

WSPK-FM Public File

Quarterly Issues/Programming Report

July 1 – September 30, 2023

WSPK airs regularly scheduled newscasts beginning in the 5AM hour and airs them once per hour between 5AM and 9AM Monday through Friday. The approximate time for news reports is: 5:55AM, 6:55AM, 7:55AM, 8:55AM. Issues in the newscasts included: Local politics and issues concerning local municipalities and county government for Dutchess, Orange, Ulster and Rockland and Westchester counties in New York, This includes reporting on the actions of the administrations and legislature of county and local municipality governments in Westchester and Rockland Counties. During this period WSPK also had extensive coverage of local police and local community public information. Issues revolving around the local school systems in all counties were also covered.

TRANSIT AND TRANSPORTION AND PORT AUTHORITY TRAFFIC:

Traffic and transit reports two times per hour between 6a and 9AM as well as three per hour between 4PM and 7PM Monday through Friday. Transit Issues regarding Metro North, MTA Bridges, Westchester County Airport as well as all local roads, parkways, highways and interstates. WSPK also covered serious schedule changes during construction for Metro North and changes due to inclement weather.

July 3, news segment, 8a, :20 - Frontier Airlines flew from New York Stewart International Airport to Florida for the last time on Sunday ending its service that began in November 2021. The airline was seen as a significant shot in the arm for the sleepy Newburgh area airport, which has seen ups and downs in airline service since it began regularly scheduled flight on April 17, 1990. Orange County Chamber of Commerce President Heather Bell heads a regional Stewart airline attraction and retention advisory committee. "We are telling the Port Authority what is necessary for this airport to be successful," she said. "You need to have frequent, affordable travel to key destinations and it has to be consistent."

July 17, news segment, 7a, :30 - – Eurowings Discover, the low-cost division of Lufthansa, is planning four charter flights from Frankfurt, Germany to New York Stewart International Airport near Newburgh this fall. The flights, in cooperation with a German tour operator, are designed to gauge the market and consider a long-term commitment to the route. Stewart has a new international arrivals wing at its passenger terminal which is used only by Play Airlines, which flies between the Hudson Valley and Iceland, offering passengers the opportunity to connect to several mainland European cities.

July 18, news segment, 8a, :30 - – The Metropolitan Transportation Authority Monday released its preliminary five-year financial plan that shows a balanced budget through 2027. The financial plan reflects updates since the MTA warned of a fiscal cliff heading into 2023, with a projected \$600 million deficit. With the increase of the payroll mobility tax, increased New York City funding for paratransit and other dedicated taxes in the FY 2024 state budget, the MTA projects a balanced budget through 2027, the first time in more than 20 years the authority has projected a balanced budget for five consecutive years. In addition to new dedicated revenue sources, MTA agencies have begun identifying operating efficiencies. Part of the state’s budget included the authority achieving \$400 million in annual operating efficiencies to reduce expenses.

July 20, news segment, 7a, :30 - – The New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board Wednesday approved toll increases to go into effect on August 6 and fares that go into effect on August 20. The good news for riders of Metro-North Railroad west of the Hudson River is that fares will be frozen for the Pascack Valley and Port Jervis Lines. Metro-North and Long Island Rail Road will continue the fare discounts that initially debuted in February 2022. Those discounts include an additional 10 percent discount on monthly tickets. The \$5 CityTicket for all off-peak trains will also continue as both railroads further expand CityTicket to peak trains at a \$7 fare. Fares will increase on Metro-North’s east of Hudson lines – Hudson, Harlem and New Haven.

August 14, news segment, 6a, :30 - Start-up Bermudian airline BermudAir is hoping to launch service between its L.F. Wade International Airport and Westchester County Airport. The airline has secured an air operator’s certificate from the Bermuda Aviation Authority, according to <https://travelradar.aero>. The airline must secure approvals from US authorities before it can begin service leaving an actual start-up date uncertain at this time. According to the publication, the airline would fly twice daily, six days a week between Bermuda and White Plains. It also has plans to operate once-daily flights, six days a week to Boston Logan International Airport and Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport.

August 23, news segment, 7a, :25 - The first-ever non-stop flight from the Faroe Islands to the United States arrived Tuesday evening at New York Stewart International Airport. It was Atlantic Airways’ inaugural flight between the remote islands in the north Atlantic and New York. Airline CEO Johanna Bergi said they had planned on providing the service years ago, before the pandemic. “We were planning to do it before COVID then COVID came,” she said. Now, it took time to get all of the licenses in place. “We will use it as an experiment,” she said, expecting they will resume flights next spring.

Economy/Tourism

July 25, news segment, 6a, :25 - – The Village of New Paltz is considering approval of a proposed street-level restaurant with two floors of hotel space above in New Paltz.

The 12-bedroom hotel-eatery would be located at 184 Main Street.

The proposed restaurant use is in line with development in that zone, according to the special use permit application. “It is in the vicinity of multiple other restaurants of similar size and will provide additional options to those living in the village of New Paltz, or visiting,” the plan said. The hotel “will serve as a destination point for visitors and expand the walkable area of the village (and) will help increase the vitality of the area,” the plan said.

