

WPKZ PROGRAMS LIST Q2 2021

WPKZ Radio has over 25 hours of live local programming per non-holiday week addressing significant local and communities issues. In the past quarter that has included Covid-19 Impacts, Community Leaders, elected and non-elected, Business and financial New, Education related Community information, Tips and Updates on the local real estate market, non-Profit Initiatives. Mental and Personal Health. State and Federal Legislative Updates, Local and Regional Sports Stories and Updates. Most of our community program interviews and topics are also uploaded to our SoundCloud on-demand site for on demand listening at www.kzonereplay.com Submitted by John Morrison and Sherman Whitman.

The following is a summary issues and guests during the K-Zone Morning Kommute which airs weekdays between 6:00 am and 9:00 am. The program is hosted during this period by Sherman Whitman.

PUBLIC SAFETY, April 6th, 7:40 am

Fitchburg Fire Chief Anthony Marrama talked about the change of seasons, and the challenges they bring to his department. He said the arrival of Spring not only brings longer and warmer days, but it can also lead to the beginning of brush fires in our listening area. He expressed concern about this being the time of year for Red Flag Warnings -- which is a combination of windy conditions, lack of rainfall and when the humidity in the air falls to 20 percent or lower. He also expressed concern about people who begin their cooking outdoors, and when residents fail to extinguish those flames.

PRELUDE TO POLAR, April 6th, 8:10 am

Worcester Red Sox Senior Vice President Bill Wanless talked to our listeners about the work that continues in getting ready for the team's inaugural season at Polar Park. He talked about the excitement and the energy he sees as those preparations continue, the satisfaction of seeing baseball players working out at the park and he talked about the frustration they're dealing with in knowing that the Coronavirus has delayed the start of the 2021 season to the month of May.

PUBLIC SAFETY, April 7th, 7:15 am

Fitchburg Police Chief Ernie Martineau welcomed the arrival of Spring during this hour, and he talked about the additional challenges first responders have faced during one year of living with the Coronavirus pandemic. He looked back at the similarities and differences between the present and the pandemic during the 20th century and returning to what people called a "new normal" or new way of doing things. He also shared his thoughts on what the public has learned about themselves and their lives during the pandemic and the lessons we need to learn.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT April 8th, 7:15 am

State Representative Natalie Higgins talked about the process of getting people vaccinated for the Coronavirus and the opening of the mass vaccination sites, the frustrations people were facing in signing up to be vaccinated, the lack of locations for vaccinations locally and what the prospects are for those locations in our area. She also talked about how the Coronavirus has given lawmakers more time to file their legislation, like the Student Loan Bill of Rights; and the challenges in putting together a state budget for fiscal year 2022.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL, April 9th, 7:35 am

Todd Robbins, the voice of High School Sports on WPKZ Radio, previewed the football game between Leominster and Wachusett. He detailed what to look for when both teams have the football, how unusual it is to be playing in the Spring as compared to the Fall, the challenges that come from trying to re-start after your season is lost to the Coronavirus pandemic, concern about whether playing football could affect sports that are normally played during the Spring and the dedication of players and coaches in making this happen.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, April 14th, 7:15 am

Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale updated the progress being made in re-opening Fitchburg City Hall, his thoughts about George Clooney coming to the city to work on his new film and the prospects of other productions coming to the city, the process of getting residents vaccinated for the Coronavirus and the opening of locations in the city to be vaccinated, the return of students to the public school buildings and the possible effects of what may have been lost from having kids outside of the classroom and what can be done for the remainder of the school year.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, April 14th, 8:10 am

3rd District Congresswoman Lori Trahan looked back at the attack on the US Capitol on January 6th and the memorial service for Capitol Police Officer and Massachusetts native William "Billy" Evans who was killed April 2nd when a vehicle rammed into a U.S. Capitol barricade. She was asked what can be done to make this safer nation, be it our cities and towns, and the US Capitol, she addressed the growth in hate speech and the violence against members of the Asian and Pacific communities and she called for social media platforms to be held accountable for the material that is presented on those platforms.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, April 16th, 8:10 am

Tom Skwierawski, Director of Community Development and Planning for the city of Fitchburg; talked to us about the plans for a series of new projects...including a potential location for an Amazon Distribution Center in the city, and the jobs this could bring, and what this could mean

for the city's tax base. He also talked the prospects for more job opportunities with the reduction of Coronavirus cases, the release of a new round of Covid Support Payments for businesses that have been struggling to survive during the pandemic, and updated the work being done on the Rail Trail Project that connects Fitchburg and Leominster.

