

## **JANUARY 2020 PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS**

### **THURSDAY JAN 2ND**

*7:10-8:00AM*

Mary and Kathy from the Fitchburg Republican City Committee began their monthly discussion talking about how they had attended a VP Joe Biden Rally hoping to have stand out with Trump supporters but ended up going in to see his rally. They spoke about the importance of going to see candidates live regardless of the party to hear their message directly and see how they connect with the public. They talked about how they ended up in the front of the stage by chance directly behind him. The two of them also talked about the state's minimum wage increasing to \$12.75 an hour and debate its impact on the state. They also talked about the drop in the state income tax rate and Fitchburg's move to a single tax rate for businesses and residents. They spoke about the impeachment process and finished by addressing their new episode of "Your Right To Know on FATV."

### **TUESDAY JAN 7TH**

*7:40-8:00AM*

Fitchburg Fire Chief Kevin Roy began his first segment of the year talking about a deadly fire on Highland Avenue that claimed the lives of two victims over the weekend. He spoke about the lack of working fire alarms in the fire and how they believe the cause was electrical but that it does remain under investigation. He spent time talking about the dangers of using power strips and electrical cords with appliances that should not be plugged into them, and also the dangers of overloading outlets. He also spoke about the city requirement that smoke detectors be hardwired. Chief Roy talked about the process of responding to a fire and searching for potential victims, and the emergency plans families and businesses should have to get out and notify first responders about those who may be trapped inside. He also talked about the use of plastics in household items and furnitures and how it causes fires to burn more quickly. Chief Roy addressed the safe use of space heaters, and talked about the upcoming burning season.

### **WEDNESDAY JAN 8TH**

*7:10-8:00AM*

Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale talked about the closure of Macy's and the changing landscape of retail and a return to downtowns. He talked about focusing on not only bringing retail to downtown Fitchburg, but bringing in housing, arts, and culture, and returning to the two way Main Street and Boulder Drive. He also talked about the move to the single tax rate to help draw more business to the City, and how this may affect some homeowners. DiNatale talked about the 10 million dollars awarded to the Fitchburg Housing Authority to transform and upgrade Wallace Tower. He also talked about UMass Health Alliance committing funds to the Fitchburg Arts Community project through NewVue Communities. He also talked about illegal dumping in the City and how to report it. He also announced the upcoming State of the City address.

## **THURSDAY JAN 9TH**

*7:10-8:00AM*

Leominster State Representative Natalie Higgins addressed how the process of legislation shifts into public hearings and moves forward for the second half of the two year session. She spoke about the importance of working closely with the Mayor and State Senator to ensure that the City's priorities are addressed in legislation. She also talked about the need to address transportation and making sure that if there is an increase to the gas tax, it only serves as a small component of a larger bill. Higgins talked about her concerns regarding a gas tax and the burden it may place on the lower and middle class. She talked about the need to increase public transit and ensure smaller communities get adequate funding to repair and improve their roads. She also talked about the rollout of the new education legislation in Leominster and how crucial the Census is to ensure communities have adequate representation across the Commonwealth. She also talked about State Representative Jen Benson stepping down from her position and their time working with one another.

## **WEDNESDAY JAN 15TH**

*7:10-8:00AM*

Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzarella talked about the recent purchase of the Mall at Whitney Field, and closure of Macy's after Sears. He talked about several parties being interested in the mall prior to the purchase. Mayor Mazzarella talked about the recent outreach to residents asking for input to see what businesses residents would like to see coming to the area. He spoke about changes coming to Monument Square thanks to a grant that will allow the area to become more conducive to smaller events and fairs. He talked about new businesses coming to the downtown area for restaurants and office space. He also talked about improvements and changes coming to Routes 12 and 13 in 2020 to better alleviate congestion and improve traffic flow for additional residents and potential businesses. Mayor Mazzarella provided an update on the new police station project towards the design phase before the project is put out to bid. He wrapped up talking about the City's coffee crawl.

## **FRIDAY JAN 17TH**

*8:10-8:30AM.*

Tom Skwierawski from the Fitchburg Community Development Office began his discussion talking about the new kitchen incubator opening thanks to a recent state grant. Skwierawski talked about the incubator concept as a shared space commercial kitchen, and how it can spur economic growth in the area and hopefully help towards the goal of ending economic leakage in the restaurant industry. He also talked about the first recreational marijuana shop in the city which is getting closer to opening. Skwierawski spoke about the first public hearing coming up for the Community Development Block Grant funding applications, and he touched on some of the programs they've been able to fund throughout the years, and some new projects that are

being looked at like the Fitchburg Abolitionist Park, and a proposed youth innovation center in Cleghorn.

### **WEDNESDAY JAN 22ND**

*8:00-8:30AM*

Third District US Congresswoman Lori Trahan called off and talked about coming to the Gardner area to celebrate their new fire truck funded through a grant. She talked about the need for the new truck in the Department. Trahan talked about how she will then head to Revolutionary Clinics in Fitchburg to see how their operation works. Trahan spoke about using states where cannabis is legal to study the impacts on the states to better understand things on the federal side, and whether it might move forward at the federal level. Trahan talked about the latest votes on amendments surrounding the President's impeachment. Trahan also talked about the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act. She also talked about her Save Minor League Baseball Task Force and how important it is to protect the communities with teams on the chopping block. Congresswoman Trahan also talked about the PFAS Action Act and the local effects of PFAS contamination in the Fort Devens area. Trahan also talked about her stance on Betsy Devos's borrower defense rule.