August 7, news segment, 8a, :25 - The former Palaia Winery located on Route 32 in Highland Mills closed in 2022, but a recent capital grant of \$400,000 from the New York State Regional Economic Development Council will make the location operational once again.

Spirits Lab Distilling Co. of Newburgh will expand its operations to include a production facility at the former 32-acre Palaia Winery property. Spirits Lab Distilling plans to use the property to grow and harvest ingredients for their bespoke bottled and canned cocktails.

“I’ve been to many events and outings at Palaia over the years, and it’s such a special slice of Orange County’s small-batch beverage landscape,” said Senator James Skoufis (D, Cornwall).

“While Palaia’s closure was heartbreaking for many in our community, I was delighted to support Spirits Lab’s application for funding and am thrilled to see this relatively new craft cocktail business expanding its operations locally. Cheers!”

August 9, news segment, 7a, :25 - The AMD semiconductor manufacturer has established a research and design center in the Westgate Business Park in the Village of Fishkill. The California-based company has also set up a second facility in Monroe County.

The company has committed to creating up to 165 new jobs by 2024.

The new facilities will focus on the design and validation of mixed-signal integrated circuits and packaging for processors that are used in cloud computing, data centers, gaming, and PCs. Both centers are fully operational already.

August 9, news segment, 6a, :25 - - Orange County will be holding its second annual Economic Summit at 9 a.m. on Friday, September 15th in Orange Hall at SUNY Orange in Middletown.

The summit will focus on the county’s economic growth in tourism, hospitality, and film production. “Building on the enormous success of the first Economic Summit, the second annual Economic Summit will bring together key stakeholders, including elected officials, government administrators, community members, civic leaders, and the business community to discuss issues, trends, obstacles, and the future as it relates to Orange County’s continued economic growth,” said County Executive Steven Neuhaus. Experts in their respective fields will share their experiences about their areas of knowledge

September 25, news segment, 6a, :30 - Woodbury Common Premium Outlets has announced plans to expand with the addition of new stores and restaurants, a hotel, and a second parking

garage. Once complete, the improvements are expected to generate substantial tax revenues and economic benefits while attracting increased tourism to the region.

The project is expected to add 155,000 square feet of new retail and restaurant space, a 3,000+ space parking garage, a 200-room hotel, and additional walkways, improved crosswalks, and a new children's play area. An estimated 770 additional jobs will come with the completion of the project, and construction is anticipated to generate another 1,659 jobs. Estimates indicate construction would generate around \$250 million for the local and state economies.

"Woodbury Common Premium Outlets has been proud to be a dynamic source of economic growth generating hundreds of millions of dollars in tax revenue and thousands of jobs, as well as being a caring community neighbor," said David Mistretta, the shopping center's general manager. "This visionary proposal will further energize Woodbury Common, Orange County and the entire Hudson Valley as a world-class shopping and tourism destination that is so crucial to the region's economic success today and in the future."

Employment:

July 3, news segment, 8a, :30 - While the May unemployment rate in the Hudson Valley was at 2.8 percent, cities in the region continued to record the highest levels of joblessness, according to the State Labor Department. The cities of Poughkeepsie and Mount Vernon each recorded rates of 4.0 percent. The City of Newburgh was right behind them at 3.9 percent. The City of Middletown recorded 3.4 percent unemployment.

The Village of Port Chester had the lowest rate in the Hudson Valley at 2.1 percent while the towns of Ramapo and Rye each recorded 2.2 percent rates of joblessness.

As the unemployment rates remain low, many businesses still remain short on staff and have "help wanted" signs up seeking to recruit more workers.

August 10, news segment, 7a, :25 - A report from the New York Building Congress found that New York's construction workforce continues to grow and diversify despite ongoing challenges across the industry. Overall, the state experienced an 11 percent increase in its construction workforce, growing to 545,000 workers from 493,000 workers the previous year, according to the group's report. Todd Diorio, head of Laborers' Local 17 and president of the Building Trades Council of the Hudson Valley, is also business manager of the trades district council from Westchester County to Utica. He echoed the findings of the report for his area of the state.

August 18, news segment, 8a, :25 - Private sector jobs in the Hudson Valley rose by 7,300, or 0.9 percent, to 816,100 over the year in July 2023, the State Labor Department reported.

Largest employment gains were in private education and health services, at 9,200.

That was followed by leisure and hospitality with 4,700 new jobs, and other services at 2,500.

Job losses were mostly centered in professional and business services, at 5,900; financial services, at 1,400; manufacturing, at 600; and trade, transportation and utilities at 400.

September 15, news segment, 6a, :30 - Sullivan County had the highest number of new jobs in the Hudson Valley/Catskills in August with 4.0 percent growth while the Dutchess-Putnam Metropolitan Division lost 2.2 percent of its jobs, according to the State Labor Department.

Delaware County saw a 2.8 percent growth in jobs, while the Orange-Rockland-Westchester Metro Area saw 2.1 percent growth. Ulster County had job growth of 1.1 percent while Greene County was flat, and Columbia County lost 0.6 percent of its jobs.

