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# Westchester Rising

Yonkerstimes.com

Friday October 20, 2023

## Rye Town Attorney Collects \$260k Per Year in Salary, Billing & Fees: Where is the Oversight?



Employees, Taxpayers & Homeowners Facing Foreclosure in the Town of Rye Raise Concerns about the earnings of Town Attorney Jeff Binder, left

By Dan Murphy

Over the summer, Westchester Rising and Yonkerstimes.com received complaints from former and current employees in the Town of Rye concerning legal fees charged and collected by Town Attorney Jeff Binder. Binder, a longtime Westchester attorney, is paid a yearly salary of \$61,472, but has also been billing the Town, on average, \$20,000 every month for additional legal services, according to invoices obtained through FOIL.

That puts Binder's yearly compensation at more than \$260,000 per year, for a position paid for by the taxpayers in the Town of Rye, which includes Rye Brook, and the Rye Neck section of the Village of Mamaroneck. Some residents have questioned who in Town government is providing oversight and review of Binder's bills, and who is protecting the taxpayers?

Two of Binder's invoices that stand out are from Nov. 30, 2021, which show Binder billing the Town 25 hours on several different matters; and on Oct. 5, 2021, with billing of 15 hours.

We found out about this matter through phone calls and emails with current and former Town employees, who were outraged at the fees being charged to homeowners and taxpayers.

Town governments in Westchester pay for their Town Attorney's in two

*continued on pg 7-*

## Diana & Mirchandani Disagree on Garbage Fiasco at Yorktown Debate



Democratic candidate for Yorktown Supervisor Jann Mirchandani, left, and republican Supervisor Tom Diana right

By Dan Murphy

On October 11, candidates for Yorktown Supervisor and Town Board held an in person debate at the Community Theater. Overall the debate was a civil exchange of views on the issues of the day affecting residents and taxpayers in town.

Town Supervisor candidates Jann Mirchandani and Tom Diana debated over the 9 month inability for the garbage and recycling to be removed reliably.

Mirchandani explained how the cost for taxpayers to contract with a new hauler (Now CRP) have increased by 25%, as a result of the Town Board's decision last year to hire a new company (Competitive Carting) who failed to deliver and forgo their existing carting company (AAA).

Diana then attempted a political tapdance of sorts, claiming that he fixed a problem that he voted to create last year, when he voted to hire Competitive Carting. "The garbage situation is fixed for the next year. Not only did I fix it, I made it better."

"I don't know anybody else who could have done it in the timely fashion that I did, coming from a complete collapse of the garbage company (Competitive) that yes folks I voted for," said Diana.

Mirchandani responded by reminding the community that "the original contract was improperly vetted. The company (Competitive) had a previous bankruptcy which was public record. Nobody on the board asked if they had the proper equipment. And when problems arose in January, and again in July and again in August, it is the Board's responsibility to act in a timely fashion."

"Our town board is responsible for taking the lowest responsible bidder, not the lowest bid. And that is not what happened," said Mirchandani.

Yorktown homeowners and taxpayers are now paying \$600,000 more for their current garbage and recycling with CRP, who bid \$4.3 Million on a one-year emergency contract in September. If the Town Board had accepted the five year contract with AAA, who bid \$3.7 Million per year, they would have saved \$600,000 in taxpayer money. Plus, the Town only has a one-year contract with CRP, and if costs rise, a new contract will cost more. With AAA, they had cost certainty and a reliable company.

For Diana to claim that he "fixed" a problem that lingered for 8 month and had 1300 town residents and taxpayers complaining on Yorktown Trash Talk, and that the new contract costs an additional \$600,000 is someone putting on a positive spin on a disaster created with his vote as a town board member last year and former Supervisor Matt Slater's initiative.

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## Latimer: Crime is Down Compared to 2017: Branda: Crime is Up, Year Over Year Can Both Be Right?



County Executive George Latimer, left; right Republican BOL candidate Dan Branda

By Dan Murphy

On Oct. 11, Westchester County Executive George Latimer held a press conference with county law enforcement officials to release statistics that show the crime is down in Westchester County again.

Latimer said: "Once again, it is clear that our dedication to combatting crime in Westchester County remains steadfast. The Westchester County Department of Public Safety is funded at the highest level ever because of my commitment to keeping this County safety for us all. While certain regions in the state are grappling with unfortunate spikes in crime rates, Westchester County is once again maintaining our consistent decline in criminal activities. I credit this encouraging trend to the dedication and courage of our law enforcement personnel."

The Westchester County Department of Public Safety conducted a thorough analysis, comparing crime data from 2017 and 2022. In 2017, Latimer defeated former County Executive Rob Astorino, and this data comparison shows that during Astorino's final year in office, crime rates were higher in Westchester than they are today.

