

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAM LIST
STATION: WEBR AM/FM
OCTOBER 01, 2023 – DECEMBER 31, 2023

View Point is a 60 minute locally produced program that airs Monday – Friday, 9am – 10am Hosted by Tom Darro covering various topics of the day, serving both Erie & Niagara Counties Community Issues include education, economy, health care, crime, environment, and tourism

DATE: **October 18, 2023**
GUEST: Robert Restaino – Mayor – City of Niagara Falls
DESCRIPTION: The Mayor talked about plans for a multi-use Event Center near the Boulevard. The downtown location would add entertainment opportunities in that area. He expressed the need for small business owners to commit to the area focusing on developing employment opportunities. He discussed plans for redevelopment of neighborhoods in the inner-city and how home ownership is essential to building neighborhoods; having people invest in the area and their homes. Mayor Restaino addressed the cleaning up of properties in disrepair and the need for another city squad to work. Money has been approved to hire a second squad. He covered how there isn't a Housing Court in Niagara County and how Niagara Falls judges try their best to address housing problems, ordinances, and violations. A caller brought up the topic of the "welcome sign" when entering the city and the need for the area near the airport to be "spruced up". The Mayor has asked colleges in the area to help with the upkeep of that location, but so far, none have stepped up.

DATE: **October 19, 2023**
GUEST: Mark Laurrie – Niagara Falls School Superintendent
DESCRIPTION: Mr. Laurrie expressed his concerns regarding speeding cars in school zones and the recklessness of vehicles passing school buses. He discussed some changes in the school year. With more diversity and more ethnic holidays to observe, the days off will have to be added to the school year. The Superintendent covered the topic of Radio and TV departments in schools. Each community must have three radio stations: Public, Educational, and Government. Students are participating in the media opportunities in the schools and are very successful with the behind-the-scenes jobs including film editing, filming, doing weather reports, and working as camera and technical crews. Mr. Laurrie also talked about how Industrial Arts Programs are picking up interest giving students career opportunities and are an alternative to college. He discussed the "active shooter" drills for teachers (not students) that are being conducted with the cooperation of local first responders.

DATE: **October 20, 2023**
GUEST: Olivia Smith-Blackwell M.D. & Robert Bull M.D. – Meadow Family Medicine
DESCRIPTION: The doctor was asked to cover the subject of concierge services. Patients are receiving letters about this new practice. Some physicians are picking a particular number of patients to accept and are charging around \$2,000 per year for their service. The idea of concierge medicine is that the patient has full access to their physician whenever called. Dr. Smith-Blackwell advised patients to ask themselves “what is the advantage of this service?” Patients will still need to be covered by health insurance and not all insurances credential concierge services. Weigh the pros and cons and ask questions before deciding on an action. Some doctors, like herself, prefer “family” medicine and the personal approach.

DATE: **October 24, 2023**
GUEST: Brian Seaman – Niagara County District Attorney
DESCRIPTION: Mr. Seaman examined the topic of Victims’ Rights. The focus of the criminal system is on the defendant and their rights, not on the victim or victim’s family. He commented on how car thefts, resisting arrest, shoplifting, traffic violations, and fleeing from the police are offenses that are on the rise. With “no-bail” laws in place, violators ask for an appearance ticket and leave. They know how to use the system to their benefit and believe that there are no real consequences. He feels that legislators should get more input from law enforcement when drafting laws.

DATE: **October 25, 2023**
GUEST: Henry Wojtaszek – CEO Batavia Downs Gaming
DESCRIPTION: Mr. Wojtaszek discussed the 2022 Annual Report. It was a very good year: Niagara County received \$500,000 and Erie County/Buffalo received \$2 million. They also give back to the community through fundraisers, charity concerts, etc. He also talked about “Batavia Bets”. The on-line betting system is very popular. Horse Racing is not as popular as in the past since you do not have to go to the actual track to place bets. Mr. Wojtaszek spoke about the Legends and Stars Event with past and present Buffalo Bills and Sabres who will sign autographs and sell memorabilia. A caller wanted to know about board members. He explained that Batavia Downs is a Public Benefits Corporation with 17 board members covering 15 counties and 2 cities – Buffalo and Rochester. Members are appointed for a 4-year term by the mayor, county executive, or legislator.

