

WAIC, Springfield, Massachusetts

Issues/Programs List

January 1, 2023 through March 31, 2023.

During this period, WFCR 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.

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 through WFCR's broadcast of 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	1/25/2023	6:22am 8:22am	4:14	MA	It may be sacrilege for an English major, but singing an Emily Dickinson poem to the theme from "Gilligan's Island" is a sort of party game. Some try it to the tune of "The Yellow Rose Of Texas." Songwriter Andrew Bird heard about this from an academic friend who teaches Dickinson's poetry. Bird ended up composing an original melody to accompany words written long ago by the Belle of Amherst.
Arts & Culture	2/2/2023	6:22am 8:22am	7:14	MA	Every family is different in how they speak of their ancestors, or even what parts of family history they're proud of or ashamed of. Author Sarah Dixwell Brown learned the story of her 7-greats-grandfather John Dixwell, and wrote "Regicide In The Family: Finding John Dixwell," chronicling her transatlantic journey to discover her roots.
Arts & Culture	2/14/2023	5:44pm	4:44	MA	The Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine has performed around the region in recent days and played before a crowd of 800 at the UMass Fine Arts Center in Amherst, where NEPM's Dusty Christensen met a Ukrainian family that fled the country when the war with Russia began.
Arts & Culture	2/15/2023	7:45am	4:44	MA	The Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine has performed around the region in recent days and played before a crowd of 800 at the UMass Fine Arts Center in Amherst, where NEPM's Dusty Christensen met a Ukrainian family that fled the country when the war with Russia began.
Arts & Culture	3/2/2023	5:40pm	4:53	MA	The UMass women's basketball team plays George Mason this week in the quarter-final round of the A-10 tournament, coming into the tourney as the number-one seed for the first time in school history. Daily Hampshire Gazette reporter Hannah Bevis says coach Tory Verdi has turned the team into a contender in his six seasons at the helm.
Arts & Culture	3/3/2023	6:40am	4:53	MA	The UMass women's basketball team plays George Mason this week in the quarter-final round of the A-10 tournament, coming into the tourney as the number-one seed for the first time in school history. Daily Hampshire Gazette reporter Hannah Bevis says coach Tory Verdi has turned the team into a contender in his six seasons at the helm.

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Arts & Culture	3/10/2023	6:34am 8:34am	8:13	CT	In the 1970s, Connecticut sports was all about the Whalers hockey team, which flourished despite mergers, acquisitions, and the collapse of the Civic Center where the team played. The franchise moved to North Carolina in 1997. A new book by Globe sportswriter Christopher Price explains how the team thrived during its years in Hartford.
Arts & Culture	3/23/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:05	MA	A few years ago, photographer and preservationist Terri Cappuccio was given 4000 antique glass plates. She developed many and found that the images provide a glimpse into life in western Massachusetts in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Because many of the photographers and subjects are unknown, she called the project "Somebody Photographed This."
Community Voices	1/20/2023	6:45am 8:45am	4:46	MA	Ann Hamilton, who led the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce for over three decades, has died. She was a driving force behind some of the county's most high-profile events, including Cider Days and the Green River Festival. Jim Olsen curates the music portion of the festival and spoke with NEPM's Monte Belmonte about Hamilton's legacy.
Community Voices	1/25/2023	6:22am 8:22am	2:35	MA	"Don't get in the cars of strangers," most of us--- quite sensibly---have been told. But commentator Susan Johnson says hitch-hiking has led to connecting with people who turn out to be like her, and not strangers at all.
Community Voices	2/28/2023	6:34am 8:34am	2:41	MA	In January, 4 people were arrested for trespassing at Boston City Hall. They had staged a sit-in outside the mayor's office, calling for a public hearing to consider renaming Faneuil Hall. Commentator Nick DeLuca says the protest provides the opportunity to face some uncomfortable history.
Community Voices	3/16/2023	6:34am 8:34am	9:21	MA	Oncologists often advise their patients to stick to their usual routines during treatment, as the familiarity might help them relax and avoid rumination. Plumber Frank Marchand of Whately, Massachusetts knows this instinctually: diagnosed with colon cancer seven years ago, he hasn't taken time off throughout his chemotherapy, and he explained why to NEPM's Karen Brown.
Community Voices	3/24/2023	6:34am 8:34am	5:06	NH	When Russia invaded Ukraine last year, a promising teenage tennis player and her mother had to flee. They were eventually approved to relocate to the U-S and settled in New England. As NHPR's Todd Bookman reports, the young player is finding her way in America...through the sport she loves.

