

10/5/2021

WAIC, Springfield, Massachusetts

Issues/Programs List

July 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021.

During this period, the stations broadcast programming about local issues that aired during program segments reserved for local feature-length reports, interviews and commentaries, Monday through Friday at (typically) 5:51 a.m., 6:22 a.m., 6:45 a.m., 7:22 a.m., 7:45 a.m., 7:51 a.m., 8:22 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 4:44 p.m., 5:44p.m. and 5:50 p.m. or similar times within the morning and afternoon news programs.

Weekly installments of ***The Short List*** were (typically) broadcast on Fridays at 5:50p.m. during the broadcast of *All Things Considered*. In this segment, a rotating panel of seasoned journalists and media professionals analyzes the major issues in the news during the current week. They provide context, and a fresh unpacking of information from three stories in a roughly eight and a half minute roundtable discussion.

In addition, local newscasts were broadcast immediately following national newscasts on the hour from 6:00 a.m. through 8:00 a.m. inclusive, and 4:00 p.m. through 6:00 p.m. inclusive. On Saturday, local issue programming was presented at 8:35 a.m., 9:35 a.m., 10:35 a.m., and on local newscasts following national newscasts on the hour from 8:00 a.m. through 10:00 a.m. inclusive, and at 12:00 p.m. On Sunday, local newscasts were broadcast following national newscasts on the hour at 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

Many reports on the same and related subjects were broadcast daily and weekly during such national news programs as *Morning Edition*, *All Things Considered*, *Marketplace*, *Here & Now*, *Fresh Air*, *Weekend Edition* and others.

Issues

Arts & Culture
Commentary
Economic Development
Education
Energy/Environment
Justice, Law & Public Safety
Politics/Public Policy
Public Health
Science

Reports on Morning Edition, All Things Considered, and Weekend Edition

Topic	Airdate	Newscast	Duration	State	Summary
Arts & Culture	7/1/2021	6:20am 8:20am	7:11	VT	Garden designer and author Bill Noble says gardening is about feeling connected and getting familiar with your chosen piece of earth. His 'piece of earth' is a former dairy farm in Norwich, Vermont, and his recent book is "Spirit Of Place: The Making Of A New England Garden."
Arts & Culture	7/16/2021	6:45am 8:45am	4:36	MA	Writer Greg Brown describes his novel "The Lowering Days" as a love letter to where he grew up in Maine. As Brown told NEPM's Jill Kaufman, the book tells the story of three very different families. It's the first pick in our annual Summer Fiction Series.
Arts & Culture	7/23/2021	6:45am 8:45am	4:25	MA	Our Summer Fiction Series continues with a suspenseful eco-fiction story, "Waiting For The Night Song." It's the debut novel from author Julie Carrick Dalton, who formerly wrote for the Boston Globe and Business Week. She explains what inspired her to change gears and write a novel.
Arts & Culture	7/30/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:10	MA	Our Summer Fiction Series continues with "Blue Desert," the first novel from Northampton, Massachusetts writer Celia Jeffries. It's the story of Alice George, a young English woman abducted by a Saharan tribe called the Tuareg in 1910. Sixty years later, Alice receives surprising news from the tribe, and looks back on her days in the desert.
Arts & Culture	8/4/2021	6:45am 8:45am	2:09	CT	A new video game developed in part by a UConn professor explores how history can be distorted. "Blackhaven" is a video game taking players to an American plantation museum where the history of slavery has been erased.

Topic	Airdate	Newscast	Duration	State	Summary
Arts & Culture	8/6/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:39	MA	When Kaitlyn Greenidge heard about a 19th-century woman who became one of the first female black doctors in New York State, she knew she wanted to write about her. We continue our Summer Fiction Series now with her novel, "Libertie," about a girl named Libertie and her mother, a doctor living in post-Civil War Brooklyn. The narrative of freedom weaves throughout the story, and Greenidge, who lives outside Boston, told NEPM's Jill Kaufman that freedom is a fascinatingly subjective concept.
Arts & Culture	8/12/2021	6:45am 8:45am	2:45	MA	A decades-old concert tradition in Northampton, Massachusetts, is changing its name. Organizers say they want "Transperformance" to be more inclusive.
Arts & Culture	8/13/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:48	MA	"Past Repair" is the latest in our Summer Reading Series. It's a new collection of poetry by Northampton resident Carol Edelstein, with more than 80 poems spanning a 13-year period.
Arts & Culture	8/17/2021	6:22am 8:22am	6:53	MA	Camp has long been a summer tradition for children in America. But for many years, black kids weren't welcome, so a preacher founded a camp in central Massachusetts specifically for black children. This year, Camp Atwater turns 100, perhaps the oldest camp of its kind in the country.
Arts & Culture	8/19/2021	6:45am 8:45am	7:54	MA	The annual Springfield Indie Soul Festival is back this weekend along the riverfront. As NEPM's Jill Kaufman reports, over the years people have come to this festival for more than just music---as they did at another soul festival 50 years ago in Harlem.

