

## Issues and Programs List

Quarterly Issues and Program List for Station WBSM-AM  
January 1, 2024 - March 31, 2024

### **Section I Issues.**

The News /Talk Station WBSM has identified the following issues as significant facing our community this quarter:

**Food Insecurity/Hunger:** The pandemic has increased a need that was already too high in the area according to United Way of Greater New Bedford. Food insecurity has multiplied for those who have experienced the loss of a job or a reduction in work hours.

**Housing:** According to United Interfaith Action, nearly half of New Bedford households are "cost burdened," spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing costs.

**Art and Culture:** The SouthCoast seeks enrichment. Local groups are bringing exhibits and other activities to residents to experience together.

**Politics:** Local and national governments have seen many changes and impactful events.

**Education:** Changes have been made to the local college campus, closing a heritage art school building in Downtown New Bedford. School libraries are also vanishing across the region.

**Transportation:** Local officials are working to make affordable and free public transportation a priority for the region.

**Public Health:** The opioid crisis and the suicide epidemic continue to affect the Greater New Bedford area.

### **Section II. Responsive Programs on WBSM**

"In our ongoing effort to serve the public interest, Station WBSM broadcasts programming responsive to issues of concern to the Greater New Bedford area and the surrounding service area. The following are programs to address those issues."

Program Date: January 2, 2024

Time / Length: 8 a.m., 60 minutes

Show Title / Host: The Tim Weisberg Show

Guest(s) Name / Company: Jack Spillane, New Bedford Light columnist

Topic and Brief Description: **POLITICS.** Spillane talked about the inauguration of New Bedford's elected officials.

Program Date: January 7, 2024

Time / Length: 6 - 6:20 am

Show Title / Host: Townsquare Sunday with Jim Phillips

Guest(s) Name / Company: Eric Rousseau, Southeastern Regional Transit Authority

Topic and Brief Description: **TRANSPORTATION**. Rousseau discussed the expansion of the "Try Transit" program, offering free bus rides through June.

Program Date: January 7, 2024

Time / Length: 6:20 - 6:40 am

Show Title / Host: Townsquare Sunday with Jim Phillips

Guest(s) Name / Company: Alissa DeSousa, Rare Riders of Massachusetts

Topic and Brief Description: **ACCESSIBILITY**. DeSousa discussed Rare Riders of Massachusetts, a SouthCoast-based nonprofit raising funds for adaptive bicycles, enabling children with disabilities to enjoy bike rides with their friends and family.

Program Date: January 8, 2024

Time / Length: 8 a.m., 60 minutes

Show Title / Host: The Tim Weisberg Show

Guest(s) Name / Company: Jack Spillane, New Bedford Light columnist

Topic and Brief Description: **POLITICS**. Spillane shared more on the inauguration.

Program Date: January 9, 2024

Time / Length: 8 a.m., 20 minutes

Show Title / Host: The Tim Weisberg Show

Guest(s) Name / Company: Amanda Jacob, Hopeful Outreach of Cape Cod

Topic and Brief Description: **HOUSING**. Jacob talked about how her organization puts together care packages, blankets, tents and more for the houseless.

Program Date: January 14, 2024

Time / Length: 6 - 6:20 am

Show Title / Host: Townsquare Sunday with Jim Phillips

Guest(s) Name / Company: Dr. Greg Skomal

Topic and Brief Description: **WILDLIFE**. Marine biologist and shark expert Dr. Greg Skomal discussed great white sharks and an upcoming fundraiser.

Program Date: January 14, 2024

Time / Length: 6:20 - 6:40 am

Show Title / Host: Townsquare Sunday with Jim Phillips

Guest(s) Name / Company: New Bedford Light columnist Jack Spillane

Topic and Brief Description: **ARTS AND CULTURE**. Spillane discussed some of the biggest stories that will make up 2024, including the announcement of a Herman Melville statue coming to the city.

Program Date: January 16, 2024

Time / Length: 8 a.m., 20 minutes

Show Title / Host: The Tim Weisberg Show

Guest(s) Name / Company: Rep. Bill Straus

Topic and Brief Description: **TRANSPORTATION**. Rep. Straus discussed the plan to replace the New Bedford-Fairhaven Bridge.

Program Date: January 21, 2024

Time / Length: 6 - 6:20 am

Show Title / Host: Townsquare Sunday with Jim Phillips

Guest(s) Name / Company: Carl Alves, PAACA

Topic and Brief Description: **OPIOID CRISIS**. Alves discussed the latest on the opioid crisis in New Bedford and on the SouthCoast.

Program Date: January 21, 2024

Time / Length: 6:20 - 6:40 am

Show Title / Host: Josh Amaral, New Bedford Director of Housing and Community Development

Guest(s) Name / Company: Townsquare Sunday with Jim Phillips

Topic and Brief Description: **HOUSING**. Amaral talked about the housing crisis in New Bedford.

Program Date: January 28, 2024

Time / Length: 6 - 6:20 am

Show Title / Host: Townsquare Sunday with Jim Phillips

Guest(s) Name / Company: Ken Manning, UMass Dartmouth

Topic and Brief Description: **POLITICS**. UMass Dartmouth Professor Ken Manning examined the possibility of another Donald Trump presidential win.

