

## **OCTOBER 2018 PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS WPKZ 105.3 FM & AM 1280**

### **TUESDAY OCT 2ND**

*7:40-8:00am*

Fitchburg Fire Chief Kevin Roy joined Travis and Sherman started the conversation talking about the mutual aid system in the state and how it is applied to events like the gas explosions in the Merrimack Valley. Chief Roy talked about the dangers surrounding gas leak and over pressurized situations. Chief talked about gas appliance safety and what to do if you think there is a problem. He talked about the department's working relationship with Unitil. Chief Roy also talked about fire prevention month within the school system and the preparation that goes into preparing for emergencies at the schools. He also talked about a class that firefighter PJ Roy teaches raising awareness about cancer with firefighters.

### **WEDNESDAY OCT 3RD**

*7:10-8:00am*

Fitchburg Police Officer and member of the community engagement unit, Lt. Jeffrey Howe, started off the conversation talking about the Pink Patch Project for cancer awareness and how the proceeds are going to the cancer center at Burbank Hospital campus. Lt. Howe also talked about the purple candle project raising awareness about domestic violence. He talked about responding to domestic violence calls and how the community engagement unit is helping to break down the stigma surrounding it. Lt. Howe spent time talking about how community engagement has changed over the years and how integral social media has been. He also talked about how mental health calls are becoming much more prevalent nowadays.

### **THURSDAY OCT 4TH**

*7:10-8:00am*

Kathy and Andrew from the Fitchburg Republican City Committee joined Travis and Sherman for their monthly visit. The first thing they talked about was the controversy surrounding Brett Kavanaugh and whether or not the investigation will lead to his nomination. They also talked about the President's comments about Christine Blasey Ford, and the criticism from his own party about his rhetoric. They spent time talking about the midterms both at the national and local levels. They spoke at length about the Massachusetts Senate race. They finished talking about the latest episode of "Your Right To Know" on FATV.

### **WEDNESDAY OCT 10TH**

*7:10-8:00am*

Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale dropped in for his monthly visit. He began his conversation talking about the superintendent search committee, talking about who has already been named. He also talked about the qualities he is looking for in the next superintendent and the importance of a business background and someone who can handle finances and building maintenance. Mayor DiNatale also talked about the inclusion of the City as part of the DA's diversion program and University study mapping out overdoses and related crimes. He talked about Sue Christensen being appointed as the

substance abuse coordinator in the City. Mayor DiNatale also talked about the supplemental budget and the resources that are heading back to the schools. He also talked about the City Council's decision against the creating of a Day Street Park in honor of Benjamin Snow, Jr. and other locations where he may be honored.

*8:10-8:30am*

State Senator Dean Tran came in to talk about his reelection campaign. Senator Tran spoke about getting back out on the campaign trail and balancing that with his legislative duties. Senator Tran spoke about his record as Senator. He also talked about the requests for debates and the Sentinel and Enterprise request that he and his campaign declined. He spent time talking about numerous projects he secured funding for across the district. He also talked about education with the foundation formula and infrastructure as being the two biggest things he is hoping to tackle if reelected.

### **WEDNESDAY OCT 17TH**

*7:10-8:00am*

Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzarella started his conversation talking about the funds recently distributed to Leominster for the students they took in following Hurricane Maria. He also reiterated the need to address the foundation formula with chapter 70 funds. Mayor Mazzarella also gave an update on purchasing the land needed for the new police station. He spoke about the changing needs for the department for the new station. Mazzarella also talked about other buildings in the city that are going to need upgrades and newer maintenance. He also spoke about the announced closures at Leominster Hospital and his concerns for the community.

### **THURSDAY OCT 18TH**

*7:40-8:00am*

Tom Skwierawski from the Fitchburg Community Development Office started off talking about the city's economic development plan and how it will guide the city moving forward. Skwierawski also talked about reforming the zoning codes in certain areas to make the city more business friendly, and more simplified for developers. Skwierawski also talked about a recent grant awarded to the city at the beginning of the month as part of a pilot program that will help provide an analysis of 12 different parks in the city and recommendations for changes to make them more accessible.

