

## **WPKZ PROGRAMS LIST Q3 2022**

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](http://www.kzonereplay.com)  
Submitted by John Morrison.

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The following is recap of the issues covered during our morning program the K-Zone Morning Kommute from July 1 to September 30, 2022. Conversations with our guests covered at least ten minutes in length, unless otherwise indicated. The program is hosted by Sherman Whitman and Noah Hatton.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, July 5<sup>th</sup> 8:10 am

State Senator John Cronin celebrated the long-awaited opening of the Twin Cities Rail Trail that connects Downtown Fitchburg and Downtown Leominster, how these roads will become a welcome addition as public transportation, he talked about the work that continues on the state budget for fiscal year 2023, the struggle to complete work on tax relief for Massachusetts residents and who will benefit from this tax relief.

BUSINESS, POLITICS/GOVERNMENT July 7<sup>th</sup>, 8:40 am

Travis Condon and Diane Burnette of the North Central Mass Chamber of Commerce talked to us about the forums that feature the candidates who are hoping to become next Governor of Massachusetts, the preparations that have made the forums possible, the questions facing the candidates, and plans for future candidate forums. They've also talked about the popularity of the Johnny Appleseed Visitors Center, the products they carry and how these products have encouraged travelers to visit local businesses to sample more of their products.

COMMUNITY, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:40 am

Tim Foley talked to us his second season of doing play-by-play of games in the Cape Cod Baseball League. He talked about the popularity of the league, its reputation for being the starting ground for players who have dreams of playing Major League Baseball, their ability to attract fans across Massachusetts and New England and rule changes that may affect the outcomes of the game

HEALTH/MEDICINE, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:40 am

Dr. John Walker of Walker Orthodontics talked about breathing and how the importance of breathing through your nose affects your health, how breathing through your nose will affect how your jaw develops, how the jaw develops affects how your teeth grow, what happens when a child's baby teeth stay too long and whether there will be a need for braces.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:20 am

Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale talked about the groundbreaking for a \$4-million project where state funding will be used to upgrade property and add three units for the disabled at Canton Valley, how the downtown has changed with the two-way traffic configurations and how it may be easier for newcomers to handle the changes, his pleasure over the opening of the Twin Cities Rail Trail, plans for 300 new housing units in the downtown area upgrades the new Theatre Block and plans for new businesses that plans open in Fall.

BAY STATE BRAWLERS, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 8:40 am

Jinx, Bro and Jukes, of the Bay State Brawlers Roller Derby team visited our studio to announce the start of their brand new season. They discussed why Roller Derby has been a popular sport, what has led women from all walks of life to participate, the training to become a skater, sense of community and sisterhood they share as teammates, their upcoming schedule and how one can become of a part of the Brawlers.

HEALTH, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:40 am

Dr. John Walker of Walker Orthodontics talked to us about the importance breathing through your nose, how essential this is for high school athletes who have begun training for the fall sports season, how this affects your performance on the field and your health and well-being off the field.

LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 8:10 am

Rob Lora, Head Coach of the Leominster Little League All Stars, told our listeners about the team of

11 and 12-year-old that have been playing the Little League Baseball Tournament, their success in winning the regional championship, their preparation for the state tournament in Braintree, their hopes of representing Massachusetts and New England at the Little League World Series next month in Pennsylvania, the work that brought this team together and the pride that is being shared by the community in their success.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:20 am

Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzeella talked about the city preparing for a heatwave in North Central Mass. He told out listeners about cooling centers that will be open, the need for people to check on their neighbors, the importance of the Twin Cities Rail Trail opening and the struggles for Leominster to open its portion of the trail, how the trail can help businesses for both cities, has been convenient for residents of both cities and the potential for economic development for Leominster. He also expressed his concern about the lack of rainfall in our area and the need for neighboring communities in containing wildfires in the city.

