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Ardsley schools mourn  
loss of two staff members  
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**Joy of Connections**  
Journalist and icon  
address loneliness  
p 11

Vol 1. Issue 34.

May 9, 2025

# RIVERTOWNS Dispatch

Local News,  
Locally Sourced  
~

\$2<sup>50</sup>

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



Dr. Stephen Kelly, Janet Kelly, John Tessitore, Mayor Vincent Rossillo, Village Trustee Jessica Galen, and Village Trustee Christy Knell during the ribbon-cutting.

## Court spotlights mental health

### Foundation and Village team up at Memorial Park

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL  
DOBBS FERRY — The basketball court at Memorial Park boasts fresh paint and a new bold design, part of the ongoing campaign to support mental health and honor the memory of a young man who battled obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD).

The late John Kelly, who lived in Irvington and attended elementary and middle school in Dobbs Ferry, is the namesake of the John Cleaver Kelly (JCK) Foundation, which spearheaded the Memorial Park project.

On Sunday, May 4, Dobbs Ferry Mayor Vincent Rossillo joined Kelly's parents, Dr.

Stephen and Janet Kelly, and their granddaughter, John's niece Anna, as they collectively cut the ribbon on the court that now bears John's name.

"I'm so happy to realize that so many children just like John, who grew up here, will be able to play at this beautiful court and look out on our beautiful Hudson River," Stephen Kelly said during a speech before the ribbon cutting.

John Kelly died in 2011, one week short of his 25th birthday, after struggling for years with OCD. The JCK Foundation is run by his friend John Tessitore, 35, who also has OCD and attended Dobbs Ferry elementary and middle schools, and considers his late friend a mentor. Each year Tessitore trav-

els around the country and internationally to promote educational programming, research, and advocacy in schools, businesses, and communities. The Foundation has been hosting the annual John Cleaver Kelly Legends Softball Tournament in Dobbs Ferry and Irvington since 2011, conducting at least part of the event's activities at Memorial Park.

The court, resurfaced last year, was then repainted to include the JCK Foundation logo at center court; John Kelly's signature; the words "Legends Court"; and the phrase "You Are Not Alone" in big, bold letters across the sideline.

Three years ago, Kevin Farrington, a close

*Continued on page 4*

## Villages win long-term funding for forest

BY TIM LAMORTE

REGION — Efforts to restore forests in the Rivertowns will soon receive hundreds of thousands of dollars in federal, state, and local funds.

The latest grants, from New York State, were announced by Gov. Kathy Hochul on Arbor Day, April 25. As part of the State's new Community Reforestation (CoRe) program, Hastings was awarded \$356,511 for 88 acres of Hillside Woods and Park, while Irvington was awarded \$382,316 for the 259-acre Irvington Woods.

Sixteen grants were announced, totaling \$15 million, which consists of \$7.4 million for municipalities, \$5.3 million for non-profits, and \$1.7 million for the State University of New York. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) administers the CoRe program, which supports the State's plan to plant 25 million trees by 2033.

Both Hillside Woods and the Irvington Woods suffer from depleted understories caused by an overpopulation of deer that

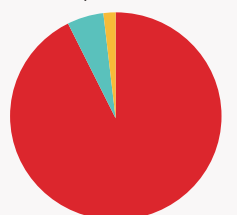
*Continued on page 4*

### — You Answered —

**If money were no object,  
would you buy a Tesla right now?**

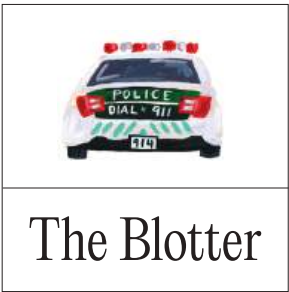
As answered by 216 readers of  
the Rivertowns Dispatch

92% No  
6% Yes  
2% Don't Know



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





The Blotter

DOBBS FERRY

**Assault arrest:** A 64-year-old Dobbs Ferry resident was arrested for hitting his 59-year-old roommate outside their home on the morning of Wednesday, April 30. He was charged with assault in the third degree, a misdemeanor.

**Theft of parking sticker:** A Dobbs Ferry resident reported that the waterfront parking sticker was stolen from her 2018 Toyota RAV4 at an unknown location between Friday, April 25, and Thursday, May 1.

**Waterfront mischief:** Building windows, as well as sculptures and a van, were vandalized on the property west of the

train tracks at Hudson River Landing, 145 Palisade St., on the evening of Thursday, May 1. Four unidentified individuals were recorded by a security camera at 11 p.m. The damage included the van's driver's-side mirror and window as well as a passenger-side tire.

**Grand larceny arrest:** A 32-year-old resident of upstate Selkirk surrendered to the Dobbs Ferry Police Department, which had a warrant for his arrest, on the morning of Saturday, May 3. The warrant was issued in March 2024 after a Dobbs Ferry resident reported in January of that year that she had paid the defendant \$3,750 to start remodeling her kitchen, which never happened. The defendant was charged with grand larceny in the third degree, a felony.

**Suspended registration:** A 24-year-old Bronx resident was arrested for a suspended vehicle regis-

tration, a misdemeanor, on Hamilton Street on the evening of Sunday, May 4.

HASTINGS

**Suspended license:** A 37-year-old Yonkers resident was arrested for a suspended driver's license, a misdemeanor, after he ran a stop sign while southbound on Farragut Avenue, at Olinda Avenue, on the evening of Saturday, May 3.

**Strangulation arrest:** A 51-year-old Hastings resident was arrested on May 4 for choking his 32-year-old roommate at their home on the evening of Saturday, May 3. He was charged with strangulation in the second degree, a felony, and remanded to the Westchester County Jail.

IRVINGTON

**Suspended license:** A 28-year-old Yonkers resident was arrested for a suspended driver's license, a misdemeanor, after he hit

a wall at the intersection of South Broadway (Route 9) and Ardsley Avenue East on the morning of Wednesday, April 23.

**Unauthorized purchases:** On April 25, an Irvington resident reported that her Bank of America card was used for unauthorized purchases totaling \$2,462 between Feb. 23 and March 10.

**Suspended license:** A 28-year-old resident of Scranton, Pennsylvania, was arrested for a suspended New York State driver's license, a misdemeanor, on South Broadway at Ardsley Avenue West on the evening of Wednesday, April 30.

**Hit-and-run arrest:** A 29-year-old Irvington resident was arrested for a suspended driver's license, a misdemeanor, and cited for leaving the scene of a property damage auto accident, a violation, after she hit a vehicle parked on South Eckar Street on the morning of Saturday, May 3.

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ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ORKIN LEWIS



# Local Curiosities

— FOUR QUESTIONS WITH —

## Susan Dominus *For this book, I defined success as people who overcame some obstacle.'*

BY JANINE ANNETT

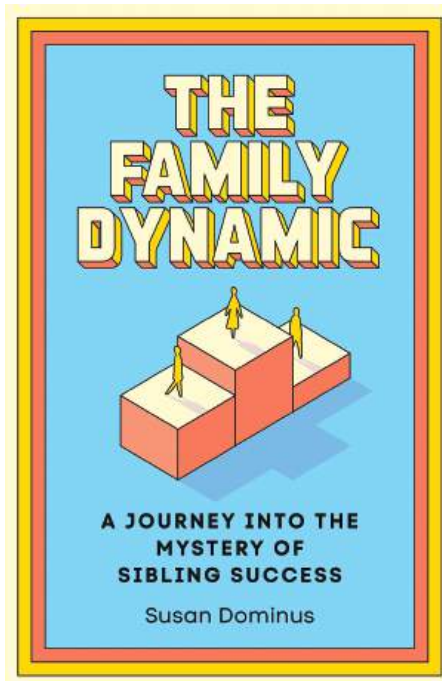
Hastings resident Susan Dominus is an award-winning journalist (a team Pulitzer Prize in 2018, a Front Page Award from the Newswomen's Club of New York, and a Mychal Judge Heart of New York Award from the New York Press Club) who's worked for The New York Times since 2007 as a Metro columnist and a staff writer for the Sunday Magazine. Dominus and her husband, Alan Burdick, who is also a writer (and an editor on the Health and Science desk at The New York Times), raised twin boys, now 18 years old, in Hastings.

On May 6, Penguin Random House published Dominus' first book, "The Family Dynamic: A Journey Into the Mystery of Sibling Success," in which she takes a look at six families with multiple children who have achieved extraordinary levels of accomplishment. Dominus endeavors to find the factors that led to such outcomes from siblings, who often took different paths.

### *How would you describe your subject?*

It's a book about families that have unusual numbers of siblings who reach the top of the ladder of success. I'm always very quick to say that it's not a how-to book. People may find takeaways from it, but I think it's much more a narrative exploration of the nature of family and also, to some degree, the nature of success.

I've wanted to write this book ever since I was a kid. I was always interested in families where this phenomenon happened. My parents traveled a lot for work, so I would go stay with other families. When you actually live with another family for a week or two, you really see how different family cultures can breed different expectations, different values, and different aspirations.



*Although you said this isn't a how-to book, based on what you found while writing it, what would you say to other parents to encourage their children to be successful?*

I think one of the common themes came down to knowing your child and what motivates your child. For example, if a parent wants to encourage their children to take math classes, often they don't really know what to say when a kid says, "Why should I take math? I'm not going to be a mathematician." There's research that suggests parents connect it back to something that the child cares about. Instead of saying, "You need to take AP math because that's going to get you into college," the parent could say, "You need to take AP math because you need your math skills to be strong. When you're a professional soccer player, which is your life's dream, you're going to want to be able to manage your own finances."

I think it's about setting expectations at the right level. Your expectations need to be high enough that your child is encouraged to push himself or know that you believe in her, but not so high that it creates stress because you've set an unrealistic goal.

*Do you think there's anything that parents*



Photo by Audrey deWys

*shouldn't do if they want their children to be successful?*

I think nothing good ever comes from forcing your kid to do something that kid does not want to do. When parents intervene too much, it's extremely demotivating for the kids. I think the idea we sometimes have that if our child is not at the top of the academic pyramid that we have failed is not true. You have to separate your own ego from your child's accomplishments.

*How would you define success, and what were some of the factors that contributed to your own success in life?*

Success is all relative. For this book, I defined success as people who overcame some obstacle. I wasn't interested in people who came from privileged backgrounds, and then went on to get lucrative jobs at banks. I was interested in trailblazers. I was interested in civil rights activists. I was interested in artists. It was very idiosyncratic to some degree.

The single biggest thing that contributed to my success is that my parents were able to pay for my college. So I came out of school, and I

wasn't in debt. I had choices, and I was free to pursue what I really wanted to pursue. I'll always be grateful to them for that. Also, they were extremely hardworking people, and hard work in our family was definitely not something that anybody shied away from.

I was drawn to one thing, which was reading and writing — I pretty much did that, to the exclusion of developing a lot of other skills. In my career, I worked very hard and I learned at the feet of really great people. I had desire and I put in the hours, but also, I was lucky. One of the things I emphasize a lot in this book is the role of luck. People need to acknowledge the role of luck in their lives.

*Susan Dominus will read from and discuss her book at the Hastings Public Library on Thursday, May 29, as part of the "Local Luminaries" series.*

Buy your copy of this local author's book at Picture Book:  
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Forest grants

Continued from page 1

devour native vegetation, and by the proliferation of invasive shrubs, trees, and vines. That issue was outlined in forest management plans that LBS Ecological of upstate Brooktondale produced for the Village of Hastings in 2018, at a cost of \$29,500, and for the Village of Irvington in 2022, at a cost of \$21,760. Both plans were funded by grants from the DEC.

The Villages’ CoRe grant applications call for hiring an arborist and a contractor in 2025, removing invasives in 2026, planting natives in 2027, and then monitoring and maintaining the new natives twice a year in 2028, 2029, and 2030, all of which will be funded by the grant. Hastings and Irvington will then pay

for monitoring and maintenance from 2031-40.

Both grant applications include an estimate from arborist Miguel Berrios of LBS Ecological for managing the project (\$28,751 for Hastings and \$28,906 for Irvington); an estimate from Artem Treyger of AMRO Forestry of upstate Whitney Point for removing invasives and planting natives (\$305,400 for Hastings and \$331,050 for Irvington); a \$6,120 estimate from LBS for annual monitoring and maintenance; and a \$4,000 estimate from Fiona Matthew of The Fiona Company of Sleepy Hollow for administering the grant.

