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## Re: Issues

1 message

**Terry Frank** <terry@mediaoneradiogroup.com>  
To: Andrew Hill <ahill@mediaoneradiogroup.com>

Mon, Jan 8, 2024 at 4:13 PM

Andrew,

Ye ask... and, ye shall receive. Here you go... just wrapped them up....

### \*\*\*Community Spotlight Issues Report for 4th Qtr of 2023\*\*\*

The Community Spotlight Local Public Affairs Program airs on all six of the Media One Radio Group radio stations. The Chautauqua County Executive appears the first week of each month and city of Jamestown Mayor appears the second week of each month. The other weeks of the month feature a variety of community leaders and special guests. The program airs on the following stations at the following times: WJTN - Saturday at 8:05 A.M. | WWSE - Sunday at 7:00 A.M. | WHUG & WKSJ - Sunday at 6:30 A.M. | WQFX - Sunday at 5:30 A.M. | WKZA - Sunday at 6:00 A.M.

October of 2023...

- Oct. 1 -- Our Terry Frank talks this week with Jamestown City Councilwoman, and Republican Mayoral candidate, Kim Ecklund about her campaign for this Fall's General Election. Ecklund says she's completing her 10th term on the panel, and she's also been Finance Committee chairwoman for the council the past few years. She is a finance manager for eSolutions... which is the former Bush Industries. Ecklund agrees public safety is a big concern for the city... but, often goes deeper than just police and fire. She says she was among those who agreed to and supported a new "nuisance officer" for the Jamestown Police Dept. She also says she has supported the hiring of new police and firefighters using American Rescue Plan Act, and SAFER Grant funding. As for housing, she agrees there needs to be better strategy, but, adds incumbant Democrat Eddie Sundquist's declaration four years ago that he would tear down 100 dilapidated homes in 100 days was a stretch. Ecklund says she'll talk to anyone, including neighborhood gatherings, about her platform, which can be viewed at [www.kimberlyecklund.com](http://www.kimberlyecklund.com). Her phone number is (716)664-0405... City Hall office is (716) 483-7600.

- Oct. 8 -- Chautauqua County Executive P.J. Wendel joins our Terry Frank for his monthly visit on the program, where they primarily focused on Wendel's tentative 2024, \$294.1-million budget. Wendel says he is pleased to offer residents at tax rate reduction of 89-cents per \$1,000 full value. However... he says legislature Democrats are misleading the public by saying that property owners would still be "overtaxed." While the tax levy -- or amount to be raised by taxes -- is up, that's due mainly to an increase in assessed value of homes and other buildings. Democrats say they want to use another \$1-million from undesignated fund balance to reduce that increase to about \$800,000. They're also proposing elimination of the new media information officer's position. However, Wendel says restructuring has allowed that position to be filled at no additional cost in his administrative budget. No changes to the proposed budget were announced during last week's budget sessions. We also discuss Wendel's call for a pause in New York's "Sanctuary Status" for one-year to get the migrant crisis under control. Finally... he updated the recent spike in drug overdose deaths... which were reported to be four from the previous weekend, but had increase to six by late last week. That's believed to be caused by fentanyl being mixed in with other drugs. He urges people to get help, or make sure to carry Narcan if they have someone they know with a drug use/addiction issue. Contact person: Co. Executive P.J. Wendel at (716) 753-4211.

- Oct. 16 - Incumbant Jamestown Mayor Eddie Sundquist joins our Terry Frank this week to discuss his campaign, and platform for next month's city election. Sundquist says it's been "an honor" to be mayor over the past four years... and, that includes the two that the nation was in the midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Despite those challenges, he says his administration has accomplished "a lot." He says they've been able to make historic investments in programs and facilities... due mainly to the city's just over \$28-million grant from the American Rescue Plan Act. He adds that... all told... the city has been able to acquire \$16-million in state and federal grant funding in recent times. We also discuss the administration's move to add significant funding to public safety, security in the city's two parking ramps... and, other issues going forward. Sundquist also discusses how the city's property values increased by 22% this past year. He says that new valuation was reported by New York state. The first-term Democrat is being opposed by Republican

Councilwoman Kim Ecklund, who was just recently on our program. Contact: Mayor Eddie Sundquist... (716) 483-7600.

- Oct. 23 - This week, we have comments from several people about Chautauqua County becoming the 11th in the nation to take part in the Individual Growth Naturally and Intentionally Through Education -- or "IGNITE" program. Sheriff Jim Quattrone explained in the beginning that the county was looking for such a program to help turn the lives of inmates around so they're productive citizens when they leave -- because they will leave at some point. The program was first started in Genesee County, Mich., and later was taken on by the Mecklenberg County, NC holding center -- which also services the city of Charlotte. Those officials say the program fostered a "culture change" in their facilities because inmates were now referred to as "residents," and the jail is a "holding center." They said that alone restores a sense of dignity to the inmates. The programs that will be offered for a couple of hours each day... five days a week... include mental health services, GED programming, skilled trade instruction, and others. In the other parts of the country the program has been located in, corrections officers say it has worked well in reducing recitivism, and getting people into a career path. Contact: Chautauqua County Sheriff Jim Quattrone... Phone # (716) 753-4900.