Over the past year, the private sector jobs county in the Hudson Valley rose by 11,600, or 1.4 percent, to 815,800 in August. Employment gains were largest in private education and health services at 11,500; leisure and hospitality at 6,400; and other services at 1,600 new jobs.

September 20, news segment, 8a, :30 - The state's unemployment rate in August was 4.4 percent and every county in the Hudson Valley/Catskills region was well below that, according to the State Labor Department. Columbia County scored the lowest with 3.0 percent rate of joblessness, while Greene County, directly across the Hudson River, had the highest level at 3.8 percent, the same rate as Delaware County. Sullivan County, with 3.1 percent unemployment, came in second lowest while Dutchess, Putnam and Rockland each scored 3.3 percent rates of joblessness. At 3.5 percent joblessness were Orange, Ulster and Westchester counties.

Public Safety/Residential Impacts

July 18, news segment, 7a, :30 - - Growing concerns over the potential hazards associated with lithium-ion batteries are drawing a response from Westchester County Executive George Latimer and his administration to protect county residents from those batteries. Latimer intends to propose legislation requiring point-of-sale warnings and safety information, requiring all devices to meet UL safety standards, and the prohibition on the sale of reassembled or damaged batteries. Westchester County has already experienced lithium-ion battery fires with e-bikes, e-scooters, hoverboards, laptops, a lawnmower, and a drone. In New York City, there have been several fires that have resulted in fatalities.

"Lithium-ion battery fires can be exceptionally difficult to control. These fires can result in a chemical reaction known as 'thermal runaway' which occurs when heat builds up faster than it can be dissipated," Latimer said. "This causes a very rapidly expanding fire, as well as the release of toxic gases, and a possible explosion. In Westchester, we are committed to ensuring the safety of our residents and those who protect from these deadly fires."

August 23, news segment, 8a, :20 - - A bear attacked a seven-year-old boy on the family's property in North Castle late Tuesday morning. Several emergency medical services responded to the scene at 75 Hickory Kingdom Road to treat the child whose condition, police said, did not indicate the injuries were life threatening. The bear continued to present a danger to first responders in the rear yard where the attack had occurred.

State Environmental Conservation officers were called in, euthanized the animal and transported it to the Westchester County Department of Health for testing.

Assisting at the scene with North Castle Police were the Banksville and Armonk Fire Departments, Westchester EMS paramedics, and animal control.

September 4, news segment, 8a, :30 - The Sullivan County Sheriff's Office their deputy assisted to Eldred Jr./Sr. High School in the capacity of a school resource officer, along with the State Police, are actively investigating threats made against Eldred Central School District and its students through Instagram. The district's superintendent and school board chairman are

involved in the investigation and the district are fully supportive of having a safe and timely opening of the 2023-24 school year, including additional law enforcement support.

September 15, news segment, 7a, :25 - In the last two years, 10 people have jumped to their deaths from the five bridges over the Hudson River operated by the New York State Bridge Authority and another person jumped from the Walkway Over the Hudson, also under the jurisdiction of the bridge authority. State lawmakers gathered on the waterfront in Peekskill on Thursday to urge the state agency to move forward with installation of climb deterrent fencing.

Health and Health Care Issues:

July 17, news segment, 8a, :30 - Air quality health advisories are being issued for today (Monday) for the entire state as smoke from wildfires in Western Canada continues to negatively affect the air quality across the region.

The smoke is expected to cause the Air Quality Index to reach levels in upstate communities that are “unhealthy for all” New Yorkers. The forecast for the Lower Hudson Valley is expected to reach “unhealthy for sensitive groups.” The state is issuing Air Quality Health Advisories for fine particulate levels that are unhealthy for any New Yorker due to smoke for the Upper Hudson Valley. The state departments of Health and Environmental Conservation issue Air Quality Health Advisories when ozone or fine particulate matter are expected to exceed an Air Quality Index value of 100

July 26, news segment, 7a, :25 - – Congressman Mike Lawler (R, NY-17), Tuesday, introduced the Fentanyl Kills Act, legislation that would charge individuals who have trafficked fentanyl with attempted murder. He said the legislation is an important step in tackling the fentanyl crisis impacting Hudson Valley communities and will dissuade drug dealers from spreading the lethal drug across the country.

August 2, news segment, 8a, :25 - – Protect Our Care, a national healthcare organization, brought its first bus tour to New York, stopping in Kingston on Tuesday for a rally to tout Democratic accomplishments on lowering prescription drug prices and protecting the health care safety net. The group called out MAGA Republicans in Congress “for their attacks on vital health care programs and coverage for people with pre-existing conditions.”

Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger had a message for GOP members of the House and Senate. “My message today for Republicans in Congress is to keep your hands off our healthcare,” she told a small group that attended the rally,” she said.

August 3, news segment, 8a, :25 - Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County has been awarded a \$45,000 grant that will support its Bountiful Meals program to address food

insecurity in the county. The Farm Fresh Food Grant comes from the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley. According to a United Way report, despite its affluence, the county has around one in three residents struggling to cover basic living expenses, including food.

