

WSPK

Quarterly Issues/Programming Report

April 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022

Note- A malware attack on the station's computers wiped out some saved files for this Q3 2022 filing. The virus impacted some saved content for this report.

TRAFFIC/TRANSIT AND TRANSPORTION AND PORT AUTHORITY

WSPK runs local traffic reports at 6a, 6:30a 7a, 7:30a, 8a, 8:30a, 4:30p, 4:50p, 5:20p, 5:50p and 6:20p. Here, WSPK delivers information impacting the travel concerns related to Metro North, MTA Bridges, Airports as well as local road, parkways, highways and interstates. Road construction warning and information were also covered. These live reports run Monday rough Friday.

July 25, news segment, 7a, :20 - – Paul Quartararo has been a member of the advisory Stewart Airport Commission since 1996, most recently serving as its vice chairman.

He was recently chosen to serve as its chairman and while he has seen New York Stewart International Airport experience its ups and downs in terms of passenger service, he sees a bright future for the Hudson Valley airport under the continued guidance of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. “They have made an investment in time and money and it shows off by the new international service with Play, with Frontier, and Allegiant has been there for a while, but with Play and the opening of the new international terminal, and we hope to see more flights and the Port Authority is working very hard on increasing service,” he said.

Quartararo would like to see flights to Chicago – that was the first destination from Stewart when commercial service began in April 1990 – as well as flights to Las Vegas and the west coast.

July 27, news segment, 8a, :20 - About a dozen years ago, officials floated the idea of building a spur off the West of Hudson Metro-North Railroad in Salisbury Mills directly into New York Stewart International Airport. That never got any traction because of the projected millions of dollars it would cost. It may be back on track as it is being discussed by the MTA, said Harry Porr, deputy Orange County executive, who represents the county on the Stewart Airport Commission and the MTA Board. “Last week I met with the MTA construction planning group and they are looking at everything for future development under one co-called West of Hudson Service under what they call transit access to Stewart Airport,” he told the Stewart Airport Commission on Tuesday. It is believed that a rail link from the airport to New York City would be a major asset for Stewart.

July 28th, news segment, 9a - :10- Metro North is again talking about offering train service directly to Stewart International Airport. Mid Hudson news reports that a MTA construction planning group is again floating the idea as it looks at the railroad's future development and there is also discussion of linking Stewart Airport to New York City.

August 24, news segment, 7a, :15 - - Buses replace trains on the Wassaic Branch of Metro-North Railroad from September 12 through November 20 while trackwork is performed, the railroad announced on Tuesday. Regular service will operate between Grand Central Terminal and Southeast. The detailed bus schedule is being finalized and will be available soon.

September 6, news segment, 8a, :30 - The redecking of the westbound span of the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge over the Hudson River is almost complete. The \$95 million capital project is the largest one ever performed by the New York State Bridge Authority.

Spokesman Chris Steber said the massive project, which has seen all traffic – eastbound and westbound – diverted to the southbound, or eastbound span, should be back to normal by the end of this month. “It has been a massive undertaking, but hats off to our staff and to the contractors who have been working hard to get to this point and to bring traffic back to normal patterns,” he said.

Once the final overlay has been completed, the concrete barriers separating traffic on the south span will be removed. The Bridge Authority operates five spans – the Rip Van Winkle, Kingston-Rhinecliff, Mid-Hudson, Newburgh-Beacon, and Bear Mountain.

Covid-19

July 21, news segment. 7a, :20 - You don't hear about the number of new COVID-19 cases and deaths in the Hudson Valley on a daily basis; however, the virus is still present.

The State Health Department reported 1,082 new cases on Tuesday and four new deaths – one each in Dutchess and Orange counties and two in Westchester. The health department continues to urge people to get vaccinated and boosted as the best way to avoid catching the virus.

August 2nd news segment 6a, :15 - There will be no tuition increase at SUNY Westchester Community College for the next school year. Westchester County Executive George Latimer and the Board of Legislators approved the measure, as students and families continue to struggle with rising costs due to inflation and uncertainty surrounding COVID.

August 23rd, news segment, 8a :25 - As kids get ready to go back to school, Governor Hochul says there will be no more quarantining, test to stay, or sending an entire classroom home due to COVID exposure, despite a potential rise in cases. The man who many would consider the face of the fight against COVID-19 is exiting his role in the public arena. Dr. Anthony Fauci announced yesterday that he would be resigning as Chief Medical Advisor to President Biden and Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to do things "outside the government." Pfizer is announcing its COVID vaccine for children under five is 73-percent effective after three shots. The announcement was made one day after the company asked the FDA to authorize COVID booster shots targeting Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants for those 12 and older.

August 26th, news segment ,9a :10- Moderna is suing Pfizer and BioNTech over alleged patent infringement. Specifically, the lawsuit involves the two companies making their COVID vaccine by using Moderna's technology.

September 7th, news segment, 7a, :20 - Governor Hochul is hinting about lifting mask mandates on public transit, including on Metro-North. Compliance and enforcement of masks on trains, buses and NYC's subways have both dropped in recent months anyway. Governor Hochul will provide a COVID-19 update today after getting a booster shot.

September 8th, news segment, 9a. :20 - President Biden is slated to speak about omicron-specific COVID-19 booster shots today. White House officials say the new shot protects against severe infection and transmission. Governor Hochul got the booster yesterday and encouraged others to do the same. Governor Hochul is lifting the mask mandate on public transit across New York State, including on MetroNorth. There is one exception - the NYC ferry. Meanwhile, masks will also no longer be required in shelters or corrections facilities, but a mandate will remain in place for health care centers and hospitals.

September 13th, news segment, 7a, :20 - After extending them for multiple months, Governor Kathy Hochul says she will allow her COVID-19 emergency powers to expire. That means there's no longer an executive order in effect giving the governor's office the authority to purchase pandemic-related goods and services without a competitive bidding process.

