

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

4th QUARTER 2020

**WEBO (AM) OWEGO, NY
1330 kHz**

**W253CH 98.5 (FM) OWEGO, NY
W267BQ 101.3 (FM) CANDOR, NY
W286CS 105.1 (FM) WAVERLY, NY
W300BV 107.9 (FM) ENDICOTT, NY**

GOVERNMENT

PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH, AND WELFARE

Emergency Alert System (EAS)—Weather warnings, Civil Defense Warnings, and Amber Alerts WEBO relayed “warnings” received through the EAS decoder during the period covered by this report. By relaying these EAS messages over the air, WEBO kept residents of the Owego, Candor, Waverly, Endicott and Tioga County, NY area apprised of the latest National Weather Service warnings and vital information.

PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH, AND WELFARE

ALL CATEGORIES (IN NEWS CONTENT)

News Coverage

WEBO aired several roughly 3-minute long newscasts relevant to residents of the Owego, Candor, Waverly, Endicott and Tioga County, NY area, during the period covered by this report. These newscasts aired daily Monday-Friday at 6:00am, 6:30am, 7:00am, 7:30am, 8:30am, and additionally on Fridays at 5:00pm & 6:00pm, and Saturdays at 6:00am, 7:00am, 8:00am, 9:00am, 10:00am, 11:00am, and 12:00pm. Additional news reports were aired as needed for breaking news coverage. These newscasts were written, produced, and anchored by WEBO staff.

GOVERNMENT

PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH, AND WELFARE

Local Weather Coverage

WEBO aired a thirty-second weather report two times hourly (24/7) every day during the period covered by this report, and four times hourly Monday-Friday from 6:00am-9:00am. These weather reports were forecasted, written, and anchored by AccuWeather in affiliation with WEBO and covered the weather forecast for the Owego, Candor, Waverly, Endicott and Tioga County, NY area.

CIVIC, NEIGHBORHOOD, AND FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

CHARITIES

PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH, AND WELFARE

WEBO Community Calendar

WEBO aired PSAs for various local non-profit organizations during the period covered by this report. The WEBO Community Calendar aired once-per-hour Monday through Friday from 12:00am to 6:00am, 9:00am and 12:00am, and once-an-hour Saturday through Sunday. One event was announced per hour in rotation with all other current events happening at that time.

PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH, AND WELFARE

Eye on Veterans produced by CBS

WEBO aired "Eye on Veterans" once daily Monday-Friday at 6:45am during the period covered by this report. This one-minute report covered topics specifically of interest to veterans such as health, support, recovery, addiction, employment, veteran owned business start-ups and other topics of interest to veterans in the Owego, Candor, Waverly, Endicott and Tioga County, NY area.

PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH, AND WELFARE

Doctor's Orders produced by CBS

WEBO aired "The Doctor's Orders" twice daily Monday-Friday at approximately 6:15am and 5:15pm during the period covered by this report. This one-minute feature covered medical topics and information of interest to listeners in the Owego, Candor, Waverly, Endicott and Tioga County, NY area.

A partial list of significant issues interviews conducted on WEBO are listed below, along with the most significant programming treatment of those issues/events for the period listed above. The listing is by no means exhaustive.

The order in which the issues appear does not reflect any priority or significance.

The public is encouraged to send local events, topics, and stories of interest specifically pertaining to the Owego, Candor, Waverly, Endicott and Tioga County, NY area. Such inquiries should be directed to News@MyHometownToday.com for future coverage.

