

WCHG Most Significant Issues 3rd Quarter – July Through September 2011

We aired national news broadcasts from NPR News at the top of each hour during our Morning Drive (6-10 a.m.) and Evening Drive (3-6 p.m.) as well as at the beginning and end of our Noon Hour Magazine (12 and 1 p.m.). At the bottom of each hour during the Morning and Evening Drive-times, we alternated airing state news reports from the Virginia News Network (VNN) and WV Metro News. VNN news also aired at 12:30, during Noon Hour Magazine, and WV Metro News aired at 12:55. These programs run Monday through Friday. We also carried NPR National News at Noon on Saturday and Sunday. Our local news stories aired after NPR News at the beginning of Noon Hour Magazine. They would then repeat at the top and bottom of each hour during the Evening Drive and the following day's Morning Drive. Here is a summary of the most significant issues covered in our local news this quarter.

County Government

We aired reports from each Bath County Board of Supervisors meeting, and we aired an agenda for each meeting the day before. Board of Supervisors reports this quarter aired on 7/13 (comments on GW forest plan), 8/11 (handicapped parking in Hot Springs), 8/12 (new county administrator Matt Walker), 9/14 (funding 1st grade teacher at Valley Elem), and 9/15 (goodbye to County Administrator Bonnie Johnson).

On 7/14, we aired a story about a drug take back event at the Bath Wellness and Rehab Center in Mitchelltown. The event, held for the purpose of taking in unwanted or expired prescription drugs was sponsored by the Bath Community Hospital and the Bath County Sheriffs dept.

On 7/21, we aired a story about the US Marshall Service moving Beacher Hackney into their top 15 most wanted list of fugitives. Hackney is accused of killing two of his co-workers at the Homestead Resort in March of 2009.

Election Stories

On 8/30, we aired the list of candidates for various offices in Bath County. The election is November 8th, 2011.

On 9/1, we aired a story about what happens when not enough candidates have filed to run to fill the available positions on the county school board.

On 9/5, we aired a story about voter registration changes due to recent redistricting following the 2010 census.

Wind Development

One of the most important stories we have been covering for the past couple of years has been the potential development of industrial wind energy facilities in and around Highland County. Now it appears that it may become an issue for Bath county as well.

Agriculture and Environment

Each day, during Noon Hour Magazine, we aired a regionally-produced three-minute news magazine feature about topics related to agriculture. Agriculture is a major industry in our listening area, and being produced in the Shenandoah Valley, On the Farm Radio, is relevant to our listeners.

We air periodic reports from Patrick Sheridan, District Ranger for the Warm Springs District of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest. This quarter, these stories aired on 8/4, and 8/8 (forest plan public comment).

On 7/22 and 7/25, we aired reports about some of the items under consideration for the draft revision of the George Washington National Forest. Public input on the plan is being sought by the US Forest Service. We did a follow up story on 7/29 with public comments made during a meeting about the plan on 7/27.

On 8/22 and 8/29, we aired two stories about an ongoing study of coyotes in Bath County to try to determine whether an increase in the predator is causing a decrease in the deer population, or if there are other factors. The first story talked about the study in general, the second about the techniques used to collect the data.

Community

We run a periodic feature on the activities of the Bath County Senior Center. This quarter, these reports ran on 7/13, 8/12, and 9/8.

On 7/27, we aired a story about five post offices that are on the possible closure list. They are Buckeye in Pocahontas, Bacova and Williamsville in Bath County and Headwaters and Doe Hill in Highland County.

On 7/27, we aired a story about staff from the Library of Virginia coming to Bath County to scan Civil War documents owned by local county residents.

On 8/12, we aired a story about the Masonic Grand Lodges Child ID program. Using a computer volunteers with the lodge can create a free DVD for parents that contains pertinent information about their child including a voice print. It's designed to be very compact, easy to carry, and can be renewed each year; it's a free service for parents.