BIG PAPI IN THE HALL OF FAME, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 8:10 am

WPKZ Radio Owner John Morrison joined us from Cooperstown, New York to share the excitement and pride of Boston Red Fans as David Ortiz was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. He talked about the pride of the Dominican communities to see Ortiz and Tony Oliva become Hall of Famers, what Ortiz has meant to Boston away from the field, how he helped to bring a community together after the Boston Marathon tragedy, how he continues to inspire people today and how his presence has changed how athletes of color look at playing in the city of Boston.

COMMUNITY, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 8:10 am

Joseph Serio, the founder of the Westminster Community Arts Foundation; told us about the foundation, the Old Westminster Town Hall, its historical significance to Westminster and his effort to save it from a developer who wants to turn it into an apartment building.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:20 am

Gardner Mayor Mike Nicholson shared the feelings of North Central Massachusetts after learning of the loss of Massachusetts State Police K-9 Frankie who was killed in the line of duty in the city of Fitchburg, he talked about the swearing or “barking in” of K-9 Rocky to the Gardner Police Department, and how “Rocky got his name. He also discussed the using of funding to improve the safety of roads heading toward Heywood Hospital, extending the bike path from Mount Wachusett Community College to Downtown Gardner and his thoughts on serving as Mayor for two full years.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, July 27<sup>th</sup> 8:10 am

State Representative Mike Kushmerek expressed his feelings about the loss of Massachusetts State Police K-9 Frankie in the city of Fitchburg, the heartbreak being felt by State Police and the entire law enforcement community, the contributions they make to help this a safer place, how does the community move forward after this loss and the passage of “Nero's Law” to provide life-preserving care to K-9 Offices who are injured in the line of duty. He also discussed the end of the formal legislative session, and work on an economic development bill that would include tax relief for individuals and families in Massachusetts.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:10 am

Congressman Jim McGovern reacted to legislation that will clear the US Senate. He said the compromise will help to lower the cost of prescription drugs for senior citizens and help to lower out of pocket expenses for elder citizens. He also expressed his support for the “Chips” bill that end the outsourcing of things like semiconductors that would be the US rebuild its industry.

BUSINESS-COMMUNITY, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 8:40 am

Kat Deal of the North Central Mass Chamber of Commerce and Jessie Olson of the Fitchburg Cultural Alliance talked about plans to open a building in Downtown Fitchburg where the offices are being turned into studios where artists from can create and perform their works. They talked about artists have had to find new ways of connecting with people because of the Coronavirus how this enable the artists will have a building to share their work and it provides another incentive for people to take another look at Downtown Fitchburg as a place to do business.

LUK INC., August 1<sup>st</sup>, 8:10 am

Nahid Figueroa, told our listeners about an organization that works to improve the lives of young people and their families. She discussed a variety of programs addressing concerns like mental health, trauma, addiction and substance abuse prevention and homelessness. She explained how their services enable each person or family to receive individualized care, sets their own goals with the support of LUK staff, and has a voice throughout their care. And she told us about their 23rd Annual Common Ground Youth Violence Prevention Peace Walk and Basketball Tournament.

WARRIOR GAMES, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:10 am

Ken Fisher, CEO of the Fisher House Foundation; told our listeners about the organization that builds comfort homes where military & veteran families can stay free of charge, while a loved

one is in the hospital. He talked about the adaptive sports that are part of the game including Wheelchair Basketball and Wheelchair Rugby, how these games inspired England Price Harry to establish The Invictus Games, the need to reach veterans who continue to struggle from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and to help them to obtain the programs and services they need.

CRIME/PUBLIC SAFETY, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7:20 am

Fitchburg Police Chief Ernie Matineau looked back at the National Night Out against crime, how the night has brought community members together for 35 years, how 100 agencies in Massachusetts continue to make these events possible and the resources brought in to help people improve their quality of life. He also shared his thoughts about the loss of State Police K-9 Frankie who was killed in the line of duty in Fitchburg, the investigation into the loss of K-9 Frankie, plans for paying tribute to K-9 Frankie and preparations for the hottest weather of the summer season with the potential for temperatures to reach 100 degrees.