August 16, news segment, 7a, :25 - – US Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand are calling on the US Department of Agriculture to approval an Agricultural Disaster Declaration following this past May's deep freeze in parts of New York State.

The lawmakers are calling on the USDA to quickly approve emergency federal funds for 31 counties across New York including Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Putnam, Ulster and Westchester. The senators said those areas suffered major crop damage from the extreme cold weather destroying thousands of acres of grapes, apples, strawberries, blueberries, and other fruits, and with harvest season just beginning it is vital that USD provide relief to farmers who suffered severe crop loss. They said if the USDA approves the application, it will make relief available including low-interest FSA emergency loans to impacted growers in the designated counties.

September 20, news segment, 6a, :30 - The United States government and State of New York have entered into a civil consent decree with Mount Vernon to resolve ongoing litigation regarding that city's non-compliance with Clean Water Act requirements for municipal storm sewers, which has caused raw sewage to be discharged into the Bronx and Hutchinson rivers. In June 2018, the US government sued Mount Vernon, alleging that since at least 2012, the city had failed to comply with permit obligations, and as a result, had allowed raw sewage to flow into its storm sewer system and then be discharged into those two rivers.

The complaint also alleges the city had failed to comply with two EPA administrative orders issued to compel Mount Vernon's adherence to those requirements.

The consent decree requires, among other things, for the city to perform sewer system repairs that are estimated to cost over \$100 million.

Utilities

July 28, news segment, 6a, :25 - The two-year-old major billing problems with Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corporation should be resolved in the near future as the State Department of Public Service Thursday took two major steps to fix it.

The utility's new billing system, installed two years ago, saw customers receiving massive billing increases, but with the agreement, Central Hudson will pay for an independent monitor to verify system and operational improvements. Central Hudson has also agreed to start taking meter readings monthly, instead of estimating readings every other month. But, while Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger is happy to see both terms, she is concerned that the ratepayers don't get stuck covering the added cost of the monthly billing

August 1, news segment, 7a, :30 - Days after the state announced an agreement with Central Hudson Gas and Electric to start monthly billing for actual electric usage and the hiring of an independent monitor to oversee its billing practices, the utility announced its proposal for a new rate plan. The approximately 16 percent increase on the average residential electric bill

and approximately 19 percent increase on the average residential natural gas bill would take effect when the current rate plan expires in June 2024.

Senator Michelle Hinchey (D, Saugerties) is not pleased at all with the announcement.

“I’ve said it before, and I’ll say it again: Central Hudson should not receive a rate increase, and most certainly not at a time when the company is being investigated by the PSC for improper billing practices while continuing to issue inaccurate bills to Hudson Valley residents,” she said.

August 2, news segment, 7a, :30 - – Days after the state announced an agreement with Central Hudson Gas and Electric to start monthly billing for actual electric usage and the hiring of an independent monitor to oversee its billing practices, the utility announced its proposal for a new rate plan and State Assemblyman Jonathan Jacobson (D, Newburgh) is taking them to task. His criticism comes following a similar attack from State Senator Michelle Hinchey (D, Saugerties). The approximately 16 percent increase in the average residential electric bill and approximately 19 percent increase in the average residential natural gas bill would take effect when the current rate plan expires in June 2024. On Monday, Senator Michelle Hinchey rebuffed the electric company's plan. “I’ve said it before, and I’ll say it again: Central Hudson should not receive a rate increase, and most certainly not at a time when the company is being investigated by the PSC for improper billing practices while continuing to issue inaccurate bills to Hudson Valley residents,” she said. On Tuesday, Jacobson expressed his displeasure with Central Hudson's plea to raise rates.

September 13, news segment, 8a, :30 - – A series of public hearings opened Tuesday for Central Hudson to raise rates for its electric and gas service. Central Hudson wants to raise \$139.5 million for its electric delivery service or 16.4 percent in total revenue, and the money would be used to help replace aging infrastructure, finance its enhanced low-income and energy efficient heat pump programs, increased labor costs and recovery from major storms and extreme weather. The utility wants to raise an additional \$41.5 million or 29.2 percent and a 19 percent in total income for its natural gas delivery service. The rate increase would be used to finance its low-income, energy efficiency programs, increased labor costs and additional investments to eliminate leak-prone pipes

Indian Point

August 24, news segment, 8a, :25 - – In light of the governor’s signing of legislation preventing Holtec from dumping radioactive waste from the decommissioned Indian Point nuclear power plant into the Hudson River, members of a number of environmental organizations wrote to top state officials calling on them to take the next steps to protect the environment.

Anne Rabe, environmental policy director for New York Public Interest Research Group, said the state should do a number of other things. “Our main request today to the governor, attorney general and two state agencies is that New York State set up an Indian Point pollution wastewater plan and process based on the principles of prioritizing health and the

environment, a fair, judicious, transparent environmentally sound approach, and the first task at hand is for this process to focus on isolating the radioactive wastewater from the environment,” she said.

