

Quarterly List of WGBH-TV Programming Providing the Most Significant Treatment of Community Issues - WGBH-TV (April-June 2014)

I. Education/Schools/Youth

Greater Boston, L 06/04/14, 7pm, 30 min.

Cellphones are usually off limits in the classroom - but a Cambridge start-up is harnessing the power of smartphones and tablets as learning tools. WGBH News Innovation Reporter Cristina Quinn visited a local middle school, where teachers are already seeing what a difference a device can make.

Greater Boston, L 06/10/14, 7pm, 30 min.

For Boston-area teenagers who are too young to drive - or don't have access to a car - the MBTA is crucial to connecting them with friends or transporting them to after-school jobs. As of July 1st, a monthly T pass for middle and high school students will cost \$29 - compared to \$75 for a standard monthly pass. But that lower rate comes with a caveat. Student passes are only good on school days. Now some youth activists are demanding a more flexible, less expensive monthly pass for riders 12 to 21 years old. The group "Youth Affordability Coalition," or YAC, is calling for unlimited youth T access - for just \$10/month.

Greater Boston, L 06/11/14, 7pm, 30 min.

Obama's speech came just hours after another student loan bill failed in Congress. Senator Ed Markey looked on as a bill proposed by fellow Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren failed on a procedural vote. Warren's bill would have allowed some graduates to refinance their student loans at lower rates. While Washington continues to argue over how to help families pay for college, there's no disputing the rising debt load facing students. According to a new report, 70% of students graduate with substantial loans amounting to almost \$30,000 on average. That can mean years of monthly payments of around \$300/month. And that has some critics calling even the modest loan reform measures insufficient.

II. Housing/Urban Development

Greater Boston, L 04/07/14, 7pm, 30 min.

Here's a study that probably won't surprise you. According to the website "Nerdwallet," Boston is the 5th worst US city for parking. And while that's not exactly news to us, some Boston officials are pushing a parking fix that might surprise you. They're allowing developers to build residential buildings without any parking - in hopes of encouraging city-dwellers to hop on a bike, bus or train to get around. But not everyone is on board with the idea.

Greater Boston, L 05/12/14, 7pm, 30 min.

For all the debate over free speech and gun control - one area where the government enjoys broad authority gets far less attention. That's the ability to seize private property in the name of the public good. That right of eminent domain has shaped much of the Boston we know today and now it's causing concern in Somerville.

Greater Boston, L 05/14/14, 7pm, 30 min.

Boston is in the midst of a building boom - with thousands of new luxury units slated for construction over the next three years. But is the boom in high-end developments a bust for the city's middle class? Mayor Marty Walsh says he's committed to balancing the ambitions of developers with the needs of struggling communities, a task that now falls to his new BRA chief John Barros. He recently took WGBH News's Phillip Martin on a tour to explain how.

III. Public Safety/Crime/Justice

Greater Boston, L 04/03/14, 7pm, 30 min.

A recent Harvard study examines what worked and what didn't work with the aftermath of the Marathon Bombings. No surprise, the report commends the work of first responders at the finish line - but it also contains some criticism of the melee in Watertown during the chase and search for the bombing suspects.

Greater Boston, L 04/08/14, 7pm, 30 min.

In a typical year, hundreds of law enforcement officials line the Boston marathon route from Hopkinton to Copley Square. They usually blend into the background - quietly maintaining order. But this is no ordinary year. Officers deployed to the race on April 21st will be on heightened alert - and their increased presence will help calm nerves still frayed from last year's bombings at the finish line. But as Edgar Herwick reports, there's a limit to what law enforcement can control.

Frontline, N 05/13/14, 9pm, 120 min.

“United States of Secrets, Part One” - Last year, Edward Snowden downloaded tens of thousands of top-secret documents from a highly secure government computer network. The revelations that followed touched off a fierce debate over the massive surveillance operations conducted by the National Security Agency. Now, FRONTLINE investigates the secret history of the unprecedented surveillance program that began in the wake of September 11th and continues today. Through exclusive interviews with intelligence insiders, cabinet officials and government whistle-blowers, part one reveals how the U.S. government came to monitor the communications of millions of Americans and to collect billions of records on ordinary people around the world.

IV. Needs of Special Interest Groups

Greater Boston, L 04/28/14, 7pm, 30 min.

