

WEZQ 3rd Quarter Community Issues Report

July 1 – September 30, 2019

The **WEZQ News Department** covers issues and community concerns during weekend programming with the Sunday morning show **Maine Concerns**. Our News Director is in regular contact with local, county, state and federal officials. In addition, community leaders and nonprofit organizations are contacted to determine what issues are of greatest concern to our listening audience.

The WEZQ community issues program, Maine Concerns, airs Sundays at 6:12 a.m. and some of our news stories are also posted on line on our website at 929theticket.com. Stories covered generally fall into the following categories:

Crime- WEZQ covers stories we think are important to Maine residents from drug trafficking to scams and security related issues. When necessary, we support efforts of law enforcement by releasing names and information pertaining to missing person's cases or searches. We're in regular contact with the Maine Public Safety spokesman, Maine Emergency Management Agency, and Maine Drug Enforcement Agency. We also cover marine crime related stories with information provided by U.S. Coast Guard and Marine Patrol.

Health- WEZQ covers a wide variety of health related stories and work with regional hospitals, the Maine CDC, and other organizations to get the word out about conferences, medical developments, viruses, and seasonal concerns like Lyme Disease or flu. Many of our stories dealing with public safety can be considered health related as well, citing our warnings about CO poisoning during power outages as one example.

Economy-The economic struggles faced by Maine and the nation continue to dominate our news coverage. We continue to report on laws and initiatives affecting the economy as it relates to municipal, state and federal programs and services. We report on training and development opportunities in the state as well as job fair activities.

Environment-Our environmental coverage spans a wide variety of stories to promoting public hearings such as the DEP hearings for the Juniper Landfill in Old Town, or the public hearings on the DCP Midstream proposed liquid propane tank in Searsport, to stories about necropsies on whales.

Education- WEZQ covers stories in Maine from school budgets to school safety initiatives. Stories about innovative college studies and research are also covered.

Community- WEZQ recognizes the work of community non-profit groups who utilize volunteers to promote the general welfare of Maine citizens. From food drives to help feed those struggling seniors Downeast, to matching grant challenges to serve single mothers, to charity runs and concerts, WEZQ provides a lot of coverage for these kinds of events.

Public Safety- WEZQ covers stories that impact the public safety of community which can run the gamut from natural disasters to police emergencies like shootings or standoffs.

If the situation warrants, the News Director will include stories of national significance and those stories might include anything from National Security, Natural Disasters, Congressional activities or Presidential declarations.

The following is an extensive sampling of our community issues content during the third quarter of 2019:

7-7-19

Health, Community, Economy, Public Safety (Length: 24:32)

Blood Donors – Mary Brandt with the American Red Cross talks about the urgent need for blood in the state. She explains how hard it is to get people to donate in the summer and directs listeners to the website, or the Red Cross app to find blood drives in their area.

The BARN – Jim Lapierre of the Bangor Area Recovery Network gives an update on some of the things going on at the facility, including the many services they provide to those dealing with substance abuse disorder. The facility that's also home to the Young People in Recovery Group is hosting a community lobster dinner later this month. All the money raised will support the BARN's many programs, that are not subsidized by state or federal funding.

Bark for Life – Organizer Sarah Smith talks about changes that have been made to this dog-friendly fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. She explains how the money raised is used in Maine, to help cancer patients get to their appointments, among other ways. The fundraiser was postponed from May, so she stresses that there's still plenty of time to sign up.

Boating Safety – Corporal John MacDonald with the Maine Warden Service offers safe boating tips, including the importance of wearing a life jacket, rather than just having it in the boat. In addition, he discusses trip plans, and putting your contact information on your boat, in case it floats off.

7-21-19

Health, Public Safety, Education, Community (Length: 24:54)

Military and Public Safety – Cindy Campbell chats with comedian Ron White about his upcoming show in Bangor, including the fact that active military members, veterans, and public safety personnel are all invited to attend for free. Ron talks about his military career and the many performances and public appearances that he's done for members of the military.

Whiffle Ball – Organizer Ken Clark talks with Cindy about the upcoming Orrington whiffle ball tournament. As well as giving information about the event, that's a fundraiser for Orrington Rec, he also discusses the importance of sports for children, to teach them teamwork and help give them confidence.

211 Maine – After Bangor and Brewer's Mayors advised that homeless veterans call 211 for help finding housing, we shared this interview Cindy did with Program Manager Nikki Busman. Nikki explains the many uses for 211, including finding services and resources in your area, and learning ways to volunteer.