For the Irvington Woods, the Village will also be reimbursed up to \$112,652 as part of a \$433,275 federal grant announced last fall that includes \$285,961 for Hastings and \$34,662 for Dobbs Ferry.

In Hastings, that grant applies to Draper, Riverview, and Quarry parks, as well as the Rowley’s Bridge Trail and the Hubbard Extension. Hastings plans to start by removing invasive trees and planting native trees at Quarry Park. In Dobbs Ferry, the grant applies to Gould, Memorial, and Waterfront parks.

The federal funds will be administered by the nonprofit American Forests, based in Washington, D.C., and supplied by the Urban and Community Forestry Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service.

The Irvington Woods will also receive an injection of at least \$25,000 for planting and maintaining a swamp milkweed and native plant meadow adjacent to the Hermit’s Wetland, and for supporting work by the nonprofit Greater Irvington Land Trust

(GILT) and the Village of Irvington Woods Committee on pollinator-related research, monitoring, education, curriculum development, and public outreach.

Last month, GILT was awarded a \$16,000 grant for that project from the New York Pollinator Conservation Fund. The project will also receive \$3,000 from GILT, \$2,500 from the Village of Irvington, and at least \$3,000 in private donations raised by GILT.

The New York Pollinator Conservation Fund is a \$2.5 million program administered by the New York Community Trust, using funds the New York State Attorney General secured in 2023 in a \$6.9 million settlement with Bayer CropScience LP and Monsanto over alleged false and misleading claims about the safety of certain Roundup brand consumer herbicides.

JCK Foundation

Continued from page 1

friend of John Kelly’s and a Dobbs Ferry High School Class of 2004 alum who is on the Foundation’s board of directors, was one of the first voices in a chorus of Dobbs Ferry residents who encouraged the JCK Foundation to take on the refurbishment of the Memorial Park basketball court. In April 2024, an anonymous donor gave the Foundation \$40,000 toward the cause. Last June, the Dobbs Ferry Board of Trustees unanimously voted to match the donation to complete the project.

“We do the [Legends Day] event here every summer so it was getting a little old, so we were like maybe we can work with the Village to come up with an idea,” Farrington said. “I thought we were going to resurface it, but we came up with these logos and it came out pretty cool.”

“It’s way more than a basketball court,” Tessitore added. “It’s more of a place where people can hopefully get help when they least expect it. Sometimes that help is going to be in the form of therapy in basketball. Just playing with your friends, shooting with your best friend while the sun is setting.”

After the ribbon cutting, multiple genera-

tions of Dobbs Ferry residents, including close friends of John Kelly, christened the court with a game of the basket-shooting competition “knockout.” Attendees also inscribed a special JCK Foundation basketball with encouraging words such as “Asking for help is not a sign of weakness” and “You’re not lost, you’re on your way.” The Foundation and Village have plans to add more to the court, including a plaque with messaging about John and the Foundation, and a banner with a QR code link to resources for mental health support.

“Talk to your friends, check in on everyone, let people know that not only are they not alone, but also we can have these fun times,”

Tessitore said Sunday. “And that’s one of the things we talk about with mental health — the importance of taking the time to do things that you love and enjoy, and hopefully this can be a space where people can do that.”

He added, “If you would’ve told us 14 years ago that we would have a court and group of students from all the different schools that we work with honoring John and honoring the work the Foundation does, I would’ve been like, “That’s exactly what we would’ve hoped for.”

The 15th annual Legends Day Softball Tournament is scheduled for July 19. For more information about the JCK Foundation, visit jckfoundation.org.



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# ARDSLEY

— Coming Up This Week —

## Ardsley Fire Department Wet-Down

Saturday, May 10, 11 a.m.-noon  
Ardsley Fire Department, 505 Ashford Ave.  
Featuring food, entertainment, and the new 2024 Seagrave Engine 165.

## League of Women Voters Hybrid Meeting

Saturday, May 10, 10 a.m.  
Hastings Public Library, 7 Maple Ave.  
To participate by Zoom,  
email [info@lwv-rivertowns.org](mailto:info@lwv-rivertowns.org) for the link.

## Planning Board Meeting

Monday, May 12, 8 p.m.  
Village Hall  
Agenda available at [ardsleyvillage.gov](http://ardsleyvillage.gov).

Senior Safety:  
Personal and Financial Protection  
Tuesday, May 13, 11 a.m.  
Ardsley Public Library  
Register by emailing [peggyw@wlsmail.org](mailto:peggyw@wlsmail.org)

## Senior Event: Fraud and Scam Presentation

Wednesday, May 14, noon  
Ardsley Community Center

## “Oh-So-Fun Game Night”

Friday, May 16, 6 p.m.  
Middle school auditorium  
Trivia, challenges, and prizes for Concord Road students accompanied by an adult.  
Sponsored by Ardsley Community Enrichment PTO  
Visit [my.cheddarup.com/c/crsgameshow](http://my.cheddarup.com/c/crsgameshow) to sign up (\$25 per family) or volunteer.

## Second-Grade Parents Night Out

Friday, May 16, 8-11 p.m.  
The Sailhouse, 23 Green St., Tarrytown  
Hosted by Ardsley Community Enrichment PTO  
Purchase tickets (\$40) at [my.cheddarup.com/c/2ndgradeparentsnight/items](http://my.cheddarup.com/c/2ndgradeparentsnight/items).

## Ardsley AAPI Festival

Saturday, May 17, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
Pascone Park (rain location: middle school gym)  
Celebrate Asian American Pacific Islander Month with live performances, arts and crafts, scavenger hunt with prizes, and storytime.

## Got news?

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



Mayor Nancy Kaboolian swears in Chief John Pignatelli as former chief Anthony Piccolino holds a bible during the board of trustees meeting

# New chief aims ‘to be there for the public’

*Pignatelli commands ‘advice givers, mentors, helping hands’*

BY AMY BOCHNER

For Ardsley’s new police chief, John Pignatelli, law enforcement runs in the family. His older brother is a retired Wallkill police officer, while his younger brother, Frank, is chief of the Irvington Police Department.

“I think all three of us were raised right and honorable, and had big hearts,” Pignatelli, 45, told the Dispatch. “We’ve always been the ones to go out and help or run toward danger.”

At 21, Pignatelli took an interest in law enforcement after hearing stories from his older brother and police officer friends.

What drew him to the field, he said, was dealing with the public, having a mobile job outside of an office, and how “every day was something different.”

After attending Dutchess Community College and the Orange County Police Academy, Pignatelli began his career in Marlboro in 2003, becoming a full-time officer there two years later. In 2012, he joined the Ardsley Police Department. He is a resident of Lloyd, in Ulster County.

“I fell in love with the community here and just the quaintness and the small jurisdiction of it. It wasn’t too big,” he said. “I didn’t want to work in a city or something that was very impersonal. I really wanted to have that family feel with the job and the

municipality that I work in.”

In a small community like Ardsley, he said, an officer’s job is to be “more than just police.”

“We’re here to listen to concerns that might not even involve law enforcement. We’re here to help guide the youth. We’re here for community outreach. We’re here to be involved with all the different cultures that live here in Ardsley, and all the diversification,” he said. “Not only are we police and deal with the day-to-day violations of law, we are also here as community policing, advice givers, mentors, and helping hands to people who need it before it comes into any type of criminal or police matter.”

*Continued on page 15*



## Hand in hand

The Village of Ardsley’s Multicultural, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee hosted its second annual Mitzvah Mixer at Ardsley Middle School on the afternoon of Sunday, May 4. Lauren Daub and Marisa Goldberg led the subcommittee that organized the event, which celebrated the Jewish idea of *tikkun olam*, or repairing the world, and coincided with Jewish American Heritage Month.



ARDSLEY

# Village and Town at odds over property tax penalties for DPW

BY AMY BOCHNER

The property at 220 Heatherdell Road, which currently houses Ardsley's Department of Public Works garage, is the center of a tax dispute between the Village and the Town of Greenburgh. At an April 22 town board work session, Ardsley representatives advocated for waiving fees on the property after an error led to the Village not receiving a tax bill.

The Village bought the site in November 2017, in between tax years. Mayor Nancy Kaboolian told the Dispatch that the Village had been under the impression that "since taxes were adjusted at the date of closing and a deed recorded to the Village, the property became tax-exempt." As of March 31, the taxes, penalties, and interest claimed due under the Town tax lien totals \$143,559.17, of which \$73,633.55 is principal and \$69,903.62 is penalties and interest.

In April of last year, the Village's treasurer noticed two accounts that had tax liens on them, both for 220 Heatherdell Road. Kaboolian stated that the lien notices appeared to be sent to the "Village of Ardsley" at that address in 2017 and to 505 Ashford Avenue, which is the address of the Ardsley Volunteer Fire Department. Ardsley Village Hall is located at 507 Ashford

Avenue. Kaboolian also reported that the Village does not know when these notices happened or when they were postmarked.

On April 5, 2024, she said, the Village's counsel began communication with special tax counsel and the Town's attorney to investigate the matter. Throughout April 2024 to October 2024, the attorney followed up with the Town through emails and telephone conferences.

In November, the counsel forwarded a request for compromise of the penalties and interest pursuant to authority granted under Real Property Tax Law Section (RPTL) 1182. This code refers to a governing body's ability to reduce or cancel interest, penalties, and other charges if it finds that it is in the best interests of the tax district.

Kaboolian said she initiated a request for compromise under RPTL 1182, via email, with the Town Board on Jan. 17 of this year. On March 12, she said she received an email from Town Supervisor Paul Feiner that the Town Board had discussed this and a majority felt that the penalties should not be waived.

On April 22, Kaboolian and Deputy Mayor Steve Edelstein appeared before the Town Board in a work session to ask that they waive the interest and penalties.

At the meeting, Kaboolian acknowledged the Town's obligation to pay its tax debt, while also citing prior incidents in which the board waived interests and fees on taxes owed that were cited to RPTL 1182. She emphasized the lack of financial loss to the Town by waiving these penalties, which have nearly doubled the bill.

"This is a very specific instance that the law very specifically allows one municipality to waive the interest in fees on unpaid taxes for another municipality. That's all we're asking for you to consider," she said. "I hope that, in the interest of good neighborhood, in the interest of working together, that we can come to a resolution... if you waive the interest and fees, it didn't really cost anybody anything, because it wasn't revenue to the Town before... The only people that are going to get hurt by this are the village residents."

Feiner shared his support for waiving the fees.

"It works [to] our advantage to have good working relations with Villages," he said. "We'll get more from waiving the penalties, then if the Village feels the Town isn't making an effort to work with them on this. So I would definitely support this."

Councilwoman Gina Jackson questioned the fairness of waiving fees for

Ardsley, asking, "How can we do that in good conscience, if we can't do it for our own residents?"

Town Attorney Joseph Danko described the different circumstances he's seen in which the Town has waived fees under RPTL 1182.


"Since I've been town attorney, we have done it on four occasions, but in all four instances, they were properties that should not have been taxed in the first place," he said. "Three were owned by African countries, so we inadvertently taxed them... Those were waived for those circumstances. Another was a property in Irvington, which, by way of a stipulation settlement signed by a judge, received a religious exemption. Again, should have never received the tax bills in the first place."

Kaboolian referenced three other incidents in which the Town waived fees, such as in Irvington in 1997, however the circumstances behind these cases are unclear, and Danko said that he will look into them more closely.

Councilman Francis Sheehan expressed concern about setting a precedent.

"We're dealing with law... that says it has to be in the best interest of the taxing district. We have never done an exemption of


*Continued on page 15*



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# DOBBS FERRY

— Coming Up This Week —

## Cult Classic Movie Night: “Dirty Work”

Friday, May 9, 8 p.m.  
Dobbs Ferry Public Library

## League of Women Voters Hybrid Meeting

Saturday, May 10, 10 a.m.  
Hastings Public Library, 7 Maple Ave.  
To participate by Zoom,  
email [info@lwv-rivertowns.org](mailto:info@lwv-rivertowns.org) for the link.

