

Issues Programs List

Q4

Townsquare Media Bangor

WBZN, WDEA, WQCB, WWMJ, WEZQ

October 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Section I. Issues

The stations have identified the following topics as significant issues facing our community in this quarter:

- **Crime**- Sheriff Troy Morton says the key to protecting yourself from crimes of opportunity is keeping doors locked on your car and at your house. He discusses tips on protecting yourself from falling victim to everything from people taking change out of cars to porch pirates and a recent spate of stolen vehicles.
- **Health**- Maine Concerns offers information on a variety of health topics including, this month, coping with the aftermath of a mass casualty event. After 13 people were killed in Lewiston, many Mainers struggled to feel safe, and to deal with the grief and anger they were experiencing. Dr. Anthony Ng of Northern Light Health offers valuable tips on how to regain a sense of normalcy.
- **Economy**- Education can be a big expense for Maine families, so Maire Pelletier of the Finance Authority of Maine joined us to talk about NextGen 529 accounts, that offer an easy way to start saving for a child's higher education. She also discusses the Alford Grant that's given to each child born in Maine, providing a \$500 boost to that education savings.
- **Homelessness** - There are many agencies in Maine that focus on the growing challenge of homelessness, particularly in the winter when being outside is dangerous. Welcome to Housing Bangor is helping with the relocation of tent city residents by providing them with everything they need to set up housekeeping once they're provided with a permanent home.
- **Education** - Literacy Volunteers of Bangor works to improve the comprehension skills of their clients, through individualized sessions with volunteer tutors. People can achieve their high school equivalency, learn to read English as a second language, or just better their reading and comprehension skills through LVBangor. With the need growing every day, LV Bangor is always looking for dedicated people who want to become part of their mission.

Section II. Responsive Programs

Our community issues program, Maine Concerns, airs each Sunday on WBZN and WQCB at 6:00 a.m., WEZQ at 6:12 a.m., WWMJ at 6:20 a.m., and on WDEA at 11:10 a.m.

10-1-23 Health, Public Safety, Environment (Length - 24:32)

Breast Cancer Awareness - Dr. Suzanne Hoekstra of Northern Light Health joins Cindy Campbell to talk about breast cancer awareness month. Dr. Hoekstra discusses the symptoms of breast cancer, when to be concerned about changes in your breasts, and the importance of cancer screening. She says mammograms are crucial for early detection, which could potentially save your life.

Outdoor Burn Safety - Cindy Campbell talks with Chad Bean of the Orrington Fire Department about the best ways to conduct a brush burn outside your home. He reminds people that they are required by law to have a burn permit and should keep their open burns away from any structures. Most importantly, Bean advises calling the Fire Department immediately if a fire gets out of control.

10-8-23 Education, Health (Length - 24:51)

Literacy Volunteers of Bangor - Cindy Campbell talks with Literacy Volunteers of Bangor's Executive Director Mary Taylor about upcoming tutor training. She talks about the need for tutors and the waiting list currently filled with people who need help but don't have anyone to teach them. Taylor details what's involved in tutoring and how rewarding the experience is once the students achieve their goals.

Banning Flavored Tobacco - Cindy Campbell chats with Dan Cashman of Sutherland Weston Marketing about the current bid in Maine to ban flavored tobacco, which is believed to be marketed to children. Cashman discusses municipalities that have already passed a ban and the ones that have votes pending. The fear is that these products set kids up for a lifetime of addiction.

10-15-23 Health (Length - 24:46)

Reigning Hope Ranch - Cindy Campbell talked with Jenna Baillargeon, founder of Reigning Hope Ranch, which is an equine therapy ranch in Orrington, Maine. Jenna talks about how the horses can help build trust and confidence in people experiencing a wide range of challenges, from autism to post traumatic stress disorder. In addition, she holds coffees for Veterans every week, to help them build a community and combat their PTSD.

10-22-23 Education, Homelessness (Length - 24:28)

Challenger Learning Center Spud Drive - Kirsten Hibbard, Executive Director of the Challenger Learning Center in Bangor joins Cindy Campbell to talk about a major fundraiser for the STEM-based education center. The annual spud drive sells bags of Maine potatoes to anyone who wants them and gives people the opportunity to buy two bags, one of which is donated to the Salvation Army for its food pantry. All the money raised helps support the center that uses simulated space missions to teach science, technology, engineering, and math.

Welcome to Housing - Cindy Campbell checks in with Welcome to Housing founder Chris Olsen about the organization that provides everything from furniture to linens to paper goods to people who are in transition. Olsen talks about how Welcome to Housing is assisting in the relocation efforts of homeless residents from encampments to permanent housing and explains how people can help with their effort.