DATE: **October 26, 2023**
GUEST: Joseph Jastrzemski – Niagara County Clerk
DESCRIPTION: Mr. Jastrzemski advised listeners that the NYS DMV office is sending notices to motorists who renewed their licenses during the pandemic and did not submit an eye exam. Licenses that were expiring during COVID were paused while the local DMV offices were shut down. The deadline is December 01, 2023 to submit an eye exam, or your license will be suspended. You can go to any DMV office, get an eye test, and the office will send it to NYS for you. He talked about how successful the Purple Heart Ceremonies were this year. They honored Frank J. Gaffney, a WWI veteran who was awarded many medals including the Medal of Honor, Purple Heart, and Distinguished Conduct Medal from Great Britain. His family is donating the medals to Niagara County to display in the courthouse. Passports were discussed and how everyone will need one by 2025 to travel overseas. A caller brought up the topic of background checks for pistols and ammunition and Mr. Jastrzemski explained how one will have to be done EVERY time ammunition is purchased.

DATE: **October 27, 2023**
GUEST: Mike Filicetti – Niagara County Sheriff
DESCRIPTION: The Sheriff spoke about the use of electric vehicles and how they are not practical for round-the-clock patrols. He discussed the topic of background checks every time ammunition is purchased. This also includes those in law enforcement and is hurting the people who went through this process legally to buy their guns and ammunition. Sheriff Filicetti covered drone operation and their use in Law Enforcement. The department has five drones that are quite useful for providing video feedback, heat-seeking technology which is used to look for missing persons, suspects, and aid Fire Departments. He addressed the issue of cameras on private property and how there really aren't rights protecting neighbors and he suggested contacting a lawyer if you feel your privacy has been violated. The Sheriff reviewed traffic violations and the writing of tickets. Tickets are being written, but less people are showing up in court. They don't suspend licenses as was the practice in the past, but instead, set up a payment plan.

DATE: **November 03, 2023**
GUEST: Majeed Siddiqui, M.D.
DESCRIPTION: Dr. Siddiqui covered the subject of arthritis. The doctor explained that arthritis could be from inflammation, muscle/connective tissue, calcium crystals, etc. It can't be cured – only treated. Arthritis affects 1 in 4 Americans – 58.5 million Americans have it. Dr. Siddiqui suggested ways to manage the pain associated with arthritis: try to eliminate processed foods and incorporate gradual exercise in your routine like swimming and walking rather than forceful, strenuous exercise. He said that anti-inflammatories like Tylenol or Advil could be helpful to manage your discomfort and creams and ointments may help. He discussed the positive effect of laughter and how it diverts the brain from pain. That it releases endorphins – natural pain killers which can reduce stress and inflammation.

DATE: **November 06, 2023**
GUEST: Lee Wallace – Outgoing Supervisor – Town of Niagara
DESCRIPTION: Mr. Wallace was the Town of Niagara Supervisor for 9 years. He gave business updates: The Amazon project is still on but moving slowly. Traffic is increasing in the business areas around Fashion Outlet Boulevard. Military Road is blossoming – businesses are moving in because of reasonable costs to them. The downside for retailers is that Canadian money is no longer being accepted which means less Canadian shoppers. Supervisor Wallace talked about the Electric Light Parade that is coming back this year and it is the first year that the Town of Niagara will be running it. The event is planned for 11/18/23 with a parade at 5pm, Noel at Niagara (winter festival of lights), singers, and vendors. While he is retiring from the role as Supervisor, he will remain as producer of Music Mania Mondays featuring classic rock concerts with good vendors with reasonable prices.

DATE: **November 08, 2023**
GUEST: Mike Granasas – Social Security - Local Office Representative
DESCRIPTION: He covered the subject of Social Security increases per year. While some years have had no increase, the benefits will never decrease. There will be a 3.2% increase for 2024 and Social Security will notify individuals by mail. Mr. Granasas spoke about the earning limits when you are collecting social security before your full retirement age. The limit was increased to \$22,320 and after 67 years of age, there is no limit to the money you can make. He explained how the decision of when to retire is an individual choice and everyone's situation is different. He commented on death benefits: that the benefit is still \$255 and that you have up to two years to claim a "lump sum" death benefit. Mr. Granasas addressed what qualifies for "disability benefits". The injury must be expected to last more than 12 months or will possibly cause death. He advised listeners that they can set up a social security account at any age. It allows one to check their information/earnings and if errors are found, earning records can be corrected at the local office.