September 19th, news segment, 8a, :20 - The Westchester County Health Department has started to offer the new COVID-19 booster. Vaccine clinics are now being held Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at health department offices in White Plains and are appointment-only, with walk-ins not accepted.

Race/Equality/Social Relations/ Cultural News and Issues:

July 5, news segment, :25, 7a - – The Hurleyville Performing Arts Center has been awarded an Artist Employment Program grant from Creatives Rebuild New York to be used to create a Black Library and community art space in the Village of Monticello.

The two-year grant totals \$407,800. The project was initiated by Monticello native artists and business partners Douglas Shindler and Michael Davis.

Shindler told Mid-Hudson News the facility will be more than just a conventional library with books on shelves. “We really want it to be a library and a community art space, so what we are looking to do is to have space where artists can come and work, have artists talks, exhibitions, community events,” he said. “We really want to engage the community and have a lot of things to where we build a really collaborative culture in Monticello, in Sullivan County, and hopefully beyond that.”

Gun Violence/Crimes and Control:

August 30, news segment, 8a, :30 - The Orange County Sheriff's Office has suspended fingerprinting for those seeking a pistol permit. The suspension is in place until further notice and is a result of the new gun laws enacted by the state legislature.

Applicants who have fully completed applications including the handgun safety certificate and have been fingerprinted must submit their applications to the Orange County Sheriff's Office on or before August 31, 2022, in order to be processed. According to Orange County Sheriff Carl DuBois, "The licensing authorities in Orange County have advised this (his) office that they cannot sign off on applications without a social media check of the applicant and proof of training as required by the new law." In a notice posted on the sheriff's website, the sheriff said, "There have been many lawsuits filed seeking a stay of the implementation of the new gun law. If they are successful, this Office will immediately reinstate fingerprinting for gun permit applicants if the stay addresses both the social media reviews and the new training regimen. If a stay is not implemented by the court, this office will continue to cease acceptance of gun permit applications until the matter is fully resolved by the courts or the training regimen and social media reviews are available."

News Segment on September 1st, 8a, :20 -New gun permits and gun carrying laws go into effect today in New York State. Governor Hochul says this is in response to the Supreme Court decision to strike down part of the state's gun laws, allowing for greater access to gun permits. There are now lots of steps to obtain a conceal carry permit including a social media check, classroom training and live firing exercises, as well as sensitive areas like schools, hospitals and subways, where guns are banned.

News Segment on September 2nd, 9a, :20 -- A retired NYPD officer from Orange County is sentenced to ten years in federal prison for taking part in the Capitol riot, the longest sentence yet in connection with the events of January 6th, 2021. Thomas Webster, of the Village of

Florida, was convicted of several felonies for attacking a Washington, DC cop with a flag pole and then attempting to rip off his gas mask.

News Segment on September 2nd, 6a, :15- Rockland County law enforcement agencies are planning a gun buyback event later this month. Next Thursday's collection at Saint Joseph's Church in Spring Valley will allow residents to stay anonymous and no questions will be asked.

News Segment on September 6th 8a, :15 -Rockland County will hold a gun buyback event this week. It will take place this Thursday at Saint Joseph's Church in Spring Valley from 4 to 8 p.m. and up to 250-dollars will be offered per firearm, depending on the type, with no questions asked.

News Segment on September 13th, 6a 10- Visa, Mastercard and American Express are implementing a new merchant category code for gun and ammunition stores to use when processing transactions.

News Segment on September 23rd. 7a :10-Rockland County is launching a new initiative to strengthen public safety. County Executive Ed Day signed the two-million-dollar program which will also bolster unity across Rockland, which will be paid for by American Rescue Plan funds.

News Segment on September 23rd, 7a :10- A package of policing and public safety bills is on the way to the Senate after being passed by the House. This after a group of progressive Democrats held up votes for a couple of hours while objecting to "accountability measures" in the package

Education/School Sports/Youth Initiatives:

July 5, news segment, :30, 7a, -- Dr. Phee Simpson returned to the principal's office at Poughkeepsie High School on Friday, July 1, after being reinstated by the board of education earlier in the morning. Simpson had been terminated by the district in 2019 after being accused of changing the grades of students to inflate the school's graduation rate. She challenged the termination and the court agreed with her.

The original hearing determined that the board had not presented sufficient evidence to sustain the charges, but Simpson was still fired. The court's June 2022 decision ordered the district to reinstate her."It feels wonderful to be vindicated and to be back," Simpson told Mid-Hudson News after the board's vote on Friday morning. Settling into her office, the principal immediately went to work. Her first order of business is to make sure that the master schedules are completed and all students have a full schedule."

July 5, news segment, :30 -8a -- A local organization that offers a free football camp for Poughkeepsie children received a substantial donation from the Dutchess County District Attorney's office last week. The money is earmarked to help to keep the camp free for children. Poughkeepsie resident and former Marist football player Roy Watterson established the summer football camp a few years ago to give city kids a program designed to teach more than just football. "This camp brings the community together and provides the children with a safe environment where they also learn about leadership and respect for each other," Watterson said. Chief Assistant District Attorney Matt Weishaupt learned of the program and reached out to Watterson to offer support. "When Mr. Weishaupt called me to his office, I thought I was in trouble," Watterson joked. After the meeting, Weishaupt secured \$5,000 for the program operated by the Roy Community Foundation. The money is the result of funds seized by the DA's office after drug convictions and other cases.

