

Issues Programs List

Quarterly Issues Programs List

Stations: WYRK, WMSX, WBUF, WBLK

July 1, 2023-September 30, 2023

Section I. Issues

The stations have identified the following topics as significant issues facing our community in this quarter:

- A. **Public Health.** COVID cases are on the rise in Western New York right now among the younger population. 73% of the population has been vaccinated including the latest booster, with the highest percent being in the 65 and older age group. That category is 95% vaccinated. There has also been a rise in RSV cases in the WNY area, mostly showing up in the 75 and up age group. This rise has been steady over the last month but is projected to dip back down now that there is a vaccine on the market that the community has access to.
- B. **Vaping.** Parents are looking for a way to stop teen vaping. According to a 2022 FDA study, more than 3 million middle and high school students have used tobacco products. Vaping has become all too common with teenagers, working its way into their daily routines.
- C. **Faith Based Initiatives.** There have only been seven priests ordained in the WNY area since the beginning of the year. The church and ministries are having a hard time with such a low number of men joining the priesthood and ultimately the clergy. They are trying to spread a new word on how the church and ministry has changed, changing the public's perception of clergy, explaining how to meet the needs of the church with dwindling numbers of priests entering seminaries, and how to reach congregations with literature and music.
- D. **Community Action Organization ("CAO").** It is reported that every day, 41% of Erie County households struggle to meet a basic household budget. The Community Action Organization of Western New York is a non-profit that serves thousands of individuals and families annually. We use our combined expertise to lead the charge on mitigating poverty throughout low-income communities within our area. They are located in the Buffalo Collegiate Charter School and focus on low-income individuals, families, and the entire Buffalo community to find the resources, tools, and support that is needed for each individual case.
- E. **Tourism.** After undergoing a remarkable transformation in recent years, the city of Buffalo, New York is a cultural hotspot. A major makeover is underway for the Niagara Gorge Discovery Center, which will soon change into the Great Lakes 360. This \$5 million dollar project is underway and expected to be able to debut in 2024. The Great Lakes 360 is supposed to be a living museum with wildlife from around the area.

Section II. Responsive Programs

Issues and Views is a 60 minute locally produced public affairs program that airs every Sunday on all four stations at the following times:

WYRK and WBLK at 6:30 a.m.
WMSX and WBUF at 6:00 a.m.

Date(s) Aired	Guests	Related Issues	Description of Program
7/9/23	Gary Siddall, President and CEO of The Aquarium of Niagara	Tourism, Employment, Sealife Education	The Aquarium of Niagara is a high-volume destination for both residents and tourists. Gary discussed the mission of the Aquarium, how exhibits are maintained and updated, the hiring and training of staff, care of the marine mammals, and the new Great Lakes 360 expansion and exhibit to debut in 2024.
7/16/23	Chelsea White – VP Chief of Education for the CAO of WNY	COA of WNY, Education, Community, Housing, Public Services	Chelsea gave a brief history of the Community Action Organization of WNY (established in 1965), its purpose and services and the need for teachers and educators and the benefits offered. Also discussed were the programs including Head Start/Early Head Start, Community Engagement, Housing Development, Emergency and Family Service and Senior Services and how they benefit the Buffalo community.
7/23/23	Dr. Danielle Smith and Jeanna Brinkworth, Roswell Park	Public Health, Teen Issues, Vaping, Cannabis, Tobacco Free WNY	Dr. Smith and Jeanna Brinkworth discussed smoking, tobacco, marijuana, and the impacts they can have on your health. They also discussed vaping and the impact it is having on the younger community along with those health impacts.
7/30/23	Joe DeMarco	Wings Flights of Hope, Community Resources, Financial Assistance, Medical Needs	Talked about “Wings” mission to provide free airfare (transport) to those in need medically, regardless of their financial ability. Twelve volunteer pilots, numerous airplanes that need support. August 5 th is the Wings Flights of Hope Fundraiser.
8/6/23	Mike Randall – Buffalo TV Personality	Buffalo History – A lookback at Buffalo Media	Buffalo TV personality Mike Randall’s career has spanned 40 years. Here is undoubtedly one of the most recognizable figures in local media. Mike is retiring in August, we discussed his time on the air, embarrassing moments, the movie based on Ch.7 “Bruce Almighty”, Mike’s appearances nationwide as Mark Twain, and more. An interesting retrospective on Buffalo media history.
8/13/23	Jessica Underberg CEO Erie Co Agricultural Society	Tourism, Local Events, Erie Co Fair	Talked with Jessica about this year’s Erie Co Fair; the planning, exhibits, food, volunteers. What goes into the 11 th largest Fair in the U.S. and what is NEW for 2023. This year’s Erie County fair attendance is down slightly from 2022, however there were still over one million in attendance. There was also a 46% increase in charitable giving.

8/20/23	Fr. Bill Quinlivan Buffalo Priest, Author, and Musician	Faith Based Initiatives	Talked about being a priest in today's world. How the church and ministry has changed. Some of the public's perception of clergy. How to meet the needs of the church with dwindling numbers of priests entering seminaries, and how to reach congregations with literature and music.
8/27/23	Steven Haagsma – Education Mgr. H.O.M.E.	Diversity, Housing Discrimination, Affordable Housing, Public Resources	H.O.M.E. (Housing Opportunities Made Equal) is a civil rights organization that believes everyone deserves fair and equitable housing. They serve all WNY with paralegal counseling for landlords and tenants to resolve disputes, as well as housing and human service information and referrals to clients, including renters, sellers, and homebuyers.
9/3/2023	O.J. McFoy - Chairperson Buffalo Water Board	Buffalo Water Supply, Infrastructure	With the aging infrastructure in our community, water is of major importance. We have one of the seven wonders of the world in our backyard but how SAFE is Buffalo's Water System. O.J. McFoy discussed the "Get Water Wise Buffalo Initiative" and who can apply for water bill assistance. Also, we discussed was the Lead Service Line Replacement.
9/10/23	Gwendolyn Bork, Founder and President of FOCUS	Crime, Health, Drug Abuse	Discussed the mission of FOCUS specifically for the Depew, Lancaster communities. Current drug trends and the concerns for youth, RX, and illicit drugs. The upcoming Community Impact Conference, 10/13/23 at Sto Lat and how to strategize making an impact in the community.
9/17/23	Ashley Carney Dir of Development, Tabitha Fisher, Dir of Program Services and Pat Watson, former Board Chair, Heart and Hands INC.	Faith Bases Initiatives, Public Assistance Programs, Elder Issues	Hearts and Hands was originally designed to provide escorted transportation to medical, wellness and social appointments of adults 60+ along with the disabled. It is a non-profit serving Erie and Niagara Counties, last year serving over 700 individuals with over 200 volunteers.
9/24/23	Dr. Joe Chow, President WNY Immediate Care	Public Health, COVID, Flu, RSV, Vaccines	Dr. Chow discussed the health concerns facing Western New Yorkers this Fall; including but not limited to COVID, Flu, and RSV. The new COVID vaccine, does it specifically target the latest version of COVID? What are the side effects? The Flu vaccine for the 2023-24 Season, and RSV, a relatively new vaccine for adults 60+.
10/1/23	Mike Randall – Buffalo TV Personality	Buffalo History – A lookback at Buffalo Media	Buffalo TV personality Mike Randall's career has spanned 40 years. Here is undoubtedly one of the most recognizable figures in local media. Mike is retiring in August, we discussed his time on the air, embarrassing moments, the movie based on Ch.7 "Bruce Almighty", Mike's appearances nationwide as Mark Twain, and more. An interesting retrospective on Buffalo media history.