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Community Voices	3/28/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:43	MA	Educator Gwen Agna and author and photographer Shelley Rotner wanted to create a book to help elementary and middle-school students explore the meaning of gender. They say many kids are starting to reject the male and female binary altogether. They spoke with NEPM's Nirvani Williams about their book, "True You: A Gender Journey."
Economic Development	1/10/2023	5:51am 7:51am	7:25	VT	Over the past year, a pair of cousins bought two vacant industrial properties in Vermont towns that have seen better economic days. They think they have the right business to bring new life to the properties---processing industrial hemp. The hemp industry has stumbled badly since being legalized in 2019; while 1300 Vermonters grew hemp that first year, the number has since fallen to just 99.
Economic Development	2/24/2023	6:34am 8:34am	9:17	MA	Employers in the region need workers and business leaders are ramping up their warnings about long-term threats to the state's competitiveness. AIM is the state's largest business association, with 3500 members across 150 different industries. Its executive vice-president, Chris Geehern, discussed the situation with NEPM's Carrie Healy.
Economic Development	3/15/2023	6:34am 8:34am	7:31	MA	Employers in western Massachusetts have a lot of jobs to fill, but not enough applicants. Almost all businesses, including those paying minimum wage, require online applications---and employers may be missing out on people who don't have the digital know-how to apply.
Education	2/8/2023	5:45am 7:45am	5:07	MA	After a unanimous vote by the board of Mount Holyoke College, the school has chosen a new president. Noted legal educator and social-justice scholar Danielle Holley will be the first black president in the school's 186-year history. She told NEPM's Carrie Healy what the distinction means to her.
Education	2/10/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	One of the two finalists in the search for a new UMass-Amherst chancellor visits the campus today. Paul Tikalsky is dean of the college of engineering at Oklahoma State. Next week, the other candidate, Javier Reyes will visit; he is presently interim chancellor of the University of Illinois-Chicago.
Education	2/17/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:50	MA	The University of Massachusetts board has unanimously approved Javier Reyes as the new chancellor of the flagship Amherst campus. Trustees yesterday praised retiring chancellor Kumble Subbaswamy. Reyes was asked if he felt any pressure to fill his predecessor's shoes.

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Energy & Environment	1/12/2023	6:45am 8:45am	4:36	MA	The gas you exhale during a 3-hour surgery could deliver the same global-warming effects as driving a car a long distance. That's because some anesthetic gases trap more heat than others. A new 'green' plan at Massachusetts General Hospital includes monthly reports to doctors and nurses showing the climate impact of their care.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	1/10/2023	4:44pm	4:40	MA	The trial has begun in the case of a suspended Springfield police officer in connection with a 2015 fight outside a city bar involving off-duty officers and four black civilians. Jose Diaz was acquitted of assault charges early last year, but had agreed to plead guilty to a charge of misleading investigators. He later changed his mind and withdrew the plea deal. His case is now before a judge.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	1/24/2023	4:44pm	4:11	MA	The US Department of Justice is investigating Worcester police over complaints alleging excessive use of force, false arrest, and discriminatory policing based on race or sex.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	2/8/2023	6:34am 8:34am	9:08	MA	Beating up suspects, violating civil rights, and abuse of authority are among allegations contained in complaints filed by civilians against officers of the Holyoke Police Department from 2010 through 2019. NEPM's Dusty Christensen spent a year and a half trying to obtain those records.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	3/14/2023	6:34am 8:34am	8:05	MA	In the new podcast "Up Against The Mob: The Springfield Crew," host and former prosecutor Elie Honig revisits one of his most pivotal cases in the fight to bring down the Italian mafia---a mob murder that helped unravel a notorious American crime family.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	3/24/2023	6:34am 8:34am	2:49	MA	One year ago, Miguel Estrella, a 22-year-old Pittsfield Massachusetts man, was fatally shot by a city police officer. At the time he was in the midst of a mental health crisis. Since that incident, Pittsfield police have added more mental health professionals to their staff.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	3/29/2023	5:44pm	4:25	MA	A top officer in the Holyoke, Massachusetts police department has been suspended amid allegations that he sexually assaulted and harassed a subordinate. Independent reporter Dusty Christiansen has followed the story involving one of the four captains on the force.