Republican Dan Branda, who is running for County Legislator on Nov. 7 against BOL Chair Vedat Gashi, (District 4, New Castle, Somers, Yorktown) says that crime data shows that year over year, crime in many categories is up in Westchester. "I am alarmed with how easily and intentionally County Executive George Latimer lied about something as simple and independently verifiable as the growing crime rates in Westchester County.

"Let's be clear: George Latimer created a narrative--that crime is down "again" in Westchester--and then he cherry-picked a random year as a point of comparison. Why are we comparing crime rates to 2017? Why not 1967? Why not 1867? The Board of Legislators needs to immediately hold a hearing because crime is up across the board, and 20% overall since last year," said Branda.

We spoke to both Latimer and Branda for further clarification. Latimer explained that comparing crime rates dating back to 2017, "offers a continued trend that over this time period, crime has gone down. He also added that "violent crime rates continue to remain low in Westchester County, while non-violent crimes have seen a recent uptick."

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## Nolan and Walter Slug it Out in BOL Debate



Virtual forum between county legislator James Nolan, top, and former legislator Ruth Walter, below

By Dan Murphy

The most closely watched Westchester Board of Legislators race this year is a rematch between Legislator James Nolan and former Legislator Ruth Walter, in the 14th district, East Yonkers, Bronxville.

The two candidates held a LWV online debate on Oct. 5. While Legislator Nolan and Walter both expressed their views, accomplishments, and criticisms of each other, the debate turned sour with Walter calling Nolan a "MAGA candidate," and Nolan saying "i'm not a liar, i'm not a racist, and i'm not an elitist. but my opponent does have that type of a pattern."

The debate was a difficult one for the LWV Rivertowns to moderate, and on more than one occasion the moderator told Walter to stop the personal attacks against Nolan. Walter claims that the so called personal attacks were -legitimate policy differences that the two have, but the moderator called the exchange "not a civil debate."

The best parts of this very contentious debate was when Nolan defended his work as a sanitation worker for the Yonkers Department of Public Works.

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**Stepinac HS Senior Eddie Palumbo Named Con Edison's Scholar Athlete of the Week**



By Dan Murphy

Congratulations to Eddie Palumbo, a senior at Stepinac High School, for being named Con Edison's Scholar Athlete of the week. Palumbo, from Yorktown Heights, continued to play this football season with a dislocated finger, causing him to play with a cast & a rubber club hand in a recent victory over Iona Prep. Eddie responded with 15 tackles & a 28-yard interception which was turning point in game. Eddie has 161 tackles in his 2-year Varsity career at Stepinac.

In addition to being named Varsity Football captain, Palumbo is a member of the weight lifting club at Stepinac. His other activities include membership in the National Honor Society, Investment club, Travel Club, Mu Alpha Theta – Math National Honor Society

Eddie has volunteered at Stepinac's Summer sports camp and as an academic tutor. He has also served as a volunteer at the Mount Carmel Food Pantry and the United Way of Westchester.

Palumbo has a 98.85 GPA, and has been offered scholarships to Harvard, Yale, U Penn, Columbia & Cornell. Eddie has committed to Yale Football next year.

"Eddie is an outstanding Student athlete here at Stepinac. He has worked very hard in class room & on the field to be a great player & student. Eddie is even a better person & he is exactly what the Con Edison Scholar athlete is about," said Stepinac Athletic Director Michael O'Donnell

"Eddie is a natural Leader, his ability to balance the most challenging curriculum our school offers with his athletic responsibilities and the requirements of Honors Academy is beyond impressive. He is a amazing athlete & even better human," said Stepinac school counselor Lisa Cappiello.

**Letter to the Editor:**

This year's farm bill should significantly increase federal funding for cultivated-meat research. For those who don't know, cultivated meat is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter. It has the potential to dramatically reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, our pandemic risk, and the suffering we inflict on animals.

While the product is currently sold in a few high-end restaurants, further research is needed for cultivated meat to achieve price parity with slaughtered meat, which is crucial for widespread adoption. If you'd like to help pressure legislators to support this research, visit SlaughterFreeAmerica.Substack.com.

Jon Hochschartner, Granby, CT,

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**Harrison Library's Meet the Authors Event Sat. October 28 Features 15 Authors in Person**

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**Saturday October 28**  
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The Village Bookstore of Pleasantville will be on site.

Saturday, October 28, 1:00pm - 4:00pm, Halperin Building - Community Room

This year marks the 6th Annual Meet the Authors event featuring new and seasoned authors. Join us for an afternoon of authors who will discuss their latest books with us.

Copies of each author's book will be raffled during the event. The Village Bookstore of Pleasantville, NY, will be on site selling books for the book signing.

Refreshments from The Laughing Horse Coffee & Tea Shop will be provided by BrightView of West Harrison.