### **FRIDAY OCT 19TH**

*7:40-8:00am*

State Representative Stephan Hay came in to talk about his campaign for reelection. He started off reflecting on his current term in terms of his work on the budgets, bills he worked on, and relationships he formed with local and state delegations. Representative Hay spoke about additional work that needs to be done with the opioid crisis. He also talked about the need for more money for infrastructure through Fitchburg and Lunenburg precinct B. He spent time talking about the different committees he serves on. Representative Hay talked about the need to pass legislation regarding the foundation

formula in the next session and talked about how he believes the fair share ammendment will return in some form.

### **MONDAY OCT 22ND**

*7:40-8:00am*

Sue Christensen, Fitchburg's new substance abuse coordinator, came in to talk about her new position in the city. She talked about two recent grants and projects with the District Attorney's Office to offer a diversion program through the drug courts with Adcare and a mapping of opioid abuse with Fitchburg State University. Christensen spoke about the upcoming drug take back event in the city. She also talked about an upcoming event at the senior center with the DA's office to talk about prescription safety, as well as an upcoming narkan training class.

### **TUESDAY OCT 23D**

*7:40-8:00am*

Sue Chalifoux Zephir came in to talk about her campaign for state senate. She talked about her professional background and how it prepared her for her run. She also spoke about her experience on the Leominster city council and her budget experience in both the municipal and business worlds. She talked about the biggest issues being jobs, healthcare and education. Chalifoux Zephir talked about those issues at length and her ideas on how to improve them. She also talked about the opioid crisis and what else the state needs to do in terms of intervention. She spoke about working across party lines.

### **WEDNESDAY OCT 24TH**

*7:10-8:00am*

Gardner Mayor Mark Hawke came in for his monthly visit and started his conversation recapping the chair luge and Oktoberfest event. Hawke also talked about Gardner being part of the liabilities to assets program which will help turn properties around and get them back on the tax rolls. Mark Hawke also talked about a recent legislative breakfast and the discussions surrounding chapter 70 and chapter 90 funds. He also talked about the city switching back to Woods Ambulance. He also spoke about the drug take back event in Gardner.

*8:10-8:30am*

Mike Mullen, unenrolled candidate for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District, came in to talk about his campaign. Mullen talked about his reasons for wanting to run in the race, and talked about his background and how it can help with his. He also spoke about the advantages of running as an independent candidate. He talked about how if elected he would like to join the problem solver caucus to help break gridlock. He also talked about foreign policy, tariffs and immigration. He also spent time talking about healthcare costs

### **THURSDAY OCT 25TH**

*7:40-8:00am*

Leominster State Representative Natalie Higgins came in to talk about her campaign for reelection. Representative Higgins talked about her first session as a freshman legislator. Higgins talked about some of the pieces of legislation she was able to work on like the

rape kit tracking and the innocent spouses bill. She also talked about wanting to continue with her community forums if reelected, and talked about the feedback and discussions she had during the forums, her office hours, and social media. Representative Higgins talked about some bipartisan legislation. She also talked about legislation she will work on if reelected like student loan borrower protection, education funding, and healthcare costs and access.

## **FRIDAY OCT 26TH**

*7:40-8:00am*

Republican State Representative Candidate, Elmer Eubanks, came in to talk about his campaign. He talked about the discussions he has had with voters across the district. He talked about roads and schools being two of the biggest concerns. He also talked about the need to invest in technical education. He spoke about his past experiences working with legislators on both sides of the aisles in his past jobs and community roles. He also spoke about the work that needs to be done to combat the opioid crisis. He also talked about immigration and how his background and past advocacy will help him.

## **TUESDAY OCT 30TH**

*7:40-8:00am*

Democratic Candidate for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District, Lori Trahan, called in to talk about her campaign. She started off talking about Washington gridlock and the frustration of constituents. She also talked about economic insecurity in the area and the need to provide affordable education, skills training, and healthcare. Trahan also spoke about the need for immigration reform and how it affects the 3<sup>rd</sup> district. She also spoke about the opioid crisis. She spent time talking about the needs to bring funds and investment and businesses to the district to help propel it forward.

*8:10-8:30am*

Republican Candidate for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District, Tracy Lovvorn, called in to talk about her campaign. Lovvorn talked about her background in the medical industry and her past exposure of medicare fraud. She talked about gridlock on issues like immigration. She talked about the need for reform and the need to streamline the process. Lovvorn also spoke about healthcare and the need to fix the Affordable Care Act. Lovvorn talked about the need to sway unenrolled voters as a Republican. She also spoke about the need for more investment in jobs and infrastructure in the 2<sup>nd</sup> district.