Respectfully submitted,

David M. Radigan
July 1st, 2020

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WEBO Morning Show
DATE: October 2, 2020
TIME: 8:15am
RE: COVID-19/Recycling/Police Reform

Tioga County Legislature Chairwoman Marte Sauerbrey visited the WEBO Morning Show for her weekly update of what is happening in the county. Two weeks ago, the county reported three cases. Today, there are 47 active cases and 265 in mandatory quarantine. Neighboring Broome County is having the same problem. They were down to 57 cases on Sept 20 and now are up to 243 cases. Of the 243 in Broome, eight are hospitalized. Largely, people are handling it at home, which is a good thing. When the hospital rate goes up, that is when the governor will close things down. In Tioga County, Ms. Sauerbrey reports we are experiencing community spread. When people are out and about, and they are either asymptomatic or do not feel well, but they go out anyway, that is where trouble begins. Ms. Sauerbrey proposes everyone stay home this weekend; just give the virus a break and slow it down. The public health department is busy trying to track down these cases. And once they are identified, Ms. Sauerbrey says, we take care of them if they need help. Chemung County also has its hands full.

Besides coronavirus, the county has been working on other items. On recycling, Ms. Sauerbrey says there have been meetings with Sustainability Manager Ellen Pratt and with trash haulers. On police reform, the governor tasked each county with working towards it. There are two parts: first, the sheriff is checking all policies and improving systems that need to be changed. He has met with Waverly and Owego PD. The next step is meeting with members of the community and listening to any concerns they have or things they would like to

see change/happen.

In closing, Ms. Sauerbrey asked listeners to wear a mask, social distance, stay six feet apart, and wash your hands. Take a break from medium size gatherings and think about your socializing and where you are going.

WEBO Morning Show

DATE: Oct. 23, 2020

TIME: 8:15am

RE: Tioga County/COVID-19/Elections

Tioga County Legislature Chairwoman Marte Sauerbrey visited the WEBO Morning Show for an update on what is happening in Tioga County with the Coronavirus situation. Currently, Tioga County has 167 active cases with 476 in mandatory quarantine. Those in quarantine need to stay home for two weeks, and she really appreciates that. Sadly, the county has had a total of 30 deaths since March due to COVID-19. We are in the middle of community spread. It is all over Tioga. There is no specific area other than the exception of the two nursing homes, Elderwood and Riverview Nursing. The state of New York is watching over the nursing homes, and they are complying with all they need to do.

It is very important people be aware of their behaviors especially in the next couple of weeks. Chemung & Steuben counties are in the middle of restrictions imposed by NYS. They are in orange and yellow zones, which means businesses, gyms, and salons must temporarily close. We do not want that to happen here. We are in control of how this goes. So, Sauerbrey encourages staying home, mask wearing, social distancing, and limiting gatherings and groups. Our behavior dictates the future. If our numbers get too high, the governor will impose restrictions.

This weekend, rapid testing will be available in Owego. Tioga Opportunities on Sheldon Guile Blvd. is the location. You must register by going to the county or public health web page or Facebook page or call 687-8600. Hours for testing are 10am-6pm, Saturday and Sunday. Sauerbrey says yes, our numbers may go up as a result of more testing, but the county will be able to identify where cases are localized and have people who test positive quarantine for two weeks.

In other news, the election is coming up. Early voting will start tomorrow at the Board of Elections. People can go to the BOE website to see hours and days for voting. It will be very safe. Regarding the recycling issue, the legislature continues to work on it. In a few weeks, costs will be announced, and Sauerbrey says it will not be shocking. As for the county budget, it is near completion. The legislature will have to take a fair amount from reserve funds to stay under the

tax cap.

WEBO Morning Show
DATE: October 30, 2020
TIME: 8:15am
RE: Tioga County/Recycling

Tioga County Legislature Chairwoman Marte Sauerbrey and Tioga County Sustainability Manager Ellen Pratt joined the WEBO Morning Show to discuss further the changes coming to the Tioga County recycling program. Sauerbrey explained the legislature started thinking about the whole process beginning in January following the fire at Taylor Garbage's recycling plant. They knew there would be changes, plus they knew the recycling contract with Taylor Garbage was expiring at the end of 2020.

