of one's being."

Tomás expects there to be audience members living through domestic violence in real-time, as well as those actively supporting loved ones who are going — or have gone — through it.

"For those who haven't been touched by it, [it's about] giving them the knowledge that it is there," Tomás said. "It's where you think it's not. People will stereotype and say it's in this type of economic household or this type of cultural household, but there is no race, ethnic, or economic distinction in when or where it happens."

"FIERAS" will be performed on Thursday, May 22, at 7 p.m., at the Irvington Theater, 85 Main St. Tickets are \$25 plus fees, and available at [irvingtontheater.com](http://irvingtontheater.com).



### A teen sweep

Passers-by thanked the 13 members of the Irvington High School OCEAN Club who volunteered to pick up trash along the Hudson River at Matthiessen Park on Saturday, April 26. The cleanup was not a school event, but a collaborative effort by the students: Lucy Acharekar, Teresa Brady, Leah Brandstaetter, Chalin Chang, Minori Furtado, Katherine Halee, Alyssa Magallon, Keira Ruffler, Laiba Shaukat, Leah Tavares, Rebeca Villavicencio, Ciara Walker, and Jill Warnke. The OCEAN Club is dedicated to advancing knowledge about marine biology and fostering an appreciation for aquatic environments.



## IRVINGTON

## Journalist pens biography about artificial intelligence visionary

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Irvington resident and Wall Street Journal reporter Keach Hagey has a new book coming out that dives into the life of Sam Altman, billionaire investor and CEO of OpenAI, the company behind the artificial intelligence (AI) program ChatGPT.

To research “The Optimist: Sam Altman, OpenAI, and the Race to Invent the Future,” to be released May 20, Hagey conducted more than 250 interviews with the subject’s family, friends, ex-boyfriends, business associates, and Altman himself to paint a picture of the 40-year-old grandson of shoemakers who is one of the most influential people in Silicon Valley.

On the day of her book’s release, Hagey will talk about it at the Irvington Theater with Dobbs Ferry resident and New York Times deputy investigations editor David Enrich, author of “Murder the Truth: Fear, the First Amendment, and a Secret Campaign to Protect the Powerful.”

“The Optimist” is Hagey’s second published book, following her 2018 biography about Viacom chairman Sumner Redstone, titled “The King of Content.”

Hagey has lived in Irvington for nine years and works at the WSJ’s Media and Marketing Bureau, where she focuses on the intersection of media and technology. Hagey began working on “The Optimist” during the summer of 2023, after being assigned to write a profile about Altman around the time ChatGPT was launched to the public. Hagey first heard Altman’s name while he was



Keach Hagey. Photo by Beowulf Sheehan.

with the startup accelerator Y Combinator, where he was president from 2014-19.

“AI is going to touch every part of our lives going forward and OpenAI is right now the leader in AI,” Hagey told the Dispatch. “OpenAI has defined itself as a kind of moral project. It says that its purpose is to benefit humanity, which is a pretty vague mission.”

Hagey describes OpenAI’s mission as a “noble” one, but one that leaves room for interpretation, adding, “Right now, what that means has a lot to do with what Sam Altman wants. So I think it’s really important to understand who he is, what forces made him, and what his morality is, because that’s going to have an impact on all of our lives.”

Altman has a reputation for being accessible and responding to other entrepreneurs who need advice. Though he was initially opposed to Hagey writing a book about him, he warmed up to the idea over time.

Altman publicly discussed the possibility of running for governor of California in 2017, but never formally put his name in the race. Hagey’s conversations with Altman’s friends revealed that around that same time he also discussed running for president, though Altman told Hagey that he was not seriously considering it.

“Sam is an idealistic person, but also a pragmatic person,” Hagey said. “He has enormous ambitions and a huge tolerance for risk. He can be a little paranoid sometimes, but in general the book is called ‘The Optimist’ for a reason, because he tends to see the upside of things and has the unique ability to convince other people of the upsides of things.”

Hagey’s research revealed how Altman tends to tell people what they want to hear, which has at times landed him in trouble. One of the most notable cases happened when Altman was fired from his position as OpenAI CEO in November 2023, and rehired five days later. By getting to know the man behind ChatGPT, Hagey has a unique perspective on the future of a technology that’s poised to impact the world for years. During a conversation at a TED conference in April, Altman revealed that OpenAI has 500 million weekly active users.

“I am concerned about the economic concentration that AI is likely to bring,” Hagey said. “As much as I think Sam has intentions in some ways to fight that, I don’t see much evidence that he can or will be able to. But as far as the broader usability and safety aspects of it, I do feel his intentions are good.”

Hagey describes Altman as skilled at convincing people that he can see the future, which has been key in his ability to raise billions of dollars. Hagey sees a future where the significance of AI pushes the federal government to prioritize building data centers, regardless of who is in the White House. In the later chapters of “The Optimist,” Hagey details how difficult she believes it’s going to be for the government to figure out how to regulate AI.

“In the very early months of this frenzy, right after ChatGPT came out, Sam appeared before Congress and said, ‘Please regulate us,’ and charmed everyone,” Hagey recalled. “And in the years since then, we’ve seen them not be quite so excited about being regulated. You can just sort of see how in over their heads a lot of government is on the issue.”

Tickets to the May 20 author talk, which starts at 7 p.m., cost \$10, plus fees, and are available at [irvingtontheater.com](http://irvingtontheater.com). Copies of Hagey’s book will be available for purchase at the event.

Buy your copy of this local author’s book at Picture Book:

[www.picturebookny.com](http://www.picturebookny.com)

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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).