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Justice, Law & Public Safety	3/29/2023	6:34am 8:34am	8:33	MA	Police intervention is on the minds of many Americans. From western Massachusetts where a police intervention last year resulted in the death of a Pittsfield man in the midst of a mental-health crisis, to Congress, where lawmakers are looking at alternatives to keeping the peace. Jim Jordan is a retired director of strategic planning for the Boston Police Department. He spoke with NEPM's Carrie Healy.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	3/30/2023	7:45am	4:25	MA	A top officer in the Holyoke, Massachusetts police department has been suspended amid allegations that he sexually assaulted and harassed a subordinate. Independent reporter Dusty Christiansen has followed the story involving one of the four captains on the force.
Politics & Public Policy	1/2/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: the governor and lawmakers still have some business to clear up before the new administration takes office.
Politics & Public Policy	1/3/2023	6:22am 8:22am	6:56	MA	A new program in the agricultural community will roll out this month. It's a sort of workplace wellness program for farmers. The MassGrown Wellness Program offers in-person and online mental health training. Ashley Randle, deputy commissioner of the state's Department of Agricultural Resources, described who will receive the training.
Politics & Public Policy	1/9/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: Governor Healey lays out ambitious plans for transportation, housing, and other issues; and a look at the 90 bills outgoing Governor Baker signed in his final days in office.
Politics & Public Policy	1/11/2023	6:45am 8:45am	6:11	MA	Massachusetts residents using benefit cards to buy food will find less money available, following a decision by the federal government to end the emergency SNAP allotment put in place during the pandemic. The state agency that oversees food assistance suggests that families turn to food pantries as a stopgap. The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts is one of the groups across the state that supplies food pantries, and spokesperson Christina Maxwell explained its role in the current situation.
Politics & Public Policy	1/16/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: Two very close state house races remain undecided as the house speaker has appointed a committee to evaluate the results; Governor Healey promises an 'equity audit' to ensure that state government addresses disparities.

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Politics & Public Policy	1/19/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:41	MA	Diana DiZoglio has been sworn in as the new state auditor. She told NEPM's Carrie Healy of her desire to expand the role of the auditor beyond financial security, and to include social justice and equity in her audits.
Politics & Public Policy	1/30/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: the state eyes a potential big payoff from legalized sports betting; top business leaders gathered in Boston last week and the new governor was on hand; an election this week could see the long-time chairman of the state GOP replaced.
Politics & Public Policy	2/6/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: disagreement continues on transparency issues both in the legislature and in the executive branch, with Governor Healey seeming to backtrack a bit on an openness pledge involving public records; the state's business community has rolled out recommendations for changes in tax policy; will the new state GOP committee chair bring unity to the party?
Politics & Public Policy	2/13/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: awaiting a report on revenue generated by legalized betting on the Super Bowl; regulators are looking into claims of illegal sports bets involving Massachusetts college teams; no action on committee appointments or new bills so far in the new legislative session; senators have removed the term limit for the Senate president.
Politics & Public Policy	2/14/2023	7:35am 4:33pm	12:31	MA	The first of a 3-part series on the problems facing renters looking for a place to live in the current housing market. Part 1 takes a look at the obstacles that have to be overcome by those relying on government assistance.
Politics & Public Policy	2/15/2023	6:22am 8:22am	7:29	MA	Part 2 of a series on housing focuses on state vouchers and low-income housing developments.
Politics & Public Policy	2/16/2023	6:22am 8:22am	7:26	MA	Part 3 of a series on the challenges facing western Massachusetts residents with state and federal subsidies in a tight housing market...many struggle to find a place to live because many landlords won't accept the vouchers. NEPM takes a look at how landlords experience the situation.
Politics & Public Policy	2/20/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: Revised revenue forecasts may impact local aid---how will Governor Healey address this in her budget proposal? Jon Santiago is the new Veterans' Services Secretary, a post that carries additional importance following the issues at the Holyoke Soldiers Home during the pandemic. And the state may have to seek alternate funding to cover some school districts' operating costs when federal emergency relief money runs out.