On 8/15, we aired a story about the 2011 Bath County Relay for Life.

On 8/19, we aired a story about a documentary being shown about the Watson School, a school in Covington for African Americans during segregation.

Education and Children

We cover the meetings of the Bath Co School Board. During this quarter, these reports ran on 7/14 (returning unused money to the county), 7/19 (board says no to reinstating asst principal position), 7/28 (Pete Pitard resigns as Principal of Bath Co HS), 8/3 (board hires new HS Principal), and 9/8 (1st grade teacher request).

We air periodic reports from the Bath County Library. During this quarter, these reports aired on 7/7 (e-book lending launch) and 9/1.

On 7/6, we aired a story about mission trips to Haiti undertaken by members of the Windy Cove Presbyterian Church.

The Bath County School Division held a series of meetings to get public input on the counties six year plan for the school system. We aired stories from these meetings on 7/21 (school administration bldg), 8/2 (Millboro Elementary), 8/10 (Valley Elem), 8/15 (Burnsville), and 8/25 (summary of the meetings).

On 9/27, we aired an interview with Pete Pitard, former Principal of Bath County HS. Pitard stepped down from that job when the school board refused to reinstate the Assistant Principal position at the high school. Pitard is now teaching history at Covington HS.

Jobs and Development

On 7/29, we aired a story about Matthew Lee Walker being named the new Administrator for Bath County. He will assume the full duties of the job on October 1st, 2011.

On 8/26, we aired a story about a Bath County film that will be produced and shown on Virginia Public Television.

On 9/9, we aired a story about a meeting concerning the possible closure of the Bacova Post Office. It was one of five local post offices on the list of possible closures released earlier in the year.

On 9/30, we aired a story about efforts to save the Bacova Post Office from being closed. Another PO on the list, Williamsville, has been spared closure for now.

Arts and Culture

On 7/11, we aired a story about the 47th annual Bath County Arts Show, a fundraiser for the Bath County Arts Association. Proceeds from the show help support arts projects all year round.

On 7/15, we aired a report about Dick Riley stepping down as the Executive Director of the Garth Newel Music Center. Riley had only been in the position for a few months.

On 8/4, we aired a story about the upcoming Wings and Wheels festival. This is the third year for the growing festival and the first year that AMR has covered it with a remote broadcast.

On 9/19, we aired a story about the Harvest Moon festival and century bike ride.

Public Service Announcements

Below is a list of Public Service Announcements aired this quarter:

Education and Children

Bath School Division Meetings	7/12 thru 8/23
TOTS Preschool At Warm Springs Prebyterian	8/12 thru 9/9
Bath Athletic Booster Club	8/18 thru 8/22
Bath County Library E-Books	9/26 thru 10/23

Health and Human Resources

Bath Senior Center Trips	8/9 thru 9/9
Bath Volunteers Needed	8/31 thru 9/22
Social Security – Back to Work After Disability	9/7 thru 10/7
Social Security – Legitimate Govt Websites	9/7 thru 10/7
Central Shenandoah Health District – Rabies Vaccine	9/26 thru 10/23

Benefits and Fundraisers

WCHG Millboro Block Party	7/9 thru 7/30
Deerfield Fire and Rescue Parade and Dinner	8/18 thru 8/27
Bath Parks and Rec Block Party	9/1 thru 9/17

Art, Culture, and Recreation

Wings and Wheels Fest	7/19 thru 8/6
Bath Farmers Market	7/20 thru 8/20

Bath Civil War Documents Scanning	7/26 thru 7/30
Wings and Wheels Airshow	7/26 thru 8/6
Wings and Wheels Car Show	7/26 thru 8/6
Wings and Wheels General info	7/26 thru 8/6
Garth Newel Music Center Summer Fest	8/16 thru 9/4
Bath Area Choir	8/26 thru 9/24
Bath Hay Bales	8/26 thru 9/19
Bath Heritage Festival	9/28 thru 10/8