COMICS FOR A CURE, April 20th, 7:10 am

Comedian Jerry Caruso told our listeners about an upcoming fundraiser for laughs with the proceeds to benefit the work of the Gardner Emergency Housing Mission. He talked to us about the program, their goal of helping local residents msintain temporary housing for families that need help and the importance of focusing on local residents and keeping families together during the pandemic.

EARTH DAY April 20th, 7:35 am

Jeff Murawski, Deputy Commissioner of Wastewater for the Fitchburg Department of Public Works; talked to us about importance of the work by this department in helping to protect the local environment, discussed the history of Earth Day, what has happened in the city over the years, looked ahead to neighborhood clean-ups throughout the city, how the public has responded to these efforts, the challenges of making this happen during the pandemic and the pride that people have shown in their city.

CANNABIS, April 20th, 8:10 am

Jen Flanagan of the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission talked about her career in public service, especially her tenure as a member of the Commssion. She discussed her decision to leave her seat in the State Senate to accept Governor Charlie Baker's appointment to the Commission, the importance of the health of people when it comes to the use of Cannabis, concern about those who suffer from Cannabis use disorder, keeping the substance away from children, the potency levels of the products, the need to find a balance between legalization and the potential consequences of the marijauna and her decision to leave the Commission to become the Director of Regulatory Policy at a Boston law firm which has clients in all of the states that have medical and adult-use cannabis programs.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, April 21st, 7:15 am

Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzarella shared his thoughts about the trial and the conviction of Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin in the killing of George Floyd and the challenge of bringing people together after the conviction, the differences in how communities train their police officers, the difference in relations between officers and communities across the nation, whether officers should be taken out of the public schools and whether officers should live in the city or town that they serve.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, April 22nd, 7:10 am

2nd District Congressman Jim McGovern shared his thoughts about the trial and the conviction of Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin in the killing of George Floyd, the fact that officers testified against Chauvin in the proceedings and the hope that the verdict could lead members of Congress to act on measures dealing with Police Reform. He also discussed what needs to be done to combat hunger in this nation, especially while the nation is still coping with the Coronavirus and the ways hunger has cost this nation in dollars and cents over the years.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, April 23rd, 8:10 am

State Representative Michael Kushmerek talked about the challenges Beacon Hill lawmakers have been facing in putting together the state budget for Fiscal Year 2022 as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. He discussed the additional challenges they have faced in making sure the state can live within its means, trying to determine how much money should be taken from the state's Rainy Day Fund to help the state cover its expenses, whether extra funding for education and other needs for the new fiscal year would be there and what can be done to help businesses survive during these times.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, April 23rd, 7:40 am

State Representative Meghan Kilcoyne responded to the numbers released by the US Census Bureau that said that the Massachusetts population grew by seven percent, which assures Massachusetts will keep its representation on Capitol Hill and the hope that the state will continue to get its fair share of federal funds from Washington, and whether those numbers will mean that she will be representing more people in the Massachusetts House. She shared her thoughts about working on her first state budget, how her experience working with former Representative Harold Naughton has enabled her to work with what she calls "The Covid Class" of lawmakers who are in the midst of their first term on Beacon Hill.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, April 28th, 7:15 am

Gardner Mayor Mike Nicholson welcomed Governor Baker's announcement on the ending of business restrictions as result of the Coronavirus and what it means for his city, the progress his city has made in vaccinating people for the Coronavirus, how do you respond to those who insist they will not get vaccinated, what he was expecting Gardner to receive in Local Aid from the state, he talked about how things are with all the students back in school and whether Gardner is one of the cities that is seeing population growth based on the figures from the 2020 US Census.

FOSTERING CHANGE, April 29th, 7:10 am

Lindsey English, Founder of the non-profit, marked the third anniversary of the organization which has helped to improve the quality of life of foster children and their families. She talked to us about her life as a foster child, and how her foster mom was there to help her along the way and what she learned from her, the people who have helped the organization do its work, how they provide materials for kids as they begin the new school year, help to make Christmas brighter for kids up to college age and the satisfaction in knowing they continue to make a difference in the lives of foster children in Massachusetts.

BUSINESS, April 29th, 8:35 am

Roy Nascimento, President and CEO of the North Central Mass Chamber of Commerce; talked to our listeners about the partnerships they've created and the work they have done to help businesses work their way through the Coronavirus pandemic, he expressed his pleasure that Governor Baker announced the lifting of all restrictions in Massachusetts come August 1st, that more businesses have either re-opened or expanded their operations, the funding they have made available to help businesses survive during the pandemic and discussed what he thought the business community has learned from going through the pandemic.