Guest speakers include

- P. J. Caldas, The Girl From Wudang (AI Thriller)
- C.J. Farley, Zero O'Clock (Young Adult Fiction)
- Mariah Fredericks, The Lyndberg Nanny (Historical Fiction)
- Jimin Han, The Apology (Asian American Fiction/Magic Realism)
- Mary Beth Keane, The Half Moon (Contemporary Fiction)
- Karen Lin-Greenberg, You Are Here (Contemporary/Asian American Fiction)
- Susie Luo, Paper Names (Contemporary/Asian American Fiction)
- Carolyn Mackler, The Wife App (Contemporary Fiction)
- William Maz, The Bucharest Legacy (Historical Fiction)
- Clémence Michallon, The Quiet Tenant (Suspense Thriller)
- Idra Novey, Take What You Need (Contemporary Fiction/Literary)
- Devan Sandiford, Excitement and Talisman (Poetry and Short Stories)
- Charles Soule, The Endless Vessel (Mystery/Suspense)
- Beatrice Williams, The Beach at Summerly (Historical Fiction)
- Lauren Willig, Two Wars & a Wedding (Historical Fiction).

Authors Speaking Schedule

- 1:00 PM: Mary Beth Keane
- 1:30 PM: C.J. Farley, Karen, Lin-Greenberg, Susie Luo, and Carolyn Mackler
- 2:30 PM: Book Signing/Break
- 2:45 - 3:45 PM: Mariah Fredericks, Jimin Han, Devan Sandiford, Beatriz Williams, and Lauren Willig
- 3:45 PM: Book Signing/Break
- 4:00 - 5:00 PM: P.J. Caldas, William Maz, Clémence Michallon, Idra Novey, and Charles Soule

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## Latimer Signs Slate of Environmental Laws



County Executive George Latimer, with L-R- Legislators Catherine Parker left, Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins, Legislator Ben Boykin, Legislator David Imamura

In a significant milestone for the residents of Westchester County, County Executive George Latimer signed several crucial environmental bills that have been crafted by his Administration, through the County’s Director of Research Ellen Hendrickx and Director of Environment, Energy, & Sustainability Peter McCart, and refined through months of collaboration with the Board of Legislators. These bills represent the County’s commitment to enhancing the quality of life for our community by addressing pressing issues and meeting the evolving needs of our residents.

Latimer said: “The signing of these bills into law is a testament to the power of collaboration and the steadfast dedication of our Board of Legislators to improve the lives of Westchester County residents and protect our planet’s future. Through their hard work and our shared commitment to good governance, we have crafted and signed laws that address pressing issues in our community. Further, our bold steps towards expanding access to Electric Vehicle charging stations and electrifying our car and bus fleet reflect our determination to lead the way in sustainability.”

The environmental law package includes:

- The Lead Free Parks Act which will create a process for monitoring and remediating drinking water in all County parks to ensure its safety
- The Addressing Asthma in Communities of Color Amendment which will create a subcommittee of the African-American Advisory Board dedicated to studying the high rates of Asthma in communities of color
- The Renewable Energy Database Act which will allow the County to assist municipalities in their move to create more renewable energy by establishing a database to encourage siting of renewable energy infrastructure on municipal property
- The Equity in Environmental Legislation Act which will ensure that all communities are treated fairly when the County is considering any new law in an effort to combat historical cases of violation of environmental justice

In addition to these legislative wins, Westchester County is proud to announce its ambitious efforts to expand access to Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations and electrify the County’s car and bus fleet. Now, nearly all (90%) of the County’s 325 buses are either all electric or electric hybrid. Additionally, 33 public EV Charging Stations have been installed and another 206 in process which will be up and running by the summer of 2024 (with at least another 148 will be installed by the fall of 2025). In line with the County’s dedication to sustainability and a cleaner, greener future, the County is taking significant strides to reduce our carbon footprint and promote the adoption of electric vehicles. By enhancing the accessibility of EV charging stations, buses and the County’s EV fleet, Westchester is encouraging residents to embrace electric transportation options, reducing emissions and contributing to a healthier environment.

McCart said: “We take our role as good stewards of our County very seriously – and the County Executive’s signing of these wide ranging bills shows it. I am looking forward to working toward the implementation of these important initiatives.”

Hendrickx said: “These accomplishments, both in legislative improvements and our commitment to sustainable transportation, underscore Westchester County’s dedication to its residents and the environment.”

Chair of the African American Advisory Board Barbara Edwards said: “The Addressing Asthma in Communities of Color Amendment is a critical step forward in addressing a pressing health concern in our communities. This law underscores our commitment to the well-being of our residents, particularly those in communities of color who have been disproportionately affected by asthma.”

## Rain, Rain Go Away!



By Eric Wolf Schoen

What is up with this rain every weekend destroying our plans and forcing us to sit in the house watching old movies? The last six weekends have brought inclement weather to our area forcing us to reconsider our thinking on global warming. So many major fall events including Yonkers Riverfest have had to be cancelled spoiling weekends for families throughout the region.