## Support the budget and all three bond propositions for the Hastings School District

To the Editor:

We are writing to address the upcoming votes for the Hastings-on-Hudson public schools: the budget authorization on May 20 and the school bond vote on June 17 with its three propositions. The school budget is generally supported, as is proposition 1 of the bond for basic infrastructure improvements. However, proposition 2, a \$19 million investment for a new cafeteria, classroom space, and improved accessibility and security, has faced substantial criticism. As parents of two Hastings students, we want to share

our position.

This proposition addresses real needs within the school. A new cafeteria will be built, the old one will be converted into classrooms, and accessibility and security will be improved. Contrary to concerns, these improvements are neither financially irresponsible nor divorced from learning outcomes:

- Investing in infrastructure has a demonstrated positive impact on learning.
- Using glass for renovations is not an exercise in architectural vanity. Natural light in schools

has been shown to impact test results and is not substantially more costly than other materials.

- The need for additional space is due to well-understood, evolving educational requirements and increasing student services.
- Now is a good time for this expenditure since New York State will cover 47% of these costs. More recent underinvestment in Hastings schools compared to neighboring districts has resulted in costly maintenance issues and lower debt service per student.
- Current ADA-compliant entrances do not

provide full building access and do not align with modern security protocols. Investing in our schools supports property values and maintains the tradition of excellent education in Hastings. We are a community that understands the value of investing in our homes. Our schools deserve no less. We urge residents to vote "yes" on the budget on May 20 and "yes" on all three bond propositions on June 17.

YARON AND HEATHER BEN-ZVI  
Hastings

## Schools need more sustainable solutions than second bond proposition for Hastings

To the Editor:

As the former chairperson of the Hastings Architectural Review Board, I urge residents to vote "no" to the Hastings School Board bond proposal phase 2. If we are serious as a community about addressing climate change, we should not allow development that will negatively impact our environment for generations to come. Here are a few reasons:

1. The increase in carbon footprint that will result from the building expansions

is excessive, especially since enlarging the building does not seem to be justified. The population of students has not increased in the past few years.

2. The extensive use of glass will result in high energy costs for heating and cooling. It is the least sustainable and most expensive building material, adding to the enormous cost of the project that will burden the residents with significantly higher taxes.
3. The glass extensions and billboard-like addition to the front of the building are aesthetically inappropriate, and in contrast to the style and character of the old school building and surrounding residential neighborhood.

4. Increased taxes affects the diversity of residents in the village, making it less affordable to young and old. We need to ask ourselves whether this proposal is worth the cost, and whether a more cost-effective and responsible approach can be taken. I suggest that the school board go back to the drawing board to find better solutions, which understandably are needed to address problems of congestion and circulation. I support maintenance and improvement of our school buildings, but would like to see alternative proposals that are environmentally responsible, cost conscious, and sensitive to our community's commitment to sustainability.

CHRISTINA GRIFFIN  
Hastings

Continued on page 15



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Hastings-on-Hudson

YOUR VOTE COUNTS

SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE & BOE ELECTION

THE HASTINGS PTSA encourages all Hastings residents to  
**VOTE YES**  
on Tuesday, May 20

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



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



# The Agenda

**SAT**  
**17**

## AAPI Festival

### ARDSLEY

11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. / Free.  
Ardsley Middle School Gym.  
Celebrate Asian American  
Pacific Islander Month with  
live performances, arts and  
crafts, scavenger hunt with prizes, and storytime.  
[ardsleyvillage.gov](http://ardsleyvillage.gov)

## Live Rock Music: Snappahead

### ARDSLEY

9 p.m. / No cover charge. Saw Mill Tavern, 925 Saw  
Mill River Road. Reservations encouraged. [smtavern.com](http://smtavern.com)

## RiverArts' "Channels" presents Deadgrass

### DOBBS FERRY

8 p.m. / \$30, \$20 for students. South Church, 343  
Broadway. The string band explores Jerry Garcia's  
music through the bluegrass genre. Purchase tickets  
online. [riverarts.org](http://riverarts.org)

## Farmers' Market

### HASTINGS

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

## Closing Reception

### HASTINGS

4-7 p.m. / Free. Upstream Gallery, 8 Main St.  
Celebrate the end of the side-by-side exhibitions by  
longtime friends and colleagues Jo Zalon Meer and  
Eleanor Goldstein. Hours: Thursday-Sunday, 12:30-  
5:30 p.m. [upstreamgallery.com](http://upstreamgallery.com)

## Octagon House Tour and Book Signing

### IRVINGTON

11 a.m.-5 p.m. / \$75. The Armour-Stiner Octagon  
House, 45 W. Clinton Ave. Guided tour of this unique  
National Historic Landmark, followed by a meet  
and greet with Wally and Amanda Koval, authors  
of "Accidentally Wes Anderson: Adventures," and  
Elizabeth and Ethan Finkelstein, authors of "Cheap  
Old Houses: An Unconventional Guide to Loving and  
Restoring a Forgotten Home." For ages 7 and up.  
Advance tickets required. [armourstiner.com](http://armourstiner.com)

## Hudson Chorale: Spring Concert

### IRVINGTON

3 p.m. / \$30. Irvington Presbyterian Church, 25 N.  
Broadway. Also Sunday. [HudsonChorale.org](http://HudsonChorale.org)

## Irvington Garden Club Plant Sale & Garden Fair

### SCARSDALE

10 a.m.-1 p.m. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99  
Dromore Road. [gcirvington.org](http://gcirvington.org)

## Leonid & Friends: Chicago Tribute Concert

### TARRYTOWN

8 p.m. / \$54-\$74. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St.  
[tarrytownmusichall.org](http://tarrytownmusichall.org)

## Live Jazz: Joey Alexander Trio

### TARRYTOWN

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



The second annual Ardsley AAPI Festival on Saturday, May 17, at Ardsley Middle School features live performances to celebrate Asian American Pacific Islander Month.