DATE: **November 09, 2023**
GUEST: Chris Voccio – Niagara County Legislator – 6th District
DESCRIPTION: Mr. Voccio talked about this year’s elections and the low turnout for the Mayoral race. He commented on how voters are crossing party lines and voting for the ones they feel are the best candidates – more Democrats for City Council members and more Republicans for County Legislators. One observation is that what is going on with National leadership and the state of politics in Washington is possibly influencing low voter turnout. The Legislator addressed the issue of ambulance service in rural areas and how they would like to create a rural county run/managed ambulance service without having Niagara Falls tax payers pay for it since they are already covered by another service. Usually, the rural ones are volunteer based, but when there are not enough volunteers, then the county contracts with a service provider until more volunteers come forward. Hospitals are closing and it is a nationwide problem, not just a local one. He discussed another topic – Veteran Day observances. On Friday, November 10th Frank J. Gaffney’s metals will be unveiled at the Lockport Courthouse. Mr. Gaffney was the first WWI Niagara Falls Purple Heart recipient.

DATE: **November 10, 2023**
GUEST: Mark Laurrie – Niagara Falls School Superintendent
DESCRIPTION: He spoke about Veteran’s Day remembrances and that Colonel Joseph Contino attended an assembly for the 6th grade students explaining the meaning of Veteran’s Day and the importance of honoring our veterans. Mr. Laurrie talked about the financial fair at Niagara Falls high school. Banks, mortgage companies, and other financial institutions attended to educate the students on how to manage their finances, avoid running up debt, credit scores, and practical life skills. The issue of the milk carton shortage was addressed. The schools will still provide milk to the students using other containers. The Superintendent discussed the bus driver shortage and how it affects the proposal of early start times. A New York state study showed that later start times are better for the mental health of students. Changing start times is not possible in Niagara Falls since they need 80 drivers and only have 40 bus drivers doing double runs. They have mandates for sports schedules from the NYS Athletic Association that can’t be changed. Mr. Laurrie commented on the good start to the school year, that they are ten weeks into it, and they are already working on next year’s school budget.

DATE: **November 15, 2023**

GUEST: Anthony Restaino – Niagara Falls City Administrator

DESCRIPTION: The Administrator discussed leaf pickup in the city. The schedule has been released and is listed in the newspapers. He talked about how they are working on the budget. The City Council had their first meeting last week and has three more scheduled by the end of November. In the mayor's proposed budget, there is no tax increase for homeowners and 1.8% for businesses. Mr. Restaino addressed the issue of snow removal equipment. Through the American Rescue plan, the city has purchased three new trucks for snow plowing and they may have them by December. Three new pickup trucks have already arrived and are in use. Some streets are more problematic to plow because of the "bump outs". It is hard to see where they are and how to plow around them. Also, more employees are needed. The Administrator said they are in the process of reviewing two proposals they received for garbage collection. One from Modern and the other from Casella Waste System. The cost for service is approximately \$4.5 million. Mr. Restaino covered a new program where a homeowner can purchase a city owned property next to their own and fix it up which increases the homeowner's property from one lot to two. The city handles the survey and legal and administrative costs. More information to follow regarding how much to buy these properties, how taxes change, and the increase of homeowner's property value.

DATE: **November 16, 2023**

GUEST: Ralph Irene – Host of Sinatra & Friends on WEBR, Saturdays 1230p – 4p

DESCRIPTION: Mr. Irene talked about his career that started with playing Big Band music on the radio and later moved to playing Sinatra's music. On December 12th, WEBR will have a special show celebrating Frank Sinatra's birthday. Ralph shared many facts about Sinatra. That he made over 200 albums, recorded music in the 1930s, and raised billions of dollars for charities to build hospitals and schools. Mr. Irene spoke about Frank Sinatra's many friendships including Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., Lena Horn, and Paul Anka. In fact, Paul Anka wrote the song "My Way" for Frank's retirement song. He also explained how Frank Sinatra changed Las Vegas. Black performers were not allowed to come in the front doors of the casinos or eat in the restaurants. Frank got Lena Horn a reservation and said if casinos did not change policies, he would leave and not perform there. To this day, there are many true die-hard fans who love Sinatra's classic songs and movies.