I guess it’s time for us to take a second look at global warming. The reason I say this is that the weekend rains have not been our usual garden variety style rain but have been massive storms closing our regions roadways flooded with water. What can we do? Pray that the rain will stop. All I know is I feel bad for families plans destroyed by the weather charged with entertaining their children in the house. Was there even a fall foliage to watch this year?

So much going on coupled with what is going on in the Middle East. It all starts at home as funding cannot be allocated and distributed due to the inability of Congress to select a leader. The process seems very uncomplicated. The Republicans have a majority in the House and should be able to select one of their own as Speaker. They have been running through candidates like rain water pouring through street grates. As we go to press a vote is being taken to name a new Speaker of the House.

The entire House gathers in Chambers with lawmakers casting their votes in alphabetical order by standing up and yelling out a name. The majority of those present and participating have their votes counted. There are 433 members of Congress. This is usually done on one vote. It took 15 votes to name the last speaker. Quite unusual. But work is sort of at a standstill until the Speaker is selected. That would include the allocation of money and supplies to Israel.

After much criticism last week, far left Democrats referred to as ‘The Squad’ including our own Yonkers Congressman Jamaal Bowman have called for an end to the war in Israel referring to it as armed violence and making no mention of American hostages in the Gaza Strip. This is just a continuation of their refusal to recognize what is going on until lawmakers, the media, religious leaders and the public call them out. Same thing happened right after the October 7 attacks when the Democrat Socialists said nothing until they were called out.

President Biden heads to the region this week to show United States support for Israel. He will call out Hamas as a terrorist group and support Israel’s unwillingness to support Hamas’s control over Gaza. Israel is going after a group of people who engaged in barbarism as horrific as the Holocaust and must respond.

Biden also wants to stop a wider Middle East war. Hamas’s attacks changed all rules of play. He will seek to rescue the hostages Hamas is holding. I would note that to show support of New Yorkers for Israel Governor Kathy Hochul is headed to Israel this week. Former President Donald Trump has said Netanyahu and Israel were poorly prepared for Hamas’s attacks infuriating members of Congress and Jews around the world.

Where this is all headed nobody knows. The anti Israel language coming out of colleges and universities throughout the United States is coming from students who probably could not find the Middle East on a map. All we can do is pray for the people of Israel that hostages are released and no more killings occur and those who murdered Israelis receive the punishment they deserve. And that Congress gets its house in order to supply Israel with what it needs to win this war.

And now for some HOT TOPICS:

New York Alcohol sales can now take place on Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. This at the request of liquor store owners. Has anyone placed a time frame for when cannabis or marijuana sales can take place or do we have to smell it at all hours of the day?

New Yorkers are receiving public service calls from Mayor Adams where his voice is translated using Artificial Intelligence into Yiddish, Mandarin, Urdu and other languages. Will our Cracker Jack communications office in the Mayor’s Office in Yonkers follow suit? New Yorkers love it!

When I visited Florida I often stayed in Pembroke Pines. The Pembroke

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## AT&T Provides 100 Laptops to At-Risk Westchester Youth



100 refurbished laptops were given to Westchester students and families as part of AT&T's nationwide commitment to help bridge the digital divide. AT&T is working with Human-I-T to provide students and families from the organizations 914 United, Inc. and the Youth Shelter Program of Westchester with laptops and digital literacy resources to help them fully participate in our digital world. The laptops, funded by an AT&T donation to Human-I-T, were given to the students and their families at an event on October 11 at the Yonkers Art Space in Yonkers, NY.

The Youth Shelter Program of Westchester is a not-for-profit residential alternative to incarceration for young men 16-21. Since 1975, the Shelter has provided a structured environment designed to foster growth and rehabilitate court-involved youth from the Westchester communities.

914United, Inc. is a program-based mentoring 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working to expose, educate, and empower the youth and the justice-involved within the Lower-Hudson Valley.

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said: "Today marks a significant step in our commitment to bridge the digital divide in Westchester County. AT&T's generous donation of 100 refurbished laptops to students and families, in partnership with Human-I-T, 914 United, and the Youth Shelter Program of Westchester, represents our collective dedication to ensuring that every member of our community has the tools and resources to thrive in the digital age."

Senator Jamaal T. Bailey 36th District, said: "It's critical that we continue to advance equitable access to technology for all. In an increasingly digital world, technology is not merely a luxury, it's an essential utility that we rely on for almost every part of daily life. By bridging the digital divide, we can empower our youth with the tools they need to thrive in the digital age and beyond. I want to thank AT&T, Human-I-T, 914 United and Youth Shelter of Westchester for partnering to close the digital divide and build a future where every young person has the opportunity to reach their full potential, regardless of their background or circumstances."

State Assemblyman Steve Otis, Chair of the Assembly Science and Technology Committee, said, "The inequities that make up the digital divide can be corrected through digital inclusion and literacy initiatives such as AT&T's program announced today. I have worked with digital inclusion program leaders from around the state to promote expanding access to broadband access, devices, and training to bring excluded individuals into the digital world."