Program Date: January 28, 2024

Time / Length: 6:20 - 6:40 am

Show Title / Host: Townsquare Sunday with Jim Phillips

Guest(s) Name / Company: Ranger Rufai Shardow and Judy Rodriques, New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park

Topic and Brief Description: **ARTS AND CULTURE**. Shardow and Rodriques discussed the slate of Black History Month programming at the national park.

Program Date: February 4, 2024

Time / Length: 6 - 6:20 am

Show Title / Host: Townsquare Sunday with Jim Phillips

Guest(s) Name / Company: Darcy Lee, Director of Samaritans SouthCoast

Topic and Brief Description: **PUBLIC HEALTH**. Lee discussed the effectiveness of her organization's suicide hotline.

Program Date: February 4, 2024

Time / Length: 6:20 - 6:40 am

Show Title / Host: Townsquare Sunday with Jim Phillips

Guest(s) Name / Company: Joe Ritter, Programs Manager for the New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center

Topic and Brief Description: **ARTS AND CULTURE**. Ritter discussed the upcoming slate of programs for February and March.

Program Date: February 5, 2024

Time / Length: 8 a.m., 60 minutes

Show Title / Host: The Tim Weisberg Show

Guest(s) Name / Company: Jack Spillane, New Bedford Light columnist

Topic and Brief Description: **POLITICS**. Spillane discussed the recent magistrate hearing regarding the New Bedford City Council.

Program Date: February 11, 2024

Time / Length: 6 - 6:20 am

Show Title / Host: Townsquare Sunday with Jim Phillips

Guest(s) Name / Company: Jaden Teixeira of Brown Suga Stationery and Design and Nella Perry of the New Bedford Economic Development Council

Topic and Brief Description: **BLACK-OWNED BUSINESS**. Teixeira and Perry discussed the challenges of Black-owned small businesses.

Program Date: February 11, 2024

Time / Length: 6:20 - 6:40 am

Show Title / Host: Townsquare Sunday with Jim Phillips

Guest(s) Name / Company: Jack Spillane, New Bedford Light columnist

Topic and Brief Description: **POLITICS**. Spillane discussed a recent court magistrate hearing regarding some local political gadflies/citizen journalists versus members of the New Bedford City Council.

Program Date: February 11, 2024

Time / Length: 6:40 - 7 am

Show Title / Host: Townsquare Sunday with Jim Phillips

Guest(s) Name / Company: Sarah Rose, United Way of Greater New Bedford

Topic and Brief Description: **COMMUNITY**. Rose discussed the Changemaker Grant program and how you can get involved.

Program Date: February 12, 2024

Time / Length: 8 a.m., 60 minutes

Show Title / Host: The Tim Weisberg Show

Guest(s) Name / Company: Jack Spillane, New Bedford Light columnist

Topic and Brief Description: **URBAN PLANNING**. Spillane discussed the differences in city planning between Barcelona and New Bedford.

Program Date: February 18, 2024

Time / Length: 6 - 6:20 am

Show Title / Host: Townsquare Sunday with Jim Phillips

Guest(s) Name / Company: Cheryl Bartlett, Chief Executive Officer of the New Bedford Community Health Center

Topic and Brief Description: **PUBLIC HEALTH**. Bartlett updated listeners on the COVID-19 virus in our area and discussed some of the latest COVID recommendations from the CDC.

Program Date: February 19, 2024

Time / Length: 8 a.m., 60 minutes

Show Title / Host: The Tim Weisberg Show

Guest(s) Name / Company: New Bedford Light columnist Jack Spillane

Topic and Brief Description: **EDUCATION**. Spillane asked whether cities like New Bedford should be trying to get by with only one high school.

Program Date: February 25, 2024

Time / Length: 6 - 6:20 am

Show Title / Host: Townsquare Sunday with Jim Phillips

Guest(s) Name / Company: Brian Glyn Williams, UMass Dartmouth

Topic and Brief Description: **POLITICS**. Williams doesn't mince any words when it comes to the Russian invasion of Ukraine or the Israeli-Hamas conflict in Gaza.

Program Date: February 25, 2024

Time / Length: 6:40 - 7 am

Show Title / Host: Townsquare Sunday with Jim Phillips

Guest(s) Name / Company: Patti Rego, Executive Director of Viva Fall River

Topic and Brief Description: **COMMUNITY**. Rego discussed the Sweet Bread Snackdown competition and how you can get involved.

Program Date: February 26, 2024

Time / Length: 8 a.m., 60 minutes

Show Title / Host: The Tim Weisberg Show

Guest(s) Name / Company: New Bedford Light columnist Jack Spillane

Topic and Brief Description: **EDUCATION**. Spillane discussed the lack of school libraries on the SouthCoast.

Program Date: February 29, 2024

Time / Length: 8 a.m., 20 minutes

Show Title / Host: The Tim Weisberg Show

Guest(s) Name / Company: Heather Hurd, Field Medicare Outreach Consultant, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts

Topic and Brief Description: **PUBLIC HEALTH**. Hurd discussed how Medicare works and how to enroll.

