



HASTINGS

Farmers Market
Saturday, Oct. 31, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Commuter Lot, Southside Avenue. hastingsfarmersmarket.org.
—
Halloween Fun Run
Saturday, Oct. 31, 8:30 a.m. Hillside Elementary School.

For K–5 students and their families. ptsahastings.org.
—
Scarecrow's Ball
Saturday, Oct. 31, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. The Good Witch Coffee Bar, 134 Southside Ave.
—
Munchkin Halloween Parade

Saturday, Oct. 31, 10:45 a.m. March from VFW Plaza to The Good Witch Coffee Bar.
—
Studio Tour Preview Show
Sunday, Nov. 1, 3–5 p.m. Village Hall. Artists show works that will be part of the RiverArts Studio

Tour, Nov. 7–8.
—
Architectural Review Board Meeting
Monday, Nov. 2, 7 p.m. Village Hall. Agenda available at hohny.gov.
—
School Board Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 3, 6 p.m. Hillside Multipurpose Room. Agenda available at hohschools.org.
—
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 3, 7 p.m. Village Hall. Agenda available at hohny.gov.

— 2026 ELECTIONS —

Fleisig and Merton unopposed for board of trustees

BY AMY BOCHNER

Democratic incumbents Morgen Fleisig and Samantha Merton are running unopposed for the Hastings Board of Trustees in the Nov. 3 elections.

Fleisig moved to the village in 2014 and has served as a trustee since 2019. For the past 30 years, he has run his eponymous architecture firm. His first venture into local government was in 2017, when he joined the Waterfront Rezoning Committee. Two years later, former Mayor Peter Swiderski appointed Fleisig to the board of trustees. Fleisig was then elected to the board in 2020, and reelected in 2022 and 2024. In 2025, he ran in the Democratic primary for mayor, which was won by Tom Drake.

Merton has lived in Hastings since 2001 and is seeking reelection after her first term, which began in 2024. She is a graduate admissions counselor at Stratus Admissions Counseling and also works as a sensory panelist (professional taster) for MMR Research. She volunteers for various organizations, such as the Federal Employee Education & Assistance Fund, CollegeBound Foundation, and QuestBridge. Before becoming a trustee, Merton served for 13 years on the Parks & Recreation Commission, eight years on the Hastings Education Foundation board, and two years on the Hastings Comprehensive Plan Committee.

Also on the ballot in Hastings is Proposition 1, which relates to the Village's **Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP)** for volunteer firefighters.

In 1993, Hastings began participating in the LOSAP, which provides a retirement benefit to volunteers starting at age 65. Currently, volunteers can earn retirement credits for up to 20 years of eligible service. Each year of eligible service earns them \$20, with a maximum benefit of \$400 per month. Proposition 1 would allow volunteer firefighters to earn a larger retirement benefit by increasing the years of eligible service from 20 to 40. Volunteers would still earn \$20 per eligible year, but the maximum benefit would increase to \$800 a month.

According to the Village, the annual cost is not expected to increase significantly if the measure is approved. The current program had a budget of approximately \$333,050 for 2026. The annual funding cost for the amended program is estimated to be \$330,000.



Natalie Thompson and Paige Maime Thompson uncover the panels across the street from the middle and high schools.

Panels complete project to celebrate Clarks

Couple honored for impact on children and civil rights

BY AMY BOCHNER

A new set of panels near the building that houses Farragut Middle School and Hastings High School honor Mamie and Kenneth Clark, the former village residents who played a pivotal role in the fight to desegregate schools across the country.

The Clarks were best known for their doll experiments, which led to them testifying as expert witnesses in *Brown vs. Board of Education* in 1954, which declared separating children in public schools on the basis of race was unconstitutional. During a panel dedication on Oct. 22, educators, residents, and family members reflected on the Clarks and their legacy.

The couple's groundbreaking experiments originated with Mamie Phipps Clark's master's thesis, "The Development of Consciousness of Self in Negro Pre-School Children." She partnered with Kenneth Clark to extend her thesis research, which provided evidence of the negative effects of segregation on Black children's self-esteem. Following years of trailblazing work in psychology and education, Mamie Clark died in 1983 at age 66, leaving behind two children and Kenneth Clark, who died in 2005 at 91.

Despite their contributions to society, there was little recognition of the Clarks in Hastings, where they arrived in 1950 and remained for the rest of their lives. According to Hastings resident Jennifer Ito, "Aside

from a small plaque in the stairwell of the Clarks' home [on Pinecrest Drive in Hastings], and the Kenneth B. Clark Academy up the street in Dobbs Ferry... there was no public acknowledgement of the Clarks having lived here and of their impact on this country."