Robert LeBron, Program Manager of 914United, Inc, said: "914 United is dedicated to 'exposing, educating, and empowering' justice-involved youth by providing them with the help they need to succeed. We are proud to be part of this initiative to help our most vulnerable and forgotten population have the same opportunities others have."

Jordan Cormier, Director of Programming at Youth Shelter Program of Westchester, said: "Empowering our youth with laptops is not just about leveling the playing field; it's about providing them with the tools to bridge the digital equity divide, ensuring that every young mind has an equal opportunity to explore, learn, and succeed."

John Emra, Atlantic Region President, AT&T, said: "AT&T is proud to collaborate with organizations like Human-I-T, 914 United and Youth Shelter to help close the digital equity gap in New York. Many students in New York lack the devices needed for digital learning. Access to connectivity is vital in helping to bridge the digital divide and we are glad we can provide these resources to those that need them most."

## Assemblywoman Levenberg's Office Holds Domestic Violence Awareness Drive



Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg in her Ossining office

Items collected will be delivered to Hope's Door at the end of October

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg, pictured above, is collecting items for a drive supporting women and children fleeing abusive situations. The drive began at the end of last month and will continue through Friday, October 27.

Suggested items for donation include full-size toiletries and gift cards for establishments such as Amazon, grocery stores, gas stations, drug stores – essentially, items that survivors can use to meet their immediate needs as they are trying to re-establish their lives. All donations will be delivered to Hope's Door, a local not-for-profit assisting women and children impacted by domestic violence at the end of the drive.

"Domestic violence is a hidden but unfortunately pervasive scourge that impacts all of our communities. Anything and everything we can do to support women and children leaving abusive situations is critically important to my mission of building healthy communities," said Levenberg. "As we work on legislation to solve problems and create new opportunities that enable all New Yorkers to succeed, we can also help to address immediate and near-term needs that people have through initiatives like this."

Members of the public who are able to contribute are encouraged to bring or mail contributions to Levenberg's district office at 8 Revolutionary Road, Ossining, NY 10562. Another option is to bring items to the Assemblywoman's mobile office hours, held most Monday afternoons in a different corner of the district. Staff members will be at the Field Library (4 Nelson Avenue, Peekskill, NY 10566) from 1-4 PM on Monday, October 16 and at Cold Spring Village Hall (85 Main St., Cold Spring, NY 10516) from 1-4 PM on Monday, October 23.

## Halloween Organ Spooktacular



Dr. Sandor Szabo

On Tuesday, October 31 at 4:00pm, Dr. Sandor Szabo, acclaimed concert organist will perform an organ concert featuring a spooky selection of well-known organ music such as Toccata and Fugue by Bach, Dance Macabre by Saint-Seans, excerpts from Peer Gynt Suite by Grieg, The Flight of a Bumble Bee, by Rimsky-Korsakov, Ride of Valkyre, Wagner, Fugue on "Pink Panther" by Bovet and Suite Gothique by Boellman at the Sacred Heart Church, 417 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry NY. Come in costume and enjoy this festive music family friendly event.

Dr. Sándor Szabó is actively engaged as pianist, conductor, organist, and harpsichordist throughout Europe, Asia, Canada and the United States has established his reputation by highly colorful and varied concert programming. He is the Music Director, Choirmaster and Principal Organist at Sacred Heart Church and Our Lady of Pompeii parish in Dobbs ferry.

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# DiNapoli: Cybercrime in New York Rises by 53%

**NY's Ransomware and Data Breaches Third Highest in Nation Over Six Years; Over \$775 Million Lost in 2022 Alone**

Cyberattacks in New York state increased 53% between 2016 and 2022, jumping from 16,426 incidents in 2016 to 25,112 in 2022. The number of attacks targeting critical infrastructure in New York state nearly doubled to 83 in the first half of 2023 compared to 48 during the entirety of last year, according to a report released today by State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli.

Estimated losses in New York from cyberattacks in 2022 totaled over \$775 million, while losses nationwide totaled \$10.3 billion. "Cyberattacks are a serious threat to New York's critical infrastructure, economy and our everyday lives," said DiNapoli. "Data breaches at companies and institutions that collect large amounts of personal information expose New Yorkers to potential invasions of privacy, identity theft and fraud. Also troubling is the rise in ransomware attacks that can shut down systems we rely on for water, power, health care and other necessities. Safeguarding our state from cyberattacks requires sustained investment, coordination, and vigilance."

Relative to other states, New York had the third highest number of ransomware attacks (135) and corporate data breaches (238) in 2022, trailing only California and Texas for ransomware attacks and California and Florida for corporate data breaches. New York also had the fourth-highest number of cybercrime victims in the nation in 2022 with losses skyrocketing 632% since 2016.