Red Cross Blood – Mary Brandt with the American Red Cross talks about the urgent need for blood in the state. She explains how hard it is to get people to donate in the summer and directs listeners to the website, or the Red Cross app to find blood drives in their area.

7-28-19 Education, Health, Public Safety, Community (Length: 24:35)

Salvation Army – Cindy Campbell talks with Captain Rebecca Kirk, of the Salvation Army about an upcoming school supply drive. She discusses the need for supplies, not only for the parents to give to their children, but also for the teachers to provide to students. In addition to attending the drive, she provides a website where folks can purchase supplies online.

Powassan Virus – Maine just had its first confirmed case of Powassan virus in 2 years, so we shared an interview Cindy did with Dr. Jonathan Busko about this tick-borne illness. He explains how its transmitted, what the possible symptoms are, and any long-term effects. In addition, he outlines preventative measures, like repellants and doing regular tick checks.

Lyme Disease – Since we're talking ticks, Cindy chatted with Dr. Siiri Bennett of the Maine CDC about Lyme Disease. She explains what symptoms to watch out for and what a person should do if they think they've been exposed. Like Dr. Busko, she also discusses long-term effects and how to prevent contracting the disease.

Boating Safety - Corporal John MacDonald with the Maine Warden Service offers safe boating tips, including the importance of wearing a life jacket, rather than just having it in the boat. In addition, he discusses trip plans, and putting your contact information on your boat, in case it floats off.

8-4-19 Community, Economy, Education, Environment (Length: 24:27)

Welcome To Housing – Cindy Campbell talks with founder Chris Olsen about Welcome to Housing, an organization that collects donations of household items and gives them to people making big transitions. The items that range from furniture to cookware and toiletries are used to help people in shelters who are moving into permanent housing or domestic violence victims who are starting over. The organization needs volunteers who can help move the items. Olsen also talks about an educational program he hopes to start that will inform these folks about paying bills, making a budget, and paying taxes.

211 Maine – Since few people know about Welcome to Housing, we're sharing an interview with 211 Maine Program Coordinator Nikki Busman about how folks can locate the resources they need. She explains how to access the database and the wealth of information that's available there.

Katahdin Woods and Waters – A group of Girl Scouts from East Millinocket sent us a public service announcement about the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, and the importance of keeping it safe. They talk about campfire safety and the importance of leaving the environment the way people found it.

8-11-19 Education, Health, Community, Economy (Length: 24:45)

Owls Head Transportation Museum – Cindy Campbell chats with Toby Stinson, Event Coordinator with the museum about an upcoming car auction. It's the biggest fundraiser of the year for this non-profit, educational organization that works to educate people about the history of transportation.

Rodeo for the Cure – Larry Frost of Apple Hill Stables LLC talks with Cindy about the international rodeo planned for September, to benefit Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center's Champion the Cure Challenge. Proceeds from the event will benefit cancer patients in Maine, with things like rides to their treatments.

American Red Cross - Mary Brandt with the American Red Cross talks about the urgent need for blood in the state. She explains how hard it is to get people to donate in the summer and directs listeners to the website, or the Red Cross app to find blood drives in their area.

Summer CO Poisoning – Cindy chats with Dr. Christopher Pezzullo about how to prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning in the summer. His tips include keeping grills and generators outside, never working on motors in a building, and not swimming behind a boat. In addition, he details the symptoms of CO poisoning and what to do if you think you've been exposed.

8-18-19 Public Safety, Environment, Health, Community, Economy (24:53)

Fire Safety – Cindy Campbell chats with Jake Johnson of the Bangor Fire Department about fire safety. He offers tips on everything from heating systems, disposing of hot ashes, and holiday safety. In addition, he stresses the importance of smoke detectors and escape plans.

Rodeo for the Cure – Larry Frost of Apple Hill Stables LLC talks with Cindy about the international rodeo planned for September, to benefit Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center's Champion the Cure Challenge. Proceeds from the event will benefit cancer patients in Maine, with things like rides to their treatments.

Salvation Army – Captain Rebecca Kirk talks with Cindy about the many services provided to the community by the Salvation Army. She explains how the Red Kettle money is used, including funding the food pantry and soup kitchen, as well as sending kids to summer camp. In addition, Kirk explains the process for residents in need to apply for heating assistance.

