

Problems and Issues ascertained by WFRM are addressed daily and weekly through a series of local newscasts, public service announcements, editorials and special public affairs programs. These include the following:

AG RADIO NETWORK FARM NEWS: 6:00 a.m., Monday through Saturday

AG RADIO NETWORK CONSUMER NEWS: 12:06 p.m., Monday through Friday  
8:00 a.m., Saturday

LOCAL NEWS: 7:28, 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m., Monday through Friday

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS: Included in Daily Local Newscasts

LINCOLN RADIO JOURNAL: 9:00 a.m., Sunday

RADIO PA ROUNDTABLE: 9:30 a.m., Sunday

LEGISLATIVE REPORT with STATE REP. MARTIN CAUSER: 10 a.m., Sunday

**LIST OF COMMUNITY PROBLEMS and ISSUES**  
**April 01 to June 30, 2023**

**1. ECONOMIC:**

- a. Local retail base is dying or being replaced by corporate chain stores
- b. Lack of good paying jobs, especially for new graduates, outmigration
- c. Lack of job opportunities in general, except for a few select industries

On the plus side...drilling for natural gas has created numerous new jobs and opportunities. The local hospital, a carbon manufacturer, telemarketing firm and regional cable company have also contributed with continued and new employment positions. County government has signed on to support revitalization efforts in area communities.

**2. TAXES:**

- a. Excessive property taxes due to ever-increasing school budgets
- b. Large amounts of state land removed from the tax base

On the plus side...county commissioners have formed a growing regional coalition to lobby state legislators for increased payment-in-lieu of taxes for the large amounts of state land which is tax-exempt and puts additional pressure on local property owners. Their efforts have paid off in part with an increase in the PILT, though funding of ever-increasing school budgets remains a challenge for local property owners.

**3. SOCIAL:**

- a. Drug and alcohol abuse and its negative consequences on society, most notably the opioid abuse crisis that continues unabated.
- b. Lack of recreation and opportunities for young people
- c. Local organizations struggle with lack of volunteers and members

On the plus side...county commissioners and the local judicial board have created award winning programs to address and provide treatment and early-intervention for drug and alcohol offenders, for fathers and for women who have entered the justice system. Local law enforcement officials and drug & alcohol specialists continue to hold a series of meetings to inform and educate the public on the opioid epidemic afflicting area counties.

#### 4. ENVIRONMENTAL:

- a: Concerns that fracking and related gas & oil industry activities may pollute the ground water supply.

On the plus side...several local conservations groups have formed and are working together to monitor water sources for changes, pollution and water quality countywide, creating a data base for users and developers.

#### 5. GOVERNMENT:

- a: Zoning and planning for development while maintaining rural roots

On the plus side...county commissioners have been fiscally responsible in maintaining and improving services by utilizing available technology, creative solutions to problems through outreach and inter-agency cooperation and streamlining local government operations, all with a minimal increase in taxes.

#### 6. HUMAN SERVICES:

- a: Many low income and elderly citizens continue to lag behind

On the plus side...county commissioners have worked to develop and advance services for veterans, transportation options have improved and senior centers are thriving with activities for the elderly.

#### 7. HEALTH and SAFETY:

- a: West Nile virus, Lyme disease prevalent across rural north central PA.
- b: Poor roads and bridges always a concern for motorists

On the plus side...several area hospitals and clinics provide a wide variety of health-care services. Health insurance has become more available and affordable as a result of the ACA. PennDot infrastructure spending has increased with more roads and bridges being repaired or replaced.

#### 8. EDUCATION:

- a: State and federal mandates stretch and burden school district budgets and staff

On the plus side...local education council in conjunction with area technical school and universities provides a wide array of educational and learning opportunities, credits and degrees for students from high school through adult. Local hospital is also the site of an intern program for medical students, in cooperation with a regional university. Efforts continue to bring a rural regional college to northern Pennsylvania.

## ***Lincoln Radio Journal*** **2023 Q2 Program Notes**

(June 24, 2023 - June 30, 2023) This week on *Lincoln Radio Journal*: **David Taylor** hosts a *Capitol Watch* roundtable discussion with **Rebecca Oyler** from the Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association and **Stephen Bloom** of the Commonwealth Foundation on the state response to the I-95 bridge collapse, and they provide an update on the state budget deliberations; And, **Lowman Henry** has a *Town Hall Commentary* on the Left's tactics of protest and name calling.

(June 17, 2023 - June 23, 2023) This week on *Lincoln Radio Journal*: **Lowman Henry** has a *Newsmaker* interview with State Representative **Dawn Keefer** (R-York) about Freedom Caucus members challenging the University of Pittsburgh over experimental gender reassignment procedures on children; **Frank Gamrat** and **Eric Montarti** have an *Allegheny Institute Report* on Marcellus Shale revenue flowing into county and municipal coffers; And, **Ashley Klingensmith** from Americans for Prosperity-PA has a *Lincoln Radio Journal* commentary on how prosperity for all is possible.

(June 10, 2023 - June 16, 2023) This week on *Lincoln Radio Journal*: **David Taylor** hosts a *Capitol Watch* roundtable discussion on the 2023 Pennsylvania state budget negotiations with **Rebecca Oyler** from the Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association and **Stephen Bloom** of the Commonwealth Foundation; And, **Lowman Henry** has a *Town Hall Commentary* on the 30-year anniversary of the Lincoln Institute.