The two most attacked critical infrastructure sectors through ransomware and data breaches in New York were Healthcare and Public Health (9) and Financial Services (8). Commercial Facilities and Government Facilities (7) tied for third.

## COMBATTING THE THREAT

Securing critical infrastructure from cyberattacks will require sustained investment, coordination and vigilance. In 2022, the Governor appointed a state chief cyber officer to lead cross-agency efforts to combat cyber threats and improve the state's critical infrastructure assets' cybersecurity. The cyber chief leads a newly created Joint Security Operations Center, a multi-agency cybersecurity coordination hub linking New York state, New York City, local and regional governments and critical infrastructure stakeholders and federal partners for information sharing, cyber threat detection and incident response. In August, the Governor released the first statewide cybersecurity strategy, which will allow the state to access new federal funding.

The federal Cyber Incident Reporting for Critical Infrastructure Act of 2022, for which rules and regulations are being developed, will require cybersecurity reporting for critical infrastructure sectors. The creation of a centralized repository of data breach reports from across the critical infrastructure sectors would also aid in identifying new attack-vectors or exploits before they become widespread, and for coordinated responses to emerging cyberthreats. Encompassing local governments in this database would be important.

DiNapoli's cybersecurity audits of state agencies and public authorities have found several common technical weaknesses and risks across its audits, such as entities' misunderstanding of security risks, unsupported applications, unknown data on systems, poor access controls and a lack of monitoring of changes to systems, among others.

## CYBERSECURITY CHALLENGES FACING NY'S LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND SCHOOLS

DiNapoli also released a report on the cybersecurity challenges facing New York's local governments and school districts. In New York, cyberattacks have impacted local governments and schools both large and small, including reported attacks at counties including Albany, Chenango, Erie, Nassau, Schenectady, Suffolk, and Schuyler; cities including New York, Albany, Buffalo, Yonkers, Long Beach, and Olean; and towns including Brookhaven, Ulster, Canandaigua, and Moreau.

In 2019, a ransomware attack on the Syracuse City School District froze the district out of its own systems, crippling the website, email system, phones, and back-end functions like payroll and student management. Other attacks on local governments have had far reaching impacts. The September 2022 ransomware attack on Suffolk County, the ramifications of which the county is still dealing with, required the county to disable important computer systems and move many of the county's functions back to pen and paper for months.

DiNapoli's report provides guidance and resources for local governments and schools to help them manage the risks associated with cybersecurity.

*continued on pg 6-*

## WEEKEND EVENTS IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY PARKS

SATURDAY, OCT. 21

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466  
 What Happened Here?: 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Sign-tracking begins with a simple question and soon reveals a story of the living landscape. Join us as we explore Marshlands with the eye of a tracker (weather permitting).

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050  
 Birdhouse Gourds Crafting: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
 Birdhouse gourds are part of an indigenous technique for maintaining field health. Learn how to decorate one to take home. Get details and register at <https://hilltophanoverfarm.org/events/event/2023/10/21/birdhouse-gourd-crafting/449868>

Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 968-5851  
 Hawk Watch: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Hosted by the Hudson River Audubon Society. Meet behind the mansion at 10 a.m. and witness the amazing migration of some of our favorite hawks. Bring binoculars, snacks, drinks and a comfortable chair if you don't want to sit at a wooden picnic table. At 1 p.m., join us at the nature center for a live birds of prey show with master falconer James Eyring. Also: Oct. 28.

Trailside Nature Museum at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Cross River: (914) 864-7322  
 Why Bats Aren't So Scary: 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
 Learn all about New York State's bats, their role in the environment, the threats they face and how we can aid in their conservation. This will be followed by a bat box-building demonstration. Pre-register at (914) 864-7322.

Alfred B. DeBello Muscote Farm, Katonah: (914) 864-7282  
 Trick-or-Treating: 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. Visit the animals and trick-or-treat at our barn doors. Treats will be available while supplies last. Wearing costumes is encouraged.

Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye: (914) 967-8720  
 Back to the Clay: 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. We will harvest natural clay from habitats within the Sanctuary. You can create items of your choice (pots, animals, etc.) and take them home with you.

Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 968-5851  
 Honeybees: 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Have you ever wondered how beekeepers harvest honey from their hives? Join us with our beekeeper, Todd Patten, to learn about the extraction process and watch it in action. For all ages; indoor/outdoor program.