PUBLIC SAFETY, May 4th, 7:40 am

Fitchburg Fire Chief Anthony Marrama talked about the issuing of Red Flag Warnings in Massachusetts, which means there is greater risk of brush fires that could be caused by the careless disposal of smoking materials or sparks from the train rails, and the drier landscape caused by the growing of plants and other vegetation. He also talked about the end of "The Burning Season," where residents have been burning materials on their properties; and the importance of taking care of the landscape as people begin to start cooking outdoors and making sure that the fires are completely burned out, the cooking is done away from buildings and other structures, and the things we can do to make sure our homes are safe we get closer to the Summer of 2021.

PRELUDE TO POLAR, May 4th, 8:10 am

Worcester Red Sox Senior Vice President Bill Wanless looked ahead to Opening Day as the Worcester Red Sox prepare for their inaugural season on the road with the Buffalo Bisons. He talked about the work that went into making their new home at Park Park a reality, the delay in starting the season because of the Covid protocol, the satisfaction in knowing they can double the seating capacity for Opening Day, his comparing Opening Day of the season to Christmas Day for kids and what this means for the Central Mass economy.

PUBLIC SAFETY, May 5th, 7:15 am

Fitchburg Police Chief Ernie Martineau talked to us about the importance of police officers and community members having difficult conversations, including the murder of George Floyd and the conviction of Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin. He talked about the training of officers and the differences in communities. He talked about the importance of officers acting in a fair and impartial manner. He said there is much to be learned in the trial of Officer Chauvin, to evolve from every situation that is faced by the community at large and from conversations where everyone listens to what is being said.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, May 5th, 8:10 am

3rd District Congresswoman Lori Trahan shared her thoughts on the first 100 days in office for President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, the progress being made in getting people vaccinated for the Coronavirus, the work that needs to be done to get people vaccinated closer to their homes, how Massachusetts has fared in vaccinating people as compared to the early days when the state struggled to make things happen, the opening and re-opening of businesses and the opening of sporting venues and entertainment facilities in Massachusetts and the work that still needs to be done.

POLAR PARK: OPENING DAY, May 11th, 8:10 am

Worcester Red Sox Senior Vice President Bill Wanless shared his thoughts about Opening Day as the team was making final preparations for the home opener at their new ballpark. He talked about the touches that were being added to the ballpark, plus the work to be done, their looking forward to raising the seating capacity as the season continues, what the opening of the ballpark has meant for all of Central Massachusetts and the hopes for many positive memories that will last a lifetime.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, May 12th, 7:15 am

Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale talked to us about the progress being made in the Coronavirus pandemic, from the distribution of the vaccine to a day where there were no deaths reported from the pandemic, the establishing of facilities to vaccinate people and the need for opening more facilities to vaccinate people, and the struggle of getting people to trust government and to have confidence in the vaccine. He also talked about the work that is going on to prepare a new city budget for the fiscal year, and the hope that there will be more funding from the state in making ends meet, and he also explained what is meant by "free cash" which goes into the funding for the fiscal year.

PUBLIC SAFETY, May 12th, 8:10 am

Lynnette Valentine, Envoy for The Salvation Army, talked to our listeners about several fires that happened in our listening area in a span of four days. The most serious was a seven-alarm fire in Leominster that displaced at more than 30 people. She talked about the conversations they have had and continue to have with residents, the work being done by several agencies to

support the short-term and long-term needs for families as they begin the process of rebuilding their lives and the help needed to help The Salvation Army do its part.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, May 13th, 7:10 am

State Representative Natalie Higgins talked to us about progress being made in vaccinating people for the Coronavirus, and the lessons we need to learn from the pandemic, the work being done by many organizations to help the people displaced by a seven-alarm fire in Leominster, the Massachusetts House finishing its work on their version of the 2022 state budget, the additional funding that would be heading toward Leominster, amending legislation to make sure that sexual assault testing kits are working properly and she discussed the re-opening of entertainment venues to the public, what can be done to help businesses that are struggling to stay open and what can be done to help young people facing the costs of a college education.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, May 14th, 8:10 am

State Representative Danilo Sena shared his thoughts on the progress made in dealing with the Coronavirus, the growing number of locations in our area where people are being vaccinated, how the pandemic has changed our lives and the challenges yet to come, the re-opening of the state's economy and what still needs to be done to keep the Massachusetts economy moving forward, whether extra funding is coming to his district from the 2022 state budget and what are the most important people things residents in his district are talking to him about.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, May 18th, 7:40 am

Tony Maressa, Sewer System Manager for the Fitchburg Wastewater Commission; explained the process of sending waste from people's homes to their city's sewer treatment plant, the work to maintain the 148 miles of sewer pipes that operate within the city, he updated the ongoing sewer projects, the process of keeping the public notified of their efforts to update the system, and whether the process of updating the system could have an impact on water sewer use by residents.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, May 19th, 7:15 am

Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzeella responded to Governor Baker's announcement that Massachusetts was lifting all restrictions brought on by the Coronavirus pandemic, the impact his announcement could have on local businesses that were forced to close their doors and the amount of time businesses in his city may need to re-start. He also shared locations where people could be vaccinated for the Coronavirus, talked about the state's efforts to vaccinate young people, his concern about those who still insist on not being vaccinated and he updated

efforts to help the dozens of people who were displaced by a seven-alarm fire in the city earlier in the month.

