

WSPK

Quarterly Issues/Programming Report October 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

TRAFFIC/TRANSIT AND TRANSPORTATION 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 through Friday.

October 2, news segment, 5a, :25 - In about a year-and-a-half of daily service between New York Stewart International Airport near Newburgh and Iceland, Play Airlines has carried 100,000 passengers between the two cities, and that was with a one-month service suspension in the dead of the winter. Play connects to several mainland European cities from its Reykjavik hub. Port Authority airline attraction manager Alex Minton believes the Play popularity will continue to grow. "Since the start of our daily international service, we have seen over 100,000 new international passengers at the airport, which is not as significant perhaps as when we had Norwegian Airlines serving the airport because of the scope of their service, but it certainly our highest number since they left the airport," he said. On the domestic side, only Allegiant Air is flying to Florida cities and seasonally to Myrtle Beach. Frontier Air, which began service also to Florida last year, suddenly pulled out earlier this year.

October 23, news segment, 6a, :30 - The MTA Metro-North Railroad will operate on a near-normal weekday schedule on Monday following a mudslide in Scarborough on Saturday that prevented trains from operating between Tarrytown and Croton-Harmon. To reduce the potential for congestion-related delays, the railroad is adjusting schedules and cancelling four of the 158 trains it operates on the line daily, and during peak hours, trains that operate in the reverse-peak direction will operate express between Tarrytown and Croton-Harmon. Since the mudslide was reported at 9:45 a.m. on Saturday, crews have worked around the clock to clear 350 cubic yards of soil and debris and 250 cubic yards of rock and cement walls from two of the Hudson Line's four tracks. Crews are breaking apart the rock walls to reincorporate segments to help stabilize the slope where the mudslide occurred, and they are repositioning other segments to the shore side of the Hudson Line, transforming it into "rip-rap" that stabilizes the coastline alongside the rail line. Work is expected to continue for days to clear the mud and debris from the remaining two tracks.

Nov 7, news segment, 5a, :25 - A project that will bring train service within one mile of 500,000 residents is moving full speed ahead, according to US Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirstin Gillibrand. The senators have announced the Federal Railroad Administration is awarding \$1.6 billion for the Penn Station Access project which will comprehensively rehabilitate 19 miles of the Hell Gate Line connecting Penn Station and New Rochelle.

Nov 21 news segment, 7a, :25 - The City of Newburgh will suspend metered parking on November 25th and 26th to welcome visitors from around the region for the 6th Annual Shop Small Saturday event throughout the Downtown and Broadway business corridors. Metered parking will be suspended on the entirety of Broadway, as well as on Liberty, Grand, and Prospect streets. For more information on the 6th Annual Shop Small Weekend in Downtown Newburgh, held on November 25th and 26th.

Dec 4, news segment, 7a, :30 - A \$44.6 million repaving of the Thruway between Rockland and Orange counties has been completed. The work covered close to 10 miles between exit 15, New Jersey I-287-NJ Route 17 south in the Town of Ramapo and the Town of Tuxedo. "Tens of millions of vehicles travel this section of our entire system annually – for work, commerce and leisure – and these improvements will make the driving experience that much easier for those using the Thruway or connecting to Interstate 287 or Route 17 in New Jersey," said Thruway Authority Acting Executive Director Frank Hoare. "The timing couldn't have been for the completion of this much needed improvement project," said State Senator Bill Weber. "This already busy stretch of the Thruway is only going to see increased traffic as we get closer to the holiday season and it is good to know the work is done."

Dec 5, news segment, 8a, :25, - The Metropolitan Transportation Authority announced on Monday that, as in years past, it will ban the consumption of alcohol on Metro-North Railroad trains during SantaCon. The ban will be in effect beginning 4 a.m. on Saturday, December 9, through 12 p.m. on Sunday, December 10. Alcohol consumption will also be prohibited at all Metro-North station platforms during these hours. "Ensuring everyone has access to safe and orderly travel is a top priority," said MTA Police Chief John Mueller. "The holiday season is a wonderful time of year, and we want everyone to get to their

Dec 5, news segment, 7a, :30 - Bee-Line Bus fares will be suspended from December 16 until January 1, 2024. The fare suspension will also apply to the county's ParaTransit system. "In the spirit of the season, we are once again easing the financial strain on Westchester residents," said County Executive George Latimer. "Suspending Bee-Line Bus fares during the holidays is a testament to our commitment to enhancing the lives of those we serve, made possible through responsible fiscal management." During the summer 2023 fare free program, average weekday ridership increased by about 22 percent compared to the weeks before that, while average ridership on weekends was closer to a 40 percent increase.