## MorDance: "Trees"

### YONKERS

7:30 p.m. / \$35, \$25 for students and seniors, \$50 for  
the reception. 86 Main St., 6th floor. The ballet about  
nature's resilience features eight dancers and a 10-piece  
string ensemble. Purchase tickets online. [mordance.org](http://mordance.org)

## Yonkers Arts Weekend: Garden Tours

### YONKERS

11 a.m.-3 p.m. / Free. Untermyer Park and Gardens,  
945 N. Broadway. One-hour tour on the hour. Sign up  
at the Greeter Tent on site. [untermyergardens.org](http://untermyergardens.org)

## Yonkers Arts Weekend: Museum Activities

### YONKERS

11 a.m.-5 p.m. / Free. Hudson River Museum, 511  
Warburton Ave. Family-friendly activities include art  
workshops, bubble extravaganza, fashion show, and live  
music from Westchester Center for Jazz Ensemble. [hrm.org](http://hrm.org)

## Yonkers Arts Weekend: Historic Site Activities

### YONKERS

10 a.m.-5 p.m. / Free. Philipse Manor Hall State  
Historic Site, 29 Warburton Ave. Featuring walking  
tours, bookbinding workshops, calligraphy classes,  
architecture house tours. Sign up online. Also Sunday.  
[philipsemanorhall.com](http://philipsemanorhall.com)

## "Box Spring, Part 2: A Festival of One-Act Plays"

### OSSINING

2 and 8 p.m. / \$25, \$20 for members and students.  
Westchester Collaborative Theater, 23 Water St. Also  
on Sunday, 3 p.m. [wctheater.org](http://wctheater.org)

## Westchester Craft Crawl

### OSSINING and CROTON

10 a.m.-5 p.m. / free admission. The outdoor  
studio tour features over 40 regional artists at three  
stops. Visit the website for the Google Tour Map.  
[westchestercraftcrawl.com/spring-2025](http://westchestercraftcrawl.com/spring-2025)

**SUN**  
**18**

## Food Truck Festival

### DOBBS FERRY

Noon-6 p.m. Waterfront Park.  
Featuring food, bouncy castle, and  
live music. [dobbsferry.gov](http://dobbsferry.gov)

## Opening Reception: "Bending Nature"

### DOBBS FERRY

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. / Free. The Donald Gallery at

South Church, 343 Broadway. Erin Treacy's paintings  
will be on view through June. [southpres.org](http://southpres.org)

## Meandering Among the Mansions of the Historic Millionaires

### IRVINGTON

10 a.m. / Free. Irvington Village Hall, 85 Main St.  
Sara Kelsey of Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct  
leads an easy 4-mile loop walk and discusses the  
history of the Aqueduct and the Village of Irvington.  
[aqueduct.org](http://aqueduct.org)

## "Once Upon a Time"

### IRVINGTON

2:30 p.m. / \$25, \$20 for students and seniors; \$3  
more at the door. Irvington Theater, 85 Main St.  
Broadway Training Center's spring recital features  
acting, singing, and dancing. [broadwaytraining.com](http://broadwaytraining.com)

## Live Jazz: Steve Sandberg Brazilian Quartet

### TARRYTOWN

4 and 6 p.m. / \$25, \$20 for students. Jazz Forum  
Club, 1 Dixon Lane. [jazzforumarts.org](http://jazzforumarts.org)

**MON**  
**19**

## Jewish Olympian's Story

### DOBBS FERRY

7 p.m. / Free. Dobbs Ferry Public  
Library, 55 Main St. Michael  
Gyory recounts the life of his  
cousin, Agi Keleti, who survived  
the Nazis and won 10 medals in  
women's gymnastics. [dobbsferrylibrary.org](http://dobbsferrylibrary.org)

**TUES**  
**20**

## Author Talk

### HASTINGS

7:30 p.m. / Free. Hastings  
Public Library, 7 Maple Ave.  
Jonathan Rosen discusses his  
book "The Best Minds: A Story  
of Friendship, Madness, and the  
Tragedy of Good Intentions," about Michael Laudor,  
who killed his pregnant fiancée in Hastings in 1998.  
[hastingslibrary.org](http://hastingslibrary.org)

## Live Music: The Chris Conte Duo

### HASTINGS

7-9 p.m. / No cover charge. Uncle Lefty's, 583  
Warburton Ave. [uncleleftys.com](http://uncleleftys.com)

## Book Launch and Discussion

### IRVINGTON

7 p.m. / \$10. Irvington Theater, 85 Main St. Wall

Street Journal reporter and Irvington resident Keach  
Hagey and New York Times deputy investigations  
editor and Dobbs Ferry resident David Enrich discuss  
Hagey's new book, "The Optimist: Sam Altman,  
OpenAI, and the Race to Invent the Future." Purchase  
tickets online. [irvingtontheater.com](http://irvingtontheater.com)

**WED**  
**21**

## Rivertowns Chamber Networking Event

### ELMSFORD

9-10:30 a.m. / Free, \$25 for  
nonmembers. Westy Self Storage,  
395 Saw Mill River Road. Includes  
light breakfast. Register online.

[rivertownschamber.com](http://rivertownschamber.com)

**THURS**  
**22**

## "Optimizing Your Health"

### ARDSLEY

1-2 p.m. / Free. Gerard J.  
Byrne Center, 11 Olympic Lane.  
St. John's Riverside Hospital  
presents orthopedic surgeon  
Howard Luks. Reserve your seat

at [sjrh.jotform.com/251035938494868](http://sjrh.jotform.com/251035938494868) or watch  
live at [youtube.com/live/KdS3w-8qpo0](http://youtube.com/live/KdS3w-8qpo0).

