

June 24

Community Focus with Chemung County Library District

15 minutes

We spoke to the Children's Library Director about the upcoming summer reading program and the importance of enrolling the kids and having them read to avoid the "summer slide" and the importance of reading to their future. We talked about how to enroll, the many great weekly fun events at each of the local library branches as well as the main branch. She also told us there is an adult reading club as well. A little reminder that there is musical entertainment at the downtown library under the viaduct in July and August on Tuesday nights. Also there are a number of summer "camps" in the Maker Space in the library....and don't forget the library now has for loan UKELELES!!

July 1

Community Focus on Tips To Stay Cool During the Upcoming Heat Wave

15 Minutes

I spoke with the Director of the Office of the Aging in Chemung County. It was the beginning of our first big heat wave and we discussed ways that members of the community could keep cool and safe. She gave us a lot of information not to run a fan in a room where the heat is already 95 or above.....she mentioned many times the importance of staying hydrated, not overdoing in the heat.....and told us the many implications of heat stroke and how to recognize the warning signs. She also mentioned the grant program available to those in need who did not have air conditioners, and also other programs available to the community to help beat the heat.

July 8

Community Focus with The Mark Twain Trolley

15 minutes

We spoke with Mark Delgrosso from the Mark Twain Trolley about this year's Chemung Chamber tours. He told us of the beginnings of this Elmira tourism treasure up until its present day tours now on a bigger and air conditioned "trolley" with room for several more passengers. Mark is the main "trolley master", and Gary Packard another local history fanatic takes over the wheel and the duties at least once a week.

July 15

Community Focus on a new book from the Chemung Historical Museum

15 minutes

We spoke the author of the book "Curiosities of Elmira", a book funded by the Chemung Historical Museum regarding the many "oddities" in the history of our region that make up our past....and future. A very interesting book full of things you will be surprised to know....and things that will explain a lot too.

July 22

Community Focus on the Completion of the Renovation of the Clemens Center
Theatre Organ

15 minutes

It was my distinct pleasure to talk this week to David Peckham, house organist extraordinaire at the Elmira Clemens Center. The third and final piece of the house organ has been refurbished and installed.....a piece that provides the organ with an ethereal sound....and the piece that sets it apart from almost any other organ in the country. It will be debuted this coming Sunday....though he gave me a sample that day and it was outstanding. David talked about his organ playing and how the job at the Clemens Center was passed on to him from his dad. He also discussed the damage done to the organ during the 1972 flood and the community work and support to bring it back to its original condition.

July 29

Community Focus on the Jewish Summer Fest at Kol Ami

15 minutes

I spoke with Dave Siskin about the Congregation Kol Ami Chicken Barbeque a new food event that follows on the highly successful Jewish Food Festival in May. The barbeque will feature vendors and also community demonstrations by the West Elmira Fire Department, and tours of the synagogue... And best of all some of those yummy Jewish sweets that we have all fallen in love with.

August 5

Community Focus on local Community Theatre

15 minutes

We spoke with a member of the local theatrical player scene, Zach Swasta. He is currently the director of the upcoming Centerstage Theatre's production of "I Hate Shakespeare" (a comedy of course). Zach told us about all the work of the Centerstage Players a group of strictly local community people of all ages that put on several productions throughout the year. Zach is also a member of the Montour Falls Melodrama productions and he explained what melodramas are and the history of the Theatre there.

August 12

Community Focus on the History of Elmira

15 minutes

We took a historical tour of the city of Elmira using sound bites of the trip for the interview. It was a great reminder of the storied and exciting past we often take for granted here in Elmira. There was special emphasis on the newly renovated sections of the Civil war prison camp...and explanations of what an impact this camp had on our history.....and the wonderful story of John Jones and the civil war section of the national cemetery at Woodlawn.

August 19

Community Focus on Heather's Home Initiative

15 minutes

For the last few weeks we've all seen the signs for Heathers Home 5K, so I met with the founder at the event, John Earley, to see what it was all about. Heathers Home is a local initiative named after Heather Early to rescue and raise orphaned and abandoned kids in Haiti and provide them with a home education, family, and a future. John and Heather are from Erin and this initiative has been a very ambitious and successful venture for them that they wish to expand both in Haiti and in other countries. An example of being a good community citizen not only here, but abroad as well.

August 26

Community Focus at the National Soaring Museum and Harris Hill Soaring Club

15 minutes

We spoke with Lisa Bartlett of the National Soaring Museum regarding the soaring museum's upcoming Community Soaring Day.....an event that gets bigger and attracts more and more people every year. Motorless flight here in this community has a long history and there will be gliders at the Harris Hill Soaring Club for rides....as well as several groups from the community offering information and assistance and this year....live reindeer will be at the event.

Sept. 2

Community Focus on Joycrest Skating Rink

15 minutes

We spoke with Donna Isaacs of Joycrest Skating Rink and the long and storied history of Joycrest in the area and her family's part in it, starting with her parents and now she runs it with the help of her children and grandchildren. A great place to go for fun, exercise and parties. The rink is opening back up for the season starting next weekend and they have a lot of plans for even more fun and excitement in this their 86th year.

Sept. 9

Community Focus on Suicide Awareness and Prevention

15 minutes

We spoke with a local representative from Walk A Mile In My Shoes, a suicide prevention and awareness group here in Elmira. She told us about the work that they do and the many many different services they provide in the area to help and educate both those at risk of suicide and those who are wrestling with the guilt of having lost a loved one. She gave us a lot of good advice on how to spot a potential victim and how to handle a situation with a loved one who may be contemplating suicide and has come to you for possible help.

Sept. 16

Community Focus on Eating Right

15 minutes

We talked with a representative from Eat Smart NY, a state and county initiative to help us learn how to eat better. The Eat Smart group has many easy and tasty recipes...and in fact was sampling one of them, a dipping sauce for apples made

from pumpkin pie filling (it was delicious). She suggested that we try to be more cognizant of what we eat....filling our plates with at least ½ being from the fruit and vegetable groups....the goal (though she admits not always attainable) 5 servings of fruits and vegetables a day. We also spoke to a local SNAP representative who was providing to people vouchers to specifically purchase fresh produce at local participating farmers' markets. She explained the program which works along with Eat Smart NY to help the community become healthier.

Sept 23

Community Focus on the Present and Future of Downtown as an Economic Unit

15 minutes

We spoke with Rich Lavere, a local businessman who just renewed his lease to keep his business in the downtown area, after weighing options of moving it to another venue. He told us why he feels so much optimism about the downtown revitalization and his reasons for feeling that downtown Elmira remains a vital and growing economy. He reminded us about the things currently going on to support his optimism....the revitalized and now full former Federal Building, the new construction on Water Street, the new ultra modern apartments in the Werdenberg Building, the walking bridge on Lake Street, the new medical school going in by Arnot.....

October 1

Community Focus on Jobs in the Twin Tiers

15 minutes

We spoke with a representative from Wayfair in Big Flats presently hiring a large cadre of people from the local area. She spoke of the work available, the conditions and hours and about the business itself. Wayfair was started by 2 college roommates from neighboring Cornell University, a business that has grown and prospered both nationally and internationally. A shining example of the current prosperous job market here in the Twin Tiers.

October 12, 2018

Community Focus on Model Trains

15 minutes

We spoke with a representative of the Twin Tiers N Track Train Club. A very busy group of what he called "older gentlemen". He told us of the many things that they do, about the hobby itself, about the exciting history of trains and how in many places trains are having a rebirth. He also showed us the ways that new technology and computer chips are revolutionizing the model train hobby.