

WWNY ISSUES – APRIL 2023

NOTE: Because of the extraordinary events of the last couple years, we are adding a separate category for COVID-19 coverage.

April 28, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy, Military – ReEnergy, Fort Drum’s biomass plant, confirms most of its workforce will be laid off as the state no longer considers it renewable energy. Story ran 0:30, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

April 27, Health Care, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Samaritan Medical Center is set to build a new 4-story office building to house 52,000 square feet of office space. Story ran 0:30, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

April 26, Military – People entering Fort Drum through gates will be counted as part of a Department of the Arm survey to better understand how many people access military installations each day. Story ran 0:45, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

April 25, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Workers at St. Lawrence University rallied with their union to improve under-staffing conditions and poor morale, asking for a \$2 per hour wage increase. Story ran 1:00, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

April 24, North Country Weather Events – Green Settlement Road in Adams Center has been the epicenter of a dozen earthquakes in the last 10 days. Students are getting hands on lessons and state work crews are inspecting. Story ran 2:00, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

April 21, Health Care, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Health care officials say they need more money from the state in Medicaid reimbursement to combat increasing costs, they say what is in the budget isn’t enough. Story ran 1:40, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

April 20, Health Care, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – St. Lawrence Health System says it is making progress towards a contract agreement with New York state Nursing Association represented nurses to improve conditions among staff. They offered wage increases for nurses among other things. Story ran 0:45, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

April 19, Taxes – After a state level decision to ban Native American names and mascots, area school district Indian River Central could see changes coming, after being home to the Warriors since the 1950’s. Story ran 1:45, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

April 18, COVID-19, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Rethinking the way leftover COVID relief money could be used may revamp parts of Lewis County, investing in vacant properties. Story ran 1:20, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

April 17, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – A long awaited construction project is set to begin on the courtroom at Watertown’s City Hall, the upgrades will include improved security, repairs to the roof, elevator and electrical systems. Story ran 1:00, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

April 14, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – A later tax deadline is being presented to residents and business owners in St. Lawrence County because the county declared a federal disaster after the Christmas weekend blizzard. The IRS allowed the deadline to be pushed back as a result. Story ran 1:00, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

April 13, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – A man who owns 5 properties in Ogdensburg shows what the city-wide reassessment means to him as an investor, worried the stress will be too much on renters. Story ran 2:00, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

April 12, Military – Fort Drum soldiers deployed to Poland had a visit from country singer Brad Paisley. Story ran 0:30, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

April 11, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Part of Watertown's \$3.6 million streetscape project is going towards reverse angle parking on the one-way road of Court Street. Drivers will have to get used to the new way of parking. Story ran 1:00, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

April 10, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Big changes are coming to Downtown Watertown as work on the city's \$3.6 million streetscape project continues. Story ran 1:30, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

April 7, Military, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Legislation has been pulled by Governor Kathy Hochul for the last minute attempt by lawmakers to keep Fort Drum's biomass plant ReEnergy open. Story ran 1:30, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

April 6, Health Care – Jefferson County is #1 in the state for a selfless statistic – organ donors. According to officials at the DMV, 73% of Jefferson County residents are registered organ donors with that number steadily increasing over time. Story ran 1:00, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

April 5, Military – An army reservist lost both of his legs more than a decade ago in Afghanistan. Now, he gets to hit the slopes at Dry Hill on Watertown for the first time since recovering. Story ran 1:30, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

April 4, Development of Energy in the North Country, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – The Village of Canton and the Town of Potsdam are teaming up to find cheaper power for residents, likely in the form of renewable energy. Story ran 1:20, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

April 3, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – The City of Watertown has hired a manager for the newly purchased Watertown Golf Course. He wants to put the controversy of the purchase behind him and get down to business. Story ran 1:30, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

WWNY ISSUES – MAY 2023

NOTE: Because of the extraordinary events of the last couple years, we are adding a separate category for COVID-19 coverage.