### **THURSDAY JAN 23RD**

*7:10-7:30AM*

US Congressman Jim McGovern began addressing the 10th anniversary of the Citizens United ruling and how campaign finance reform is still needed, and issues that cannot be worked on because of lobbying. He spoke about the bipartisan pieces of legislation to overturn the ruling that he has signed over the years. McGovern also spoke about the anniversary of the Haiti earthquake and the loss of Britney Gangel, and everything the Be Like Brit organization in the 2nd District has done to build an orphanage in Haiti. Congressman McGovern talked about the recent Q & A with students from UMass Amherst. He spent time talking about Betsy Devos's borrower defense rule and legislation that has been passed in the house to address education affordability but will not be taken up by the Senate. He talked about passing prescription drug bills that will not be taken up, and an upcoming infrastructure bill the House is working on. He also talked about the need for witnesses in the Senate's impeachment proceedings. He wrapped up talking about upcoming visits in the 2nd District.

### **FRIDAY JAN 31ST**

*7:10-8:00AM*

State Senator Dean Tran talked about the climate change related bills the Senate looked at and debated the night before. Tran talked about the bills, and his concerns about being able to afford and meet the emission reduction goals and mandates of new construction building codes. Tran talked about a lack of language to implement the components of the bills and doubted their ability to pass the House. Tran also talked about his concerns regarding a carbon emissions tax.

Tran also talked about discussions happening at the Senate surrounding transportation, and the need for more Chapter 90 funds for the District. He also addressed the Governor's budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Tran finished his segment talking about being one of two Senators to vote no to recent sexual education legislation.

## **FEBRUARY 2020 PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS**

### **TUESDAY FEB 4TH**

*7:40-8:00AM*

Fitchburg Fire Chief Kevin Roy talked about a 15,000 dollar MEMA grant helping with heavy rescue equipment for the regional tech rescue team and dive equipment for their dive rescue team. He also talked about getting a new piece of extinguisher demo equipment. He also talked about the annual SAFE grant for schools and elderly education and demonstrations. Chief Roy talked about the importance of community demonstrations. He also spent time talking about the locations fire extinguishers should be in homes, the types of extinguishers, and their importance. Chief Roy also talked about another grant that will completely outfit the City's firefighters with a brand new set of turnout gear. Chief Roy spoke about cleaning procedures for turnout gear, having a second set, and removing contaminants from gear after incidents. Chief Roy also talked about the start of burn season and the dangers of dry conditions. Chief Roy talked about awards from the Worcester DA's office that went to several firefighters following their recent ladder rescues.

### **WEDNESDAY FEB 5TH**

*7:10-8:00AM*

Fitchburg Police Chief Ernie Martineau began his segment talking about the swearing in of new officers. Martineau talked about changes to the Department over the years in terms of a younger and more diverse force. He also talked about additional training that K-9 Hangos is currently doing, and a vest that was awarded to Hangos from a state non-profit. He also talked about the Shannon Grant funding for the year that increased for the North Worcester County area and how the Department distributes it to area organizations. Chief Martineau addressed recent drug busts in the City. He talked about the City's drug unit and involvement in the North Worcester County Drug Task Force. Martineau talked about needing to approach the drug problem from a law enforcement perspective but also as a health problem. Chief Martineau also talked about the importance of communicating with residents and building trust and how the community engagement unit is assisting with that and how the department is also assisting getting people into treatment. He talked about a new social security scam occurring in the area, and finished up talking about the new hands free law and how it will be enforced.

### **THURSDAY FEB 6TH**

*7:10-8:00AM*

Fitchburg Republican City Committee members Mary and Dr. John Strang began talking about Nancy Pelosi's decision to rip her copy of the President's State of the Union address. The two of them also talked about President Donald Trump being acquitted in his impeachment trial. They talked about how they believe the whole situation will actually help Trump in his campaign, and believe that it will harm Nancy Pelosi and other Democrats. Dr. John Strang talked about whether Trump and Pelosi not shaking hands was an insult. They talked about the importance of filling out the citywide census to ensure you remain on voter rolls and will be all set to vote in upcoming elections. Mary also talked about upcoming early voting for the presidential primaries. They also talked about the US Census and how it needs to be filled out to ensure accurate Congressional representation for the region. They also talked about the biggest issues the President is facing with the Middle East, the border, North Korea, Russia, and getting Republicans and Democrats to work with one another. They wrapped up talking about the latest episode of "Your Right To Know" on FATV.

### **MONDAY FEBRUARY 10TH**

*8:10-8:30AM*

Sue Christensen, Fitchburg's Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator, came in to talk about an upcoming event at Community Health Connections. Christensen talked about the amount of providers, organizations, and sober homes coming out to this event and the types of information that will be available. She talked about the amount of resources people might not realize are available for those seeking treatment and their families. She also talked about changing the perception of addiction and how events like this can help with that. She also talked about the Narcan training happening at the event on Wednesday.

### **WEDNESDAY FEB 12TH**

*7:10-8:00AM*

Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale started his segment talking about the State of the City address he gave at FATV. He talked about the ongoing renovations to city hall and the importance of bringing local government back to Main Street. DiNatale spoke about the 3 million dollar Massworks grant which is allowing the two way Main Street and Boulder Drive project a reality. He talked about other improvements the project will include to slow traffic down and create a more walkable and accessible space. He talked about changes coming to Moran Square and the Theater Block. Mayor DiNatale addressed work being done at the South Street and Longsjo schools. He also addressed issues with Longsjo brought up on social media regarding an overhang and pests. He also talked about changes to education funding from the state and setting money aside for capital needs in schools. He also addressed the 2020 Census and upcoming census informational events happening at the library and senior center.

### **THURSDAY FEB 13TH**

*7:10-8:00AM*

Leominster State Representative Natalie Higgins began her segment talking about concerns relating to homelessness that were recently brought up by constituents. She talked about the warming center, but also cited the need for a more permanent solution. Representative Higgins talked about the start of budget hearings, She talked about fixing education funding following the release of the Governor's budget not fully funding low income funding, and how the House will be working to rectify the disparity. Higgins noted that healthcare and transportation are two big issues that need to be addressed. She also talked about a potential gas tax and how it would negatively impact her constituents and the need to find alternative ways to raise revenue. She also addressed her support for the Healthy Youth Act for sexual education in schools. Higgins wrapped up with a reminder for people to register to vote for upcoming local and presidential elections.

