

**WTKO-CD
Oneida, NY**

**ISSUES/PROGRAMS LIST
1st Quarter ending
March 31, 2024**

It has been determined that the following issues of concern were addressed through programming directed to Oneida and Central New York:

- 1. Community event information**
- 2. Culture**
- 3. Education**
- 4. Public Safety and Health**

Program Title: Your Community Connection (locally produced)

Schedule: Sunday 6:00 am – 6:30 am

Dates: 1/1/2024 – 3/31/2024

Program Description: Your Community Connection keeps viewers informed of current and future scheduled events happening within the viewing area and also includes community and cultural events as well as information on upcoming courses for self-improvement and education.

Topics:

1/7/24: Believe 31 – Guest: Steve Yaciuk, President – Steve discussed that January is Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month, The main mission of Believe 31 is to provide support and assistance to cancer survivors. Believe 31 is named after the primary the primary roadway in Clay, Route 31. The organization aims to offer emotional, financial, and practical support to individuals and families affected by cancer. Through fundraising efforts, educational programs, and community outreach, Believe 31 strives to empower cancer survivors and promote awareness of the challenges they face. Their ultimate goal is to improve the quality of life for cancer survivors and ensure that they receive the necessary resources to thrive.

The Clay Volunteer Fire Department, an organization that helps firefighters battling cancer and their families, will be holding a cook-off and blood drive for the American Red Cross and fundraiser for Believe 31, on Saturday, 4/20/24 from 9am. – 2pm. Their website is: believe31.org.

1/14/24: Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways – Guest: Jamie Alvarez, Senior Director of Marketing & Communications - Jaime spoke about this year's cookie program and how the money raised helps support local scouts. He also talked about all the different kinds of cookies, and also about the digital cookie online storefront. Each of the girls has an individual ordering making it very convenient for customers to order the cookies. They can be shipped for a fee immediately, or they can wait until local stock arrives at the end of February or the beginning of March. Cookies are just \$6 per package. 100% of the proceeds from the program stays to support future programming for members in the 26 New York counties served by GSNYPENN. Their website is: gsnypenn.org.

1/21/24: DAV (Disabled American Veterans) – Guest: Bill Gleason, Coordinator - Bill Gleason is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and a recruiter for the Central New York Chapter of the Disabled American Veterans. Bill spoke about how the DAV desperately needs more drivers to transport thousands of veterans each year to and from their appointments at the Syracuse VA Medical Center. Bill also spoke about being a Marine Master Gunnery Sergeant, who served both in Vietnam and in the 1991 Persian Gulf War. If any individuals can help with the DAV driver shortage, please call Bill Gleason at 315-425-4343. Their website is: dav.org.

1/28/24: United Health Care – Guest: Dr. Monica Murray, Doctor of Audiology - Dr. Monica Murray explained that approximately 48 million adults in the United States experience some degree of hearing loss. Researchers say half of people between the ages 12 to 35 are at risk of hearing loss due in part to exposure to loud sounds, including music pumped through personal audio devices. Hearing loss is already a problem among older people, with the condition now experienced by one-third of Americans between 64 and 75. Helping people maintain or improve their hearing health can help them enhance their overall well-being and reduce their risks of falls and health conditions associated with untreated hearing loss, such as social isolation and depression. United Healthcare has collaborated with a national nonprofit, Wish of a Lifetime, to launch a public awareness campaign to let people know how they can protect their hearing. Dr. Murray cautions the audience that consistent exposure to loud sounds, and exposure to a single loud sound, can contribute to hearing loss, which if left untreated may increase the risk of health conditions such as dementia. She also reminds people to limit the use of earbuds and wear earplugs if exposure to loud sounds is unavoidable. Also, Dr. Murray reminds everyone to eat a healthy diet to provide your ears with nutrients, and please get tested and use hearing aids if you feel that you may have hearing loss. Their website is wishofalifetime.org.

2/4/24: Erin's Angels of CNY, Inc. – Guest: Sheila Dion, Founder/President – Sheila spoke of Erin's Angels purpose is to ease the worry for students who suffer from hunger. The food pantry inside the Phoenix School District honors 11-year-old Erin Maxwell, a former student who was left without food before she was killed by her step-brother. Sheila says she was inspired to start a charity in Phoenix NY after experiencing first-hand the hunger issues when she worked for the school district. She believes that when people come together to share their time, talent, and resources they can build stronger communities, so she started a networking for good event that meets four times a year. We talked about events including their biggest fund raiser the Purple party 2024, including a Chili Cook off. At this event, expect food, music, vendors, and entertainment to raise money for the Scholarship programs and awareness about childhood hunger. Their website is: erinsangels.com.

