

## **WEZQ 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Community Issues Report**

**January 1-March 31, 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](http://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 first quarter of 2019:**

**1/6/19 Health-Community-Environment (6:12AM Length 24:25):**

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning - State Toxicologist Andrew Smith discusses the signs and symptoms and what to do if you think you've been exposed. In addition, he goes over many scenarios in which someone could be poisoned, like generators that aren't properly vented, snow blocking heating exhaust vents in homes, or engines left running in enclosed spaces. Smith also emphasizes the importance of having working CO detectors in the home.

Flu Season - Cindy Campbell talks with Dr. Siiri Bennett of the Maine Centers for Disease Control and Prevention about how to avoid getting sick, symptoms of the flu, and when it's time to stay home. Dr. Bennett also discusses the value of getting a flu vaccine and who is most at risk from complications.

Salvation Army – Cindy chats with Captain Rebecca Kirk about the many programs of the Salvation Army, including its soup kitchen, heat assistance program, and thrift store. She discusses how the money raised in the thrift store is used to feed the hungry, help people heat their homes, and send kids to camp in the summer. In addition, she talks about how the Christmas programs fared this year and how people can continue to donate.

**1/13/19 Education-Community-Health-Economy (6:12AM Length – 24:40):**

Sleeping bag drive - Cindy Campbell chats with Andrea Littlefield, Executive Director of Health Equity Alliance in Bangor. The non-profit that deals with Greater Bangor's fringe populations is holding a donation drive for blankets and sleeping bags that will be distributed to those in need. Andrea explains that 'fringe' populations include anyone living with AIDS and HIV, those who use drugs, the homeless population, and the LBGTQ Community. HEA works to educate people on how to properly use Narcan, offers a safe syringe exchange, and acts as an advocate for all these folks in person and professional endeavors.

Empty Bowls Supper - Cindy interviews Leah Olson, who's a 3D arts teacher at Ellsworth High School about the Empty Bowls Supper. Leah's explains that her students make the artistic serving bowls by hand, and each attendee gets to pick their bowl and take it home with them. Proceeds from the annual fundraiser will be kept in-house this year and be donated to the school's food pantry.

Cinderella Project of Maine – This program gives free prom dresses too high schoolers, with the requirement that they find a way to pay it forward. Cindy chatted with Amanda Simmons of the Waldo Community Action Partners about the project that makes prom more affordable for parents and enjoyable for students.

**1/20/19 Health-Public Safety-Environment-Economy-Community (6:12AM Length 24:18):**

211 Maine - This non-profit service of the United Way of Eastern Maine acts as an information center for residents, connecting them to a wide variety of services, including mental health and substance abuse facilities, heating assistance, and the location of food pantries. Cindy Campbell talked with 211 Maine Program Manager Nikki Busman about the 24/7 service that's always valuable, but especially now for furloughed federal employees, who can find available resources to help with mortgage relief, child care services, and more.

Island Connections - Cindy chats with Doreen Whillett about Island Connections, a volunteer-run organization that provides free rides to seniors and the disabled on Mount Desert Island. The organization's biggest fundraiser, the Chowder Chowdown is coming up, and Doreen discusses the importance of fundraising for the group that takes its clients to doctor's appointments, chemo treatments, and even grocery shopping.

Snowmobile Safety - Cindy highlights snowmobile safety, after a weekend when 6 people were injured in crashes. Bob Meyers, Executive Director of the Maine Snowmobile Association offers tips from operating at a safe speed to not drinking and riding. In addition, he talks about the importance of letting someone know your trip plan so, if something should happen, wardens know where to start their search.

**1/27/19 Economy-Health-Community (6:12AM Length 24:45):**

Child Abuse - Cindy Campbell talks with Denise Trafton of Penquis about warning signs that a child is being abused, what to do if you suspect a child is being mistreated, and what kinds of things parents can do when they're feeling angry, frustrated, or trapped. She offers information about how to report suspected abuse and resources for parents to help them cope with the changes children will bring.

Suicide – This is another 'if I had known I would've done something' topic. Cindy chats with Mary Gagnon of Health Affiliates Maine about the warning signs that someone may be considering suicide, and gives suggestions on what to do to help them. In addition, she discusses the importance of reaching out and asking for help if you're the one considering taking your own life.

211 Maine – As the shutdown continues, we feature more from Program Manager Nikki Busman about the non-profit, Maine-run agency that offers information about resources in each community across the state. With the continuing partial government shutdown, this has become a valuable tool for federal workers, especially, who are seeking information about how to feed their families, get help with mortgage payments or childcare, and other issues.

**2/3/19 Health-Community-Economy-Environment (6:12AM Length 24:53):**

Recovery – Cindy Campbell talks with Jim Lapierre of the Bangor Area Recovery Network about the substance use disorder recovery programs offered at the center, which is peer-driven, with no

federal or state funding. The center just won an award for public service for the great work they do offering a free, no-insurance-needed support program for those in recovery.