At the national level, Ito continued, information about Kenneth Clark was easy to find, but Mamie is "seldom mentioned, even though the doll test arose from her master's thesis, and she and Kenneth Clark had been equal partners conducting the doll study."

Ito, along with fellow Hastings residents Eddie Crawford and Caitlin Chang, decided to rectify these oversights.

"We kept saying to each other, 'Someone should do something to elevate both the Clarks and Hastings,'" Ito said. "If you lived here, it should just be part of common knowledge... We realized that that someone could be, and perhaps should be, the three of us. That's how this project was born."

In 2022, the three proposed a project to honor the Clarks to then Mayor Niki Armacost. They worked alongside Hastings Historical Society president Natalie Barry to bring their idea to life.

In fall of 2023, phase one of the project was realized when a portion of Mount Hope Boulevard was co-named Drs. Mamie and Kenneth Clark Way, with street signage funded by the Village.

Preceding the Oct. 14, 2023, co-naming ceremony, the Hastings Public Library hosted a series of lectures, discussions, and film screenings about historic figures connected to the Clarks. The historical society

prepared an exhibit on the Clarks that was displayed at the high school and at the historical society's headquarters. This phase also included Minnijean Brown-Trickey, a member of the Little Rock Nine who lived with the Clarks from 1958–59, speaking at all three schools in the district.

According to Barry, phase two took "more time and effort than we expected," with costs increasing and the passing of their first contractor.

Four years after the project proposal, phase two is now complete, with three panels installed on Drs. Mamie and Kenneth Clark Way — two at the bottom of Mount Hope Boulevard, at Farragut Avenue, and one at the top of the hill, at Lefurgy Avenue. The two near the schools contain biographies of the Clarks and overviews of their work as psychologists and activists. The panel on Lefurgy features a condensed summary, in language accessible to elementary school students.

While the panels seek to honor the Clarks in Hastings, other attendees of the Oct. 22 ceremony shared how the couples' influence endures outside of the village.

In 1946, the Clarks opened the Northside Center for Child Development, offering mental health services to families in Harlem. President Paula Magnus, and past president Thelma Dye-Holmes, a psychologist, spoke during the ceremony, describing how the couple's legacy, especially that of Mamie Clark, lives on in the organization's work.

"That foundation was built by Dr. [Mamie] Clark on three simple, simple but

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Fifty-Three Thirty Productions LLC. Filed 9/29/26. Office: Westchester Co. SSNY design. as agent for process & shall mail to: 230 S. Bedford Rd, Chappaqua, NY 10514. Purpose: Entertainment.

RiverArts Studio Tour

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building at 145 Palisade Street in Dobbs Ferry, which houses the studios of multiple artists, includes 19 stops on the studio tour.

This Sunday, Nov. 1, from 3–5 p.m., each of the tour's participating artists will have one piece in the preview show at the Hastings Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue. The group exhibit facilitates community building among the artists, most of whom are isolated from one another during the two days of the tour, and also helps viewers manage a potentially overwhelming number of options to visit.

"I highly recommend starting at Hastings Village Hall," Lenkeit explained. "You can go there, see one work by every artist, and plan [your tour itinerary] based on what you like or want to see more of."

While many artists featured in this year's

studio tour are returning participants, there are seven first-time exhibitors. In addition to Keon, Morton, and Sandgren-Jolain, Hastings' Lauren Berman and Don Levan, Adria Vitlar of Dobbs Ferry, and Peter Best of Ardsley are making their studio tour debuts. Madge Scott, Catrin Perih, and Jen Moore Smith are among the dozens of tour regulars.

"The very interesting thing about our membership is we have people who are traditional painters, and we have much more experimental artists," Demirdelen noted. "We have people working in found objects, people working in multimedia, so there's a wide range of art."

The dozens of locations on the studio tour will be open on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 11 a.m.–5 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 8, from 12–4 p.m. For the full map locations, including thumbnail images of each artist's work, visit 2026studiotour.riverarts.org.

Wildly Cakes

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through Dobbs Ferry, where she and her family moved to earlier this year.

"I was already taking orders and word was getting out because a lot of bakeries either closed or were not taking orders because of Covid," Ramirez recalled. "So, either they [customers] would pick it [their cake] up outside my house, or I would drop them

outside their house."

In 2018, the same year she launched Wildly Cakes, Ramirez completed a nine-month program for pastry arts at the International Culinary Center in Manhattan. Baking custom desserts has allowed Ramirez to channel the love of art she's had since she was a child. Born in Mexico City, she came to the U.S. at age 6.

"Art was my favorite class when I was in school," Ramirez said. "I would make cards for my mom, cards for anyone. Anything I

Clark panels

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powerful principles: family, community, and pure love," Magnus said.

