

**Quarterly Issues Programs List for Station WNJA FM  
July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023.  
Placed in the Public File October 10, 2023.  
Section I. Issues.**

The station has identified the following issues as significant issues facing our community in this quarter

- A. Race Relations:** Issues relating to Race relations in the region.
- B. Education:** Issues relating to public school education in our community.
- C. Environment:** The impact of environmental issues on our state.
- D. Government & Politics:** Status of our elected politicians.
- E. Health:** Health issues that impact our listeners.

**Section II. Responsive Programs**

Following is list of some of the significant issues responded to by the station along with the most significant programming treatment of those issues for the quarter. The listing is by no means exhaustive. The order in which issues appear does not reflect a priority or significance.

**A. Race Relations/Social Issues:**

Buffalo What's Next: July 2, 2023. Duration: 58:00.

On this week's Producers' Picks highlights episode we revisit our previous conversations with: Na'Kya McCann from the Buffalo All-Star Extreme dance and cheer team, Dan White and Asman Ndayisabwa from Healing Grounds Coffee and Sanctuary, and the barbers and customers of Signature Cutz Barbershop.

Buffalo What's Next: July 9, 2023. Duration: 58:00.

On this week's Producers' Picks highlights episode we revisit our previous conversations with: One of Buffalo Juneteenth's founding members Judson Price, mental health counselor Andre Stokes Jr., and Barbara Cole from Just Buffalo Literary Center and Sydney Clifton.

Buffalo What's Next: July 16, 2023. Duration: 59:00.

First Thomas O'Neil-White talks about using public land for public benefit, police oversight activist and former Medaille professor Orlando Dickson. Then Jay Moran sits with attorney Jason Daniels to discuss being Black in the corporate world and how do Black people navigate positions typically held by white people.

Buffalo What's Next: July 23, 2023. Duration: 59:00.

Today we look back at three previous segments from September 1, 21 and November 9, 2022. First Jay Moran speaks with Stan Martin from CAI and Ebony White from Buffalo Health Equity Center. Then Thomas O'Neil White speaks with Canna House president and founder Reggie White from November 9, 2022 and we end the show with Jay Moran speaking with filmmaker Terry Jones from September 1, 2022.

Buffalo What's Next: July 30, 2023. Duration: 59:00.

Today we look back at three previous segments from June 15, 30 and October 4 of last year. First, we back at a segment from June 15, 2022, Brigid Jaipaul-Valenza sits down with the founder of Project Mona's House to talk about her organization and modern-day slavery in the form of human trafficking in Buffalo. Then we revisited Jay Moran's conversation with Tenelle Jones from Charleston, SC about the parallels between Charleston and Buffalo from October 4. And we end the show with Brigid speaking with

Maria Ta from Ujima Theatre about how theatre and the arts address racial and social in justice from June 30.

Buffalo What's Next: August 6, 2023. Duration: 59:00.

Thomas O'Neil White sits down with Key Bank branch manager Rob Cornelius, the two talk about business and community needs on Buffalo's East Side from October 11 of last year. Then Thomas speaks improving the community through land and home ownership with Buffalo Information and Sharing cooperative funder Ahmad Nieves from September 20 of last year.

Buffalo What's Next: August 13, 2023. Duration: 59:00.

Jay Moran welcomes John Washington to talk through housing inequity and more. Also, Jacqueline Cherry, Assistant Director of Dance at the African American Cultural Center will talk about critical race theory, how the arts can help healing, and more with Brigid Jaipaul Valenza. Brigid Jaipaul Valenza speaks with Drea D'Nur to talk about serving the Halal community before, and since, the racially motivated shooting at Tops Friendly Markets on Jefferson Avenue.

Buffalo What's Next: August 20, 2023. Duration: 59:00.

Jay Moran sits with Jeremy Besch, a DEI consultant who walks through an exercise that examine one's own identity and privilege in order to be a good ally, from June 10 of last year. Then Brigid Jaipaul Valenza talks with Wil Green, Regional Office Director of NYS Network for Youth Success. The two discuss racism, youth and education, from June 23 of last year.

Buffalo What's Next: August 27, 2023. Duration: 59:00.