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Arts & Culture	8/20/2021	6:22am 8:22am	6:34	MA	In "A Natural History Of Transition," author Callum Angus writes a collection of short stories about transgender experiences through a magical-realism lens. As part of our Summer Fiction Series, Angus explains one character's experiences and her mother's attempts to understand.
Arts & Culture	8/27/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:27	VT	The latest novel from Bennington County, Vermont resident Thomas Henry Pope is a spy thriller. It features a journalist on a quest for truth, surrounded by political intrigue. Pope says he wants readers to come away with a new understanding of the interconnectedness of life. His book "Imperfect Burials" is the latest in our Summer Fiction Series.
Arts & Culture	9/1/2021	6:34am 8:34am	2:52	MA	With venues open, at least for now, performers have gotten a reprieve from making music alone at home. Commentator Tinky Weisblat sings in western Massachusetts, and hopes this grace period will last forever. She says she agrees with 'Hamilton' creator Lin-Manuel Miranda, who said "Performers are like Tinker Bell in the play 'Peter Pan.' We need applause to live."
Arts & Culture	9/3/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:32	CT	Our Summer Fiction Series concludes with West Hartford author Ethan Rutherford. "Farthest South" is his second collection of short stories. He says the series is about the fever dream of parenthood in the form of bedtime stories for the end of the world.

Topic	Airdate	Newscast	Duration	State	Summary
Arts & Culture	9/9/2021	5:45am 7:45am	6:01	MA	"Survivor Tree" is a children's book by Marcie Colleen and Amherst, Massachusetts illustrator Aaron Becker. It tells the story of a pear tree found beneath the ruins of the Twin Towers. As part of our Books For Young People series, Becker discussed his emphasis on the red, fall-colored leaves he illustrated for the book.
Arts & Culture	9/10/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:33	MA	We begin our Books For Young People series with "Fat Chance, Charlie Vega", the first young adult rom-com by Crystal Maldonado. It's about a smart high-school girl named Charlie who struggles with her body image and has spent years in the shadow of her beautiful best friend---until she gets the chance to star in her own love story.
Arts & Culture	9/17/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:49	VT	The "Books For Young People" series continues with "Chirp," by Kate Messner. It's a story about friendship, the joys of summer---and how to make yourself heard if an adult acts in a way that makes you uncomfortable. Protagonist Mia is 12 and has just moved to Vermont with her family. And Mia has been keeping a secret.
Arts & Culture	9/24/2021	6:45am 8:40am	5:29	MA	Our Books For Young People series continues with a nonsensical picture book featuring an array of animals in motion, anthropomorphic clouds, and a frog with doubts. The book is "On The Day The Horse Got Out," by Audrey Helen Weber of Greenfield, Massachusetts. Weber says she drew on her college theater experience and her background as a children's librarian.