## Outdoor Live Music

### DOBBS FERRY

6-9 p.m. / No cover charge. Hudson Social, 11  
Station Plaza. Vocalist Cash Jacobs and keyboard  
player Dave Blickstein perform a mix of songs featuring  
the female-oriented canon of Patsy Cline, Adele,  
Bonnie Raitt, and Sara Bareilles. [hudsonsocial.com](http://hudsonsocial.com)

## Two Solo Art Shows

### HASTINGS

Upstream Gallery, 8 Main St. Opening of exhibitions  
by longtime Hastings resident Susan Richman and  
Rachel Whitlow. Reception May 30, 5:30-8 p.m. On  
view through June 15. Hours: Thursday-Sunday, 12:30-  
5:30 p.m. [upstreamgallery.com](http://upstreamgallery.com)

## Fieras: A Palo Seco Flamenco Company

### IRVINGTON

7 p.m. / \$25. Irvington Theater, 85 Main St. Purchase  
tickets online. [irvingtontheater.com](http://irvingtontheater.com)

**FRI**  
**23**

## Led Zeppelin Party Band: LEDs Groove

### ARDSLEY

9 p.m. / No cover charge. Saw  
Mill Tavern, 925 Saw Mill River  
Road. Reservations encouraged.  
[smtavern.com](http://smtavern.com)

## "Alexander Jackson Davis: Designer of Dreams"

### TARRYTOWN

9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. / \$10 Daily Grounds Pass.  
Lyndhurst, 635 S. Broadway. The exhibition explores  
Davis' career as an architect and designer, as he  
completed work on Lyndhurst, his gothic revival  
masterpiece. Through Sept. 23. [lyndhurst.org](http://lyndhurst.org)

## The Machine: Pink Floyd Tribute Concert

### TARRYTOWN

8 p.m. / \$42-\$58. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St.  
[tarrytownmusichall.org](http://tarrytownmusichall.org)



Opinion

Hastings schools need more cost-effective options than those in the bond propositions

To the Editor:

Thank you for publishing the latest update from the Hastings Board of Education regarding the additions to the Farragut Complex tied to the June 17 school bond vote. The architects, PBDW, have responded to community feedback and this is reflected in the new images.

I acknowledge the complexity of modifying these structures to address ADA, security access, classroom sizes, and the changing floor levels across the various wings.

However, I find the predominantly glass design solutions to be expensive, unsuit-

able, and inconsistent with the tone of the brick school complex. These designs feel like a contemporary museum addition, not a school.

The new Farragut Middle School entrance design is wide, blocks the windows to the gym, and necessitates the removal of four mature trees. Once the students enter through the new entrance, how is their access to the other floor levels improved? Why does the existing ramp entrance along Farragut Avenue not work?

Regarding the new cafeteria, the rationale for the large glass facade facing the playground is that this new cafeteria

blocks two floors of classroom windows. Why then is the new cafeteria two stories tall? If the cafeteria were one story tall, then the second-floor classrooms would retain the use of the operable windows and daylight access. If necessary, some skylights could be positioned to provide borrowed light to the first-floor classrooms.

While a glass facade may be similar in cost to a brick facade with large windows, glass comes with many issues: harsh acoustics, poor insulating qualities, higher heating and cooling loads, and long-term maintenance issues.

The architectural renderings pose a rosy

view of the cafeteria and the outdoor space remaining in the courtyard. How will ADA access from the high school and middle school wings be provided to this lower-level space?

These proposed additions to the Farragut Complex require more analysis as well as more cost-effective solutions. We know most construction projects run over budget. The school tax consequences of these improvements will be felt for years, and if not kept in check, will hurt the financial diversity of our village.

MICHELE BODDEWYN, AIA  
Hastings

Invest in Hastings schools by voting in favor of the budget and the bond propositions

To the Editor:

I want to thank Hastings School Board member Jodie Meyer for reminding us last meeting that investing in our schools is not just a choice — it's a civic duty. Supporting our public institutions means passing this budget and approving all three bond proposals.

The district has worked hard to craft a reasonable, forward-looking budget. With a 3.83% proposed tax rate increase — below New York's 4% CPI inflation rate — it responsibly reflects rising costs, most of which

are legally required. Rejecting the budget would force severe cuts to teaching, arts, and other vital programs.

The bond proposals are equally essential. Farragut, which serves as many students as the high school, has 40% less space. As a parent of a child receiving special services, I find it troubling that critics question the need for improved learning spaces. Services like speech and occupational therapy require dedicated rooms to be effective. Dismissing this need sends a painful message to families who've long advocated for these supports.

Every child deserves well-designed learning environments — with natural light and thoughtful layouts. Proposals like a bright, curved-wall cafeteria or new, accessible, secure entryways at FMS and HHS reflect sound planning. Though I share concerns about microplastics, the selective use of turf on only two of seven fields strikes a balance. Our current fields are often unusable, and denying this option won't stop play on these surfaces — it just increases emissions from travel to other villages.

Past generations left us iconic public spac-

es — Chemka Pool with its artful mid-mod design; the acquisition of Hillside Woods; the Harmon Community Center, with its own double-height wall of windows; our sacred library, built of quality materials and a full façade of glass — bold investments reflecting our shared public values. Let's continue that legacy. Vote "yes" — for durable, inspiring schools and a thriving Hastings future.

CASSANDRA SWEET  
Hastings

Continued on page 16

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Opinion

*PTSA supports budget and capital reserve proposition for Irvington School District*

To the Editor:

The Irvington PTSA encourages members of our local and school community to vote in favor of the Irvington Union Free School District (IUFSD) 2025-26 Budget and Capital Reserve Spending Proposition on May 20.

