

# COMMONWEALTH BEAT QUARTERLY ISSUES LIST

## 4<sup>TH</sup> Quarter, 2023

Below is a list of the significant issues responded to by radio station WSBG-FM, Stroudsburg, PA of Seven Mountains Media – Pennsylvania along with the programming treatment of the issues for the period October 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. The order in which the issues appear does not reflect any priority or significance.

Description of Issue	Program/Segment	Date	Time	Duration	Narration of Type and Description of Program/Segment
Domestic Violence Awareness Month	The Commonwealth Beat with Laura LeBeau	10/1/23	7:00a	30 mins	<p>October marks the start of the national recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In Pennsylvania, the PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence has been addressing the issue since 1976, raising awareness about the various kinds of domestic violence, such as physical, verbal and financial abuse. 1 in every 3 people in PA will experience some form of domestic violence. On October 17<sup>th</sup>, the coalition will hold a memorial service on the steps of the Pennsylvania Capitol, to recognize the 122 people killed last year because of some form of domestic violence.</p>
The PA Fish & Boat Commission Executive Director speaks about his organization					<p>The PA Fish &amp; Boat Commission is one of the few state-related agencies which is funded strictly by user fees and various taxes collected for fish and boat-related items sold in the state. It receives no money from the state budget, although the General Assembly still has some oversight of the agency. Executive Director Tim Schaeffer says he likes that method of funding. One of the big issues this time of year is the cold water life jacket requirement for all persons on the water. It runs from November 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup> for all canoes, kayaks and boats under 16 feet. Since it's been in place for the past 10 years, cold water drownings have been cut in half.</p>

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<p>Pennsylvania State Police Recruitment changes</p>	<p>The Commonwealth Beat with Laura LeBeau</p>	<p>10/8/23</p>	<p>7:00a</p>	<p>30 mins</p>	<p>Under an Executive Order issued by Governor Josh Shapiro, Pennsylvania State Police has dropped its requirements regarding college credits necessary to apply for the PSP Academy. There is now no requirement for State Police Cadets to have any college courses on their academic record, although most potential applicants do have some college coursework to their credit. Lt. Adam Reed, Spokesman for the PSP, discussed what will now be required to apply. Applicants must only be at least 20 years of age to apply, and at least 21 and less than 40 on their date of appointment as a State Police Cadet. Lt. Reed said the PSP has seen a dramatic increase in applications since the college requirement was dropped.</p>
<p>The PA Fish &amp; Boat Commission Executive Director speaks about the Northern Snakehead fish and other invasive species.</p>					<p>PA Fish &amp; Boat Commission Executive Director Tim Schaeffer discusses the Northern Snakehead, an invasive fish species that is not native to Pennsylvania and is posing significant threats to the native marine life in the Commonwealth's waters. Schaeffer discussed the actions being taken, and what anglers and boaters can do to stop the spread of this fish and other invasive species, such as cleaning boats after removing them from water, and never dumping fish purchased or caught elsewhere into the Commonwealth's waterways.</p>
<p>PA-mazing Segment: Pennsylvania Grand Canyon</p>					<p>The Pennsylvania Grand Canyon is one of the most beautiful and popular state attractions. Colleen Hanson with Visit Potter-Tioga talked about the canyon, which sits in Tioga State Forest between Leonard Harrison State park on the east rim, and Colton State Park on the western rim. The canyon boasts 465,000 acres of state forestland, 62 miles of hiking, biking,</p>

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<p>A school bus driver shortage is impacting Pennsylvania</p>	<p>The Commonwealth Beat with Laura LeBeau</p>	<p>10/15/23</p>		<p>30 mins</p>	<p>and walking trails, plus campsites, and other natural wonders. Tourists come from across the nation and other countries to visit the PA Grand Canyon.</p> <p>Even before the Covid-19 pandemic, Pennsylvania was experiencing a statewide shortage in school bus drivers, but post-pandemic, it's become even more pronounced. 8 out of 10 students in the Commonwealth ride a bus to school each day. Jerry Wozwick, Director of the PA School Bus Association said the private companies that contract with the 500 public school districts have had to increase pay, provide bonuses and other incentives to attract men and women to the profession. He also discussed changes made to the training regimen for school bus drivers, to ease the concern many people have had about entering the profession.</p>
<p>PA-mazing segment: The Philadelphia Zoo</p>					<p>The Philadelphia Zoo is the nation's oldest zoo, but hardly the largest. Sitting in West Philadelphia on only 42 acres of land, Dani Hogan, Director of Mission Integration said the zoon was chartered in 1859, to give the citizens of Philadelphia the opportunity to experience a part of the natural world they would otherwise never get to experience. Over its 160 year history, the Zoo staff has been a leader in animal conservation and propagation efforts. The Zoo has had many famous residents, including Massa the Gorilla, who was the oldest Silverback Gorilla in captivity until his death in the 1980's. The Zoo also was home to the famous MGM lion after his retirement. He's the lion who's face and roar can be seen and heard at the start of every MGM movie.</p>