## Free Real Estate Seminar for Sellers

Saturday, May 10, 8 p.m.  
Dobbs Ferry Public Library  
Sign up at [reference@dobbsferrylibrary.org](mailto:reference@dobbsferrylibrary.org).

## Rivertowns for Reproductive Rights: “Appetizers for Access”

Monday, May 12, 4-8 p.m.  
Bloomy Cheese & Provisions, 3 Cedar St.  
Wine-and-cheese fundraiser; \$65 suggested  
donation goes entirely to the  
New York Abortion Access Fund.

## Comedy Open Mic

Tuesday, May 13, 8 p.m.; sign-up starts at 7:30  
Divino’s Speakeasy,  
524 Warburton Ave., Hastings  
Dobbs Ferry Public Library’s Comedy on the  
Hudson events are intended for ages 18 and up.  
One-drink minimum for performers.

## Virtual Town and Gown Literary Discussion Group

Wednesday, May 14, 7 p.m.  
Discuss “Havoc” by Christopher Bollen.  
Email [sbramble@dobbsferrylibrary.org](mailto:sbramble@dobbsferrylibrary.org) to  
register for the Zoom link.

## Readers’ Circle

Thursday, May 15, 2 p.m.  
Waterfront Park (weather permitting)  
Discuss “Tomorrow There Will Be Apricots”  
by Jessica Soffer.  
Register by emailing [reference@dobbsferrylibrary.org](mailto:reference@dobbsferrylibrary.org).

## Storytime at the Keeper’s House

Friday, May 16, 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
15 Walnut St.  
Nature-themed storytime and craft activity  
for ages 2-4

## Got news?

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



Bill and Mary Ford-Sussman

# Concert to support community and a

## Couple brings ‘Songs of Hope’ to historic church

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

This weekend, Dobbs Ferry residents Bill and Mary Ford-Sussman are presenting a night of inspirational Broadway songs and original music called “Songs of Hope: Ring the Living Bell” in support of local nonprofit SPRING Community Partners. All proceeds will go to SPRING, which provides financial assistance for families in Dobbs Ferry, so that children can enjoy opportunities such as summer camp, sports, and more.

The concert, at Zion Episcopal Church in Dobbs, is a smaller version of a performance of the same name featuring some of the same songs and performers that the couple saw in December at Urban Stages’ Winter Rhythms festival in Manhattan.

“We felt the performances spoke directly and intimately to us and filled us with a quiet sense of hope,” Mary told the Dispatch. “And we thought it would be wonderful if our community could enjoy a very similar gathering of artists and songs.”

“For many people right now, what we’re going through has created a sense of uncertainty, whether it’s tariffs, or issues around immigration, loss of jobs,” Bill added. “And the idea here was just to give everybody a sense of hope and a sense of love, and on a very grassroots-level, celebrating our own community through a sense of artistry.”

Bill Ford-Sussman is a 1975 graduate of Dobbs Ferry High School who was born in the village and, after moving away, has lived in Dobbs with his wife, a Minnesota native, for the past 20 years. Bill is a member of SPRING’s board of directors.

Dobbs Ferry’s “Songs of Hope” concert will

feature singers accompanied by piano, acoustic guitar, and bass guitar, and include eight individual performers and groups. Many of the singers, including Marina Pires and Mimi Bessette, have experience acting and singing on Broadway, as does singer/songwriter D.C. Anderson, who curated the concert.

“Some of the songwriters will be singing their own songs,” Mary explained. “If you were really in the Broadway circle you probably would recognize more of them [the songs] because they’re not necessarily from the Broadway shows that everybody knows, but they are shows that are known within the theatrical community. Or they might just be from the Great American Songbook.”

While Bill works as a real estate agent and Mary is a modern dancer, teacher, and choreographer, for more than 40 years they have produced events in the Rivertowns as passion projects. In the 1980s, they helped run a summer theater program for students, and produced variety shows with professional performers that included dance, theater, and music at Tarrytown Music Hall in the ’90s and early 2000s.

“I think the opportunity to be able to curate artists who give a live performance to an audience is a real wonderful opportunity, and a really lovely way to give back to a community,” Bill explained.

“Songs of Hope” will take place at Zion Episcopal, the 191-year-old church where Mary is a former member of the vestry and is still an active member. The concert is not religious, but the Ford-Sussmans consider the setting an appropriate one for songs on the program like “Hope” which, Mary said, reminds listeners that just by making the effort “you’ve already started” to access that feeling. Jason Robert Brown’s lyrics go:

“When life is crazy and impossible to bear/  
It must there/Fear never wins/That’s what  
I hope/See? I said ‘hope.’ The work begins.”

For the audience, Mary anticipated at least “one moment that they will take home and just hold that in their heart because hope, you certainly always need it. We’re rushing around and doing all of these millions of things every day,” so it is a gift to simply “take a moment in a quieter spot in a very historic place where time was slower.”

The couple thought to bring “Songs of Hope” to Dobbs Ferry as a treat for the community without being connected to any other cause, but they realized that it would be a fitting way to raise money for and bring awareness to SPRING. Since 2007, the organization has provided programs for under-resourced families in the village, such as working with the recreation department to provide funding for children to attend day camp, covering the cost of musical instrument rentals, providing school supplies, and working with local nursery schools to provide discounted tuition. SPRING assists more than 260 children in Dobbs Ferry.

“There are families in the Rivertowns and Dobbs Ferry in this case who could really use the extra support,” Bill said. “SPRING provides a super-valuable contribution to many families.”

“We often see a pretty affluent community, but that doesn’t mean there aren’t people that really don’t have enough,” Mary added. “And I think by joining SPRING, they both become more aware of it and also bring more awareness to it.”

“Songs of Hope: Ring the Living Bell” takes place Saturday, May 10, from 7-8:30 p.m. at Zion Episcopal Church, 55 Cedar St., in Dobbs Ferry. Tickets are \$25 and available at [springcommunitypartners.org](http://springcommunitypartners.org).



DOBBS FERRY

New concert series to kick off with a Great Adventure

BY TOM GAMBARDELLA

The HudCo co-working and event space will host a return on Friday, May 16, as former Hastings resident Clare Maloney of Tarrytown and her band, The Great Adventure, headline the first concert of a new series called “HudCo Presents.” For the band, it’s their first full-ensemble show in Westchester in 11 months.

HudCo Presents is the brainchild of Doug Schneider of the Dobbs Ferry, an original member of HudCo, an avocational drummer, and a professional food photographer. Schneider organized three live performances at HudCo in 2019, under the banner “HudCo After Dark,” before the Covid lockdown scuttled the series. The father of three boys had the idea to organize a concert series after moving from New York City to the Rivertowns in 2005 and finding an unexpected community.

“It became apparent that there were lots of really talented musicians in the Rivertowns, but not a lot of venues to play,” Schneider said. “And that was really the drive behind starting a series — that we have so many musicians in the area, many of whom tour regionally or nationally, but there’s nowhere for them to play among their neighbors and community.”

When the time came to start a new concert series, a mutual friend connected Schneider to Maloney, who has been touring nationally for the past year in the lead-up to her band’s sec-



Claire Maloney and The Great Adventure. Photo by Avida Love.

ond album, “Flood, Fire & Honey.” The Great Adventure consists of Nate DeBrine on guitar and vocals, Caleb Estey on drums and vocals, and Russ Gottlieb on bass and electric banjo.

A trained opera singer who spent a decade performing classical music professionally, Maloney said the title of the album was inspired by the scholar Joseph Campbell’s research on “The Hero’s Journey,” a mythological story structure that follows a protagonist from an inciting incident through trials, revelations, and triumphs, until they return home, changed by their experiences. Mythological rock ‘n’ roll came naturally to Maloney, whose

background in opera exposed her to a plethora of compositions with similar inspiration.

When asked how it felt to be performing in the Rivertowns south of the Tappan Zee, Maloney said it was good to be home.

“It feels great... We haven’t played as a full band since the [2024 Sleepy Hollow] music festival, so it’s really exciting,” Maloney said. “And we’ve been on the road, and it’s really special to come back home and not only have new stories to share, but new music as well.”

The May 16 concert will open with a performance by the electronic-ambient rock band Eager Sails, which consists of Sam Stauff, Jer-

emy Scuderi, and Tim Robbins. In addition, there will be a local makers’ market with food vendors and creatives selling their products.

“We’re going to bring in things that only larger venues, typically, would do, and that’s going to create more than just a live music experience,” Schneider said. “It’s going to be an all-encompassing night out where people can come have dinner, we’ll have signature cocktails at the bar, they can buy handmade jewelry and curated items from the Rivertown General store,” a business on Main Street in Dobbs Ferry.

The May 16 concert is the only edition of HudCo Presents scheduled for now. According to Schneider, there’s potential for another concert in June or July, and a list of local bands eager to book a show at HudCo. For her part, Maloney said this won’t be the last performance to promote “Flood, Fire & Honey.”

“I definitely have some plans to have listening parties in the area, maybe for people to come and listen to the record before it’s released,” Maloney said.

Tickets cost \$20 for HudCo members, \$25 for nonmembers, and can be purchased online (<https://tinyurl.com/4eyzjd6w>). Doors will open at 7 p.m., with performances starting at 8 p.m. For more information about Maloney and The Great Adventure, visit [www.claremaloney.com](http://www.claremaloney.com).



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# HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON

— Coming Up This Week —

## Hastings Education Foundation Gala: "HEFchella"

Friday, May 9, 7-11 p.m.

Events at The Mills,

222 Lake Ave., Yonkers

For the lineup of bands, auction items, and tickets (\$135), visit [hastingseducationfoundation.org](https://hastingseducationfoundation.org).

## Villagewide Tag Sale

Saturday, May 10, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Register (\$10) by Thursday, May 8, at [villageofhastings.activityreg.com](https://villageofhastings.activityreg.com).

## League of Women Voters Hybrid Meeting

Saturday, May 10, 10 a.m.

Hastings Public Library

To participate by Zoom, email [info@lwv-rivertowns.org](mailto:info@lwv-rivertowns.org) for the link.

## Hastings Flea

Sunday, May 11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

(rain or shine)

Commuter Lot, Southside Avenue

Outdoor bazaar featuring handmade, vintage, and upcycled clothing, accessories, records, and more.

Visit [thehastingsflea.com](https://thehastingsflea.com).

## Senior Event: Mother's Day Tea

Tuesday, May 13, 12:30 p.m.

James Harmon Community Center

Sign up (\$5) at the community center.

For questions, call 914-478-2380, ext. 644 or email [senioroutreach@hohny.gov](mailto:senioroutreach@hohny.gov).

## Intergenerational Discussion Group: "Perspectives"

Tuesday, May 13, 7-8 p.m.

Hastings Public Library

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

Discuss "A Complete Unknown," the 2024 film about Bob Dylan, at this month's meeting.

## Planning Board Meeting

Thursday, May 15, 7:30 p.m.

Village Hall

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

## Got news?

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



The school district's new rendering of the proposed cafeteria.

# School district clarifies bond voting

## Voters will weigh in on all three propositions

BY AMY BOCHNER

"We're going to count every vote..." Hastings Schools Superintendent William McKersie told the Rivertowns Dispatch following recent confusion about the school bond referendum scheduled for June 17, which will consist of three propositions.

That confusion included misinformation published by the Dispatch on April 11, April 25, and May 2 that voters would need to support the first proposition in order to vote on the second, and then support the second proposition in order to vote on the third.

The May 2 story also included an inaccurate description from district treasurer Maureen Caraballo that voters would need to support the first proposition for their votes on the second to count, and then support

the second proposition for their votes on the third to count.

Voters will be able to vote "yes" or "no" on each proposition. Proposition two is contingent on proposition one passing, while proposition three is contingent on one and two passing. McKersie outlined how the voting will work.

"There are three parts you get to vote on, up to three, and we count all the votes equally," he said. "We're not distinguishing as to whether you voted 'yes' or 'no' on either one, two, or three, and we'll show all the totals. Even if we end up with proposition 1 going down, which means that neither of the other two could pass, we'll still show those counts in the outcome."

McKersie said the school district apologizes for "not being clear" on the procedure.

