

WRCR ISSUES/PROGRAMS

Q-1 2023

As stated in our previous reports, WRCR's regularly scheduled weekly and monthly programs all aired on the same schedule as in the previous months and years.

They covered variety of issues, such as: organ donation (1 hour show every Wednesday), health care (1 hour show every month hosted by different specialty doctors from our local hospitals), mental health (monthly show hosted by Rockland Behavioral Health Response Team), audiology and hearing loss (monthly 1 hour show hosted by Hudson Valley Audiology) and "Senior Moment" a monthly 1-hour show (hosted by a major local law firm and focusing on legal issues facing seniors), to name a few.

All Town Supervisors, County Executive, our State Senator and Congresswoman, continued with their regularly scheduled interactive Q&A segments, thus keeping WRCR listeners updated on happenings in their local city halls, Albany and Washington, DC.

In January, newly reelected State Assemblyman, Karl Brabenec, in his regular 15 minute segment on Thursday first analyzed Republicans' gains in the last election, especially in Upstate region. Among the reasons for those victories, assemblyman mentioned that Democrats were holding the Governor's office since 2007 and some of their policies were unpopular in our region - Bail Reform law was one of them. Under it offenders are released without bail immediately after arrest, only to commit more crimes, in view of many.

Another reason, in assemblyman's opinion, is New York's high tax rate, which is driving people out of state. He mentioned his constituent's case, in which property tax on a single family home is \$33,000.00 in Rockland annually.

In one of his segments **in February**, he touched upon two topics: State route 17 upgrade to Interstate highway standards and its conversion to Interstate 86. The need for this upgrade and the addition of third lane is great, yet the project is moving too slowly, over many years.

Another issue was the major migration of certain ethnic groups from New York City to Rockland and Orange counties. That high demand for housing in turn causes "Bidding wars", where properties are selling way above asking price.

It was mentioned, however, that population of New York State as a whole has declined by 1 million persons due to economically depressed Upstate regions from which people are migrating to states with lower taxes and cost of living.

In **Clarkstown Supervisor Hoehmann's** monthly 50 minute program "Hometown Happenings" also on Thursdays, in **January** supervisor focused on positive events. One of them was when a Clarkstown PD officer on hiking vacation encountered an elderly woman who fell on the trail and fractured her leg. After first aid given by 2 nurses who happened to be in the area, the officer carried the patient on his back for two miles to the beginning of the trail, to a waiting ambulance.

Supervisor's guest on the program was the director of town's Planning Department, Will Whittington, who described his ongoing project of GIS mapping. Those maps become an important resource for town employees and the general public alike. Citizens can easily find out status of any construction or other project in the town. He instructed those who are interested to simply go to town's website, Clarkstown.gov, click on the Planning department tab and follow the GIS link.

Another mentioned project was the zoning map app, especially important in view of the pressure to convert certain areas to high density housing.

One of the callers raised the question trimming of trees that have grown into electrical cables. Supervisor explained that the necessary work is being done by the utility company and not the town.

In his subsequent program **in February**, Supervisor Hoehmann first welcomed the visit by "9/11 Traveling Museum" emphasizing the awareness of the Joint Antiterrorism Task Force. His guest, ret. NYPD detective Kevin Hallinan described his law enforcement career, from the homicide squad in the South Bronx in the 70s, to the Brinks robbery by terrorists belonging to the Weather underground, FALN and the Black Liberation Army. His efforts resulted in integration of local, state and federal law enforcement into Joint Antiterrorism Task Force. Two Rockland towns have detectives belonging to the Task Force.

His career continued for another 20 years providing security for MLB baseball teams and venues nationwide.

This is just a small sample of this station's public service programming.