BUSINESS, May 20th, 8:10 am

Melissa Fetterhoff, President and CEO of the Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce, shared her thoughts on Governor Baker's lifting of the Coronavirus restrictions in Massachusetts, how member businesses have been preparing for the day to arrive, the challenges of businesses re-hiring people while trying to get people vaccinated, finding people with the skills needed to handle the jobs, whether employers will have to raise salaries to hire people, the emergence of new businesses that started during the pandemic, things they will need to do to be successful and their hopes for the Summer of 2021 and beyond.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, May 25th, 7:35 am

State Representative Meghan Kilcoyne shared her thoughts on the lifting of Coronavirus restrictions, the need for people to be vaccinated in North Central Massachusetts, the opening of more locations where people can be vaccinated, making the vaccines available for young people, the work that continues on the state budget for fiscal year 2022, where the Senate stands on their version of the spending plan, the additional funds allocated for education, and what has been on the minds of residents from her district.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, May 26th, 7:15 am

Gardner Mayor Mike Nicholson shared his thoughts on Governor Baker's lifting of the Coronavirus restrictions in Massachusetts, what it means for his city, how Gardner has been preparing for this day, the re-opening of City Hall to residents, options they have been providing by having services online, the addition of new businesses in the city, updating the paving of city streets and what this means for residents, what residents can expect to see in Gardner with the lifting of restrictions -- including live entertainment and the return of the Food Truck Festival, and what is attracting people to his city.

SUMMER DRIVING SEASON, May 26th, 8:10 am

John Paul of AAA Northeast looked ahead to the Memorial Day Weekend and the beginning of the Summer Driving Season. He talked about what the lifting of the Coronavirus restrictions will mean for travel and tourism in Massachusetts, what he called "Revenge Travel" where people are looking make up for their being confined to home for the last 12-15 months, why this time of year can also be what he called the the "100 Deadliest Days of Travel" and what needs to be done to make driving a safer experience for everyone.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, May 27th, 7:10 am

2nd District Congressman Jim McGovern welcomed the lifting of Coronavirus restrictions in Massachusetts, where people are being vaccinated, he discussed the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act which requires pregnant women to have reasonable accommodations in the workplace, the Child Tax credit that is part of the America Rescue Plan, he questioned the argument that extending jobless benefits is keeping people from working, his disappointment with members of the US Senate refusing to support establishing a commission to investigate the storming of the US Capitol on January 6th and the need for Congress to discuss gun reform.

THE SALVATION ARMY, May 28th, 8:10 am

Envoy Lynnette Valentine updated efforts to help the residents who have been displaced by fires in our listening area over the last three weeks. She talked about the work to help provide food, shelter, talking with landlords to help families find a new place to call home, and meeting people for the first time at a time when they have lost their possessions and in some cases their loved ones. She discussed what it takes to be a volunteer for the Salvation Army and she talked about the programs that they're planning for the Summer with the lifting of the Coronavirus restrictions.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS, May 28th, 8:40 am

Kelly Isenor of the American Red Cross talked to us about the programs and services they provide and the challenges they have been facing including a series of fires that have struck many communities in Massachusetts. She described the work involved in helping those displaced find shelter, knowledge to help prevent fires, food and nutrition programs to help those in crisis and the need for blood donations and blood projects during the summer months at a time when they are needed most.

PUBLIC SAFETY, June 1st, 7:40 am

Fitchburg Fire Chief Anthony Marrama looked back at a stretch where his crews were battling a series of eight fires in six days, including four multiple-alarm blazes. He discussed why some cities and towns are vulnerable to fires, the series of Red Flag Warnings that have contributed to the fires, the loss of life as a result of fires in Massachusetts, the need to make sure Smoke and Carbon Monoxide detectors are properly working and the challenges they'll be facing with a new month, like brush fires from a dry landscape, fires from cooking outdoors and fireworks as we head closer to the 4th of July.

PUBLIC SAFETY, June 2nd, 7:15 am

Fitchburg Police Chief Ernie Martineau shared his thoughts about the lifting of Coronavirus restrictions and the lifting of the State of Emergency come June 15th. He discussed the need for people to take the time to be fully vaccinated, what we have learned about the Coronavirus from the last 15 months, the challenges they have faced since the early days of the pandemic, how the department will make their presence known as work continues on the Rail Trail that will connect Fitchburg and Leominster, the fear of crime that people have in 2021 and the challenges we face as we move closer to Summer.

