

Public File

Educational Programming

01-01-22 to 03-31-2022

WGEN-FM is continuing programming with a mix of live and recorded programs as well as a 24/7 automated music programming to bridge the gaps as we review potential new program additions to fill our schedule with quality programming of value to our communities.

We will continue our mission as we will seek more local volunteers after the social/physical distancing imposed by the latest variant surge. We use statistics available on various governmental websites to determine local compliance and proceeded with caution as we begin to reopen to the public. With the increase in Covid positivity in our listening area we once again limited public access to the studio and followed guidelines regarding vaccination cards/proof of vaccine, social distancing and increased/extended studio cleaning procedures.

We have a PO Box, for the convenience of our listeners and the applications are available via our website, online and via USPS. We offer our information on our website, via Facebook pages links and after relocating our website to a new hosting service are working with on redesign of the website coinciding with the web hosting move to better serve our community and facilitate ease of use.

We have two phone numbers available and have added mentions of the ability to reach us via Facebook, and texting via the phone number listed on our website.

In the coming year, when this latest Covid surge is behind us, we plan to begin again to do more live community presentations, more volunteer recruitment, etc.

Our programming via internet stream has proved popular, so individuals in communities outside our immediate listening area may enjoy our literacy, humanities, science and reading programming. Our website link is facilitating this as well as some other free streaming services.

We play the new/emerging/local artists segments during "This Morning With Georgia Lee" and have received music (cds, usually) at the PO Box in Crete. Several local artists, some "new" and several from abroad.

We were working on creation of a new user friendly grid which would enable us to add brief show descriptions as well as information about the hosts. The process has required replacing our former volunteer webmaster (moved to CA for work during the pandemic) and we are evaluating the website again, with an eye toward adding donor/sponsor page(s) and links to our communities served. We have had to postpone the work to our website for the time being due to financial hardship due to fewer donations during the pandemic. We have begun our search for an individual to rebuild or original site with an eye to future shows and more volunteers as we are hopeful about our post Covid progress.

We also regularly post to our Facebook pages, though less often given the minimal staff of volunteers during the pandemic.

During the last quarter two Board members checked the website email every couple of days, if not daily. The PO Box was checked weekly or bi weekly.

A Vet for Veterans, New Program continued to another quarter. The show host discussing services available to veterans, websites available, facilities, instructions as to where to apply for benefits, how to apply, products and services available to veterans via the VA, local, national and international military news. In addition, news related to Covid 19 as well as safety issues including vaccine availability and locations for veterans. Weekly. Thursdays, 8-9 pm, CST.

This program addresses Veterans issues, information and current events related to Veterans, the military, and their dependents. Mr. Sinon is a Viet Nam Era veteran with eight and one half years military experience.

The hour long program discussing VA organizations, VA programs and assistance available, and the educational and or historical elements of various weekly military or VA topics

We had to suspend visits to local Kiwanis, Chamber of Commerce and Lions Club meetings to solicit volunteers, introduce our organization to our communities and ascertain programming needs and suggestions from our communities. This is due, of course, to the pandemic and we look forward to the changes that the vaccines will make as our County reopens over the coming year.

We have a few new programs under consideration for addition to our program line up at the suggestion of our Board members, listening communities or staff; in addition to the regular, twice daily recordings provided in cooperation with the Peotone Public Library District, Peotone, IL (one of the districts serving our listening community). Their reader provides those readings, of public domain children's stories, for our local literacy program.

The Peotone Public Library Reads - Literacy Programming:

The reader is Karen LeClaire, a Trustee of the Peotone Public Library District. We have these stories available for listeners via our broadcasts, weekdays, 4-5 pm and 7-8 pm (CST). They have included some younger children's stories as well as readings of chapters of several classics, including Alice's Adventures In Wonderland, The Adventures of Jimmy Skunk, The Adventures of Grandfather Frog, Black Beauty, Peter Pan, and Mrs. Quack's Great Adventure.

We have continued to add programs at the suggestion of the Library Director as they become available. This quarter a couple more Thornton W. Burgess stories were added to the available programming. Hour long program. Airs weekdays, 4-5 pm and 7-8 pm.

Director of the Peotone Public Library District, Noreen Bormet is taking the lead on this. The program is well received and got mention in a local paper, The Vedette, this year. We are hoping to get a working relationship with the publication to enhance our news coverage of the area.

The Peotone Library has continued to send more stories for air. Many from the Thornton W. Burgess series and they are well-received.

Our newest local program, "A Vet FOR Veterans" hosted by Mr. Thomas Sinon has been on air each Thursday from 8-9 pm since February 27, 2021. Mr. Sinon, a Vietnam Era Veteran is addressing the area regarding disseminating information to help the veterans of our listening area know of local support, organizations, contact information and information about benefits available to the veterans and their survivors and dependents. (See comments above, further description below)

We anticipate a restart of this live programming before mid-January, 2022. The host was unable to do the live program due to illness.