Thomas O'Neil White speaks with Buffalo Fatherhood Initiative program manager Antoine Johnson from February 8 of this year. The two talk about ways to help fathers and families in Buffalo. We continue with Thomas as he speaks with Northwest Bank's Jonathan Graves and Rick Hamister on some new home ownership and financial literacy programs on Buffalo's East Side from February 6 of this year. Then Angelea Preston speaks with Yanava Hawkins and Rayna Moncreiff from Gang Girl Entertainment from April 19 of this year.

Buffalo What's Next: September 3, 2023. Duration: 59:00.

On this week's Producers' Picks highlights episode we revisit our previous conversations with: Adrienne Garr and La'Tryse Anderson from Buffalo S.N.U.G. (6/1), Charles Brandy and Melvin Watkins of the Afro-American Historical Association of the Niagara Frontier (6/6), and Gi Swords and Faith Winship from GLYS of Western New York (6/7).

Buffalo What's Next: September 10, 2023. Duration: 59:00.

Jay Moran talks to artist and entrepreneur Aitina Fareed-Cooke from February 22 of this year. The two have an in-depth conversation on her upbringing and her media arts company Get Fokus'd Production. Then we continue with Brigid Jaipaul Valenza speaking with Ekuua Mends-Aidoo from August 26 of last year. The two discuss DEI, tokenism, equity and ensuring everyone has a seat at the table. And we finish the show with Jay Moran speaking with Buffalo-based artist Julia Bottoms from January 25 of this year.

What's Next: September 17, 2023. Duration: 59:00.

Sustaining Independent Living

Emyle Watkins spoke with Todd Vaarwerk, the Chief Policy Officer for Western New York Independent Living. Together they discussed the independent living movement and how New York State's 2023-2024 budget may impact residents with disabilities

Continuing Academic Journeys and Western New York LGBTQ+ Pride

Ben Hilligas, the recently appointed Executive Director for the Buffalo Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) at the University at Buffalo, is bringing his background in social work to the position and hoping to expand the opportunities and capabilities of the long-running learning institution.

Connectivity For All

We sit down with Christine Carr-Barmasse, Executive Director of Mission: Ignite, a group dedicated to promoting computer literacy.

What's Next: September 24, 2023. Duration: 59:00.

On this week's Producers Picks, we revisit some stand out conversations from the last few episodes from our show's prior iteration - Buffalo, What's Next? We hear conversations from: Yanhong Baranski - Asian-American and former President of the Chinese Club of Western New York, Ryan Howze - Founder of Conscious Environment Creation and Say Whaaat? Podcast, and Nicholas Ramirez - Civil Rights attorney with the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo.

## **B. Education:**

Capitol Pressroom: July 2, 2023. Runtime: 14:00.

Creating a more inclusive environment for students

By David Lombardo | June 22nd, 2023

State education officials released a framework for treating transgender and gender-diverse students.

Capitol Pressroom: July 23, 2023. Runtime: 14:00.

Commission to plot new paths to a high school diploma

A blue ribbon commission empowered by state education officials could prompt an overhaul of graduation requirements.

Capitol Pressroom: July 30, 2023. Runtime: 10:00.

Retention gap among teachers in New York

A new study found that teachers of color are retained at lower rates than their white peers in New York schools.

Capitol Pressroom: August 6, 2023. Runtime: 10:00.

Retention gap among teachers in New York

A new study found that teachers of color are retained at lower rates than their white peers in New York schools.

Capitol Pressroom: August 20, 2023. Runtime: 26:00.

Upstate schools prepare to educate young asylum seekers

Mohonasen Central School District is expecting about 70 students this fall from families seeking asylum in America.

Capitol Pressroom: August 27, 2023. Runtime: 26:00.

Upstate schools prepare to educate young asylum seekers

Mohonasen Central School District Superintendent Shannon Shine discusses the challenge of educating about 70 students from families seeking asylum in America.

Capitol Pressroom: September 17, 2023. Runtime: 10:00.

Leveling the field for student debt legal proceedings

Assemblymember Harvey Epstein, a Manhattan Democrat, makes the case for letting students who owe the state money, from attending a public college or university, challenge any debt proceedings in their home county.

Capitol Pressroom: September 24, 2023. Runtime: 16:00.

New credentialing for work with developmentally disabled people

National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals President & CEO Joe Macbeth discusses a new credentialing program provided by SUNY community colleges for students who want to work directly with New Yorkers with developmental disabilities.

### **C. Environment:**

Capitol Pressroom: July 2, 2023. Runtime: 10:00.

