

The Community Spotlight Local Public Affairs Program airs on all six of the Media One Radio Group radio stations. The Chautauqua County Executive appears the first week of each month and City of Jamestown Mayor appears the second week of each month. The other weeks of the month feature a variety of community leaders, and special guests. The program airs on the following stations at the following times: WJTN - Saturday at 8:05 A.M. | WWSE - Sunday at 7:00 A.M. | WHUG & WKSJ - Sunday at 6:30 A.M. | WQFX - Sunday at 5:30 A.M. | WKZA - Sunday at 6:00 A.M..

July of 2022....

- July 4 -- This week, Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services Director Mary Ann Spanos joins our Terry Frank to discuss a number of senior, and elderly resident issues. First, though, we talk about her recently being awarded a NYS "Woman of Distinction" designation through State Senator George Borrello. Spanos called it an honor and validation of the work she's doing for the county. We discuss programming, and where things are as the COVID-19 Pandemic winds down. Most programs are back up and running, through member agencies, but, some will not take place -- including the annual Senior Picnic at Midway Park. Dr. Spanos says that may return in the form of smaller picnics at different places in the county. She adds that a big reason is lack of staff, because they are still down five employees from the pandemic. We also discuss Elder Fraud and Abuse, which remain big issues for seniors... including a local program on Elder Fraud co-hosted with Sen. Borrello on July 15. Contact person: Mary Ann Spanos at County OFAS at (716) 753-4471.

- July 11 - Our Terry Frank speaks this week with Chautauqua County Executive P.J. Wendel on a variety of topics, including the start to the Summer season. Wendel says everything is open for the Summer, unlike the past two Summers when activity was shut-down or limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He says the county has received it's second tranche of American Rescue Plan Act funding from the federal government, totaling just over \$12-million dollars. Wendel says their panel that's been reviewing projects will now look at what to use that funding for. We also discuss the application period now opening for local events, and programs seeking funding from the county's 3% occupancy tax. Finally... we discuss Summer safety with activity picking up on the highways, and local waterways. Contact: County Exec. P-J Wendel at (716) 753-4211.

- July 18 - Jamestown Mayor Eddie Sundquist joins our Terry Frank in studio this week to discuss a number of issues... including items to be on the city council's agenda for it's lone work session of the month. Among those items is moving forward on a shared services agreement for sidewalk snowplowing with the Jamestown Public Schools. The hold-up there, according to Sundquist, is the need to see whether two laborers can be hired seasonally or if they need to be full-time with other duties during the warmer months of the year. We also discuss the street work situation with a number of festivals now underway. The Scandinavian Folk Festival was held the past weekend in downtown Jamestown for the first-time, and Sundquist helped with the kick-off for that event last Friday afternoon. We also discuss what city leaders are working on for use of Jamestown's second tranche of \$14-million dollars in American Rescue Plan Act funding. He says since those determinations are being made "in-house" it will be a little while before they're brought to the City Council. Contact: Mayor Eddie Sundquist at (716) 483-7600.

- July 25 - Our Terry Frank speaks with National Comedy Center Executive Director Journey Gunderson about how the center has come through the COVID pandemic shut-down, and how preparations are going for the Lucille Ball Comedy Festival to be held Aug. 3-7, 2022. With less than two weeks to go, Gunderson says they're pretty well set, with one of the top female comedians - Margaret Cho - coming in for the Aug. 4 show at the Reg Lenna Center for the Arts. She says tickets remain for that show, and there are also some left for the Aug. 5 second show now scheduled for Jeff Foxworthy. The Aug. 6 program with Saturday Night Live Legends David Spade, Rob Schneider and Kevin Nealon is sold out. Gunderson says, with the past two festivals cancelled due to the pandemic, they had to work to make sure everyone could still do their shows this year. For more information, go on-line to ComedyCenter.org. Contact Journey Gunderson (716) 484-7070.

August 2022...