July 25, news segment, 9a, :20 - The Sharing Shelf is organizing its annual "Backpacks to School" initiative to buy new backpacks and fill them with grade appropriate school supplies for low-income children in Westchester County. Between May and August, the program works with individuals and businesses county-wide to raise the funds needed to purchase everything needed for this initiative. In just seven weeks, students will return to their classrooms, gearing up for a new school year. For many families with children living below the poverty line or in low-income homes, the return to school is a period of stress as they try to secure the tools their children need for academic success, including backpacks, pencils and pens to write with, calculators for geometry and science classes, notebooks, binders, paper, markers, colored pencils and crayons.

July 27, news segment, 8a, :20 - The new school year may not start for another month, but Middletown Superintendent Amy Creeden has laid down the law – cell phones must be turned off and put away during the school day. In a memo to the community, she said students will not have access to their cell phones during the school day including during study hall and lunch periods and phones will be prohibited in a classroom where a test is being administered. The superintendent said students will be able to use their phones only prior to the beginning of the school day and for after-school activities.

August 29, news segment, 7a, :25 - Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh welcome members of the class of 2026 on Sunday one day before classes start on Monday.

The new students include upperclassmen, transfer students, and those just starting their college careers. Isis Jimenz, an English major from the Bronx, was one of the first to move into Sakac Hall this semester. It's been a long time coming, she said, noting she wanted to be a Mount student from the first time she visited the college, approximately six years ago.

"I've been dreaming about the Mount since I was in middle school and had my first tour," Jimenz said. "Now it's time to prove to myself that I can do it and take on adulthood on my own.". Freshman Justin Ribera, a nursing major from Absecon, N.J., comes from a long line of

nurses. He hopes to make his family proud with future academic and professional accomplishments.

Employment:

July 27, news segment, 8a, :20 - The June 2022 unemployment rate for the Hudson Valley region is 3.1 percent. That is up from 2.9 percent in May 2022 and down from 5.1 percent in June 2021, the State Labor Department reports. In June 2022, there were 36,400 unemployed in the region, up from 33,300 in May 2022 and down from 58,300 in June 2021. Year-over-year in June 2022, labor force increased by 26,700 or 2.3 percent, to 1,177,900. The lowest rate of joblessness in the greater region in June was recorded in Columbia County, at 2.6 percent. The highest rate was in Delaware County at 3.5

July 28, news segment, 7a, :20 - – Low-cost carrier Frontier Airlines, which operates flights to several destinations from New York Stewart International Airport, has begun a cadet program to train the next generation of Frontier pilots. Systemwide, airlines are facing a pilot shortage and frontier will operate its program in partnership with ATP Flight School, seeking up to 35 individuals per month who seek to become commercial airline pilots. No prior flying experience is required, the company said from its Denver headquarters. Cadets will receive assistance in applying for financial aid to help offset training and living expenses with the program lasting about 24 months. Cadets must be at least 19, willing to relocate, and clear a background check. An associate degree or higher is preferred but not required. Participants must pass all required tests as well as obtain all necessary certifications prior to becoming a Frontier pilot.

August 22, news segment, 6a, :30 - Job growth in the Hudson Valley leisure and hospitality sector grew the most over the past year in July, the State Labor Department said. A total of 8,800 new jobs were created. Professional and business services was not far behind with 8,200 new jobs while education and health services rose by 6,000 jobs. The other services category saw an increase of 4,000 jobs while natural resources, mining and construction had 2,800 jobs added; trade, transportation and utilities saw 2,500 new jobs; manufacturing added 700 jobs; and information saw 500 new jobs. Job losses were centered in financial activities, at 1,400. In the greater Hudson Valley/Catskill region, Sullivan County had the highest growth rate at 11.6 percent. That was followed by the Orange-Rockland-Westchester Metro Area with 4.5 percent growth. The Dutchess-Putnam Metropolitan Division and Ulster County each saw 1.8 percent job growth. Greene County had a loss of one percent of its jobs while Columbia County jobs fell by 1.8 percent and Delaware County lost 2.8 percent of its jobs. Statewide, New York had 5.5 percent job growth in the 12 month period in July.

August 24, news segment, 8a, :30 - – All counties in the region saw their unemployment rates decline in the 12 months ended in July compared to the same period last year. Columbia County scored 2.9 percent unemployment in the 12 months ending in July, the State Labor Department said. That is the lowest rate in the region and 10 percent lower than the same period in 2021. Putnam Rockland and Sullivan counties each had 3.2 percent rates of joblessness. Dutchess County came in at 3.3 percent.

Those were followed by Ulster County at 3.4 percent, Westchester and Orange counties at 3.5 percent, Greene County with 3.6 percent unemployment and Delaware County at 3.9 percent.

September 12, news segment, 8a, :30 - – Joblessness in the City of Newburgh in July was the highest of all municipalities in the Hudson Valley in July, according to the State Labor Department. Despite the high rate of 5.4 percent, it was down considerably from the July 2021 rate of 7.0 percent. The lowest rate this past July, 2.6 percent, in the Village of Port Chester, was down from 3.7 percent in July of last year.

The lower rates were reflected across the region, which saw 3.4 percent in July 2022, compared with the July 2021 rate of 4.9 percent.

Public Safety/Residential Impacts and Police Reforms:

July 4, news segment, 8a, :20 - Four trainees graduated from the Town of Fallsburg Police Academy on June 30 after completing six months of training. The graduation ceremony was held at the Sullivan County Government Center and featured District Attorney Meagan Galligan as the keynote speaker. The graduates are Deputy Sheriff Kearstin DeGraw, Deputy Sheriff Anthony Lupardo III, Deputy Sheriff Andrew Martinez and Village of Goshen Police Officer Evan Metakes. They will now join the patrol force in their respective agencies.