HEATWAVE, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:20 am

Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale and Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzeella talked about their city's preparations for a potential heatwave...They told our listeners about cooling centers that would be open where people could get a breather from the heat, swimming pools and beaches being open for extended hours, splash fountains where people can cool down, the need to stay hydrated and to check on your neighbors to make sure they are safe.

THEATRE AT THE MOUNT, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 8:10 am

Gail Steele of Mount Wachusett Community College told our listeners about "Escape To Margaritaville." She talked about the music of Jimmy Buffett in the production, members of the cast and what they bring to the production, what keeps members of these productions coming back for more, the people of all ages and families who become part of these projects, the work in creating props for these shows, the importance of Opening Night and what is the toughest part of these productions

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 8:40 am

State Senator John Cronin talked about the end of the formal session of the Massachusetts Legislature, the work they have finished, and the work still to be done. Cronin expressed his satisfaction with the passage of Mental Health Reform legislation and the completion of work on the state budget for fiscal year 2023 which includes dramatic increase in Chapter 70 funding for public schools in Fitchburg and Leominster.. He said there was still work to be done on a tax relief measure where citizens would see more than \$1-billion in tax relief. He talked about a

motorcycle ride to pay tribute to fallen veterans that began in Eugene, Oregon; stopped in Fitchburg and will end at Arlington National Cemetery.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT,. August 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:20 am

Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale talked about how the city has fared from two heatwaves, the need to limit water use in the city, how the state has been coping with drought conditions, funding coming to the city from the Shared Street and Spaces Program, how the city is coping with the loss of State Police K-9 Frankie and what would be the best way to honor him and the opening of Main Street Studios and other businesses in the Downtown area.

BUSINESS, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 8:40 am

Kat Deal of the North Central Mass Chamber of Commerce and John Page of JP Electric and Sons joined us to talk about Page's book "What Does Your Daddy Do?" Page talked about the making of the book, conversations with other professionals about the work they do, how the book about the Building Trades could have a positive impact on kids, the commitment of the book's publisher, reactions from kids and their parents from those who read, how this has encouraged kids to ask their parents about their line of work, opportunities that can found in the trades and his plans for a book titled "What Does Your Mommy Do?"

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:20 am

Gardner Mayor Mike Nicholson talked about his efforts to promote the city, the struggles brought on by the Coronavirus, the search for a new Chief of Police and the challenges the new Chief could be facing, progress in vacant buildings being acquired, the growing number of businesses who are looking at Gardner as a new home, the willingness to trying something new even if it fails, looked ahead to Overdose Awareness Day plans for their annual vigil service and efforts to make the public aware this is a problem that affects the city as a whole.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, August, 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:10 am

Congressman Jim McGovern talked about plans to help cancel debt that college students are facing, how the Inflation Reduction will help make their homes more energy efficient, making the purchase of electric vehicles more affordable, help provide farmers with resources to help them dig wells to irrigate their farms, he also talked about the need to support technical schools to train workers in fields where specific skills are needed and he talked about looking at immigrants as a resource to fill these vacancies.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, August, 31<sup>st</sup>, 8:10 am

State Representative Mike Kushmerek talked about the beginning of another school year in North Central Massachusetts. He talked about additional funds that will go toward improvements in public school systems in the region, attracting and recruiting teachers, where local Superintendents can take a pro-active approach to concerns within the district, legislation that calls insurance carriers to cover Mental Health services and the final passage of legislation that legalizes sports betting in Massachusetts and keeps those revenues in the Commonwealth.