FIRST THURSDAYS IN FITCHBURG, June 2nd, 8:10 am

Marissa Montiero, Coordinator of Reimagine North of Fitchburg told our listeners of a series of activities and events designed to entertain residents and bring people together during the summer months beginning on the first Thursday of the month. Be it activities at the Public Library, free music concerts, the Farmer's Market and new activities planned for the downtown area.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, June 7th, 8:10 am

State Senator John Cronin shared his optimism about the lifting of Coronavirus restrictions and the ending of the State of Emergency on June 15th, his thoughts about the road we have travelled in getting through the pandemic, the importance of being vaccinated, how Massachusetts would lead the nation in getting people treated for the virus and the work that still needs to be done. He also discussed the work being done on the 2022 state budget by the State Senate, a program he sponsored that will support vocational training in local high schools, what needs to be done to forward the budget to Governor Baker and what is needed to keep the Film Tax Credit in Massachusetts, which he says has brought millions of dollars and jobs to the Commonwealth.

PUBLIC SAFETY, June 7th, 8:40 am

Chris Besse of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency told our listeners about the work his agency has done to protect the safety and well-being of residents, from providing support for the field hospitals to treat people for the Coronavirus, to the Natural Gas explosions in the Merrimack Valley to the series of fires that have been reported in the Commonwealth. He also talked the arrival of the Atlantic Hurricane Season, and the challenges to come from extreme heat, to Tornadoes to Tropical Storms and Hurricanes. He also offered suggestions for listeners to make their homes a safer place to be.

GINNY'S HELPING HAND, June 8th, 7:40 am

Sue Chalifoux-Zephyr talked about the challenges they faced in keeping the food pantry open during the pandemic, the partnerships they counted on and contributions from the public to keep them running, and she announced the pantry is back to their regular weekday hours and the re-

opening of their thrift store where people can buy clothing and other needs for their home and their families.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, June 9th, 7:15 am

Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale talked about how the city has handled a five-day heatwave in the city, the adjustments made in the schools because of the temperatures, how has the city has emerged from the Coronavirus, his pleasure to see the lifting of the State of Emergency, the opening and re-opening of businesses and what this means to the city of Fitchburg, preparing for the grand re-opening of Fitchburg City Hall and what activities are there for kids during the Summer season.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, June 9th, 8:10 am

3rd District Congresswoman Lori Trahan shared her thoughts about the State of Emergency about to end in Massachusetts, the road we have travelled, the lives we have lost, how measures like the American Rescue Plan has helped cities and towns and families survive, concern that some Governors has chosen to end the supplemental unemployment benefit as a way of getting people back to work sooner and what is needed to build an economy that will benefit all of our citizens.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, June 10th, 7:10 am

State Representative Natalie Higgins talked to us about the fact that school will soon be out for Summer, and what is there for kids to do, be it programs to stay involved to finding a summer job, the concerns of young people from matters like the environment, to beginning their collegiate careers and she discussed Conrad's Law that was proposed to help prevent suicides in Massachusetts.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, June 15th, 7:40 am,

Jeff Murawski, Deputy Wastewater Commissioner for the city of Fitchburg; updated a number of projects within his department including the city's Rain Barrel project and the success of the barrels and the uses residents have found for the barrels and how it has helped to improve our environment footprint, how the barrels have enabled residents to find better use of the rainwater, and hope that the program will continue into the future.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, June 23rd. 7:10 am

Gardner Mayor Mike Nicholson talked about what it meant to see the end of the State of Emergency in Massachusetts from the Coronavirus, looked back at what was the low point for

his city during the pandemic, satisfaction with the approval of the city's budget for the new fiscal year and the new funding that is within the budget, the return of City Council meetings in Council Chambers, he talked about new incentives to get people to their restaurants, the summer camps for kids that will be operating this season and the potential use of \$6 million in federal funding that will be heading to the city of Gardner.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, June 24th, 7:10 am

Congressman Jim McGovern expressed his frustration with his colleagues in the US Senate for their lack of action on legislation that has been approved by the House, his thoughts on President Biden naming State Representative Claire Cronin to be named to the US Ambassador to Ireland and the importance of that appointment and the relations between the two nations, the return of commercial carrier service to Worcester Regional Airport with JetBlue and shared his thoughts about members of Congress recognizing Juneteenth as a national holiday.

