

APRIL 2017 PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS WPKZ 105.3 FM & AM 1280

TUESDAY APRIL 4TH

7:40-8:00am

Fitchburg Fire Chief Kevin Roy came into the studio to talk about the Fitchburg Historical Society's exhibit on the history of the Fitchburg Fire Department. The chief also talked about Fitchburg's EMS system and how it operates, such as all firefighters being paramedics. Talk shifted to how paramedics have the ability and special tools to resuscitate pets and animals, and eventually the dry summer months coming up and the dangers of the burning seasons, and different types of fires.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 5TH

7:00-8:00am

Fitchburg Police Chief Ernie Martineau came into the studio and commented on the police's efforts to cut down on texting and distracted driving, and the problems of distracted driving. A statewide program was issued for the month of April that has police tracking and stopping distracted driving. Talk shifted to talking about an event at Fitchburg State that is about the opiate crisis in Massachusetts, and the ways the crisis has escalated in the state. This discussion led into many ways to approach cures and help for those suffering from the opiate crisis.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 5TH

8:10-8:30am

District Attorney Joe Early, Jr. called into the station and talked about his trip to the area for the speaker Sam Quinones who will speak about his book *Dreamland*, which is about the opiate crisis like what Chief Martineau talked about. He talked about the opiate crisis and how he believes the speech will be beneficial to the area and also the history of the opiates and their cause of addiction in America. He finally ended his interview talking about recoveries and different ways of pain management without prescribing opiates.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 12TH

7:00-8:00am

Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale stopped into the studio to talk about the past speech by Sam Quinones and his book *Dreamland* which is about the opiate crisis in America. He talked about how Quinones' speech offered solutions and perspectives on the issue that others should be thinking about to help solve the crisis. The focus shifted to adding solar panels to school's roofs in Fitchburg, and how this project will help save costs for the city and what it means for Fitchburg to be a green community.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 12TH

8:10-9:00am

State Representative Jen Benson came to the studio during her busy work schedule and talked about the Statewide After School Networks conference she just recently attended, where they looked at studies about the benefits of after school programs for students. Talk shifted to the budget of the state and health care.

THURSDAY APRIL 13TH*7:10-8:00am*

State Representative Natalie Higgins came into the studio and talked about the Mass Cares Annual Gala, which advocates for single payer health care in the state. Higgins commented on the state budget which will charge \$2,000 for those who do not take insurance, and also the rising costs of health care. She talked about the high costs and the different ways that many people are trying to lower the costs, including reforming the systems and gaining inspiration from other countries' health care. She also talked about the Chapter 90 funding which Leominster will receive and also other road projects Leominster will pursue. The interview ended with talk about mental health patients and how care for them is different from those with physical health problems, and the reasons why different and more care facilities should be created.

FRIDAY APRIL 14TH*7:00-8:00am*

Fitchburg Republican City Committee members Mary and Kathy came into the studio to chat about marijuana becoming a new industry in Central MA. They also spent time talking about the Governor's proposed annual budget and the possibility of raising taxes. They also spent time commenting on President Trump's foreign policy so far and his response to Syria.

TUESDAY APRIL 18TH*8:20-9:00am*

State Senator Jen Flanagan started off her conversation talking about Autism Awareness Month and her involvement with mental health in the Commonwealth. Flanagan also talked about the current committee's she is serving on. Flanagan spoke about legislation that is working to combat the opioid crisis and the ongoing struggle in combating use as well as crimes associated with the substance abuse. She also spoke about the need to create more access to treatment. Senator Flanagan wrapped up talking about working on the budget and how much of the budget is taken up by healthcare costs.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 19TH*7:00-8:00am*

Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzeella came in to chat with Travis, Jack, and Sherman about the latest Leominster news. Mazzeella started off talking about the rising costs of healthcare and how it is affecting retail business. He also spoke about Autism Awareness Month and the city's initiatives to become Autism friendly and offer training to businesses. The Mayor also addressed concerns about brown water and the flushing of the system. He spent time talking about construction projects in the City including water line replacement, the Monoosnoc Brook project, the Massworks Grant project which will address the Mechanic, Water and downtown area.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 19TH*8:10-8:30am*