PRIMARY DAY PREPARATIONS, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:10 am

WPKZ Radio Engineer Paul Andrews talked to us about his role as an Election Warden in the city of Fitchburg. He talked about the people that operate the polling place, how the process of voters casting their ballot worked in past years, the changes in technology that contains information on every voter in the city which enables voters to go to their proper polling place, indicates whether a resident is an “active” or “inactive” voter, what is done to activate the voter, the steps needed to cast the ballot in a Primary Election, the work that is done before the polling place opens, what must be done after polling places close their doors

END OF THE SUMMER DRIVING SEASON, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:40 am

Mark Schieldrop of AAA Northeast talked to us about the Labor Day Weekend, which marks the end of the Summer Driving Season. He said the gasoline prices that reached a high of \$5.04 a gallon has kept people from taking to the roads. He added that inflation and higher food prices forced people to adjust their summer plans, forced people to put their dreams of buying a home on hold because of rising interest rates. He said consumers insisted on going ahead with their travel plans but cut back their plans on what they wanted to do. And he said that while people may have chosen not to travel during the Summer, they're looking ahead to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 8:10 am

State Senator John Cronin talked to us about Primary Election Day, the importance of casting our ballots this day in a year when the state is electing a new Governor and Lieutenant Governor, how voting keeps elected officials accountable, the importance of knowing what's happening in your city or town, keeping aware of current events and why people don't give voters in Massachusetts the credit they deserve because the majority of voters are known as “Unenrolled” or having no party affiliation.

CRIME/PUBLIC SAFETY, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:20 am

Fitchburg Police Chief Ernie Martineau talked about the end of the summer and beginning of another school year. He talked about the new challenges that come with the change of seasons, including the start of school, road congestion, drivers adjusting to seeing school buses, the arrival of college students at Fitchburg State University and re-establishing relationships with the University, and the time of year where the department does a roll call to remember officers who were lost in the line of duty and the loss of State Police K-9 Frankie in Fitchburg.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:10 am

State Representative Natalie Higgins looked back at Primary Election Day, her frustration with the lack of voter turnout, the problems candidates have getting their message out to voters, whether there should be another date to hold the Primary during the Spring or the Summer, she also talked about efforts to reach an agreement on a plan to send billions of dollars back to taxpayers, whether the Biden administration would come up with plan to help reduce the debt of college students, scam calls students have been getting to pressure people to take on more debt and what can be done to reduce the cost of a college education.

WORCESTER RAILERS HOCKEY. September 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:40 am

Tim Foley joined us to share exciting news with our listeners. Our former Intern has been named the new Broadcasting and Media Coordinator for the Worcester Railers of the ECHL. He talked about what Media Relations involves, working with hockey operations, working with players as they begin their careers, relations with the Railers fan base and calling the play-by-play of their games with the start of the 2022-23 season on radio.

STILL CHASING THE FIRE, September 9<sup>th</sup> 8:10 am

Sally Craigin of The Stratton Players told us about joining forces with the Fitchburg Historical Society for a special walking tour that will take place at Forest Hills Cemetery. She said the story tells about men who fought during the Civil War and returned to Fitchburg to become Firefighters. She talked about their fellowship during the Civil War, the time they served as Prisoners of War, and then became members of the Fire Department. She talked about the making of the script and they'll walk from grave to grave to learn about the men who served, there is a story to be learned at every location and those will be left at these locations for the public to read after the presentation ends.

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POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:20 am



Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzeella was questioned about the future plans for a building that was home to Shaw's Supermarket for years. Reports have surfaced that Amazon could be moving in to that location in the future. He also talked about the return of classes in the Leominster Public Schools, the challenges they faced in beginning the year, the hope that the district is beginning to move beyond the Coronavirus and why people need to know and appreciate the life of Leominster native John Chapman, better known to the world as Johnny Appleseed.