Immigration/Asylum Seekers:

July 20, news segment, 7a, :30 - Congressman Marcus Molinaro’s (R, NY-19) legislation dubbed the “Schools Not Shelter Act” would prevent schools from being turned into shelters for undocumented immigrants sent into communities by large urban areas.

The freshman lawmaker expected the measure to be adopted in the House of Representatives Wednesday evening. It has no Senate sponsor at the moment, he acknowledged.

Molinaro was prompted to draft the measure following New York City Mayor Eric Adams’ transfer of immigrants from the Big Apple – a self-proclaimed sanctuary city – to other parts of New York, including the Hudson Valley.

July 24, news segment, 8a, :30 - – Asylum seekers who were sent to Orange County by New York City Mayor Eric Adams are being taught English in what Kevin Lujan, one of the lead volunteers helping them to assimilate into American culture, said is working out well.

Not all are Spanish speaking; some speak French and other languages, in a program Lujan said has been quite successful. “We have amazing volunteers, an amazing group of people putting this together and we are really, really happy for this collaboration,” which he said includes among others, Orange County BOCES, Literacy Connections, and a host of volunteers doing “a host of great stuff.”

July 28, news segment, 7a, :20 - Rockland County has won a victory in its efforts to block future asylum seekers from being sent from the City of New York to be housed locally.

Rockland was one of several Mid-Hudson Counties sued by New York City seeking to have their cases all heard in Big Apple courts.

Orange County earlier was removed from that suit and had their legal arguments returned to State Supreme Court in Goshen. Now, Rockland has won a similar battle. “I firmly believe a case that is about Rockland should be adjudicated and decided by judges elected by Rockland residents – which now thanks to this decision it will be,” said County Executive Ed Day.

September 19, news segment, 6a, :30 - More than 30 migrants have been discovered living in deplorable conditions in a less than 1,500-square foot, three-bedroom cape code-style house in Clarkstown and town officials are cracking down on this and potentially other similar situations. Town Supervisor George Hoehmann said some of the people living at the 295 New Hempstead Road house owned by a Monsey man, including eight or nine children, are believed to be undocumented and brought up from the southern border in Texas to New York City and eventually to Rockland County.

☒ “This would have been an absolute disaster had there been a fire. People would have died here, first responders would have been injured or killed,” he said. “This is unacceptable. We are not going to allow this in the Town of Clarkstown.”

Rockland County Executive Ed Day said he is “fed up” with the current immigration policy.

☐ “I’m calling upon the state attorney general to immediately open up an investigation into the movement of human beings all over this state. I believe it is human trafficking, I believe there is money involved, I believe it is illegal,” he said. “And while she is at it, she should take a look at it if it ends up that Mayor Adams is involved in this, in my simple mind, there are a number of court orders that he is held to. If he is violating those court orders, he should be held accountable or he should resign.”

Environment/Weather/Safety/Historical Flooding:

July 17, news segment, 7a, :25 — Governor Kathy Hochul has supplies and manpower to assist Orange County should it need additional aid in the wake of the devastating flooding of last week. Areas along the Hudson River, particularly the Highland Falls-West Point area, Cornwall and Washingtonville, were hard hit. The governor said on Sunday the state is assisting the county. “I spoke with the county executive in Orange County and told him we have three swift water rescue boats available,” She said they were prepositioned last week and were responsible for rescuing motorists. “We have sandbag machines, 3,500 sandbags, 25 tons of sand in Orange County.” The governor Sunday spoke with county executives from Orange, Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester and asked them for an assessment of what they’re seeing on the ground, what their main concerns area, what roads they ae most worried about, and what bridges they ae afraid of being compromised.

July 18, news segment, 6a, :30 - US Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand joined Congressman Pat Ryan, a West Point graduate, and Orange County Executive Steven Neuhaus on a helicopter tour of the storm damage at West Point and the surrounding area today, including Highland Falls. After the flyover, Schumer said the damage at West Point alone is more than \$100 million after a review by the Army Corps of Engineers.

☐ “We all know that for two centuries West Point has stood in the Hudson Valley as an essential pillar to our nation’s military excellence and we cannot allow its buildings, infrastructure and training grounds to sit destroyed in the wake of this and we are going to make sure it happens,” he said. “The historic campus is a symbol of our country’s proud military history. Right now, the America’s Army’s home needs our help, and we are going to do whatever we can to get that done.” FEMA officials are expected to be on the ground in Orange County to begin their damage assessments caused by, and costs related to the disaster. Once these assessments are complete, FEMA validates whether the state and impacted counties have reached the required federal damage thresholds for a federal Major Disaster Declaration.

July 18, news segment, 7a, :30 – Following the devastating flooding that impacted communities across the state, Governor Kathy Hochul has announced that the deadline for resiliency-related grants has been extended. There is more than \$500 million available to municipalities to fund

projects such as water infrastructure, water quality improvement, and wastewater management. "Communities dealing with the destruction and aftermath of these severe weather events shouldn't lose out on the opportunity to apply for grant funding that could advance critical water quality and resiliency projects," said Hochul. "Extending the deadline will give flood-stricken communities time to finish their applications for projects that will protect public health, prepare for future severe weather events, and create jobs that boost local economies." The deadline, which was previously July 28th has been extended until August 11th.