The Red Hen Reads Books you should have read (9-10 am, M-F). Description below. Our reads included the conclusion of Frankenstein and selected works of O Henry and Dorothy Parker, along with discussion.

We are still examining the possibility of adding another local library to the weekday line up. This would give us a solid block of Literature, Humanities, Science, Music Education and Stories for young listeners from Noon through eight pm, Monday through Friday. Pending our Board approval, hopefully as soon as Covid permits, we will identify another library and, pending their approval, work toward that goal. After the threat of Novel Coronavirus and COVID-19 has passed, as per direction of the CDC and federal government we will once again invite guests into our small studio. Health of our listening community and volunteers is important.

This Morning with Georgia Lee:

The show host is doing live reads of community announcements and news of the listening area within Will County, our city of license, Monee, and the south Chicagoland area. Local events and services announcements twice per program.

In an effort to provide the communities in our listening area with more coverage as the Novel Coronavirus and COVID-19 are a threat to public health, the show was expanded from 5 hours live each weekday morning to 7 hours. News of the latest CDC and healthcare directives from the local authorities are given as well as in depth discussion of topics related to the Pandemic, Masking, Hand Washing, and many other related and peripherally related topics such as the latest information regarding the guidelines and science with regard to virus survival on various surfaces, how to safely shop for necessities, cleaning shoes, hands, masks and in home quarantine advice. In addition topics such as alternatives to toilet paper, yeast in baking, and entertaining children while schooling at home.

The additional hours and information seems to have been well received. This will continue with the daily updates, health information and more until further notice or the health crisis/pandemic is at end and our more comprehensive volunteer activities can continue.

The show also continues to do segments on finance (for home buyers, families, etc.), veterans causes and resources, other local nonprofits, health and mental health issues of interest to listeners and relationship and literacy issues, in addition to discussing science, news and various studies and stories in the news, Topics concerning show segments targeted to employment, interviewing techniques and personal psychology of interview preparation; employment for the aging population and interviewing techniques.

In addition, 4 of 5 weekdays, when the live program airs, the host gives the many phone numbers and websites that it is believed may address community need in areas of Sexual abuse, Domestic Abuse, Food Banks, Counseling for Parents, those Suicidal, Veterans, Those suffering a mental health crisis, Hunger, and more. The typical time devoted to that segment is 20 to 30 minutes per weekday and topics have expanded to include Vaccine information and contact information.

We will continue to use this program as the means to disseminate live up to date information to our communities about the Covid-19 updates and informational news. We air the CDC PSAs in addition, throughout the day.

Discussion about political differences in a free society; humorous and odd news, discussions regarding health research from sex to sleep, nutrition to stress reduction, news from around the globe, relationship research and new scientific topics are discussed, many with special nod to the current pandemic and how the topics relate. Topics from animals and scientific discoveries to robotic innovation and its' impact and more. These topics vary daily and are often current news or events driven. Naturally there is daily discussion of the Novel Coronavirus, Covid-19, the numbers, the latest in symptom information and research, as well as other medical news related.

Topics in some areas carry day to day, as a serial within the program and others are limited to the single broadcast day.

With the host having suffered laryngitis the Red Hen Reads was moved to 9-10 am, M-F and is started at the end of This Morning With Georgia Lee to permit the volunteer a more limited schedule.

Local and community events are also discussed at least once per air shift. And in an effort to build community relations and engage listeners, there is humor, music and exercise or activity encouraged to accompany the music during this time for those who maybe completely housebound. The war in Ukraine has been discussed along with the January 6 Committee findings and other news of national importance. Each show typically includes a Science feature and/or information or interesting tips on employment, nutrition and sleep.

Produced by Rowdy Redhead Productions. WGEN-FM, 88.9 studio. Host Georgia Graber (with Tom Sinon as co-host two or more mornings per week).

Program normally airs weekdays, live, 5-10 am and was now 5 am to noon (during the pandemic), weekdays (M-F) with the beginning of the vaccine efforts. The show has added news of updates on the new virus variant, vaccine and booster efforts and continues to inform the public about masking, social distancing and any other recommendations and practices as advised by websites of WHO, NIH and the CDC. The hours of the show are again 5-10 am.

Other educational programming added includes:

Dig! :

Produced by Hunt 'n' Peck Media for independent, community, and non-commercial stations. The program is an excavation into pop music of the 1960s. The program is a look back at the time between "Meet the Beatles" and "Abbey Road" with tunes from obscure 45s to iconic music of the decade. Context and back stories complete the exposition of that decade. A 57-minute program. Obtained via AudioPort.org.

Airs for 2 episodes Saturdays, 8-10 pm. Airs on Sundays for 2 episodes 8-10 pm.