- Oct. 30 - News Director Terry Frank this week welcomes United Way of Southern Chautauqua County's Executive Dir. Amy Rohler and the agency's VITA Program Dir. Joe Kwiatkowski to the program. We first receive an update on the United Way's General Campaign, which recently began, and is about 20% of the way towards it's \$1.4-million goal for 2023. Rohler says she and campaign staff and volunteers are working hard to make "personal" contacts with people to urge them to give to the effort. One of the programs funded by the United Way's campaign is the VITA -- or Volunteer Income Tax Assistance -- Program. That's now headed up by Fredonia's Joe Kwiatkowski for both the United Way of Northern, and Southern Chautauqua County. Kwiatkowski has done tax preparations for many years now. He says they do basic returns free for people who's head of household makes up to 60,000 a year. He says they currently have about 30 volunteers in the program, but, could use several more in the coming year across the county. For more information on the United Way Campaign... or the VITA program... people can call 483-1561... or go to their website at [uwayscc.org](http://uwayscc.org).

November 2023...

- Nov. 6 -- Our Terry Frank speaks with Chautauqua County Executive P.J. Wendel this week about the recently approved county budget that totals \$294.1-million, and other matters. Wendel echoed previous sentiments that the budget process went well, and that even Democratic Minority Leader Bob Bankowski said so, even though he and other Democratic lawmakers voted against it. With some possibly unexpected expenses heaped on the county this year, and possibly next, he didn't want to use another \$1-million in fund balance to offset spending. Wendel was also pleased the county's airports were approved for about \$1.6-million in state funding for infrastructure improvements. At the Jamestown Airport, he says the terminal building will be getting a significant face-lift. The executive was also saddened to learn that the Cockaigne Ski Center near Cherry Creek will not open this year... due in large part to mild Winters the past two years that really hurt the new owners financially. The center is up for sale. We also discuss the major response to The Colony Motel fire in West Ellicott. Contact person: County Executive P.J. Wendel... Phone # (716) 753-4211.

- Nov. 13 - Our Terry Frank hosts his monthly interview with Jamestown Mayor Eddie Sundquist, who was defeated in his effort to win a second-term by Republican Councilwoman Kim Ecklund. Sundquist reflects on that night, and how proud he is of his campaign. He congratulated Ecklund on his victory, and noted that he was one of some small city Democratic mayors on Election Night who were defeated. He says he and his campaign are still processing this. It has been noted that the issues revolve mainly around public safety, bail reform, and Raise the Age legislation. We also discuss what he's looking to accomplish in his final two months in office, including getting a final, 2024 budget in place for the city. We also discuss what may take place with remaining money from the city's \$28-million dollar American Rescue Plan Act funding, and, plans for the annual Christmas Parade and Holiday Celebration.

- Nov. 20 - This week, we highlight the recent presentation by SUNY Jamestown Community College officials to the Jamestown City Council about plans to transfer Diethrick Park to JCC for planned upgrades -- namely a new turf field. JCC President Daniel DeMarte led off with an explanation of the project, which was initially to lay down the new, multi-purpose turf field which would be used for baseball, soccer and softball. However... he says there is another proposal by another consultant that would cost less... but, keep Diethrick Park a baseball-only stadium... and, create a new turf field at Stadium West for soccer and softball. JCC Foundation Executive Dir. Maria Kindberg says the new proposal would cost 27-million dollars while the initial one was \$30-million. Legal Counsel Stephen Abdella talked a little more about the legalities, and how the transfer of Diethrick Park would work. He also answered questions about what would happen with the city "losing" parkland, and possibly having to replace it... as well as what would happen with city parks workers who currently keep up the park with the city's other park facilities. Contact: JCC President Daniel DeMarte... Phone # (716) 338-1101.

- Nov. 27 - Our Terry Frank discusses a number of economic development issues this week with Deputy Chautauqua County Executive for Economic Development, Mark Geise. The major topic is New York State awarding a \$5.25-million

grant to the county, and it's Industrial Development Agency for development of a 140-acre "shovel-ready" industrial park location near the Shortman Road exit off Interstate 90 in the town of Ripley. Specifically... Geise says the state funding will be used for infrastructure at the location, including getting electric, water and sewer services into the location, along with an access road. He says the entire project will take about 1-1/2 to two-years to complete. However... they could begin work on the parcels on the westside of the site in the near future. We also discuss the decision to close the Cockaigne Ski Center in Cherry Creek, and while the IDA is ready to help, Geise says the owners have someone marketing that property, and they hope to see a buyer. We also discuss the village of Fredonia moving ahead with further study into the need for safe, and stable water supply to the village, and the IDA's funding half of that study. Preliminary results were recently provided to village officials. Contact: Mark Geise @ IDA at (716) 661-8902.

December 2023...