## **TUESDAY FEB 18TH**

*7:40-8:00AM*

Fitchburg DPW Wastewater Commissioner Jeff Murawski started off talking about the lack of snow and how winter weather can affect the wastewater system in the City. Murawski talked about the Spring snow melt mixed with spring showers and how that can put a strain on the system at times. Murawski talked about the testing that can still be done on the sewer system and the ongoing separation project. Murawski talked about the combined sewer system and how common they are in older cities. Murawski talked about a virtual tour of the treatment plant they gave to a conference and an upcoming STEM Gala event with Fitchburg Public Schools.

## **WEDNESDAY FEB 19TH**

*7:10-8:00AM*

Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzearella began his segment talking about crosswalks in the Twin Cities and people ignoring them. Mazzearella talked about upcoming road improvement projects coming up like the Route 13 project near Jiffy Lube. He talked about progress with the Twin City Rail Trail and discussions with landowners whose property abuts the trail, and easements that needed to be completed. He talked about the next phase of the Mechanic Street park and how the company that completed the first phase was awarded this bid as well. He also discussed the police station moving to the design phase. Travis and Sherman also talked about the Mayor's petition to the city council to remove the civil service requirement for the chief and captain positions. He finished his conversation talking about Leominster Restaurant Week and an upcoming drive-in movie event at city hall.

## **FRIDAY FEB 21ST**

*7:40-8:00AM*

Fitchburg Police Chief Ernie Martineau called in to talk about the new Hands Free Driving Law. Martineau talked about what is and isn't allowed for adult and junior operators. He talked about stepping up enforcement and how they will be giving out warnings before the end of March. He

talked about the fines and surcharges that will be associated with violations once the warning period ends.

*8:10-8:30AM*

Tom Skwierawski from the Fitchburg Community Development Office started off talking about the massworks and complete streets grants for the two way Main Street and Boulder Drive project and the upcoming public meeting on the project scheduled for March 11th. Skwierawski talked about the increased walkability and bike lanes coming to the downtown area and how the rail trail will end close to where the downtown bike lanes will begin. He also talked about making sure there is easy access for emergency vehicles to get through the downtown area. He also talked about the March 5th meeting to talk about the HDIP program and how it helps to spur housing development. He also talked about an upcoming meeting to discuss proposed zoning changes on March 17th.

## **TUESDAY FEB 25TH**

*7:10-8:00AM*

State Representative Stephan Hay began his discussion talking about the new Hands Free Driving Law that went into effect this past Sunday. He talked about the need to change driving behavior. He also talked about taking part in the MWCC Tea Time series talking about the college's Gateway to College program. He also spoke about the need to provide better wages for early childhood educators to provide more teacher continuity for students. He talked about the importance of laying the groundwork at an early age. Hay spoke about the need for continued maintenance in Fitchburg schools. HE finished by talking about the importance of filling out the 2020 Census.

## **WEDNESDAY FEB 26TH**

*7:40-8:00AM*

Congresswoman Lori Trahan talked about the federal grant funding for NewVue Communities. Congresswoman Trahan talked about a recent letter she had signed with several colleagues regarding stormwater issues looking for grants to invest in infrastructure for water and stormwater projects. Congresswoman talked about social security. She also talked about the Moving Forward Framework and the push for bipartisan legislation for a major infrastructure bill. Congresswoman Trahan talked about the rise of COVID-19 and the need to invest in the CDC and having teams in place to look at pandemics. She talked about a COVID-19 emergency funding package. She wrapped up talking about the congressional art contest for students.

## **THURSDAY FEB 27TH**

*7:10-7:30AM*

He shared his thoughts on the presidential primary and media coverage. He questioned whether network reporters and correspondents were asking about the "bread and butter" issues like affordable housing, health care, climate change and families struggling to make ends meet. He

complained the forums were more about entertainment and style than substance. He was critical of how the Democratic Party positioned the primary contests and the candidate forums. He also questioned whether President Trump was committed to protecting people from the Coronavirus, and talked about his conversations with local and state health about preparing for potential concern to our health.

### **WEDNESDAY FEB 26TH**

*8:00-9:00AM*

He talked about the upcoming special election to fill the Massachusetts House seat that was held by Jen Benson, and his appreciation for the work done by State Representative Stephan Hay who announced he would not seek re-election. He talked about the travel by lawmakers in order to serve their constituents, the impact the job has on them and their families, how Massachusetts has been dealing with the Coronavirus, grant money from the Gateways Housing Program to rehab on 1-4 unit housing in the city of Fitchburg, preparing to begin work on the Massachusetts State Budget for fiscal year 2021 and the challenges of the legislature completing its work before the formal session ends on July 31st.

## **MARCH 2020 PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS**

### **TUESDAY MAR 3RD**

*7:40-8:00AM*

Fitchburg Fire Lt Phil Jordan talked about the importance of changing batteries and testing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors when the clocks spring forward. Lt. Jordan also talked about updating escape plans with the changes of seasons to plan for windows that may be blocked by air conditioners. He mentioned you always want two exits or more. He also talked about having a meeting place in the front of the home or building so someone can relay information to firefighters as soon as they arrive. He talked about tuning up heating devices if they were not tuned up before the winter. He also talked about needing to use caution with space heaters, using one per outlet and directly into the wall not into power strips or surge protectors. Lt. Jordan talked about rules regarding burning season, and he talked about keeping mulch away from direct contact with buildings. He also talked about proper storage for winter devices and storing fuel in proper containers close to exits.

### **THURSDAY MAR 4TH**

*7:10-8:00AM*

Fitchburg Republican City Committee members Mary and Kathy talked about the Super Tuesday Primary. They spoke about the challenges of getting people to come out to elections, even with the early voting options. They talked about the Democratic results and what it means for Senator Elizabeth Warren not winning her home state. Mary and Kathy talked about the DNC's need to get Sanders out of the race before the convention. They also talked about the percentage of votes



that went to Bill Weld in the Republican Primary. They also spent time addressing the local special elections for Fitchburg and for the 37th Middlesex District. Mary and Kathy also spoke about Unitil's request for a rate increase, and finished the show talking about the latest episode of "Your Right To Know" on FATV.