## **WEDNESDAY OCT 31ST**

*7:40-8:00am*

Republican Candidate for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District, Rick Green, came in to talk about his campaign. He began his segment talking about the opioid crisis and addressing it using a business approach and disrupting distribution. He also talked about the need to look at the Affordable Care Act and the need to reform healthcare and bring down costs for consumers. He spoke about the need to have more choice and the need to shop around to empower consumers and bring down cost. He also talked about voting for the district not the party. Green spoke about the need for more legal immigration. He also talked about the need to expand Route 2 into more of a major highway.

*8:10-8:30am*

Democratic State Senator Jamie Eldridge called in to talk about his campaign for reelection. Eldridge talked about his most recent term in the Senate and talked about pieces of legislation that he worked on including the passage of criminal justice reform, the grand compromise with paid family medical leave and minimum wage increase. He also talked about his work on the clean energy bill. He talked about work that still needs to be done on education funding, working on anti-poverty legislation, and working on providing better access to public transportation to ease traffic congestion. Senator Eldridge also talked about needing more investment and microlending opportunities to help bring more jobs to his district. He also talked about hoping to bring back the fair share amendment even though it did not go through in this session. Senator Eldridge also talked about his spearheading of the safe communities act.

## **NOVEMBER 2018 PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS WPKZ 105.3 FM & AM 1280**

### **THURSDAY NOV 1ST**

*7:10-8:00am*

Fitchburg Republican City Committee members Andrew and Kathy came in for their monthly visit. They talked about the option to early vote in the midterms, and Kathy talked about her experience at the polls. Both were in agreement that the early voting is a great program for voters. They also spoke about the need to do due diligence and the need to look at the information sent out online and in mailers. They also talked about the importance of teaching the youth about voting and paying attention to elections. Andrew and Kathy also talked about whether or not celebrity endorsements of candidates help. They spent time talking about the primaries before the midterms and some key elections both at the state and national level that they think will be of importance. They also talked about the President's recent comments regarding the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment and whether he helps or hinders the candidates he goes out and campaigns for.

*8:40-8:50am*

Register of Deeds for the Northern Worcester County, Kathleen Reynolds Daigneault, came in to talk about the new consumer notification system on their website aimed at protecting against property and mortgage fraud. Daigneault talked about the type of fraud. She also spent time talking about how the program works, how to sign up for the free program, and what to do if you do get a notification. She talked about

### **FRIDAY NOV 2ND**

*7:40-8:00am*

Democratic State Representative Jen Benson came in to talk about her campaign for reelection and running unopposed. She spoke about a recent question and answer forum she participated in over in Acton and how even though running unopposed, it was an opportunity for her to be accountable to her constituents. She spoke about her efforts to always be accessible and transparent to her constituents. Benson talked about campaigning for other candidates that she works with and believes in. She spent time talking about early voting and what midterm involvement and turnout seems like it might be from both republicans, democrats, and independents. She also talked about the

divisiveness in Washington and how the government was not based on a winner take all mentality. She reminded people about the early voting hours and locations in the area.

*8:10-8:30am*

Congressman Jim McGovern of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District joined Travis and Sherman in studio to talk about his campaign for reelection. Congressman McGovern talked about the need to ensure the middle class and those looking to enter the middle class are taken care of. He gave a rebuttal to his opponents comments that he does not work across the aisle, and went on to talk about several instances of bipartisan legislation he has worked on. Congressman McGovern talked about the need for healthcare reform and the need to bring down the cost of prescriptions. McGovern also spoke about the immigrant population of the 2<sup>nd</sup> District and the President's rhetoric towards immigration. He talked about the need for comprehensive reform.

## **TUESDAY NOV 6TH**

*7:40-8:00am*

Fitchburg Fire Chief Kevin Roy began his conversation talking about their response to a recent fire where a water main burst causing a sink hole nearby. Chief Roy spoke about the challenges when something comes up affecting the water supply. He spoke about the maintenance of fire hydrants, and the importance of keeping clear of snow during winter. Chief Roy talked about getting heating systems checked, and also spoke about safe disposal of ashes when using alternative heating sources. He also spoke about chimney safety. He talked about using newer space heaters that are grounded and UL approved.

