

Program Descriptions July 2017

Wednesday July 5th

7:00-8:00AM

Fitchburg Police Chief Ernie Martineau talked to Travis and Sherman on Wednesday and talked about the Fitchburg Civic Days block party and parade during the fourth of July festivities. The chief also commented on the police departments community effort during the civic day's events and how their interaction with the community is tremendous and fluid. The interview shifted from the civic days to the young man who went missing in Fitchburg and the status of the investigation, and along with other cold cases that the police have open.

Thursday July 6th

7:00-8:00AM

Kathy and Mary from the Fitchburg Republican Committee came to the studio to talk about their participation in the Fitchburg Civic Days block party and Fourth of July Parade. The talk also shifted to current events with President Trump, such as his current trip overseas to Europe and his attendance to the G20 Summit. They also talked about they've notice that the political world of today has become very polarized and detrimental to progress in politics. The last thing that was talked about in the interview was the latest episode of "Your Right to Know," the Committee's show on FATV.

Friday July 7th

7:40-8:00AM

Fitchburg Fire Chief Kevin Roy came into the studio and talked to Travis and Sherman about the past Fourth of July parade in Fitchburg, and the successes that the fire department had with it. The talk then segued into the status of fireworks in Massachusetts and safety regarding them. With New Hampshire right next door, many people can purchase them in the Fitchburg area even though they are illegal in Massachusetts. Along with firework safety, the Chief talked about grill and fire safety as well. With the most recent news of the boy who was struck by a car riding his bicycle in Fitchburg, the Chief lastly talked about traveling safety during the summer months if someone is on a bicycle or motorcycle.

Thursday July 13th

7:00-8:00AM

State Representative Natalie Higgins joined Travis and Sherman in the studio and began by addressing a flyer sent out to constituents about her from the Mass Fiscal Alliance group. Higgins went into detail about her vote in favor of switching the pay structure of per diems to stipends and as well as clarifying that she is not receiving a raise. Higgins spoke about calls she has received from both supporters and those who opposed her vote. She also took time talking about the compromise budget and cuts that ended up being made. She also spoke about her recent trip to Washington DC to talk about policy solutions with fellow state legislators around the country. She finished by talking about the houses effort to rework the marijuana legislation.

8:40-9:00AM

Leominster City Councilor, Sue Chalifoux Zephir, and Skyview Middle School Principal, Tim Blake, came in to talk about the situation with the Leominster School budget. Tim Blake talked about contingency plans they are making in terms of restructuring classes for expected teacher and staffing cuts. Blake and Chalifoux Zephir talked about how the cuts may cause more children to leave the district through school choice causing even more money to leave the district. Sue talked about voting against passing the City budget. She also talked about free cash and the stabilization fund and why free cash is not being used for the school budget. She also spoke about other departments that spend over their budget.

Tuesday July 18th*7:00-8:00AM*

Senator Jen Flanagan joined Travis and Sherman in studio. She began talking about attending the groundbreaking ceremony for the new soccer complex. Flanagan spoke about the benefits of projects like this for Fitchburg and the area. She also spent time talking about the budget, veto overrides and the compromise budget that they just voted on. Flanagan spent time talking about how important it is to talk about ways to streamline and the importance of living within our means during a time when revenues are not where they expect. She also talked about updates to the marijuana legislation and opting out.

Wednesday July 19th*7:00-8:00AM*

Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzeella joined Travis, Sherman and Jack in studio and began the conversation talking about the emergency repairs to the bridge on Route 13 and how it finished ahead of schedule as well as plans to fix the intersection near the commuter rail station. Mazzeella spent the rest of his visit addressing the school budget situation. He spoke about net school spending, needing to be fiscally responsible and the need for an audit to find out how the school system went from being having a surplus to being in the hole. He also spent time addressing the difference between an audit and a review.

Tuesday July 25th*7:00-8:00AM*

State Representative Stephan Hay began talking about the Dining Under The Stars event in Fitchburg and how events like this bring people to downtown Fitchburg and brings awareness to local restaurants and businesses in the area. Hay spoke about being able to preserve Chapter 70 and Chapter 90 funds in the latest round of cuts and vetoes in the state budget in dealing with lower than expected revenues.

Program Descriptions August 2017**Tuesday August 1st***7:40-8:00AM*

Fitchburg Fire Chief Kevin Roy spent time talking about recent fires from overnight. He also talked about common fires that happen during the Summer in terms of open fires, brush fires, and careless disposal of ashes and materials from pellet and wood stoves. Chief Roy also talked about the stats from the State Fire Marshal in terms of fatalities for 2016, four were in Fitchburg. He talked about the overall drop in fatalities across the state as well as what were the most common causes of the blazes and what people can do to prevent them. He also talked about the importance of smoke detectors and advances in technology. He also talked about what they do in terms of fire prevention in the schools. He also spoke about their involvement in National Night Out.