Health & Healthcare Issues Dec 20, news segment, 7a, :30 - Nurses who belong to the New York State Nurses Association and work at Montefiore hospitals in Nyack, New Rochelle and Mount Vernon want a new contract before the current one expires at the end of the month.

If one is not reached, its members have authorized a strike. Nurses rallied outside Nyack Hospital on Tuesday urging the administration to reach agreement before 2024.

Ann Marie Perkins is a long-time nurse at Nyack and she joined the rally.

“Here at Montefiore-Nyack we actually had to strike 23 years ago. I was one of those nurses out on the picket line for six months,” she said. “Six months it took us before we got back in the store. Our goal this time is to have a contract by December 31 expiration date.”

The nurses are calling for safe staffing for patient safety and competitive wages.

Education

Nov 3, 6a-10a K104 was on site at Roy C Ketchum High School in Wappingers Falls for Career day

PSA Campaigns

Oct 1-15 recorded :30 spot – ran 36 spots promoting American Cancer Society Making Strides 2023 Campaign.

Dec 21-26 recorded :30 – ran 30 spot offering free announcement for business’s to get their message out on days of bad weather. WHUD Stormcenter

Dec 22-31, recorded :30 – ran 40 spots for Dana Distributors promoting safe driving for the holidays.

Nov 1 – 12/30 recorded :30 – ran 54 spot for the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley looking to stock pantries for winter needs.

Veteran’s Issues

Nov 6, news segment, 8a, :40 - In anticipation of November’s Veterans Day holiday, Orange the front of the Orange County Government Center in Goshen will be illuminated with green lights from November 6th through the 12th as part of Operation Green Light.

The Orange County Veterans Cemetery, on Craigville Road in Goshen, will also participate in Operation Green Light. Operation Green Light is an initiative started two years ago through a collaboration between the New York State Association of Counties and the New York State County Veteran Service Officers’ Association. The campaign supports veterans of all military conflicts and raises awareness about the challenges faced by many veterans as well as the county, state and federal resources that are available to assist veterans and their families. In addition to lighting the Government Center, residents are encouraged to participate by simply changing one light bulb at their home to a green bulb. It can be an exterior light that neighbors see, or an interior light that sparks a conversation with family and friends.

“Operation Green Light shows our veterans that their service mattered and that we are grateful for it,” County Executive Steven Neuhaus said. “By shining a green light, we let veterans know that they are seen, appreciated, and supported, and that their service matters.”

Nov 14, news segment, 7a, :30 - – Veterans and Gold Star families may not enter state parks for free as the governor has signed legislation making those facilities available to them. The measure was sponsored in the Senate by James Skoufis (D, Cornwall) who announced its passage at Bear Mountain State Park in Monday. “As a lawmaker, I am always mindful of big ways and small as we as lawmakers can pay back some of that debt to the extent practicable, ore towards, our veterans who have made sure that our liberties and freedoms are protected,” he said. Mark Woods, director of Veteran Peer Services at BRIDGES, said part of their “Outdoor Rx Program is to make sure we get vets together.” He said this new free parks program will make state parks available for veteran gatherings.

Toursim

October 2, news segment, 7a :30 - Visitor spending related to tourism in Orange County reached \$1.1 billion in 2022, up 22 percent from 2021 and breaking pre-pandemic spending by six percent, according to a new report. Orange County’s traveling spending exceeded 2019 by \$64 million. Tourism generated \$153.8 million in local and state taxes in 2022, resulting in a tax savings of \$1,158 per household, according to the study, “Economic Impact of Visitors in New York 2022: Hudson Valley Focus.”

Economy

October 2, news segment, 8a, :30 – iPark 84, half of the former IBM East Fishkill campus, is filled to capacity with a diverse mix of businesses.

The west campus has also been purchased by another company and is redeveloped.

The east campus was purchased by National Resources a few years ago and renamed iPark and Dutchess County Deputy County Executive for Economic Development, Ron Hicks, said it is filled with a mix of industry, from hi-tech to bakers, a beverage manufacturer, and distributors.