May 31, Military, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – A Watertown manufacturer has been awarded \$31 million to design and build a boat for the U.S. Coast Guard. Story ran 1:00, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

May 30, COVID-19, Health Care, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – A controversial COVID-19 vaccine mandate for health care workers is in the process of being repealed by the State Department of Health. Story ran 1:20, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

May 29, Military – Several communities and the American Legion posts around the North Country observed Memorial Day, honoring those who've served and fallen. Story ran 3:00, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

May 26, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – The Watertown Police Department is looking to fill 12 empty positions in the department. There's an upcoming exam for those interested in becoming a cop which the department encourages people to take to fill those positions. Story ran 1:30, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

May 25, Health Care – The American Red Cross is incentivizing blood donors to give a pint by offering vouchers for free ice cream at Stewart's Shops. Story ran 1:00, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

May 24, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Watertown City Council has voted in favor of paying for a new Flynn Pool, now they must decide whether to pay in cash from their dwindling savings account or bond for the cost. Story ran 1:30, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

May 23, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – The Watertown Farmers Market kicks off tomorrow and will run every Wednesday through October. Many area vendors will bring their wares and produce to sell. Story ran 1:00, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

May 22, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – The Thompson Park Golf Course is now accepting cash after conversations at city council discussed accessibility to the public includes different ways to pay. When the course opened, it originally took card payments only. Story ran 1:30, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

May 19, Health Care – North Country health departments have seen an uptick in Lyme Disease cases and public health officials are warning people to keep an eye out for ticks. Story ran 1:20, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

May 18, The Opioid Problem in the North Country – A December 2021 raid centered around smoke shops in the area. As a result, 13 felony counts for criminal possession of a controlled substance were given to 4 men as employees from several of these shops were arrested in the raids. Story ran 1:45, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

May 17, North Country Weather Events – A May frost swept the North Country, creating chilly conditions for many and their plants. Officials go over tips to ensure the plants many may have just planted can conquer the cold that came through. Story ran 1:30, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

May 16, North Country Weather Events, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Tourism officials say some area hotels are already booked up for an event in 2024 are people are coming from all over to Watertown to witness a total solar eclipse. Story ran 1:45, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

May 15, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Half a million dollars in state funding is headed to the Lewis County Humane Society after the shelter applied for a grant and learned they got it. The funds will be put towards rehab throughout the entire building, a new H-VAC system, laundry equipment and soundproofing. Story ran 1:00, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

May 12, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – House Republicans just passed a bill aimed at recovering billions of dollars in fraudulent federal and state unemployment benefits to incentivize the states to go after fraudsters. Story ran 1:00, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

May 11, COVID-19, Health Care – The COVID-19 Public Health Emergency ends today as the Biden Administration allowed the declaration to expire. Story ran 1:00, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

May 10, Health Care, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy, the Opioid Problem in the North Country – Two Watertown organizations that help with mental illness and substance abuse

disorders are merging as CREDO Community Center and Transitional Living Services of Northern New York made the announcement to do so. Story ran 1:00, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

May 9, Development of Energy in the North Country – A family is concerned after seeing National Grid has put up signs in their yard, indicating a new transmission line could go through their property and the forest that surrounds. Story ran 2:00, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

May 8, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Ogdensburg City Council meets to discuss whether the city should invest in two more school resource officers and redraw a new contract for the one already on payroll. This comes as the city is already on a hiring freeze. Story ran 1:30, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

May 5, COVID-19, Health Care – After 3 years, Samaritan Medical Center makes masks optional at most of its facilities. Story ran 1:00, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

May 4, Development of Energy in the North Country, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – A new wind farm in the Town of Lowville will bring millions of dollars to Lewis County over the next few decades. Story ran 1:00, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

May 3, Military - U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand is requesting a review of all aviation incidents which resulted in the loss of life or an aircraft after accidents in Alaska and Kentucky where 12 soldiers died as well as a crash in the Finner Lakes region of New York State where 3 National Guard officers passed. Story ran 1:00, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

May 2, Military – Fort Drum is 1 of 5 military installations that could soon have its own private company operating its dining facilities in a similar concept as college dining halls and offer familiar brands like Panera and Chick-Fil-A. Story ran 1:00, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

May 1, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – The Thompson Park Golf Course soft opened with fresh logos and new tee markers on the green. Despite the rain, many decided to get out and golf. Story ran 1:00, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

WWNY ISSUES – JUNE 2023

NOTE: Because of the extraordinary events of the last couple years, we are adding a separate category for COVID-19 coverage.