The Civil Rights Act turns 50 this year. The landmark legislation outlawed segregation on the job, in the classroom and in public places - like parks, hotels and restaurants. WGBH News Reporter Clennon King recently sat down with two Boston-area residents who fought for civil rights on the frontlines in Georgia, Florida and Virginia.

Greater Boston, L 04/30/14, 7pm, 30 min.

For most of his political career, former Somerville State Rep Carl Sciortino was a well-respected legislator who labored in relative obscurity on Beacon Hill. But last fall, during a run for Ed Markey's old Congressional seat, Sciortino struck internet gold with an ad in which he

described how he “came out” to his Republican father. The ad went viral - but wasn't enough to send Sciortino to Washington. He finished in the middle of the Democratic pack. It did suggest he has an enviable knack for getting attention - a skill Sciortino hopes to utilize in his new role running Boston's AIDS Action Committee, where he's the first Executive Director in the organization's 32-year history who is living with HIV.

Greater Boston, L 05/07/14, 7pm, 30 min.

In February, John Abdallah Wambere arrived in Boston on a temporary visa from Uganda. Then, just three days after Wambere got here, Uganda's president signed legislation making homosexuality punishable by life in prison. Wambere is now seeking asylum in the United States, but his temporary visa expires at midnight tonight. Janson Wu is a lawyer with Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders who helped Wambere file for asylum and joined him on set to talk about the process.

V. Employment/Unemployment/Poverty

Start Up, N Sundays 04/01/14-05/25/14 12:30pm, 30 min.

This series offers viewers an up-close and personal look into the world of the modern American entrepreneur. As complicated as starting a business may seem, the goal is to demystify the process by sharing the real life experiences of average Americans who are taking control of their own destiny while creating jobs for others. Over 90% of all companies in America are small businesses. Those small businesses employ over 50% of all people working in this country. Today's media rarely focus on the stories of those Americans and their hard work, despite small-businesses being the backbone of the country. "Start Up" explores the next generation of American business owners and the dreams that drive them.

Greater Boston, L 04/08/14 7pm, 30 min.

Today is National Equal Pay Day. President Obama and his fellow Democrats are making hay of the day in hopes of turning the gender pay gap into a major issue this election year. The president signed two executive orders today: one keeping federal contractors from retaliating against employees who discuss their salary, and the other requiring those contractors provide compensation data to the Labor Department.

Greater Boston, L 04/10/14 7pm, 30 min.

It's become one of the region's biggest bragging rights. The thriving tech sector centered in Boston and Cambridge is giving Silicon Valley a run for its money. But there's one difference between Massachusetts and California that some say puts our innovation economy at a disadvantage. Here, we allow "non-compete" agreements, preventing employees from jumping ship to take a job at a rival company. Today, Governor Patrick introduced legislation banning non-competes - and he explained the timing of the move - and addressed its critics - on Boston Public Radio.

VI. Environment/Ecology

Nova, N 05/07/14, 9pm, 60 min.

“Why Sharks Attack” - In recent years, an unusual spate of deadly shark attacks has gripped Australia, resulting in five deaths in 10 months. At the same time, great white sharks have begun appearing in growing numbers off the beaches of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, not far from the waters where Steven Spielberg filmed the ultimate shark fright film, Jaws. What's behind the mysterious arrival of this apex predator in an area where they've rarely been seen for hundreds of years? Are deadly encounters with tourists inevitable? To separate fact from fear, NOVA teams up with leading shark experts in Australia and the United States to discover the science behind the great white's hunting instincts. Do sharks ever target humans or is each attack a tragic case of mistaken identity? Can a deeper understanding of shark senses lead scientists to design effective deterrents and help prevent future attacks? With shark populations around the world plummeting, scientists race to unlock the secrets of these powerful creatures of the deep in their quest to save people -- and sharks.

Greater Boston, L 05/19/14, 7pm, 30 min.

It's clean, free and virtually unlimited - on most days anyway. That's why Governor Deval Patrick is trying to make hay while the sun shines - with a new initiative aimed at doubling Massachusetts' solar capacity by 2020. But while it's easier than ever for homeowners and businesses to tap into the sun, it's still a tough sell in urban areas like Boston. WGBH News Reporter Anne Mostue has more in tonight's Focus report.

Greater Boston, L 06/02/14, 7pm, 30 min.

