

# THE RIVERTOWNS Enterprise

The Hometown Newspaper  
of Hastings-on-Hudson,  
Dobbs Ferry, Ardsley  
and Irvington

VOLUME 46, NUMBER 24 • JULY 30, 2021

75 CENTS

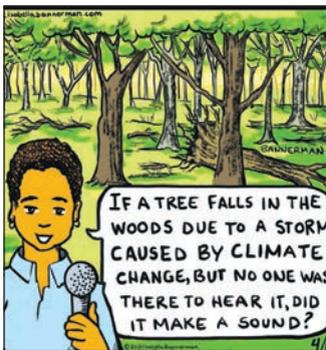
## Inside



### Coming soon

Rest stop to be razed and replaced along Thruway

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### Regeneration

New art exhibit confronts climate justice

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### Surplus funds

Capital budget to spend down Irvington fund balance

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TIM LAMORTE/RIVERTOWNS ENTERPRISE

The west side of the mansion

## Lenoir's blighted mansion to be restored

By Jeff Wilson

YONKERS — With the subject as backdrop, Westchester County officials committed \$5 million to restore the historic Wightman Mansion at the Lenoir Preserve on Tuesday, July 20.

"We have assets that we've inherited from past generations that are magnificent, but we have let fall into disrepair over years of neglect," County Executive George Latimer said, also referring to the Tarrytown Lighthouse and Rye Playland.

The 13,000-square-foot mansion was built in the mid-1800s, with granite quarried on-site, and then expanded in the early 1900s. The restoration will include the roof, gutters, windows, soffits, doors, repointing the chimneys and the stone façade, and upgrading the HVAC system.

The first step will be exterior renovations to seal the building and protect it from the elements.

Hugh J. Greechan Jr., commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Public Works and Transportation, who is overseeing the project, predicted the work would be complete in August 2022. He also stated that bids for the project had come in at \$4.5 million.

Two and-a-half years ago, Greechan recalled, "The water was pouring in the roof and freezing up in the winter. There was no heating system. We had no choice but to do something immediately." In response, the County allocated \$300,000 to reseal the roof and remove asbestos.

The building now suffers from broken windows, peeling paint, and rotting wood on the exterior.

"We have to cherish the things that were put here by our grandparents and our great-grandparents and not let them lay fallow, not let them collapse into a heap of rubble," Latimer said. Despite cutting taxes two years in a row, he continued, "we can still restore the past properly and appropriately. We will bring this building and others back to life. They will have a new productive use in the years to come."

Plaques outside the mansion detailing its history reveal that the original owner, in the 1860's, was the Edward Martin family. From there it passed to Adam Norrie, who named the estate Montrose after his birthplace in Scotland. The third owner, tobacco magnate Caleb C. Dula,

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## Website assesses properties for geothermal

By Kris DiLorenzo

REGION — Using a free online tool called Westchester GeoPossibilities, homeowners and commercial property owners can now evaluate whether their property is suitable for ground-source (geothermal) heat pumps to provide what is essentially central heating and air conditioning.

Geothermal systems consist of a pump with pipes that sends warm air from the ground into a building, or draws warm air out of a building and sends it into the ground, depending on what the weather demands. The pumps

are powered by electricity, which can be sourced from renewable energy.

Found at [geopossibilities.ny.gov](http://geopossibilities.ny.gov), the tool was adapted from one created for New York City by Goldman Copeland, an engineering firm run by president and CEO Charles Copeland of Hastings.

During a July 22 Zoom event, Sustainable Westchester, the nonprofit facilitating environmental programs throughout the county, presented a cadre of energy experts to explain the state's clean energy goals, the benefits of geothermal heat pumps, the incentives Con Ed offers for property owners who switch to renewable energy and technol-

ogy, and to demonstrate how GeoPossibilities works.

The state's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) requires that New York be using carbon-free electricity — 100 percent zero emissions — by 2040. By 2030, key technologies such as zero-emission vehicles and heat pumps must become the norm, meeting or exceeding half of new sales.

Scott Smith, the Clean Heating and Cooling Program manager for the NYS Energy Research and Development

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