“FIRED,” September 21<sup>st</sup> 8:10 am

Attorney Stephen Sack says his book is the rights of people who have been dismissed by their employees. He says the book talks about the rights of employees in the workplace, the rights of white-collar employee who are released in a cost-cutting move, your right to negotiate for a better severance agreement, or challenge your dismissal, why employees have been reluctant to fight for their rights, challenge the timing of their dismissal, the need to obtain a letter of reference you can send to a future prospective employer and the importance of not resigning and the benefits you could lose resigning.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7:10 am

Congressman Jim McGovern talked to us about the fall season, questioned the plans of utility companies to raise their rates before the Winter season, criticized the actions of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis who send undocumented immigrants from Venezuela to Martha's Vineyard, the need for lawmakers to take up immigration reform and efforts to have the Deerfield River eligible for government assistance to clean up the river, support its infrastructure and bring about economic development.

FITCHBURG HISTORY, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 8:10 am

Susan Navarre, Executive Director of the Fitchburg Historical Society told our listeners about a trivia night where people can learn about the city's history, the books and materials that can be found within their building, explanations of how the city has changed over the years from being a town to a city, the people who have visited the city, the people who have called Fitchburg home and their contributions to the community.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:20 am

Gardner Mayor Mike Nicholson talked to us about a series of bomb threats that were reported at up to 20 schools in North Central Mass, including his city, how Gardner and the communities

responded, steps taken to ensure the safety of the schools in question, how will authorities approach the person or persons who are responsible for these actions and the potential consequences, and preparations for Gardner to begin celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> year as a city.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 8:10 am

State Representative Mike Kushmerek told our listeners about new funding that will improve road safety in Fitchburg, the enforcement of these regulations, the training of officers to meet the changes and challenges, and the introduction of Mass Dreams, a program that will enable would-be homeowners obtain the money to help them make that down payment for that very first home of their own.

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This report covers the topics and issues discussed on the WPKZ Community Affairs show Friday afternoons at 1:00. The interviews are 20 minutes in length unless otherwise mentioned. The Friday program is hosted by Sherman Whitman.

THE COURT ADJOURNS July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1:00 pm

Jack Ross, Professor at Assumption University's WISE Program, and former Professor of Law at Washington and Lee University; looked back at the US Supreme Court session that ended June 30<sup>th</sup>. He talked about Dobbs vs Jackson, the case where the Court voted to overturn Roe vs Wade, the decision that affirmed a woman's right to an abortion. The ruling also gave individual states the power to regulate any aspect of abortion that is not preempted by federal law. He discussed how this decision will affect women who are seeking abortions, the states that choose to extend the protections to women and what protections there would be for medical personnel who provide the services.

He also looked at the decision in EPA vs West Virginia where the justices ruled the Clean Power Plan under the Obama administration went beyond the mandate of the Environmental Protection Agency, limiting the agency's ability to regulate carbon emissions. And he discussed whether Congress would take further steps to regulate these emissions.

GASOLINE PRICES AND SUMMER TOURISM July 8<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm

Mark Schieldrop of AAA Northeast talked about the cost of gasoline which reached a high \$5.04 a gallon in Massachusetts before the prices began their decline. He talked about the factors that led to the jump including the war between Russia and Ukraine, fewer oil refineries at work, the continuing demand for gasoline, the decision to travel this summer, the adjustments people were making in their travel plans, the impact of money spent on tourism, the need for people to emerge from their homes after months of living with the Coronavirus and whether people were changing their driving habits – as in moving away from gas-powered to electric vehicles.

STEVEN KOTLER July 15<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm

Steven Kotler, Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Flow Research Collective and author of “The Devil's Dictionary,” talked to us about the goals of the group which includes understanding the science behind human performance and how the brain and the human body perform at their best. He said the collaborative has also focused on meeting the challenges brought on by climate change. He contends the nation has been talking about environmental concerns since the 1950's. But said our reluctance to take action on these concerns has led to dramatic changes in weather conditions and hopes it's not too late to reverse those effects.

COPING WITH THE SUMMER July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1:00 pm

Chris Besce of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) talked with us during the hottest weather of the summer season. He talked about Massachusetts has been faring with a longer than expected heat wave, its impact on the power grid, the lack of rainfall leading to drought conditions and the risk of wildfires, the need for emergency preparedness kits during the summer months and what goes into them, the need for people to be good neighbors and how Massachusetts has been faring with the Coronavirus.