July 21, news segment, 7a, :20 - One day after State Senator James Skoufis (D, Cornwall) called on Governor Kathy Hochul to sign his bill raising awareness of human trafficking in bars and restaurants, she put pen to paper on Wednesday. The measure is aimed at giving bartenders the tools to know when someone may be trafficked. As an incentive to restaurant owners, those who require their barkeeps to take a state course will receive a discount on their business insurance. “Lawmakers shouldn’t stand by while New York consistently ranks fourth in the nation for prevalence of human trafficking,” Skoufis said. “Our legislation to empower bartenders to spot and stop this inhumane exploitation will protect countless victims of trafficking.”

August 1, news segment, 7a, :20 - The Newburgh Police Department is facing a shortage of sworn officers because of high turnover so the city administration wants to hire part-time cops to supplement the full-timers. Mayor Torrance Harvey said officers continue to be “poached” by other departments that pay significantly more, making for the manpower deficit in Newburgh’s police force. “Because they are paying \$20,000 in salary, it’s creating a high turnover in our police department and so there is a shortage,” he said. “Just as we discussed the possibility of having part-time firefighters, we are looking at that same possibility for the police department.” In the meantime, Harvey said the city administration is looking at including significant raises for police officers in the 2023 city budget.

September 6, news segment, 8a, :30 - There are 23 street surveillance cameras in the City of Middletown that the police monitor on a regular basis and as a result of a \$450,000 grant from

Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther (D, Forestburgh) and Speaker Carl Heastie (D, New York City), the city will be installing an additional 29 cameras.

Those street cams are an invaluable tool, said Operations Bureau Commander Lt. Jeffrey Thoelen. "Within the last decade, the city has gone through unprecedented growth and development, and it has ushered in success and prosperity for a lot of residents and business owners and improved our quality of life," he said. "What's very important that is along with all that progress, the City of Middletown has maintained our reputation of one of the safest small cities in New York State and we want to continue that," he said.

Thoelen said the cameras are "extremely valuable as a deterrent and invaluable as an investigative tool when a crime occurs."

Health and Health Care Issues:

News Segment, July 21, 7a, :20 - The first case of monkeypox has been identified in Orange County, Health Commissioner Dr. Irina Gelman announced on Wednesday.

Other cases have been identified in the Hudson in Sullivan, Rockland and Westchester counties.

"Orange County has demonstrated our ability to respond to the spread of communicable disease in the past," said Dr. Gelman. "We continue to be in contact with the State Department of Health to ensure we have the resources necessary to protect our residents."

Monkeypox is a viral infection that is extremely rare, which often does not cause serious illness; however, it can lead to hospitalization and death, especially if left untreated.

News Segment July 28th, 6a :10- Another free monkeypox vaccination site will soon be open in Westchester County. The LOFT LGBTQ+ Community Center and the County Health Department will host a second, first-dose, monkeypox vaccination clinic Thursday, August 4th and appointments can be made for everyone 18 and older.

News segment, July 28, 8a, :10 - – Dutchess County's Helpline, which has been providing professional mental health crisis services for decades, is one of the current 13 regional call centers in the state handling the new national 988 suicide prevention lifeline.

County Executive Marcus Molinaro said the Dutchess center is handling 988 calls in three area counties. "For those dialing 988 in Dutchess, Ulster and Sullivan, those professionals are Dutchess County Helpline staff. These are folks who have been doing this sort of work and we've invested a great amount of resource in the Dutchess County Helpline for decades," he said. "We are the regional hub for three counties for the residents dialing 988."

Molinaro said Dutchess is in talks with other area counties about handling their suicide hotline calls as well.

News Segment on July 29th, :15 More monkeypox vaccines are coming to New York, as the number of cases grows. According to New York Senator Chuck Schumer, 786-thousand more vaccines are coming to the U.S. and New York state will get 30-thousand of them. A polio vaccine clinic is being held today at the Rockland County Department of Health in Pomona. This after a case of the illness was confirmed in Rockland earlier this month, the first

reported case in the U.S. since 2013.

New Segment, August 1, 8a, :20 - The recent lack of rain and the influx of thousands of summer residents are taxing the Town of Fallsburg water supply. As a result, Town Supervisor Kathy Rappaport said they have imposed voluntary water restrictions for the time being.

"Our water shortage is a combination of going from 15,000 people to 150,000 people pretty much overnight. We did not have rain for more than 10 days I believe, so our storage tanks were very low. They were down to nine feet. We should be about 30 feet," she said.

Rappaport said because of some heavy rains of late, the water tank levels have risen slightly.

News Segment, August 3, 9a, :20 - Hundreds of nurses were joined by other hospital staff and local leaders at an informational picket in front of Vassar Brothers Medical Center (VBMC) on Tuesday. The nurses held the protest to bring awareness to staffing issues at the hospital. Union nurses protesting staffing levels at the hospital. Vassar Registered Nurse Angelina Reynoso told Mid-Hudson News that the nurses are angry, noting that they want to provide the best care possible but staffing levels make it nearly impossible.

"We have not had enough staff. The ratio is currently one nurse for nine patients and that is just not safe." Reynoso is a nurse in the operating unit and warned the public that "You don't want to be someone's fifth patient, let alone someone's ninth."

News Segment on August 4th. 9a, :20)- :10- Governor Kathy Hochul is urging New Yorkers to prepare for dangerous heat conditions impacting many regions throughout the State today. High heat and humidity will cause heat index values to reach into the 100's in many areas, including the Hudson Valley.

News Segment on August 4th 8a, :20 - New York is the epicenter of the nation's monkeypox outbreak with the CDC saying it has more than 16-hundred cases or nearly one in four of all U.S. cases. The polio virus has been found in Orange County's wastewater. The county reported earlier this week it was detected in samples taken from a pair of locations in June and July. They have been identified in processing facilities that service Middletown and Harriman.