2/11/24: Helping Hounds Dog Rescue – Guest: Esther Escobar, Programs Manager – Esther discussed how Helping Hounds Dog Rescue provides a compassionate approach to dog rescue by matching homeless dogs from overcrowded shelter systems with loving homes. Their journey began in 2008 when a group of like-minded citizens came together to save a mother beagle and her pups from euthanasia. Today, they are able to successfully place over 1,700 dogs annually into loving homes. The Human Dog Sled Race is 2/18/24 at Syracuse's Inner Harbor benefiting Helping Hounds. They are looking for volunteers and ask for individuals to visit the volunteer page of our website for more information. We discussed donations. Whether you provide an item from their wish list or make a monetary contribution, attend fundraisers or purchase HHDR merchandise, your support makes it possible for them to step in and bring hope where there was none. It provides lifesaving medical intervention when they receive a dog who has a treatable illness or injury. It allows us to seek specialized training for those who need a little help learning their manners. Their website is: helpinghoundsdogrescue.org

2/18/24: Elmcrest Children's Center – Guest: Patrick Casey, Executive Vice President of Programs for Elmcrest – Patrick discussed that Elmcrest is a community of caring professionals providing services to children with a variety of emotional, behavioral, and developmental limitations in order to help them overcome barriers to success in their homes, in their schools, and in their communities. Also, Elmcrest is at the helm of a Children's Mental Health Respite Program to house children in crisis and provide support for their families. They are well on their way to their funding goal, but they need everyone's help to complete this critical project. If you can help, please provide your support through their website: elmcrest.org/notalone

2/25/24: Safe Space Organization – Guest: Tracy Mergler Dando, Founder & Director - Tracy tells us that Safe Space Organization is a non-clinical, community safe space that strives to change the conversation around mental health by educating, connecting, and supporting others through a peer-to-peer network.

Safe Space CNY strives to provide a respite, safe, and peaceful place to breathe for individuals, as well as to educate and empower those individuals on how to self-manage their mental health through creative outlets and traditional means by connecting them to community resources and other community members.

Tracy says they are working to become a community hub of services that partners with other local medical facilities, treatment centers, not-for-profits and businesses to provide the best options for community members. Their website is: safespacecny.com

3/3/24: The Haven at Skanda – Guest: Ellen Beckerman, Executive Director - The Haven at Skanda is a non-profit farm animal sanctuary in Cazenovia that cares for rescued animals and some endangered breeds. Executive Director Ellen Beckerman spoke to us about the many programs at Skanda and what individuals can do to help. The Haven at Skanda’s work is made possible by generous donations from the community, and are fully tax-deductible. Making a financial donation to The Haven at Skanda is one of the most powerful ways to make an immediate difference in the life of a rescued animal and for the children who attend their programs.

Skanda also offers programs for Veterans, survivors of intimate partner violence, people experiencing grief and loss, and anyone seeking a connection with animals and nature. Their website is: TheHavenAtSkanda.org

3/10/24: Arise, Inc. – Guest: Tania S. Anderson, Chief Executive Officer – Tania began by telling us that Arise Inc is a non-profit, community-based Independent Living Center, and that it all started in 1979 to address the social, educational, economic and individual interests of people with disabilities. Arise, Inc. works with people of all ages with all types of disabilities, their families, and the community. Offices are located in a five-county area of Central New York. Tania talked about the importance of independent living, how the recent pandemic has shown us as to just how important independent living is. We talked about the over 50 different programs and services offered to those with disabilities, and/or severe chronic health condition. Individuals are encouraged to donate directly through their website: ariseinc.org

3/17/24: Central New York SPCA – Guest: Troy Waffner, CEO – Troy told us that since its formation in 1891, the Central New York SPCA has dealt with the issues of animal neglect and cruelty. The founders began this organization because of the mistreatment of the mules pulling barges on the Erie Canal. We spoke in depth about the SPCA and how they provide many services for the animals in our area, including adoption, education, and investigation. Troy discussed about all of the different services provided by the SPCA including a Pet Food Pantry, and we also spoke about fundraising efforts and the adoption process for the animals as pets. Their website is: cnyspca.org

3/24/24: Longhouse Council, BSA (Boy Scouts of America) – Guest: Edwin Theetge, Scout Executive/CEO - Edwin spoke about scouting in general, and how young ladies now make up 10% of membership. There was an in depth conversation

regarding the upcoming 56th annual ScoutPower event May 1' 2024 at the SRC Arena & Events Center at Onondaga Community College. The keynote speaker will be Col. Eileen Collins, the first female space shuttle pilot and first woman Mission Commander in NASA history. Part of the presentation will be the continuing appeal to send kids to camp followed by a discussion of the various camps available. We also discussed how scouting helps with lifetime goals, and how to get involved. For more information, their website is: cnyscouts.org

3/31/24: The Salvation Army of Syracuse – Guest: Deanna Delmonico, Public Relations Manager – Deanna discussed how The Salvation Army of Syracuse continues to provide services to some 35,000 Onondaga County residents, 365 days a year, from babies to seniors. She filled us in on 2024 being the Salvation Army's busiest year so far, and that an extremely popular fundraiser, “The Turn-Around Jumpers” is coming back after a few years hiatus. For more information on the Turn-Around Jumpers Basketball Tournament on June 15, 2024, and to volunteer, please go to their website: sasyr.org. Also, their greatest need right now is food, so please help and volunteer if you can.