"We just didn't explain it correctly," he said. "That idea... you only got your vote counted on [proposition] 2 or 3 if you voted

'yes' on the preceding was just inaccurate. Technically, mechanically, it would've been impossible to figure out."

At their May 6 meeting, the school board provided updated renderings of bond projects, including the proposed entryway and cafeteria for the Farragut Complex, and synthetic turf fields for the Burke Estate.

The previous renderings, which predate the final scope of the bond, were part of a space analysis done by PBDW architects last May. The new renderings are more accurate and reflect the materials that will be used, according to school board president Alex Dal Piaz.

At their April 22 meeting, the board announced the creation of a committee to investigate synthetic turf options, with the goal of presenting their findings before the June 17 bond vote. Dal Piaz offered more information on the committee, which met last week.

*Continued on page 15*



## ...and they're off!

The Hastings PTSA hosted a 5K Color Run on the morning of Sunday, May 4, starting and ending at Hillside Elementary School. Colored powder was tossed at participants at multiple points along the 3.1-mile route. The event raised about \$8,000 that student leaders will decide how to use at Farragut Middle School and Hastings High School.



## HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON

# Four candidates vie for two spots on board of education

BY AMY BOCHNER

Four candidates are running for two open seats on the Hasting Board of Education, with one incumbent and three newcomers in the race. The open spots are currently held by Maureen Lennon-Santana, who is seeking a second term, and Sylvia Robles, who is stepping down after one term. The first-time candidates are Elizabeth Adinolfi, Rochelle Nelson, and David Weinstein. Voting takes place on May 20, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., at the high school's Cochran Gym.

### Maureen Lennon-Santana

Lennon-Santana is a 20-year Hastings resident, with a junior at the high school and a junior in college. Throughout her career, she has worked for various departments of the federal government's General Services Administration (GSA), with her current role being in facilities management. Her work with the GSA, she said, has helped her as a board member.

"Navigating a big bureaucracy has come in handy," she said. "You have to listen, ask a lot of questions, and then get the lay of the land, and start to make suggestions, improvements. Understanding people is the most important thing in any organization, because they're the ones that really are how things happen and how really great change happens."

In a second term, she hopes to use her skills

to help the board with capital planning, facilities, and budgeting.

"It's challenging times with the budget side. We barely made it under tax cap this time around," she said. "We are going to have a very hard go next time. There's very little wiggle room whatsoever, and then the bond, which is up for a vote in June. All of that really requires a lot of time, and I feel very invested. [I] would like to continue on both fronts, budget and bond... I feel like I have more to offer in that regard."

### Elizabeth Adinolfi

Adinolfi, a lawyer and 12-year village resident, works for Phillips Nizer LLP, where she specializes in family and adult guardianship matters.

As the mother of two children — one enrolled at FMS and the other at the high school — Adinolfi decided to run for the board after noticing where the district is "falling short."

"I don't think there's necessarily been the close scrutiny to some of the curricula and programs that have been selected, to some of the professional development that's been done," she said. "The primary issue for me is our literacy curriculum, K through 12. I know the problems my kids are having and the problems way too many of my friends' kids are having with needing writing tutors, reading tutors. We shouldn't need to be putting so much extra into our kids to get them

to the level that we see them at."

Her goal as a board member, she said, would be to "question everything."

"I feel like there are too many things where past boards have sort of rubber stamped what the administration brought to them," she said. "My goal is to make sure that if some expert is telling us to do A, B, C, or D, that person really has the expertise to be doing it, that we understand the long-term implications of what we're doing. Yes, [the] board and the administration have to work together, but at the same time, there has to be accountability."

### Rochelle Nelson

Nelson first moved to Hastings in 2016. She relocated briefly to Dobbs Ferry in 2020 before returning to Hastings last year. Her older son is a student at Hillside, while her younger son attends the Goddard School.

Nelson is a tenure-track assistant professor of biology at Queensborough Community College, where she became full-time faculty in 2018. Her research in the field focuses on "the impact of impostor syndrome on the academic performance and mental health of undergraduate students in rigorous disciplines."

Her research guided Nelson to become certified as an academic coach, to better support students, and also influenced her decision to run for the school board.

"As a college professor, I've seen the gaps students bring with them from their earlier schooling — gaps in executive functioning, confidence, and independent learning," she said. "Running for the board of education is my way of helping to bridge those gaps earlier. I believe our students can, and should, leave high school fully equipped to thrive academically and emotionally."

She described what she hopes to accomplish as a board member.

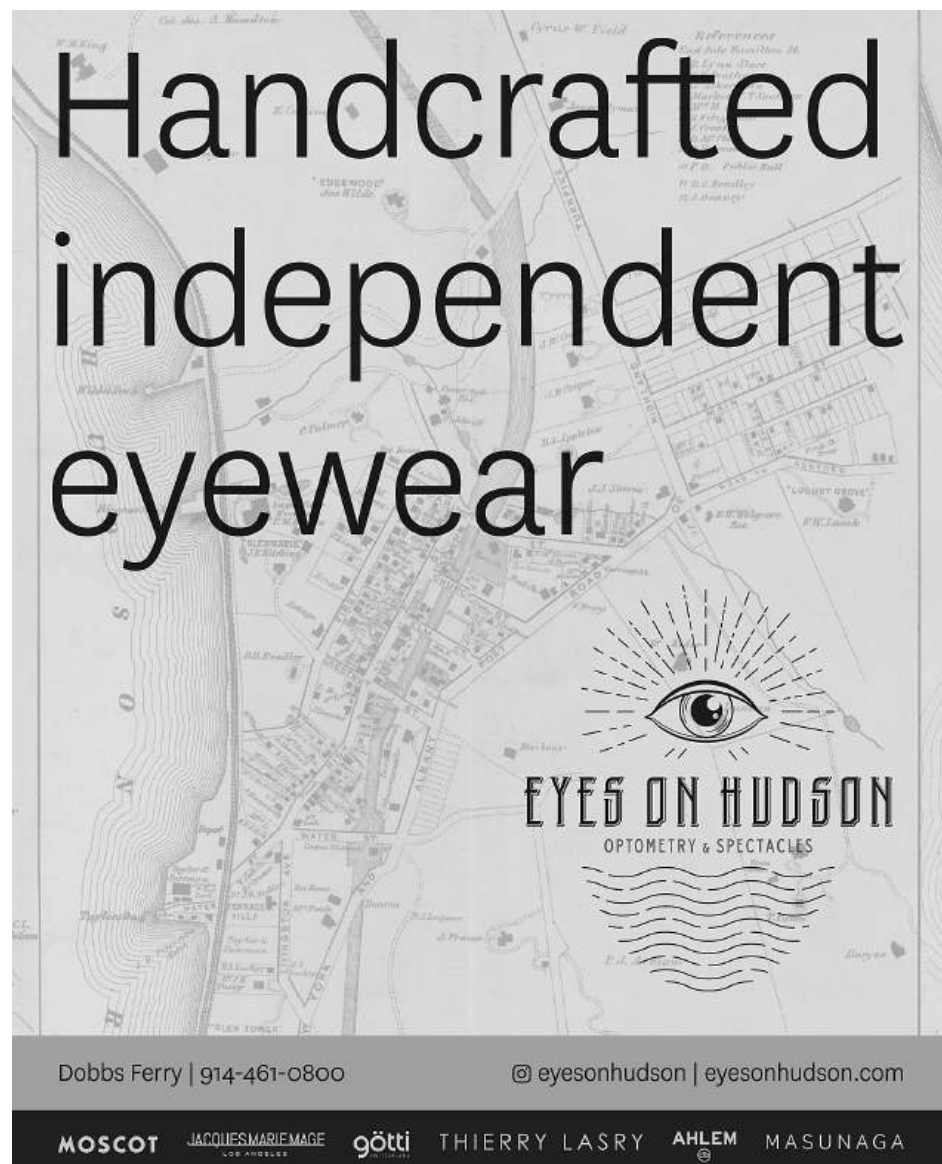
"My goals would include strengthening executive function skill development across all grade levels, increasing access to STEM and research-based learning opportunities, and supporting inclusive practices that ensure every student feels seen and supported," she said. "I also want to explore ways to bring families more meaningfully into the learning process, because I believe that when students feel supported both at home and in school, they thrive."

### David Weinstein

Weinstein grew up in Hastings, graduating in 1996 and returning with his family in 2013. His one child attends Farragut Middle School.

Weinstein is a "producer and director by trade." For the past 10 years, he has worked for various advertising, media, and production companies. His consultancy firm, Downstate Media,

*Continued on page 15*

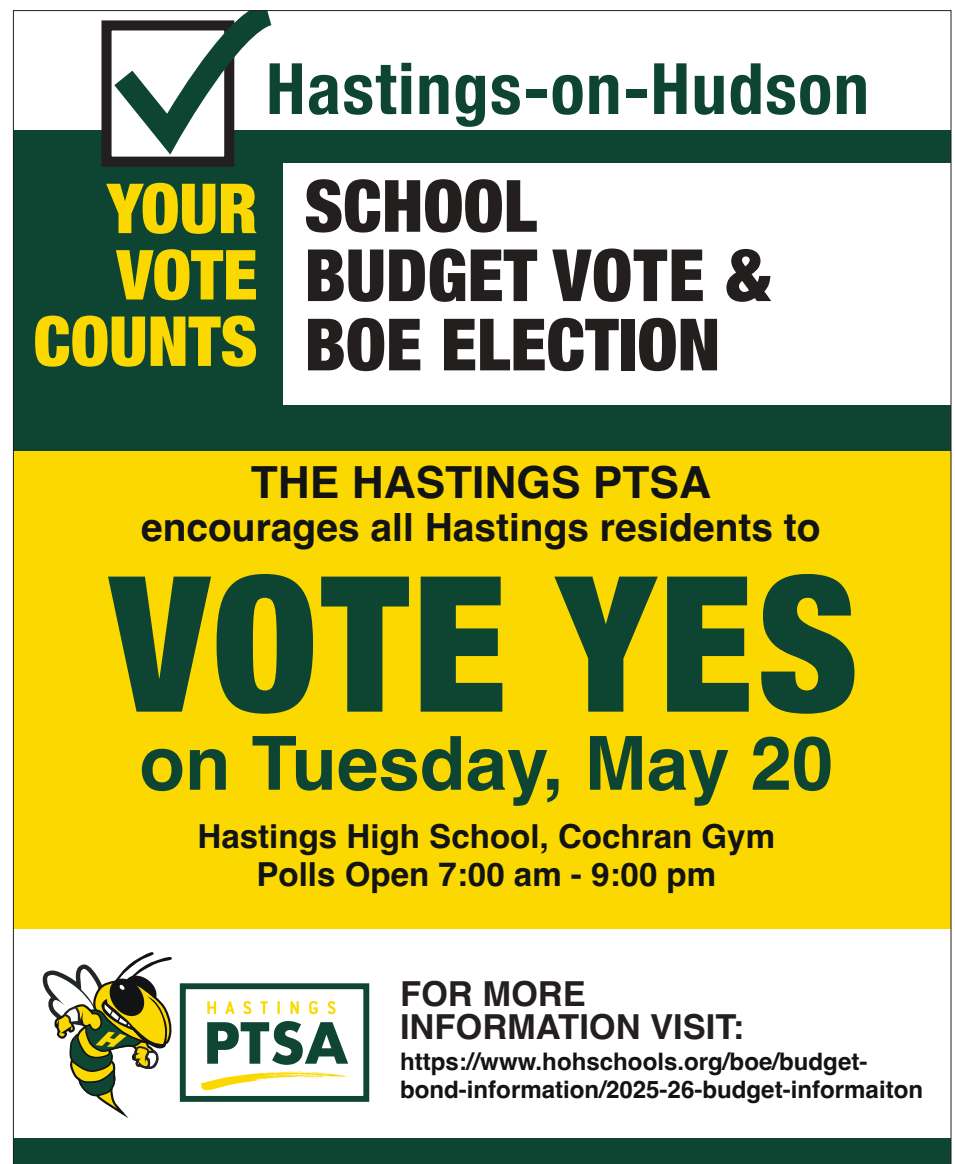


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<https://www.hohschools.org/boe/budget-bond-information/2025-26-budget-informaiton>

HASTINGS PTSA





# IRVINGTON

— Coming Up This Week —

## Irvington Education Foundation Gala: “SxSWestchester”

Friday, May 9, 7-10 p.m.