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<p>Getting to know PA Lt. Governor Austin</p>					<p>access treatment because of the cost. Since then, the Coalition has successfully advocated for laws that mandate PA insurance carriers cover preventative mammogram screenings, as well as cover both oral and intravenous cancer drugs. Additionally, the Coalition just successfully lobbied to have insurance cover 3D mammograms and additional screenings for women who have dense breast tissue and need other specialized screening methods.</p> <p>At just 34 years of age, Austin Davis is already a historic figure, both in Pennsylvania and the nation. He is currently the youngest Lt. Governor in the nation while also being Pennsylvania's first black Lt. Governor. He discussed his background, including how a shooting outside his Allegheny County home as a teenager prompted him to get involved in politics. He also discussed his range of duties as Lt. Governor, such as serving as the President of the PA Senate and Chairman of the Board of Pardons &amp; Parole. He is a staunch supporter of parole reform and the Clean Slate legislation to expunge records of low-level drug offenders, so they can find jobs and become productive members of society.</p>
<p>What would it take to move Pa's Presidential Primary, and can it even be accomplished for 2024?</p>	<p>The Commonwealth Beat with Laura LeBeau</p>	<p>11/5/23</p>		<p>30 mins</p>	<p>Since 2019 and the authorization of No Excuse Mail-in balloting, PA elections have come under increasing scrutiny. The 2020 presidential election did little to bolster confidence in the administration of elections. But Secretary of the Commonwealth, Al Schmidt is working to restore confidence in PA elections. He discussed his efforts along those lines. Additionally, he discussed what it would take to move up the PA Presidential</p>

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<p>PA-mazing segment: Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater</p>					<p>election. It is scheduled for April 23, 2024, but some state lawmakers want to move it to late February or early March, to give PA more prominence in the selection of the presidential nominees.</p> <p>Tucked into the hills of the Laurel Highlands in Fayette County is an international tourist destination that has inspired architects, designers and dreamers since it was commissioned in the mid 1930's. Fallingwater was the onetime country home of Pittsburgh department store magnate, Edgar Kaufman, Sr. and his family. It was designed and built into a 30 foot waterfall by renowned American architect Frank Lloyd Wright between 1935 and 1938. Justin Gunther, VP of the Western PA Conservancy and Director of Fallingwater, discussed the majestic structure's history. It brings visitors from across the globe. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site. The only other such site in PA is Independence Hall in Philadelphia.</p>
<p>Why does PA have so many Puppy Mills and what can be done to stop them?</p>	<p>The Commonwealth Beat with Laura LeBeau</p>	<p>11/12/23</p>		<p>30 mins</p>	<p>"Puppy Mill" is a term heard occasionally in the news, but what exactly are they? Jackie Keeney, President of United Against Puppy Mills, based in Lancaster County, is one of the foremost advocates fighting to end these cruel places and put the people who recklessly breed dogs as a cash crop, out of business. Keeney said she has never come across a pet store in PA which sells puppies that doesn't get them from puppy mills. She wants to educate people who continue to buy puppies from pet stores or farms that they are likely supporting a puppy mill operation. She also wants the Commonwealth to hire more Dog Law officers, to help monitor dog kennels and put a stop to the lucrative business of dog breeding.</p>

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<p>PA State Treasurer Stacy Garrity discusses her office and the State Vault</p>					<p>Bradford County native Stacy Garrity is Pennsylvania's 78<sup>th</sup> State Treasurer. She is the custodian of over \$150B in state funds and is responsible for the receipt, deposit and withdrawal of all state monies and investments. She also oversees the state vault, which is the largest working vault in the country, and is especially diligent about researching and returning military medals to veterans or their family members.</p>
<p>How to address the shortage of volunteer firefighters in PA with State Fire Commissioner Thomas Cook</p>	<p>The Commonwealth Beat with Laura LeBeau</p>	<p>11/19/23</p>		<p>30 mins</p>	<p>There are approximately 2400 fire departments across Pennsylvania, and volunteer firefighters make up almost 97% of the staff within them. That makes PA the state with the third-highest percentage of volunteers in the country, as compared to the national average of 70%. But since the 1970's the volunteer ranks have dropped from 360,000 to fewer than 3,700. PA State Fire Commissioner Thomas Cook is working daily to address the shortage. He is implementing evidence-based studies about volunteer firefighting and is working with state lawmakers to incentivize the public to become volunteer firefighters. He discusses some of his ideas to draw people back to the firefighting ranks.</p>
<p>PA-mazing segment: Brandywine Museum's holiday model train display</p>					<p>The Brandywine Museum in Chadds Ford, Delaware county is known across the globe as the home of renown artist Andrew Wyeth. However, from Thanksgiving through the New Year, the museum is know for having a huge model train display that takes up an entire floor of the museum and has become a holiday pilgrimage for thousands of people for 50 years. Paul Hoerner is the museum's Senior Model Railroad specialist and has been enthralled with the train display</p>