#### **FRIDAY MAR 5TH**

*7:40-8:00AM*

Fitchburg city councilors Sam Squailia and Andrew Couture came in to talk about the new Keep Fitchburg Beautiful initiative. They talked about its ties to a statewide and national program. They talked about how the program will help with annual ward cleanups and other events. They talked about the advantages of forming the program in terms of assistance it will open the City up to receiving.

#### **TUESDAY MAR 10TH**

*7:40-8:00AM*

Sue Chalifoux Zephir and Brandon Robbins from Ginny's Helping Hands and Food Pantry came into the studio to talk about hunger in North Central Massachusetts. They talked about the food pantry and how their store operation and donations funds their food pantry effort. They spoke about the ongoing need for food in the area, and seeing more clients despite the weather starting to warm up. They talked about the process of using their services and the privacy that is involved for those who may feel self conscious. They also talked about how people can make donations and get involved.

#### **THURSDAY MAR 12TH**

*7:10-8:00AM*

State Representative Natalie Higgins talked about the state response to COVID-19 and getting the word out to constituents about the seriousness of the situation especially for elderly and those with compromised immune systems. She talked about a supplemental bill the state is working on to help with resources. She also talked about the Governor's State of Emergency declaration. Higgins talked about concerns regarding student homelessness at colleges closing their campuses. She talked about the ongoing talks at Leominster hospital surrounding possible cuts. Higgins talked about the reopening of the Mass Health Connector and requirements of health insurers in the state to cover coronavirus testing and treatment. Higgins also talked about the need to address healthcare in the budget. She also talked about low income increments for education not being funded in the Governor's budget. Representative Higgins wrapped up talking about two pieces of legislation she continues to work on having to do with a ban on female genital mutilation and the student loan borrower bill of rights.

#### **FRIDAY MAR 13TH**

*7:10-8:00AM*

Fitchburg Police Chief Ernie Martineau talked about the discussions that have been taking place in terms of how the department responds to calls and precautions they should be taking amid the spread of COVID-19. He talked about the importance of remaining calm and cordial at stores despite the added stress and nervousness of the situation. Chief Martineau talked about trying to keep informed on the latest information surrounding the illness and the need to keep conveying that to the public. Chief Martineau also talked about the first few weeks of the warning phase of enforcement with the Hands Free Driving Law. Chief Martineau also talked about the informational session on two way Main Street and Boulder Drive, and the input that his traffic division is providing for the project. He also talked about reading to students at Reingold School for Dr. Seuss's birthday. He also talked about the Department's effort to gather photographs of former chiefs.

*12:25-12:35PM*

Congresswoman Lori Trahan called into the midday show to talk about last week's legislation the house worked on to get money to healthcare industries. She also talked about legislation the House is working on to protect families and provide sick leave and an extended paid leave with the ongoing pandemic. She talked about the house negotiations with the White House and the need for the Senate to come back and vote on the matter. Congresswoman Trahan also talked about recommended precautions to help prevent the spread. She also talked about her conversations with local officials in the third district.

*12:45-12:55PM*

Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzearella called into the midday show to talk about measures the city is taking to prepare for COVID-19. Mazzearella talked about being in contact with the hospital and he also talked about the city's pandemic plan. He talked about the emergency operation center being used for meetings and preparations for the City. Mayor Mazzearella talked about people hoarding and stockpiling making it difficult for folks to get their regular groceries and stressed that markets will remain open. He also stressed the importance of people paying attention to their symptoms and calling their doctors not going straight to the hospital.

## **MONDAY MAR 16TH**

*7:20-7:30AM*

Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzearella called in to talk about the decision to close schools for at least three weeks, and he talked about the packets sent home and online resources available for families. He also talked about the need to ensure special needs students have provisions in place for their education. He also talked about providing meals to students, and let listeners know where and when they can pick those up. He stressed the importance of social distancing, and talked about the Pizza Crawl continuing with takeout service at restaurants.

*7:40-8:00AM*

Fitchburg's Assistant Superintendent of Schools Jonathan Thompson called in to talk about the closure of Fitchburg Public Schools until April 7th per the Governor's recommendation. Thompson talked about the initial plans for food distribution for students and mentioned that they will likely be changing and expanding food distribution in the coming days. He talked about some collaborative day schools remaining open. He also talked about the remote learning bags that will be distributed by the schools Wednesday along with food. He also talked about incorporating online learning for those who have the ability to do so. Thompson talked about the deep cleaning that the schools are currently undergoing.

*8:10-8:20AM*

Fitchburg Fire Chief Kevin Roy called in to talk about additional precautions being taken when they respond to calls for individuals who have flu like symptoms. He talked about a recent meeting with area first responders and healthcare providers to go over CDC recommendations. Chief Roy talked about additional protection first responders will take if and when they start responding to people who are quarantined. He talked about the department's supply of PPE. He also talked about the stages of testing and confirmation.

## **TUESDAY MAR 17TH**

*7:40-8:00AM*

Jeff Murawski, Deputy Commissioner for the Waste Water Department for the City of Fitchburg talked about the wastewater treatment plant being largely closed off to the public anyways so operations have not had to change too much. He also talked about the wastewater department being used to dealing with biohazards in their everyday work. He talked about how service calls will change and incorporate social distancing. He also stressed the importance of only flushing toilet paper. Murawski talked about making sure paper towels, hygiene products and other things should not be disposed of in the toilet. He also talked about avoiding flushable wipes as they can still cause issues. He also spent time talking about the rain barrel program in the city and the advantage of using a rain barrel and its benefits to the city's sewer system.

*8:10-8:20AM*

Jim Leblanc, the director of emergency management in Leominster, talked about the emergency management center and how it is being used during the Coronavirus outbreak. He talked about reviewing the city's pandemic plan. He talked about the center being used as a meeting site for preparations. He talked about the city's amount of PPE.