## **WEDNESDAY NOV 7TH**

*7:00-8:00am*

Fitchburg Police Chief Ernie Martineau began his conversation talking about the active death investigation that was underway on Wanoosnoc Road prior to and during his interview. Martineau talked about the process of releasing information during active investigations and why only limited details can be given. He talked about road closures in the area because of the scene. Chief Martineau spoke about the different resources in these investigations and the coordination between city and state police with the District Attorney's Office. Chief Martineau also talked about outreach efforts especially during the winter with the homeless population. Chief Martineau also spoke about the recent pink patch initiative and the current no shave November cause.

*8:10-8:30am*

Dr Jason Edwards, of Bridgewater State University, called the show to chat with Travis and Sherman about the midterm results. Edwards spoke about some of the nationwide results and state results. He talked about a number of firsts in terms of representatives being elected. Edwards talked about the Democrat takeover of the House and he talked about the Republican gains in the Senate. He talked about a restoration of checks and balances. He talked about Democratic gains with Governors but big wins in some areas that Republicans had. Edwards talked about how the results may affect the remainder of President Trump's term and legislation moving forward. Edwards talked about the campaigning and rhetoric in this election and how it may have increased turnout. He also

spoke about the importance of messaging for candidates as we enter 2020. He also talked about a few key elections in the state of Massachusetts.

#### **THURSDAY NOV 8TH**

*7:10-8:00am*

Democratic Leominster State Representative Natalie Higgins joined Travis and Sherman following her win in the midterm elections earlier this week. Higgins talked about the amount of negative fliers that were sent out during the campaign and how that actually spurred conversation with people who normally would not have reached out to her office. Higgins talked about some of the concerns constituents brought to her attention during her campaign for reelection. She also spoke about the student loan borrowers bill. Higgins also spoke about the need to fix the foundation formula and the need to address healthcare costs as being two of the most important issues facing the upcoming session.

#### **WEDNESDAY NOV 14TH**

*7:10-8:00am*

Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale started off his segment talking about the Korean Peace Medal given out this past weekend to Fitchburg Veterans and the importance of the Veterans' Day events. DiNatale spoke about recent concerns raised by residents with trash and recycling pick up. DiNatale also spoke about the recent decision by the City Council to raise taxes to bring the city closer to a single tax rate. He talked about the challenges of a dual tax rate when trying to attract new businesses. He also talked about what he is hoping to get with a new superintendent of schools in the City. He wrapped up talking about the tree lighting event happening at the upper common with Santa.

#### **WEDNESDAY AUGUST 15TH**

*7:40-8:00am*

Jeff Murawski, Deputy Commissioner of Wastewater, came in and talked about two STEM events hosted by the Boys and Girls Club that he participated in to help with community awareness. Murawski talked about the importance of STEM and how it applies to various DPW roles. Murawski also talked about winter sand treatments and how they can affect the system in combined areas. He also talked about progress of the sewer separation, and touched on upcoming projects and recently completed projects. .

*8:10-8:30am*

Cannabis Control Commissioner Jen Flanagan talked about the start of recreational sales in the City. Flanagan talked about what this day means for the City and the work that went in to getting the businesses licensed and up and running. She talked about the need to keep raising awareness about the effects of the product and about responsible use. Flanagan spoke about some aspects of the law that consumers need to be aware of. She also talked about the next steps for the commission and how the medicinal side will soon be under their umbrella.

#### **TUESDAY NOV 27TH**

*7:10-8:00am*

State Representative Stephan Hay began his interview talking about some topics that came up with constituents during his campaign for re-election like voting, and protections for special needs children once they get older. Hay spoke about the results of the midterms. He talked about a bill for getting those with developmental needs education and job skills moving forward. He also talked about the need to update the foundation formula in the upcoming session, as well as the need to invest more money into school buildings. He also talked about the need to file a bill to protect essential services from being closed at hospitals that could include withholding funding. Hay also talked about legislation relating to the Columbia Gas explosions.