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050  
 Wild Seed Collection Workshop: 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.  
 Join Lindsey Feinberg, our native plants curator, in this free, hands-on program! Rain date: Oct 22. Get details and register at <https://hilltophanoverfarm.org/events/event/2023/10/21/wild-seed-collection-workshop/447787>

SUNDAY, OCT. 22

Alfred B. DeBello Muscote Farm, Katonah: (914) 864-7282  
 Run the Farm: 8:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. The Run the Farm foot races are back! Get details and register at [runthefarm.org](http://runthefarm.org)

Farmers Market: 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
 It features more than 20 local vendors each week; every Sunday until Nov. 19. Get details at <https://www.muscotefarm.org/programs-events/event-calendar.html/event/2023/07/02/1688308200/muscote-farm-s-farmers-market/441909>

Cranberry Lake Preserve, North White Plains: (914) 428-1005  
 Fall Foliage Hike: 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Admire the beautiful turn of the leaves with a hike up to the quarry for a bird's eye view of the trees! Hiking shoes are recommended.

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268  
 An Autumn Discovery Walk: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
 Join a free walking tour to discover the many ways in which autumn creates its own beauty and interest. Get details at <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/an-autumn-discovery-walk>

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**FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT**

Notice of Formation of RyPlunk LLC Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 7/28/2023. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 104 Seminary Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10704. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of Pro-Ductiv Exhaust System Services LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on (09/04/2023). Location: (Westchester County). SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: (70 Hillside Avenue Apt. 1R, Yonkers, NY 10703). Purpose: Any lawful purpose

**CORPORATION NOTICE  
CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the Mayor of the City of Yonkers, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at 5:30pm, Mayor's Reception Room, 2nd floor, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York, to hear all interested parties and citizens regarding the adoption of the following Local Law, to wit:

**A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 85 ENTITLED, 'FORFEITURE OF VEHICLES IN CONNECTION WITH CRIMINAL ACTS' IN RELATION TO FORFEITURE OF VEHICLES ATTEMPTING TO EVADE POLICE OFFICERS.**

Said hearing may be adjourned from time to time as necessary. Further information, including access to a copy of said proposed local law, may be obtained at the City Clerk's office, City Hall, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York and on the City's Website.

MIKE SPANO Mayor  
Date: October 12, 2023

**Cybercrimes, continued from pg 5-**

**RISKS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

From 2019 through July 31, 2023, DiNapoli's Local Government and School Accountability division released more than 190 information technology (IT) audits, finding more than 2,400 cybersecurity-related issues. The audits focused on breakdowns or gaps in fundamental cybersecurity components. The most common areas where improvement and corrective action were needed included cybersecurity governance aspects such as training in IT security awareness, policies and procedures, and the need for contingency plans. Because these cybersecurity audits are sensitive in nature, many findings and recommendations for corrective action are communicated confidentially to local government and school officials. Often the audit recommendations can be implemented at no or low cost to local governments or school districts.

Read the report at <https://www.osc.state.ny.us/files/reports/pdf/cyberattacks-on-new-yorks-critical-infrastructure.pdf>

**Eric Schoen continued from pg 3-**

Pines Police Department is coming to New York offering interviews and jobs to certified police officers. It can't be that big a department, and if they are going through the expense of coming to New York they are either really having a hard time recruiting or want the type of tough training NY officers receive.

A couple added a \$200 speeding ticket they received to their wedding registry. And one of their guests is paying the ticket as a wedding gift. With the economy like it is who knows what else couples will include as possible wedding gifts!

R.I.P. Suzanne Somers. America's thighs thank you! Her portrayal of a dumb blonde in Three's Company Will long be remembered.

Consumers faced with high grocery prices are buying store brand food and beverages. Have you gone to the grocery store lately? Prices are out of control. Many of the store brands are made by the companies that make the name brands!

A Columbia University professor was quoted as saying the attack on Israel was exhilarating and energizing. And sadly he still has a job.

On a positive note, If you are in the market for a beautiful cat or dog don't forget Yonkers has plenty of cuddly animals at the Yonkers Animal Shelter ready for adoption!

**Reach Eric Schoen at [thistooisonkers@aol.com](mailto:thistooisonkers@aol.com), follow him on Twitter (X) @ericyonkers or friend him on Facebook Eric Schoen...just look for him in the picture with Joan Rivers!**

**Westchester Rising**

PO Box 705, Yonkers NY 10702-914-815-1388. Proudly serving the the people of Yonkers with hyperlocal news. Member NY Press Association. Legal notice inquiries to: [risinglegalnotice@gmail.com](mailto:risinglegalnotice@gmail.com). Daniel Murphy, Publisher & Editor in Chief, [dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com](mailto:dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com). Bayan Baker, Assistant to the Editor in Chief [risingmediagroup@gmail.com](mailto:risingmediagroup@gmail.com).

Notice of formation of a Limited Liability Company ENH Assets Limited Liability Company Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 10/28/22 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : ENH Assets Limited Liability Company 465 Tuckahoe Road #1189 Yonkers, NY 10710 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**Everything You Need to Know About Adoption**

Forever Families Through Adoption has an upcoming free event. On Wednesday October 25, 2023. Adoption: Everything You Need to Know FREE ZOOM Information Session, 6:30-7:30pm

This free event is open to anyone interested in or involved with the adoption process, including community members, expectant parents, adoptive or prospective adoptive parents, and adoptees. Come learn about the domestic adoption process and meet some of the staff of Forever Families Through Adoption. Please contact us for pre-registration and meeting information at [adopt@foreverfamiliesthroughadoption.org](mailto:adopt@foreverfamiliesthroughadoption.org) or 914-939-1180.

