

WPKZ PROGRAMS LIST Q4 2020

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

MORNING SHOW PROGRAMS AND ISSUES REPORT

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

POLITICS, October 1st, 7:10 to 8:00 am

Mary Lotze and Kathy Goguen of the Fitchburg Republican City Committee shared their thoughts on the first presidential debate between Donald Trump and Joe Biden. They discussed who did the better job at getting their message to the American people, whether Donald Trump was debating Hillary Clinton instead of Biden, the moderator losing control of the forum and what changes need to be made before the next debate. They also talked about the passing of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and the nomination of Amy Coney Barret to replace her.

FIRE SAFETY, October 6th, 7:40 to 8:00 am

Fitchburg Fire Chief Anthony Marrama talked to us about how the Coronavirus has changed how fire drills are handled by the public schools, how this would change when the students return to the classrooms, the changing of the seasons and the danger of brush fires now that fall is here and the potential of these fires covering many acres, concern about people trying to stay warm with the colder temperatures and the need for people to make sure heating systems are working properly before the bitter cold sets in.

RACE FOR CONGRESS, October 6th, 8:10 to 8:30 am

Republican Tracy Lovvorn discussed her candidacy for the 2nd Congressional Seat now held by Democrat Jim McGovern, why she hoped her second attempt for the seat would be successful, why she felt the House of Representatives was "broken" and how she would help to fix it, why she felt McGovern was too liberal for the people of the district and if elected, whether she was willing to work Democrats on Capitol Hill.

PUBLIC SAFETY, October 7th, 7:15 to 8:00 am

Fitchburg Police Chief Ernie Martineau joined us for his monthly visit to discuss how officers respond to calls of urgent matters, the ability of officers to have the skills to prevent difficult situations from getting worse, how the department joined together to make the National Night Out Against Crime a success during the Coronavirus pandemic and how the event has helped to break down barriers between officers and the public, he discussed the killing of a woman in Louisville, Kentucky and how it affects the work they do in Fitchburg, the importance of conversations on the mental health of his officers and how officers are helping a provide a safe enviroment in the schools, which include home visits when asked for.

POLITICS, October 7th, 8:10 to 8:30 am

Bruce Chester, Republican candidate for State Representative in the 2nd Worcester District, discussed his campaign for the seat now held by Democrat Jon Zlotnik, how his skills as a Veteran, educator and an author have prepared him to take this step, what he feels are the most important issues facing his district, what he would hope to accomplish if elected, and if elected what would determine that his first term in office was a success.

GOVERNMENT, October 8th, 7:10 to 7:50 am

State Representative Natalie Higgins talked to us about the work that continues on the state budget for fiscal year 2021. She discussed how the Coronavirus has had an impact on the funds coming into state coffers, where do they search for additional funds for the commonwealth, how this could affect the allocation of Local Aid, plus funds for education, the jobs that have been lost as a result of the pandemic and what needs to be done for the state to resume economic activities.

VICE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE, October 8th, 8:40 to 9:00 am

Bridgewater State University Professor Jason Edwards shared his thoughts on the debate between Republican Mike Pence and Democrat Kamala Harris. He discussed how he thought the candidates did a better job of making the case for their parties than the presidential candidates, the differences between the candidates, differences between the running mates and what the presidential candidates need to do in their final debate.

GOVERNMENT, October 9th, 8:10 to 8:30 am

State Representative Danilo Sena talked about struggles of lawmakers meeting during the Coronavirus pandemic, discussed legislation that is designed to create jobs in areas that include the environmental conservation, water quality and agriculture and other industries.

FOOD FOR FAMILIES, October 12th, 7:40 to 8:00 am

Mark Sweeney of Food For Families told our listeners about their efforts to help needy families by distributing boxes of healthy nutritious food for 600 families in our listening. He talked about work in obtaining the food, the help in distributing the food, and the plans to hold distribute 200 boxes for families during three Wednesdays during the month in Worcester County, where the food can be picked up, and to obtain the food.

