

WGTH ISSUES & PROGRAMS LIST

THIRD QUARTER 2020

JULY – SEPTEMBER

IMPORTANT ELECTION INFORMATION

This Presidential election year has generated an unprecedented interest from current and prospective voters, news media, and other observers. The federal ballot, in Virginia, has a contested Senate seat and an uncontested Congressional seat – in addition to – the Presidential and Vice Presidential tickets. Furthermore, there are two proposed amendments to the Constitution of Virginia. In Tazewell County, there are town elections in five locations and an advisory referendum, as well.

As often occurs in a Presidential election year, there has been an upsurge in voter registration and participation. Although this trend occurred in 2016, this year's has been unmatched. Application requests for voter registration and absentee mail-in ballots have exceeded all prior records.

The Commonwealth of Virginia has had more than 60 proposed changes in election laws, most of which have passed. Although not all of these changes will occur in the current election year, there are some very significant ones that are now in effect. Some of the new laws have created major changes in the way Virginians can vote. Lack of information and numerous occurrences of misinformation have caused widespread confusion among voters. Moreover, social media and political party involvement has run high and has caused additional bewilderment among the electorate.

The Tazewell County Office of Voter Registration and Elections has received a barrage of phone calls asking for information and clarifications regarding what voters have heard, or think they have heard, regarding various aspects of the upcoming election and changes in election procedures. WGTH has and will continue to assist the Tazewell County Director of Elections and his staff in making known the correct information regarding elections.

Program: Prerecorded interview

Date/Time: September 4, 2020 @ 11:45 am

Duration: 7 minutes 10 seconds

Guest: Brian Earls, Director of Elections and General Registrar for Tazewell County

Program: Prerecorded interview

Date/Time: September 16, 2020 @ 11:31 am

Duration: 20 minutes

Guest: Brian Earls, Director of Elections and General Registrar for Tazewell County

Program: Prerecorded interview

Date/Time: September 17, 2020 @ 7:06 pm

Duration: 26 minutes 8 seconds

Guest: Brian Earls, Director of Elections and General Registrar for Tazewell County

Important election information was discussed in three interviews with Brian Earls, Director of Elections and General Registrar for Tazewell County. Although there was some repetition of the most impacting election law and procedural changes, a wide variety of topics was covered in the three interviews. Considering the fact that there would be a significant number of first time voters, some of the basic voter information was presented. Additionally, various deadlines were announced.

Many of the topics chosen were in response to the most frequently asked questions by Tazewell County voters at the Office of Voter Registration and Elections. Other topics were in anticipation of new laws with which most voters would not be familiar. Several of the new laws have potential to generate confusion and require clarification.

Some of the topics included:

- *Virginia's new "no excuse" voting that began on September 18th 45 days prior to the November 3rd election. Prior to this change, voters had to have an excuse to vote absentee in-person or by mail.
- *The requirement for a photo ID was abolished. However, an ID is still required and it must have the voter's name and address. Other details regarding ID information was given.
- *What is on the ballot for this election was stated and the fact that there were so many items that the ballots had to be on 11" x 14" paper this time was mentioned.
- * It was pointed out that ballots that include town elections have several of their items on the back and must be voted on both sides before surrendering the ballot into the scanner.
- *The suggestion was made that it would be wise for voters to be familiar with the two proposed Virginia Constitutional Amendments beforehand.

Otherwise, it may take a lot longer to vote. This, also, applies to the Tazewell County Advisory Referendum.

*The Tazewell County Office of Voter Registration and Elections has moved out of the Tazewell County Courthouse since the election last November. Because the office is in a new location several miles away, both the move and the new address were highlighted in discussion.

*The office in North Tazewell will be open weekdays, starting September 18th, and the last two Saturdays in October, from 8 am until 4 pm.

*Absentee mail-in ballots no longer require a witness.

*Deadlines for voter registration and absentee ballot requests were announced.

*Voters that had requested absentee mail-in ballots but changed their minds and wanted to vote in-person were reminded that they had to surrender the ballot that was mailed to them. Further explanation was given.