“In fact, they are now building on parking lots that were formally vacant,” he said. “So that site is now at capacity and has the potential for a new fab if on Semi conduct is successful with their application for chips funding.” The west campus is now occupied by a large Amazon distribution center and the company that bought that campus is constructing a spec building.

National Resources also bought the former IBM facility in the Town of Ulster, renamed it iPark87 and is in the process of attracting tenants.

October 3, news segment, 6a, :30 - After inheriting a \$138 million deficit when he took office 10 years ago, Rockland County Executive Ed Day announced on Monday that the county is now in the best financial shape in its history. Day made the announcement as he presented his \$870 million proposed 2024 county budget. “Ten years ago when I first came into office, we inherited a financial debt of \$138 million, that was on the brink of insolvency. We didn’t have much more

time left for this government to function,” he said. “We had various crushing user fee taxes. We were in a place with three years of double-digit property tax increases.

October 31, news segment, 7a, :30 - – A consultant study into the feasibility of creating a convention center in Orange County has been completed with a promising conclusion. County Executive Steven Neuhaus said that will open the door for further discussions about possible locations for construction of such a facility. “The consultants believe that Orange County is ripe for a convention center. We’re not looking for a Javits Center but looking at something you would see maybe like the Gaylord in Maryland where you have the MGM, all that whole campus down there,” he said. Neuhaus said there are several possible locations to be considered include Stewart Airport, Camp LaGuardia, the Orange County Fairgrounds in the Town of Wallkill and the Galaxy site in Maybrook among others.

November 20, news segment, 8a, :30 - – A new study finds that economic ties that bind New York City and the suburbs are stronger than ever, despite people working from home during the pandemic and many continuing to do so.

While people returned to the office and others continued to work remotely, Regional Plan Association Senior Regional Fellow Chris Jones said the findings of their study were quite interesting. “We compared 2019 to 2022 and we found that the number of people who work for a New York City employer and who live outside of the five boroughs was almost the same in 2022 as it was just before the pandemic, and the amount of income that they are taking back has actually increased,” he said. The study found that in 2022, 211,000 commuters living in the Mid-Hudson Valley earned a total of \$30.2 billion from New York City-based jobs. The spending of those commuters generated an additional 109,000 jobs and \$10.2 billion in earnings in the Hudson Valley. The study found that the Hudson Valley relies on commuter salaries more than any other New York City suburb, representing 34.3 percent of total wages in the area.

COVID

Dec 19, news segment, 8a, :25 - - Just in time for the holidays, more than 2,100 state employees who worked overtime during the COVID-19 pandemic will be receiving overtime backpay for the work they performed to keep the state government running during the public health crisis. The backpay, totaling nearly \$3 million, will go to more than 1,700 members of the Public Employees Federation (PEF) and 400 members of the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA).

Health/Public Outreach

November 20, news segment, 6a, :30 - – The Center for Creative Education in Kingston expects to feed over 1,500 families in Kingston and Ulster County on Thanksgiving, this coming Thursday. The free meal will be offered between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The event is in collaboration with Beyond the 4 Walls Outreach Program guests are welcome to partake in free food, clothing, resources, and dancing.

For more information or if home delivery is needed, [click here](#).

The day's activities are with the help of the community, local nonprofits and businesses.

Nov 27, news segment, 7a, :30 - – Orange and Rockland Utilities is proposing to spend several million dollars over a five-year period beginning in 2025 to shore up its system impacted by climate change, particularly flooding. Company spokesman Mike Donovan said the cost to consumers is anticipated to be only a few dollars per month.

“Over five years we are making a proposal to spend \$400 million, which would result in an average annual residential billing increase of approximately two percent. That would be about \$4.24 a month for a typical residential customer using 600 kilowatt hours of electricity,” he said. O&R's current approved rate structure expires at the end of 2024. A new proposal is expected after the first of the new year.

Dec 26, news segment, 8a, :30 - Area hospitals and local health departments are urging residents to “tame the triple threat” of influenza, COVID 19 and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) with vaccination. The “tame the threat” campaign follows the state's December 6 declaration that the flu was declared ‘prevalent’ as cases continue to rise.

The Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association and New York State Association of County Health Officials said rising rates across the board coupled with colder weather and more time spent indoors are ideal conditions for mutating viruses to target health New Yorkers.