POLITICS, October 13th, 8:10 to 8:30 am

Republican State Senator Dean Tran joined us to discuss why voters should elect him to a second term in office. He talked about the challenges he faced growing up, how his work on the Fitchburg Planning Board and his days as a Fitchburg City Councilor prepared him for serving and what he thought were the

most important things he has accomplished during this session. Senator Tran also addressed his being cited for violating campaign ethics, and whether this could hurt his bid for re-election.

POLITICS, October 13th, 8:40 to 9:00 am

Meghan Kilcoyne, Democratic candidate for State Representative in the 12th Worcester District; made her case for why she should be elected to succeed outgoing Representative Harold Naughton. She discussed how her work on Beacon Hill in Mr. Naughton's office helped to prepare her, the need to be accessible to residents in the district and need to be willing to advocate for people in the district.

GOVERNMENT, October 14th, 7:20 to 8:00 am

Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale joined us for his monthly visit to discuss the city is dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic, how the city monitors the cases, updated efforts for re-opening City Hall, the frustration of residents trying to handle business at City Hall during the pandemic and the distribution of Community Development Block Grants to help businesses that are struggling to survive.

POLITICS, October 14th, 8:10 to 8:30 am

Democratic State Representative Jon Zlotnik discussed why voters should elect him a fifth term representing the 2nd Worcester District. Zlotnik cited his willingness to work with his Republican colleagues to approve legislation to benefit people within his district, efforts to help the region get its fair share of funding from Beacon Hill, and how the results of the 2020 Census could lead to more representation to the region.

POLITICS, October 15th, 7:40 to 8:00 am

Worcester County Register of Probate Stephanie Fattman discussed why she should be re-elected to another two-year term. She discussed the work that is done by the Register of Probate, what has been done to make the court system more effective, how e-filing has helped the office handle matters during the Coronavirus pandemic and how the changes have benefitted residents of Northern Worcester County.

POLITICS, October 16th, 7:40 to 8:00 am

Democratic State Representative Danilo Sena made his case for being re-elected to the 37th Middlesex District. He discussed what he learned since he won the special election to succeed Democrat Jen Benson, his efforts to support small businesses, the need to learn patience when the wheels of government seem to run too slow and the need to help those who are most vulnerable in his district.

GOVERNMENT, October 16th, 8:10 to 8:30 am

Tom Skwierawski, Executive Director of Community Development for the city of Fitchburg; discussed the latest round of COVID distribution funding from the CARES Act, the areas where the money will help, the process that determines where the funding will go, new Community Development Block Grants that will be coming to the city, and the need for funding for business and rental assistance.

THE SALVATION ARMY, October 19th, 8:10 to 8:50 am

Envoy Lynnette Valentine discussed the challenges they've faced in 2020 because of the Coronavirus, how lives have changed from double to single-income households, how the pandemic has affected residents of the immediate area and the impact this will have on their fundraising efforts for the remainder of the year.

POLITICS, October 20th, 8:10 to 8:30 am

Michael Kushmerek, Democratic candidate for State Representative in the 3rd Worcester District, discussed his campaign for the Massachusetts House seat now held by Stephan Hay. He talked about how his work in higher education and as a member of Fitchburg City Council has prepared him to take this on, the need for him to say a word in what happens and feeling he needs to be a part of the solution.

GOVERNMENT, October 21st, 7:20 to 7:50 am

Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzarella talked to us about early voting turnout in this presidential election year; how negative campaigning by the candidates has turned Republicans, Democrats and Independents against one another; the lack of civility of among candidates and what will it take for this to change.

POLITICS, October 21st, 8:10 to 8:30 am

Congresswoman Lori Trahan, who is facing no challenger for re-election, discussed the work that is being done by candidates as we get closer to Election Day, her thoughts about the early voter turnout, the need for people to register to vote and to stay involved after the election comes to an end.

HOCKEY, October 21st, 8:40 to 9:00 am

Worcester Railers Chief Operating Officer Mike Myers talked to us about the prospects of the Railers getting ready for a fourth season in the ECHL, how the Coronavirus has affected hockey and other sports, the hope for the team beginning play in the month of January, whether or there will be fans attending the games, and the work that still needs to be done including establishing a playoff format.