Flu Season - Dr. Siiri Bennett of the Maine Center for Disease Control about flu season. Dr. Bennett offers tips on staying healthy like washing hands often and not touching your face, as well as suggestions on when it's important to stay home from work and not spread the flu. She discusses the advantages of flu shots and the treatments that are available.

Pasta Drive - Cindy talks with Townsquare Media employee Chris Popper about the Ton of Pasta, a company-wide food drive that sends four radio stations into the communities to collect pasta. Chris and Cindy talk about the increased need this time of year and the fact that the food stays in the communities where it's donated.

Snowmobile Safety - Finally, Cindy talks snowmobile safety with Bob Meyers of the Maine Snowmobile Association. Riding to the right of the trails, watching your speed, keeping control of the sled, and the importance of leaving a 'trip plan' are all topics Bob covers, as well as the reminder not to drink and ride.

#### **2/10/19 Education-Health-Public Safety-Environment-Community (6:12AM Length – 24:19):**

Maine Science Festival - Cindy Campbell talkswith Founder and Executive Director Kate Dickerson about the types of STEM topics that will be covered, some of the more fun events that are scheduled, and how people can get involved through volunteering. The festival offers fun and unusual ways to learn, in a hands-on type environment.

Fire Safety - Cindy chats with the Bangor Fire Department's Education Officer Jake Johnson about fire safety, in which he offers tips on protecting the home to the importance of smoke detectors and escape plans. He gives tips about keeping heating systems clean and how to safely dispose of ashes.

Bangor Savings Bank's Community Matters More program - Cindy talked with BSB's Lisa Bird about how people can vote for their favorite non-profits, which are eligible to receive sizable grants from the bank's charitable foundation. Nominees range from food pantries to homeless shelters and even hospice organizations. Lisa explains the voting process and how people can 'write in' agencies that are not on the ballot.

Ton of Pasta - Finally, Cindy takes a moment to thank everyone who turned out for our Ton O' Pasta food drive that collects donations of pastas for area food pantries. She gives totals on the collections and details the agencies that benefitted from the donations.

#### **2/17/19 Health-Environment-Community-Economy (6:12AM Length 24:52) :**

LifeFlight of Maine - Cindy Campbell talked with Cindy Beaton and Melissa Arndt of LifeFlight about the EMS service, what area it covers, and about the Isleboro Crossing fundraiser. Beaton discusses how the struggle to cross the ocean, between Northport and Isleboro is similar to the flight for patients across the skies.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning – Cindy talks with State Epidemiologist Andrew Smith about Carbon Monoxide poisoning. Specifically, he addressed things like keeping chimneys and heating sources clean and clearing snow from outdoor heating vents, among other suggestions. He also discussed the symptoms of CO poisoning and what someone should do if they think they've been exposed.

Community Matters More Program – Cindy offers a reminder about the Bangor Savings Bank Community Matters More program that's allowing residents to vote online for their favorite non-profit to receive grants between 1 and 5 thousand dollars.

### **2/24/19 Public Safety-Environment-Health-Community (6:12AM Length 24:49):**

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Bangor – Cindy Campbell talked with Executive Director Lynn Hempen about the financial qualifications and requirements of successfully applying to be an 'owner family' in the latest project, a three-unit condo structure in Old Town. She explains the income guidelines and how the financing works, and how folks can apply.

Open Forum on Opioids - Next, a public forum in Brewer will discuss a recently released report about Sensible Drug Policy, and folks are encouraged to join in the conversation. The meeting is being held at the Bangor Area Recovery Network or BARN and is hosted by Health Equity Alliance of Bangor. Cindy chatted with both the BARN's Executive Director, Jim Lapierre, and HEA's Executive Director, Andrea Littlefield, about their individual organizations and how they are working to serve people dealing with substance use disorder in the Greater Bangor area.

Snowmobile Safety - In our final segment, Cindy talks with Bob Meyers, Executive Director of the Maine Snowmobile Association about some important safety tips. After several fatal accidents in the past week, he discusses the importance of staying in control of the sled and making sure people know where folks plan to ride.

### **3/2/19 Health-Education-Environment-Community (6:12AM Length 24:27):**

Winter Beach Ball – Cindy Campbell talks with organizer Stephanie Oiler about this fundraising event that's sponsored by the Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center Foundation. The beach-themed dance offers dancing, refreshments, and auction items, all to benefit the NICU at Northern Light EMMC. Stephanie Oiler filled Cindy in on all the details, including how the money raised by the dance would be used, and especially that it would all stay in Maine.

Diaper Drive - In our second segment, Cindy talks with Sarah Hardison of Downeast Community Partners about its Fill-A-Bus Diaper Drive. The organization will be collecting donations of diapers throughout the month of March, which will be distributed to low-income families throughout the Ellsworth region. She discusses the health benefits of keeping babies in clean diapers, but also the psychological effects an unhappy, screaming baby can have on the family dynamic.