DATE: November 22, 2023

GUEST: Lauren Fix – The Car Coach

DESCRIPTION: Ms. Fix discussed some steps to take to winterize your vehicles. Weekly checks of the tire pressure since every 10 degrees of outside temperature changes can cause a loss of 2 pounds of pressure. If your car isn't going to be driven all winter, you should have a trickle charge which sends a little charge to your battery, so it doesn't go completely dead and use Stabil which blends fuel to stabilize so your carburetor doesn't clog up. A caller asked about the differences between window washer fluids. The Car Coach suggested using fluids other than the "blue" ones. The other colors are deicer washer fluids which help stop refreeze and slush on your windshield. She spoke about the "Kill Switch" Bill and the complications it faces. The bill is trying to have the Kill Switch installed in all new cars by 2026. A listener asked about solar panels in car roofs and how beneficial they are. Ms. Fix explained that they really don't change the battery life, but many manufacturers are testing it. In her opinion, a better innovation has been synthetic fuel which can also be blended with regular gasoline. Another topic the Car Coach covered was the high cost of new vehicles and insurance. The average cost for a new electric vehicle is \$66,000 vs. \$49,000 for a gasoline vehicle and insurance for electric cars is twice as much.

DATE: December 06, 2023

GUEST: Joseph Jastrzemski – Niagara County Clerk

DESCRIPTION: Mr. Jastrzemski discussed suspended licenses when verification of an eye test has not been submitted. During COVID, licenses were renewed on line, but the drivers had to provide proof of an eye test by 12/01/23. The DMV notified drivers via letters of this situation and there are still over 400 drivers with suspended licenses. If ignored, you could be fined \$200 to \$500. There is a \$50 fee to reinstate your driver's license which the DMV is waiving for now. If you are unsure if you submitted proof of an eye exam, you could go to your local DMV office and check, and if needed, get a free eye exam there. The County Clerk also talked about identity theft where house deeds have been taken over. If you are concerned, you can go to the Niagara County Clerk's office and get a copy of your deed for \$10. He also reviewed "handicap parking" stickers and how they are connected to a person's license and ID and if abused, the fine could be \$250 to \$500, and the privilege may be taken away. Mr. Jastrzemski covered how Veterans have been charged fees for forms and information and to be aware that most information is free from your local Veteran's office. He reminded the listeners to visit the Purple Heart Monument and see the metals displayed at the Lockport Court house.

DATE: **December 11, 2023**
GUEST: Mike Filicetti – Niagara County Sheriff
DESCRIPTION: The Sheriff discussed the car fire at the Rainbow Bridge in November and how resources were moved, state and federal agencies converged, and response time was good. Sheriff Filicetti covered the topic of “well-being” calls. It is a countywide service that checks on individuals who live alone. The sheriff’s office calls daily at a specific time and if they don’t answer in two attempts, someone is dispatched to the house to check on their well-being. He talked about the “shop with a cop” program. Many police agencies team up with Walmart to give children gift cards and shop with them. A positive experience between law enforcement and the community. Sheriff Filicetti advised listeners to be aware of gift card scams through emails and how more surface during the holidays. Do not click on the link, and if concerned, call the company directly without using the number provided on the email. He gave updates on two Niagara Falls community outreach programs. Building Bridges, which is a week-long program with fun events to help children build trust with law enforcement and the Explorer program which is held at the community center and has activities for those thinking about a career in law enforcement.

DATE: **December 13, 2023**
GUEST: Henry Wojtaszek – CEO Batavia Downs Gaming
DESCRIPTION: Mr. Wojtaszek announced the summer concert lineup featuring Smash Mouth, Clay Walker, Kevin-Bacon Brothers, 38 Special, Canadian bands, and various tribute bands. Individual concert tickets and season passes are now on sale. A caller mentioned the need for more handicap parking spaces near the casino entrance and Mr. Wojtaszek said he would take it up with the Board at the next meeting. He also commented on the gaming floor and that it is wheelchair accessible, and scooters and valet parking are available. Horse racing will be back at Batavia Downs in January and February with 16 dates scheduled. He also reminded everyone that OTB operates daily right in the casino and bets can be placed for any track in the country.