GOVERNMENT, October 22nd, 7:10 to 7:30 am

Congressman Jim McGovern discussed the turnout from early voting, whether voters learned anything about the candidates in the presidential debate, the questions he would ask if he were moderating the debates, what he does in his role as Chairman of the House Rules Committee, what is needed for Capitol Hill lawmakers to reach an agreement on a stimulus package and what is needed to combat the Coronavirus.

GOVERNMENT, October 28th, 7:20 to 8:00 am

Gardner Mayor Mike Nicholson discussed preparations for the first snow of the season, success in improving roads and city streets before the cold weather begins to set in, talked about the city's five-year plan to improve the downtown area, and the groundbreaking for building a new elementary school.

POLITICS, October 30th, 8:40 to 9:00 am

Glenn Fossa, Republican candidate for State Representative in the 2nd Worcester District, made his case for why he should succeed Democratic incumbent Stephan Hay. He shared his thoughts about the large numbers of voter turnout in this presidential election year, what he called a disconnect between elected officials and the voters, what made his run for the seat on Beacon Hill and what he hopes to accomplish if he is elected by the voters.

PUBLIC SAFETY November 4th, 7:20 to 8:00 am

Fitchburg Police Chief Ernie Martineau joined for his monthly to talk about Election Day, the importance of voters going to the polls in a safe environment, his pleasure in seeing the turnout amid the Coronavirus pandemic, the work that still needs to be done now that the ballots have been cast, he looked back at Prescription Drug Take Back and the success of people safely disposing unused medications, the growing number of Coronavirus cases and the challenges his department is facing and the addition of a domestic violence advocate joining the ranks of the Police Department.

ELECTION DAY, November 4th, 8:10 am to 8:30 am

Clark University Political Science Professor Mark Miller looked back at the presidential election, the voter turnout, the differences in how the state's handle their ballot counts, whether early balloting benefitting one party over one another, the mail-in ballots that are still waiting to be counted, whether one candidate has a chance to take the majority of the battleground states and how long will it take before a winner is determined.

ELECTION DAY, THE LAST WORD? November 5th, 7:20 to 8:00 am

Mary Lotze and Kathy Goguen of the Fitchburg Republican City Committee shared their thoughts on the presidential election, the votes that need to be counted two races for seats in the Massachusetts Legislature, they discussed the energy brought by the presidential candidates, what each party could learn from running a campaign from one another.

BUSINESS, November 10th, 8:10 to 8:30 am

Melissa Kuehl, Vice President of Marketing for Rollstone Bank, talked about their work as a community bank, how they differ from a savings and loan association, the structures and regulation that affect what a bank does and does not do, the difference in services provided by a community bank as compared to

operations like Bank of America, their efforts like paycheck protection to assure businesses they could get the necessary funds need to operate during the Coronavirus and their "Checking for Charity" campaign where they donate 25 dollars when a customer makes a deposit to their checking account with the proceeds to help local charities.

GOVERNMENT, November 12th, 7:20 to 8:00 am

State Representative Natalie Higgins discussed the work that continues on the 2021 state budget, how the Coronavirus has made it more difficult to complete work on the budget, the use of rainy day funds to help the state balance the books, the work that needs to be done with the plan before the end of the calendar year, the growing numbers of Coronavirus cases that are being reported, that protecting yourself means more than getting tested expressed hope for COVID relief funds from Washington.

ELECTIONS: KUSHMEREK, November 17th, 8:10 to 8:30 am

State Representative-elect Michael Kushmerek looked back at the campaign for the seat now held by outgoing Representative Stephan Hay, the cordialness of the campaign ran by himself and Republican Glenn Fossa, their pledging to work together to find answers to the problems within the district and region, the commitment to work together as one voice on Beacon Hill, the work that needs to be done before the oath of office, building a coalition of people to enable him to begin working when the new session begins in 2021 and the importance of being able to compromise and reach a consensus to get the people's business done.