Notice of formation of GLOW N GLAMOUR LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the Sec of State of NY (SSNY) on 9/14/2023. Office location, County of Westchester. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process served to:, c/o Faisal Butt - 117 Wickes Ave., Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: any lawful act.

Formation of 25 COUNTY ROUTE 62 LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/6/2023. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The principal business loc. and address SSNY shall mail process to is Floann and Raymond Landeck, 79 Pembroke Dr., Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Hanyst RX Consulting LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 9/2/23. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 35 Florence Street, Yonkers, NY 10704. Purpose: Pharmacy Consulting

**Classifieds**

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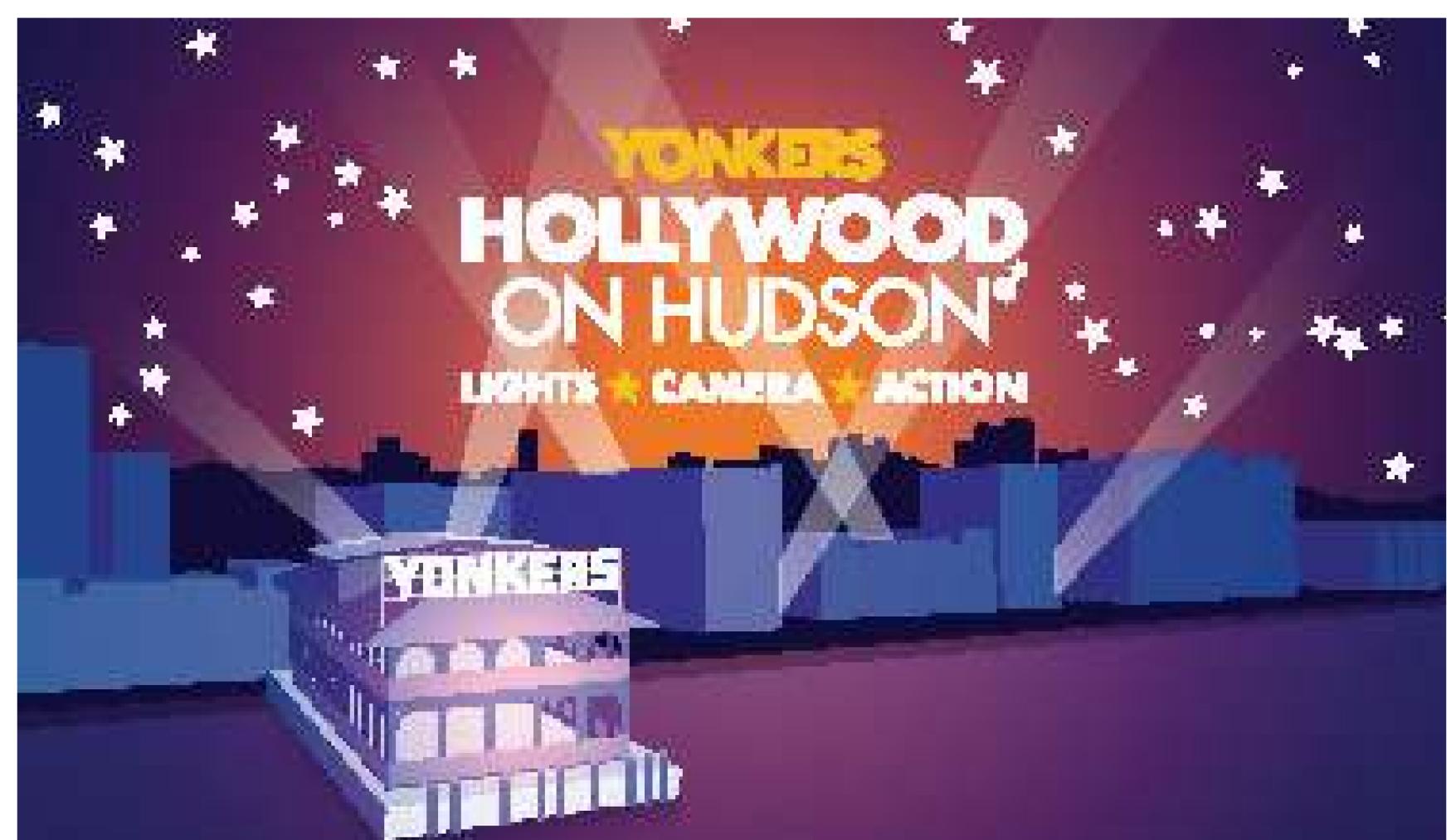


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