Rethinking shark fishing regulations

In order to better protect regulated sharks off the coast, the state is proposing new fishing rules for recreational anglers.

Capitol Pressroom: July 9, 2023. Runtime: 22:00.

Bottle redemption businesses in financial peril

Bottle redemption businesses want the state to increase fees for processing bottles and cans with deposits.

Capitol Pressroom: August 13, 2023. Runtime: 14:00.

State plans point NYC toward electricity deficit

NYISO President & CEO Rich Dewey explains the root of a projected energy deficit for New York City in the summer of 2025.

Capitol Pressroom: August 20, 2023. Runtime: 29:00.

New York energy czar discusses transition to renewables

NYSERDA President & CEO Doreen Harris provides an update on the state's transition away from fossil fuels and to green energy.

Capitol Pressroom: August 27, 2023. Runtime: 13:00.

State subsidies promoting transition to greener homes

In order to hasten the transition away from fossil fuels, New York's Clean Heat program is subsidizing investments into heat pumps for thousands of families every year, according to Susanne DesRoches, vice president for clean and resilient buildings at the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority.

Capitol Pressroom: September 3, 2023. Runtime: 13:00.

State park system prepares to turn 100

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation Commissioner Erik Kulleseid discusses the founding of the state park system nearly 100 years ago and explains how New York plans on celebrating this 100th anniversary in 2024.

Capitol Pressroom: September 24, 2023. Runtime: 24:00.

State panel releases report on reducing road salt in Adirondacks

We discuss the state's long awaited report on how to reduce the use of road salt in the Adirondacks with Joe Martens, former state environmental conservation commissioner and member of the Adirondack Road Salt Reduction Task Force.

#### **D. Government & Politics:**

Capitol Pressroom: July 2, 2023. Runtime: 13:00.

Raising the threshold to creating new villages

Assembly Local Government Committee Chair Fred Thiele discusses the process of creating new villages in New York.

Capitol Pressroom: July 2, 2023. Runtime: 14:00.

Voting by mail could become more widespread

Democratic state lawmakers in Albany are getting creative with New York's early voting system.

Capitol Pressroom: July 9, 2023. Runtime: 28:00.

New York's Micron matchmaker

Empire State Development COO Kevin Younis talks about securing Micron's investment in New York.

Capitol Pressroom: July 16, 2023. Runtime: 36:00.

Justice for All: A new sheriff in Albany

We examine the decade of work undertaken by the Justice Center for the Protection of People With Special Needs.

Capitol Pressroom: July 30, 2023. Runtime: 13:00.

Some public employees could see new discipline process

The Empire Center for Public Policy is warning against changes to existing discipline processes for public employees.

Capitol Pressroom: July 30, 2023. Runtime: 14:00.

Tax foreclosure sales process disrupted in New York

The U.S. Supreme Court shook up how counties can use proceeds from the sale of foreclosed properties owing taxes.

Capitol Pressroom: July 30, 2023. Runtime: 14:00.

Tweaks to bail laws fail to corral shoplifters

Times Union reporter Josh Solomon analyzed state data on the use of bail in cases of alleged shoplifting.

Capitol Pressroom: August 6, 2023. Runtime: 13:00.

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Capitol Pressroom: September 3, 2023. Runtime: 28:00.

The future of New York's court system

Commission to Reimagine the Future of New York Courts Chair Hank Greenberg talks about increasing access to attorneys in the civil court system, increasing the role of technology in the court room and addressing the lack of jury trials in criminal cases.

Capitol Pressroom: September 10, 2023. Runtime: 14:00.

Hochul rejects existence of statewide shelter requirement.

Gov. Kathy Hochul has rejected the idea that a right to shelter mandate applies in New York outside of the five boroughs, but advocates for migrants descending on the state maintain the protection applies in all municipalities. We discuss the history of the mandate and what its implementation should look like today, with Joshua Goldfein, a supervising attorney at The Legal Aid Society.

Capitol Pressroom: September 10, 2023. Runtime: 22:00.

Report urges expansion of state's rental assistance program.

It's been 20 years since the state updated the shelter allowance it offers to low-income New Yorkers and a [new report](#) from the Empire Justice Center calls for dramatically expanding the benefit, in terms of eligibility and value. We dive into the issue with two of the report's authors, Haley Kulakowski, a public benefits attorney at the Center's Rochester location, and Jessica Radbord, a senior benefits attorney at the Center's Albany office.