DATE: **December 14, 2023**
GUEST: Dave McKinley – Reporter/Anchor – WGRZ-TV
DESCRIPTION: Mr. McKinley talked about how he was the former host of View Point from 1986 – 1989. Tom and Dave shared memories from 40 years ago including working at WJL, going to the Festival of Lights (1981 – 2000), and the ice rink in Niagara Falls. They also reminisced about their years in the communications business and past View Point hosts and guests. Mr. McKinley said he has been working in TV since 1999. He discussed how news has changed and that there is a lot more of it. Some stations have full weekday newscasts from 4pm – 11pm and then continue coverage on their websites. He commented on how web stories give the reporter more opportunities to provide additional details and information.

DATE: December 15, 2023
GUEST: Hank Nevins – WLVL News Director
DESCRIPTION: Tom and Hank discussed current stories and topics in the news. They reminisced about other on-air people including Clip Smith and Danny Neaverth, reporters, old commercials, jingles, and TV and music trivia.

DATE: December 18, 2023
GUEST: Mark Laurrie – Niagara Falls School Superintendent
DESCRIPTION: Mr. Laurrie discussed GPS on school buses. GPS provides information regarding where the buses are and how fast they are traveling, especially on turns. They will be adding an app for parents to use so at any time they can track where their child's bus is. He commented on electric school buses and how Niagara Falls is not ready to implement the use of them. Mr. Laurrie gave updates on school sports. They are starting a boys' lacrosse program and a girls' wrestling team. Since they do not have enough girls in one school to participate, they are partnering with Niagara Wheatfield to form a team to compete. He summarized the interview by saying that this year has been a good, safe school year and will have a positive graduation rate. The next capital project will target the last few schools to have air conditioning installed so at completion, every school in the district will have air conditioning.

DATE: December 19, 2023
GUEST: Sara Jensen M.D. – Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Ctr. – Residency Program
DESCRIPTION: The doctor was asked about residency programs. She explained that, depending on the specialty, the training program can run for 3 to 6 years. After finishing a residency, some do post graduate training in a fellowship adding another 1 to 2 years. The first topic discussed was hypertension and cholesterol and how to manage each. Dr. Jensen explained that changing one's diet and exercise habits, and overall healthy living can help reduce both conditions. For best results, she likes to guide her patients with options. The subject of robotics came up. Niagara Falls Memorial has hired a doctor for robotic surgery. Another topic was how there are required training courses for physicians who plan to prescribe pain killers including how to best treat pain and evaluate the source of the pain. DO physicians deal with manipulative therapy and pain management. A caller asked about statins used to treat high cholesterol and the most common side effect which is muscle pain. The doctor confirmed that in many cases that is true. She addressed questions regarding the RSV vaccine which is beneficial for those 60 years and older, those with chronic heart or lung disease, or are immuno-suppressed.

DATE: **December 20, 2023**

GUEST: Robert Restaino – Mayor – City of Niagara Falls

DESCRIPTION: The Mayor talked about the new Welcome Center now open at the Niagara Falls State Park. A 28,000 square foot building with a new information area, gift shop, and food court. Nine million people visited Niagara Falls last year. He also commented on the Niagara Arts and Cultural Center. They received a four million dollar grant to help renovate its historic auditorium and theater space. Mayor Restaino discussed the progress of the restoration at Sal Maglie Stadium and how the Niagara Falls Americans will be a great addition to the local sports scene bringing collegiate players from across the U.S. here to play. A caller wanted to know about the new stop signs in LaSalle that have recently been installed. Since they are in areas that have never had them, Mr. Restaino commented on how they should have warning signs advising drivers of the new traffic signs/patterns. The Mayor reviewed some plans for his upcoming term including accelerating the industrial park development. He also covered his desire to offer more job opportunities in the community with careers in trades which have proven very successful.

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAM LIST

The Station also aired the following Public Service Announcements during the quarter:

Type of Issue	Duration	Title or Narrative
Health	30 seconds	PSA – American Cancer Society – Road to Recovery
Health	15 seconds	PSA – American Cancer Society – Road to Recovery