BUSINESS, June 24th, 8:40 am

Roy Nascimento, President and CEO of the North Central Mass Chamber of Commerce, expressed his pleasure that the region has continued to emerge from the Coronavirus, the lifting of the State of Emergency by Governor Baker, the arrival of summer marking a new beginning for North Central Massachusetts, the companies in the listening area that looking to hire people through Job Fairs and Open Houses and he talked about the challenges in bringing people back to work, but he added it's a challenge that welcomes.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, June 25th, 7:40 am

State Representative Meghan Kilcoyne talked to us about the work that continues on the 2022 state budget, the differences between Lawmakers and Governor Baker on how more than \$5-billion in one-time federal funding will be spent, pleased that the state is in a much better financial situation as compared to a year ago, but adding that the Commonwealth is still in what she called a recovery mode and more needs to be done to help cities and towns.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, June 28th, 7:40 am

State Representative Michael Kushmerek looked ahead to the beginning of a new fiscal year, but talked about the work that needs to be done to finish the 2022 state budget. He talked about the factors that slowed down the process, and that it was slowed by the Coronavirus. He expressed his relief that Massachusetts is beyond the pandemic, and pleased that revenues for the state have been running much higher than expected. He also talked about the challenges facing Massachusetts with the start of the new year, and the need for a strategy to handle the short-term and long-term challenges along the way.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, June 30th, 7:15 am

Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzeella talked about how his city has been bearing with the heatwave, the places where residents can protect themselves from the elements, detailed the budget for the new fiscal year, how they've managed to pay off the city's pension, the additions to the city's workforce, his relief that the State of Emergency in Massachusetts has been lifted, what still needs to be done to distance the city from the Coronavirus, the biggest challenges merchants will be facing after the pandemic and what is being to improve area roads like Route 13.

April 1 through June 30, 2021

The issues in this report were covered during the K-Zone Lunch Box. The program airs on Mondays from 12 noon to 1:00 pm, unless it is pre-empted by Boston Red Sox Baseball. All interviews are 20 minutes in length unless otherwise noted, and the Monday program is hosted by Sherman Whitman.

"THE STUTTER STEPS," April 5th, 12 noon

Author Sander Flaum says his book is aimed at supporting the more than three-million Americans and more than 70-million in the world who stutter. He explained what causes this communication disorder, how it affected his life, how it can be treated, what parents can do to help their children, the importance of not letting yourself be defined by stuttering, how famous people from Carly Simon and Emily Blunt to James Earl Jones and Samuel L. Jackson have moved on to have successful lives and finding the courage to live your life.

"THE UNHOLY," April 5th, 12:30 pm

Executive Producer Andrea Ajemian talked to us about the road she has travelled in her film career. She talked about "Rutland USA," her first project in her hometown of Rutland and the work that went into making that a production a success. She expressed her satisfaction that film production companies have turned to cities and towns in Massachusetts for making films and television programs, and how the tax credits given to these companies have lead to more film projects, and as a result, more jobs in Massachusetts. And her pride that her project "The Unholy" was filmed in Massachusetts. This is her third film as Executive Producer for Screen Gems and Sony Pictures.

SUICIDE PREVENTION, April 12th, 12 noon

Barbara Nealon and Jon Salovardos of the Montachusett Suicide Prevention Task Force joined us for the hour to talk about our mental health and well being. They told us about the work that is done by the task force, what they have learned about suicide, what leads people to consider that they have no other option, the types of conversations they have had with people over the years, what they have learned from those conversations, the importance of listening to what people are saying, what has changed over the years when the subject is mental health and suicide and the resources that are now available to help people.

LET'S TALK RACE, April 26th, 12 noon

Fern Johnson and Marlene Fine, co-authors of the book; say their work is aimed White Americans and they discuss why white Americans struggle to talk about race, why they need to face this problem, and how they can do this. They discuss racial disparities in education, health, criminal justice, and wealth; understanding racially-linked cultural differences; finding conversational partners and creating safe spaces for conversations. They also discusses the lessons they have learned and the challenges they have faced as white parents of African American sons.

"ROOTS AND BRANCHES," April 26th, 12:30 pm

Dr. Michael Meguid says this book is a look back at the road that life has taken him, from being uprooted from an Egyptian village as a child, to post-war Germany in the late 1940's. How his parents, an Egyptian father and his German mother met, how the war split the family where his siblings were sent to Germany to live with his mother's parents while learning a new language and lifestyle. He also talked the challenges they faced when the family was reunited in England, the reluctance of the adults to discuss what they were doing during World War Two, what he learned about his father after he passed away, and his journey to begin life in America.