## **WEDNESDAY MAR 18TH**

*7:10-8:00AM*

Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzarella talked about the closure of some city buildings and how business will be conducted moving forward online and with social distancing. He talked about the different trails in the city that allow for exercise while practicing social distancing.

Mazzarella gave out contact information for city hall and for emergency management. He also

talked about the modified library services for the time being. He also talked about the police department's Are You Okay program. He also talked about the process people should follow if they are exhibiting symptoms. Mazzarella also talked about his decision to give twice daily updates online and on the city's local radio station.

*8:10-8:30AM*

Cathy Clark, republican candidate for the 37th Middlesex district state representative election, called in to talk about her campaign. Clark talked about how the coronavirus pandemic has affected her campaign efforts. She talked about her involvement in area politics beginning with the Unitil response to the 2008 ice storm. Clark talked about how her experience as a small business owner and real estate professional has helped her prepare for a run. Clark talked about her experience working on Senator Dean Tran's campaign and her relationship with elected officials throughout the area. She also talked about some of the biggest issues facing the district including utility reform, expanding Route 2.

*8:40-8:50AM*

Sue Chalifoux Zephir talked about keeping Ginny's Helping Hands Food Pantry open throughout the pandemic. She talked about closing the store portion and arranging drop offs for clients with food bagged up and placed outside for pick up. She talked about concerns with keeping up stock and continuing support from the Worcester County Food Bank. She talked about expecting to see an additional demand as more people find themselves out of work due to closures. Zephir also talked about a need for financial donations.

*8:50-9:00AM*

Serena Russo, from The Highlands and Life Care Centers of Leominster, called in to talk about new protocols and visitor restrictions aimed at keeping their senior population healthy. She talked about screening of employees before they come into the facility. Russo talked about their activity team spending extra time with each resident to hear their concerns and efforts to ensure their emotional needs are being met while being isolated. She also talked about incorporating technology to allow video calls with family.

## **THURSDAY MAR 19TH**

*8:10-8:30AM*

Envoy Lynnette Valentine, with the Salvation Army Fitchburg, talked about a change in operations with the COVID-19 pandemic. She talked about needing to close doors for the main public. Social services are still open, as is the food pantry. They are arranging appointments over the phone for both, and they are bringing food to people's trunks during pickup while clients stay in the car. Valentine talked about this being a busy time of the month for the pantry and the possibility of seeing a bigger increase as more businesses close. She talked about partnering with the United Way of North Central Mass in coordinating their response. Valentine also talked about the canteen still being on call to respond to disasters.

## **FRIDAY MAR 20TH**

*7:40-8:00AM*

Kory Eng from the United Way of North Central Massachusetts called in and talked about a shift to more remote operations for their day to day work. He talked about working with community groups to see what the greatest needs are for residents and vulnerable populations. He talked about establishing a COVID-19 fund to help support local food pantries, food programs, and social service organizations. He talked working to set up a worker relief fund that may be able to help with payments to landlords, utilities, and other bills down the road. Eng told listeners where they can donate and how they can learn more about their current fund. He also talked about the 2-1-1 state hotline and what it can be used for.

*8:10-8:30AM*

Tom Skwierawski, from the Fitchburg Community Development Office, talked about the move to remote operations for City Hall employees whenever possible. He talked about the City's grant program for small businesses during emergencies like this. He talked about the City's COVID-19 resources page for businesses and residents. He talked about having to turn the two way Main Street and Boulder Drive into a virtual meeting taped at FATV studios. He talked about how listeners can view the meeting and still submit public comment. Skwierawski talked about the scope of the project and the grants and stipulations involved in the project.

*8:40-8:50AM*

Georgie Rodriguez called in to talk about how operations have changed and shifted at the Spanish American Center in Leominster. The center had to cancel their breakfasts and soup kitchen. He talked about the pantry working on an emergency basis as it has been depleted rather quickly. The Spanish American Center is still offering social services, but those, along with the pantry are operating by appointment only. Georgie talked about working to restock the New Life Spanish Christian Church pantry that has also run low. He encouraged people to get supermarket gift cards that the pantries can use to purchase food to restock.

## **MONDAY MAR 23RD**

*7:20-7:30AM*

Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale called in to talk about the first two positive coronavirus cases in Fitchburg. He talked about the closure of City Hall offices and the deep clean being done after one of those cases was confirmed to be a city employee. He talked about monitoring of the cases by the city board of health and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. He told listeners about the city's COVID-19 information page. He talked about the city parks remaining open while playground equipment and courts are closed. DiNatale talked about the donation of PPE from Monty Tech for the Board of Health and area hospital.

## **TUESDAY MAR 24TH**

*7:10-8:00AM*

State Representative Stephan Hay talked about his decision with his family not to run for re-election. He talked about informal sessions and conference calls being used to continue work. Hay talked about concerns relating to the pandemic having to do with making sure people can obtain unemployment and obtain it for a longer time if necessary, and how education and higher education are going to be handled for the remainder of the school year. He also talked about a disconnect that appears to be happening between the federal government and the state in terms of getting equipment to the commonwealth. He talked about his conversations with local officials and urged listeners to take social distancing recommendations seriously. Hay talked about ways to help small businesses and the need to make loans interest free. Hay talked about questions he is receiving from constituents mostly being related to healthcare and unemployment.

### **WEDNESDAY MAR 25TH**

*8:100-8:30AM*

Congresswoman Lori Trahan called in to talk about the Senate agreeing to a stimulus deal last night and talked about the ways the House is considering to discuss and vote on the matter. She talked about using unanimous consent, remote or proxy voting, or whether they will gather to vote. Trahan talked about the importance of getting the direct cash payments to constituents and the importance of the funds that will be directed to hospitals, state and local aid, and money for small businesses. Trahan talked about the likelihood of more bills and packages as the pandemic continues. Congresswoman Trahan talked about the need to enact defense production to ramp up supplies. She also talked about balancing working at home with her two daughters. She also talked about her recent telephone town hall meeting and her upcoming telephone town hall.