Program: News bytes

Date: September 18, 2020

Duration/Times: 1 minute 7 seconds @ 7:35 am /49 seconds @ 8:35 am

Guest: Brian Earls, Director of Elections and General Registrar for Tazewell County

On the morning of September 18, 2020, voters were reminded that this was the first day of Virginia's new early voting. That being said, voters were warned that coming in to vote on this day could mean there would be some waiting involved. The new office location was given as a reminder to those who may not realize the office was no longer in the Tazewell County Courthouse as it had always been.

RELAY FOR LIFE & BATTLING CANCER

Cancer has remained a fierce enemy despite the many advances made in treatment and prevention. Although patients are declared “cancer free” in victorious situations, there are so many that have received treatments only to learn that their cancer has returned in a raging fury. Research continues and new treatments and medications are prescribed; but the battle is far from over and the cost is very great.

Program: Prerecorded interview

Dates/Times: September 4 @ 11:30 am & September 14 @ 2:05 pm

Duration: 14 minutes 2 seconds

Guest: Amber Johnson, Event Lead for the Relay for Life of the Clinch River Valley

Due to COVID-19, this year’s Relay for Life would look a lot different according to the event lead, Amber Johnson. Rather than succumb to the devastating effects of the virus on such a crucial activity, Amber decided to make the best out of a difficult situation. Although the event was scaled-down significantly from years past, creative thinking made the event successful, howbeit a fraction of the desired monetary goals for most local Relay for Life events.

Amber shared some of the history of the Relay for Life event. In 1985, a doctor by the name of Gordy Klatt wanted to raise money for his local American Cancer Society office. He did it by having people sponsor him and others he encouraged to run with him. The event was such a huge success that the American Cancer Society modified it to become the community event that began the Relay for Life as we know it today. It is the chief fundraiser for the American Cancer Society.

The Relay for Life of the Clinch River Valley unites those involved from both Tazewell and Russell counties. Amber has been involved for 14 years and has been event lead since 2013/2014. She said

her motivation was that the event was for a good cause, it was fun, and it provided a way to give back to her community. The most compelling reason came five years ago when a very good friend was lost to breast cancer.

Amber said Virginia Tech was a huge regional supporter of the Relay for Life. Typically, the Clinch River Valley event is held at the Southwest Virginia Community College that serves both Tazewell and Russell counties and is very community-oriented. Amber gave a summary of the activities that take place there, annually, including the walk around the track (because cancer never stops), the survivor walk, and the luminaria ceremony. After working hard to raise money all year, Relay for Life teams gather there and participate with anyone in the community who care to join in the activities.

Relay for Life raises around \$100 million a year for the American Cancer Society and it all goes toward cancer research, according to Amber. She, sadly, said that this year's projections were hopeful for 50% of the fundraising goals due to COVID-19. Amber stated that the pandemic had made it difficult to raise funds, because the virus had taken attention off of other health threats (such as cancer) and threatened the finances of many who would have contributed.

This year, Amber explained, would be a little different. This year's theme for Virginia is "Virginia Unites – Light the Fight." The week of celebration of the Clinch River Valley Relay for Life would be September 20 – 26, 2020. Prior to Sunday, September 20th, neighborhood luminaria would be sold for \$10. Participants were to set them out in front of their homes and light them at 7:30 pm on Sunday night. Another fundraiser that Amber described was "Paint the CRV Purple." Purple ribbons were being sold to be displayed at homes and businesses during the entire week. Finally, "The Parade of Hope" would be Saturday, September 26th, to celebrate and honor survivors. There would be a sign up and line up at Richlands High School at 1:30 pm that

afternoon. The parade is to start at 2 pm and go throughout the town of Richlands. Amber encouraged listeners that are cancer survivors to ride in the parade. For everyone else, she suggested that they make signs and cheer for the survivors.

Program: News bytes

Guest: Amber Johnson, Event Lead for the Relay for Life of the Clinch River Valley

Dates, times, and durations are included below.

