

WEZQ 4th Quarter Community Issues Report

October 1 – December 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. 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.

Each of the Maine Concerns reports is between 24 and 25 minutes in length. The following is an extensive sampling of our community issues content during the fourth quarter of 2019:

10-6-19 Health, Community, Education, Economy (Length: 24:53)

Pound the Pavement – Cindy Campbell chats with Christina Parrish, founder of the Purple Iris Foundation, about the upcoming charity color run/walk. Parrish explains her own battle with pancreatic cancer and how it inspired her to start the foundation that raises awareness of the disease, and offers support groups, online support, and more for patients.

Free Tuition for U-Maine – Cindy talks with Mila Tappan of the Finance Authority of Maine about the process of applying for financial aid, by using the Free Student Aid Application, or FAFSA. This year, in addition to the usual grants, loans, and scholarships, the University of Maine system is offering more than 1,200 high school students free tuition and fees for a year. Tappan explains the process, and reveals the staggering amount of aid that goes unused each year because people think they won't qualify for any assistance. She also explains it's important to sign up now to be eligible for as much money as possible.

10-13-19 Health, Community, Education (Length: 24:48)

Cancer Support Groups – Cindy Campbell talks with Purple Iris Foundation founder Christina Parrish about virtual cancer support groups offered by the organization. There are groups for patients, survivors, family members, and caregivers, which Parrish explains is one of the most important, because they often can't get away to attend a meeting in person. She also discusses the Pound the Pavement fundraiser and the Purple Elves program, which helps families affected by cancer at Christmas.

Dirigo Reads – With the program now in its second month, Cindy chats with founder Dan Cashman about the process of delivering free books each month to every first grader in 6 schools. The goal is to encourage children to read for pleasure through the program that aims to facilitate 1st graders in every school in the state by 2025.

10-20-19 Health, Community, Public Safety (Length: 24:39)

Halloween Pets – Cindy Campbell talks with Green Acres Kennel Shop owner, Don Hanson, about how to keep pets safe for Halloween. He offers tips including keeping them in a quiet room, away from trick-or-treaters, unhooking the doorbell, and not letting them have candy.

Maine Flu Season – Cindy talks with Dr. Siiri Bennett after the Maine CDC issued a warning about the possibility of a rough flu season. Dr. Bennett explains the symptoms of the flu, how to avoid getting sick, and what to do once you are sick. She details things like handwashing, keeping hands away from the face, and the medications available to help diminish the symptoms.

Fire Safety – Jake Johnson of the Bangor Fire Department shares some fire safety tips with Cindy, including how to dispose of ashes, the importance of getting furnaces and chimneys cleaned, and how to develop an escape plan for the family.

10-27-19 Education, Health, Community, Economy, Environment (Length 24:55)

Maine Discovery Museum – Cindy Campbell talks with the Executive Director of the Maine Discovery Museum about the non-profit's educational programs, and an upcoming fundraiser. Niles Parker discusses the hands-on educational programs that travel to area schools, and the fact that the museum is not state funded. He details an upcoming art and experience auction that will help fund the programs.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning – After a recent storm that left much of the state without electricity, Cindy talks with State Toxicologist Andrew Smith about Carbon Monoxide Poisoning. He talks about symptoms of exposure, what to do if you think you've been exposed, and the importance of having working detectors. In addition, he details dangerous activities, like not properly venting generators and working on engines in an enclosed room.

211 Maine – Cindy shares an interview with 211 Maine Program Manager Nikki Busman about the database that covers everything from animal shelters to food pantries. She talks about the difficulties with finding available resources in each community, and that 211 Maine has information about all of them. Always a valuable tool, it's especially crucial in the colder months, as people search for warming shelters, heat assistance, and help with property damage and maintenance.

11-3-19 Health, Community, Public Safety, Economy (Length: 24:53)

Relay for Life of Hancock County – Cindy Campbell chats with Brandy Marchetti who, along with the help of a partner, has compiled a calendar, to raise money for the American Cancer Society. The calendar models are women of all shapes and sizes, including two cancer survivors. All the money raised helps support cancer patients in Maine.

LifeFlight of Maine – Cindy talks with Melissa Arndt and Cindy Beaton of LifeFlight about this air ambulance service. They explain who they serve, how they're funded, and the challenges they face, including finding valid landing sites, quickly. They're currently fundraising for a new helicopter to add to their fleet.

Welcome to Housing Bangor - 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.

11-10-19 Health, Community, Environment (Length: 24:58)

Maine Discovery Museum – Cindy Campbell talks with the Executive Director of the Maine Discovery Museum about the non-profit's educational programs, and an upcoming fundraiser. Niles Parker

discusses the hands-on educational programs that travel to area schools, and the fact that the museum is not state funded. He details an upcoming art and experience auction that will help fund the programs.

Relay for Life of Hancock County – Cindy Campbell chats with Brandy Marchetti who, along with the help of a partner, has compiled a calendar, to raise money for the American Cancer Society. The calendar models are women of all shapes and sizes, including two cancer survivors. All the money raised helps support cancer patients in Maine.

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.

Maine Flu Season – Cindy talks with Dr. Siiri Bennett after the Maine CDC issued a warning about the possibility of a rough flu season. Dr. Bennett explains the symptoms of the flu, how to avoid getting sick, and what to do once you are sick. She details things like handwashing, keeping hands away from the face, and the medications available to help diminish the symptoms.