### **THURSDAY MAR 26TH**

*7:10-7:30AM*

Congressman Jim McGovern began his conversation talking about the stimulus package passed by the Senate that the House is getting ready to vote on. McGovern talked about the importance of passing the legislation quickly to provide relief to our healthcare workers, first responders, and those who find themselves out of work. McGovern talked about the different ways they are considering voting tomorrow and the options they have. McGovern talked about the President's handling of the pandemic from calling it a hoax, to saying the public needs to listen to the advice of the doctors, to wanting churches filled on Easter. He also answered a listener's question about the President's handling of the situation and gave the President credit for saying he will sign this upcoming bill and his reliance on Dr. Fauci. He also spoke of the need to enact the defense production act. He also talked about the need for further packages.

### **FRIDAY MAR 27TH**

*8:10-9:00AM*

State Senator Dean Tran spent the first half of his segment addressing an ethics investigation into his office and their findings that they believe he used staff and office resources on his campaign.

Tran disputed the findings of the report and said he believed the ruling wouldn't stand if he challenged it. He also talked about the senate resolution to remove him as minority whip and separate him from his staff for the remainder of his term. Senator Tran talked about the senate being broken down into eight work groups to address issues facing the state right now, especially issues relating to COVID-19. Senator Tran talked about the state's stabilization fund and how it may need to be used to fund supplemental budget items relating to the current situation.

**TUESDAY MAR 31st**

*7:40-8:00AM*

Wil Darcangelo, pastor with the First Parish Church of Fitchburg and the First Church of Christ Unitarian in Lancaster, called in to talk about how the lockdown and social distancing has forced people to change how they worship. He talked about the importance of thinking about those you care about as a way to be present with people. Darcangelo also talked about technology and streaming of services has really allowed folks to worship at home while still being together.

**TUESDAY MAR 31st**

*8:10-8:30AM*

Ron White, Chief Program Officer for the Samaritans, called in to talk about the organization. He talked about their phone, text, and chat support for crisis and suicide prevention. He talked about the volunteers and staff working from home to answer calls and messages from those who find themselves in distress. White talked about their education and grief support services as well. He talked about the uptick in messages and calls they have seen since the pandemic and lockdown have been in place and encouraged anyone in a crisis to reach out. He also talked about the importance of reaching out to those you feel may be at risk. White also talked about their partnership with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

## WPKZ Radio 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2020 Issues Report, Monday K-Zone Lunchbox

January 1st through March 31, 2020

The program airs on Mondays from 12 noon to 1:00 pm unless it is pre-empted by Bruins Hockey, Celtics Basketball or Red Sox Baseball. All interviews are 20 minutes in length unless otherwise noted. The Monday Edition of the Lunch Box is hosted by Sherman Whitman.

### THE 2020 ELECTIONS, January 6th, 12 noon

Robert Boatright, Professor of Political Science at Clark University, looked ahead to this election year with the focus on the race for The White House. He looked back at how the race for the Democratic nomination has reached its present point in time, the candidates and what they bring to the table, their ability to get their message to reach the voters, the difficulties in the large field to connect with voters, whether former Governor Deval Patrick damaged the prospects of Massachusetts US Senator Elizabeth Warren, what the candidates need to do before the first presidential caucuses and primaries and why do people keep looking for that perfect presidential candidate when there are no perfect candidates.

### STRESS AND ANXIETY, January 6th, 12:30 pm

Paul Bartone, the author of "Hardiness: Making Stress Work to Achieve Your Life Goals," talked about stress and the stresses we face in today's world. He explained what can lead to stress, how some of us handle stress better than others, and he offers suggestions to handling stress. He suggests staying healthy, looking at stress as a challenge to be met, believing you have control over your life and not life controlling you, and having confidence, a positive mindset in how you approach the world as keys to dealing with stress.

### FOOD FOR THE POOR, January 13th, 12 noon

Angel Aloma, Executive Vice President of Food For the Poor, joined us for the hour to mark the 10th anniversary of the Magnitude 7 Earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12th, 2010. Tens of thousands of people died in the quake, including students and faculty from Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida. Among those who were lost was 19-year-old Britney Gengel, a sophomore from Rutland, Massachusetts. He told us about the work done by the charitable organization, the devastation he witnessed the first eight days after the quake, the volunteers who were lost, the charitable work that has been and continues to be done by their families including Be Like Brit, how Haiti has changed since that day and the work that needs to be done.



#### REMEMBERING MARTIN LUTHER KING, January 20th, 12 noon

As the nation paused to remember the life of Martin Luther King Jr., our listeners heard two of his messages...one to students at a junior high school where he asked the students "What Is In Your Life's Blueprint?" His message to students "Learn Baby Learn so you can "Earn Baby Earn." There was also a message to his congregation...Loving Your Enemies. King called it part of his philosophical being, and called the love the only creative redemptive power in the universe. And that he would rather die loving people than hating people.

#### THE WORLD WIDE WEB -- THE BEGINNING, January 20th, 12:30 pm

In 1997 the host interviewed Michael Dertouzos, then Director of the MIT Laboratory for Computer Science about the Internet, the World Wide Web and his book "What Will Be: How The New World of Information Will Change Our Lives." He talked about the "high" that came from being part of the information movement for more than 30 years, how computers in their size and use and abilities have changed from being simply giant calculators to time-shared machines at airline terminals to personal machines, how companies like Intel could see the future while others like IBM nearly went out of business and how computers and the web have become such an integral part of our lives. Dertouzos, who passed away in 2001, became one of the few people to be recognized by Google with a "doodle" on November 5th, 2018.