Ms. Pratt shared the county went out to bid for a new contract to continue the weekly curbside recycling program. The cost for this service appears as a line item on residents' property tax bills. Once bids came back, the proposed contract rates given would have triggered a tax increase exceeding the New York State mandated 2% tax cap. The legislature had to make the difficult decision to change the recycling program. Ms. Pratt emphasized that recycling will not go away as residents are required by law in New York State to recycle. The change is in how recycling happens for the county. When Ms. Pratt began looking at what other counties in the state did for recycling, she found that Tompkins and Tioga counties were the only two that had county-provided recycling. Statewide, only one additional county provided that service. The plan for Tioga County going forward is individual trash haulers will provide the recycling pickup with their trash pickups and charge an additional fee. Residents who bring their trash to the transfer station can bring their recyclables with them and place them in the bins there.

Ms. Sauerbrey said earlier this year when the news on recycling broke, residents' minds were elsewhere due to the pandemic and not really focused on what the end of the recycling contract meant. At the public hearing on recycling, many residents said they would gladly pay double the fee to continue recycling as it always was. However, when the legislature investigated doubling the fee and reviewed the annual budget, the overall tax increase on property bills would jump up to 5%. Additionally, Ms. Sauerbrey warned the next three to five years would be difficult financially. The county, due to the pandemic, has experienced a significant loss of sales tax revenue.

Residents may not realize that the current recycling tax does not pay for 100% of the program. It is subsidized by the value of recyclables, and those values

have dropped. So, any revenue that allowed the contractor to pay for their employees and equipment and process the recycling and still make a profit (they are a business after all,) went away. Even throughout the United States, no one is making enough money from recycling commodities.

Ms. Sauerbrey says the changes begin on January 1st. Trash haulers are already in the process of preparing for this. They have begun reaching out to customers to inform them how much extra it will cost. Some residents who were already contacted by their haulers have said it will not be so bad cost-wise. In the end, the cost is about what it would be from what was previously on the tax bill line item. Pratt warned that people who say they will just burn or throw away their recyclables will increase the trash hauling costs so do not do it. Ms. Pratt can be called with questions at 607-687-8274. Ms. Sauerbrey believes the transition will be seamless.

WEBO Morning Show

DATE: November 9, 2020

TIME: 8:15am

RE: Veteran's Day/Tioga County

Owego resident Jim Raftis, an organizer of the annual Memorial Day/Veteran's Day ceremonies remembrance events for veterans, visited the WEBO Morning Show to inform listeners of the details for this year's Veteran's Day ceremonies. As was the case with Memorial Day, Veteran's Day will not be held in public this year due to COVID-19 and social gathering restrictions. As such, Veterans Day has been moved to the WEBO studios. The ceremony will originate live from WEBO's studio and take place on all 5 WEBO signals as well as streamed on MyHometownToday.com, Smart Speakers and video streamed on Facebook Live from our studio. Some highlights:

The traditional service will be broadcast on the station at 11:00am.

The fallen heroes are never forgotten. The honor guard at VFW 1371 will have a brief ceremony at 11:00am at the Tioga County Veterans' Memorial and will be joined by the Vietnam Veterans of America and the American Legion. A benediction and wreath laying will take place.

Fire alarms from Owego's firehouses will sound and bells from Village churches will chime 11 times to signify the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of the signing of the Armistice that ended WWI. Inside WEBO's studios, a representative from the Tioga County Veterans Service agency will read the roll call of deceased Tioga County veterans and document what his agency does for veterans during the pandemic.

Mr. Raftis is seeking community support in creative ways this year. He asks that

someone post "Thank You Veterans" signs at the underpass and at major intersections in and out of Owego. He also suggested people can come out of their house and stand for two minutes of silence at 11:00am. Another way is if you know a veteran personally, give him or her a phone call or send a message that says, "thank you for your service." These are creative ways the community can honor the veterans.

WEBO Morning Show

DATE: Nov. 12, 2020

TIME: 8:15am

RE: COVID-19/Tioga County/Public Health

Tioga County Legislature Chairwoman Marte Sauerbrey visited the WEBO Morning Show for a special update.