The “triple threat” campaign urges vaccination if eligible, as it greatly reduces the chance of contending with these here heavyweight viruses. Vaccines are available at hospitals, pharmacies, local health departments, clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, physical offices, and other locations in the region. It is suggested that you call ahead and check on supply.

Public Safety

October 2, news segment, 7a, :30 - – A proposal by the top brass of the Newburgh City Police Department to bring back the SWAT team at a cost of \$110,000 in the 2024 budget has met with opposition already. City Councilman Omari Shakur said it is not needed and the money could be better spent. “I think we needed the SWAT team a couple of weeks ago. That was the first time in five or six years, so it will be another five or six years before we might need a SWAT team,” he said. “But in the meantime, putting more police on patrol, putting more things into the community, putting more things into poverty; that creates crime. So, let's attack poverty.”

When a SWAT team is needed in Newburgh, the Orange County Sheriff's unit is called in. But Newburgh police officials said it can take too long for that to respond to the city and its makeup is not all sworn officers but includes jail correctional staffers.

October 3, news segment 5a, :30 - In the wake of heavy rains that recently decimated areas of the Hudson Valley, Senator Pete Harchkham (D, Peekskill), Monday, called for creation of a State Office of Flooding and Storm Water Management. The lawmaker said the office would help municipalities prepare for the increasing intensity of rainfalls and high-velocity winds associated with climate change, as well as aid the cleanup and repairs needed when a weather-related disaster occurs. "So that we can continue to address the backlog of structural inadequacies in dealing with the volume of stormwater that we are currently getting," he said. "Everyone agrees that the volume of water is the new normal. Then it is up to New York State to begin to investigate to address the infrastructure shortfalls." Harchkham's proposal would appropriate \$500 million a year toward the new office and its functions.

Tolerance/Anti-Semitism/Hate Crimes/Racial Injustice/Black Lives Matter/Policing

Nov 17, news segment, 7a, :25 - Two people have been arrested in connection with the removal and desecration of an Israeli flag hanging from the exterior wall of the Town of Ramapo building on Route 59 in Suffern. Two men were arrested on Tuesday, November 14, the day after the incident was reported. The investigation revealed a group of people had torn the flag down, damaging it in the process and leaving with it. The Ramapo Police Investigations Unit was able to identify those involved and arrested two people so far.

Nov 17, news segment, 8a, :30 - With anti-Semitism on the rise, particularly after the October 7 Hamas terrorist attacks on Israel, State Senator Bill Weber (R, Nanuet) has introduced legislation that he believes will tone it down.

The proposed law would prohibit New York college students who knowingly engage in anti-Semitism from receiving State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) awards.

We thought it would be appropriate to attack anti-Semitism at its root and hit people in the pocketbooks. Students have the right to say certain things but they don't have the right to be anti-Semitic and let their acts turn into violent acts," he said. "Taxpayers shouldn't be rewarding people on campus for their anti-Semitic activities."

According to the Anti-Defamation League, since October 7, there has been a nearly 400 percent rise in anti-Semitic incidents across the country.

Immigration/Migrant Placement

October 19, news segment, 8a, :25 - State Supreme Court Justice Thomas Zugibe has granted the County of Rockland's request for a preliminary injunction against the City of New York and Mayor Eric Adams and the Armoni Hotel, prohibiting the city from proceeding with their plan to turn the Armoni Inn and Suites in Orangeburg into a shelter for 340 migrants.

In May, County Executive Ed Day filed a lawsuit against the City of New York citing its lack of authority to establish a shelter outside of its boundaries without cooperation of the County and local municipalities.

The lawsuit argues that the City of New York lacks communication and planning and failed to follow New York State rules and regulations required for setting up a shelter.

Education:

October 2, news segment, 8a, :20 - Two-hundred more childcare slots are available for SUNY college campuses due to \$1.7 million in additional funding for improvements. In the Hudson Valley, funds have been awarded to community colleges in Dutchess, Ulster and Westchester counties. During the 2022-2023 academic year, SUNY offered some 4,500 childcare slots across its 46 campuses that have a childcare center onsite. The facilities serve childcare needs for students, faculty and staff as well as local community members.

Employment:

October 5, news segment, 6a, :25 - Governor Kathy Hochul lent her support to striking United Auto Workers union employees as she joined the picket line in Rockland County Wednesday. Carrying a red UAW on strike sign, the governor joined the picket line at the Chrysler parts depot in Tappan. Her visit was days after President Biden became the first sitting president to join an auto workers picket line when he stood with UAW workers on September 26 at GM's Willow Run Redistribution Center in Belleville, Michigan.