Topic	Airdate	Newscast	Duration	State	Summary
Community Voices	7/20/2021	6:22am 8:22am	2:45	MA	Amazon founder Jeff Bezos will launch into space today, the first flight of his space travel company "Blue Origin." Wally Funk will be aboard as well. Commentator Martha Ackmann has known Funk for decades, and says the flight will right a wrong that occurred sixty years ago.
Community Voices	8/4/2021	7:34am	8:44	MA	In the early 2000s, a wave of refugees arrived in the US from Kenya. They were Somali Bantus, an ethnic minority forced to flee their agricultural homeland. This week, NEPM's Ben James brings us the story of a young woman who arrived in the US as a 7-year-old and is now on the long path to becoming a doctor.
Community Voices	8/4/2021	6:45am 8:45am	2:28	MA	Gabby Thomas, the 24-year-old Harvard grad from Florence, Massachusetts, won the Olympic bronze medal in the women's 200-meters. Her mom, a professor at UMass Amherst, watched the race from home.
Community Voices	8/5/2021	7:34am	9:00	MA	This week we hear the story of Rumbila Abdullahi, a Somali Bantu woman who's studying for her medical-school entrance exam and completing her final semester at Smith College. She is doing all this while working a couple of part-time jobs, supporting her mother's medical needs, and preparing for the birth of her first child. NEPM's Ben James has part two of Rumbila's story.
Community Voices	8/6/2021	7:34am	8:37	MA	This week we've heard the story of a young Somali Bantu woman who arrived in Springfield as a 7-year-old refugee, and is now on the path to becoming a doctor. Today the series concludes with a number of major life events happening for her...all at once.

Topic	Airdate	Newscast	Duration	State	Summary
Community Voices	9/9/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:43	MA	Westfield's Dan Trant died on 9/11. He worked in the World Trade Center and before that was well known for his basketball playing in high school, college, and internationally. Dan's older sister Sally remembers her brother, ahead of the 20th anniversary of the attacks.
Community Voices	9/14/2021	6:45am 8:45am	2:52	MA	Commentator Robert Chipkin says it took a summer trip to the rocky coast of Maine to unearth a childhood memory about skipping stones. It was something he thought had long since slipped away.
Economic Development	7/5/2021	6:45am 8:45am	3:43	MA	Consensus is rare in Washington, but both parties increasingly agree that marijuana should be legalized at the federal level, as it is in Massachusetts and now Connecticut. However, members of Congress don't see eye to eye on how to do it. WBUR's Callum Borchers visited a cannabis shop in Cambridge to find out what's at stake for businesses caught in the middle of this debate.
Economic Development	7/15/2021	6:45am 8:45am	4:53	MA	There are dramatic differences in the economic recovery from the pandemic. For example, New Hampshire's unemployment rate is 2.9%, while the rate in Massachusetts is more than twice as high. And there is more than one explanation for the gap.
Economic Development	8/11/2021	6:45am 8:45am	4:53	CT	Drone technology could be a new frontier for farmers keeping a watchful eye on the health of their crops. Connecticut Public Radio's Patrick Skahill recently trekked through Belltown Hill Orchards in South Glastonbury to learn how the future of farming may be...overhead.

Topic	Airdate	Newscast	Duration	State	Summary
Economic Development	9/30/2021	4:51pm	3:07	MA	Gun-maker Smith & Wesson, which has been based in Springfield since 1852, is moving its headquarters to Tennessee. The company says the main reason for the move is pending legislation in Massachusetts that would ban assault weapons from being made in the state and shipped to purchasers elsewhere. Hundreds of jobs will be impacted by the move.
Education	9/7/2021	6:45am 8:45am	4:20	MA	Disability-rights advocates are hoping that this will be the year that more students with intellectual disabilities will gain access to college classes. To do that, Massachusetts lawmakers have to pass House Bill 1331, and while lawmakers like the idea behind the proposal, the legislation keeps getting bogged down in concerns about cost.
Education	9/21/2021	4:44pm	4:51	MA	Hundreds of protesters demonstrated outside a UMass fraternity house yesterday for the second straight night, following accusations of a sexual assault. It was calmer than the events of the night before, which resulted in property damage at the house and two arrests.
Energy & Environment	7/22/2021	6:45am 8:45am	1:41	CT	A proposal to eliminate about 2500 tons of coal stored at a Hartford trash plant is getting a strong rebuke from regulators. But the Materials Innovation And Recycling Authority maintains that burning the coal is the most environmentally sound option.
Energy & Environment	8/12/2021	6:45am 8:45am	4:32	NH	This hasn't been a sunny, beach-weather summer, but if mushrooms are your thing, it's been heaven on earth. Mushroom forager Christine Gagnon led NHPR's Sarah Gibson on a forest walk.