September 8, 2020, @ 7:40 am, 50 seconds

- The American Cancer Society's purpose and this year's particular need/General information/Luminaria and Purple ribbons as fundraisers

September 8, 2020, @ 8:40 am, 1 minute 58 seconds

- Specifics regarding the sales and display of luminaria and purple ribbons

September 14, 2020, @ 7:40 am, 1 minute 33 seconds

- The Parade of Hope/Invitation for survivor participation and for supporters to line the streets and give encouragement and show love for the participants

September 18, 2020, @ 7:40 am, 44 seconds

- Summary of the Relay for Life of the Clinch River Valley Week (9/20 – 9/26)

September 18, 2020, @ 8:40 am, 1 minute 2 seconds

- Ways to get in touch, including Facebook, phone numbers, and email for Amber Johnson, locally, and Erika Newberry at the closest American Cancer Society office

PRAYERS ARE NEEDED FOR OUR COUNTRY

Peaceful demonstrations have been turning violent. Citizens are being beaten and property destroyed. Hatred toward police and others has gotten completely out of control. Portions of urban cities have been overtaken and “new countries” established on real estate that was commandeered by terrorists of sorts. Uncommon unrest has taken the United States by a storm. The demeanor of our nation, in general, has become cold and hostile.

Peace-loving and compassionate people with an impassioned desire to return to calm, stability, and commonsense see prayers – along with venerable behavior – as the only viable answers to the nation’s turmoil and chaos. Personal responsibility, if people wish to become part of the answer, requires that individuals treat others with the same kindness, consideration, and respect with which they would like to be treated. That others-oriented kind of thinking coupled, more importantly, with a favorable response from the loving Almighty God to prayers for peace is what many consider to be the only hope for the United States.

Program: Prerecorded interview regarding “The First Annual TriCities Prayer Walk”

Dates/Times: August 28, 2020 @ 11:32 am; September 9, 2020 @ 2:06 pm; September 15, 2020 @ 7:06 pm

Duration: 18 minutes

Guests: Brandon Curtis, evangelist and former pastor, and Joel Horn, Pastor of The Anchor at Soul’s Harbor (a local church)

In a prerecorded interview, Brandon Curtis explained that he has been concerned about the nation and our area, as well. He felt an urgency to take action and has been encouraged by others to do so. Brandon reached out to some area pastors to assist him in this endeavor. Joel Horn, pastor of The Anchor at Soul’s Harbor, expressed a similar

deep-rooted concern. Together, they have planned and scheduled the “First Annual TriCities Prayer Walk” to be held on Saturday, September 19, 2020, in Bristol, Virginia. It will begin and end at Cumberland Square Park and travel down State Street. Following the prayer walk, there will be a service at Cumberland Park with a message and music around 5 p.m. The event was, strategically, planned in conjunction with the race weekend in Bristol. Social distancing will be required and masks should be worn. Brandon said the Bristol police have been very cooperative and supportive.

Walkers will pray, silently, for the hope and peace that Brandon and Joel say this nation needs to humbly request. With fervor, Brandon stated, “America needs missionaries.” Both men expressed the need to “unite on our knees.”

PROMOTION OF GOSPEL MUSIC

WGTH is a gospel music radio station and, as such, has numerous listeners that enjoy gospel music immensely. Gospel music artists depend, largely, on radio stations to let people hear their music and know where they will be singing in concerts. Promotion is key to help the industry thrive.

Program: Live interview regarding an upcoming concert at “The Promiseland” (a local, outdoor venue – exclusively for live gospel concerts)

Date/Time: July 10, 2020 @ 12:30 pm

Duration: 26 minutes

Guests: Rodney Bledsoe – spokesman for the Bledsoes, and Barbara and JB Spencer – the Spencers

In a live interview, April Trent, announcer at WGTH, spoke with Rodney Bledsoe and JB and Barbara Spencer about their upcoming concert at “The Promiseland” that was scheduled to be the next evening at 6 p.m. In addition to discussing details about the concert, the three singers and musicians answered questions about their current music, popular songs of the past, their part in Southern Gospel music, and other topics.