Ginny's Helping Hand, November 19th, 7:40 to 8:00 am

Sue Chalifoux-Zephir and Brandon Robbins told our listeners about the food pantry which serves as many as 400 families a month and their thrift store, the challenges they have faced during the Coronavirus pandemic, the donations they received that have enabled the food pantry to remain open, the growing numbers of people that used the pantry for the first time, their reluctance to visit a food pantry when they need help to make ends meet and their work to live by their mission "we provide a hand up, not a handout."

Fostering Change, November 23rd, 7:40 to 8:00 am

Founder and CEO Lindsey English told our listeners about the beginning of their of their annual drive to enable foster kids from toddlers to age 22 to celebrate Christmas. She shared the story of living in a foster home with a woman who took care of as many as six teenagers, the lessons she learned living in the setting, the love and support she needed and received, the work to pay it back by providing gifts, the support she has received along the way and the fact that they are raising support for more foster kids across Massachusetts.

GOVERNMENT, November 24th, 7:20 to 8:00 am

State Representative Stephan Hay updated listeners about the continuing work on the 2021 state budget, how cities and towns can survive on level funding to help communities make ends meet, an education measure that will help provide state-run colleges and universities with the funds to help students who need financial aid, how the Coronavirus has made it difficult to help the state make ends meet, how much time is needed before the state can return to levels of funding before the pandemic plus the hope that the Coronavirus vaccines will be made available to help people in Massachusetts.

GOVERNMENT: TRAN, November 27th, 8:10 to 8:30 am

State Senator Dean Tran made his final visit to the program as an elected official. He talked about the work that continues on the 2021 state budget, a police reform measure bill that is now before lawmakers, a transportation bonding measure designed to focus on the state's infrastructure, whether there would be enough time for lawmakers to iron out the differences with the measures before the legislative session comes to an end and how he hopes he would be remembered as a State Senator.

FIRE SAFETY, December 1st, 7:40 to 8:00 am

Fitchburg Fire Chief Anthony Marrama talked to us about challenges they faced during holiday season, his reaction to a Thanksgiving Day fire in New Bedford that left 30 people homeless, concerns about making sure the home is prepared to handle Christmas lights, that all the lights and cords are properly rated, making sure your heating systems are ready for the winter season, the dangers of using gas ovens and other appliances to stay warm and the risk of chimney fires carbon monoxide poisoning, the importance of making smoking and carbon monoxide detectors are properly working and having a winter checklist to ensure the safety of their homes.

PRELUDE TO POLAR, December 1st, 8:10 to 8:30 am

Worcester Red Sox Vice President Bill Wanless joined us to begin a countdown for the start of the team's inaugural season at Polar Park, he looked back at the work that went into making this a reality, the changes in Kelly Square in Worcester, how Polar Park went from dirt park to a stadium that could hold up 10,000 fans, what the ballpark has meant to all of Central Massachusetts, how the cooperation of the weather has made a difference and the work that needs to be completed the closer they get to April 2021.

PUBLIC SAFETY, December 2nd, 7:20 to 8:00 am

Fitchburg Police Ernie Martineau shared his reaction to a police reform accountability measure that was approved by Beacon Hill lawmakers, how the events across the United States this year has led to the passage of the bill, what he thought the bill should and should not look like, how this could change law enforcement in Massachusetts, his wishing there was more time to discuss the legislation and his hopes to see more people from law enforcement who would be part of the commission and his understanding that reforms were necessary.

POLITICS, December 3rd, 7:10 to 8:00 am

Mary Lotze and Kathy Goguen of the Fitchburg Republican City Committee shared their thoughts on the results from the November 3rd election. They contend there was fraud in the results that gave Democrat Joe Biden 306 electoral votes, even the facts showed there was no evidence of fraud. They encouraged party members to continue their challenges as the Electoral College was making plans to meet and certify the results on December 14th.