Topic	Airdate	Newscast	Duration	State	Summary
Energy & Environment	9/2/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:33	MA	Very hungry caterpillars...have been killing oak trees across southern New England. The region sees many insect invaders, according to Harvard Forest scientist Audrey Barker Plotkin. While some trees succumb to insect defoliation, Plotkin's multi-year study revealed what gives some oak trees more resilience.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	8/3/2021	8:45am	3:12	MA	Wage theft and worker mistreatment are rampant in residential construction throughout Massachusetts. That's according to a recent report from UMass Amherst.
Politics & Public Policy	7/2/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: A special Friday look at politics and government in Massachusetts. An interim state budget is now in place; some proposed election law reforms did not get passed in June and this may have ramifications for cities and towns; the House and Senate both overrode Governor Baker's veto of a labor agreement concerning the new Holyoke Soldiers Home.
Politics & Public Policy	7/2/2021	4:51pm	9:55	MA	The Short List: Connecticut's cannabis legalization takes effect; asthma rates show improvement in Springfield; covid vaccination sites in the region are closing; many Massachusetts lawmakers oppose an extended sales tax holiday.
Politics & Public Policy	7/19/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: With a post-July 4 spike in covid cases, is a mask mandate likely to be reimposed in Massachusetts? A commission is working on a redesign of the state seal. What's ahead for regional transit after the governor vetoed some funding in the new state budget?
Politics & Public Policy	7/23/2021	4:51pm	9:34	MA	The Short List: Covid-19 rates on the rise; Governor Baker not planning to require masks in schools; rainy weather causes infrastructure headaches.

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Politics & Public Policy	7/30/2021	4:51pm	9:46	MA	The Short List: Massachusetts updates mask guidelines; President Biden names choice for the state's US Attorney; Berkshire DA not issuing guidance for police deemed to have credibility issues; a local charter school has trouble accessing its records after firing a key staffer
Politics & Public Policy	8/2/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: a look at the Baker Administration's policy on masks in schools and whether localities will decide on their own measures; plenty of money still available for rent relief in Massachusetts but advocates say the bureaucratic process is daunting; lawmakers overrode some vetoes and set priorities as they prepared to depart for their August break.
Politics & Public Policy	8/13/2021	4:51pm	9:53	MA	The Short List: Some communities issuing mask mandates or advisories; a state data glitch may have miscounted vaccination rates in some communities; former senator Scott Brown to re-enter politics; a look at the impact of census figures on elected officials.
Politics & Public Policy	8/16/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: new census figures show slow population growth in western Massachusetts compared to the rest of the state, with two counties losing people, and this will mean a challenging redistricting process for legislative seats; Governor Baker still not issuing a statewide mask mandate, leaving it up to localities; will retailers get their wish for an extended sales-tax holiday later this year?

Topic	Airdate	Newscast	Duration	State	Summary
Politics & Public Policy	8/20/2021	4:51pm	9:47	MA	The Short List: Mass. Secretary of State concerned about census figures showing population decline in the western counties; state legislator speaks out on Afghanistan; governors of Massachusetts and Connecticut mandate vaccines for many state employees; Holyoke Soldiers' Home workers sue over covid-19 outbreak.
Politics & Public Policy	8/23/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: Some state employee unions may oppose Gov. Baker's newly announced covid vaccine mandate; a bill has been filed in the House that would ban requiring proof of vaccination to enter businesses and public buildings; legislative action not expected until after Labor Day on the governor's proposed \$1.57-billion budget.
Politics & Public Policy	8/27/2021	4:51pm	10:01	MA	The Short List: Springfield courthouse closed over mold concerns; Massachusetts mandates masks in schools; new schools to open in Springfield and Dalton; mask mandate pondered for the upcoming Big E
Politics & Public Policy	8/30/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: amid vaccine mandates and incentives, the covid caseload in the state continues to rise---will the governor's messaging change? Extended federal unemployment benefits will expire this week, affecting hundreds of thousands in Massachusetts; what will top the agenda when lawmakers return from their summer recess?