FOSTERING CHANGE, July 22<sup>nd</sup>. 1:30 pm

Founder and CEO Lindsey English told our listeners about their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Supplies for Success Drive. She discussed what foster kids ages 6 to 22 are needing for the beginning of a brand new school year including note books, backpacks, pencils, pens, paper and other materials. She also talked about how the program has grown in its first five years, how they've expanded their service area to more than just young people in North Central Massachusetts, and how her growing up as a foster child has reinforced her commitment to helping young people.

ALFA, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm

Art Norman, President of the ALFA Board at Fitchburg State University; told us about the Adult Learning in the Fitchburg Area program. He discussed its early days, beginning with the vision of a life-long learning program for adults of all ages. He expressed the need for adults to continue using their present skills to learn new skills and means of doing things, the sense of

accomplishment that comes from learning new skills, the new perspective one can gain from what they learn, talked about the new programs for the fall schedule and discussed the how Coronavirus pandemic has created new opportunities for adults to learn new skills and techniques.

THE SALVATION ARMY, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 pm

Envoy Lynnette Valentine-Warren talked to us about how 2022 has progressed, the programs that served the communities of Fitchburg, Leominster and Lunenburg; the assistance they have provided for families affected by life-changing events like a fire; their ability to provide a place to stay warm in the winter and a cooling center during the summer; the additional challenges they have faced because of the Coronavirus; and the summer programs they provide for kids.

REMEMBERING BILL RUSSELL, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm

Rusty Sullivan, Executive Director of The Sports Museum; paid tribute to Boston Celtic legend and NBA Hall of Famer Bill Russell who died July 31<sup>st</sup> at the age of 88. He recalled Russell's playing career in Boston, his accomplishments including the first black player to become a head coach in the NBA and the first black coach to become a champion, the challenges he faced among the media who would overlook his record as an 11-time NBA champion in favor of lesser talented players, how he confronted injustice when he stood alongside Martin Luther King and Muhammad Ali, when his home in the Boston area was damaged and defecated by people because of the color of his skin, when Boston began to accept him for being Bill Russell and how he should be remembered. This summer the NBA announced that Russell would be the first player to have his jersey number "6" retired by the league.

SPORTS BETTING IN MASSACHUSETTS, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 pm

Marlene Warner, Executive Director of the Mass Council on Gaming and Health; shared her thoughts on Massachusetts lawmakers approving legislation that would allow legal sports betting to happen. She talked about work being done by the State Gaming Commission, how watching other states handle this process has better prepared this state for when it begins, whether a start date has been established for this to begin, their concerns about people who are or have struggled with gambling, prevention and recovery programs that are available to help those in need and the steps that will be needed to make gaming safer for all participants.

SALES TAX WEEKEND, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm

Jon Hurst, President of the Retailers Association of Massachusetts; looked ahead to the weekend where consumers could spend up to \$2,500 on selected items without paying the state sales tax. He talked about the incentives being offered by retailers to bring in customers, their hope that retailers could finally move beyond the Coronavirus, how their membership has expanded to include the Mom and Pop stores as well as retailers like TJ Maxx and what they share in common, the challenges they face from stores in tax-free New Hampshire, how they adapted to customers who prefer to do their shopping online, how inflation and rising energy prices have affected retailers and the hope the weekend will members as they look ahead to the Fall of 2022 and the Holiday Shopping Season.

“THE GRAY BIRD OF BAGHDAD,” August 12<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 pm

Former Secret Service Agent Stephen Philip Montiero says is the true story about the effort to rescue an Iraqi microbiologist who has information that could prevent a biological attack on the United States. He said the story about the mission to find the scientist, learn what he knows, how they connected with him, how they gained his trust, the efforts to thwart the mission from within Washington, steps the scientist made to protect his family from harm, their success in finding the scientist and the status of relations between the United States and Iraq.