FOSTERING CHANGE: AN UPDATE, December 14th, 7:40 to 8:00 am

Founder and CEO Lindsey English returned to our airwaves to share some good news about their efforts to provide Christmas gifts for more than foster 120 families in Massachusetts. She was pleased to say Christmas was made possible despite the jobs lost to the Coronavirus, thanks to listeners helping to raise \$2,100 in cash donations. She thanks those who made donations and the group of volunteers who made contributions to make the holiday season a success.

SENATOR CRONIN, December 21st, 8:10 to 8:30 am

State Senator-elect John Cronin talked about the preparation to begin his first term in the Massachusetts Senate. He told us about the work being done to hire a staff to help him prepare, how the Coronavirus has made establishing relationships with people a little harder but manageable, the amount of time he will have to file legislation and the need to have his priorities in place before he takes the oath of office. He said his hopes are to work on job creation, but one order of business will be the budget for fiscal year 2022.

WPKZ Fourth Quarter Issues Report, Monday Community Lunchbox, noon to 1pm

October 1 through December 30, 2020

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. All interviews are 20 minutes in length unless otherwise noted, and the Monday program is hosted by Sherman Whitman.

THE FIRST PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE, October 5th, 12 noon

Fern Johnson, Professor and Senior Research Scholar at Clark University, shared her thoughts on what came from the first debate between Donald Trump and Joe Biden. She expressed her displeasure with the tone of the debate, that the constant arguing and interruptions of one another was a public disservice, the moderator of the forum lost control of the debate from the beginning, that Donald Trump may have succeeded in reaching his base but lost the American people in the process and she hoped that the Vice Presidential candidates would do a better job discussing the issues and making the case for their respective campaign.

CORONAVIRUS: AN UPDATE, October 5th, 12:30 pm

Dr. Katherine Gergen Barnett, Vice Chair of Primary Care Innovation and Transformation and the Program Director in the Department of Family Medicine at Boston Medical Center; updated what we have learned about the Coronavirus and how it affects the body including our organs and blood vessels, our kidneys and our brain, knowing people who don't have symptoms will develop symptoms that will affect themselves and others around them. She continues to say the best ways of protecting yourself from the virus are washing our hands, wearing masks and maintaining our distance but adults are going through fatigue and won't follow through on these things unless we or our loved ones test positive. She also discussed whether President Trump testing positive would serve as a wake-up call to the nation.

"BLACK FATIGUE," October 12th, 12 noon

Mary Frances Winters, Founder of The Winters Group; says her book discusses the fatigue people of color in this nation have been facing over the years when it comes finding employment and rights as people, why people have been and continue to be reluctant to talk about racism, why schools are more desegregated today than the days of Brown vs. Board of Education, her struggles in her business career, the decision to begin a business on her own and the challenges for recognition in operating her own company.

OUT OF THE DARKNESS WALK, October 19th, 12 noon

Nancy Ferro and Michelle Lee of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) told our listeners about their organization; their work in educating, advocating and supporting people and their families who are dealing with suicide and concerns about mental health; why people have been ashamed to talk about mental health and suicide and what has led people to begin to talk; their living as survivors of loved ones who have committed suicide; the need to reach out for help; the importance of learning to listen to help people who are struggling and to preview their overnight walk to raise awareness.

HALLOWEEN 2020, October 26th, 12 noon

John Denley (aka "Professor Nightmare"), Founder and CEO of Boneyard Productions, joined us for the hour to talk the upcoming holiday, what it means to people, why people love to get the crap scared out of them, why people tend to enjoy this season more than Thanksgiving and Christmas, how people are celebrating even during the Coronavirus pandemic, its continuance as a growth industry, his turning theaters and sporting arenas into houses of fright (including Madison Square Garden as Madison "Scare" Garden) and why Halloween will continue to be a growth industry.

ELECTION DAY, November 2nd, 12 noon

Robert Boatright, Professor of Political Science at Clark University, joined us look back at the 2020 presidential campaign. He looked back the campaigns and the candidates, the debates between Joe Biden and Donald Trump and whether the tone of those debates could be costly to the candidates, the numbers of people casting ballots in numbers much larger than four years ago, people casting ballots earlier than four years ago, whether Donald Trump made a mistake in treating Biden as if he were Hillary Clinton, how the organization of the candidates will make a difference, how do you find people who haven't voted before Election Day, whether we'll know the final results of the election after Tuesday and if those results will be challenged.