July 18, news segment, 8a, :30 - -- As traumatic as it was for US Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand to see first-hand the massive devastation that last week's heavy rains and floods caused at the US Military Academy at West Point, it really hit home to Congressman Pat Ryan (D, NY-18). Ryan spent four years of his life as a West Point cadet and then served two tours of duty in Iraq. "It's really heavy for me to fly over and see the community that raised me, that I love, that formed me as Senator Schumer said, so hurt, so devastated, not just physically, but talking to folks and looking at the damage it's really a gut punch to see your community flooded, to see the tragic loss of life," he said on Monday. Ryan said officials are channeling the grief and frustration into constructive urgency.

July 27, news segment, 6a, :25 - -- The State Department of Environmental Conservation announced Wednesday the acquisition of 261 acres adjacent to the Catskill Forest Preserve's Sundown Wild Forest. The permanent protection of the land will preserve open space, protect drinking water sources that contribute to the New York City watershed, and expand recreational opportunities to support the local economy. The land preservation is a collaboration between the DEC and Open Space Institute. The purchase of the property along the east side of South Mountain in the Town of Olive was made possible with the OSI and \$665,500 from the state's Environmental Protection Fund. OSI initially purchased the property in 2019 from Dr. Sam and Delia Adams, whose family owned the land since the Hardenbergh Patent of the 1700s.

July 27, news segment, 8a, :30 - The State Department of Public Service may have secured a commitment from Central Hudson to improve their billing practices, but Assemblyman Jonathan Jacobson (D, Newburgh) and Senator Michelle Hinchey (D, Saugerties) have pledged to have those changes codified into state law. The lawmakers have introduced legislation that they hope will be adopted in the next session in January. "Customers have experienced nearly two years of late bills, low bills, excessive estimated bills or grossly inaccurate bills," Jacobson said. "While I am pleased with the public service commission's decision, Senator Hinchey and I will continue to pursue our utility reform legislation to ensure that Central Hudson and all utilities follow the law."

Hinchey and Jacobson want a law to require monthly billing by utilities, instead of estimated bills every other month, as well as a monitor to keep tabs on all utilities' bill procedures.

July 28, news segment, 7a, :25 -- Another round of violent thunderstorms with heavy rains brought down trees on wires and in at least one instance, lightning struck the roof of a single-family house at 42 Fortune Road East in the Town of Walkkill at around 5:15 p.m. on Thursday. The two-alarm fire in the Silver Lake district brought out several neighboring departments as crews erected a ladder on the exterior of the house while other members entered the building looking for any signs of flames or internal damage.

July 31, news segment, 8a, :30 -- State Senator Rob Rolison (R-Poughkeepsie) wants the state to be better prepared to offer financial assistance after storm damage following Governor Kathy Hochul's recent warning of more consistent severe weather. She said severe weather, such as the rains and flooding that caused millions of dollars of damage in the Hudson Valley is the "new normal." In a tweet, Hochul said, "Make no mistake: This is our new normal. We are the first generation to feel the impacts of climate change & the last generation with a shot at doing anything about it." Rolison, who represents portions of Putnam County that were severely impacted by flooding, wants the state to get funds to his district to help the rebuilding process. The lawmaker said the state must take swifter action in conditions such as that which struck the region recently.

August 1, news segment, 8a, :30 -- In Westchester County, no longer will customers of food service establishments automatically be given plasticware. The new law is geared toward reducing the quantity of smaller single-use plastic items from the waste stream.

First Deputy Environmental Services Commissioner Lou Vetrone said customers wanting plastic forks, spoons, knives and the like will have to ask for them.

"Under this new law beginning in September, food service establishments in Westchester County are no longer able to provide single-use plastic food ware or condiment packets unless specifically requested by a customer," he said.

That will apply to eating in, take out, ordering online or delivery service and also include chopsticks, plastic lids, and coffee stirrers. After the first six months of law, fines may be levied for violators. Hospitals and healthcare facilities will be exempt from the law.

August 3, news segment, 6a, :25 -- The City of White Plains, with assistance from Westchester County Government, has created food scrap composting at its current compost site.

Residents can now drop off food scraps at the Gedney Yard and they will be composted on site along with leaves and other materials, said Mayor Tom Roach.

"The food scraps are merged with it and they actually help each other make this a better process," he said Wednesday. Composting the food scraps at the city's existing site eliminates the trucking of food waste to a remote site reducing the carbon footprint.

"With the assistance of Westchester County we have successfully developed an efficient and financially feasible composting program that ensures the environmental benefits are more fully achieved," the mayor said.

August 9, news segment, 8a, :30 - Residents in the flood impacted areas of Highland Falls, Fort Montgomery, West Point and environs who suffered losses to their residence during the July 9 event will have some relief on the way.

The National Association of Realtors' Relief Foundation has dedicated \$500,000 for grants to help local residents. Jana Currier is interim executive director of the Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors, who made the announcement in Goshen on Tuesday. "The grant from the Realtors Relief fund will cover up to \$2,000 either for one month's mortgage, or a one month's rent for a new lease if a tenant as to move, or hotel expenses for a homeowner or renter who was displaced by the flooding," she said.