Program Date: March 1, 2024

Time / Length: 8 a.m., 20 minutes

Show Title / Host: The Tim Weisberg Show

Guest(s) Name / Company: Ben Berke, The Public's Radio

Topic and Brief Description: **GENTRIFICATION**. Berke, the SouthCoast Bureau reporter for The Public's Radio, discussed his report on whether or not New Bedford is becoming gentrified.

Program Date: March 3, 2024

Time / Length: 6 - 6:20 am

Show Title / Host: Townsquare Sunday with Jim Phillips

Guest(s) Name / Company: Helena Hughes, Immigrants Assistance Center

Topic and Brief Description: **IMMIGRATION**. Hughes talked about how the migrant crisis at the southern border is impacting communities across the country, including New Bedford.

Program Date: March 3, 2024

Time / Length: 6:20 - 6:40 am

Show Title / Host: Townsquare Sunday with Jim Phillips

Guest(s) Name / Company: New Bedford Light columnist Jack Spillane

Topic and Brief Description: **EDUCATION**. Spillane talks about the importance of school libraries and why they are disappearing on the SouthCoast.

Program Date: March 4, 2024

Time / Length: 8 a.m., 60 minutes

Show Title / Host: The Tim Weisberg Show

Guest(s) Name / Company: Jack Spillane, New Bedford Light columnist

Topic and Brief Description: **BUSINESS**. Spillane examined the number of empty buildings downtown.

Program Date: March 10, 2024

Time / Length: 6 - 6:20 am

Show Title / Host: Townsquare Sunday with Jim Phillips

Guest(s) Name / Company: Lisa Benjamin and Ashley Dennen

Topic and Brief Description: **COMMUNITY**. Benjamin and Dennen talked about Ashlin Costa, a 13-year-old girl suffering from an aggressive form of colon cancer, and an upcoming fundraiser for her.

Program Date: March 10, 2024

Time / Length: 6:20 - 6:40 am

Show Title / Host: Townsquare Sunday with Jim Phillips

Guest(s) Name / Company: Victoria Grasela, United Way of Greater New Bedford

Topic and Brief Description: **FOOD INSECURITY**. Grasela discussed the upcoming Spring Hunger Heroes Food Drop and how it helps local families.

Program Date: March 10, 2024

Time / Length: 6:40 - 7 am

Show Title / Host: Townsquare Sunday with Jim Phillips

Guest(s) Name / Company: President Pauline Santos and Grant Writer Tom Leverett, Dartmouth Cultural Center  
Topic and Brief Description: **ARTS AND CULTURE**. Santos and Leverett discussed the renovation work at the Center and its spring schedule.

Program Date: March 11, 2024  
Time / Length: 8 a.m., 60 minutes  
Show Title / Host: The Tim Weisberg Show  
Guest(s) Name / Company: Jack Spillane, New Bedford Light columnist  
Topic and Brief Description: **POLITICS**. Spillane discussed the city's election issues, and whether women should serve on the Feast committee.

Program Date: March 14, 2024  
Time / Length: 8:15 a.m., 20 minutes  
Show Title / Host: The Tim Weisberg Show  
Guest(s) Name / Company: Dr. Dennis LaRock, EVP and Chief Physician Officer for Southcoast Health  
Topic and Brief Description: **PUBLIC HEALTH**. Dr. LaRock discussed Kidney Cancer Awareness Month.

Program Date: March 17, 2024  
Time / Length: 6 - 6:20 am  
Show Title / Host: Townsquare Sunday with Jim Phillips  
Guest(s) Name / Company: Tony Sapienza and Paul Chasse, New Bedford Economic Development Council  
Topic and Brief Description: **HOUSING**. Sapienza and Chasse discussed the EDC's housing plan, "Housing For All: Forward-Looking Strategies for a Growing New Bedford."

Program Date: March 17, 2024  
Time / Length: 6:20 - 6:40 am  
Show Title / Host: Townsquare Sunday with Jim Phillips  
Guest(s) Name / Company: Brandon Travers, Vice President Club Madeirense SS Sacramento  
Topic and Brief Description: **EDUCATION**. Travers discussed the upcoming fish fry fundraiser to benefit the club's Vocational Award Committee, helping students who go directly into the trades after high school.

Program Date: March 24, 2024  
Time / Length: 6 - 6:20 am  
Show Title / Host: Townsquare Sunday with Jim Phillips  
Guest(s) Name / Company: Sister Mary of the Transfiguration  
Topic and Brief Description: **ARTS AND CULTURE**. Sister Mary discussed the Way of the Cross and how it is being observed this Easter in New Bedford.

Program Date: March 24, 2024

Time / Length: 6:20 - 6:40 am

Show Title / Host: Townsquare Sunday with Jim Phillips

Guest(s) Name / Company: Ian Abreu and Cris Raposo, Northeast Home & Garden Show

Topic and Brief Description: **ARTS AND CULTURE**. Abreu and Raposo discuss the upcoming home and garden show happening on the SouthCoast.