- Dec. 3 -- Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce President and Chief Executive Officer Dan Heitzenrater joins our Terry Frank this week to talk about the start to the Holiday Shopping season, and chamber membership. Heitzenrater says members they've talked to had both a good Black Friday, and Small Business Saturday. In fact... he says one mentioned they were concerned because they had their best year in 2022. However... this year they've doubled there amount of sales. He adds they again have their ShopCHQ.com gift cards that can be used at about 170 local businesses in the county. We also discuss where they are on memberships, and their new mission and vision statements. We also discuss a possible record number of ribbon cuttings for new businesses in the county. He says they just recently doubled last year's number, and the chamber is very pleased about that. Contact: Dan Heitzenrater at CCCC. Phone # is (716) 484-1101.

- Dec. 10 - Our Terry Frank speaks with Chautauqua County Executive P.J. Wendel on a number of issues in our final visit of 2023. Those include recent New York State Association of Counties, which wrapped up it's Winter session on Thursday... where the major issues were financial. Wendel says one of the major concerns remains New York state's intercept of the county's FMAP Funding. He says they spoke with one of Gov. Kathy Hochul's key financial people about letting the county's have that federal funding they should be getting to help with housing to help with both the homeless and migrant issues. We also discuss the county's decision to use \$66,000 in bed tax monies for cardboard glasses that would be used for viewing next April's full solar eclipse. He says the county is considered one of the region's prime viewing areas for that... and, hotels have been filling up fast. We also look back for a few moments on the highlights of 2023. He says holding the line on the budget and lowering the tax rate were among them.

- Dec. 17 - Our Terry Frank has his final interview with outgoing Jamestown Mayor Eddie Sundquist, and discuss a number of topics, including what's been a reported \$2.5-million deficit in the recently approved 2024 budget. Sundquist says the biggest concern regards Consolidated Highway Improvement Program -- or CHIPS funding. He doesn't believe it's that high... and, says council asked retired Comptroller Joe Bellitto to review the spending plan. Sundquist says Bellitto reported on items that might have been underestimated, and he says his administration reported there are some areas the city had been apparently overestimated. He believes it will all be dealt with at the end of this year and early next year. There's also an estimated shortfall of \$700,000 in retirement and health insurance funding to New York state. He adds the city's fund balance should easily cover any shortfall. We also talk about being at the recent ribbon cutting for the new Evergreen Health Medical Corridor facility at [320 Prather Ave.](#) following the extensive renovation of the building... which will include all of Evergreen's local services. We also look back on Sundquist's four-years in office. He says they got two months into his term in 2020, and the world shut-down due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. His first term also included the aftermath of the George Floyd murder, and several protests locally.

- Dec. 24 - News Director Terry Frank is joined this week by Jamestown Mayor-Elect Kim Ecklund to reflect on her win on Election Night... and, talk about the transition to a new administration come Jan. 1. Ecklund agreed that reality has set in, as she has left her long-time private sector job at eSolutions/Bush Industries. She discussed changes made in the 2024 budget to deal with a \$1.6-million "miss" in the budget involving Consolidated Highway Improvement Program funding. Ecklund says there were some equipment reductions, along with one position, and elimination of \$500,000 in building demolitions. She says they also had to use just over half-a-million additional dollars in undesignated fund balance. We also talk about a potential underfunding of state retirement, and health insurance funding. She also talks about positions she's been able to fill so far. Ecklund says the most important position for her, given the current fiscal situation, is City Comptroller. She will appoint a fellow finance person from eSolutions, Ericka Thomas, to fill that position starting on Jan. 1st. She adds that City Clerk Jennifer Williams will be staying on, along with interim Public Works Director Mark Roetzer. City Police Chief Tim Jackson was reappointed to another two-years during the council's year-end meeting.

- Dec. 31 - News Director Terry Frank takes a look back on 2023... with audio highlights of several major stories that were news over the past 12 months. Those included the late swearing-in of new Congressman Nick Langworthy, who's oath of office was slowed by the process of selecting a new Speaker. Calif. Republican Kevin McCarthy wound up

winning after 15 rounds of voting. Langworthy received two key committee assignments on the House Oversight, and Agriculture Committees. There's also the story of 18 year-old Tucker Richard, who was accused of shooting 57 year-old Scott Blake to death during a domestic incident in the town of Ellicott. The biggest story of the year was the two manhunts... and, jail escape of 35 year-old Michael Burham. Burham is accused of shooting and killing 34 year-old Kala Hodgkin in the early morning hours of last May 11, and then fleeing to Warren Co., Pa., where he kidnapped an elderly couple and forced them to accompany him to South Carolina... where he was captured later in the month. However... he escaped in July from the Warren Co. Jail, leading to another manhunt that ended just days later. Other significant stories from 2023 were the double-fatal plane crash near the Chautauqua County Airport near Jamestown... the setting of a trial date for the man accused of assaulting Author Salmon Rushdie... and, the fire that destroyed the Colony Motel in West Ellicott. Contact: Terry Frank, News Director at Media One Radio... (716) 487-1151. Ext. 201.

There you go,

Terry

**TERRY FRANK**

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On Mon, Jan 8, 2024 at 1:54 PM Andrew Hill <[ahill@mediaoneradiogroup.com](mailto:ahill@mediaoneradiogroup.com)> wrote:

Hi Terry, just a reminder I need the Issues Report from Spotlight..

**ANDREW HILL**

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