THE GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT, November 9th, 12 noon

Melissa Stacy and Patty Morse of the American Cancer Society joined us to preview their 45th Great American Smokeout. They discussed how attitudes about smoking have changed from the days when cigarettes were advertised on television and magazines, how the ingredients in smoking have affected our bodies, what has made it so addictive, how smoking over the years has affected their families, what they're hoping people will do the day of the smokeout, programs available to help people who are trying to quit smoking and the challenges they are facing how that are vaping.

CORONAVIRUS: AN UPDATE, November 16th, 12 noon

Dr. Katherine Gergen Barnett, Vice Chair of Primary Care Innovation and Transformation and the Program Director in the Department of Family Medicine at Boston Medical Center; joined us for the hour to update our listeners on where we stand with the Coronavirus. She discussed how long the virus lives in the air and what enables the virus to live longer as in cold weather, the medications that are being used to treat the Coronavirus, updated the affects the virus has on the body, why the number of cases continues to grow, what she called "Covid Toes," the "Super Spreader" events that have led to the dramatic increases in cases across the nation, how this virus knows to color or party affiliation and politicization of the pandemic has led to more people testing positive and more people dying.

"FROM THE GROUND UP," November 23rd, 12 noon

Peter Lazes and Marie Rudden say their book discusses how the frontline staff in the medical field have been hindered by government regulations and the insurance industry, how their lack of understanding has prevented the health care system from becoming more effective in treating patients, and how collaboration and active communication among administrators, medical staff, and patients can make a difference in how hospitals and outpatients clinics work. They suggest the approaches discussed in the book can help health care systems that are struggling to respond to the Coronavirus pandemic.

THE HOLIDAY TRAVEL SEASON, November 23rd, 12:30 pm

John Paul, "The Car Doctor" from AAA Northeast previewed the beginning of the Holiday Travel Season. He looked ahead to how many people they expect to see travelling to be with family for the Thanksgiving weekend, the fewer people who are flying to those destinations while airlines are trying not to fill every seat, how the Coronavirus has to massive layoffs in the hospitality industry and the Massachusetts Port Authority which operates Logan Airport in Boston, how the development of vaccines could raise those numbers of travelers but in the immediate future and how weather conditions could affect the price of gasoline.

THE HOLIDAY SHOPPING SEASON, November 30th, 12 noon

Jon Hurst, President of the Retailers Association of Massachusetts, looked back at 2020 and the how the Coronavirus has taken a toll on retailers, the number of retailers that have closed their doors, the struggle of Massachusetts to reach the next phase were businesses could re-open their doors, his relief that consumers have chosen to go shopping, how retailers rely on this time of year to keep their businesses running, his concern about what consumers are buying and where they are buying, the changes retailers have been forced to make to survive like selling online and home deliveries, and the importance of consumers of supporting small businesses.

"JUROR NUMBER 2," December 7th 12 noon

For this program Efreem Sigel talked to us about his book looks back at a first-degree murder trial in New York City where he served as a juror; the experience of serving and why he chose to serve; an

investigation of the conditions in East Harlem that led two young men to be involved in drug selling and the murders of two people; how the New York City Housing Authority housing projects, the public schools and criminal justice have failed young people and the efforts of a handful of educators, nonprofit leaders and criminal justice reformers to find pathways to success for these young people.

THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS: AN UPDATE, December 14th, 12 noon

Robert Boatright, Professor of Political Science at Clark University, talked about the next checkpoint in the election which is the meeting of the Electoral College. He discussed how this process works, how the electors are chosen, how they are supposed to vote, the numbers court cases brought by Donald Trump to challenge the results from November that gave Joe Biden 306 electoral votes, whether Trump does have a legitimate case or is it just to raise doubts the process and money for his campaign, how long will the process take, what other challenges could be presented, the chances of the courts hearing the challenges and what happens between now and when Congress meets January 6th approve the results that will make Joe Biden and Kamala Harris President and Vice President.