Topic	Airdate	Newscast	Duration	State	Summary
Politics & Public Policy	9/6/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: Springfield's legislative delegation seeks input from Governor Baker on the status of the city's mold-infested courthouse; a look at how Massachusetts may be impacted by the recent Texas abortion legislation; lawmakers resume hearings on how to allocate \$.8 billion in American Rescue Plan Act money; employers still face challenges in finding workers.
Politics & Public Policy	9/13/2021	6:45am 8:45am	4:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: with mask mandates increasing, Gov. Baker continues to say that it ought to be a local decision---but will rising covid case numbers make him reconsider a statewide requirement? With the NFL season underway the debate over legalized sports gambling in Massachusetts continues. And a ballot question about the employment status of gig workers such as those with Uber and Instacart is likely to be contentious.
Politics & Public Policy	9/14/2021	6:45am 8:45am	2:03	CT	Refugee resettlement agencies in the region are beginning to take in people fleeing Afghanistan. Connecticut expects 200 evacuees, and as WSHU's Davis Dunavin reports, agencies in that state are also struggling to help dozens of people still trapped in Afghanistan.
Politics & Public Policy	9/17/2021	4:51pm	10:04	MA	The Short List: Springfield covid cases spike; area hospitals struggle with staffing shortages; South Hadley high school still on remote status while mold problems are addressed; western Massachusetts mayoral preliminary elections offer voters plenty of choices.

Topic	Airdate	Newscast	Duration	State	Summary
Politics & Public Policy	9/17/2021	7:45am	4:07	MA	A preview of Holyoke, Massachusetts' preliminary mayoral election, coming up September 21st. Voters will choose from a field of 7 candidates, with the top two finishers advancing to the general election.
Politics & Public Policy	9/20/2021	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: With covid-19 cases rising, Gov. Baker seemed to leave the door open to adoption of vaccination passports, after having previously rejected the idea; August jobs data shows Massachusetts' unemployment rate rising to 5 percent despite many employers being unable to fill vacancies; resettlement agencies call on the state to fill gaps in public assistance for Afghan evacuees.
Politics & Public Policy	9/24/2021	7:50am	4:12	MA	Northampton, Massachusetts voter go to the polls Tuesday in the city's preliminary mayoral election. Four candidates seek to succeed incumbent David Narkewicz, who is not running for another term.
Politics & Public Policy	9/27/2021	6:45am 8:40am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: A dispute continues between the governor and the state police union over covid vaccine requirements, with a judge now weighing in on the governor's side; the legislature has approved a bill revising the redistricting process; with the covid-related poker ban being lifted, not all of the state's casinos have said if they will bring the game back.
Public Health	7/5/2021	6:45am 8:45am	2:47	MA	After distributing more than 178-thousand doses, the mass vaccination site at Springfield's Eastfield Mall closes this week. That's as the state says it's taking a more targeted approach to distributing covid-19 shots. Mall management and some tenants say having the clinic there provided a much-needed boost to business.

Topic	Airdate	Newscast	Duration	State	Summary
Public Health	7/6/2021	6:20am 8:20am	6:13	MA	One of the newest frontiers in mental health care is psychedelic drugs, like MDMA or psilocybin mushrooms. But for now, those drugs are illegal and can't be prescribed. Efforts across the country to decriminalize psychedelics are gaining steam, including in western Massachusetts---though there are some who want to slow down the process.
Public Health	7/20/2021	6:22am 8:22am	4:38	MA	There's a debate roiling K-12 schools, and it's only somewhat related to education. Officials are trying to decide if students will need to wear masks in the new school year. The CDC says vaccinated pupils don't have to, yet some Massachusetts educators say that's hard to enforce with a mix of vaccinated and unvaccinated students.
Public Health	7/22/2021	6:45am 8:45am	4:14	MA	When the pandemic started, there were worries that colleges and universities would be covid-19 hotbeds. In realty, experts say, many schools have been models for containing the virus. For the fall semester, some are mandating vaccinations--a strategy allowed by a federal court this week. But when it comes to international students, this is not a clear-cut directive.
Public Health	8/5/2021	6:45am 8:45am	4:28	MA	The centers For Disease Control and Prevention's recent covid-19 guidance recommends that everyone wear a mask in indoor public settings in area of substantial and high transmission, regardless of vaccination status. That includes all of Massachusetts save for Hampshire and Franklin counties, listed as having 'moderate' levels of transmission. Dr Mark Keroack of Baystate Health says the "delta variant" is present in the region.

Topic	Airdate	Newscast	Duration	State	Summary
Public Health	9/1/2021	6:34am 8:34am	5:39	MA	Primary care has been under stress for years. It's a medical field with high demands and relatively low incomes, at least among doctors. When covid-19 arrived, those practices took a huge hit---and despite measures to make up for lost revenue, many are still struggling.