### **WEDNESDAY NOV 28TH**

*7:10-8:00am*

Gardner Mayor Mark Hawke started off talking about their tree lighting and small business events in the City. Mayor Hawke talked about the closure of Shacks and spent time talking about downtown shopping venues and the life cycles of businesses and locations. Hawke also talked about recreational marijuana coming to the City. Hawke also talked about Gardner voters voting down the proposition 2 ½ override for more money towards schools in the City. Hawke talked about the need to fund the schools to get more investment to come to Gardner. He also talked about the possibility of regionalizing inspection services with Hubbardston.

## **DECEMBER 2018 PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS WPKZ 105.3 FM & AM 1280**

### **MONDAY DEC 3RD**

*8:10-9:00am*

State Senator Dean Tran began talking about being reelected and his campaign. Tran talked about constituent concerns, some of the biggest being infrastructure, including Route 2, and funding for education. Senator Tran talked about the foundation formula being the top priority in the upcoming session. He also talked about a food drive that his office recently held. Tran also spoke about the need for legislation to keep essential services open at hospitals, like his colleagues. In talking about healthcare, Senator Tran also spoke about the need to do more in terms of mental and behavioral health when trying to tackle the opioid epidemic.

### **TUESDAY DEC 4TH**

*7:40-8:00am*

Lt. Phil Jordan began his segment talking about Christmas Tree safety and the dangers they present. He talked about signs to look for with falling needles. Lt. Jordan talked about safety tips with holiday decorations and using power cords and strips. Lt. Jordan spoke about precautions with garages and storage of propane and gasoline tanks and equipment. He also talked about safe generator use. He also talked about the importance of carbon monoxide detectors and placement.

### **WEDNESDAY DEC 5TH**

*7:10-8:00am*



Fitchburg Police Chief Ernie Martineau gave an update on the Wanoosnoc Road incident and the domestic violence vigil that happened after the tragedy. Chief Martineau talked about domestic violence cases and secondary victims like children who are also affected by domestic violence. He talked about the need to break the cycle for children in the secondary situation, and the resources that the City has available. He spent time talking about the roles of schools and the police for those experiencing domestic violence. Chief Martineau also talked about a recent report in the Telegram and Gazette talking about police responses to mental health calls, and spoke at length about the training and response of officers in the Fitchburg police department. He also talked about the citywide coat drive.

#### **THURSDAY DEC 6TH**

*7:10-8:00am*

Fitchburg Republican City Committee member Andrew and Kathy began their segment reflecting on the life and career of President George H.W. Bush. They talked about his accomplishments and the way he carried himself as well as the response from both sides of the aisle following his passing. They talked about the wake of the midterms and the need for both sides to be willing to compromise. They also talked about the President's use of Twitter and how it recently sent the stock market into some trouble. Andrew and Kathy also talked about the need for stronger border security and the recent news regarding the President's comments about the border. They wrapped up talking about their latest episode of "Your Right To Know" on FATV.

#### **TUESDAY DEC 11TH**

*8:10- 8:30am*

Jim Leblanc, the Director of Emergency Management in Leominster, talked about his new appointment to the role. Leblanc spoke about his career and time volunteering with emergency management in the City over the past several decades. Leblanc talked about upgrades to their facilities and new programs to help victims of fires and tragedies within the City. He talked about the changes to emergency management over the years and spoke at length about the coordination within the city departments as well as with state and federal agencies.

#### **WEDNESDAY DEC 12TH**

*7:10-8:00am*

Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale talked about the Thanksgiving game bet with Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzarella. DiNatale talked about the hiring of Robert Jokela as Superintendent, a role he has held in the interim. DiNatale spoke about Jokela's experience in the City. He also spoke about the closure of Shack's and working with the building's new owner to fill the space. He also spoke about the life cycle of businesses and the downtown area. He also talked about the changes to downtown that are a result of online shopping.

#### **MONDAY DEC 17TH**

*8:10-8:20am*

Sue Christiansen, Fitchburg's substance, abuse coordinator, joined Sherman to talk about an upcoming community Narcan training happening the next day. Christensen spoke about what the training will be like. She also talked about some of the signs to look for with an opioid overdose. She gave out the details for the sign up and where the training will be.