With guidance and oversight from our board, and input from parents, our administration has prepared a fiscally responsible and tax-cap-compliant budget designed to support the academic and social-emotional growth of our students.

In addition to the school budget, the May 20 ballot includes a tax-neutral proposition to utilize \$3.95 million from a voter-approved capital reserve established in 2015 to fund the replacement of the district's largest athletic turf field and track after its 10-year lifespan. Unlike a bond, utilizing funds from a capital reserve does not require any borrowing and will not impact the tax levy or tax rate.

The proposition asks voters to approve spending the capital reserve on items including the replacement of the Meszaros

Turf Field and Oley Track, the addition of field lights, and refurbishments to the black-top basketball/play areas at Dows Lane (K-3) and the middle school.

As a community-building organization, we are especially excited about the addition of field lights on our school's largest communal space. Lighted athletic events are a wholesome opportunity to bring students, families, and local residents together to support our student athletes, while building kinship. Why invest in lights now? The required re-

placement of the turf and track is the most cost-effective and efficient opportunity for the installation of lights. Furthermore, 87% of our fellow Section 1 schools have or have been approved for field lights, so we need to level the playing field for our students.

Please head to the polls at Main Street School on May 20 and vote "yes" on the budget (flip the ballot) and vote "yes" on the proposition.

SONAL VASUDEV  
President, Irvington PTSA

*Irvington student calls for passing capital reserve proposition*

To the Editor:

My name is Jayin Sawhney, and I'm an 11th-grader at Irvington High School. I've also been a proud Irvington varsity football team member for three years. My time on the field has taught me valuable lessons about teamwork, determination, and grit. Parents, friends, and alumni cheering us on makes me feel like an integral part of the Irvington community. I also enjoy attending other school sports to support my friends and community. I know folks would appreciate the opportunity to participate in more events if they occur after work hours. I'm thrilled that the district's capital reserve proposition includes installing

permanent, dark-sky-compliant LED lights on our football field.

Playing under the lights at homecoming is genuinely something special. Nothing brings the community together like these nighttime events "under the lights." Almost all Section 1 schools have or will have lights on their fields. How great would it be to have more, well-attended community events in Irvington?

I understand that the proposal to install lights is part of a bigger capital reserve proposition that includes repaving the Dows Lane and middle school basketball courts and much-needed concrete repairs and other school improvements. My friends and I rely on well-maintained community

spaces, like the basketball courts, for recreation, fitness, and camaraderie. School can be tough, but having places to spend time with my friends helps alleviate the stress. These improvements will directly increase Irvington students' quality of life.

My friends and I will graduate in a year, but we hope this capital proposition passes so that our younger siblings and all future Bulldogs can enjoy night games and the enhanced community spaces. We are forever Bulldogs! Please join me in supporting the 2025-26 Irvington school budget and the capital reserve proposition by voting "yes" on Tuesday, May 20.

JAYIN SAWHNEY  
Irvington

Letters backlog

The Rivertowns Dispatch has a backlog of letters to the editor, most about the three Hastings school bond propositions scheduled for June 17.

Letters will be included in upcoming issues of the newspaper as space permits.

No letter is guaranteed publication.

To submit a letter, visit [www.rivertownsdispatch.com/contact-us/](http://www.rivertownsdispatch.com/contact-us/)

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## Sports

EDITED BY ROB DIANTONIO

# Ardsley edges Dobbs Ferry as sectionals loom

## Girls' lacrosse roundup

BY ROB DIANTONIO

With only two seniors on the roster, it took some time for a young Ardsley squad to find a groove, but the Panthers seem to have seized the right moment, with sectionals starting next week.

Ardsley edged host Dobbs Ferry 9-7 on May 12, their second-straight win, and are 5-3 over their last eight contests.

"We played as a team in every moment of the game," Ardsley coach Scott Miele said. "We built off our momentum from successes and had short-term memory if they scored or we turned the ball over. The girls played with confidence and knew they had the tools to win the game."

Juliette An (3G), Anna Gallante (2G), Mairead Gowran (1G, 1A), Krista Kelly (1G), Lily Champion (1G), Hazel McGourty (1G), Lily Tiernan (4A), Lyvia Pulver (2A), and Sienna Kay (11 saves) paced Ardsley.

The Eagles were led by Mary O'Dea (1G, 1A), Hollen Peet (2G, 1A), Ella O'Connor (1G, 2A), Hope McCormack (1G), Molly O'Brien (2G), and Eleni Georgioudakis (8 saves).

Dobbs fell to visiting Nanuet 12-5 on May 10. Megan Hartnett (1G), O'Connor (1G, 2A), Peet (1G), O'Brien (2G), and Georgioudakis (6 saves) contributed.

The Eagles (6-8) rebounded with a 14-4 senior day win over visiting Keio Academy on May 14. McCormack (2G), Jenna Lacey (2G), Ludo Corte (2G), Peet (1G), O'Connor (1G, 1A), O'Dea (1G), Costanza Corte (1G), Georgioudakis (1G), Katherine Baizan (1G), Chloe Hogan (1G), and Josie Caffentzishorn (1G) led the way.

Ardsley (7-8) was scheduled to close the regular season at Sleepy Hollow on May 15.

"Every day we've been improving and it's showing on the field," Miele said. "I feel as if the girls see the progress with their own eyes. They're starting to talk more in prac-



Ardsley's Lily Tiernan splits Dobbs Ferry's Hollen Peet and Molly O'Brien. Photo by Rob DiAntonio.

tice about improvements and then do it in the following set. From witnessing this as a coach, I feel very confident with the group we have."