The union began its strike for better wages on September 25. Negotiations are ongoing between the union and the American automakers.

Nov 6, news segment, 6a, :25 - With 4.5 percent unemployment, the cities of Poughkeepsie and Mount Vernon top Hudson Valley's rate in the month of September, the State Labor Department reports. The Village of Port Chester had the lowest rate of 2.4 percent. Region wide, the rate of joblessness was 3.2 percent. The City of Newburgh reflected 4.1 percent unemployment while the City of Yonkers had 3.9 percent and the City of Middletown had 3.7 percent. Among the low unemployment rates were the Town of Rye at 2.5 percent, and the Town of Ramapo and Village of Spring Valley, both with 2.6 percent rates of joblessness.

November 20, news segment, 8a, :30 - The Hudson Valley's private sector job count grew by 8,600, or 1.1 percent, to 810,200 in the year ending in October.

Sullivan County employment grew the most at 5.1 percent. Greene County, with 2.0 percent job growth, came in seconds with Delaware County right behind with 1.9 percent growth.

Ulster County recorded 0.9 percent job growth, followed by 0.8 percent in both the Orange-Rockland Westchester Metro Area, and the Dutchess-Putnam Metropolitan Division. Columbia County registered 0.6 percent growth.

The largest gains in new jobs in October were in private education and health services, at 12,200; leisure and hospitality, at 4,200; and other services, at 200.

Employment losses were focused on mining, logging and construction, at 4,200; trade, transportation and utilities, at -1,400; professional and business services, at -800; financial activities, at -600; manufacturing, at -500; and information at -300.

Environment

Nov 17, news segment, 8a, :30 - Congressmen Pat Ryan (D, NY-18) and Marc Molinaro (R, NY-19) have introduced legislation on Thursday that would permanently ban “additional anchorages” permanently. “We owe it to our kids, our seniors, and future generations to fight with everything we’ve got,” said Ryan. “This legislation will stop big corporations from turning our Hudson River into a parking lot for dangerous barges one and for all.”

He said those barges “threaten the health and safety of our kids, the more than 100,000 people who rely on the river for their drinking water, and our entire ecosystem.”

Molinaro said their bill “is a line in the sand. We will not sit on the sidelines and watch corporate interests jeopardize the Hudson River, its drinking water, and ecosystem.”

Their legislation comes following a Coast Guard change of rules that would allow barge parking north of the Cuomo Tappan Zee Bridge.

Housing

December 8, news segment, 7a, :30 - The proposed Golden Hill affordable housing development received a major shot in the arm as the State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance awarded the project \$15 million. The development previously received Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative awards. The total project cost is over \$80 million with funding also coming from private equity and public program sources. The Golden Hill project, at 63 Golden Hill Drive in Kingston, will include 164 housing units with 249 beds, approximately 5,000 square feet of community service facility space, a 600kW solar power system, six playgrounds, and a trail connection to the Empire State Trail. Forty-eight of the units will provide permanent supportive housing for domestic violence survivors and frail elderly individuals through the Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative. “We urgently need to expand affordable and supportive housing in Ulster County to meet the dire need, and this major award through the state’s Homeless Housing Assistance Program will enable the Golden Hill development to move to construction,” said County Executive Jen Metzger.

The facility is a partnership of Ulster County, affordable housing developer and manager Pennrose, and Family of Woodstock, which will provide supportive services and hold 51 percent ownership

Dec 29, news segment, 8a, :30 - A total of 10 state grants have been awarded for housing in the Hudson Valley to help low-and moderate-income families make repairs or safety improvements to their homes, replace manufactured homes, and provide downpayment assistance for first-time buyers. The 10 grants in the Hudson Valley are for agencies in Rockland, Dutchess, Putnam, Orange and Ulster counties. The grants, administered by New York State Homes and Community Renewal’s Office of Community Renewal – were awarded to nonprofit organizations and localities to help preserve affordable housing, support veterans and older New Yorkers, increase access to homeownership, and strengthen local economies.

Go Green Initiatives/Green Space

Oct 2, news segment, 7a, :25 - Two-hundred more childcare slots are available for SUNY college campuses due to \$1.7 million in additional funding for improvements.