### **WEDNESDAY DEC 19TH**

*7:10-8:10am*

Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzearella began his conversation talking about talking about home values in the City. Mazzearella talked about the City passing on the purchase of a piece of property next to Sholan Farms. He spent time talking about the City having to make decisions regarding land and properties to reflect what they want the overall City to look like in terms of open space and historic areas. Mayor Mazzearella talked about Sholan Farms and the festivals the City has been having in increasing frequency to keep the feeling of community alive and well. He talked about how the festivals can be used to increase interest and investment in the City.

### **THURSDAY DEC 20TH**

*7:40-8:00am*

Tom Skwierawski from the Fitchburg Community Development Office talked about the upcoming deadline for CDBG and who can apply for the grants. He spoke briefly about the process. Skwierawski talked about a new program with tax incentives for those looking to develop residential space around the downtown area. He also talked about the recent topping off ceremony at the former B.F. Brown building and talked about the new art community that is underway. He also spent time talking about updates to where the City stands with the city hall redesign. He also talked about partnering with New Vue Communities and Fitchburg State University and how critical they are to the success of the future of Fitchburg.

### **FRIDAY DEC 21ST**

*7:40-8:30am*

State Senator Dean Tran came in for his monthly visit. Senator Tran began his interview talking about informal sessions and getting bills ready for the upcoming session. Senator Tran talked about the additional revenue taken in and how we still need to be careful when bringing the retail taxes back down in case revenues do not remain. Senator Tran talked about legislation aimed at protecting first responders and giving them proper access to mental health with the promise their privacy will be protected. Senator Tran also spoke about legislation aimed at ending the National Grid lockout and providing protections for workers while looking to prevent further lockouts. Senator Tran also talked about looking to protect funds for local access television. Tran also talked about immigration and a letter he signed on regarding Vietnamese refugees from the Vietnam War and protections that were offered to them and the Department of Homeland Security enforcing policies that may deport them.

### **WEDNESDAY DEC 26TH**

*7:10- 8:00am*

Gardner Mayor Mark Hawke talked about his recent caroling event in the city. Hawke also talked about the appointment of the new police chief in Gardner, talking about the current chief and the new chief's experiences working in the city. He also talked about the importance of community policing in Gardner. Hawke also talked about funds to the road in the state and how much it would cost to fix the roads in Gardner and how much of the real estate tax in the city has had to go back to the roads instead of other items in the city. Gardner Hawke also talked about changes to the signage at Lafayette Square for the traffic pattern.

## **MONDAY DECEMBER 31ST**

*7:40-8:00am*

Fitchburg Fire Chief Kevin Roy talked about responding to the massive amount of car crashes in Fitchburg during the icy storm last Friday. He spoke about having to use mutual aid for ambulances and having coverage for trucks when all fire apparatus are out. He spoke about challenges that the department faces when responding to incidents during icy weather. He also talked about chains the apparatus have to help in handling the icy and hilly roads. Chief Roy talked about disposal of Christmas trees and talked about the process for obtaining permits during the upcoming burning season. He also spent time talking about the use of alternative heating, servicing systems, disposal of ashes, carbon monoxide concerns and the use of proper cords. He also talked about partnering with area agencies to make sure people are in from the cold.

## WPKZ Fourth Quarter Issues Report, Monday Lunchbox

October 1 through December 30, 2018

The issues in this report were covered during the K-Zone Lunch Box. The program airs on Mondays from 12 noon to 1:00 pm, and air time is adjusted during the 2017 Red Sox Baseball season. All interviews are 20 minutes in length unless otherwise noted, and the Monday program is hosted by Sherman Whitman.

SHARE October 1st, 12 noon

Joan Mancuso, a volunteer with the national organization, told our listeners about their work in supporting women who are living with breast and ovarian cancer. She talked about the programs and services they provide for those who are living with cancer, including webinars. She discussed how the organization has expanded its services during their 40 years of existence, and shared how the organization has helped her with her 11-year struggle with metastatic breast cancer for which there is currently no cure. But she is thankful because the average lifespan for a person living with metastatic breast cancer is 2 1/2 years.

COMEDY: CLASS IN SESSION October 1st, 12:30 pm

Comedian Jerry Caruso talked about his career as a comedian, and the class he teaches at Mount Wachusett Community College. He talked about what led to his teaching classes at the school since 1999 -- topics covered in the curriculum which include joke writing, stage presence, promotion and booking gigs -- how to handle hecklers and times when your material isn't working. He also talked about how the working to make Comedy work, and how it can improve your public speaking skills and your confidence in day-to-day living.

