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Midcoast Maine's Only Daily Newspaper

WHPW radio to begin airing original shows

BY NATHAN STROUT
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HARPSWELL

After four years of preparation, Harpswell Community Radio is finally ready to start airing original programming.

“We’d planned (on airing original programming) on Jan. 23, but we had some problems with our automation system design, which is all resolved now,” said WHPW President John Halpin.

Just last month, the station received its operating license from the Federal Communications Commission. He expects original programming to begin airing in mid-February, with at least one live show beginning after Feb. 17.

So far, locally hosted programs range from music to a live morning talk show.

Bill Audette will bring his program, titled “The Night Train Show,” to the Harpswell radio waves, which he described as “basically the history of rock ’n’ roll.”

Audette, a retired math teacher from the Brunswick school system, said it was his students who first encouraged him to host a radio show at WBOR at Bowdoin College. Now, he’s bringing a number of 30-minute, pre-recorded shows to WHPW. Each show will focus on a distinct period of rock ’n’ roll.

“I try to present this radio show as if it were a 1960s AM radio show — in other words, hyped up,” said Audette.

Starting later this month, Richard Kazimer will be hosting “The Ear View,” a live morning talk show with some pre-recorded interviews airing weekdays 8-10 a.m.

“What it’s going to be is kind of a news talk, and also my witty observations on life. But the primary focus is going to be on the local community of the Midcoast area — the people that are making things happen,” said Kazimer, who also sits on the WHPW board.

“It’s all about the community. The radio stations in the area, even the local radio stations, cannot do that,” he said. “They can’t risk just focusing on the Midcoast, or Greater Harpswell and Brunswick, because there’s no profit in it. But we can because we don’t need to make a profit, and that’s the great thing about it.”

Halpin himself expects to contribute some original content, and plans to create a number of audio documentaries later this year.

Beyond the original shows, Halpin is looking to bring some syndicated programming to the station. The key for Halpin is to bring shows that aren’t aired anywhere else in Maine. One program that he’s excited to bring back is “The Humble Farmer,” which he believes hasn’t been on the Maine airwaves for years.

Even after finally getting their shows on air, the work isn’t over for the WHPW crew.

“We are actively pursuing a permanent studio space,” said Halpin. “That’s our next project after we actually get some local programming worked into our schedule.”

Coming to radio

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