- Aug. 1 -- Our Dennis Webster has a rare interview with Chautauqua County's two college presidents, Dr. Daniel DeMarte from Jamestown Community College, and SUNY College at Fredonia President Dr. Stephen Kolison. The focus is on two, four-year Bachelors Degree programs at Fredonia that students can complete -- starting this Fall -- on the JCC Campus. Those two programs are business administration, and early childhood education. Kolison says, while a significant number of Jamestown residents have a two-year degree, only 17% have a BA or BS. This Fall, they'll be offering the ability to complete those two programs in Jamestown... thus helping people who are unable to attend Fredonia to obtain the four-year degree, due to either family or work commitments. Contact Daniel DeMarte at JCC at (716) 338-1000... and, Dr. Stephen Kolison at SUNY Fredonia.

- Aug. 8 -- Our Terry Frank interviews County Executive P.J. Wendel about a number of topics, including the recent increases in cases of Monkeypox reported. None have been found in Chautauqua County at this time, but, Wendel says the county's Department of Health and Human Services is monitoring the situation. He also took part in a Zoom Conference meeting with state Health Commissioner, Dr. Mary Bassett. As for COVID-19... he says case numbers remain very low, along with hospitalizations heading into August, and later in September when schools reopen. We also discuss the county's 2023 budget proposal, which Wendel has recently been meeting with his finance team, and department heads about. He says there will be no additional hiring unless the cost can be covered by incoming revenues, or grant funds. The budget will be presented on or before Sept. 25, and will likely again total about \$270-million dollars. We also discuss the recent passing of retired Ellery Town Supervisor Arden Johnson, and former Jamestown car dealership owner, Howard Howlett. Howlett was among the founders of the county's Starflight Helicopter program. Contact: P-J Wendel at (716) 753-4211.

- Aug. 15 - This week, News Director Terry Frank hosts his monthly visit with Jamestown Mayor Eddie Sundquist, and discusses the city's recent bill of "good financial health" in the annual, third-party audit of the 2021 budget. Sundquist says he's pleased with the news, because it gives the city the proper buffer for any emergencies that may come up coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic. We also discuss the return of the annual Labor Day Festival on Sunday, Sept. 4 at Bergman Park. Sundquist says this will be the city's 41st annual festival... but, the first held since the pandemic began in Mar. of 2020. We also get an in-depth update on the locating of cannabis growing and production facilities in Jamestown, and the licensing process for dispensaries. Contact: Mayor Eddie Sundquist at (716) 483-7600.

- Aug. 22 - This week we present comments from the two Republican candidates seeking the nomination to run for the 23rd Congressional District in this Fall's election. Our Terry Frank has an exclusive interview with Chautauqua County native Nick Langworthy, who is also State GOP Chairman. Langworthy felt compelled to run because he knows the area, and that people want a "different brand of leadership." We also have excerpts from a "Town Hall-style" meeting held in the area by opponent, Buffalo-area developer Carl Paladino... who says he wants to "give back" because he's been successful. Paladino has said that one of the first things he wants to do is impeach current President Joe Biden. Both men say they are pro-2nd Amendment, pro-smaller government, and want to get criminals off the streets. Early voting just wrapped up for the primary, and primary day is Tuesday, Aug. 23 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

- Aug 28 - Our Terry Frank speaks this week with Chief Communications and Marketing Officer David Albert with the New York State School Boards Association about what should be a fairly "normal" start to the school year. That's after the COVID-19 pandemic cancelled in-person instruction for several months... and, then led to special protocols once in-person learning resumed. Albert says more than three-quarters of all 668 New York state school districts are using American Rescue Plan Act funding to deal with issues ranging from "COVID Slide..." to hiring more bus drivers. Many districts are also addressing mental health, and other socio-economic issues with their ARPA funding. Nationally... the pandemic accelerated the loss of many teachers who either retired, or went into something different. However... Albert says while districts are looking to hire more teachers, the biggest shortage is in bus drivers. Some districts are offering more pay, and using job fairs to

bring in potential applicants. Most schools in the region begin the 2022-23 school year next Tuesday, Sept. 6. Contract: NYSSBA at (518) 783-0200.