10-29-23 Crime, Public Safety (Length - 24:38)

Crimes of Opportunity - Cindy Campbell chats with Penobscot County Sheriff Troy Morton about Crimes of Opportunity and how people can protect themselves from falling victim. He advises keeping doors and windows locked on homes and vehicles, never leaving valuables where they can be easily grabbed, and leaving lights and a radio/TV on when your house is empty to give the illusion that someone's home. And with a recent uptick in car thefts, he says it's important to never leave your car alone while it's running or keep a spare key in the vehicle.

11-5-23 Health, Crime (Length - 24:56)

Coping With a Mass Casualty Event - Cindy Campbell talks with a renowned expert on mass casualty events, Dr. Anthony Ng, about how to cope with the aftermath of the mass shootings in Lewiston, Maine. Dr. Ng says people should be gentle with themselves, allow their feelings to come, and not be afraid to express them. He says being concerned about going out in public is a natural reaction to this type of event, but he says when it starts impeding your life, it's time to talk to a professional.

11-12-23 Health (Length 24:21)

Lung Cancer Screenings - Amy McLary of Northern Light Health joins Cindy Campbell to talk about the importance of getting screenings for lung cancer. McLary says more women die from lung cancer every year than from breast cancer, and there are often no symptoms until it's too late for a cure. She advises

anyone who smokes to talk to their doctor about whether they're eligible for the screening.

Generator Safety - Cindy Campbell talks with Judy Long of Versant Power about the importance of having generators hooked up by professionals. She explains how harmful the 'charge back' of an incorrectly connected generator can be to a lineman who's working to get everyone's power restored. Long also discusses safety tips like keeping the generator outside, in a well-ventilated area, to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.

11-19-23

No program due to vacation

11-26-23 Economy, Health (Length - 24:38)

Camp Capella - Cindy Campbell talks with Melanie Dresser of Camp Capella about improvements going on at the camp that serves children with a wide range of disabilities. Dresser says the facility is getting a facelift to allow campers to be there during the colder months and offer more opportunities for barrier free programs.

Maine Utility Rate Changes - In part 2 of Cindy's interview with Judy Long of Versant Power, the topic is the recent fluctuations in the supply portion of people's electric bills. Long explains why the price has been rising and that it's out of the local power company's control. She goes on to say that the rising prices are expected to go down after the first of the year.

12-3-23 Education, Health, Economy (Length 24:45)

211 Maine - Nikki Williams, Program Manager for 211 Maine talks with Cindy Campbell about the new text feature for the 211 database that can help residents find a variety of resources in their own communities, including food pantries, educational opportunities, fuel assistance, and substance use rehabilitation services. She says the text feature allows people who are too embarrassed to call and talk to an operator another way to find help at a time when they're in need.

12-10-23 Homelessness, Crime, Public Safety (Length 24:53)

Manna Ministries - Cindy Campbell talks with Bill Rae of Manna in Bangor about the food pantry's new location and renovations being done. In addition, Bill talks about the organization's Christmas program and the challenges currently being faced by organizations like his who compete with organizations that take meals to people in tent cities instead of requiring them to come into town.

Porch Pirates - In the second part of this interview with Penobscot County Sheriff Troy Morton, he talks with Cindy Campbell about how to avoid losing your holiday packages to porch pirates. This time of year, there's an uptick in these types of crimes so he suggests options to the typical door delivery. He says doorbell cameras are making catching these types of crooks much easier.

12-17-23 Economy, Education (Length - 24:37)

Next Gen 529 - Maire Pelletier of the Finance Authority of Maine joins Cindy Campbell to talk about Maine's education savings plan, the NextGen 529. She discusses the advantages of starting early when saving for education and the advantages of NextGen, which allows family members to contribute their financial gifts.

Finance Authority of Maine - Cindy Campbell checks in with Mila Tappan of the Finance Authority of Maine about the FAFSA, which was delayed this year due to a revamp of the website. She says the application for federal financial aid won't be available until the first of next year but encourages people to get their Federal ID set before the FAFSA opens. Maine Concerns will check in again with Tappan after the first of the year to learn about what changes have been made to the application.

12-24-23

No program due to the holiday

12-31-23 Economy, Education, Crime (Length - 24:46)

Alfond Grant - Part 2 of Cindy's conversation with Maire Pelletier of the Finance Authority of Maine concentrates on the Alfond Grant, which is a \$500 gift given to each child born in Maine. She explains that it's a great start to saving for a child's education that is awarded automatically and, while parents don't have to open a NextGen account, this grant is perfect as an initial deposit. Pelletier directs people to the Alfond Grant website, where they can get their questions answered.

Don't Drink and Drive - Cindy Campbell talks with Sergeant Jason McAmbley of the Bangor Police Department about the costs of getting arrested for operating under the influence. As well as the obvious dangers of being on the road while intoxicated, McAmbley says the costs are extensive. He encourages people, before they get behind the wheel, to think about the cost of bail, a lawyer, lost wages while incarcerated, and the stiff fine they would pay.