BACK TO SCHOOL, September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1:00 pm

Fitchburg School Superintendent Robert Jokela looked ahead to the beginning of a brand new school year for the district. He talked about the district looking forward to moving beyond the Coronavirus, the process of redistricting students in Grade 5 to Middle School, their ability to meet staffing needs including drivers and teacher's aides, efforts to fill teaching vacancies, what does it take to be a public school teacher in 2022, how do they meet the educational and emotional needs of children and the tools that are available for them to work with, how teachers also serve as guidance counselors, the hiring of clinicians to help support the teaching staff, how the influx of supplemental state and federal funding will make a difference in the schools, enabling parents to meet the children's teachers and how students will prepare to make the transition from Elementary to Middle School or Middle School to High School.

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm

We spent the program looking back at the day voters went to the pools to cast their ballots. Rob Boatright, Professor of Political Science at Clark University, looked back at the results. He said he was not surprised at the lack of turnout, though some primary contests may have determined who will win the election because they will face no challenger in the fall. He's stated that the candidates have to share the blame for the lack of turnout because they failed to generate any interest from the voting public. He looked at the challenges facing the candidates for Governor and Attorney General, suggesting that candidates that have established a good reputation with the voters may have a better chance at winning in November.

WPKZ Radio Engineer Paul Andrews talked to us about his role Election Day working as an Election Warden in the city Fitchburg. He talked about the training sessions with the City Clerk about how the Election Process works, the new computers and poll pads that workers will have at their disposal, the improvements made in the tabulating the results, what determines who is an active or an inactive voter and how to activate that voter, concerns about security within the precinct and the final items to be taken care of before polling places open and what has to be done after the polling places close.

GODS OF DECEPTION, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm

David Adams Cleveland says his book looks back at the trial of Alger Hiss who was accused of spying for the Soviet Union,. But because the statute of limitations in his case expired, he would be tried and convicted on two counts of perjury back in 1950. He talked about the potential witnesses that would have been called to testify against Hiss, but were murdered or mysteriously disappeared. The people involved in US Government known as “The Cambridge Five” who were all suspected of spying for the Soviets. He talked about how the trial divided the nation, with many thinking Hiss was innocent and was allowed to spend the rest of life trying to convince people that he couldn't be a spy. And how Judge Edward Dimock, the man who represented Hiss during the proceedings spent the final years of his life trying to answer the question of whether Hiss spied for the Soviets.

YOU HAVE CANCER, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 pm

Marc Hymovitz, Massachusetts Director of Government Relations for the American Cancer Society; talked to us about the words that he says 1.9-million American hear every year – You have Cancer. He looked back at the days when hearing those words was more like a death sentence, the research and medicines developed over the years to help Cancer patients, how treatments for HIV/AIDS and other medical concerns have helped in the fight against Cancer, how smoke-free restaurants and workplaces have helped people in reducing the risk of Cancer and his hopes for reaching President Biden's “Moonshot” goal of reducing the rate of Cancer deaths by 50 percent in the next 25 years “not because it easy, but because it is hard.”

JOHNNY APPLESEED, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1:00 pm

Diane Burnette, Manager of the Johnny Appleseed Visitors Center; looked ahead to the fall season. She told our listeners about the many events taking place throughout North Central Massachusetts, the importance of and the pride of knowing the man called Johnny Appleseed was a native of Leominster, how the center for visitors is a guide to the events and activities in the area, a guide to the many businesses, how more people and some businesses have chosen to relocate and call North Central Massachusetts home,

## GAS PRICES: AN UPDATE, September 23<sup>rd</sup> 1:30 pm

Mark Schieldrop of AAA updated our listeners on the price of gasoline which continues to fall from its high point of \$5.04 a gallon, factors that have led to drop in prices, the importance of using the right fuel in your vehicle, suggestions to improve your gas mileage, how the change to the fall-winter blends will help lower the price at the pumps, how gasoline prices have affected the cost of car rentals, how staffing issues at airports have made flying difficult for would-be passengers, why people are taking another look at travel insurance to protect their trips and things to consider as we move closer to the Winter of 2023.