SHOPPING ANYONE? October 15th, 12 noon

Jon Hurst, President of the Retailers Association of Massachusetts, talked to us about the state of retailing, and preparing for the fourth quarter of the year. He discussed why the upcoming holiday season has been the make-or-break time for retailers, how retailers have handled the "grand compromise" which led to a permanent sales tax weekend in August and raises in the state's minimum wage, whether some retailers can adjust to the rising wages and why it's good that consumers are confident in the economy. He also looked ahead to Halloween, how the season has helped retailers and become a growth industry in its own right and the importance of shoppers buying locally.

COLLEGE, THE NEW YEAR AT THE MOUNT October 15th, 12:30 pm

Marcia Rosbury-Henne, Director of Admissions at Mount Wachusett Community College, talked about the Fall Semester which is underway, and how the perception of community colleges have changed over the years. She discussed how the community college setting has attracted some students, and helped

others who are looking to obtain four-year degrees. She also talked about the admission process, applying for financial aid, and how they help people with the admission process whether or not they're applying to Mount Wachusett. She says their goal is to help to make the school an affordable option for students who are looking to attend college.

#### PROFESSOR NIGHTMARE October 22nd, 12 noon

John Denley, the head of Boneyard Productions; shared with our listeners how he became Professor Nightmare. How he became hooked by watching Dracula, Frankenstein and other films, how his parents encouraged him by letting him building tombstones, turning refrigerators into coffins, and then building haunted houses where he was in competition with operations like "Spooky World." He also talked about how his business grew from just haunted houses to making haunted theme parks, to haunting Foxwoods Resort Casino, Madison Square Garden, and other places around the world.

#### FITCHBURG AT HALLOWEEN October 22nd, 12:30 pm

Susan Navarre, Executive Director of the Fitchburg Historical Society, talked about New England's history, fears and unexplained phenomenon over the years. She shared stories of homes and businesses that residents thought were haunted, seances and Ouija boards, medium trying to connect with the dead, and arguments over these things were real or whether there were scientific explanations for these things.

#### THE BUSINESS OF SPORTS October 29th, 12 noon

Sean Sweeney of the Boston Sports Journal joined us for the hour to talked about the importance of sports to the community, from Little League and Pop Warner to college to the professional teams. How professional sports has grown from the 60's to free agency, to where professional sports are now multi-billion dollar industries, and how the games and teams contribute to the local economy. He also talked about how fans of the Boston teams are blessed to see the success they have had in recent years, and what it will mean for Central Massachusetts to have the Boston Red Sox Triple-A affiliate move from Pawtucket, Rhode Island to Worcester come April 2021.

#### MARKET MADNESS AND OTHER BUSINESS November 5th, 12 noon

Christina Lashua of Edward Jones talked to us about the roller coaster ride that has been Wall Street, what has caused the markets to make investors cringe, and what can investors do to protect themselves during these times if that is possible. She talked about portfolios and what goes into them, and how to make them work for you. She talked about 401-Ks, how they work, who is most likely to have one and what consumers need to do to make them work. She also looked at the cutbacks and changes affecting companies like Lowe's and Papa Gino's and Sears/K-Mart declaring bankruptcy, and their potential impact on the US economy.

#### THE SALVATION ARMY November 5th, 12:30 pm

Envoy Lynnette Valentine told our listeners about the organization and how they serve those in need. She talked about the challenges they've faced in 2018, from providing food and shelter when temperatures fell to minus -10 degrees during the winter, to cooling centers during the summer, to providing assistance to people displaced by fires, to helping customers of Columbia Gas displaced by gas fires in Lawrence, Andover and North Andover, and providing assistance to communities damaged by natural disasters like hurricanes. She also looked ahead to their 2018 Kettle Drive and their goals for the upcoming Christmas season.

#### FOSTERING CHANGE INC. November 12th, 12:30 pm

Lindsey English and Tina Charet told our listeners about what led to the forming of the non-profit organization. They also talked about their lives as foster children, their foster "Mom" who watched over six teenaged girls, the work that goes into keeping the families together, the difficulty in finding homes for kids up to age 22 provided they are full-time in college and other challenges facing families. They also talked about their efforts to provide Christmas presents for the 400 kids now living in foster settings in our listening area, and how our listeners can help.