Wednesday August 2nd*8:10-8:30AM*

Candidate for State Senate Lou Marino joined Travis, Sherman and Jack about his desire to run for the State Senate seat. Marino talked about his years in Aer, Chelmsford and Fitchburg, and how that has shaped his intent to run. Marino spent time talking about how he has been active in those communities. He also spoke about his background as a private investigator and small business owner. Marino talked about discussions he has had with constituents he has already met with. Marino spoke about needing to

increase tourism, improving infrastructure, getting us out of the financial deficit, rolling back the sales tax rate, reintroducing the “muni” bill to provide more options for electrical rates for area residents. Marino spoke about the fact that he does not want to become a career politician, but he just wants to go in and get the state moving in the right direction.

Friday August 4th

7:00-8:00AM

Fitchburg Police Chief Ernie Martineau began talking about the latest sentencing updates of those involved in the Jeremiah Oliver case. He spoke about the DA’s office and charges they made and the fact that this leaves the door open for the investigation into Oliver’s disappearance and murder. Martineau also spoke about how the department handles domestic violence calls and cases and utilizes their domestic violence advocate. He also spoke about the recent Ford mechanical troubles facing departments across the commonwealth and country. He also spoke to how instrumental a working fleet is to the department. He finished up talking about the Junior Police Academy.

Tuesday August 8th

7:00-8:00AM

Leominster Superintendent of Schools, Jim Jolicoeur, joined Travis and Sherman to provide a detailed update regarding the school budget for the upcoming school year. Jolicoeur began talking about the additional funds from the City and how that allowed them to call back a number of teachers and stabilize class sizes. He spoke about the budget formula, net school spending, Chapter 70 funding, revenue lost from school choice students and how those factors played into the 5 million dollar shortfall in the school budget. He also spoke about rising insurance costs and higher bus costs. Jolicoeur spoke about the situation as a perfect storm that was unavoidable. He finished up talking about proposed fees for extracurricular activities.

Wednesday August 9th

7:00-8:00AM

Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale joined Travis, Sherman, and Jack to provide an update on the latest Fitchburg news. He started off talking about the ongoing sewer separation project and paving schedule for roads throughout the Summer. DiNatale talked about how many roads they can afford to pay with the budget and the yearly process they use to evaluate the order in which roads are tended to. He also spoke about working with less money from the state for Chapter 70 and 90 funds as well as the possibility of Community Development Block Grant funding being cut at the federal level. He finished off talking about the Passing of the Key ceremony and obtaining the old Bank of America building as a gift to the City and how it will work into the new City Hall Complex plan.

Thursday August 10th

7:00AM-8:00AM

State Representative Natalie Higgins began her conversation talking about Niki Tsongas’ decision not to run for reelection. She spoke about Tsongas’ term, and the need for more women in government. Higgins spoke about her recent testimony regarding Chapter 70 funds and how this is part of a larger conversation having to do with the formula that calculates school funding as well. Higgins talked about the difficulties facing Leominster and other communities in trying to operate with increased healthcare costs and inflation while dealing with smaller state funding. Higgins also talked about overriding Baker’s plan to shift people from MassHealth to another program, and possible ramifications had it passed. Higgins also talked about single payer healthcare. Higgins also talked about National Night Out, and recent domestic violence incidents in the area.

Monday August 14th*8:10-8:20AM*

Congresswoman Niki Tsongas called Sherman to talk about her recent announcement that she will not be seeking reelection at the end of her term in 16 months. Tsongas spoke about her desire to spend more time with her family and her grandchildren. She also took time to talk to Sherman about the rally in Charlottesville over the weekend and the President's failure to outright condemn white supremacist and white nationalist groups. When asked about her greatest accomplishment, Tsongas spoke to her bipartisan work on the Armed Services Committee to deal with veteran issues and sexual assault in the military. She also spoke about her involvement in helping to pass the Affordable Care Act and her continued efforts to ensure healthcare is accessible to all. Moving forward, Tsongas wants to continue to try and reach across the aisle to address climate change.