US Congresswoman Niki Tsongas called in to talk about her recent visit to Gardner and the Veterans' Outreach Center. Tsongas spoke about providing healthcare services for

Veterans and needing to provide mental health services to Veterans. She also spoke about the need to provide Veterans with job opportunities in the private sector upon their return. Tsongas spoke about a recent town hall meeting she held, and spoke about the amount of constituents who are reaching out to her office from both sides of the political aisles. Tsongas also talked about the efforts in Washington by the Trump administration to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act and its implications in the Commonwealth. She also spoke about relations with North Korea.

TUESDAY APRIL 25TH

8:20-8:30am

Fitchburg Community Development Administrator Sue Christiansen came in to talk about the City's Community Development Celebration. The event is a chance for residents to come out and learn about the programs that are funded by the Community Block Development Grant. Members of the programs will be on hand to talk about their services and what they are able to do because of the grant funding.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 26TH

7:00-8:00am

Gardner Mayor Mark Hawke came into the studio to chat with Travis, Jack, and Sherman about the latest Gardner news. He started off talking about the Out of Darkness event at Mount Wachusett Community College. Hawke also spoke about the recent forum on marijuana with state officials and the public. Hawke also talked about ongoing efforts to remove blighted buildings

MAY 2017 PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS WPKZ 105.3 FM & AM 1280

MONDAY MAY 1ST

7:40-8:00am

State Representative Stephan Hay came in to talk about the budget work sessions and the House version of the budget. Hay spoke about the difficulties of working in a climate with less than expected revenues and the need to produce a tight budget. Hay also spoke about his disappointment in having to postpone the sales tax holiday this year. Hay spent time talking about the services provided through revenues in MA versus NH. Hay also spoke about the ongoing battle over the Affordable Care Act in Washington DC and how it will impact the Commonwealth. He also talked about an upcoming forum he is hosting at Fitchburg State University for the public regarding recreational marijuana.

WEDNESDAY MAY 3RD

7:00-8:00am

Fitchburg Police Chief Ernie Martineau spoke at great length about the latest crime report that was presented to the City Council. Martineau let the public know where they can view it. He spoke about the annual report and his monthly reports and how the data can change the department's approach throughout the year.

THURSDAY MAY 4TH

7:00-8:00am

Mary and Kathy from the Fitchburg Republican City Committee came in to discuss the first one hundred days of Donald Trump's presidency. They also spoke about recreational marijuana and the influx of communities seeking to opt out. They also spent time talking about the state budget and the recent decision at the state level not to make official tax holiday designations.

WEDNESDAY MAY 10TH

7:00-8:00am

Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale started off his discussion addressing the Annual Crime Report presented to the City Council and working towards making the City a safer community and continuing to change public perception. DiNatale talked about continued efforts within police, first responders, and the medical field in combatting opioids in the City. Mayor DiNatale talked about the plans to build a roundabout at the intersection of Rollstone and Electric Ave and how the problem dates back to his tenure as State Representative. He also spoke about how his experience as State Representative has helped him in his first term as Mayor.

WEDNESDAY MAY 10TH

8:10-8:30am

Jim Engels and Blake Curry from the 22nd Masonic District came into the studio to talk about their child safety day even with the Fitchburg Fire Department. They spoke about the event which is free and open to the public. Engels and Curry spent time talking about the organization, some of it's history and about their community outreach efforts.

THURSDAY MAY 11TH

7:00-8:00am

State Representative Natale Higgins began her conversation talking about the House version of the proposed 2017 budget. Higgins spoke about the tighter budget, lower revenues and cuts to the current budget made by the Governor and her need to fight for those items in the upcoming year. Higgins spoke about which portion of the budget is taken up by healthcare and how much the state depends on federal funds to cover healthcare costs. Higgins talked about a bill she co-sponsored regarding protections for pregnant workers. Higgins also spoke about the latest report showing the amounts of opioid related deaths in Central MA. She also spent time talking about her opposition to proposed cuts to mental health beds in Worcester and the need for increased mental health beds throughout the area. She also talked about her new show on LTV.