Yesterday, Nov. 11th, the governor held a press conference that included the announcement of three areas of the state identified as micro-clusters. Waverly is one of those communities, specifically the 14892-zip code, which encompasses the Village of Waverly and a small area outside of it. The number of coronavirus cases hit a certain number that triggered the micro cluster identification. As a micro cluster, there are certain restrictions targeted just for that area. One example is houses of worship can house no more than 50% capacity. All businesses can remain open, including indoor dining with no more than four people per table. The biggest effect of this micro cluster designation is with the Waverly school district. The district is now required to perform mandatory weekly testing of 20% or about 300 of the teachers, students, and staff. Ms. Sauerbrey thinks the superintendent will move the schools to full remote learning for next week to get things in place for the testing. The Guthrie Clinic campus, which is near the schools, has offered to help with the testing. The state will provide the tests.

In addition to Waverly's designation, additional statewide actions were announced. Businesses with a license to sell alcohol (those with an SLA license,) are required to close at 10:00pm every night. Curbside pickup of food can continue past that time, but patrons inside must leave by 10:00pm. Bowling alleys and gyms also have to close at 10:00pm. And whether one is at home or in the community, social gatherings cannot exceed 10 people. All these were identified as larger sources of virus transmission.

Ms. Sauerbrey reiterated the health dept is doing the best they can. If you receive a call and are asked questions, please be polite. The workers are sharing as much information as they can within the restrictions of HIPPA laws. This virus is all over the area. She concluded the interview with a familiar refrain: wear

masks, wash hands, do not host or participate in large group gatherings. We can all play a part in bringing back our personal freedoms by practicing personal responsibility. This will help get things under control and lower the case numbers.

WEBO Morning Show
DATE: Nov. 13, 2020
TIME: 8:15am
RE: COVID-19/Education/Tioga County

While Tioga County Legislature Chairwoman Marte Sauerbrey visited the WEBO Morning Show just yesterday, Fridays have traditionally been her day to update listeners on what is going on with the county with respect to COVID-19 and other matters. Today, she explained that because of Waverly being classified with a "yellow zone" classification, there has been a "yellow team" put together to get things in place for Waverly especially with regards to the mandated 20% of school population testing. For students to continue physically being in school, this testing must take place, and the testing is very taxing on districts. Districts must secure a lab permit from the state, secure the tests, and secure personnel to administer those tests.

The biggest surprise (and latest news) is that late yesterday, the Owego-Apalachin Central School District made the decision to move to full 100% remote instruction starting today and running through Thanksgiving break. All afterschool activities have been canceled as well. This decision comes despite Owego not being designated a micro cluster zone. While the specific reason is unknown, Ms. Sauerbrey speculates there may be cases within the schools and that Superintendent Corey Green may be exercising caution and being proactive to curb the spread of coronavirus. It is important to remember Owego could end up in the yellow zone, and if so, the 20% testing rule comes into play, so perhaps the district is being proactive.

Ms. Sauerbrey says we are surrounded by yellow zones. Chemung and Broome counties have yellow zones. Their numbers are not dropping significantly. We are in the middle of this. We are in for the long haul. She encourages our wonderful community to do their best to step up, practice good health habits, and stay positive.

WEBO Morning Show
DATE: December 3, 2020
TIME: 8:15am
RE: Government/Economic Development/COVID-19

New York State Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul called in to the WEBO Morning Show for a brief conversation about her recent visit to our area. She toured Downtown Owego with Village Mayor Mike Barratta and Economic Development Director LeAnn Tinney and says she is very happy to see all the positive developments in the downtown area, citing two projects in particular. The first is the Coburn Free Library's construction of an elevator to make the building handicapped accessible. It had been discussed for decades to do so, and the funding was finally available to make the project happen. The other project discussed briefly was the buildings along Main Street that are undergoing improvements both to their interiors and their facades which makes a big impact compared to what they looked like before renovation. These buildings will become storefronts and living space. She says it is extraordinary that during the pandemic, projects are still able to go on. She also commented on visiting Downtown Norwich and was impressed with improvements there. She loves small businesses, loves to shop small businesses, and makes a point to do so when she visits these areas. She asks listeners to do the same, especially during the times of the pandemic to help the small businesses which are often the backbone of the small downtown areas.