### Irvington cruises past Hastings

Irvington defeated visiting Hastings 19-6 on May 9.

Sadie McRae (4G, 2A), Isi Doncov (4G, 2A), Alexis Canfin (3G), Sophia Im (1A), Federica Ricciardella (2G), Aly Raimondo (1G, 1A), Tessa McRae (1G, 2A, 6 draw controls), Natalie Rushford (1G), Mia Cantillana (1G), Peyton Clinton (1G), Ella Weiss (1G, 1A), and Sadie Kilbury (8 saves) sparked

the Bulldogs.

Leading the way for Hastings were Mila Angoff (2G), Alina Abrams (1G, 1A), Sophia Ballard (1G), Sienna Radley (1G, 1A), Michaela Heinlein (1G), and Teresa Kalaj (14 saves).

Hastings coach Shaun Mullen commended Kalaj, who has over 100 saves on the season. As a senior, Kalaj is playing goalie for the first time and her "commitment to the team and her support of other players has been amazing," Mullen said. He added that she has "shown both leadership and fortitude throughout the season."

The Yellow Jackets lost to visiting Sleepy

Hollow 19-9 on May 12. Angoff (5G), Ballard (2G), Abrams (1G), Radley (1G), and Kalaj (3 saves) contributed.

Irvington edged visiting Eastchester 12-10 on May 12. Sadie McRae (4G, 3A), Doncov (1G, 3A), Raimondo (2G, 1A, 5DC), Ricciardella (2G), Tessa McRae (1G), Weiss (1G), Canfin (1G), and Cantillana (10 saves) led the way.

The Bulldogs (11-4) fell to host Tappan Zee 13-12 in overtime on May 14. Sadie McRae (3G), Raimondo (4G, 4A, 6DC), Doncov (3G, 2A), Canfin (1G, 7DC), Im (1G), Cantillana (4 saves), and Kilbury (3 saves) sparked the team.

# Broccoli scores 100th career goal in 18-10 victory versus Nanuet

## Boys' lacrosse roundup

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Dobbs Ferry senior Jake Broccoli has a knack for finding the back of the net. Broccoli buried his 100th career goal in an 18-10 win over visiting Nanuet on May 10. He finished with six goals and four assists.

"Jake is a special player with special talent," Eagles coach Drew Maier told the Dispatch. "His greatest qualities are his toughness and tenacity. His willingness to absorb contact and commit

himself to scoring a goal is a lot of fun to watch. My assistant, coach [Mike] Meagh, and I always say that he becomes like a pit bull when he senses that he might be able to reach the goal."

Maier added that Broccoli, a team captain, did not see much playing time as a freshman but worked at his craft to develop as a player and turn into the team's leading scorer.

Jackson Kearns (5G, 4A), Ryan Mohl (4G), Dylan Ravage (1G, 1A), Killian O'Connor (1G), Ren Orkin (first varsity goal), James Pessin (10 ground balls), Kevin Hartnett (3 GBs, 2 caused

turnovers), and Kola Rukaj (16 saves) stuffed the stat sheet.

The Eagles fell to 6-7 when they lost to host Croton-Harmon 18-9 on May 12. Broccoli (4G) and Kearns (2G, 1A) led the team.

Dobbs was scheduled to host Haldane on May 15, travels to Pleasantville on May 17, and closes the regular season when it hosts North Salem on May 19.

"We're in search of some consistency," Maier admitted. "We haven't been able to string together back-to-back wins since the first couple

of weeks of the season. We're still very young on defense, so we're working on gaining experience — learning, and winning, all at the same time. We've made a lot of progress from the beginning of the season and will continue to work hard until our season is over."

### Irvington's Zinman nets game winner

Irvington junior Alex Zinman scored the decisive goal in overtime on a feed from fellow junior Nick Grados to propel the Bulldogs to a 12-11

*Continued on page 19*



# Eagles defeat Bulldogs 5-3 and 16-2 in doubleheader

## Softball roundup

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Dobbs Ferry's lineup was unusually quiet through the first few innings of the second game of a doubleheader at rival Irvington on May 13.

The game was tied 2-2 in the top of the fourth when the Eagles erupted for 10 runs and went on to win 16-2 in six innings.

"We all just had to be there for each other, pick each other up, and pass the bat along," Eagles senior Maysin Kannapin said. "Everyone needs to do their job. I think this year we have a stacked lineup up and down. We have power, speed, and we can bunt. We all trust in each other and we're all best friends."

The Eagles were led by Nicolette Giorgio (2-5, double, 5 RBIs), Kannapin (2-2, double, 3 RBIs, 3 walks), Alexa Vicchio (2-2), Abby Dann (3-4, double, 2 RBIs), Gianna Stone (2-3, RBI), Emily Marron (home run), Maddie Piacentino (RBI double), Kamryn Addis (RBI, 3 walks), and Victoria Baron (2-4, 2 RBIs, win, 6 innings, 5 strikeouts, 4 hits).

Madison Maldonado (double, RBI), Nia Kilbury (double, run), and Kayla Clinton (run) led the Bulldogs.

The Eagles also defeated the Bulldogs 5-3 in the first game, which was a continued contest from May 8 and Dobbs' senior game.

Kannapin went 2 for 3 with a double and



Dobbs Ferry's Maysin Kannapin recorded the 150th hit of her career. Photo by Rob DiAntonio.

two RBIs. She also recorded her 150th career hit. Piacentino (2-3, 3 RBIs), Vicchio (RBI), Stone (hit), and Addis (hit, scored game-winning run) also contributed offensively. Baron got the win in relief. She pitched 2.2 innings, allowed two hits, and struck out three.

