

WCHG Most Significant Issues 1st Quarter – January Through March 2012

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 1/12 (disagreement over designating Vice-chairman of board), 1/13 (animal shelter and landfill), 1/16 (McWilliams chosen as Vice-chair), 1/17 (mtg with other elected office holders), 1/27 (procedural changes for mtgs), 2/8 (public comment guidelines), 2/15 (Feb public hearings), 2/16 (outdoor lighting ord), 2/29 (planning commission work session), 3/14 (lighting ordinance), 3/15 (Thomastown improvements), and 3/23 (mtg with school board).

During this quarter we aired a public affairs program called "Assembly Conversations". Produced by Virginia Public Radio, this program offers commentary and public opinion on the legislative process when the Virginia General Assembly is in session. The issues discussed in this program are of interest to our listeners in Bath and Highland counties. This program aired every Saturday morning from January 21st through March 4th.

On 2/1, we aired a report from Bath County Sheriff Robert Plecker on an increase in phone scams being attempted in Bath.

On 2/24, we aired a profile of new Bath County Treasurer Pam Webb.

On 2/28, we aired a story about a proposed lighting ordinance in Bath County.

Breaking News

On 2/6, we aired a story about a former Warm Springs postmaster Greg McMullen who was arrested for child pornography. On 2/28 we did a follow up story about Mr. McMullen waiving his right to a formal hearing, clearing the way for the case to be presented to the grand jury.

News Briefs

On 1/31, we aired a news brief about scheduled prescribed burns that would affect parts of Pocahontas and Bath Counties.

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.

Education and Children

We cover the meetings of the Bath Co School Board. During this quarter, these reports ran on 1/11, 1/12, 2/9, and 3/8.

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 1/10, 1/18 (Back Creek timber sale), 1/25 (2011 wildfires), 2/8 (Laurel Fork comments), 2/21 (spring prescribed burns), and 3/30.

On 1/17, we aired a story about a showing of the documentary "City Dark" at the Old Dairy in Warm Springs. As with many rural areas, environmental light pollution is becoming an issue of concern for many in Bath County.

On 1/23, we aired a story about animal welfare and control and how it is handled by Bath County. This story is part of a series on animal control in Bath, Highland and Pocahontas County.

On 1/26, we aired a story about a meeting to discuss the declining deer population in Bath County and what steps can be taken to alleviate the problem.

On 2/1, we aired a story about Warm Springs District Ranger Patrick Sheridan and his work on a nationally based Incident Team specially trained to respond to wildfires and other emergencies in national forests across the county.

On 2/10, we aired a story about the decline of deer population in Bath County. One of the newly elected Board of Supervisors, Bart Perdue is spear heading an effort to find a solution to the problem. We aired a follow up story on this issue on 3/22.

Community

We run a periodic feature on the activities of the Bath County Senior Center. This quarter, these reports ran on 1/19.

On 1/2/12, we aired a profile of new WCHG Station Coordinator Richard Hise, a long time volunteer at the station.

On 3/5, we aired a story about the Virginia Veterans Affairs office resuming regular visits to Bath and Highland to assist local Veterans.

People

On 1/30, we aired a story about Chris Cauley, formerly of Bath County who is competing on The Voice, a televised singing contest. This story focused on his connections to Bath and his grandmother Faye's influence on his choice of career.

We did follow up stories with Chris on 2/17, 2/20 and 3/28.

Jobs and Development

On 3/19, we aired a new business profile for 'Natural Retreats' a destination type of vacation rental.

Arts and Culture

On 1/6, we aired an interview with Bath County Tourism Director Maggie Anderson. Anderson gave an update on the events planned for Bath County in 2012.

On 2/6, we aired a story on the new executive director at Garth Newel Music Center.

On 3/7, we aired a story about the lineup of performers for the 2012 Blues and Jazz Fest at Garth Newel Music Center. It is one of top tourist draws for Bath County in the summer months.

Public Service Announcements

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

Education and Children

IRS Free File	2/3 thru 3/6
Legomania at the Rockbridge Library	2/17 thru 3/18
Bath Library Program	3/5 thru 3/8

Health and Human Resources

DMV 2 Go	1/6 thru 2/7
Flu Vaccinations – general importance	1/24 thru 2/24
Womens Heart Attack Month Awareness	1/25 thru 2/29
Go Red For Womens Health	2/3 thru 3/6
Veterans Help Program	3/8 thru 3/13

Benefits and Fundraisers

Bison Bluegrass Festival	1/16 thru 1/29
Bath Humane Soc – Social for Shelter	2/6 thru 3/10
Bath Scholarship Golf Tournament	2/7 thru 3/16
Hot Springs Presbyterian Spagetti Supper	2/15 thru 2/26
AMR Books and CD's For Sale	3/9 thru 4/21
Donkey Basketball At Bath County HS	3/8 thru 3/9
Blast for a Cause – Joe Randozzo FR	3/19 thru 4/7
Hot Springs Fire & Rescue Golf Tournament	3/26 thru 4/20
WCHG FR Ole Fashion Country Dance	3/26 thru 4/20

Art, Culture, and Recreation

Bring Back the Tradition – Square Dance classes	1/12 thru 1/28
Game Population Meeting	1/13 thru 2/14
Bath Talking Books Program	1/19 thru 1/25
Bath Community Choir	2/9 thru 2/25
Square Dance Workshop	3/6 thru 3/24
Bath Farmers Market Pot Luck	3/8 thru 3/27
Virginia Deer Hunters Meeting	3/13 thru 3/20