News Segment on August 4th ,8a, :15 - New York State is launching a bonus program for health care workers. Governor Hochul says that the one-pointthree-billion-dollar initiative will go towards paying recruitment and retention bonuses for certain employees in the industry. Workers must make less than 125-thousand-dollars a year and remain in their position for at least six months in order to be eligible for the extra payout.

News Segment on August 5th, :10- The Westchester County Health Department is issuing a heat advisory, as temperatures are expected to hover in the 90s today, with high humidity making it feel even hotter. Health officials are advising residents to avoid strenuous activity, drink lots of water and avoid alcohol and caffeine.

News Segment on August 5th, 8a, :20 - The White House is declaring monkeypox a national public health emergency - with NYC having the most cases nationally. Westchester County has

the second highest number of cases in NY at 47, although far behind NYC's 1630 cases, according to the state health dept. Vaccination efforts will be ramped up, particularly in NYC. Orange County Executive Steve Neuhaus is expressing concern that the polio virus has already spread to some community members after the virus was discovered in wastewater samples taken from Middletown and Harriman earlier this week. This after the country's first polio case in nearly ten years was reported in Rockland County. Neuhaus adds the strain is the same one coming from the United Kingdom and Jerusalem.

News Segment on August 12th at 7a- :15- Westchester County is reporting this season's first batch of mosquitoes carrying West Nile Virus. County Executive George Latimer says the health department is inspecting an area in Rye and catch basins are being treated when needed to protect against further breeding. Residents are reminded to pour out standing water after it rains to keep mosquitoes from breeding and biting us in our own backyards.

News Segment on August 17th 8a, :20 - The Rockland County Health Department is offering more polio vaccine clinics. One is being held today at 14 South Main Street in Spring Valley and two more are set for next week at different locations. So far there's only been one confirmed case in a Rockland County resident, but the virus has also been found in wastewater in the HV and in NYC.

News Segment on August 23rd, 9a, :10- As New York State reports its first pediatric case of the monkeypox virus, officials want to ensure high schoolers are well informed. Natale Migliore reports. (IDDNymposchools0822_1- audio cut on what High Schoolers should know about Moneypox}

News Segment on August 26th, 7a,- :20- Westchester County is starting up its free back-to-school vaccine clinics. The six clinics are located at Health Department offices in White Plains at various times beginning today and during five days in September and offer school inoculations, and influenza and COVID-19 vaccines for children ages six months and older.

News Segment on August 29th, 7a, :20 - There's growing concern about the spread of polio in New York. The state Department of Health announced on Friday that traces of the disease have now been found in wastewater samples in Sullivan County, in addition to Rockland and Orange Counties earlier this summer. New Yorkers are urged to make sure they've been vaccinated against polio.

News Segment on August 26th, 6a, :20 Westchester County will continue its free back-to-school vaccine clinics next month. The first of six clinics at Health Department offices in White Plains started on Friday and will also happen at various times during five days in September. Children must have their first dose of all required vaccinations within 14 days from the first day of school.

News Segment on September 12th, 7a, :20 - Governor Hochul is declaring a state of emergency to boost polio vaccination rates. The virus has been detected in wastewater samples in four counties across the state, including Rockland and Orange Counties, as well as in New York City. New York started testing wastewater after an unvaccinated Rockland resident suffered paralysis from polio in July.

News Segment on September 12th, 8a :10- Westchester County is reporting its first human case this year of West Nile virus. Officials say the virus was found in an Elmsford resident who has multiple underlying medical conditions but is recovering at home.

News Segment, September 26, 7a, :30 - The Town of Fishkill has over 3,600 municipal water connections providing service to more than 11,000 residents, and a plan to protect that is complete and awaiting state approval, town officials said.

The town's Drinking Water Source Protection Plan, being developed for more than a year, identifies risks to the town's municipal water supply posed by road salts and high-density development. It offers suggestions and resources to mitigate those risks.

Town water operators warn that the high levels of chlorine from road salt, if not addressed, could lead to a future need for the town to purchase expensive filtration systems.

The protection plan cost no local dollars to prepare as the state picked up the tab, equating to more than \$140,000 in engineering services free of charge.

Town secretary Greg Totino said as part of the protection program, Fishkill has an advantage with applying for future grant funding.

The town board has yet to adopt the plan.

Drug Addiction/Opioid Crisis/Alcohol Abuse

August 26th news segment, 8a :10- Rockland County is hosting an Overdose Awareness Day this weekend. The Remembrance Day, which will be held at the Tallman Beach and Pool Club this Sunday at 7 p.m., is part of a global campaign that is typically held on or around August 31st each year and aims to raise awareness of overdose and reduce the stigma of drug related deaths.

August 26th news segment, 8a- :10- Rockland County is hosting an Overdose Awareness Day this weekend. The Remembrance Day, which will be held at the Tallman Beach and Pool Club this Sunday at 7 p.m., is part of a global campaign that is typically held on or around August 31st each year and aims to raise awareness of overdose and reduce the stigma of drug related deaths.

August 29th, news segment, 6a. :10- Another annual Rockland County Overdose Awareness Day is now in the books. It was held yesterday at the Tallman Beach and Pool Club in Sparkill to raise awareness and erase the stigma concerning drug overdoses. The Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge was lit in purple, representing recovery.

September 13th, news segment, 9a :15- Westchester County will give residents a chance to dispose of expired or unwanted medications this week, in conjunction with New York's second annual Overdose Awareness Day. Tomorrow and Thursday, folks can drop meds off at the Household Hazardous-Material Recovery Facility in Valhalla by appointment only.

September 27th, news segment, 7a - :15 sec.- New York Senator Chuck Schumer is calling for funding to help in the fight against fentanyl. He says he wants 290-million dollars in federal funds to fight "rainbow fentanyl," .. which are highly-addictive pills that look like candy. The funds would be used to ramp up dozens of overdose response strategy teams across the country. Fentanyl is said to be 50 times more powerful than heroin.