(June 3, 2023 - June 9, 2023) This week on *Lincoln Radio Journal*: We have the second in a two-week *Focus on Education Freedom* with **Lowman Henry** getting details of the proposed Lifeline Scholarship Program from State Senator **Judy Ward** (R-30); **Joe Geiger** has **Frank Gamrat** from the Allegheny Institute in the *Community Benefit Spotlight* discussing the impact of a court ruling Pennsylvania's public education funding unconstitutional; And, **Ashley Klingensmith** from Americans for Prosperity-PA has a *Lincoln Radio Journal* commentary on wins for education freedom across the nation.

(May 27, 2023 - June 2, 2023) This week on *Lincoln Radio Journal*: We begin a two-week *Focus on Education Freedom* with **David Taylor** from the Pennsylvania Manufacturers Association joined by **Melissa Morgan** from the National Federation of Independent Business; and **Stephen Bloom** of the Commonwealth Foundation having a *Capitol Watch* discussion on the basics of school choice; And, **Lowman Henry** has a *Town Hall Commentary* on parents demanding a bigger say in what is being taught to their children.

(May 20, 2023 - May 26, 2023) This week on *Lincoln Radio Journal*: **Lowman Henry** talks with **Kevin Shivers** from the Pennsylvania Association of Community Bankers about the impact of proposed new regulations on small business loans; **Frank Gamrat** and **Eric Montarti** have an *Allegheny Institute Report* on funding challenges for the state's mass transit systems; And, **Ashley Klingensmith** from Americans for Prosperity-PA has a *Lincoln Radio Journal* commentary on the need for a new comprehensive border security policy.

(May 13, 2023 - May 19, 2023) This week on *Lincoln Radio Journal*: **David Taylor** from the Pennsylvania Manufacturers Association is joined by **Rebecca Oyler** from the Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association and **Stephen Bloom** of the Commonwealth Foundation for a roundtable discussion on results of the Lincoln Institute's *Spring 2023 Keystone Business Climate Survey*; And, **Lowman Henry** has a *Town Hall Commentary* on whether state universities are educational institutions or woke factories.

(May 6, 2023 - May 12, 2023) This week on *Lincoln Radio Journal*: **Lowman Henry** gets an overview of the upcoming May Primary election from **Chris Nicholas** of Eagle Consulting; **Joe Geiger** has Dr. **Matthew Hurford** of the UPMC Health Plan in the *Community Benefit Spotlight* to discuss Mental Health Awareness Month; And, **Ashley Klingensmith** from Americans for Prosperity-PA talks about policies needed to restore the American Dream.

(April 29, 2023 - May 5, 2023) This week on *Lincoln Radio Journal*: **David Taylor** from the Pennsylvania Manufacturers Association hosts a *Capitol Watch* roundtable discussion on how to make Pennsylvania's business climate more predictable and business friendly with **Stephen Bloom** of the Commonwealth Foundation and **Melissa Morgan** from the National Federation of Independent Business; And, **Lowman Henry** has a *Town Hall Commentary* on the nation's energy collision course.

(April 22, 2023 - April 28, 2023) This week on *Lincoln Radio Journal*: **Lowman Henry** talks with **Jonathan Williams** from the American Legislative Exchange Council about the newly-released *Rich states/Poor States Report*; **Frank Gamrat** and **Eric Montarti** have an *Allegheny Institute Report* on the latest jobs numbers; And, **Ashley Klingensmith** from Americans for Prosperity-PA has a *Lincoln Radio Journal* commentary on the proposed Lower Energy Costs Act

(April 15, 2023 - April 21, 2023) This week on *Lincoln Radio Journal*: **David Taylor** from the Pennsylvania Manufacturers Association hosts a *Capitol Watch* look at state energy policy with **Rebecca Oyler** from the Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association and **Stephen Bloom** of the Commonwealth Foundation; And, **Dr. Paul Kengor** from the Institute for Faith & Freedom at Grove City College has a *Lincoln Radio Journal* commentary on Freedom of Speech at the University of Pittsburgh.

(April 8, 2023 - April 14, 2023) This week on *Lincoln Radio Journal*: **Lowman Henry** gets results of the 2023 Pennsylvania Leadership Conference Straw Poll from **Scott R. Davis** of the Pennsylvania Leadership Council; **Joe Geiger** has **Gillian Byerly** from Girls on the Run in the *Community Benefit Spotlight*; And, **Ashley Klingensmith** from Americans for Prosperity-PA has a *Lincoln Radio Journal* commentary on fighting the rising urban crime rate.

(April 1, 2023 - April 7, 2023) This week on *Lincoln Radio Journal*: **David Taylor** from the Pennsylvania Manufacturers Association hosts a *Capitol Watch* roundtable discussion on Pennsylvania's jobs recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic with **Rebecca Oyler** from the Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association and **Stephen Bloom** of the Commonwealth Foundation; And, **Jonathan Williams** from the American Legislative Exchange Council has a *Lincoln Radio Journal* commentary on politically-motivated pension fund investing.