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

## Halsey Pond Spring Cleanup

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

Northeast corner of Halsey Pond between  
Legend Hollow and Palliser paths  
Register at [irvingtonny.gov](http://irvingtonny.gov).

## Cake for Change

Saturday, May 10, 2-4 p.m.

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church,  
15 N. Broadway

The baking contest is a fundraiser for Community  
Voices Hear Power, a grassroots organization  
to advance racial, social, and economic justice.  
Visit [cvhpower.org/cake](http://cvhpower.org/cake) for tickets (\$40  
admission, free for kids up to age 16; \$10 entry).

## Hybrid Presentation: “Gifted Teachers Who Changed Lives”

Saturday, May 10, 2 p.m.

Irvington Public Library  
Register at [irvingtonlibrary.org](http://irvingtonlibrary.org).

## League of Women Voters Hybrid Meeting

Saturday, May 10, 10 a.m.

Hastings Public Library, 7 Maple Ave.

To participate by Zoom,  
email [info@lwv-rivertowns.org](mailto:info@lwv-rivertowns.org) for the link.

## Farmers' Market

Sunday, May 11, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Main Street School, 101 Main St.

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

## Teen-only Petting Zoo

Monday, May 12, 5:30 p.m.

Irvington Public Library

## Library Board Meeting

Monday, May 12, 6 p.m.

Irvington Public Library

## Truck Day

Tuesday, May 13, 4-5 p.m. (rain date May 15)

Irvington Public Library

## Got news?

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

# Book shares global appetite for barbecue

*Irvington co-author compiles  
hundreds of recipes*

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Irvington resident Shana Liebman's new collaborative cookbook — “Barbecue: Smoked & Grilled Recipes from Across the Globe” — features 280 recipes from more than 80 countries, from ribs and brisket to fish and vegetarian options.

Co-written with pitmaster Hugh Mangum, the book will be released by Phaidon Press on Thursday, March 15.

Liebman is a co-chair of the Irvington Theater Commission and a writer who has reported about food and travel for publications such as New York Magazine, the website FOOD52, and Travel & Leisure. She edited the book “Sex, Drugs & Gefilte Fish: The Heeb Storytelling Collection” (2009), a compendium of material she used to present at Joe's Pub in Manhattan for a series called “Heeb,” which featured comedians and writers like Gilbert Gottfried and Andy Borowitz.

After enjoying extended time cooking at home during the pandemic, Liebman enrolled at the Institute of Culinary Education in Manhattan, earning her nutrition certification in 2022. The program required her to complete an externship, for which her career adviser connected her with Mangum, who had signed a contract with Phaidon Press, but needed someone to help write.

The 20-plus American recipes in the book come from Mangum, who founded the chain restaurant Mighty Quinn's Barbeque, which has locations in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, and Maryland. The majority of the other recipes in “Barbecue” are the result of two years of research conducted by Liebman.

“We obviously didn't travel the world and find the recipes in their original locations, but New York City is so full of international restaurants,” Liebman said, adding that she also explored restaurants in Westchester and Nyack. “I have a neighbor who's from Romania, and his mother gave me a couple of recipes from a book that she's had for 60 years, or something like that.”



Shana Liebman

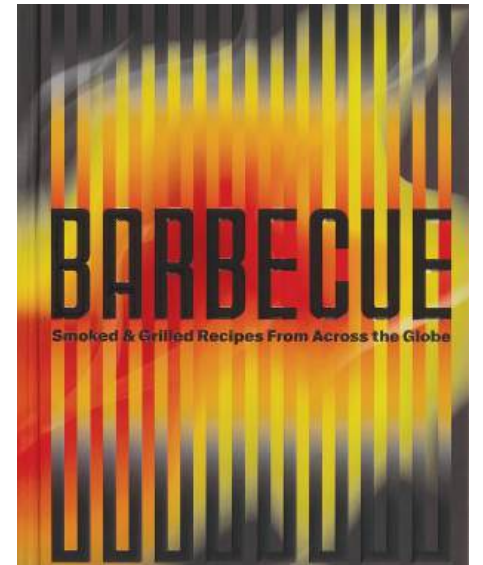
At the outset of the project, Liebman enjoyed barbecue, but described her husband, Michael Moshan, as the barbecue fanatic of the family. Liebman bought her first smoker after she began working on the book, and estimates that since then she herself has cooked roughly 90 of the featured recipes at home.

“There are beef skewers from Peru, from Argentina, from Nigeria, and they're all more or less the same dish, but each recipe is so different based on what spices, what flavors, what techniques that particular region uses,” Liebman explained. “So it's fun to compare the same dish from different areas. I think it's really educational about culinary and cultural histories.”

In addition to barbecue, the cookbook includes recipes for sides like macaroni and cheese, baked beans, and cornbread. There's also a whole chapter on desserts such as Brown Butter Puff Rice Treats and Icelandic Smoked Cheesecake that all fit Liebman and Mangum's criteria of barbecue, meaning that they must be grilled or smoked.

“The grill is a great way to get a smoky flavor in pretty simple desserts,” Liebman explained. “It turned out to be a really fun chapter to write.”

A difficult part of the process for Liebman



The cover of Liebman's new book

was keeping track of the types of recipes she and Mangum had covered along the way, and where the gaps were, as they aimed to create a comprehensive archive of barbecue all over the world.

“We needed a balance between representing countries and areas in the world, and representing certain kinds of dishes, and a balance between grilled and smoked,” Liebman explained. “People, I think, are going to be expecting ribs and traditionally smoked meats, but we have recipes for smoked whitefish. There are a lot of fish and veggie recipes in the book.”

Picture Book, located inside the HudCo co-working and event space at 145 Palisade St., Suite 200, in Dobbs Ferry will host a book signing with Liebman on Friday, May 16, from 1-2 p.m.

“I hope that people realize that barbecue is bigger than American barbecue first of all,” Liebman said, “and get excited about these thoroughly easy recipes from all over the world.”

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

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

## Invasives yield to natives along OCA



Rob Lee, the assistant manager of the Old Croton Aqueduct State Historic Park, removes a chain-link fence on April 19.

The Irvington Green Policy Task Force, led by steering committee member Jasena Sareil, hosted a volunteer effort to remove invasive vegetation along a section of the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail on Saturday, April 19. That event focused on the east side of the trail between Main Street and Matthiessen Road, where the Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) injected trees of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) with an herbicide last fall, and then staff from the OCA State Historic Park removed the trees, which attract the invasive spotted lanternfly. Native shrubs and trees will be planted in that area, under the direction of arborist Peter Strom. The Greater Irvington Land Trust provided a \$2,000 grant for the project.



IRVINGTON

# Balet joins Flynn in uncontested election for

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

With only one person leaving the Irvington Board of Education, and one current member seeking re-election, first-time candidate Steven Balet and incumbent Andrea Flynn are set to fill the two open seats on the seven-person board in the upcoming election on May 20.

Balet, 56, who has lived in Irvington since 2007, is running for the seat of current board member David Graeber, who is not pursuing a fourth term. Balet works with a financial PR and communications firm, and volunteers with the Irvington PTSA.

"There are really good people on the board, and that's part of the reason I'm getting involved — because they're good people that are looking out for the community and doing the right thing," Balet said. "I think the school is doing a great job, and we just want to continue on that path of always getting better and always looking to excel into the future."

Balet supports the district's proposed \$3,950,000 capital reserve plan to replace the Meszaros turf field and add field lights; resurface the Peter Oley Track around the field; and make other repairs throughout the district. He's also looking forward to seeing the district advance how it implements technology in class instruction.

"I think the Irvington School District does a great job of preparing kids for the next step in life, and as that becomes harder and more complicated, I think we need to continue to make efforts

to continue that," Balet said. "We've invested in our technology, and we're going to have to continue to as AI [artificial intelligence] becomes more used in the workplace and the world, and continue to do things like that to prepare our kids for the future."

Balet has a son in third grade at Dows Lane School.

"I would love to see my son be able to experience new and different classes as he progresses through the school system," Balet said. "Access to more technology, access to languages possibly earlier in the school programming than we currently offer languages. Those are all improvements to a great program already."

Returning to the board is Flynn, a 10-year Irvington resident and mother of three. She is completing her first three-year term on the board, which included being a part of the process of hiring and onboarding a new superintendent, Mara Ratesic, who is approaching the end of her first school year in the position.

"I think we have a super-high-functioning, productive board," Flynn said. "Especially when you look around the country and see some of the troubles that are plaguing other school boards, I feel grateful that we just work really well together."

Flynn has one child in Dows Lane and two children in the middle school. Her oldest child will start high school in the fall, meaning Flynn will have a student in three different district schools,

as she did when she started on the board in 2022.

That perspective "does provide a very comprehensive window in the district," Flynn explained. "I find it to be very helpful to have that window into what the thread is between all of the buildings, where there are some gaps, how our kids are experiencing our buildings in different ways. What are they taking with them from one school to another school? And what are the opportunities to potentially strengthen the transitions between schools?"

Flynn is a professor at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, with experience researching economic inequality and reproductive health, and also consults for nonprofit organizations. Her work makes her a self-proclaimed "policy nerd."

"One thing that I'm really excited about — and the high school just sent out a notice about this to parents — is rethinking how the high school schedule works," Flynn said. "And I'm just really proud of the work that both the high school principal and the superintendent are doing to get a sense of what's working for students and not working for them, and really elevating student voice. We're at the beginning of that process, but I'm really excited to be on that board to support that process and see it move forward."

Voting for the board of education, as well as the school budget and capital reserve spending proposal, will take place on Tuesday, May 20, from 7 a.m.-9 p.m., in the Main Street School gym.

— COMMUNITY BRIEFS —

Tufts dean's list

Clara Kolker, Eliav Malone, James Oley, Joanna Paul, and Elliot Riseman were named to the dean's list at Tufts University for the fall 2024 semester.

Cortland dean's list

Taoig Cypher, Jake Kaplan, and Jack Keltz were named to the dean's list at SUNY Cortland for the fall 2024 semester. Cypher is majoring in sports management, while Keltz is majoring in early childhood and childhood education. Kaplan is pre-major.

Hamilton dean's list

John Carron, Iain McGiffin, and Seungchan Yun were named to the dean's list at Hamilton College for the fall 2024 semester. Carron is a junior majoring in government and history, McGiffin is a junior majoring in world politics, and Yun is a sophomore.

Holy Cross dean's list

Liam Lyons was named to the dean's list at the College of the Holy Cross for the fall 2024 semester.

Purchase dean's list

Sofia Leal was named to the dean's list at Purchase College for the fall 2024 semester. Leal is studying graphic design.

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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 [rivertownsd Dispatch.com/contact-us](http://rivertownsd Dispatch.com/contact-us).

## Hastings mayoral candidate shares his vision for the waterfront

To the Editor:

I was excited to announce my candidacy for mayor of Hastings-on-Hudson several months ago, right here in the Rivertowns Dispatch.

In talking with many people in the village, a common question that comes up is what my thoughts and plans are for our waterfront. I am pleased to share that I recently voted in favor of an agreement with ARCO that has started the final stages of cleanup of our cherished waterfront. As I'm sure you will agree, the remediation of the northern parcel owned by ARCO is long overdue.

My vision for our waterfront is a mixture of commercial and residential buildings that should be as close as possible to revenue neutral or even revenue positive for the Village. With all development, we have to consider the effect on village services like police, fire, EMS, and our DPW and the possible related costs. I will advocate for limiting the height of buildings along the waterfront to maintain views of the Palisades; future development should complement and preserve the village's connection to this amazing geologic feature.

I am committed to advocating for open space and river-based recreation, including a dedicated public setback along the Hudson River shoreline. ARCO has already agreed to commit a large portion of their property on the northernmost site below the tennis club as parkland, and I will continue to advocate on the Village's behalf with the other property owners for similar commitments and in accordance with the Consent Decree of 2016.

Please visit [tomdrakeforhastings.com](http://tomdrakeforhastings.com) to read more about my priorities and find ways to help support my campaign.