June 30, The Opioid Problem in the North Country – Drug raids in St. Lawrence County hit seven smoke shops, authorities look into what is happening, to include selling drugs to kids. Story ran 1:50, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

June 29, The Opioid Problem in the North Country – Numerous drug raids, dubbed Operation Trip Around the County, involved investigations into the illegal sale of marijuana and narcotics, many of which to underage people. Story ran 0:30, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

June 28, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Demolition is underway as crews tear down the former Greyhound Bus Station to make way for a new Taco Bell restaurant. Story ran 0:30, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

June 27, The Opioid Problem of the North Country, Health Care – Jefferson County Public Health issues a warning as there are 4 overdoses in the last 24 hours. None of them were fatal, the suspected substance was heroin mixed with Fentanyl, story ran 0:30, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

June 26, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Lewis County Fair officials are warning people that secondhand tickets for the fair’s concert are being sold online for \$120 when you can purchase them through the fair’s website for \$40. Fair leaders say there are plenty of tickets left available and to be weary not to be gouged on the internet. Story ran 1:00, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

June 23, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand has successfully advocated for funds to go to the North Country, creating a childcare facility in Ogdensburg which will provide childcare for 300 families with the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority. Story ran 1:40, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

June 22, Health Care, North Country Weather Events – State agencies are warning older adults to be prepared for high temperatures and excessive heat this summer as those in that demographic are at a higher risk for heat related illnesses. Story ran 0:45, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

June 21, Military, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy, Health Care – A new veterans center had a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony in Watertown. Its proximity to Fort Drum proving beneficial to many. Story ran 0:40, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

June 20, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – The Watertown Police Department and Jefferson County agencies are getting half a million dollars to help reduce violent crimes as part of the state’s “Gun Involved Violence Elimination” Initiative. Story ran 1:10, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

June 19, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – The Jefferson County Sheriff says nearly a quarter of a million dollars needs to be moved to allow inmates to be moved between jails. Story ran 1:45, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

June 16, The Opioid Problem of the North Country – A pair of traffic stops netted law enforcement three arrests along with thousands of doses of Fentanyl and other drugs. Story ran 1:00, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

June 15, Health Care – U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand introduced the National Agriculture Crisis Hotline Act to provide mental health and suicide prevention resources to those working in agriculture. Story ran 0:45, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

June 14, Military – On Flag Day, a wreath laying ceremony was held at Arlington National Cemetery to honor fallen heroes. Story ran 0:30, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

June 13, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Developer Mike Lundy is donating 43 acres of land to build buildings and parking lots for the proposed Thousand Islands Events Center in the Town of Watertown which will be home to a large sports complex. Story ran 1:00, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

June 12, The Opioid Problem in the North Country – A drug raid in Felts Mills lands authorities drugs, cash and two suspects, each charged with three counts of criminal possession of a controlled substance. Story ran 0:30, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

June 9, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – A legislator is calling on the St. Lawrence County Board to pay Ogdensburg its legal fees after a lengthy court fight over collecting the city’s delinquent property taxes. Story ran 1:30, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

June 8, North Country Weather Events, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Despite the smoky skies of the last couple days from Canadian wildfires, conditions cleared up for Riverfest tourism. Story ran 1:30, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

June 7, Military, North Country Weather Events – Due to poor air quality, Fort Drum warns many of its outdoor events and exercises can be canceled. Story ran 0:30, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

June 6, Health Care, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Lewis County first responders say they receive around 2,600 calls each year, but fear there aren't enough volunteers to answer all the calls. Legislators hope to fix that by earmarking \$300 thousand towards solving the problem. Story ran 1:30, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

June 5, Health Care – While on a call one day, a paramedic from Indian River noticed a lack of training in how to handle a patient with autism or special needs. The paramedic came up with a quick solution.

June 2, Military – The 1st Brigade Combat Team welcomes a new commander on post Friday as Colonel Daniel Kearney passed on the unit's colors to Colonel Brian Ducotehands. Story ran 1:10, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

June 1, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – The Johnson Newspaper Corporation, owner of the Watertown Daily Times, is cutting 20 jobs within its two divisions, cutting several vacated positions. Story ran 0:30, aired at 6 and 11 PM.