She noted how Northside has grown since she began working for the organization 30 years ago. At the start of that period, Northside had a \$2 million budget, served 900 families, and had 60 employees in one location. The center currently has a \$33 million budget, serves 6,500 families, and employs 300 people. Northside operates four locations, and offers programs in 22 schools throughout New York City.

"[The Clarks] understood something profound about children... When our children

and our families walk through the doors, we want them to know that the beauty belongs to them. The quality belongs to them. They deserve it and they matter," Magnus said.

The Clarks broke barriers in their educational and professional lives, foremostly as the first African-Americans to earn doctoral degrees in psychology at Columbia University. Kenneth Clark was also the first African American appointed to the New York State Board of Regents. During the Hastings ceremony, Lester W. Young Jr., who currently sits in Clark's seat, shared the responsibility he feels to honor his predecessor.

"Every time I enter the Regents group, I'm reminded that I walk a path cleared by someone who came before, and that his

Regional elections

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Since 2016, Duffalo has worked as the director and vice president of the Bronchiectasis Foundation, which seeks to help those affected by the lung condition. She also served as an election inspector for the Westchester County Board of Elections from 2020–26.

Westchester County District 3

In District 3, which encompasses North Castle, Mount Pleasant, Pleasantville, Sleepy

Pascone Park

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"We've met quite a few Ardsley locals while painting, from schoolchildren to tennis coaches from the nearby courts to passersby," she said. "We felt that our interactions were personal and warm, and on the whole we felt very welcomed into the community. We hope that this optimism of the village's residents is reflected in the mural, which taps into a whimsical perception of the world."

Kamaeva hopes the mural can serve as

Parade floats

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mystical pumpkins."

The Pumpkin Trail brings together artists and six Rivertowns communities — Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings, Irvington, Sleepy Hollow, and Tarrytown. More than 25 people helped bring the exhibition to life. Falasca's Home Improvement in Tarrytown helped build the float and donated the pedestals for the sculptures. The pumpkins are on display around the six villages and available for auction through this Sunday, Nov. 1, at www.rivertownspumpkintrail.com.

could do with art, I love it. That is my favorite part, to this day, about making cakes."

Expanding beyond fulfilling orders requested by customers allows Ramirez to offer Mexican treats like concha, a Mexican sweet bread, or pan de muerto, also sweet bread, but that's traditionally baked around the time of Día de los Muertos, which is Nov. 1–2. During her first few days on Cedar Street, Ramirez found concha to be particularly popular — including with customers who weren't

Hollow, and Harrison, Republican incumbent Margaret Cunzio is being challenged by Democrat Michael Peppard.

Cunzio is the minority leader of the board, which she first joined in 2016. She is seeking a sixth term. The former elementary-school teacher and current college professor is also a volunteer firefighter with the Thornwood Fire Department.

Peppard is a professor of theology at Fordham University who served as a trustee for the Village of Pleasantville from 2021–2024. He is the author of three books about the Bible and Christianity.

a "pop of color and a visual anchor" for the park, to which Piorko agreed.

"Before the mural, the container was at best an object in the background that people ignored, and at worst an industrial eyesore that stood out from the natural environment," Piorko said. "As the design developed, more and more people stopped to talk to us about the mural. The container turned into something that catches attention — in a good way — that people slow down to look at and something that sparks a bit of curiosity, especially from kids."

Other prize-winning entries included Tappan Landing, which won "Best in Show"; Scaryoke, "Best Group"; Dog Park Darling, "Best Adult"; and Ossining Destination Imagination, "Best Child." Special awards commemorating the nation's 250th anniversary went to Transfiguration Parish and Uncle Sam & Lady Liberty.

A total of 100 groups participated in the parade, which amassed 34 floats or vehicles and 10 marching bands. The Village estimates that 1,300 people took part in the procession and about 24,000 spectators lined the route, making this year's parade the most attended yet.

familiar with it until visiting Wildly Cakes.

"I really want them to get a taste of my culture, the Mexican flavors," Ramirez explained. "We're going to be bringing in more Mexican desserts. I really want to invite people to try it and see what it's really about."

Wildly Cakes, 10 Cedar St., is open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., as well as Sunday from 8 a.m. to noon. For more information, visit wildlycakes.com.

promise of justice that lies at the heart of public education."

The ceremony concluded with the Clarks' eldest granddaughter, Natalie Thompson, along with her daughter Paige Mamie, unveiling the panels. Thompson, who grew up in Hastings and graduated from the high school in 1986, described the experience as "humbling."

"The work that my grandparents fought so hard for, ensuring that children felt seen and had access to resources that could build their self-esteem and thrive, was evident in this community right here," she said. "I truly want to thank Eddie, Jen, Caitlin, and Natalie for everything they've done in turning a simple idea into a historical landmark that my entire family is truly so proud of."