PRESERVING AWARENESS OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Familiarity with national history – the people, places, and special events that contributed to the making of America – is crucial to establishing a sense of patriotic pride and correcting past mistakes. Highlighting some of the well-known, as well as the lesser-known, facts about United States history promotes an awareness of the things that unite the citizenry and reminds people of how much this nation has been blessed. Making observations about patriots of the past can inspire the current generation toward patriotism and encourage them to be good citizens.

Program/Duration: Brief segments about historic figures, places, and events in American history... averaging, approximately, 60 seconds

Dates/Times:

July 1, 2020 @ 6:55 am, 7:30 am, 3:30 pm, 4:45 pm, and 5:18 pm

July 2, 2020 @ 6:32 am, 7:30 am, 4:45 pm, 5:45 pm, and 6:45 pm

July 3, 2020 @ 6:55 am, 7:30 am, 8:55 am, 11:45 am, and 5:18 pm

July 4, 2020 @ 7:50 am, and 10:45 am

July 5, 2020 @ 7:30 am, and 8:48 am

July 6, 2020 @ 8:20 am, and 4:30 pm

Celebrating the birth of the United States of America should be special. Acknowledging the founders, highlighting important events, featuring outstanding citizens, pointing out familiar landmarks, etc. remind people of the greatness of this country and make us proud.

As part of the celebration of Independence Day, WGTH recorded special moments or people or places in American history. These brief tidbits were designed to be a little dramatic and captivating in order to spotlight their content. The intent was to both remember and to inspire.

PROMOTING TOURISM IN TAZEWELL COUNTY

Tazewell County is a wonderful place in which to live. The natural beauty is captivating, and there are plentiful opportunities for enjoyment of the great out-of-doors. Hiking, biking, ATV trail riding, boating and canoeing, hunting and fishing are just some of the adventures that are readily available in Tazewell County and in other nearby locations.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 made some of the opportunities a little less available... especially at the onset. As places have opened up, the outdoor activities have become very popular to those who know what is available and where. Possibly, the saddest part of Tazewell County tourism may be that some individuals and families have never taken advantage, or remain unaware, of the great adventure options they are missing. Occasionally, people just need reminders.

Program; Tazewell County Trivia

Dates/Time: July 21 – 23, and 27 – 30, 2020 at, approximately, 8:15 am

Duration: 30 – 45 seconds

This contest and the promotion of tourism it entailed served as a follow-up to an interview with A. J. Robinson, Tazewell County Director of Community Development and Tourism, from last quarter. Seven items promoting Tazewell County (a hat, t-shirts, coffee mugs,

and water bottles... that A. J. provided to WGTH) were given as contest prizes to the first caller with the correct answer. The question always required the identification of the location being described. Seven different opportunities for adventure – in Tazewell County – were described in some detail. Listeners were to give the name of the location when they called. The descriptions were intentionally written to persuade listeners of the reason for the popularity of the location that had been selected.

PROMOTION OF POPULAR AREA EVENTS

One of the major responsibilities of radio stations that serve a particular locality is to promote area events. Knowing where and when activities are going to occur is important to both the event organizers and those who would like to participate. Furthermore, economic benefits to the community or organization(s) involved are, frequently, associated with such events.

Program: Prerecorded announcements featuring information regarding all area fireworks displays

Dates/Times:

July 1, 2020 @ 6:32 am, 8:20 am, 9:05 am, 2:20 pm, 4:05 pm, 6:18 pm

July 2, 2020 @ 7:05 am, 7:58 am, 8:48 am, 4:18 pm, 5:18 pm, 8:05 pm

July 3, 2020 @ 6:32 am, 8:30 am, 12:45 pm, 3:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:06 pm

July 4, 2020 @ 7:38 am, 8:48 am, 10:20 am, 6:05 pm

Duration: Approximately 60 seconds

The announcement of the days and locations of the various fireworks displays are almost always important to the majority of the listeners. Several of the local communities stagger the days on which they set off their fireworks so that people have opportunities.