PSA Campaign- Airing ongoing campaign for the New York Governor's Safety Committee. :30 PSA's change with emphasis on topics like Drinking and Driving, Texting and Driving. Campaign started in January and airs to September 2022.

Economy/Tourism

July 28, news segment, 8a, :20 - Several local, state and New York City agencies lent their support on Wednesday to a proposed bridge over railroad tracks as part of the planned Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail at Breakneck Mountain in the Town of Fishkill.

An administrative law judge conducted a public hearing on the bridge component, which had universal support. Fishkill Town Supervisor Ozzie Albra said the fjord trail will be a major boost for the Mid-Hudson. "I think it will be a great tourist attraction for the region. I think it will help our hotels, our restaurants in Fishkill and Beacon and the surrounding community," he said.

The bridge component of the project will afford the New York City Department of Environmental Protection access to a pump station on the Hudson River.

Construction on phase one of the trail is expected to begin later this year. The total cost of phase one is \$52 million.

August 1, news segment, 7a, :20 - – Dutchess County's solid financial picture continues to benefit a number of programs and services, County Executive Marc Molinaro said.

He said the county's strong fiscal continue has a number of advantages.

☑️ "We recognize that there remain significant challenges for families, farmers small businesses so we use that fiscal strength to invest in mental health and law enforcement sand youth and senior citizens and parks and infrastructure while also providing tax relief, and that has to remain our commitment," he said.

Molinaro said that strategy has proven very successful for the county and its residents.

August 18, news segment, 8a. :20 - The Orange County Industrial Development Agency Wednesday evening paved the way for Royal Wine Corporation to build a 623,000 square foot manufacturing and production facility along Route 17M and 6 ½ Station Road in the Town of Goshen by approving a financial incentive package.

That includes sales tax exemption on building materials, waiving the mortgage filing fee and a 15-year PILOT agreement. All five members of the IDA board approved the plan.

Board Chairman Michael Torelli said the company that manufactures several brands of wine, spirits and juice, said Orange County was chosen because of its location, ability to distribute and manufacture, and the cost of doing business and its quality of life.

Board Member Susan Walski noted the Route 17M corridor in Goshen is currently under-utilized.

September 12, news segment. 6a, :30 - Construction continues on the 90,000 square foot Resorts World Hudson Valley casino in the Newburgh Mall on Route 300 in the Town of Newburgh. The facility will be geared toward a local and regional clientele, Meghan Taylor, the company's vice president for government affairs, told Mid-Hudson News.

“It's quick and easy to get to off of the infrastructure and roadways we have right outside of our doors, as opposed to the Resorts World Catskills where it is a luxury weekend getaway,” she said. “We do not have a hotel here. We don't have restaurants in the facility here at Resorts World Hudson Valley, but we hope that with making that key decision, we're going to be a catalyst to drive redevelopment here at the mall.”

The new facility is expected to employ 250 local people. Two hundred construction workers are busily installing the video slot machines and table games and putting the finishing touches on the décor. A local benefit of the facility will be an annual \$3 million local shot in the arm to the Town of Newburgh.

September 26, news segment, 6a, :30 - More than half a billion dollars was spent in 2021 by travelers to Dutchess County on lodging, food and beverages, recreation, transportation, retail and other travel-related expenses. In its annual report on the economic impact of visitors in New York, Tourism Economics, an Oxford Economic company, showed visitors spent \$632 million in Dutchess in 2021, an increase of \$214.2 million from COVID-19 plagued 2020. That equates to 93.7 percent of the record total reached in 2019, which capped 10 years of consecutive growth. Travelers spend \$3.8 billion in the Hudson Valley region in 2021.

Tourism is the third largest industry in the state and a major driving economic force in the Hudson Valley. “It's been a long road through this pandemic but by working together – our team, county government, community and tourism partners – we found creative ways to provide wonderful experiences for travelers and this significant growth in visitor spending, is the result,” said Melaine Rottkamp, president of Dutchess Tourism, Inc., the agency designated by the county as its tourism marketing organization.

Remembering 9/11

September 12, news segment, 8a, :30 - -- Twenty-one years after jetliners slammed into the World Trade Center on a clear blue workday morning, a ceremony Sunday honored the 44 Orange County residents who died in that terrorist attack. Battalion Chief Eddie Boles, a Goshen resident who has served with FDNY for more than three decades, was the keynote speaker at the September 11th Patriot Day commemoration at the Orange County Arboretum.

"This always a difficult day," he said. "But it's a day of reflection and day that many of us hold near and dear to our hearts because we always want to remember those we lost and the families and the sacrifices they made."

Boles served with a Harlem engine company the day of the attack, and he arrived on the scene after the second tower collapsed and spent nearly two days after that trying to find civilians and other first responders trapped in the rubble. "I was one of the lucky ones," he said. "We didn't know what we were confronting. I have images when we were responding down the upper west side of Manhattan. I have images of Vietnam refugees walking aimlessly on TV and those same images of people walking aimlessly up the West Side Highway just getting away from the site. It was chaos but the admirable work that was done by firefighters, first responders, law enforcement, military, and everybody collectively was incredible."

FDNY lost 343 personnel on that fateful day and another 300 have died since then from illnesses related to the cleanup that followed.

September 12, news segment, 9a, :30 - First responders and family gathered at the Dutchess County Law Enforcement Center on Sunday as Dutchess County Sheriff Kirk Imperati remembered the nearly 3,000 people who lost their lives on September 11, and the ones who have died as a result of 9/11 illnesses.