WAIT, I'M WORKING WITH WHO? May 3rd, 12 noon

Author Peter Economy says his latest book looks at the problems that we find in the workplace. He said today's workplace is filled with co-workers who are toxic, try to take credit for your work you do, and he discussed how this happens, how and why supervisors allow these conditions to happen, the cost companies can pay in losing good people and failing to attract new workers. He explained there are as many as 16 different kinds of "jerks" in the workplace, and how they hurt the organization. He also says that sometimes the change in the organization can begin with your attitude, as in not accepting their behavior and holding people accountable for their actions. He also added that people also have to look at themselves to see if THEY are part of the problem too.

SMILES FC, May 3rd, 12:30 pm

Ray Lopolito, General Manager of the Soccer Club, told our listeners about the new team in United Womens Soccer League. He said the league is one where players who improve their skills can advance to organizations including the National Womens Soccer League. He discussed why soccer has struggled to gain popularity in the United States, the challenges in introducing the game to a new audience, he explained why fans have called Soccer "the beautiful game," and told our listeners about upcoming games at Doyle Field, which they referred to as "Doyle Stadium."

"THE WEALTH HOARDERS," May 10th, 12 noon

Chuck Coillins, Senior Scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies, says his book is about how billionaires have been hiring people in what he calls the "wealth defense industry" to keep them from paying their fair share of taxes. He said the primary reason for people holding on to money is "power," and shared stories about people that fleeced their companies, and transferred their funds into programs that were sheltered from paying taxes in the United States and are still sheltered from paying those taxes.

POLICE AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS, May 10th, 12:30 pm

Fitchburg Police Chief Ernie Martineau talked to us about the importance of police officers and community members having difficult conversations, including the murder of George Floyd and the conviction of Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin. He talked about the training of officers and the differences in communities. He talked about the importance of officers acting in a fair and impartial manner. He said there is much to be learned in the trial of Officer Chauvin, to evolve from every situation that is faced by the community at large and from conversations where everyone listens to what is being said.

"POLITCALLY DEFINED," May 17th, 12 noon

Dinah Yessne says her look backs at her life as what she calls an "unknown" activist. She recalled the people who influenced her life and her way of thinking, how it began by spinning a "Wheel of Fortune" at a political fundraiser when she was 6 years old, the differences in opinion between her and her parents at an early age, the freedom her parents gave her in letting her find her way, how her travelling to other parts of the nation shaped her views, how the opportunities for college may have been limited as compared to her brother, how these differences in political views made them better listeners and helped them find more common ground where it divided many other families, what she has learned from her experiences and what she hopes readers can learn.

CORONAVIRUS: AN UPDATE, May 24th, 12 noon

Dr. Katherine Gergen Barnett, Vice Chair of Primary Care Innovation and Transformation and the Program Director in the Department of Family Medicine at Boston Medical Center; provided

our listeners the latest informaton on how Massachusets was handling the Coronavirus pandemic. She looked ahead to the lifing of restrictions that would begin May 29th, the lifting of the State of Emergency on June 15th and efforts to make sure as many residents were vaccinated. She also looked back at what has happened since the first cases were reported back in 2020, the more than 660,000 cases that have been and are still being reported, the more than 17,000 who have died and what needs to be done as we move forward.

THE ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE: AN UPDATE, June 7th, 12 noon

Ronda Santos of the USDA's Asian Longhorned Beetle Eradication Program prepered our listeners for another summer to be watching for a destructive insect that has been a part of Worcester County since the first cases were reported in the summer of 2008. She described what this beetle looks like, the type of trees they attack, the damage they have done to trees and neighborhoods, the portions of Central Mass that have been and remain quarantined, steps taken to keep that area from expanding, steps taken to protect the Maple industry in New England, what people should do when they spot the beetle and where to report them.

(CON)SCIENCE, June 7th, 12:30 pm

Author PJ Manney talked the about the third book in her trilogy of science fiction works about a bioengineer who is murdered and brought back to life through artificial intelligence and his struggle to save and rebuild the United States from the control of of an uncontested monarch. Manney also talked about projects where researchers have tried to create images of late family members, and how these stories inspired the trilogy of work. She talked about the people who have recorded all the memories within their lives and how that has helped and hurt their lives. She says her work is a reminder that our society has gone through dramatic changes, be they social and political, and that technology has and will continue to play a role in those changes.

RETAILERS AND THE CORONAVIRUS, June 14th, 12 noon,

Jon Hurst, President of the Retailers Association of Massachusetts, shared his thoughts about the State of Emergency ending on the 15th and what it means for members of his business group. He talked about the challeges they faced when the emergency was declared, why some members failed to survive while others were successful. He looked at how retailers were forced to create new ways to function, whether it was by doing business online, learning new methods of operating and listening more to their customers. And for the first ever he felt positive enough to talk about the future of retailers without once mentioning he was "cautously optimistic."