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<p>As Rifle Deer Hunting season begins, a discussion with the head of the PA Game Commission about how the agency oversees hunters and the deer herd in PA</p>	<p>The Commonwealth Beat with Laura LeBeau</p>	<p>11/26/23</p>		<p>30 mins</p>	<p>since he was a boy. He discusses what's involved in curating and setting up the model railroad each year.</p>
<p>Pennsylvania State Police announce the awarding of nearly \$6M in federal grants to combat drug trafficking in PA</p>					<p>Rifle deer hunting season began on November 25<sup>th</sup>, and plenty of hunters will be trolling the state gamelands and private lands looking for their doe or buck. Keeping track of it all is the PA Game Commission. Among their duties, keeping track of chronic wasting disease within the commonwealth's deer population. Game Commission Executive Director Bryan Burhans talks about what hunters need to know this year. He also discusses the role of Game Wardens, who are deputized law enforcement officers who routinely put their lives in jeopardy to keep every hunter safe. Their training is specialized and intense. He talks about their many duties.</p> <p>PSP Lt. Colonel Adam Reed discusses the receipt of two federal grants totaling almost \$6M. They come from the U.S. Dept. of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. The first grant totals \$4M from the Anti-Heroin Task Force. The other \$1.94M is from the Anti-Methamphetamine Task Force. Lt. Reed talks about the impact drug abuse has on communities, and how State Troopers deal with the never-ending job of curtailing drug trafficking in the state.</p>



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<p>The Office of Victim Advocate and the Address Confidentiality Program</p>	<p>The Commonwealth Beat with Laura LeBeau</p>	<p>12/3/23</p>		<p>30 mins</p>	<p>J.R. Waltemeyer, Director of the Address Confidentiality Program, discusses the state-provided service that gives victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and stalking an opportunity to begin their lives anew. Once accepted into the program, a victim or one of their family members has their mail sent to a post office box managed by the Office of Victim Advocate, so that their abuser can't track them down. The mail is then repackaged at the OVA and sent to the victim's actual address. Over 1,000 victims are currently enrolled in the Address Confidentiality Program.</p>
<p>The Wanamaker Organ at Macy's in Center City, Philadelphia</p>					<p>The Macy's store in Center City, Philadelphia plays host to the largest working pipe organ in the USA. It's known as The Wanamaker Organ, because it was purchased in 1909 by department store magnate, John Wanamaker for the atrium of his flagship store at 13<sup>th</sup> and Market Streets. The organ has over 28,000 pipe and has been played daily since its installation. During the holiday season, a light show is installed in the seven-story atrium, to accompany the organ's holiday music. Ray Biswanger, President of the Friends of the Wanamaker Organ, discusses the intricacies of the organ and what it takes to maintain it.</p>
<p>A review of his first year in office: a special episode with Gov. Josh Shapiro</p>	<p>The Commonwealth Beat with Laura LeBeau</p>	<p>12/10/23</p>		<p>30 mins</p>	<p>An in-depth conversation with PA Governor Josh Shapiro on his first year in office. He discusses why he loves the job and never takes one day for granted. He also discusses the many challenges in his first year in office: the murder of a State Trooper, the collapse of a portion of i-95 in Philadelphia and the effort to reopern with within two weeks, the battles he had with the General Assembly over the state</p>

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<p>How are Pennsylvania businesses dealing with the employee shortage confronting almost every industry?</p>	<p>The Commonwealth Beat with Laura LeBeau</p>	<p>12/17/23</p>		<p>30 mins</p>	<p>budget, the two week search for escaped murderer Danilo Cavalcante, and other issues he faced. Shapiro said the theme of his administration is GSD – Get Stuff Done. He has streamlined the state permitting and licensure process, and cleared up a backlog of unemployment claims from the Covid pandemic.</p>
<p>A discussion about the PA Human Relations Commission. Who are they and what are they tasked with doing?</p>					<p>Pennsylvania is in the midst of a massive employee crisis across all employment sectors. Luke Bernstein, Executive Director of the PA Chamber of Business &amp; Industry offers his thoughts on this crisis. He argues that PA must update its training models to better align to the jobs of today. He also believes there needs to be less emphasis on a college education and more emphasis on Career &amp; Technological education.</p> <p>Although most Pennsylvanians probably have heard about the Human Relations Commission, it’s likely also true that they don’t know exactly what they do. Chad Dion Lassiter, Executive Director of the Commission was just named to City &amp; State Pennsylvania's 2023 Impact 75 List. He discusses their mission, which is to see that Pennsylvania residents are not discriminated against in the workplace, housing or public accommodations for any reason. Lassiter said Pennsylvania’s Human Relations Commission is the oldest in the nation. He heads a staff of about 80 employees between three regional offices in Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Pittsburgh.</p>
<p>“Best of Edition: The</p>		<p>12/24/23</p>		<p>30 mins</p>	<p>Re-airing of The Commonwealth Beat from October 8, 2023</p>

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Common-wealth Beat "Best of Edition: The Common-wealth Beat		12/31/23		30 mins	Re-airing of The Commonwealth Beat from October 22, 2023
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