September 2022...

- Sept. 4 -- Our Terry Frank spoke this week with Chautauqua County Executive P.J. Wendel about preparing his final, 2023 budget proposal which will be presented to the public, and county legislature in late September. He says they are working the department heads to hold the line on spending to minimize any increases. Wendel won't say whether there will be a tax increase or decrease, but, that it will be a "solid, and balanced" budget. The approximately \$270-million spending plan is due on or about Sept. 25. We also discuss public safety, and a state-mandated threat assessment plan and team to be developed. Wendel says the county is on-track for that, and will develop the plan based off of local school threat assessment plans, and other counties that already have them in place. We also discuss security at Chautauqua Institution in the wake of the Aug. 12 attack on well-known author, Salmon Rushdie. Contact: County Exec. P-J Wendel at (716) 753-4211.

- Sept. 11 - The still-new coordinator for Businesses Development at the Jamestown Board of Public Utilities joins our Terry Frank for this week's program. Ellen DiTonto, whose been in the position about five months, is coordinating the BPU's upcoming "Retool '22 - A Climate Tech Conference for Manufacturers." DiTonto says the conference will be held at the Northwest Arena from Oct. 17 through Oct. 19... and will feature several speakers, and break-out groups that discuss ways that new and existing businesses can take advantage of programs and funding that's available to shift their business towards new, and cleaner energy technology for the future. The main speakers will be Clint Wilder, Editorial Director of "Clean Edge" who is a best-selling author... and, Managing Director John Ellis with Ellis & Associates, and specializes in new and emerging transportation technology. For more information on registering for the conference and a Sept. 13 Webinar, contact DiTonto at 716-661-1686, or editonto@jamestownbpu.com. Contact person: Ellen DiTonto at BPU at number above.

- Sept. 18 - Our Terry Frank talks with Jamestown Mayor Eddie Sundquist this week on mainly two topics: the rising number of homeless people, and the 2023 city budget proposal. The homeless issue came up during City Council President Tony Dolce's Public Safety and Neighborhood Forum last week as an issue. Sundquist says he met with more than 60 local clergy and pastors about the problem, and how to deal with it. He says these homeless wound up that way for a number of reasons, with one of the big ones the end to the eviction moratorium in New York state. Sundquist says he's trying to link the faith community with local service providers to help those people out. On the budget, Sundquist says the city is facing a number of challenges, including reductions in sales tax as the economy slows due to inflation. He says there's also the loss of 1-million dollars in state aid funding. However, Sundquist adds that the city will be saving money with 60% to 70% of it's Medicare-eligible retirees moving off the city's self-insured plan, and onto full Medicare. He's to present the \$35-million-plus budget on Fri., Oct. 7. Contact person: Mayor Eddie Sundquist at (716) 483-7600.

- Sept. 25 - We air portions of comments from new Congressman Joe Sempolinski to the Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce last Friday morning at Moonbrook Country Club near Jamestown. Sempolinski discussed hitting the ground running in Congress after being sworn-in on Sept. 13 in Washington. He noted that a lot of the early work has involved reestablishing the 23 Districts satellite offices in Jamestown, Olean, Geneva, and elsewhere. Constituent services were a big part of what Sempolinski dealt with as an aide for former Congressman Tom Reed, who left office earlier this year. He says the House has voted on about two-dozen bills since he officially took office, and he managed Republican floor debate on two of them. He expressed concern on a number of fronts, including the deficit rung up the past two-years, due in part to the pandemic, as well as what he said was out of control spending. While he's pushing for more accountability, he says this pattern has been around for a few decades now, and changing that habit won't occur overnight. Sempolinski also talked about being assigned to the Education and Budget Committees during the hour-long program. Contract: Congressman Sempolinski's Jamestown Office at (716) 488-7058.