## HURRICANE IAN, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm

Rob Carolan, Meteorologist and President and CEO of Hometown Forecast Services; talked about tracking the storm that devastated Fort Myers and Southwestern Florida. He explained what are the elements that go into developing a hurricane or tropical storm, how the warm temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico add fuel to these storms, how tornadoes develop during hurricanes, how Ian's change of direction caught Florida by surprise, how Fiona worked its way beyond New England to Atlantic Canada, how the mountain elevations can lead to major damage once the rainfall from these storms reach Southern New England, why Southern New England is way overdue for a major hurricane and why people should realize the hurricane season is far from over.

## COMMUNITY REMINDERS

The City of Leominster,

The City of Leominster and Massachusetts General Hospital need your help. There is a critical need for blood donations and every donation can help three patients get the life saving treatments they need.

Come to their Blood Drive Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup> between 9:30 am and 2:30 pm in front of the Leominster Public Library at 30 West Street. For more information, call 978-534-7500, extension 3560.

(ended rotation August 3rd)

Fostering Change Inc.

Fostering Change Inc. is in the midst of their their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Supplies for Success Drive. Their goal is to help supply foster kids ages 6 to 22 with materials for the start of a brand new school year including notebooks, backpacks, pencils, pens, paper and other materials. To make a

contribution or for more information, follow Fostering Change on Facebook or call 978-987-1333.  
(ended rotation August 17<sup>th</sup>)

#### City of Leominster

The City of Leominster invites you to celebrate the official opening of the Twin Cities Rail Trail that connects Leominster and Fitchburg. The celebration is Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup> beginning at 4:30 pm over at Doyle Field. Admission is free, there are free light sticks for the kids and a fireworks display too. For more information call 978-534-7500  
(ended rotation August 26<sup>th</sup>)

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There are three digits and one connection for people who are under emotional distress or having suicidal thoughts. 9-8-8 is the new toll-free number that's part of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. If you need to talk or need someone to listen, call or text 9-8-8 and help will be there 24-7.  
(still in rotation)

#### Fitchburg City Wide Yard Sale

If you're thinking you need to get rid of your, or you need some new stuff, the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Fitchburg City Wide Yard Sale is happening Saturday and Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. It's happening rain or shine between the hours of 8:00 am and 2:00 pm. To make sure your home is on the list of interactive or printed maps, e-mail your address to fitchburgyard [sale@gmail.com](mailto:sale@gmail.com)..  
(ended rotation September 16<sup>th</sup>)

#### The Finnish Center at Saima Park

The Finnish Center at Saima Park is holding its annual Tori/Nordic Marketplace and Car Cruise on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm. There's classic cars, and live music from the Fitchburg State University Community Orchestra and folk musicians Oivan Ilo. The center is located at 67 Scott Road in Fitchburg and to find out more look for the “Friends of Saima (SIGH-muh) Park” on Facebook.  
(ended rotation September 17<sup>th</sup>)

#### Theatre At The Mount

Theatre At The Mount is holding auditions for its holiday production “Silver Bells.” They need a cast of 18 kids in Grades 2-8, plus a chorus of teenagers and adults. The production is set to take the stage on November 25<sup>th</sup>. Auditions will be September 11<sup>th</sup> for the kids at 2:00 pm, and



September 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm September 12<sup>th</sup>. For more information or to schedule an audition, call 978- 630-9388.  
(ended rotation September 10<sup>th</sup>)

### The Highlands

The Highlands wants you to know their Inaugural Mario Tricycle Race is happening Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 pm. Participants will be riding tricycles and dressed like characters that you would find in the video game Super Mario Bros.. Proceeds will benefit Team Highlands for Alzheimer's. The Highlands is located at 335 Nichols Road in Fitchburg. For more information, call 978-343-4411.  
(ended rotation September 21st)