In the Hudson Valley, funds have been awarded to community colleges in Dutchess, Ulster and Westchester counties. During the 2022-2023 academic year, SUNY offered some 4,500 childcare slots across its 46 campuses that have a childcare center onsite.

The facilities serve childcare needs for students, faculty and staff as well as local community members.

Nov 2, news segment 5a, :25 - New legislation will only allow regulated and graded lithium-ion batteries for electric mobility devices to be sold in Westchester County. The new law, signed by County Executive George Latimer, also requires every retail business in the county that sells e-bikes and electric mobility devices to post a safety notice where they are displayed or delivered to the buyer. Violators could be fined up to \$1,000 per instance.

Latimer said the legislation takes “a significant step in protecting Westchester County from the dangers of lithium-ion battery fires.” The county has already experienced lithium-ion battery fires with e-bikes, e-scooters, hover boards, laptops, a lawnmower, and a drone.

Nov 6, news segment, 6a, :30 - Rockland County has awarded ARPA funds of up to \$200,000 each for 24 urban green space projects including parks, gardens and playgrounds.

Among the first finished projects is Nyack Memorial Park, which will now offer a newly paved ADA compliant walkway, a new gate for exclusive pedestrian accessibility, new playground equipment and restoration of the great lawn. Good Samaritan Hospital received funds to expand its Garden of Hope, adding more garden beds and benches, allowing more food to grow, and more space for patients, families and residents to find solace in the garden.

Haverstraw Bay Park received new surfacing around the playground for a safer experience for all. “It is crucial to also invest in the mental and physical health of our residents by developing more urban green spaces,” said County Executive Ed Day. He noted the improvements were made at no cost to local taxpayers.

Dec 5, news segment, 5a, :30 - – Westchester County is now the seventh local government in the state to join the New York Green Purchasing program.

County Director of Energy and Sustainability Peter McCartt said participating in the program will provide an added benefit to Westchester. “Although the county was doing a pretty fantastic job with our purchasing of sustainable products, we could always do better and this will enable us to take advantage of over 75 green specifications written by state government experts to ensure that the products that we purchase have a much lower environmental impact,” he said.

Utilities

October 13, news segment, 6a, :25 - The State Public Service Commission on Thursday approved a three-year plan for electric and gas customers of New York State Electric and Gas Corporation that is about half of what the company sought. Under the approved plan, the average residential electric customer would see an average total monthly bill increase of \$9.94 in November of this year, \$8.88 starting May 2024, and \$11.34 starting May 2025.

Under the approved plan, a residential gas heating customer would see their average monthly bill increase \$4.96 in November of this year, \$2.13 in the second year and \$4.10 percent in the third year. NYSEG also sought a \$43.4 million gas revenue increase, or 9.8 percent increase in total revenues. NYSEG sought a first-year electric revenue increase of \$274 million, or 16.8 percent increase in total revenues. The company also sought a 43.4 million gas revenue increase, or 9.8 percent increase in total revenues.

Nov 27, news segment, 8a, :30 - Orange and Rockland Utilities is proposing to spend several million dollars over a five-year period beginning in 2025 to shore up its system impacted by climate change, particularly flooding. Company spokesman Mike Donovan said the cost to consumers is anticipated to be only a few dollars per month.

“Over five years we are making a proposal to spend \$400 million, which would result in an average annual residential billing increase of approximately two percent. That would be about \$4.24 a month for a typical residential customer using 600 kilowatt hours of electricity,” he said. O&R’s current approved rate structure expires at the end of 2024. A new proposal is expected after the first of the new year.

Dec 18, news segment, 6a, :30 - – Orange and Rockland Utilities has mobilized its emergency response workforce to repair potential damage and restore possible power outages that could result from heavy rain and strong gusty winds that are predicted throughout the region today (Monday). The strong winds, which are expected to gust as high as 50 mph, could pose a threat to electric service because they contribute to downing trees, tree limbs and overhead electric lines – all of which could interfere with the safe, reliable delivery of electric service.

O&R company and contractor overhead line crews and tree removal teams, customer service operators and the rest of the members of the O&R emergency response team have been activated and are ready to deploy as needed. They were joined by mutual aid crews who arrived last evening.