TRUSTEE TOM DRAKE  
Village of Hastings

## School district needs to be responsible to students and

To the Editor:

I'm a three-and-a-half-decade Hastings resident who served on the school board for nine years, and was its president for three.

Thank you to those residents who paid for my kids' education for 15 years. For the 20-plus years since they graduated, my husband and I have continued to fund the education of students in our community. Educating our youth is of utmost importance; supporting the schools is our community responsibility and our part of an underlying social contract.

But the other party to this contract — the school district — must also be responsible to the 69% of residents without children in the

schools. Since over two-thirds of us financially support a school system being used by less than a third of us, it seems clear and reasonable that the school district has an obligation to keep our village affordable, to think about the folks without schoolchildren who faithfully pay Hastings' school taxes, and to realize the importance of having a vibrant multigenerational, economically diverse community.

That diversity appealed to us as buyers and new residents, but we've watched ever-increasing home prices and taxes cause it to decline. School budget increases, payments on two previous bonds that won't be paid off for years, and increases from recent reassessments all add

up to a frightening, potentially insupportable burden for many who enrich our community.

Of course, we should support our schools' critical maintenance (bond proposition #1). But the massive facilities work in this bond (proposition #2) is less important than keeping high academic standards and excellent teachers. Lastly, it's imperative to support the health of our students and planet by rejecting plastic turf fields that will cause harm to both of them (proposition #3).

I therefore urge my fellow residents to vote Yes (#1); No (#2); No (#3) on June 17.

IRIS HISKEY ARNO  
Hastings

## Supporting the budget and bond will benefit all of Hastings

To the Editor:

Like many current Hastings residents, I moved my family here 30-plus years ago because our community exemplified a social contract of care for all our members, from educating our children to providing recreational resources for all to serving our elderly and less fortunate. Current complaints about the anticipated school budget and bond request suggest that this shared social contract is fraying badly.

Yet we will soon have the opportunity to reaffirm that shared commitment by supporting the proposed school budget and investing in improving our school facilities and resources.

First, supporting the proposed school budget

is similar to managing our own personal budgets. Expenses increase every year for the same services, utilities, and operations, and cutting a primary expense may lead to higher costs in the future. Our district is already cost efficient; our per-pupil expenditures are lower than Dobbs Ferry, Irvington, and other comparable Westchester districts. Yet the one year we did not support the initial budget had grave financial consequences — diminishing our capital reserves and costing us potential cumulative earnings. Let's not make this mistake again.

Secondly, we need to improve our schools' infrastructure. As homeowners, we know too well that when we put off necessary repairs

and improvements we are setting ourselves up for greater expenses down the road. One bond proposal is to replace the middle school entryway (for ADA compliance) and the cafeteria (creating much-needed classrooms and a larger cafeteria). Anyone with a child on crutches has experienced the challenges entering a noncompliant facility.

We benefit from the large social compact of sharing the education of children as we share the fire and police services for our community. Quality schools require investment and sustained operating support.

TERRY ORR  
Hastings

## LWV and PTSA to host online forum for school board

To the Editor:

The League of Women Voters of the Rivertowns and the Dobbs Ferry PTSA are co-sponsoring a candidate forum for the Dobbs Ferry School Board.

The forum will be a Zoom webinar on Wednesday, May 14, from 7-8:30 p.m. The forum can be viewed live by pre-registration at <https://bit.ly/DobbsFerrySchBd>.

Questions must be submitted ahead of time either at registration or by email to [info@lwv-rivertowns.org](mailto:info@lwv-rivertowns.org). The deadline for submission of questions is 9 a.m. Monday, May 12. Questions will be reviewed by a committee of League and PTSA members who will submit them to the moderator prior to the start of the forum.

There are four candidates vying for three

open seats: incumbent Darren Wood and challengers Disan Davis, Sudha Reddy, and Mindy Walker.

The event will be recorded and made available on the Rivertowns League YouTube channel, LWV Rivertowns, and website <http://www.lwv-rivertowns.org>.

SUSAN MAGGIOTTO  
President, LWV Rivertowns

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# The Agenda

**SAT**  
**10**

## Teacher Appreciation Day: Pottery Wheel

**ARDSLEY**

10-11:30 a.m., 1-2:30 p.m., 4-5:30 p.m. / Free. Artscape Atelier, 500 Saw Mill River Road. Registration required.

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

## Songs of Hope

**DOBBS FERRY**

7 p.m. / \$25. Zion Episcopal Church, 55 Cedar St. Proceeds from the concert will be donated to SPRING Community Partners. [zephy.com/en-US/ticketing/songs-of-hope](http://zephy.com/en-US/ticketing/songs-of-hope).

## "Divided Loyalties"

**DOBBS FERRY**

10 a.m. / Free. Meet near the Smith Field bleachers at Mercy University, 555 Broadway. Learn how the war divided neighbors and families on a walk on the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail. Offered by Revolutionary Westchester 250, the Old Croton Aqueduct State Historic Park, and Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct. Registration required. [aqueduct.org](http://aqueduct.org)

## Mother's Day Market

**HASTINGS**

8 a.m.-1 p.m. The Good Witch Coffee Bar, 134 Southside Ave. Featuring local vendors and performances by students of Hudson River School of Music. [instagram.com/thegoodwitchcoffeebar](https://www.instagram.com/thegoodwitchcoffeebar)

## Angelica

**HASTINGS**

3 p.m. / \$20, \$10 for seniors and students. First Reformed Church, 18 Farragut Ave. The Hastings-based choir of women chamber singers presents "Once I Knew a Fine Song." [angelicawomenschamberchoir.org](http://angelicawomenschamberchoir.org)

## Live at the Upstream

**HASTINGS**

7 p.m. / \$10. Upstream Gallery, 8 Main St. Folk singer-songwriter Calla Sun performs in an intimate setting. [upstreamgallery.com](http://upstreamgallery.com)

## Cake for Change

**IRVINGTON**

2-4 p.m. / \$40 admission, free for kids up to age 16; \$10 entry fee per cake. St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, 15 N. Broadway. The baking contest is a fundraiser for Community Voices Hear Power, a grassroots organization to advance racial, social, and economic justice. [cvhpower.org/cake](http://cvhpower.org/cake)

## Somatic Dance for Women

**IRVINGTON**

7:30 p.m. / \$25. Irvington Presbyterian Church, 25 North Broadway. Dance Embodiment Collective presents an evening of mindful movement. [viewcy.com/e/dance\\_embodiment\\_womens](http://viewcy.com/e/dance_embodiment_womens)



Angelica, the Hastings-based women's chamber choir, presents "Once I Knew a Fine Song" at the First Reformed Church of Hastings this Saturday, May 10.

## Westchester Symphonic Winds: "Celebrations"

**TARRYTOWN**

8 p.m. / \$36, \$26 for seniors and students, free for children under 10. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. [tarrytownmusicall.org](http://tarrytownmusicall.org)

## Spring Tea and Tour

**TARRYTOWN**

10 a.m. and 2 p.m. / \$70. Lyndhurst, 635 S. Broadway. [lyndhurst.org](http://lyndhurst.org)

## Jazz Singer and Trumpeter Bria Skonberg

**TARRYTOWN**

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

## Pinkster Jubilee

**YONKERS**

11 a.m.-5 p.m. / Free. Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site, 29 Warburton Ave. The Afro-Dutch celebration features live music, dance, games, crafts, food, and vendors. [philipsemanorhall.com](http://philipsemanorhall.com)

## Easy Walking Tour

**YONKERS**

10 a.m. / \$15. Untermyer Park and Gardens, 945 N. Broadway. Purchase tickets online. [untermyergardens.org](http://untermyergardens.org)

## "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 Sundays, May 11 and 18, 3 p.m.; Friday, May 16, 8 p.m.; and Saturday, May 17, 2 and 8 p.m. [wctheater.org](http://wctheater.org)

## "All My Friends"

**OSSINING**

8 p.m. / \$20. Bethany Arts Community, 40 Somerstown Road. The night of queer expression and art features punk music and drag performances. [bethanyarts.org](http://bethanyarts.org)

**SUN**  
**11**

## Hastings Flea

**HASTINGS**

10 a.m.-4 p.m. (rain or shine) / Free. Metro-North Commuter Lot, Southside Avenue (across

from the railroad tracks). Outdoor bazaar featuring handmade, vintage, and upcycled clothing, jewelry, and home goods, plus food truck treats and music. [thehastingsflea.com](http://thehastingsflea.com)

## Farmers' Market

**IRVINGTON**

9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Main Street School, 101 Main St. [theirvingtonfarmersmarket.org](http://theirvingtonfarmersmarket.org)

## Bluegrass Trio

**TARRYTOWN**

8 p.m. / \$55-\$75. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. Banjo player Béla Fleck is joined by harpist Edmar Castañeda and drummer Antonio Sáncheztarry. [tarrytownmusicall.org](http://tarrytownmusicall.org)

## Live Jazz: Greg Abate Quartet

**TARRYTOWN**

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

## Mother's Day Tea

**SLEEPY HOLLOW**

Noon-3 p.m. / \$20. Philipsburgh Manor, 381 N. Broadway. Tickets required. [hudsonvalley.org](http://hudsonvalley.org)

## History Tour: Walled Garden to the Vista

**YONKERS**

11 a.m. / \$15. Untermyer Park and Gardens, 945 N. Broadway. Purchase tickets online. [untermyergardens.org](http://untermyergardens.org)

**MON**  
**12**

## Rivertowns for Reproductive Rights: Appetizers for Access

**DOBBS FERRY**

4-8 p.m. / \$65 suggested donation, free for kids under 16. Bloomy Cheese & Provisions, 3 Cedar St. Wine-and-cheese fundraiser; all donations go entirely to the New York Abortion Access Fund. [fund.nnaf.org/fundraiser/6202356](http://fund.nnaf.org/fundraiser/6202356)

**TUES**  
**13**

## Comedy Open Mic

**HASTINGS**

8 p.m. / One-drink minimum for performers. Divino's Speakeasy, 524 Warburton Ave. Presented

by the Dobbs Ferry Public Library. Intended for ages 18 and up. Sign up by emailing [tdeery@wlsmail.org](mailto:tdeery@wlsmail.org).

**WED**  
**14**

## Tinkering Meetup: Raspberry Pi Pico Fundamentals

**HASTINGS**

6:30-8:30 p.m. / Free. The Maker Hive, 416 Warburton Ave. For adults and ages 12 and up. Register online. [makerhive.space](http://makerhive.space)

**THURS**  
**15**

## Outdoor Live Music: Milton

**DOBBS FERRY**

6-9 p.m. / No cover charge. Hudson Social, 11 Station Plaza. [hudsonsocial.com](http://hudsonsocial.com)

## MorDance: "Trees"

**YONKERS**

7:30 p.m. / \$35, \$25 for students and seniors, \$50 for the reception on May 17. 86 Main St., 6th floor. The ballet about nature's resilience features eight dancers and a 10-piece string ensemble. Also on May 16-17. Purchase tickets online. [mordance.org](http://mordance.org)

**FRI**  
**16**

## Live Music: Control Z

**ARDSLEY**

9 p.m. / No cover charge. Saw Mill Tavern, 925 Saw Mill River Road. The band plays high energy rock with a mix of classics and '90s hits.

Reservations encouraged. [smtavern.com](http://smtavern.com)

## Toddler Storytime

**DOBBS FERRY**

10:30 a.m. / Free. Keeper's House, 15 Walnut St. Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct and the Dobbs Ferry Public Library team up for a story and craft, followed by the opportunity to walk on the trail. [aqueduct.org](http://aqueduct.org)

## Picture Book: Author Event

**DOBBS FERRY**

1-2 p.m. / Free. HudCo, 145 Palisade St., Suite 200. Celebrate the launch of Irvington author Shana Liebman's new cookbook "Barbecue: Smoked and Grilled Recipes from Across the Globe." [picturebookny.com/calendar](http://picturebookny.com/calendar)

## Live Music: Clare Maloney and the Great Adventure

**DOBBS FERRY**

8 p.m. / \$25, \$20 for members. HudCo, 145 Palisade St., Suite 200. Special guest Eager Sails also performs. Purchase tickets online. [hudco.eventbrite.com](http://hudco.eventbrite.com)

## Broadway Duo: David Foster and Katherine McPhee

**TARRYTOWN**

8 p.m. / \$55-\$145. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. [tarrytownmusicall.org](http://tarrytownmusicall.org)



## Bond clarifications

*Continued from page 9*

"We've had questions [from the community] — 'Before we vote on it, can you tell us what product you're going to use?' But that's not the way the bidding process works in New York State," he said. "In order to have a legal bidding process, we had to put out what specs we want, and then companies that have a product that fit those specs then bid... so the initial meeting of our committee was just to delineate what were the specs or parameters that we would accept for a provider of artificial turf."