August 10, news segment, 8a, :30 - Governor Kathy Hochul has announced the allocation of emergency assistance funds to eligible homeowners impacted by the July flooding and recent storm damage in Dutchess, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester counties. Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne is pleased that the state will be assisting homeowners. "We still have people who are suffering some very significant hardships including very specifically our homeowners who have had tons of storm damage, and the state being able to step up and provide additional relief to these homeowners and individuals is extremely important," he said. Grants of up to \$50,000 will be awarded based on a scope of work approved by the local program administrators. Applicants must be homeowners whose primary residence is in one of the designated counties and who have incomes at or below 80 percent of the Area Median Income. Areas of eastern Orange County - West Point, Highland Falls, and Cornwall, also decimated by the flooding have already been promised state funding for eligible homeowners.

August 10, news segment, 8a, :30 - Seven state Assembly members from Westchester County have sent a letter to Governor Hochul calling on her to sign legislation that would prohibit radioactive wastewater discharges from the decommissioned Indian Point power plant into the Hudson River. The measure was spearheaded in the Assembly by Dana Levenberg and in the Senate by Pete Harckham. The Assembly bill passed 101 to 44 and the Senate version passed unanimously. The Assembly members signing on to the letter to the governor are Gary Pretlow of Mount Vernon, Amy Paulin of Scarsdale, Steve Otis of Rye, Nader Sayegh of Yonkers, Chris Burdick of Bedford, MaryJane Shimsky of Dobbs Ferry and Levenberg of Ossining. All seven are Democrats. The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission says it is perfectly safe and a common practice for treated nuclear waste to be discharged into the nation's waterways.

Community Information:

August 9, news segment, 7a, :25 - Two Hudson Valley state senators are calling on the postmaster general to conduct a study of a planned new sorting and delivery structure for mail before implementing it in September. In a letter to the top postal official, Senators Michelle Hinchey (D, Saugerties) and Rob Rolison (R, Poughkeepsie) said the proposed changes, "which include potentially closing numerous local post offices across the Hudson Valley and converting them to sorting and delivery centers, will be detrimental to our region."

August 17, in studio guest, 9a, 2 minutes - director of Food Bank of the Hudson Valley was a guest that spoke on their new location in Montgomery NY and shared their services.

Police/War of Drugs:

July 25, news segment, 6a, :20 - – Two alleged fentanyl dealers were arrested on Monday in separate investigations in Poughkeepsie. The Dutchess County Drug Task Force deployed agents in specific areas of Poughkeepsie following a “significant spike” in overdoses in the county last weekend. Timothy Robinson, 59, of Poughkeepsie was arrested and charged with criminal possession and sale of a controlled substance for allegedly selling the lethal drug in the area of Main and Rose Streets in the City of Poughkeepsie. He was arraigned and remanded to the Dutchess County Jail without bail and police said other charges are pending.

July 27, news segment, 7a, :25 - The Dutchess County Drug Task Force has arrested a 65-year-old Town of Poughkeepsie man on a charge of criminal possession of drugs with intent to sell. On Wednesday, July 26, the task force, with assistance from Town and City of Poughkeepsie Police, executed a search warrant at the Lakeview Ars Apartments home of Jerry Dixon and seized numerous controlled substances.

Dixon was arrested and later released by the Town of Poughkeepsie Justice Court and ordered to reappear next month.

August 2, news segment, 8a, :30 - – “Operation Hiding in Plain Sight” culminated with 15 people from Westchester, Orange, Sullivan and Ulster counties being arrested on charges of conspiracy with the top two also charged with possession of drugs.

Michael Rodriguez, 49, of the Bronx and Yonkers, also had in his possession when arrested 1 ½ kilos of cocaine, \$165,000 in cash, three pistols and a shotgun, \$50,000 in jewelry and drug paraphernalia. District Attorney David Hoovler said the irony is that he was executive director of Bronx Rises Against Gun Violence. “So, the very guy that we have that is supposed to be stopping gun violence in one jurisdiction in New York City, is poisoning our jurisdiction up here,” the DA said. Rodriguez had two guns when arrested.

August 7, news segment, 7a, :25 - The fentanyl crisis is getting worse, Orange County Health Commissioner Dr. Alicia Pointer says. That is compounding the already critical opioid epidemic facing the region and nation with substance related issues ahead of us, she said.

☒“Now we have new drugs that are entering the market causing problems too, so things like Xylazine, for example,” she said. “We have a lot of smart very people looking to address these crises but there is no easy answer. I think it’s going to take continued collaboration between health, mental health, substance, community-based organizations, government.”

Pointer said that while Narcan can reverse the effects of Fentanyl if caught soon enough, it will not help with the equine tranquilizer Xylazine, another deadly drug.

Housing:

July 31, news segment, 7a, :25 - – A study is underway in the City of Newburgh to consider implementation of rent control for certain housing.