Dec 27, news segment, 8a, :30 - A measure aimed at curbing chronic late billing by Central Hudson and other utility companies has been signed into law by Governor Kathy Hochul. The bill was sponsored by Assemblyman Jonathan Jacobson (D, Newburgh) and Michelle Hinchey (D, Saugerties). “For more than two years, customers of Central Hudson have been plagued with non-billing, late billing, inaccurate bills and excessive use of estimated billing. This new law is an important step in alleviating this intolerable situation,” said Jacobson.

“Extreme backbilling creates unexpected financial burdens for families and small businesses, making budgeting nearly impossible since people can’t predict the arrival or amount of their next bills,” said Hinchey. “Our legislation finally cracks down on this predatory billing practice , and, for the first time, provides better protections for residents and small businesses alike by preventing utility companies from charging customers if they send a bill more than three months late.”

Indian Point Power Plant:

October 13, news segment, 8a, :25 - Holtec, the company that owns the decommissioned Indian Point nuclear power plant in Buchanan, has transferred all 3,998 spent nuclear fuel assemblies to dry cask storage. The announcement was made in a news release from the State Department of Public Service and Tom Congdon, chairman of the Closure Task Force. Congdon is executive deputy and deputy chair of the state agency. Until now, the spent fuel rods were being stored in densely packed fuel cooling pools that have been a concern to the state contributing to its opposition to the relicensing of Indian Point more than 15 years ago.

Government

October 2, news segment, 8a, :20 - On Saturday, just hours before the federal government was slated to shut down, lawmakers in Washington reached a funding deal that will keep the government open through November 17. If the stopgap plan had not been reached, thousands of federal workers would have gone without pay. Congressman Pat Ryan (D, NY-18) supported the spending plan, calling it a temporary measure.

Gaza Attack

October 12, news segment, 8a, :25 - Several area government agencies and officials have expressed their support for Israel as it fights back after Hamas’ terrorist attacks. Governor Kathy Hochul announced that flags on state buildings will be flown at half-staff indefinitely in remembrance of the lives lost as a result of the terrorist attacks. “Not since the Holocaust have so many innocent men, women, seniors and children been so horribly attacked merely because they were Jewish,” said a statement from Rockland County legislators. “We stand with Israel.”

October 23, news segment, 8a, :25 - Congressman Pat Ryan (D, NY-18) and State Senator Rob Rolison have called for increased security measures to combat anti-Semitism in the Hudson Valley following the brutal Hamas attacks on Israel on October 7. Their demands are independent of one another. Ryan requested “significant additional funding” for security at places of worship, religious schools, and community centers. He also demanded that the Department of Homeland Security and FBI heighten their coordination with other federal agencies and local officials in response to the increased risk for anti-Semitic violence as well as provide a current threat assessment of the risk landscape.

Dec 4, news segment, 5a, :25 - On a dreary cold, rainy day in the City of Newburgh Sunday, activists and residents gathered to voice their support for Palestinians with a March for Free Palestine rally. Marchers gathered at the city's activity center on Washington Street for speeches before heading out for a walk down Broadway. Those gathering were also urged to call Congressman Pat Ryan to support a lasting ceasefire between Israel and Hamas and oppose any further additional military aid to Israel.

Mie Inouye, a protest organizer, said there is whatever political agreement can create a state that where everyone Palestinians and Jewish people, are free in an equal system.

"It could be a two-state solution, it could be a one-state solution, we don't have a position on that, and I don't think it's our goal to decide, but we know the only way to keep actually keep Palestinians and Israelis safe is to have an end to the occupation of Palestine, whatever that looks like."

Dec 21, news segment, 8a, :30 - - A new activist group gathered in New City on Tuesday to demand the removal of Israeli flags from government buildings.

Rockland for Ceasefire, an organization that recently coalesced "to demand an end to the Israeli bombardment of Gaza" originally called the gathering in response to the arrest of a 15-year-old Palestinian-American boy who removed an Israeli flag from the Clarkstown Police Department building earlier this month. The group also expressed their support of two Haredi Jewish men who were recently arrested for removing an Israeli flag from Ramapo Town Hall.

Though the case was settled, with the minor in question ordered to perform community service, the group remains adamant that no government building should display the flag of another country and pressured Clarkstown Supervisor George Hoehmann to order the removal of the flag.

PSA Campaigns:

October 26, in studio guest, 9a, 5 minute interview with Mike Robinson who organized a benefit concert for Vets for Vets at the Chance Theater. It is also the closing on the Historic Chance theater.

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.