Bangor Greendrinks – Cindy chats with Bangor Greendrinks Chair Greg Edwards about the organization that helps to fund environmental projects around the greater Bangor area. From trail maps to environmental grants, the group uses different methods to not only improve the local environment, but encourage people to get out and enjoy it. And they do all of it through a monthly series of parties.

Katahdin Woods and Waters – A group of Girl Scouts from East Millinocket sent us a public service announcement about the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, and the importance of keeping it safe. They talk about campfire safety and the importance of leaving the environment the way people found it.

8-26-19 Education, Health, Community, Economy (Length: 24:18)

Dirigo Reads – Co-founder Dan Cashman talks with Cindy Campbell about a pilot program that will provide a free book a month to 1st graders in 6 Maine schools. The goal of the organization is to do the same for every 1st grader in the state. Cashman talks about the literacy levels in Maine and the dwindling attention spans of children as the catalyst for the program. He says the hope is to provide kids with books to everyone, including those who might not otherwise be able to get them.

Bark for Life – Stacy Duran chats with Cindy about the dog-friendly Relay for Life coming up in less than two weeks that will benefit the American Cancer Society. She talks about changes to the event, but also details how the money benefits Maine, including providing rides to treatments for cancer patients and giving them a free place to stay when they travel to Boston for treatment.

211 Maine – Cindy talks with 211 Maine Program Coordinator Nikki Busman about how folks can locate the services and resources they need. She explains how to access the database and the wealth of information that's available there and how it acts sort of like the Yellow Pages, with volunteers to guide the caller to the possible help in their communities.

9-8-19 Health, Education, Community, Public Safety (Length: 24:14)

Suicide Prevention – September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, so Cindy talks with Mary Gagne of Health Affiliates Maine about potential warning signs. Gagne explained some of the behaviors that can signal trouble, and what to do if someone thinks a friend or loved one is contemplating taking their own life. Cindy followed up with some local hotline and information numbers and websites.

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Back to School Safety – Cindy offers some reminders about back to school safety, including watching out for school buses and slowing down in school zones, even during the after-school hours.

9-15-19 Health, Environment, Community, Economy (Length: 24:32)

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning – Cindy Campbell chats with State Toxicologist Andrew Smith about the symptoms of CO Poisoning. He also outlines several ways that residents can be exposed to CO gas, including not properly venting generators, working on engines in garages, and using gas-powered appliances inside. In addition, he explains the importance of having CO detectors in the house.

Welcome To Housing – Cindy Campbell talks with founder Chris Olsen about Welcome to Housing, an organization that collects donations of household items and gives them to people making big transitions. The items that range from furniture to cookware and toiletries are used to help people in shelters who are moving into permanent housing or domestic violence victims who are starting over. The organization needs volunteers who can help move the items. Olsen also talks about an educational program he hopes to start that will inform these folks about paying bills, making a budget, and paying taxes.

9-22-19 Health, Community, Public Safety (Length: 24:15)

ALS Foundation – Cindy Campbell talks with Karla Weaton of the Northern New England ALS Foundation, about the organization. Weaton explains what ALS, or Lou Gehrig’s disease is, and about new treatment options that are available, including a clinic in Southern Maine and an equipment lending facility that can help with things like wheelchairs and lifts. Weaton talks about the ‘we challenge you,’ fundraiser that asks individuals and organizations to create their own challenges, i.e. golf tournaments or pie throwing contests, to raise money.

Bangor Area Recovery Network – In recognition of Recovery Awareness Month, Cindy talks with Jim LaPierre, Director of the Bangor Area Recovery Network, or BARN. He explains the many services offered to people who are ready to enter recovery, including that it’s available to everyone, free of charge. There’s no waitlist to get help at the BARN. The organization has a family day planned this month that will include a display of stories from people in recovery.

YPR – Cindy chats with Kayla Kael, one of the organizers of Young People in Recovery, an organization that uses peer support to help young people through the recovery journey. Kayla talks about her own battle with addiction and how YPR has helped to change her life.

9-29-19 Health, Community, Education, Economy (Length: 24:58)

Hospice Volunteers – Cindy Campbell talks with Northern Light Homecare and Hospice Volunteer, Wayne Melanson, about what it takes to be a volunteer and how people apply. He explains that hospice volunteers are not there for medical functions, but rather to be a friend to a terminally ill patient and give respite to primary caregivers.

Financial Aid – Cindy chats with Mila Tappan of the Finance Authority of Maine about applying for financial aid for higher education. Tappan discusses the types of aid available to students, the importance of filling out the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA), and the benefits of filing as early as possible. Filing early means more money for students.