The analysis has the support of Mayor Torrance Harvey. “Our planning department is finishing up a vacancy study and we are going to see if we do qualify for rent control – rent stabilization

– because a lot of our residents who rent, they are complaining that either their rent is going up to high where they cannot afford it or they are being asked to leave their apartment so that the landlords can fix up the apartment and get higher rent,” he said.

August 8, news segment, 6a, :25 - – State and local officials cut the ribbon on the 143-apartment Avalon Harrison affordable housing project on Monday. The facility, constructed by AvalonBay Communities, also includes 5,000 square feet of interior amenities for residents and 27,000 SF of street-level retail and commercial space. The facility is called a transit-oriented development because it is constructed adjacent to the Harrison Metro-North station. Governor Kathy Hochul, who attended a ribbon cutting ceremony, said Westchester has much to offer, but is in the continued need for housing

Education/School Sports/Youth Initiatives:

July 25, news segment, 7a, :20 - The New Paltz Central School District announced Monday that it is now offering a full-day Pre-Kindergarten at no cost to school district residents who will be four years old by December 1, 2023. The District currently has space in the Duzine Elementary School building for up to 72 students in four classrooms with 18 students per class. Three of the classes have been filled, and the district is looking to fill the fourth. Classes will be taught by district staff as well as by employees from community-based organizations. All classes will have special area classes, such as physical education, music, art, and library. All Pre-K classrooms will follow the same curriculum. School meals will be included as will transportation

August 14, news segment, 8a, :25 - Two organizations based in Rockland County have been awarded a total of over \$3.8 million in federal funding for Early Head Start programs. The Salvation Army will receive more than \$1.6 million and the New Square Community Improvement Council Inc. will receive over \$2.2 million. The funding was allocated through the US Department of Health and Human Services and will be used to provide comprehensive early childhood education and support services to low-income children and families. The funding was announced by Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand.

September 15, news segment, 7a, :25 -- Senator James Skoufis (D, Cornwall) has announced he has secured \$120,000 for Greenwood Lake’s skatepark project. The funds will enable GWL Skatepark, the non-profit organization, to build a recreational facility within Greenwood Lake. The new recreational facility was a vision of Dale Hirrel, a local teenager and avid skater who lost his life in an automobile accident in April 2016. The teen aspired to build a skatepark in his village to motivate and uplift local children in the community.

4th of July

July 4, news segment, 8a, :20 -- Several state landmarks will be illuminated red, white and blue on Tuesday, July 4 in celebration of Independence Day. Two in the Hudson Valley will be lit with the colors of the American flag – The Franklin D. Roosevelt Mid-Hudson Bridge over the Hudson River, linking the City of Poughkeepsie in Dutchess with the Town of Lloyd in Ulster County, and the Governor Cuomo Tappan Zee Bridge linking Westchester and Rockland counties.

“Independence Day is a prominent reminder that the great State of New York remains committed to the founding principles our great country was built upon – equality, freedom and justice for all.”

PSA's

July 10-August 18, supported Stand Up To Cancer initiative with 18 promotional announcements.

August 8-21 supported the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley with 27 promotional announcements.

August 26-31 supported International Overdose Awareness Day with 18 promos.

August 18-Sept. 24 Supported Miles of Hope Take The Peace of Mind cancer screening campaign with 18 promotional announcement.

August 8-Sept 30 supported Support Connect Walk for Ovarian Cancer with 18 promotional announcements.

September 18-30 supported the American Cancer Society Making Stride 2023 event with 9 promotional announcement.

September 11-30 supported the American Cancer Society with 18 promotional announcements.

9-11 (September 11th)

September 11, reflected on the attacks and took a moment of remembrance on time of impacts.

National Guard/Veteran Affairs:

August 3, news segment, 7a, :25 - Under federal law, only military reservists who were called to active duty for purposes other than training, or who died as a result of training are eligible to receive headstones or grave markers, but under legislation proposed by Congressman Michael

Lawler, that would change. He has introduced the GRAVE Act – the Giving Reservices a Valiant Eternity act - which would make all reservists eligible.

“While all reservists are training and equipped to mobile alongside active-duty military, only certain reservists are eligible to receive a headstone or grave marker once they pass on,” Lawler said. “This is unfortunate and unfair. All reservists step up and serve and deserve to be commemorated for their service to our country.”

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:

July 2 – New help for depression and ptsd using ketamine

July 9 Dr. Martin Wuttke on how the brain works.

July 16 – Owls are so unusual! Jennifer Ackerman’s latest nature book.

July 23 – Maggie and Joy share their amazing stories of coincidences.

July 30 – Sharing each other’s inspirational stories – with two listeners.

August 6 – Interpreting angelic signs – with two listeners.

August 13 – Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation founder Pari Farood.

August 20 – Inspirational speaker, Bernard Owens Jr.

August 27 – Maryam Miliiani, Iranian therapist on ancestral trauma.

September 3 – Psychiatrist Jonathan DiPierro on resilience.

September 10 - Laura K Connell therapist, dysfunctional families.

September 17 – Attorney Jeffrey B. Simon on representing the little guy.

September 24 – Dr. Jennifer Wu on postpartum depression.

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

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