Lt. Governor Hochul also touched briefly on COVID-19. While it was known the state would be in for a rough winter, unfortunately there are high infection rates. Overall, the Southern Tier's rate is 2%, but there are areas up to 5% which is concerning. She called out the Buffalo area--a month ago, it was 2%, now there are areas in the 8-9% range, threatening hospital capacity. The governor's office is happy there is a vaccine on the way and starting in the middle of the month, vaccinations will begin targeting the most vulnerable populations. Following that, the general population will be encouraged to get vaccinated.

WEBO Morning Show

DATE: Dec. 4, 2020

TIME: 8:15am

RE: COVID-19/Tioga County/Public Health

Chairwoman of the Tioga County Legislature Marte Sauerbrey resumed weekly updates on the COVID-19 pandemic within Tioga County. She reports good news that the vaccination program is underway. According to Gov. Cuomo, the vaccine will be released around the 15th of December and will go out to healthcare workers and nursing homes first. Ms. Sauerbrey says the county is planning how to distribute the vaccine in our county. There is a whole system of determining locations (pods,) and tracking the people who get the vaccines as there are two doses required. Of note is that the second dose received must be from the same brand of vaccine as the first dose. Outside help will be needed to pull this off

because it is such a large-scale undertaking. The rollout will take some time.

Nursing homes will make their own arrangements to distribute the vaccines since they are private businesses and not run by the county. Nursing homes are working with pharmacies to give the vaccine and are securing private nurses to help administer the vaccines.

Ms. Sauerbrey says the biggest challenge is storage of the vaccines which have to be stored in very cold locations. She feels confident there will be a solid plan, and everyone who wants to be vaccinated will eventually be able to do so. And we will stop the spread.

In other news, Ms. Sauerbrey reports that all week long, there has been a rapid testing site in Waverly. Because of the location, it has been roughly half New York and half Pennsylvania residents getting tested. Waverly is still in a yellow zone, and to get that designation removed, they must show a 10-14-day rolling average of under 3% or less.

Cuomo will be doing regular press conferences on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. With the holidays, he has expressed concern with "living room spread."

On police reform and reinvention. There is one more week for the survey on the Tioga County website: Tioga-county.ny.gov. People are encouraged to participate in this requirement from the governor. It is a two-step process. First is the survey followed by community conversations via zoom to talk about the policies of the sheriff's department. Members of law enforcement, including personnel such as the district attorney will be available to answer questions in these zoom sessions.

Last thing mentioned is the DMV is open! Individuals can go on the county website and make an appointment. There is an extension for expired licenses.

WEBO Morning Show

DATE: Dec. 10, 2020

TIME: 8:15am

Re: Health/Government

Town of Owego Supervisor Don Castellucci Jr. visited the WEBO Morning Show to discuss an upcoming event and the annual budget. First, he discussed his upcoming 24th annual blood drive held in honor of his parents. The blood drive will be held from 1:30pm to 6:30pm, Thursday, Dec. 17 at the Owego Elks Lodge on Front Street in Owego. To donate, one needs to make an appointment either redcrossblood.org or call 1-800 Red Cross. This year's drive will be a little different due to COVID. Instead of the spaghetti dinner people eat on site following their donation, it will only be available this year to go. Castellucci

explained that for every pint collected, it helps two people, and the blood is separated into plasma, red blood cells, and platelets. He is also collecting food for Tioga County Rural Ministry during the blood drive if people would like to donate non-perishable items.