#### TOBACCO LAWS IN MASSACHUSETTS, January 27th, 12 noon

Tina Grosowsky, Project Coordinator of the Central Mass Tobacco Free Community Partnership at the UMass Medical School, talked about their efforts to help people quit smoking, working to make public and private housing complexes smoke-free, their efforts to prevent teenagers from vaping, and the new changes in tobacco laws that will take effect this year in Massachusetts. She talked about how attitudes about smoking have changed -- from the days where there were television ads for cigarettes -- to ads for smoking prevention. She also discussed the challenges they face like vaping which is seen as an alternative, the fear that vaping could become more dangerous and whether the image of smoking is seen as a cool thing to do.

#### THE 2020 US CENSUS, January 27th, 12:30 pm

Jeff Behler, New York Regional Director of the US Census Bureau, talked to us about preparations for the national count of the population which is scheduled to begin in the month of March. He talked about the importance of people being counted every ten years. He said the Census will determine how \$675 billion in federal funding is allocated to states for infrastructure, CDBGs (Community Development Block Grants) and other projects and determines the number of seats our state will have in the US House of Representatives. He talked about the importance of all residents, not just citizens being counted, the challenges of authorities and organizations trying to access their data, and the safety of this data being defended by the US Constitution. He looked ahead to the materials being mailed to citizens in March, Census Day which is April 1st, and the need to hire people to go door-to-door as

Census Takers. He also added this will be the first time the forms can be filled out on line, and people can call a toll-free number to fill out the forms.

#### SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING, February 3rd, 12 noon

Jim Vetter, Executive Director of the Social Emotional Learning Alliance for Massachusetts, talked about the efforts to understand what is Social Emotional Learning, the benefits of it, how it differs from what is the learning that has been done in schools, how emotion can inspire or prevent young people from learning, how the learning process can help students gain better control of their emotions and think through those points that complicate all facets and ages of their lives. He suggests that the social emotional skills people learn today can improve mental health and well-being, improve relations with one another, save their jobs, and in some cases can save a person's life.

#### "EVERGREEN TALENT," February 3rd, 12:30 pm

Roberta Chinsky Matuson says her book focuses on the workplace and sustaining that workplace. She said employers need to look at their businesses, learn what is and is not working and determine what is needed to retain employees that make a business successful. She suggests that employers look at their business as a plant or a garden, what is needed to the seed it, water it, grow it -- suggesting companies look at the experience and other skills elder employees bring to the workplace, the need to count less on human resource departments and more on management to make those decisions to bring the needed talent to their company.

#### THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY, February 10th, 12 noon

We devoted this hour to the first in the nation New Hampshire Presidential Primary. For the first half hour Clark University Political Science Professor Robert Boatright looked at the field of candidates that has dwindled down from a dozen, why some candidates have had success in reaching voters while others failed to connect, and others were spending their own money to make their campaign work. He also talked about New Hampshire, its importance, how this primary differs from the Caucuses in Iowa and Nevada, keys to victories in these races, why does Iowa matter and why does South Carolina mean so much more in the days to come.

For the second half of the program New Hampshire Secretary of State William Gardner talked about the last-minute preparations for the primary, how this became the first presidential primary, how and why this process has continued for years, how residents can register and vote on the same day, whether residents love seeing their state getting all this attention from the candidates every four years, what the nation learns about the candidates while they're in New Hampshire, what the American people have learned about New Hampshire and opening a few polling places once the clock strikes midnight.

"GETTING SMART ABOUT RACE: AN AMERICAN CONVERSATION," February 17th, 12 noon

Margaret Andersen said her book is aimed at getting people to have an honest conversation about a subject they try to avoid. She talked about living in Oakland, California; living Georgia during the days of Jim Crow; and then to Boston to find there was also segregation there; what she witnessed and how it affected her thinking. She talked about progress in the form of a middle class in communities of color and some people from all walks of life coming together, while other communities remain divided or segregated and the need for people to start listening to one another.

ON THE ROAD AND CELLPHONES, February 17th 12:30 pm

John Paul of AAA Northeast talked to our listeners about what has been a busier than expected travel period for Massachusetts. He talked about the places to go within an 18-hour drive, the bargain that is driving a car with gasoline prices falling, shopping around for the best deal and how it has helped lower prices at the pump, how and when gas stations make their money while you're filling up, making sure your vehicle is ready for the upcoming journey with proper maintenance, and tourism in Winter and whether concern about the Coronavirus could affect those plans. Paul also talked about the new laws regarding the use of Cellphones in Massachusetts that go into effect in March and the penalties if you're caught using the phone. Penalties that could begin as a fine, and lead to fines and a surcharge on your auto insurance policies which will cost hundreds of dollars, and you're paying that surcharge for the next six years.

BASEBALL, February 24th, 12 noon

We devoted the hour to baseball, the game, the business and baseball and tourism. Jackie Parker of the Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau in Fort Myers, Florida talked about the preparations for baseball in the Sunshine State, what it means have to have baseball as an economic driver, their success in having the Boston Red Sox and the Minnesota Twins call their city their winter homes, the money generated into their coffers by the game and the teams, the baseball experience at JetBlue Park and Hammond Stadium, what makes that baseball fan make that first trip to Fort Myers, that first trip leading to a longer stay, or maybe relocating for a winter job at the ballpark during Spring Training, or even becoming a permanent resident.

FORT DEVENS MUSEUM, March 2nd, 12 noon

Museum President David King and Board Member David Long told our listeners about the history of Fort Devens as an active military installation which was known as Camp Devens which was New England's largest Army base more than 100 years ago. In its early days the camp was built in less than 90 days the days of World War 1 and more than 15,000 soldiers were being trained in open farmland that covered several towns. They talked about its use during the Depression by the Works Progress Administration,

training during World War II, Korea and Vietnam. They also discussed its importance to the neighboring communities from its early days and the development of Devens for business once the Fort closed its doors for good in 1996.