Oldies Time Machine:

Producer Steve Summers provides listeners oldies tunes across various genre and relevant stories and conversation about the music. A 58-minute long program. Obtained via AudioPort.org.

Airs 2 episodes Saturdays, 6-8 pm and 2 episodes on Sundays, 12-2 pm.

Confetti Park:

Producer Katy Hobgood Ray produces a show featuring children's music and stories spun in Louisiana. It includes interviews, music, kids jokes, a story time and more. The program is supported by the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation and Music Rising at Tulane University. A 30-minute program. Obtained via AudioPort.org.

Airs weekdays, 6:30 to 7 pm.

Children's Storytime:

Produced by Wave Farm's WGXC, 90.7, Hudson Valley, NY. The producer is Christine Pacuk, WGXC/free103point9 and the Cairo Public Library in upstate New York. Topics and stories of interest to children. A 23 to 28-minute long program. Obtained via AudioPort.org.

Airs weekdays, 6 to 6:30 pm.

Tell Us A Tale:

Produced by Nathan Moore as a children's program offering stories, tales and tunes collected from 6 of 7 continents (none from Antarctica to date). We find the

show appeals across all age groups. Many stories, many subjects and themes. A 30-minute-long program. Obtained via AudioPort.org.

Airs weekdays, 2 episodes, 5-6 pm.

The Magical Mystery Tour:

Producer Tonio Epstein expands on a variety of topics exploring new ways to explore ideas and new ways of seeing the world. It is an interview and talk program from Goddard College Community Radio, WGDR, Plainfield, VT. Many themes and topics. A 59 to 60-minute program. Obtained via AudioPort.org.

Airs weekdays, 12 to 1 pm.

Big Picture Science:

Producers and hosts Seth Shostak, Molly Bentley, Other producers, Gary Niederhoff, Sarah Derouin and Operations Manager Barbara Vance. By the SETI Institute. Topics including the sciences including astronomy, earth, biological, physics, technology. Interview and talk. A 50 to 54-minute program. Obtained via AudioPort.org.

Airs weekdays, 4-5 am and 3-4 pm.

Mayo Clinic Radio:

Produced by Mayo Clinic and contains subject matter related to health, aging, alternative medicine, children, reproductive health, various conditions and diseases, food and nutrition, fitness, mental health, occupational health and safety and the healthcare industry. A 30-minute program. Obtained via AudioPort.org.

Airs weekdays, 3-3:30 am and Saturday and Sunday, 6-6:30 am.

Food Sleuth Radio:

Produced by Dan Hemmelgarn and hosted by Melinda Hemmelgarn is an investigative nutrition series to help listeners think beyond their plates and relate the connections between food, health, agriculture and nutrition. Topics can range from the economics of nutrition to labor, politics, activism, society, culture and health. A 28-minute program. Obtained via AudioPort.org.

Airs weekdays, 3:30-4 am and Saturday and Sunday, 6:30 to 7 am.

Bookwaves:

Produced by Richard Wolinsky the program is interview based with a wide variety of authors and discusses their works, influences, and stories of inspiration and trials as their process and lives unfold. Interview and talk program. A 28 to 30-minute program. 2 episodes air weekdays. Obtained via AudioPort.org.

2 episodes air weekdays, from 1 to 2 pm.

Blues Before Sunrise:

Hosted by Steve Cushing, based out of Chicago, the program explores, preserves and discusses the various eras and focusing on the first 50 years of recorded blues. The history of the genre viewing Blues as American Roots music. And profiling the figures, tracing their development and highlighting their development. It brings to life a largely undocumented chapter of African-American Heritage. A 5 hour program. Obtained via prx.org. 2 episodes weekly.

Airs Friday, 11 pm through Saturday 4 am. And Saturday, 11pm through Sunday, 4 am.

In addition, hosts are being sought for jazz, additional blues and other genre for the purposes of musical expansion and education for persons of those interests.

We are compiling a library of both jazz and blues music to facilitate with our searches for hosts for jazz and blues programs and hope to begin such programming as soon as this fall or winter quarter.

We are actively seeking a host for a local news and sports coverage segment as well as hosts for programming regarding children and parenting issue concerns and services available to the elderly. We are working with our Board to examine a possible future weekly program for veterans and their issues.

Affiliate Agreements:

Standard Pacifica Foundation Radio 2018-2019 Affiliation Agreement to air the programs available via AudioPort.org is attached. No monies paid to nor received from Pacifica Foundation nor AudioPort.org to air those programs.

No monies paid to nor received from pbx.org nor to Blues Before Sunrise to air that program. Standard agreement used. The agreement was renewed for another year, as of January 1, 2022.

April 2, 2022

GL Graber, President

WGEN-FM (88.9)

Monee, IL

Wild World Media, Inc.