The second part of his interview concerned the Town of Owego annual budget. Some highlights:

- *some benefits costs went up while others went down
- *there was a loss of 1.1 million in assessed value due to assessment challenges from some property owners, and the property owners won a lowered assessment.
- *people have concerns with the recycling costs and the cost of the new town offices, but the recycling is a county issue while the new town offices building is a town issue; one does not affect the other
- *department heads were asked to cut their budgets and they did a good job of that, thus benefiting the taxpayer.
- *wages for town personnel saw a 2.5 % increase. That was contracted.
- *for the fourth year in the row, the town has come in under the tax cap.
- *there was supposed to be mandate relief for municipalities, but the Town has seen nothing.
- *the changes made in lighting in the Town (buying new lights from NYSEG and changing to LED Bulbs,) has been beneficial and has shown a cost-savings.
- *the Long Creek Road bridge construction is just about finished. Other upcoming road projects were discussed along with costs and how much the Town was able to be reimbursed from FEMA as the reason for these projects was a result of excessive rainfall from 1-2 years ago.
- *the new Town of Owego building will be done hopefully within a few weeks and employees can move in. Included with the building is an area for a salt barn, coal storage and an area for year-round yard waste drop off.

WEBO Morning Show

DATE: December 11, 2020

TIME: 8:15am

RE: COVID-19/Recycling/Tioga County

Tioga County Legislature Chairwoman Marte Sauerbrey visited the WEBO Morning Show for her weekly update on the county. She reports the legislature is finishing up many projects that had to be addressed. We are still in the middle of COVID-19. She encourages people to live a smaller life, take precautions, sanitize your hands, wear a mask, and stay six-feet apart. Next week, the legislature will be passing the budget, and she will give its details next week.

Her biggest topic for the day is recycling. They have finalized the recycling

situation, and things have changed yet again. She refreshed listeners with the backstory. They had to go out to bid for a new recycling contract as the current one was expiring. When the bid came back, the cost was 103% more than the previous contract. Residents said they would be willing to pay more in their taxes for recycling. Doing so, however, would put the county over the 2% tax cap. A brief aside described the reason for the 2% cap. Governor Cuomo is trying to keep taxes lower in New York state for all municipalities. He has told them do not go up more than 2% in a year. If a municipality stays under the cap, it gets more funding, more grants, and more help from the state. If you go over the cap, you lose eligibility for state aid.

So, the deal now is trash haulers are required to pick up the recycling. At first, the county had two or three trash haulers, one went out of business, and now there are five haulers. Everyone must recycle. You are asked to reach out to a trash hauler and arrange for recycling pickup by calling either B&E Disposal, Taylor Garbage, Bert Adams, or RPM Group or Casella (which is more up north, they come in from Tompkins County.) The monthly cost will be \$7.00-\$12.00 depending on whether you have trash pickup. Recycling is also bi-weekly now as opposed to weekly.

Those who take their trash to Taylor's for drop-off and do not have curbside pickup with a hauler, will no longer be able to take their recycling there like they did previously. You must arrange for recycling to be picked up curbside. Ads will go out with information for people to call to arrange for recycling pickup.

WEBO Morning Show

DATE: December 18, 2020

TIME: 8:15am

RE: Tioga County/Weather/County Budget/COVID-19

Tioga County Legislature Chairwoman Marte Sauerbrey visited the WEBO Morning Show one day after the big snowstorm that left us with 40" of the white stuff on the ground. A State of Emergency was declared and is still in effect. The State Department of Transportation will work with the towns to clear snow. The backroads did not get addressed yesterday because plow drivers just could not get to them. Even 4-wheel drive vehicles are stuck, and plow driver themselves could not get to work in their own pickup trucks. The secondary roads are scheduled to be cleared today.

The 2021 budget passed for next year. It is an \$82.9 million-dollar operating budget with a tax levy increase of 1.19%. Five-million dollars was put in from the fund balance (reserve.) Ms. Sauerbrey reports the legislature is hopeful things will come back around next year (for example no cuts from the state and sales

tax revenue bouncing back.)

The New York State vaccination plan is underway. United Health Services will be the Southern Tier coordinator of the distribution. They will develop the guidance for distribution.

Ms. Sauerbrey concluded her interview by pleading with listeners that unless you absolutely must go to work, stay home & get yourself cleaned out from the snow.