WEDNESDAY MAY 17TH

7:00-8:00am

Mayor Dean Mazzarella sat in on air from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. where he discussed the \$3.6 million school funding gap for Leominster, and the possible property tax rate increases for Leominster residents to minimize the gap. Callers offered their opinion on the matter of tax increases for the gap in funding, and also the funding for road projects of Leominster and Fitchburg. At the end of the hour the mayor talked about local events happening around Leominster, such as the town yard sale.

FRIDAY MAY 19TH*8:10-8:30am*

Congresswoman Niki Tsongas called in on Friday to discuss a wide range of issues that reflect many concerns for the residents of Massachusetts. Her first point of topic is her willingness and efforts to allow citizens to voice their opinion through town hall meetings and also calling into her office in Lowell to hear their concerns and positions on key topics such as the possible repeal of the Affordable Care Act. The Congresswoman discussed her efforts to oppose the repealing of the Affordable Care Act such as delegations traveling to Washington to fight the opposition to the bill. Following a listener question, the Congresswoman spoke on the Opioid epidemic and her efforts, along with local law enforcement, to create the INTERDICT Act, which provides customs and border patrol officials the resources needed for better screening of Fentanyl.

WEDNESDAY MAY 24TH*7-8 a.m.*

Gardner Mayor Mark Hawke sat in with Travis, Sherman and Jack for an hour on Wednesday, where the interview began with talking about a legislative breakfast where he talked to realtors not only selling homes but their city. Next, he focused on talking with the upcoming listening session with the Baker-Polito association at Mount Wachusett Community College for business administrators. Mayor Hawke also spoke about an upcoming public hearing on June 13, with MassDOT regarding the Pleasant Street bridge. He finished up talking about Gardner's partnership with the Greater Gardner Relay for Life.

THURSDAY MAY 25TH*7:40-8:00am*

Vietnam Veterans George LaBlanc and Bill Saladini came to the station to talk about Fitchburg's Memorial Day activities which begin on Sunday. Bill Saladini spoke about Sunday which activities begin at 10 am with a memorial mass and then after his white cross ceremony that honor the 114 Fitchburg soldiers who are considered M.I.A. in WWII and the Korean War will be held at 6 pm. They also spoke of the rededication of Monument Park in Fitchburg which occurred recently on Wednesday and other Memorial Day activities that will occur on Monday.

JUNE 2017 PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS WPKZ 105.3 FM & AM 1280**THURSDAY JUNE 1ST***7:00-8:00am*

Mary and Kathy from the Republican City Committee of Fitchburg came to talk to Travis and Sherman about political issues and key topics, beginning with Kathy Griffin's controversial photo of a fake beheading of Trump yesterday. The topic then changed to Climate Change and whether or not President Trump should leave the Paris Agreement and also its impact on the U.S. and the rest of the world. Another topic that came up is how much of a leader the U.S. should be in the world and how much should a role model the U.S. should be. After the break, the legalization of recreational marijuana and its policies in Massachusetts were discussed, and its status for the remainder of the nation.