#### HOLIDAY TRAVEL November 19th, 12 noon

Mary Maguire from AAA Northeast prepared our listeners for travel during Thanksgiving Week. She gave AAA's projections, which turn out to be their biggest ever for Thanksgiving travel, and credits that to strong economy, lower unemployment, higher wages in Massachusetts, and the continued decline in gasoline prices. She also expressed concerns about the price of crude oil, and worry that while the downward trend is good for consumers now it could spell problems later. She also recommended that people get their vehicles ready for holiday travel, from making sure the batteries are ready for winter, to making sure tires are properly inflated and making sure your vehicles are ready for the Winter of 2019.

#### THE FOURTH QUARTER November 19th, 12:30 pm

Jon Hurst, President of the Retailers Association of Massachusetts, talked about how retailers are preparing for the holiday shopping season, which he says has been the key to retailers' survival. He talked about the struggles to find the balance between prices while dealing with competitors from tax-free New Hampshire and online retailers, and what could be done to level the playing field between retailers and Amazon. He also discussed the habits of consumers and how they have changed, the future of Sears, how consumers are looking to shop again on Main Street, the extra days they'll have with Black Friday and concern about fewer days next year. He also gave thanks for procrastinators who wait for the last days to shop, and to gift cards which have become a popular item to buy.

#### HOLIDAY BLUES November 26th, 12 noon

Barbara Nealon of the Montachusett Suicide Prevention Task Force talked about how the holiday season can be a difficult time for many of our listeners. She discussed how the holiday season can bring pressure on people to make things go well when they're not. She urged people not to put added pressure on themselves, and urged people who are struggling with finances or family struggles that can lead to depression to talk to people they can trust. She also urged listeners to watch for signs that loved ones have changed what they're doing, be it depending on drugs, or keeping a distance from others, and that people need to be willing to listen to someone who is struggling with life. She also suggesting coming up with a list of thing to accomplish to help get through the holiday, and to have the courage to ask for help if you're overwhelmed by life and this time of year.

#### TROUBLE IN TOYLAND November 26th, 12:30 pm

Sara Vaughn of the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group (MASSPIRG) told our listeners about their 33rd annual report which details the dangers in toys that are made for children. The report show that toys that are too loud, contain chemicals like Boron, some that don't have proper labels, toys that are not age appropriate for children, could lead to choking hazards, urged retailers to have proper warning labels on all items, and she warned of the dangers what are called "Smart Toys," which utilize the internet.

#### 'REDLINED" December 3rd, 12:00 noon

Linda Garth, says her book talks about the practice of discrimination in housing, how it worked against African Americans beginning in the 1930's and how it continues to have an impact on Americans. Her book also tells about her family, their migration from Austria to America, the letters and diaries her parents wrote about what was happening to her family and her neighborhood in Chicago. Her book also discusses concerns people had when African Americans began moving to her neighborhood and their family's decision to stay in the Gardner Park neighborhood and what they would learn about their new neighbors.

#### WORCESTER COUNTY FOOD BANK December 10th, 12 noon

Executive Director Jean McMurray told our listeners what led to the forming of the food bank 36 years ago, and what has changed over the years. She said the good news is that the quality of food, which is all donated, has improved over the years and continues to improve. But she added the not so good news is that the need for their work continues to grow, leading them to try to learn the causes of hunger especially for children. She talked about the types of programs that can help people, the need for people to learn about programs that can help and that one thing that keeps people from asking for help is pride. She says hunger is a problem that can be solved, but wonders if the public is willing to take those steps.

## WORCESTER LOSES ANOTHER HERO December 10th, 12:30 pm

A 10-minute conversation with Worcester Mayor Joe Petty talked about how the city is coping with the loss of Firefighter Christopher Roy. Roy, a single father, would be the eighth firefighter to die in the line of duty in the month of December in 19 years. He recalled how the community was there when six firefighters were lost in 1999, and how they responded when another firefighter was lost in 2011. He talked about how the training of firefighters has changed, and the advances in training men and women to become firefighters, and how the city will be offer its collective shoulders to help firefighters again.