WORCESTER COUNTY FOOD BANK, December 14th, 12:30 pm

Jean MacMurray, Executive Director of the food bank, talked to us about the work that is done by the organization, the number of meals served and pounds of food provided, the challenges brought on by the Coronavirus pandemic and how it has made things worse, concerns about the safety of the food and their volunteers, the lack of food drives coming to their warehouse, whether this nation was ever at a time when we were closing to winning the war on poverty, the changes in those policies that set this nation back and what is needed to help people today.

CORONAVIRUS: AN UPDATE, December 21st, 12 noon

Dr. Katherine Gergen Barnett, Vice Chair of Primary Care Innovation and Transformation and the Program Director in the Department of Family Medicine at Boston Medical Center; returned to update our listeners about the latest developments including the arrival of vaccines from Pfizer arriving in Massachusetts, about the first doses being delivered to Boston Medical Center, the relief of the staff, potential bumps in the vaccination process, the fact that fewer doses than expected are making their way to Massachusetts, how this vaccine has to be stored, the potential arrival of a second vaccine made by Cambridge-based Moderna, difference between the vaccines and challenge of getting the vaccines sent to urban and rural communities.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

FITCHBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Fitchburg Public Library invites you to enjoy a good laugh. They're holding a virtual event where you lift your spirits with laughter and meditation. It happens Wednesday, October 28th beginning at 7:00 pm. To learn more about this and other programs at the Library call this number...978-829-1820. (ended October 27th)

2020 US CENSUS

If you haven't done so time is running out to take part in the 2020 US Census. Your participation ensures your community gets its fair share of federal funding and Massachusetts can maintain its representation in Congress for the next 10 years. Complete the form online at 2020 Census-dot-gov, or call this toll-free number, 1-844-330-2020. (ended October 18th)

GINNY'S HELPING HANDS

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

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

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

COMMUNITY LEGAL AID OF CENTRAL AND WESTERN MASS

Community Legal Aid of Central and Western Mass provides free civil legal services to low-income and elder residents. They can help if you're dealing with matters related to COVID-19, government benefits, family and other concerns. They're located at 515 Main Street in Fitchburg, and their telephone number is 508-752-3218. (still in rotation)

VOTER REGISTRATION

Massachusetts we're moving closer to Election Day which is Tuesday, November 3rd. To take part in the election you need to be a registered voter, and the last day to register to vote is Saturday, October 24th. You can register at your city or town hall, online with the Secretary of State's office or call the Elections Division toll-free at 1-800-462-VOTE. (still in rotation)

THE SHINE INITIATIVE

The Medicare Open Enrollment Period is now upon us. And the certified counselors at The Shine Initiative can help you understand your plan, changes to your plan and other options you may have. Unbiased confidential counselling is just a phone call away. Call The Shine Initiative at this number...508-422-9931. The Medicare Enrollment Periods runs through December 7th. (ended December 6th)

CITY OF FITCHBURG

Saturday, October 24th is National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. It's a day where you can safely dispose of expired or unused prescription drugs. Fitchburg residents can drive up and drop off their unused portions in the parking lot of Fitchburg City Hall between the hours of 10:00 am and 12 noon. Help the Fitchburg Health and Police Departments get these unused drug out of circulation. (ended October 23rd)

FOOD 4 FAMILIES

The Food For Families Program is here to help families in Central Massachusetts who are in need of food. They'll be giving out 200 boxes of food for families at three locations in Worcester County between now and Wednesday November 11th. That's 200 boxes of food at each location. To register, or to learn more about the program, log on to Food For Families 600-dot-com. (ended November 10th)

FITCHBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Fitchburg Public Library invites you to a virtual event. Healthy Eating is the first of three part series on Diabetes education. The first event is Wednesday January 20th at 7:00 pm. You can attend any or all three sessions, and this is a free program. To find out more call the library at 978-829-1780. (still in rotation)