Irvington was paced by Aniya Walker (2-3, RBI), Maldonado (2-3, double, RBI), Clinton (2-3, run), Ashley Shapiro (run), Chloe Swift (run), and Kilbury (6 innings, 3 strikeouts).

Following a six-game winning streak, the Bulldogs (6-9) have lost seven consecutive games.

"They finished strong in the continuation game," Irvington coach James Madison said. "In the second game, we get to the fourth inning and something happens and they go flat. But they're good kids and we're young. Next year we'll be a lot better. We're on a tough losing streak, but we've improved our record from last year, so I'm happy."

Dobbs Ferry (10-7) lost to host Rye Neck 13-2 on May 10. Addis (2-2, RBI), Marron (triple), and Baron (6 innings, 2 earned runs, 9 strikeouts) were key contributors.

Hastings bested visiting Irvington 10-4 on senior day on May 11. Seniors Kylie Vulpone and Abby Foster each drove in two runs. Lola Norlander (4-4, double, 3 RBIs), Sophia Pereira (2 doubles, RBI), and Abby Weiss (2-3, triple, RBI) also had big days.

Clinton went 2 for 4 with two RBIs and a run scored to lead the Bulldogs. Kilbury had a hit and scored twice.

The Yellow Jackets (13-5) dropped a pair of league games to Albertus Magnus, falling 14-2 on May 12, and 13-0 on May 13. In the first game, Lexie Schurr had two RBIs.

Hastings and Dobbs Ferry will meet for

their second league game on May 16, with the Eagles hosting. The Jackets won the first meeting, 4-3, on May 7. It is the final game of the regular season for the squads, who are both at the top of the Class B standings heading into sectionals, which start on May 23.

"I'm really excited," Kannapin said of the upcoming playoffs. "I think I'm the most confident this year with our team. We all love each other, we're all best friends, and that's what's going to get us far."

## Panthers win three games

Ardsey improved to 12-5 with a shutout win over host Rye Neck (5-0, May 8), and two league victories over Edgemont, winning 4-3 on May 12, and 21-4 on May 13.

Against Rye Neck, Sofia Haber (win, 7 innings, 11 strikeouts, 2 RBIs), Haley Albano (2 RBIs, double), Sofia Vaccaro (double, run), Mia King (2-2), and Emma Philp (2-4, double) led the team.

In the first game against Edgemont at home, Haber (win, 7 innings, 14 strikeouts, 4 hits), Bella Feldman (4 RBIs), Albano (double, run), Morgan Doherty (double), and Philp (2 runs) sparked the Panthers.

In the second meeting on the road, Haber (win, 5 innings, 8 strikeouts, 4 hits), Feldman (4-5, 2 RBIs, 2 runs), King (3-4, double, 3 RBIs), Albano (2-4, 2 RBIs, 3 runs), and Philp (2-2, 2 RBIs, 4 runs) were key contributors.

# Hastings splits pair with Briarcliff and then sweeps Dobbs Ferry

## Baseball roundup

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Heading into the postseason with confidence is always a positive thing.

Hastings' baseball team has won four of its last five games, including a league series split with Briarcliff and league sweep of Dobbs Ferry to conclude the regular season with an 11-9 record.

The Yellow Jackets and the Bears are both at the top of the Section 1 Class B standings, so the series was a strong measuring stick for the team. The opening round of the Class B sectionals is slated for May 19.

"I feel good," Hastings coach Dom Cecere said when asked to evaluate how his team is playing heading into the sectionals. "We started off very slowly at the beginning of the season, so at this point we know how to be competitive. We're starting a new season, which is the playoffs. In B, with only about eight teams, it's an open field. Any team could beat any team."

Hastings defeated Briarcliff in the first game on the road, 2-1, on May 10, and dropped the rematch, 5-0, at home on May 12.

Nathan Krapf pitched a gem to earn the win in the first meeting. He went 6.2 innings, struck out 10 batters, and allowed just three hits. "He was phenomenal," Cecere said. Jackson Acree got the final out to close the game.

The Jackets took an early lead on the strength of Kieran McGrath's solo home run in the top of

the first. Briarcliff tied the game up at 1-1, but Julius Stephens broke up the tie with a solo homer for the game-winning run in the sixth inning.

In the second meeting, Andrew Rizzo had a double, while Avi Rothstein and Matt Corbo each added one hit. But Hastings was shut down overall by the Bears' staff.

"When we did make contact, most of the time they made the plays," Cecere said. "We didn't make all the plays, but they still crossed two runs that were earned. We just didn't get the runs that we needed today."

Hastings defeated visiting Dobbs Ferry 5-0 in five innings on May 8 and bested the host Eagles 12-6 on May 13.

In the first contest, Drew Ciszewski (win, 7 strikeouts, 0 earned runs), Acree (2-3, 2 RBIs), Stephens (2 RBIs), Corbo (2 runs), and Rizzo (run) led the team.

Luc Maass went 2 for 3 for the Eagles. Jake Evan had one hit.

In the second game, Krapf (4.2 innings, win, 7 strikeouts), Aidan Curtis (save, 2.1 innings, 6 strikeouts, RBI), McGrath (2-4, 3 runs, 3 steals), Acree (double, run), Johnny Sbrega (1-2, 2 runs), Rothstein (double, 2 RBIs), Corbo (2-5, 2 RBIs, run), Stephens (2 runs, RBI), and Charlie Richardson (double, 3 RBIs) paced the Jackets.

Leading Dobbs Ferry were Matt Rodriguez (2-3, 2 doubles, 3 RBIs), Logan Sullivan (2-3, R), Maass (2-4, RBI, run), Evan (RBI), and Sam Sellitti (RBI).



Hastings' Andrew Rizzo hustles to third base. Photo by Rob DiAntonio.