TUESDAY JUNE 6TH*7:40 -8:00am*

Fitchburg Firefighters Lt. Mike Gelinas and Kris Klein came into the studio to talk about the Fitchburg Fire Department's technical rescue operations that they are now trained in. The technical rescue operations are for special and rare cases of emergencies such as large animal rescue and underwater scuba rescuing, that requires more training than normally given. They also discussed how Fitchburg is the department for doing technical rescue operations for the region and have to aid and co-operate with other stations in Central Mass.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 7TH*7:00-8:00am*

Fitchburg Police Chief Ernie Martineau came into the studio to talk to Travis and Sherman about the large drug dealing and violence problem within Fitchburg and Central Massachusetts, and a specific drug related homicide case that occurred in 2003 and just recently closed. Discussion then shifted to road construction and road problems within Fitchburg, and then concluded with events that would be coming up that the Chief would be attending that are open to the public.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 8TH*7:00-8:00am*

State Rep Natalie Higgins talked to Travis and Sherman about many concerns and issues that citizens are bringing to light. Many topics include benefits and services and their future for senior citizens in the community like Meals on Wheels, and the costs of prescription drugs and medicine, and health insurance costs. Leominster and other schools budget problems was also talked about, and how to possibly solve the issue of depleting funds. At the end of the interview they talked about the Campus Sexual Assault Safety Bill which Higgins is trying to pass in Massachusetts to help those who have suffered from sexual assault.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 14TH*7:00-8:00am*

Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale began talking about the closure of St. Anthony's School. DiNatale spoke about the decision to provide laptops to Fitchburg High School students. He also spoke about the AP class offerings and their ranking as one of the most challenging in the Country. He spent time talking about new businesses coming to Main Street and his ongoing goal of growing the City and bringing new revenue in to provide more services for residents. He also spent time talking about the upcoming Fitchburg Civic Days events. He also talked about ongoing construction projects in the City and talked about the budget that was just passed.

FRIDAY JUNE 16TH*7:00-8:00am*

State Representative Jen Benson talked to Travis and Sherman about the Fair Share Amendment and its possible future of being on the ballot for the next elections. Ideas about what to do with the money that could possibly be raised from the Fair Share Amendment were also talked about by Benson like transportation and also for the roads. After this, legalization of marijuana and also the legislature was talked about and how it the bill was not passed for it, and then renewable and alternative energies in the state.

TUESDAY JUNE 20TH

8:20-9:00am

Massachusetts State Senator Jen Flanagan came into the studio to talk about key important topics that are issues for Massachusetts today. Topics included are the legislature of marijuana, mental health, such as dementia, the Fair Share Amendment and also taxes in general and how all these issues are encountering problems in Massachusetts today and within the senate.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 21ST

7:00-8:00am

Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzarella talked to Travis and Sherman to talk about the school budget for the town of Leominster and how for the town of Leominster the budget was improperly managed. Mayor Mazzarella said the problem of the budget is not one person's responsibility, but according to him, he is being faced to solve the problem. The talk shifted to a breakdown of communication within the school committee, the town, and the mayor and how the breakdown has escalated the confusion and problems of trying to solve the budget problem. Discussion then shifted to different ways to solve the budget problem, including raising taxes for the town of Leominster, and also a donation system for the school system. The mayor then shifted back the discussion to how many people are blaming him for the school budget problem, when he says it is not his fault, it is that of the school department. The Starbust festival was talked about towards the end of the show, and the tragic ending of it when a man was stabbed, and solutions to avoid the problems for the future, and how they will reassess the system they had to prevent such incidences in the future.

TUESDAY JUNE 27TH

7:00-8:00am

State Representative Stephan Hay came in to the studio and discussed the budget of Massachusetts as the fiscal year comes to a close. After break discussion drifted towards health coverage within the budget and for the new budget for the next fiscal year. Talk shifted to the proposal about legalization of marijuana and the problems being faced while trying to pass a proposal, like differences between the house bill and the senate bill. The marijuana discussion also included the trouble about when the bill in last November to pass legal marijuana was only written about money in mind, as opposed to health and safety.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 28TH

7:00-8:00am

Gardner Mayor Mark Hawke called into the studio and talked about the budget that was just recently passed. From the return from break the talk shifted the problems of mosquito control and how Gardner joined the state mosquito program to spray to kill mosquitos during the summer months. The activities in the summer were talked about such as the summer reading program where the mayor will commence program for children at the library in Gardner where they will also have activities after the reading, and also the summer concert series that will start this Saturday.