"The world we live in today - memories are short, and it's a shame," Imperati said as he renewed the vow to "never forget," and made a plea for society to join him in that vow. Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 333 President Mike Hendryk recognized the families of two members of law enforcement that died as a result of 9/11-related illnesses. "Today we honor the nearly 3,000 souls that perished on 9/11 and the ones that died from related illnesses. We also honor the families that lost loved ones as a result of the attacks," he said, adding "The pain and suffering endured by the families are unimaginable." New York State Police Zone Sergeant James Sweeney died in March of 2021 at the age of 68. The former Troop K sergeant battled illnesses related to his 2001 Ground Zero assignment. He first became ill in 2016. His widow Noreen attended the remembrance. Paul Hansut died in July after a vigorous fight against pancreatic cancer. The 56-year-old Hansut had a storied career in law enforcement, having served with the Town of Lloyd before going to the City of Poughkeepsie where he became a very successful detective. Hansut had also served as an Ulster County legislator and Town of Lloyd supervisor, before his passing. Hansut's widow Gina, now an Ulster County legislator, attended the ceremony attended the service, and spent a few minutes with Imperati before the ceremony began.

Sept 12, news segment, 6a, :30 - More than 14,000 people converged on Poughkeepsie to see acclaimed stand-up comic Sebastian Maniscalco perform at the Majed J. Nesheiwat Convention Center (The MJN) this weekend, providing a substantial boost to the local economy.

Maniscalco performed two shows each day on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Each show drew more than 2,500 attendees who dined in local restaurants while many others stayed in local hotels. On Sunday's first show, Dutchess County Sheriff Kirk Imperati made a plea to the crowd of approximately 2,600 people to never forget the lives lost as a result of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Imperati asked the packed center to remember not only the attacks but how the country came together in the days following the tragic events. "Every car was flying an American flag, people were civil with each other, and we were truly united," he said. "People put politics aside and came together - we need to get back to that place." Imperati also led the applauding audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Regional Utilities/Gas Prices/Public Works/Green Movement:

August 30, news segment, 8a, :20 - – If you attend classes or work at SUNY Sullivan and drive an electric vehicle, you are in luck. The college has installed four dual-port electric vehicle charging stations on the Loch Sheldrake Campus. The new devices were funded by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. "Electric vehicles are the future and fit with the sustainability mission of the college," said its president, Jay Quaintance. "Having the opportunity to charge vehicles on campus is just another way that we are moving to a greener future at SUNY Sullivan."

The charging stations are located in parking lot two in front of the Paul Gerry Fieldhouse and are available to students, faculty and staff as well as the general community.

There is a \$0.25/kWh fee to use the device, the revenue from which will be shared by SUNY Sullivan and Livingston Energy Group, which financed 10 percent of the project.

September 6, news segment, 6a, :30 - The price of gas took a massive spike upwards when Russia invaded Ukraine and that increase raising prices above \$5 per gallon was explained away as an effect of the war. Yet, as the invasion continues, the price of gas has begun a slow decline, in some places, dropping into the upper \$3 per gallon range.

Typically, prices at the pump rise just prior to holidays as the gas companies try to increase profits when more people take to the roads, but they began to decline just before this Labor Day weekend, the unofficial last weekend of summer.

Regardless of the price, it does not appear to be slowing down the number of motorists on the road or their speed.

September 30, news segment, 9a, :30 - – Sales of electric vehicles are up 30 percent over last year and Governor Kathy Hochul, in White Plains on Thursday, said she would like to see that number grow even more. The governor, however, conceded that the cost of those EV cars is pricey. "We're adding \$10 million to our Drive Clean Rebate Program to help New Yorkers purchase and drive these vehicles," she said. "The rebate is available in all 62 counties. That's up to \$2,000 per vehicle, and already, we have issued over 78,000 rebates, and I want to continue that trajectory. We have already spent over \$95 million," she said.

The governor also announced \$175 million from Washington to install additional charging stations for those EV cars.

Senator Pete Harckham said the state continues to make strides to reach its goals of all zero emission vehicles by 2035.

Assemblywoman Amy Paulin said the state needs more charging stations and better battery storage capacity going forward.

Hudson Valley Primary and Special Elections

Newscasts on August 23rd and August 24th covered Hudson Valley Congressional Primary elections; the races in the 17th & 18th districts and the Special Election for the 19th Congressional District to replace Antonio Delgado who became New York State Lieutenant Governor, giving up his seat. On August 24th, results were provided in newscasts.

August 18, news segment, 8a, :20 - Representatives of Bard College have filed a complaint with the enforcement division of the New York State Board of Elections against the Dutchess County Board of Elections in order to protest “the repeated violations of the New York State and federal constitutions, and state and federal statutes and regulations related to equal protection, the right to vote, youth voting rights, disability accessibility, and election law, that have occurred and continue to take place in District 5 in the Town of Red Hook.” The complaint outlines what the college says is a pattern of discrimination and malfeasance by the county board that includes understaffing and underequipping the polling site at the Bertelsmann Campus Center at Bard, and repeated alleged actions that violate the rights of voters with disabilities.

August 24, news segment, 7a, :30 - Ulster County Executive Patrick Ryan, running on the Democratic and Working Families lines, has won the special election for the 19th Congressional District. He defeated Dutchess County Executive Marcus Molinaro, running on the Republican and Conservative lines. The 19th District seat became vacant recently when Governor Kathy Hochul named then Congressman Antonio Delgado as lieutenant governor. Ryan will serve in that House of Representatives seat through the end of this year, when he will be the Democratic candidate for the new 18th District running against Colin Schmitt running on the Republican and Conservative lines. In the new 19th CD, Josh Riley won the primary election. He will face Republican Dutchess County Executive Molinaro in November.