Last month, the Salem Power Plant shut down its coal-fired boilers for good. It was the last of the state's so-called "Filthy Five" power plants- targeted by environmentalists for sending tons of carbon emissions into the atmosphere. Now, a similar story may play out across the nation, as the Environmental Protection Agency issues sweeping new guidelines aimed at combatting climate change.

VII. Medical and Mental Health/Social Services

Greater Boston, L 04/14/14, 7pm, 30 min.

Two months ago, you couldn't open the newspaper or flip on the TV without hearing about heroin. The overdose death of actor Philip Seymour Hoffman in February sparked a national conversation about opiate addiction. Now there's an interesting legal battle playing out that's still making headlines. Governor Patrick has banned the powerful painkiller Zohydro from being prescribed in Massachusetts. It's the first time a state has blocked an FDA approved drug - and the manufacturer is fighting the ban. A federal judge heard arguments from the Attorney General's office - and drug maker Zogenix today - but has not yet issued a ruling.

Greater Boston, L 06/02/14, 7pm, 30 min.

Almost every profession has a playbook - a set of guidelines codifying industry standards. In the mental health field - that playbook is the "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders" - known as the DSM. But the LATEST edition of that manual has touched off

several debates in the psychiatric profession. In this week's Focus reports, we look at two of those flashpoints - beginning with the new guidelines for treating grief.

Greater Boston, L 06/18/14, 7pm, 30 min.

It's the season to get outdoors in New England - and unfortunately, that also means it's Lyme Disease season. A recent federal study found there are roughly 3.4 million Lyme tests conducted in the US each year - but how accurate are they? Our partners at The New England Center for Investigative Reporting found some labs may be incorrectly diagnosing patients with unproven tests.

VIII. Economy/Business

Craft in America, N 05/02/14, 10pm, 60 min.

“Industry” – This episode explores the business of the handmade, going into workshops where artists are crafting the future and making contributions to the local and national economies. The program highlights the important connection between the consumer and the maker and explores the value of exquisitely crafted handmade objects in today's creative economy.

Greater Boston, L 05/21/14, 7pm, 30 min.

Boston and Cambridge go to great lengths to attract high-tech big guns - like Facebook and Google - but it's the little guys that can have the most impact. That's the philosophy behind Mass Challenge - the world's largest start-up accelerator program. Each year, it awards more than \$1,000,000 in grants to up-and-coming companies. And today, 128 finalists for the seed money were announced right here at WGBH - and they run the gamut from bio-med companies to social welfare initiatives.

Greater Boston, L 05/27/14, 7pm, 30 min.

When Oliver Wendell Holmes famously declared Boston "the Hub of the Universe," it was arguably America's cultural and commercial capital. While those glory days have long since gone, Boston has enjoyed a renaissance in recent years. Tonight's Focus Report looks at Boston's rising star in the global economy.

IX. Family/Morality/Religion

Greater Boston, L 05/13/14, 7pm, 30 min.

It's one of the strangest stories to roil Boston in recent memory: a Satanic "black mass" was scheduled yesterday on Harvard's campus - but drew vehement protest from Boston's Catholic community, and ended up taking place in a Chinese restaurant. As weird as it sounds - the episode raises big questions about the balance between academic freedom and religious beliefs.

Coming Back With Wes Moore, N Tuesdays 05/13/14-05/27/14, 8pm, 60 min.

This series, produced by best-selling author and US Army veteran Wes Moore, tells the story of his search for answers to some of the most difficult questions facing vets returning from war. Moore's journey, spurred by the suicide of one of his oldest friends and a fellow officer, takes him into the personal lives of different soldiers as they attempt to reintegrate into society, establish new identities and -- for many -- find a new mission.

Greater Boston, L 06/12/14 7pm, 30 min.

Divorce is a complicated, often messy matter - especially for the 10-15% of couples who can't reach a child custody agreement. Now, a task force appointed by Governor Patrick is proposing a number of changes to the state's family court system. Among the recommendations - that children spend no less than a third of their time with either parent whenever possible. The taskforce also recommends changes to the vocabulary of custody cases. In fact, the group says the word "custody" should be removed from the lexicon - and replaced with "residential responsibility" and "decision-making responsibility." They'd also like to see "visitation time" replaced with "parenting time." The idea is that the new terms are less adversarial. The Governor has expressed support for these recommendations - but has yet to send a bill to the legislature. My next guest says the changes are long overdue.