While those specs are not yet in writing, Dal Piaz said they will include an artificial turf field without infill.

"Most of the plastic concern with artificial turf is the infill, because it's the bulk of the plastic, and because it has the highest propensity to migrate elsewhere, or to stick to people's bodies," he said. "Those specs will re-

flect what is the leading edge of what's available or just emerging into the marketplace."

The board will look for bidders with a record of working with public school districts. Two other specs will be that the artificial turf has a 12-year warranty and that it does not contain PFAS chemicals.

The first proposition encompasses districtwide infrastructure improvements for \$11,254,780, including mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and masonry work. The second covers instructional space and accessibility enhancements at the Farragut Complex for \$19,049,465. Key components of this proposition are adding six new classrooms, a new cafeteria, a new main entrance, and other upgrades to meet accessibility and safety codes. The final proposition, for \$8,171,250, would fund a synthetic multi-sport field and a synthetic softball field at the Burke Estate, as well as bleachers, dugouts, site grading, irrigation, drainage, and retaining wall upgrades.

contribute to our communities, the stronger our communities are, the more compassion we all have for each other."

He described his aspirations as a board member.

"I want to make sure that in every decision that we make, that we're protecting... the most vulnerable among our children and making sure that every kid in the district has the skills and the tools that they need to be successful," he said. "I want to make sure that we are investing for the future of our district."

## Tax dispute

*Continued from page 6*

interest and penalties, including some horrendous stories," he said. "We have heard of people who are in the hospital or their mail wasn't delivered, and it's heartbreaking, but if we were to grant that, then people would come in and say, 'Well, what about me?'... If there are no penalties and interest, then it's going to be hard to enforce people paying their taxes on time."

Kaboolian believes that the circumstance of this property are different from waiving fees for an individual or homeowner.

"This is a municipality to a municipality, and the people that are going to be most harmed by this are the taxpayers of Ardsley," she said. "[This is] not going to open a floodgate of people coming and

saying, 'I want you to waive our interest and fees.' There is a specific law that allows you to do this."

Feiner suggested a compromise through the Town utilizing part of the property for a recycling center.

"I'm wondering, is there any space in that property that could be possibly used for a joint purpose, and then we could work together and waive the penalties and say, 'Listen, there's a town purpose. We're benefiting from it.'"

The board agreed to consider the Village's request and review past resolutions. Councilwoman Joy Haber said that while she wants to give relief, "It has to be legal and it has to make sense."

According to Kaboolian, the board told her they would get back to her with more information by May 15.

he said. "That's something I'm taking with me. You don't need to reinvent the wheel to make an impact on people's lives or to make a difference, and that is in my mentality of leadership as well."

In his new role, Pignatelli hopes to continue and build on his predecessor's work.

"I have a really good foundation. There's a lot of maintenance here, as far as keeping up with a lot of the programs that Chief Piccolino started [like] the accreditation, body cameras," he said. "As far as my goals go... continue just to be a community-oriented police department and be transparent, and be there for the public when they need us."

## Candidates

*Continued from page 10*

formed in 2023, helps companies devise production-related operational and creative strategies.

A Hastings volunteer firefighter since 2018, Weinstein said his dedication to community service is why he decided to run for the school board.

"Giving back to Hastings has been something that's been a huge part of my mission since moving back," he said. "I feel really strongly that the more that we collectively



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## Sports

EDITED BY ROB DIANTONIO

## Hastings passes test with wins over Dobbs

*Softball roundup*

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Hastings hosted a doubleheader on May 7 that had some extra meaning: The opposing teams were rival Dobbs Ferry and Yonkers Montessori, who are both at the top of the Class B standings with the Yellow Jackets.

The Jackets knew they were facing a test and they passed it with flying colors. Hastings defeated YMA 5-1 in the first game and notched a 4-3 walk-off league win over the Eagles in the nightcap.

"It really shows something to other teams," Hastings sophomore Hazel Sabella said. "We beat the second and third seeds, so it really shows that we deserve to be in first. I'm just really happy that we made that statement."

In the win over Dobbs, Siri Rosenberg scored the game-winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning on an error on a ball hit by Sabella to the left side of the infield.

"This is a win that we really wanted," Rosenberg said. "Adrenaline was high and our energy was up. When I saw Hazel in the box with two outs, I knew she was going to do it."

Rosenberg started off the inning by beating out an infield single. Ella Rizzo reached on an error but Eagles pitcher Victoria Baron struck out the next two batters, setting the stage for Sabella.

The Eagles took a 1-0 lead when Maddie Piacentino roped a triple into the left-center field gap to drive in Emily Marron in the top of the second inning.

Hastings responded with three runs in the bottom of the third. Ruby Wallach and Kylie Vulpone singled. Wallach stole third and then scored on a Rosenberg groundout. An error brought home a second run after which Abby Foster roped an RBI single to make it 3-1.

Dobbs got a run back in the fourth inning when Abby Dann drove in Riley Sullivan with a single. The Eagles tied the game at 3-3 in the sixth when Kamryn Addis laid down a bunt, which brought home Alexa Vicchio.

Sabella pitched the first four innings for Hastings, scattering five hits while striking out four. Rosenberg relieved her in the fifth, allowing no



Hastings' Ruby Wallach, Haley Ehrlich, Ella Rizzo, and Sophia Pereira celebrate a walk-off win over Dobbs Ferry. Photo by Rob DiAntonio.

hits and one earned run.

"We always back each other up," Sabella said. "If she's not doing well, I come in. If I'm not doing well, she comes in. I love that we have such a strong pitching staff."

Lola Norlander went 2 for 4 with a triple but was stranded at third base in the fifth inning.

Baron, a seventh-grader, came on in relief of Dann and struck out seven over 3.2 innings. "This is the most locked-in I've seen her all year," Eagles coach Kim Reznicek said. "She knew it was a big game and she was ready for it."

Dann went three innings while scattering five hits. Sullivan was 2 for 3 with a double for the Eagles, who fell to 8-6.

Reznicek knows that with both squads at the top of the seedings in Class B, they could be on a collision course in the playoffs.

"I think if you're looking at the big picture,

there's a good chance that we're going to play them three times," said Reznicek, whose squad will host Hastings on May 16. "It's more of just seeing how we stack up against them. It's trying to figure out things that we need to improve on. It's not coming out of today and saying this is how it's going to be. It's like, 'OK, blank slate. What do we do the next time to try to come out on top?'"

In the win over YMA, Rosenberg went the distance. She had nine strikeouts and allowed four hits. She also drove in a run. Foster went 2 for 3 with a double, one RBI, and two runs scored. Rizzo had one RBI and scored a run.

"We're 12-3 now and that's such an amazing feeling," Rosenberg said. "The season started off strong and it's continued really strong."

**Ardasley competes in Morabito Tournament**

Ardasley gained some valuable experience

against some top-notch competition but finished 0-3 in the Morabito Tournament in Binghamton on May 3-4.

The Panthers fell to Edison/Elmira Heights 9-2 in the opening round. Haley Albano (2 doubles), Bella Feldman (2-4), and Emma Philp (triple, 2 RBIs) led the offense. Ardsley was blanked 9-0 by Fredonia later in the day.

Pine Plains edged Ardsley 11-10 on May 4. Mia King (4-4, 2 RBIs, home run, 4 runs), Albano (2-4, 2 RBIs), and Philp (3-4, home run, 4 RBIs) led the team.

The Panthers improved to 9-5 with a 7-4 win over host Sleepy Hollow on May 7. Eighth-grader Bailey Strongin earned the win, tossing seven innings while striking out four and giving up two earned runs. King (3-4, 2 RBIs), Morgan Doherty (2-2, RBI), Heather Rixon (2-2, 2 RBIs), and Tessa Guernah (2-2, 2 RBIs) sparked the offense.

## Hastings sits at .500 after league split with Blind Brook

*Baseball roundup*

BY ROB DIANTONIO

After a home-and-home league series split with Blind Brook, Hastings is 8-8 on the season.

The Yellow Jackets edged visiting Blind Brook 11-9 on May 2. Andrew Rizzo (3-5, double, 2 RBIs, 3 steals), Charlie Richardson (3-4, RBI, 2 runs), Julius Stephens (2-4, 2 RBIs, 2 runs), Nathan Krapf (5 innings, 8 strikeouts, 2 ER), and Jackson Acree (win, 3 strikeouts, 1 ER, 3-4, 4 RBIs) led the team.

Hastings fell 3-2 in the first meeting with

Blind Brook on April 30. Kieran McGrath (3-3, RBI), Matt Corbi (RBI double), Andrew Ciszewski (5 innings, 8 strikeouts), and Jackson Acree (2.2 innings, 3 strikeouts) sparked the Jackets.

**Ardasley splits with Pearl River**

Ardasley split a league series with Pearl River, falling to the host Pirates 14-5 on April 30, and defeating the visitors 8-5 on May 2.

In the first game with Pearl River, Steven Degree (RBI) and Nate Caldara (2 RBIs) each went 3 for 4. Kelvin Almonte drove in two runs.

In the second meeting, Almonte had three hits, four RBIs, and two runs scored. Degree (3-4, 2 runs), Caldara (3 runs), Mike DePasquale (2 RBIs), and Leo Blank (2 hits, RBI) also aided the offense. Jiei Tomiooka pitched six innings of four-hit ball and struck out five. He let up one earned run. Almonte closed the game in relief and had two strikeouts.

The Panthers fell to 6-10 with a 12-2 loss to visiting Albertus Magnus on May 3. Justin Jaeger and Almonte had one RBI each. Degree went 2 for 4.

**Irvington drops two to Nanuet**

Irvington (3-10) lost a pair of games to Nanuet, falling 10-0 at home on April 30, and 10-3 on the road on May 2. In the second meeting, Sawyer Chalsen socked a solo home run. Scott Edwards and Ben Epple (RBI) each had a hit. Max Baron and Lucas Constantine got their first varsity hits.

**Eagles fall to Valhalla**

Dobbs Ferry (5-9) lost 12-2 to host Valhalla on May 2. Luc Maass (double, run), Colin Dubilier, and Matt Rodriguez each had one hit. Drew Kimerling had an RBI.





The Bulldogs' Alexis Canfin sends a pass up the field. Photo by Rob DiAntonio.

## Bulldogs cruise past Eagles in Lax

### Girls' lacrosse roundup

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Irvington senior captain Sadie McRae says the Lax for Lupus event has been her favorite day of lacrosse since she was in first grade.

Throughout the day, youth teams compete leading up to the varsity contest between Irvington and Dobbs Ferry. The communities come together for a meaningful day and raise funds for lupus research.

The Bulldogs jumped out to a fast start and defeated the visiting Eagles 16-4 on May 3.

"It means a lot that all the youth kids were here to see the game," McRae said. "It's just a day where the community can get together and we can all support each other."

Irvington led 6-0 after the first quarter and went up 8-0 early in the second behind goals from Ella Weiss and Peyton Clinton. Molly O'Brien stopped the run for Dobbs Ferry. Mary O'Dea and Megan Hartnett added goals, but Irvington went into halftime with a 10-3 lead. The Bulldogs extended the advantage to 14-4 after three quarters.

"We were working together really well and moving the ball a lot," McRae said of what triggered the strong start. "We capitalized on all the opportunities we had. It's a game where we can put everyone in and I have full confidence that they can finish."

Sadie McRae (2G, 3A), Tessa McRae (3G), Aly Raimondo (2G, 1A, 4 draws), Weiss (2G), Isi Doncov (1G, 3A), Alexis Canfin (1G, 1A), Lillian Isom (1G), Federica Ricciardella (1G), Lena Svigals (1G), Clinton (1G), Sophia Im (1G), Mia Cantillana (6 saves), and Sadie Kilbury (2 saves) led the Bulldogs.

