

# THE RIVERTOWNS Enterprise

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

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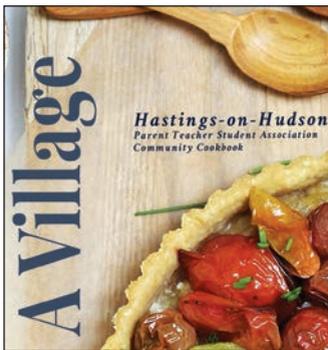
## Inside



### Imprint of Light

Talents meld into a multimedia force of nature

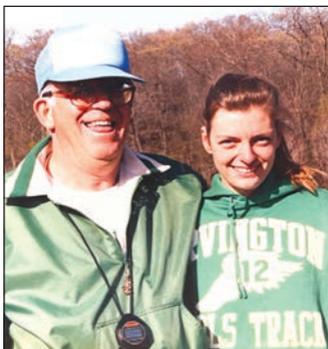
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### Food for funds

Cookbook offers a banquet of community flavor

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TIM LAMORTE/RIVERTOWNS ENTERPRISE

### In their hands

Mini globes were handed out to kindergarten students who planted 30 native shrubs outside Springhurst Elementary School in Dobbs Ferry on Friday, April 23. Teacher Tricia Zarro and the school's outdoor classroom coordinator, Sara Sellitti, organized the project. Zarro obtained 10 gray dogwood, 10 silky dogwood, and 10 winged sumac through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's School Seedling Program. Parents prepared the site and then assisted with the planting.

## Matthiessen to be open to nonresidents for first time

By Jackie Lupu

IRVINGTON — On Memorial Day weekend, the Village of Irvington plans to reopen Matthiessen Park with an assortment of new amenities, and without the “residents only” policy that had been the subject of debate in recent years.

Citing social justice concerns, the board of trustees voted unanimously to lift that restriction at their April 19 meeting. Since 2019, village residents, including members of the progressive Irvington Activists, had urged the board to end the nonresident ban, referring to it as exclusionary and offensive.

In their discussion, the trustees and mayor noted that there was no longer a reason to keep out nonresidents. Recent research into Ralph Matthiessen's gift of the parkland to the village in 1945 revealed that the deed did not, as previously believed, limit access to Irvington residents.

In November 2020, the board reached consensus about working toward admission for all. Since then, village officials and members of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee (RPAC) explored how other municipalities handle similar facilities that welcome everyone.

“I think we've found from our research that good management can enhance a well-run park,” Mayor Brian Smith said, adding that opening the park to the general public would also allow the Village to apply for grants for park amenities such as a stage, a police boat dock, and new bathrooms.

Since early 2020, the park has been closed for renovations, including the construction of a new playground and

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## Gould Park renovation enters final phase

By Kris DiLorenzo

DOBBS FERRY — The ongoing renovation of Gould Park reached two milestones on April 13.

During their meeting on that date, the Dobbs Ferry Board of Trustees agreed to pay the remaining \$187,947.15 owed to Norberto Construction, which completed the park's new pool in July 2020. The total cost was \$2.1 million.

The pool will be open from May 29 until Sept. 12 with Covid-19 restrictions in place, such as wearing a face covering when not in the water. Though the pool is complete, Recreation Superintendent Kendra Garrison said, “We would like

to add a snack stand at some point, but I don't know when that will be.”

Last year, rather than a membership fee for the summer, reservations for half-hour time slots were required and payment was made online. This year, the purchase of a membership is required, as is a reserved time slot.

Those with computers should register for a pool membership online. Persons without computers should call the rec department at 914-693-0024. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, nonresident memberships will not be available, but that may change as the infection rate drops.

Also on April 13, the Board of Trustees awarded the bid for building the

park's new playground to P. Corsetti, Inc., of Mamaroneck, in the amount of \$323,766.75. The project budget is \$325,000. Westchester County contributed a \$150,000 grant, which the Village matched. The Village also received more than \$30,000 from a group of residents who fundraised through the website [www.gouldpark.com](http://www.gouldpark.com).

The old playground was demolished during the building of the pool. Local architect John Rapetti designed the new playground pro bono. Garrison expects new equipment for both 2–5-year-olds and 5–12-year-olds such as climbing

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