Capitol Pressroom: September 17, 2023. Runtime: 12:00.

Wage theft collections lag under Hochul

State labor officials are on track to recover more than \$20 million in stolen wages this calendar year, but reporting by Max Parrott for New York Focus suggests that big number isn't that impressive and questions whether the Hochul administration could do more to address wage theft in the Empire State.

Capitol Pressroom: September 17, 2023. Runtime: 14:00.

The art of budget forecasting interpretation

State budget officials are anticipating future budget gaps in excess of \$13 billion, but how reliable are projections two or three years into the future. Fiscal Policy Institute Executive Director Nathan Gusdorf discusses the challenge of long-term forecasting and how budget officials lean conservative when drawing their pictures of the future.

## **E. Health:**

Capitol Pressroom: July 16, 2023. Runtime: 16:00.

State forest rangers respond to Canadian wildfires

State Forest Ranger Rob Praczkajlo discusses his experience fighting fires in Canada for two weeks this summer.

Capitol Pressroom: July 23, 2023. Runtime: 28:00.

Wildfires prompt examination of New York's air quality

Atmospheric chemistry researcher Jim Schwab explains why Canadian wildfires are negatively impacting New York's air.

Capitol Pressroom: July 23, 2023. Runtime: 14:00.

NY Health Act amended to address union concerns

Assembly Health Committee Chair Amy Paulin discusses the latest effort to create a state-run health insurance system.

Capitol Pressroom: August 13, 2023. Runtime: 28:00.

Introducing New York's top doc

Dr. Jim McDonald, commissioner of the state Department of Health, discusses the path to becoming New York's top doctor, the importance of harm reduction in combatting the opioid epidemic and rebuilding the state's public health capacity.

Capitol Pressroom: August 13, 2023. Runtime: 14:00.

New York deploying mobile drug treatment services

New York is investing federal funds in mobile medication units to expand access to drug addiction services around the state.

Capitol Pressroom: August 27, 2023. Runtime: 18:00.

Ambulance providers seek direct billing of insurers

United New York Ambulance Network Chair Jeff Call makes the case for legislation that would ensure health insurers directly pay ambulance providers and would give emergency responders more authority to set rates.

Capitol Pressroom: September 3, 2023. Runtime: 10:00.

Funeral homes want relief from outdated state fee

A decade after funeral directors voluntarily started ponying up to build a digital system of reporting deaths to the state, they're hoping to retire this annual cost now that the electronic system has been up and running for years, according to Randy McCullough, deputy executive director of the New York State Funeral Directors Association.

Capitol Pressroom: September 3, 2023. Runtime: 14:00.

Artificial intelligence used to combat isolation among seniors

New York State Office for the Aging Director Greg Olsen highlights a pilot program attempting to combat loneliness among seniors by connecting them with an artificial intelligent voice assistant

Capitol Pressroom: September 10, 2023. Runtime: 14:00.

State health officials push earlier adoption of HPV vaccine.

State health officials began recommending this summer that New Yorkers begin getting the HPV vaccine after their ninth birthday in order to increase the immunization's effectiveness against cancer. We talk about this policy decision with Dr. Heather Dacus, director of the Bureau of Cancer Prevention and Control at the state Department of Health.

Capitol Pressroom: September 10, 2023. Runtime: 17:00.

Hospice care goes underutilized in New York

We examine the hospice landscape in New York, including the availability of end-of-life care and for-profit services, with Corinne Carey, senior state director for Compassion & Choices in New York and New Jersey.

Capitol Pressroom: September 17, 2023. Runtime: 14:00.

Shining a light on home accessibility funding

State funding to make homes more accessible for seniors and New Yorkers with disabilities is in high demand every year, but little is known about where the limited pool of funding ends up, so advocates for this program are looking to increase transparency. We talked about the campaign for annual reporting from the Access to Home program with Alex Thompson, director of advocacy for the New York Association on Independent Living, and Aaron Baier, director of administration for the Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley.

Capitol Pressroom: September 24, 2023. Runtime: 22:00.

Reconsidering organized responses to mental health crises

Ruth Lowenkron, director of the Disability Justice Program at the New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, discusses a state panel tasked with reconsidering the proper responses to an emergency with a person suffering a mental health crisis.