Hartnett had one goal and one assist for Dobbs. O'Brien, O'Dea, and Ella O'Connor each had one goal. Hope McCormack won seven draw controls. Eleni Georgioudakis made nine saves.

*Continued on page 18*

# Eagles edge Bulldogs by 1 point with

### Flag football roundup

BY ROB DIANTONIO

If the first time Dobbs Ferry and Irvington met on the gridiron was any indication, the second meeting would likely be another down-to-the-wire game.

Back on April 24, the Eagles rallied to best the Bulldogs 12-10. On May 6, Dobbs Ferry scored with a minute left on a 40-yard swing pass from junior Mya Ustares to eighth-grader Leia Brandon. Ustares, a team captain, ran in the extra point to hand host Dobbs a 21-20 come-from-behind win.

"I reminded my teammates that we had to stay calm," Ustares said after the hard-earned victory. "We had a close game with them the last time we played. We knew it was going to be like that. We know how good we are and the talents we have. We just had to stay composed, keep calm, and we came back."

Irvington had one last opportunity, but it was Brandon to the rescue again, intercepting a pass to end it. "She's already stepped up for us a bunch of times," said Eagles coach Vinny Garofalo. "She's been doing it all year and we expect her to continue to do so."

The Bulldogs took control early as Piper Keltz fired a 40-yard touchdown pass to Sara Welter to give them a 6-0 lead with 16:19 left in the first half. On the first play of the second half, Welter broke loose for a 70-yard touchdown as Irvington took a 12-0 lead.

Dobbs' offense then came to life. Ustares' 20-



Dobbs Ferry's Mya Ustares finds running room to the perimeter as Irvington's Sabrina Pasternak chases. Photo by Rob DiAntonio.

yard run got the Eagles in business. She then fired a 7-yard touchdown pass to senior captain Ella Moon. Ustares connected with Abigail Ungaro on the extra-point try to cut the deficit to 12-7 with 18:20 to go.

Garofalo noted that since they moved Ustares to quarterback the team has seen an increase in their offensive capabilities. "She's really taking a leadership role," he said, "and putting the team under her belt."

On Irvington's next possession, Ustares picked off a Keltz pass and returned it 12 yards for a score. Ustares passed to Moon for the conver-

sion as Dobbs took a 14-12 lead with 17:30 left.

Irvington answered when Welter scored her third touchdown of the day, this time on a 60-yard run up the sideline. Keltz found Sabrina Pasternak for the two-point conversion to give the Bulldogs a 20-14 lead. Pasternak also had an interception.

Dobbs, which is in its first season as a program, snapped a three-game losing streak. The inexperienced Eagles got off to a slow start, losing five of their first six games. But they have gone 3-3 after that and are hoping to keep building momentum

*Continued on page 18*

## Irvington erupts early in 13-goal win over Dobbs

### Boys' lacrosse roundup

BY ROB DIANTONIO

There was additional motivation when host Irvington and Dobbs Ferry met in the Lax for Lupus game on May 3.

It was a day of communities coming together for a good cause with funds raised for lupus research. Youth teams played throughout the day with the main event being a heavyweight clash of varsity squads. The Bulldogs erupted for nine goals in the first quarter and cruised to a 20-7 win over the rival Eagles.

Irvington's Alex Zinman scored two goals to make it 6-0 with 5 minutes left in the first quarter. Nick Grados netted three-straight goals to send the Bulldogs into the second quarter with a 9-0 lead.

"The key to our dominant first quarter was how much we wanted to win this game," Grados said. "The Lax for Lupus game means a lot to my team and we went into this game with no other option than winning."

Ten seconds into the second quarter, Zinman scored again on a feed from Grados as the lead swelled to 10-0. Jackson Kearns broke the ice for Dobbs Ferry with 10:24 left in the quarter. Irvington went into halftime with a 16-5 lead.

Grados, a junior captain, finished with five goals and seven assists. He also achieved his 200th career point. He said he has "total trust" in all his teammates on offense, which leads to



Irvington's Nick Grados runs the offense from behind the cage as Dobbs Ferry's Kevin Hartnett defends. Photo by Rob DiAntonio.

him sending them passes with confidence. "I've been playing with most of these guys for over five years," he said, "and have built a lot of trust and chemistry."

Zinman scored four goals, had six assists, and won 25 of 29 face-offs. Bowie Frank had a big day with six goals and three assists. D.J. Ufer had four goals and one assist. Soren DeYonker had one goal and one assist. Harrison Malakoff made 11 saves.

Jake Broccoli (3G, 1A), Kearns (2G), Dylan Ravage (1G, 1A), Ryan Mohl (1A, 5 ground balls), and Kevin Hartnett (2 caused turnovers, 4 GBs) led the Eagles.

Grados scored his 100th career goal in an 18-3 win over host Tuckahoe on April 29. He finished with six goals and seven assists.

"It means a lot to me," Grados said. "Irvington lacrosse has had a very successful past three seasons and I'm honored to be able to contribute."

He credited his performance to the Bulldogs coach, Mike Schaefer, and his teammates. "My coach has put me in plenty of positions for success scoring the ball," Grados said. "Alex Zinman has been assisting my goals for the past three years and makes my job very easy."

*Continued on page 18*



Boys' lax

Continued from page 17

Zinman (4G, 3A), Saxon Frank (3G, 2A), Bowie Frank (3G, 3A), Ufer (2G), and Ryan O'Hagan (first varsity goal) aided the offense.

Irvington bested visiting Edgemont 16-5 on April 25. Zinman (4G, 5A), Grados (3G, 6A), and Ufer (4G) paced the team.

Behind Grados (6G, 2A), Zinman (3G, 6A), and Bowie Frank (5G, 3A), the Bulldogs bested host Albertus Magnus 17-4 on May 1.

Irvington (8-3) lost home games to Bronxville (18-6, May 5) and North Rockland (10-8, May 7). Against North Rockland, Bowie Frank (3G, 2A), Grados (2G, 2A), Zinman (2G, 2A), and Saxon Frank (1G, 2A) contributed.

Dobbs Ferry defeated visiting Ossining 19-12 on May 1. Broccoli (7G, 2A), Kearns (4G, 3A), Mohl (4G, 1A), Jack Shemonski (1G, 3A), Hartnett (8 GBs, 5 CTO), and Killian O'Connor (18/25 face-offs) sparked the team.

The Eagles bested host Pawling 18-12 on May 5. Broccoli (4G, 5A), Kearns (3G, 2A), Peter Kilroe (3G, 1A), Mohl (3G, 1A), Shemonski (2G), Ravage (1G, 1A), and Kola Rukaj (18 saves) led the team.

Dobbs dropped to 5-6 with an 18-12 loss to visiting Sleepy Hollow on May 7.

A tough stretch for Ardsley, Hastings

Ardsley endured road losses to Nanuet (21-8, May 1) and Pleasantville (23-0, May 3), and fell to visiting Croton-Harmon (15-10, May 7) to see its record drop to 1-9.

Hastings (1-11) was blanked by hosts Blind Brook (15-0, May 1) and North Salem (16-0, May 2), and lost to visiting Edgemont (20-4, May 5).

Girls lax

Continued from page 17

"I think playing top teams is good for us," Eagles coach Kiersten McGovern said. "We see our weaknesses, we see our strengths, and we bring them on to the next games. Irvington is a strong team and they pressured us. We need to work on passing the ball when there's pressure on us."

The Eagles (5-6) rebounded with a 22-9 win over visiting Hastings on May 5. O'Connor (7G), O'Brien (4G, 1A), Hollen Peet (3G, 7 DC), McCormack (2G, 1A), O'Dea (1G), Hartnett (2G), Juliet Curanovic (1G), Scarlett Kilroe (first varsity goal), Kayla Rukaj (first varsity goal), and Georgioudakis (7 saves) led the way.

Canfin scored the game-winning goal in overtime in Irvington's 16-15 win over host Westlake on May 6. She finished with five goals, three assists, and five draw controls.

Flag football

Continued from page 17

heading into the postseason.

"Our first few games were not how we expected," Ustares said. "A bunch of the other teams are more experienced than us so it was rough to start out. But I think we've found a good groove."

Senior Isha Bindra is also a team captain for Dobbs, joining Moon and Ustares.

"Since the beginning of the season we've made tremendous improvement to the point where we've even had officials come up to us and say that they've really noticed it," Garofalo said. "For a first-year program, things are starting to come together and we just look forward to continuing to grow."

The Bulldogs, who improved to 9-3, were aided offensively by Sadie McRae (1G, 3A, 4DC), Doncov (5G, 1A), Im (1G), Raimondo (2G, 2A, 8DC), and Tessa McRae (2G).

"I think we need to do a little more work with stick skills," Sadie McRae said when asked to evaluate the team's progress. With the playoffs on the horizon, "just the fundamentals need to be stronger. But once we get those out of the way, we'll definitely be strong. We have a lot of seniors who really want to win. We have a lot of drive."

Hastings cruised past visiting Yonkers 16-2 on April 30. Alina Abrams (3G), Mila Angoff (1G), Sophia Ballard (2G), LaciAnne Brady (1G), Alex Erez (1G), Michaela Heinlein (1G), Nika Karell (1G), Penelope Krapf (1G), Ava Luke (1G), Sienna Radley (2G), Julia Serbee (2G), and Teresa Kalaj (3 saves) sparked the team. In the Jackets' loss to Dobbs, Angoff and Ballard each had three goals. Abrams tallied two goals.

Ardsley moves to 9-1

Ardsley improved to 9-1 with wins over visiting Bronxville (46-28, May 1), host Irvington (33-0, May 2), and visiting Hudson River (32-0, May 6). Since a loss to Horace Greeley on April 22, the Panthers have won five in a row, outscoring opponents 178-46 over that stretch.

Against Bronxville, senior Joie Levy had a hand in all seven touchdowns. She rushed for five scores and threw touchdown passes to Dylan Paley and Morgan Macri.

In the shutout of Irvington, Levy threw three touchdown passes and rushed for one. Paley had two receiving touchdowns and Macri had one. Elise O'Brien threw a touchdown pass to Maya Lubell.

Ardsley wins one of three

Ardsley lost to visiting Westlake 13-4 on May 2. Lyla Vega (2G, 1A), Mairead Gowran (1G, 5 draws), Juliette An (1G), Lyvia Pulver (1A), and Sienna Kay (6 saves) paced the team.

The Panthers fell to host Byram Hills 13-8 on May 5. Gowran (1A) and Lily Tiernan each had two goals. Helene Dillon, Hazel McGourty (2A, 5 DC), Anna Gallante (1A), and Liliana Champion scored one goal each. Kay had a busy day in net with 15 saves.

Ardsley (6-8) defeated host Yonkers 15-3 on May 6. Tiernan (2G, 4A), Gowran (3G, 1A, 4DC), Gallante (2G, 3A), McGourty (1G, 1A), Madeline McGoey (1G, 1A), Sophia Pecora (1G), Diana Galan (1G, 1A), Yuval Levine (1G, 1A), Krista Kelly (1G), Dillon (1G), Ryan Rosenfeld (1G), An (1A), and Kay (7 saves) led the way.

Against Hudson River, Levy ran for three touchdowns and threw a touchdown pass to Macri. O'Brien had a passing touchdown to Lubell.

Hudson River earns first win

Hudson River is a merged team comprised mainly of players from Hastings, with Clark Academy and Greenburgh Academy athletes also on the roster.

The Trailblazers earned their first win of the season, defeating host Irvington 24-16 on May 1.

Hudson River quarterback Sara Dehgan rushed for a touchdown and threw touchdown passes to Grace Smith and Francesca Molakides.

Keltz and Emma Silverman scored the Bulldogs' touchdowns.

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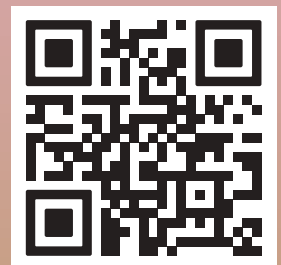
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