Environment/Weather/Safety:

July 4, news segment, :20, 7a - The State Department of Environmental Conservation is working to help protect natural resources by identifying management solutions to address the adverse impacts of the expansion of informal trail networks on Catskill High Peaks (over 3,500 feet) previously considered to be ‘trailless.’ Informal trails created over time are having an impact

and consistent with the Catskill Strategic Planning Advisory Group's preliminary recommendations to address increased public use in the region, DEC is seeking public input in this preliminary stage of management plan development.

July 25, news segment, 8a, :20 - Trees and wires were knocked down by Sunday night's thunderstorms that rolled through the Mid-Hudson. Several thousand people lost power in Kingston when the storm struck. Central Hudson Gas and Electric responded to restore power. In the Town of Goshen, power lines and trees were downed on 6 ½ Station Road near Orange County's 911 Center, the sheriff's office and county jail. Orange and Rockland Utilities was called in to address the storm damage and restore power.

August 29, news segment, 7a, :30 - Suppression efforts to contain wildfires continues. in the Town of Wawarsing, helicopters flew over forest fires attacking them from the air with water drops. A Napanoch fire is believed to have been started by a lightning strike, according to State EnCon officials. Just before 5 p.m. on Saturday, firefighters were called in to assistance to locate a fire in the Napanoch Point area of Minnewaska State Park. Due to the remote and rugged terrain, State Police Aviation was called in to assist with scouting the fire and provide bucket drops. Two helicopters conducted dozens of bucket drops. On Sunday, nearly 100 state and local firefighters, working in a joint unified command led by DEC forest rangers, continued the suppression effort. . The fire was expected to spread overnight and crews will continue to work daily on suppression efforts. Assisting on-scene are firefighters from Accord, Kerhonkson, Ellenville, Cragmoor, Napanoch, DEC, State Parks Department, and Mohonk Preserve. Other agencies assisting the effort are Ulster County Sheriff's Office, Ulster County Department of Emergency Services, Ellenville Rescue, and homeland security. Extremely dry conditions and difficult terrain are increasing the challenges in containing the fire.

Women's Right/Abortion

July 4, news segment, :20, 8a -- Some 300 women and men rallied in Kingston on Saturday in opposition to the Supreme Court's overturning of Roe v. Wade. The event, organized by IndivisibleNY19, was part of a nationwide "We Won't Go Back" movement in support of abortion access. Organizer Lin Sakai said the effort goes beyond just abortion rights.

☑It also represents not just the loss of women's reproductive freedoms but we are just seeing it as a loss of really all of our freedoms that have already taken place, loss of voting rights, loss of our freedom to enjoy clean air and water with the recent EPA ruling," she said. Sakai said the rally was part of a "Summer of Rage" expressing rage, defiance and anger in the overturning of Roe v. Wade. Other rallies were held across the region including in Poughkeepsie.

War in Ukraine

July 4, news segment, :20, 9a - Like many in his community, Port Jervis Past Fire Chief Joe Kowal has spent a great deal of time following the situation in the Ukraine. Since the initial strikes of war this year, he, with a strong Ukrainian background himself, pondered how best to help. "It just hit my heart that they were doing this to my people, and I knew I wanted to do something that would make a difference. I wanted to do something in ways that would help where there was great need," Kowal said. Kowal decided to reach out to collect emergency gear and items in America, items that were no longer able to be used due to revisions in national, state, or local requirements. He and others put the word out that this collection had been launched, and items that were outdated or not needed, but in good working order, began to slowly trickle in.

September 26, news segment, 8a, :20 - U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer expects billions in additional aid to Ukraine as it continues to fight off Russia's invasion. In New Paltz over the weekend, Schumer called Russian leader Vladimir Putin "evil" and said he expects Congress to provide additional funding for Ukraine's defense. "They are making inroads in the east; they are making inroads in the south. They need our help; they don't want us to fight there. All they want is the kind of weaponry to have them stay equal to the Russians in weaponry, and then the valiance of their soldiers will prevail," he told Mid-Hudson News. The senator expects Congress to approve another \$12 billion in aid for Ukraine as the nation continues to fight off Russia's attacks.

National Guard/Veteran Affairs:

July, 21, news segment, 8a, :20 - Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado has called for making the Joseph P. Dwyer Veterans Peer-to-Peer program available nationwide to help veterans across the country. The program, funded by the state and available in many counties in New York, is named in honor of Iraq War Army veteran Joseph Dwyer, who enlisted in the Army after the 9/11 attacks and served as a combat medic. Dwyer was said to be suffering from PTSD, and committed suicide at the age of 31. The Dwyer Program provides Vet-to-Vet support to veterans who are familiar with the effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury. It has been touted as being highly successful in assisting veterans, despite repeated attempts by former Governor Andrew Cuomo to withhold funding.

July 27, news segment, 8a, :20 - Dutchess County has launched a new Veterans Microgrant Program. The program offers one-time grants to local non-profit veteran's organizations and municipalities to enhance activities and programming that address veterans needs or recognize

the service of local veterans. Grant applications are now available online at dutchessny.gov/veterans and will be accepted on a rolling basis while funds are available. Funding will be available in grant awards up to \$15,000 per organization or municipality. It can be used for purchases or needs, including equipment, resources, or other one-time expenses to help enhance program offerings, as well as make the program more accessible for veterans.

WSPK PSA INITIATIVES:

K104's Find Work Network – This is an effort to find employment for Hudson Valley residents. It is support with a main rotator on stations web site and 21 promos per week.

K104's Small Business Booster - On air promo 5x/day with social media to support this local business initiative.

WSPK Podcasts:

www.k104online.com host a podcast page that serves as a landing spot for 3 self help/inspirational programs.

Shine On with Kacey is a Health and Happiness show with deep dives into self help topics. Here are some of the programs that covered health related topics:

Kacey's Wellness Minute is a condensed recap of Shine One

Happy Hour with Jonna and Karyl – a one hour show on personal empowerment.