AIDS AT 40, June 21st, 12 noon

Lamar Brown, Community Relations Mananger for AIDS Project Worcester; joined us for the hour to look at where we have comes the since the Centers for Disease Control reported on the first cases of what would be known as HIV and AIDS back on June, 5, 1981. We looked back

at how it was diagnosed as a cancer that struck gay men, to people getting it through a blood transfusion, to newborns becoming HIV-positive through nursing by their mothers. How the lack of discussion about HIV and AIDS during the Reagan and Bush years would cost thousands of lives, whether any one circumstance or person changed the public's thinking about HIV and AIDS, the medications that would become available, how the quality of life for people with HIV and AIDS has changed, the challenges people have faced during the Coronavirus, the challenges people are facing today and what can be done to protect others from being diagnosed with HIV.

POLITICS 101, June 28th, 12 noon

Clark University Political Science Professor Robert Boatright used our audience as his classroom to talk politics and what is the study of political science. He said his discussions focus on how government -- as state and federal -- and the rules of law have been shaped by the people who are in government and their behaviors. For him it's looking at the President and other elected leaders and how their behavior affects how government operates. He discussed how media coverage of those in elected office can help people and sometimes hurt discussions on issues that need to be solved, why members of Congress have been giving away their powers to The President, and why members of Congress have been more concerned about being re-elected to another term in office than representing their district while they are in office.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

CORONAVIRUS VACCINATIONS

People ages 60 and older and certain categories of adult workers in Massachusetts are now eligible for a free COVID-19 vaccine. If you're among those awaiting your turn, you can pre-register at Mass-dot-gov. You can also dial 2-1-1 in Massachusetts for more information. Operators are there to take your call 24/7 in 13 different languages. That number to call again is 2-1-1.

(began March 22nd, ended April 4th)

People ages 55 and older and certain categories of adult workers in Massachusetts are now eligible for a free COVID-19 vaccine in Massachusetts. If you're among those awaiting your turn, you can pre-register at Mass-dot-gov. You can also dial 2-1-1 in Massachusetts for more information. Operators are there to take your call 24/7 in 13 different languages. That number to call again is 2-1-1.

(began April 5th, ended April 18th)

LEOMINSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Leominster United Methodist Church, located at 77 Main Street in Leominster; is hosting an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3rd from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, and its free and open for kids

up to the age of 12. in case of rain the event will be held on Sunday, April 4th. To register for the event, log on to www.leominsterhuc.org..
(began March 22nd, ended April 3rd)

GINNY'S HELPING HAND

Ginny's Helping Hands and Food Pantry, located at 92 Mechanic Street in Leominster; continues to operate its food pantry during these hours. The hours are Tuesday through Saturday between the hours of 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. To learn more about the food pantry call 978-537-1387.
(began April 1st, ended May 24th)

GINNY's HELPING HAND

Ginny's Helping Hands and Food Pantry, located at 92 Mechanic Street in Leominster; want you to know they've expanded their hours and the Thift Store has re-opened. Their hours are now Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. If you'd like to find out more, if you want to lend a helping hand, call them at 978-537-1387
(began June 1st, still in rotation)

THE FINNISH CENTER AT SAIMA (SY-MUH) PARK

The Finnish Center at Saima Park invites you to a night of music and moonlight on Wednesday, May 26th. There's music by the Saima Park Community Orchestra's String Circle, and/or a full-moon walk along the park's trails. You should bring a mask, and a flashlight in case it's cloudy. The park is located at 67 South Road in Fitchburg, and to find out more log on to saima-park.org. Saima is spelled S-A-I-M-A.
(began May 9th, ended May 25th)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

2-1-1 is the number to call if you have questions or concerns about the Coronavirus outbreak in Massachusetts. Call this number for information about essential community services, where to find a food bank, government services and operators are there 24 hours a day to take your call. The number to call is 2-1-1
(still in rotation)

MASSACHUSETTS NATIONAL GUARD

Veterans, if you're in good health and have medical experience, your help is needed to combat the Coronavirus pandemic. To find out more call Brigadier General Retired Paul Greg Smith, Director of Veterans Affairs for the Massachusetts National Guard at 978-827-5873. That number again is 978-827-5873, and thank you for your service.
(began May 20th, ended June 15th)

THE CITY OF FITCHBURG

The City of Fitchburg invites you to watch movies under the stars. Their series of Summer Movies in the Park begins Friday July 2nd at Rivefront Park with Trolls World Tour. Admission is free, blankets and lawn chairs are encouraged and bring your own snacks. For the full schedule of movies, log onto ci.fitchburg.ma.us/moviesinthepark. (began June 20th, still in rotation)

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