The Eagles (6-13) lost road games to host Westlake (7-2, May 10) and Bronxville (4-0, May 11), but recorded an 11-1 win over visiting Tuckahoe on May 12.

In the loss to Westlake, Sellitti pitched 4.2 innings of six-hit ball. He allowed two earned runs and struck out seven. Jack Mastin (1-3, run), Brendan Marron (1-2, run), Evan (1-3, RBI), and

Will Kelly (RBI) led the offense.

In the win over Tuckahoe, Maass pitched four innings of five-hit ball and allowed one earned run. He struck out four. He also went 4 for 4 with two doubles and three RBIs.

Sullivan pitched two innings, allowing two hits and no runs. He struck out four. He also had an RBI and scored twice. Colin Dubilier doubled, had an RBI, and scored two runs. Sullivan and Carter Rowland each had an RBI.

## Ardsey and Irvington split series

Irvington shut out host Ardsley 4-0 on May 8, but the Panthers rebounded with an 18-8 win over the host Bulldogs on May 11 as the teams split the league series.

In the first game, Massimo Ferrari and Ethan Walter each drove in a run for Irvington. Scott Edwards (3-4, triple, RBI) and Sawyer Chalsen (2-3, 2 RBIs) led the team in the rematch.

In the second game, Ardsley's offense was led by Steven Degree (4-5, 3 RBIs), Drew Herrick (2-4, 3 runs, 2 RBIs), Nate Caldara (3-3, 3 RBIs, 3 runs), Mike DePasquale (3-5, 2 RBIs), Leo Blank (2 RBIs), Will Liu (2 runs), Justin Jaeger (2-4, RBI, 3 runs), Kelvin Almonte (2 RBIs), and Nate Moskowitz (2-5, RBI, 3 runs).

The Bulldogs (4-14) lost both games of a league series to Albertus Magnus, falling 11-4 on May 10 at home and 14-3 on May 12 on the road. Edwards drove in a run in the first game. Brian Kim had an

*Continued on page 19*



# Dobbs Ferry upsets short-handed Ardsley

## Flag football roundup

BY ROB DIANTONIO

In its inaugural flag football season, Dobbs Ferry is heading into sectionals with momentum. In the latest of the Eagles three consecutive wins, they upset a shorthanded Ardsley squad, defeating the visiting Panthers 25-6 on May 10.

"We've had a lot of good senior leadership and juniors stepping up," Dobbs Ferry coach Vinny Garofalo said. "It's really been a collective effort. For a first-year program, things are coming together and we just look forward to continuing to grow."

It was a defensive struggle in the first half as the lone score came on a Leia Brandon interception, which she returned 15 yards for a touchdown to send the Eagles into halftime with a 6-0 lead.

Dobbs Ferry scored three touchdowns in the second half to pull away. Junior quarterback Mya Ustares rushed for touchdowns of 12 and 4 yards. Brandon added a 15-yard rushing touchdown. Ustares connected with senior captain Ella Moon for the extra point on Brandon's touchdown.

Ardsley, which was without quarterback Joie Levy and a few other key players, scored its touchdown on a pass from Elise O'Brien to Maya Lubell.

The Panthers (10-3) lost to visiting Hendrick Hudson 40-0 on May 8 but defeated



Dobbs Ferry's Leia Brandon tries to elude Ardsley's Maya Lubell. Photo by Rob DiAntonio.

host Bronxville 14-7 on May 7. In the win over Bronxville, Levy rushed for a 65-yard touchdown and connected with Dylan Paley on a touchdown pass.

Ardsley received the No. 2 seed in the Section 1 Class C playoffs. The Panthers earned a bye into the semifinals and will host the winner between No. 3 Bronxville and No. 6 Dobbs on May 21.

The Eagles, who finished the regular sea-

son with a 6-9 record, defeated host Hudson River 20-0 on May 8. Brandon rushed for a 15-yard touchdown. Isha Bindra returned an interception 30 yards for a score. Ustares found Moon on a 36-yard touchdown pass. Ustares connected with Mika Teller and Brooke Perri for extra points.

Sixth-seeded Dobbs Ferry will travel to No. 3 Bronxville for the Section 1 Class C quarterfinals on May 17.

## Boys' lacrosse

Continued from page 17

win over host Blind Brook on May 9.

Zinman (3G, 5A, 19/27 face-offs), Grados (3G, 4A), Liam Wade (4G), and Harrison Malakoff (17 saves) led the way.

The Bulldogs' record fell to 9-4 after a 10-8 loss to host Harrison on May 13. Grados (4G, 2A), Bowie Frank (2G, 2A), Zinman (4A), and Saxon Frank (2G) sparked the team.

## Ardsley ends slide with win

Ardsley ended a nine-game losing streak with a 13-10 victory over host Pawling on May 13.

Liam Gallante (4G, 2A), Shahz Naqvi (2G), Tristen Roberts (3G, 1A), Noah Laglenne (3G), Tyler DeCosta (2A), Conor Linehan (1A), and Jackson Rosenfeld paced the team.

The Panthers (2-10) lost to host New Rochelle 8-6 on May 10.

## Hastings drops a pair

Hastings (2-13) lost home games to Tuckahoe (7-3, May 12) and New Rochelle (13-0, May 13).

## Baseball

Continued from page 18

RBI in the second meeting and Edwards doubled.

Ardsley (7-13) lost both games of a league series to Nanuet, falling 10-0 on the road on May 12 and 13-8 at home on May 13.

In the second game, Caldara (2 RBIs, 2 runs), Almonte (RBI), DePasquale (2-3, 2 RBIs, 2 runs), Blank (RBI), Danny Hecceg (RBI), and Herrick (2-4, RBI) sparked the offense.



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