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Politics & Public Policy	2/27/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: a look at Governor Healey's budget proposal, including increased reimbursements for school transportation, an issue long championed by western Massachusetts officials; the new state GOP chair says she was left with a financial mess to clean up.
Politics & Public Policy	3/6/2023	6:40am 8:40am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: The state's Gaming Commission aims for a Friday launch of mobile sports betting; a look at the status of time-sensitive legislation allocating money for free school meals and the expanded pandemic assistance that lapsed at the start of the month; and a funding boost is expected for the environmental office overseeing the state's climate goals.
Politics & Public Policy	3/13/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: a major eligibility check may mean that hundreds of thousands of Massachusetts residents could lose their state-run health insurance; the Senate has passed its version of a supplemental budget; state auditor Diana DiZoglio is following through on a campaign promise to audit the legislature, something her predecessor has said wasn't allowed; a check of the latest developments in replacing the two bridges over the Cape Cod Canal.
Politics & Public Policy	3/20/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: a budget bill remains stalled in the legislature as House and Senate leaders have yet to name conference-committee members to work out a final version; regulators and industry groups try to address affordability issues in the face of ongoing inflation; the governor's plan to keep public housing subsidies level-funded is drawing some criticism.
Politics & Public Policy	3/21/2023	6:34am 8:34am	4:29	MA	Guns are among the most divisive issues in America, and politics and rhetoric have done little to find common ground. One western Massachusetts professor is hoping his new book will, if not necessarily bring the two sides together, then at least help the sides understand each other.
Politics & Public Policy	3/27/2023	6:45am 8:45am	5:30	MA	Beacon Hill In 5: the legislature's \$1.1-billion supplemental budget has been sent to the governor for her signature after much negotiation and compromise; and there is renewed discussion of creating a new Rural Affairs Director position to advise the governor on issues affecting the state's 181 rural communities.
Public Health	1/31/2023	5:45pm	4:09	NH	A new risk lurks in New England's drug supply: an animal tranquilizer mixed with street drugs. In New Hampshire, the state crime lab finds it in about 15% of the fentanyl they test. Outreach workers say the state could be doing more to keep people safe.

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Public Health	2/1/2023	7:45am	4:09	NH	A new risk lurks in New England's drug supply: an animal tranquilizer mixed with street drugs. In New Hampshire, the state crime lab finds it in about 15% of the fentanyl they test. Outreach workers say the state could be doing more to keep people safe.
Public Health	2/28/2023	6:34am 8:34am	5:02	MA	Toxic chemicals known as PFAs have contaminated drinking-water supplies across Massachusetts. Cleanup is not cheap.
Public Health	3/1/2023	6:34am 8:34am	5:35	MA	More than half a million people in Massachusetts get their drinking water from private wells. But there are no federal or state rules about those private wells and the toxic chemicals known as PFAS, which have been linked to a growing list of health concerns. As WBUR's Barbara Moran reports, this lack of oversight leaves private well owners vulnerable to these so-called 'forever chemicals.'
Public Health	3/2/2023	6:34am 8:34am	6:05	MA	PFAS are manufactured chemicals found in many everyday products, from food packaging to outdoor gear to hand lotion. They have been linked to a long and growing list of medical concerns. WBUR's Gabrielle Emanuel reports on what happens when PFAS get into the human body.
Public Health	3/3/2023	8:40am	5:09	MA	PFAS chemicals are all around us---on our air, in some lakes and streams, and in a lot of consumer products. They were invented in the 1930s and now scientists are concerned about their impact on human health. As part of our series on PFAS, experts discussed ways to reduce the effects of these so-called 'forever chemicals.'
Public Health	3/22/2023	6:45am 8:45am	4:11	MA	Political and civil unrest continues to disrupt life in Haiti, which has been in crisis since the 2021 assassination of President Moise. Many in the country say resources are limited, especially access to adequate health care. One western Massachusetts college has stepped up to offer help.