11-17-19 Economy, Education, Community, Public Safety, Health (24:38)

Finance Authority of Maine – Mila Tappan of FAME Maine gives details about the types of financial aid available to students for higher education, including grants, federal and direct loans, and scholarships. She explains the importance of filling out the FAFSA, what parents should have with them before beginning the process, and where they can get more information.

Fire Safety – Jake Johnson, Education Officer at the Bangor Fire Department, runs through some basic fire safety tips, including the importance of getting heating systems and chimneys cleaned. He also talks about how to safely dispose of ashes, proper safety procedures for woodstoves, and the importance of smoke detectors and escape plans.

Cancer Support Groups - Cindy Campbell talks with Purple Iris Foundation founder Christina Parrish about virtual cancer support groups offered by the organization. There are groups for patients, survivors, family members, and caregivers, which Parrish explains is one of the most important, because they often can't get away to attend a meeting in person.

11-24-19 Health, Economy, Education, Community (Length: 24:56)

Next Step Domestic Violence Project – Cindy Campbell chats with Executive Director, Dorathy Martel, about the many services provided to victims of domestic violence. Next Step offers everything from a 24/7 hotline, to counselors, temporary and more long-term housing, educational opportunities, and help finding a job. In addition, they offer some financial counseling for people who have never been on their own before.

Salvation Army Angel Tree – Captain Rebecca Kirk talks with Cindy about the Angel Tree program, which provides Christmas gifts to kids in need. She explains the process of signing children up for the

program, and how people can donate toys. In addition, Captain Kirk explains the SA's heat assistance program.

211 Maine – Cindy talks with Program Manager Nikki Busman about how residents can find services, like the one's we've discussed earlier in the program, in their own communities by using 211 Maine. The service offers helplines and a website, which has listings of agencies and programs throughout Maine, from food pantries, to heat assistance, Christmas help, and substance use disorder programs.

12-1-19 Health, Community, Education, Economy (Length: 24:32)

Hope House – Cindy Campbell talks with Director Ann Giggey about the PCHC Hope House Health and Living Center in Bangor. Giggey explains the many services they provide for the area homeless population, including an emergency shelter, soup kitchen, transitional housing, new-renter education, and a medical clinic.

World AIDS Day – Cindy chats with Care Program Manager Alyson Tarr of Health Equity Alliance about the programs and services it provides to HIV and AIDS patients in Maine. She discusses the importance of education, the advances that have been made in treating the disease, and the funding that's needed to keep the programs running.

Salvation Army – Captain Rebecca Kirk of the Bangor Citadel Corps details the many services provided by the Salvation Army, including the Red Kettle program, which funds many of the other services. Kirk talks about the Angel Tree program, children's camps, soup kitchen, and heating assistance, as well.

Flu Season – As we all head into holiday gatherings, Cindy talks with Dr. Siiri Bennett about flu season and how to avoid getting sick. She talks about the importance of washing hands, keeping hands away from the face, and covering our coughs. In addition, she explains the treatments that are available to anyone who does end up getting sick.

12-8-19 Public Safety, Health, Community, Economy (Length: 24:35)

Christmas Fire Safety – Cindy Campbell talks with Jake Johnson of the Bangor Fire Department about a variety of fire safety topics, including holiday decorating. He discusses the importance of getting cool lights to go on the tree and not overloading extension cords, as well as how to avoid catching your tree on fire. In addition, Johnson talks about keeping heat systems clean and well-maintained, smoke detectors and escape plans.

CO Poisoning – Now that the snow has started piling up, Cindy chats with Andrew Smith of the Maine CDC about how to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning, including making sure all heater and dryer vents are kept clear of snow, and properly venting generators. In addition, Smith lists the symptoms of CO poisoning and what to do if you're exposed.

Hope House – Cindy Campbell talks with Director Ann Giggey about the PCHC Hope House Health and Living Center in Bangor. Giggey explains the many services they provide for the area homeless population, including an emergency shelter, soup kitchen, transitional housing, new-renter education, and a medical clinic.

12-15-19 Public Safety, Health, Community (Length: 24:46)

Holden Police Department – Cindy Campbell talks with Holden Police Chief Chris Greeley about the department’s 25 Days of Kindness promotion. Throughout the month of December, leading up to Christmas, officers find ways to give back to the community, by giving toys to kids in need, shoveling a driveway for an elderly resident, or any way they can find to help their local community members.

Salvation Army – With just over a week left til Christmas, Cindy talks with Captain Rebecca Kirk of the Bangor Citadel Corps about the Red Kettle program. Captain Kirk details the many ways the funds raised by the kettles is used, including heating assistance, a food pantry and meals for those in need, to the group’s Christmas program, and even sending kids to summer camp.

Next Step Domestic Violence Project - Cindy Campbell chats with Executive Director, Dorathy Martel, about the many services provided to victims of domestic violence. Next Step offers everything from a 24/7 hotline, to counselors, temporary and more long-term housing, educational opportunities, and help finding a job. In addition, they offer some financial counseling for people who have never been on their own before.

NOTE: Due to vacation and holiday breaks, there was no Maine Concern programs for December 22nd and 29th.