"ROCK ON," March 2nd, 12:30 pm

Susan E. Casey, a licensed mental health clinician, bereavement group facilitator and certified life coach, said her book was about her brother Brian, nicknamed Rocky who died in 2014. She talked about her brother as being her dearest friend, the people who were part of his life, his struggles with life before he passed away, the struggles between family members after his passing, the grieving process, her struggles to heal from grief, how her healing began by talking to people who have lost their siblings, what she learned from the conversations about the people and what she learned about herself.

"APOLOGY TO THE YOUNG ADDICT," March 9th, 12 noon

Author James Brown talked to us about his life and years of sobriety after addiction. He talked about his family, how they were broken by addiction to where two of his siblings committed suicide, lost his father at 23, and how addiction ruined his first family as an adult. His latest work talks about his life, what he has learned about himself after addiction, how he struggled for meaning in the death of a young neighbor who was struck and killed by a drunk driver. And he talked about his recovery process, the struggles in his recovery, how a former Marine became part father-figure as his recovery began, what he has learned about himself, the second chance he has at life with his current family and the need to be a positive role model for his children..

ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE, March 9th, 12:30 pm

Ryan Vazquez, Program Manager of the US Department of Agriculture's Asian Longhorned Beetle Eradication Program; updated our listeners about the continuing struggle with the insect. He talked about the first cases reported in Worcester back in August of 2008, its spread to an area that covers 110 square miles, the potential threat to the Maple industry in Massachusetts and New England, the cutting of and replanting of trees in the affected communities. He talked about the work that is done during the winter months, he described what the beetle looks like, when it will emerge from the trees later this year and the damage it can cause, the types of trees they're known to inhabit, how the public can help to keep the beetle at bay and if there's an indicator when their work will be completed.

RETAILERS AND THE CORONAVIRUS, March 16th, 12 noon.

Jon Hurst, President of the Retailers Association of Massachusetts; and Sean Flanagan, former owner of Sean Patrick's Restaurant; talked to us about the Coronavirus and how retailers are being affected. Hurst said retailers have many concerns and questions, and there's fear among many of the members

about their survival, saying it rivals 9/11, the Ice Storm and the natural gas explosions in the Merrimack Valley. He said that fear strikes consumers and retailers feel it first hand, and consumers need to be reminded that they are the force that keeps retailers alive. Hurst said another question to be answered is whether state and federal governments can work together to keep small businesses alive because they don't have a safety net.

#### THE NEED FOR BLOOD, March 16th, 12:30 pm

Kelly Isenor of the American Red Cross talked about the never-ending need for blood, especially at this time. She said those efforts have been set back by the cancellation of 1,500 blood drives across the country because of the Coronavirus outbreak. She talked about the precautions they are taking to ensure the safety of blood donors, their assurance that the virus cannot be passed through a blood transfusion, she cautioned that the shelf life of blood isn't very long, talked about the components of blood, the need for a steady supply, how the process of donating works, how long it takes before you could donate again and the types of blood that we donate.

#### POLAR PARK: AN UPDATE, March 23rd, 12 noon

Dr. Charles Steinberg, President of the Pawtucket Red Sox, talked to us about the work that continues on building Polar Park in Worcester which will be the new home for the Triple-A Baseball team in April of 2021. He detailed how the construction process has been going, the shape of the park and the box seats, how Kelley Square has changed since the days before they started breaking ground, what it means for the city to build this new ballpark, and for the men and women who are building a structure that will keep families going during an uncertain time and what will become living a monument for the city of Worcester in the years to come. And while 2020 will be the final season for the team in Pawtucket, he said the hope is that Rhode Islanders will make the trip up Route 146 and call Polar Park their new home in 2021.

#### PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Johnny Appleseed Visitors Center on Route 2 West in needs volunteers. They're looking for volunteers to greet people from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, and from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. You'll provide information on regional attractions, services and of course all things Apple!!! To find out more call this number...978-534-2829.

(expired March 16th)

The Spanish American Center of Leominster invites you to a hot breakfast and community cafe. They're serving a free breakfast every Tuesday and Friday morning from 8:00 to 9:30 at the Center. The Center is located at 112 Spruce Street in Leominster. For more information call 978-534-3145.

(still in rotation)

Ginny's Helping Hand and Food Pantry, located at 52 Mechanic Street in Leominster, says that because of the outbreak of COVID-19 the Thrift Store is closed for the present time. But the Food Pantry is

open. The Pantry is open Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Saturdays from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. For information about the Food Pantry call 978-537-1387.  
(still in rotation)

The Fitchburg Public Library has announced it is postponing events that would attract large audiences through April 25th. They're also asking that anyone with a fever or exhibiting flu-like symptoms, or anyone who has been asked to self-quarantine to not enter the building. If you have any questions about Library Services, call the Library at this number...978-829-1780  
(still in rotation)

(The City of Fitchburg) The Fitchburg Substance Abuse Prevention and its Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative will be having NARCAN Training and Distribution on the Third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm at Community Health Connections in Conference Room 1, located at 326 Nichols Road in Fitchburg. You'll be instructed in how to recognize an opioid overdose, and what to do when it occurs. For more information call 978-829-1854.  
(still in rotation)

The Lunenburg Public Library will be closed until March 27th. Staff will be in the building to answer your phone calls and e-mails. The Library has also cancelled its monthly Series for Adults for the remainder of March, and all meetings scheduled for the Library have been cancelled. If you have any questions, their telephone number is 978-582-4140.  
(expired March 27th)

The Alzheimers Association of Massachusetts and New Hampshire invites you attend their support group meetings on the first Tuesday of every month at the Leominster Public Library. The meetings are held at 6:00 pm, and the Library is located at 30 West Street in Leominster. For more information call 978-549-1458.  
(expired March 31st)

(Special Election Notice) The 37th Middlesex District Special Election for the Massachusetts House seat left vacant by former Representative Jen Benson that was scheduled for March 31st has been postponed until June because of the COVID-19 outbreak. For more information on the special election and your registration status, log on to [s-e-c-dot-state-dot-m-a-dot-u-s](https://s-e-c-dot-state-dot-m-a-dot-u-s).  
(began March 24th, expired March 31st)