Maine Science Festival - Finally, Cindy talks with Executive Director and Founder Kate Dickerson about the upcoming Maine Science Festival. It's less than two weeks away, and the group can still use

volunteers for the festival that celebrates fun STEM learning. In addition, Kate details some of the newest additions to the event's agenda.

### **3/10/19 Community-Health-Public Safety (6:12AM Length – 24:53)**

Hancock County Food Drive - Cindy Campbell talks with Rachel Emus of Healthy Acadia about the program that aims to raise \$25,000, as well as food donations, to help the food insecure in Downeast Maine. Emus explains how the program works and how people can make their donations, plus has details about two fun events that will benefit the food drive.

LifeFlight of Maine - Cindy talked with Cindy Beaton and Melissa Arndt of LifeFlight about the EMS service, what area it covers, and about the Isleboro Crossing fundraiser. Beaton discusses how the struggle to cross the ocean, between Northport and Isleboro is similar to the flight for patients across the skies.

Stroke - After the sudden death of actor Luke Perry from a massive stroke, Cindy talks with Dr. Gillian Gordon Perue of Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center about the warning signs of a stroke, how a stroke affects the body, and what folks should do if they think they, or someone they know, is having a stroke.

### **3/17/19 Education-Health-Environment-Community-Economy (6:12AM Length – 24:50):**

Literacy Volunteers of Bangor - Cindy Campbell chats with Executive Director Mary Marin Lyon about how the organization helps improve the reading and comprehension skills of residents through volunteer tutors, and about the upcoming Literacy Tea. During this, the organization's biggest fundraising event, tables are decorated around book themes and a Maine author does a live performance of one of her books.

Brewer High School Yard Sale - Next, we shift gears to an upcoming yard sale that benefits an alternative education program through Brewer High School. Cindy talks with teacher Cindy McLaughlin about the Brewer High Outdoor Education program that offers students a more nature-themed PE program that focuses on activities like hiking, camping, and canoeing. The yard sale is a way for the program to fund all of its excursions.

Greater Bangor Bark – Organizer Sarah Smith and Cindy talking about the event that Cindy hosts each year. The dog-friendly Relay for Life raises money for the American Cancer Society. And finally, we offer a reminder to Hancock County residents of the Hancock County food drive. Cindy's interview with Healthy Acadia's Rachel Emus covers the organizations that will benefit from the collected food, and where folks can get more information about where to donate.

### **3/24/10 Community-Education-Economy-Environment (6:12AM Length 24:15):**

Fresh Air Fund – Cindy Campbell talks with Jennifer Leavitt, who is an administrator and host mother for the Fresh Air Fund, which gives inner-city kids from New York City a chance to come to Maine for

a week or more during the summer. She discusses the advantages to the kids, the requirements for the host families, and especially the rewards experienced by all.

Cinderella Project – Two more give-away dates are coming right up for this project that gives free prom dresses to Maine high school seniors. Cindy talks with Amanda Simmons of the Waldo Community Action Program about when and where the giveaways are taking place, the economics of prom, why the giveaways are so valuable, and how people can donate their own gently used dresses.

Downeast Community Partners – Cindy talks with Sarah Hardison of DCP about the month-long diaper drive, and gets the latest news about where folks can donate by stuffing a bus. Sarah explains who the drive will benefit, how the diapers will be distributed, and talks about the fact that diapers are so often overlooked when helping out young parents.

Greater Bangor Bark for Life – Cindy chats with organizer Sarah Smith about this dog-friendly Relay for Life-type event that features education about dog training services and about how the American Cancer Society donations are used to help cancer patients.

### **3/31/19 Community, Health, Education (6:12AM 24:55)**

Color Bangor – Cindy Campbell talks with American Folk Festival Executive Director Heather McCarthy about its upcoming Color Bangor 5k fundraising event. Participants are pelted with colored cornstarch as they make their way through the 5k course. All the proceeds from the event benefit the 3-day American Folk Festival, which is a free-to-the-public event on the Bangor Waterfront in August.

Flu – After 9 deaths due to influenza in two weeks, Cindy talks with Dr. Siiri Bennett about what people can do to protect themselves from catching the virus. Dr. Bennett also discusses how people who are sick can avoid spreading it to others, and what they should do when they start showing symptoms. She also directs people to the [Maineflu.gov](http://Maineflu.gov) website, that includes the latest statistics on influenza and valuable health tips.

Cinderella Project of Maine – Amanda Simmons of Waldo Community Action Partners reveals the last two dates for prom dress giveaways. The Cinderella Project offers free prom gowns to high school students from across the state, if they promise to pay it forward in some way. The hope is that all seniors get to enjoy prom, without the stress of paying for a dress.

Islesboro Crossing - Cindy Campbell talked with Cindy Beaton and Melissa Arndt of LifeFlight of Maine about the air EMS service, what area it covers, and about the Islesboro Crossing fundraiser. Beaton discusses how the struggle to cross the ocean, between Northport and Islesboro is similar to the flight for patients across the skies. The Islesboro Crossing is a swimming 5k that will help LifeFlight of Maine buy another helicopter.