Wednesday August 16th*7:00-8:00AM*

Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzeella began his conversation talking about the increased cost in bus transportation and the recommendations coming up for changes to routes prior to the start of the school season to Sherman. Mazzeella also talked about the increased health insurance costs facing the school system. He spoke about the need to look at revenues and forecasting when putting together a budget to avoid overspending and the need to look at reductions when enrollment declines. He spoke about the response from the school committee and the school department and the public outcry instead of working towards a solution or presenting a realistic school budget. He also talked about the need to build a new police station as opposed to using an existing building in the City. He also spoke about how financial decisions can affect the City's bond rating and have long term effects.

Thursday August 17th*7:10-7:30AM*

Chris Vesce of MEMA called in to speak with Sherman to talk about being prepared for hurricane season and steps listeners can take to ensure they are ready should one make its way up the East Coast. Vesce spoke about some of the storms that have already formed this season, and ones that they are watching out for. He spoke about the process of Hurricane forecasting. He also talked about preparedness kits, items, and steps people should take in advance of a storm, and how this can apply to other scenarios besides hurricanes.

7:40-8:00AM

Christian Teja from the Massachusetts State Lottery called in to chat with Sherman. Teja spoke about record levels of revenue this past year. Teja spoke about the high payouts on scratch tickets and games and how that serves to add to their draw for consumers. He explained how the money helps give boosts to communities across the state. Teja spoke about

Program Descriptions September 2017**Friday September 1st***7:10-8:00AM*

State Representative Jen Benson joined Travis and Sherman in the studio. She began by explaining her reasoning for not wanting to run for Senator Jen Flanagan's seat when she steps down, despite speculation. Benson shed some light on what it may be like for whoever steps into the role. Benson also

shared advice about making the job a full time twenty-four seven commitment. Flanagan also spent time talking about carbon pricing legislation. She also spent time talking about oil prices during times of crises like hurricane season. Benson spoke about climate change and her upcoming trip as a UN observer for their climate change discussions. Benson also talked about the state resolution she wrote in response to the Nationalist rally in Charlottesville aimed at Neo-Nazi's and racism.

Tuesday September 5th

7:40-8:00AM

Fitchburg Fire Chief Kevin Roy talked about the Annual MDA Boot Drive. Chief Roy spoke about how they are getting ready to help gather donations for hurricane relief and the possibility of deploying to help with fire houses down there. Chief Roy spent time talking about Emergency Management and preparedness in Fitchburg and Central MA. Chief Roy spent time talking about their fundraising efforts to obtain new dryers for their turnout gear. Chief Roy spoke about the need to properly clean gear to remove dangerous particles that get stuck to firefighter gear. Chief Roy also talked about being able to bring on new firefighters to the department thanks to several grants

8:10-8:30AM

USAF Tech Sgt Joe Chignola joined Travis and Sherman to talk about the recent hurricanes and ways the Air Force assists in relief and rescue efforts during hurricanes and other disasters. He spoke about the Air Force ability to step in and provide air traffic control and direct rescue operations as well as supply drops and more. Chignola spoke about his own personal experience working in previous hurricanes. He wrapped up talking about Air Force opportunities.

Wednesday September 6th:

7:10-8:00AM

Fitchburg Police Chief Ernie Martineau began his conversation reminding drivers about being cautious with school buses and children walking to school. He also spoke about children and pedestrians needing to be careful as well. Martineau also spoke about construction projects in the City. He also spoke about their community policing efforts with the various schools in Fitchburg. He also addressed the new process for pick-ups and drop offs at the McKay School that a listener was asking about. Martineau spoke about the neighborhood meeting recently held in the Pleasant St area to address recent concerns from residents. He finished by talking about grants the Department received to target driving under the influence.

Thursday September 7th

7:10-8:00AM

Mary and Kathy spent time talking to Travis and Sherman about a variety of political issues. They started off talking about how Hurricane Harvey relief got Congress to avoid a shutdown. They spoke about the fact that Republicans and Democrats are both still unwilling to compromise and work with one another and how it is hurting the public and causing voter apathy. They spoke about Trump's visit to areas devastated by Harvey and his donation pledge. Mary and Kathy also talked about the President's desire to end DACA and the need to reform immigration. They also spoke about their upcoming episode of "Your Right to Know" on FATV.

Monday September 11th*8:10-8:20AM*

Sue Christiansen from the Fitchburg's Office of Community Development came in to chat about their upcoming Resource Fair. Christiansen spoke about the different services and departments that are available for Fitchburg residents. She also spoke about which groups would be highlighted at the Resource Fair and how crucial the Community Development Block Grants are to various efforts in Fitchburg.

Thursday September 14th*7:00-8:00AM*

State Representative Natalie Higgins started off recapping the four community conversations she held on topics including: education, the economy, healthcare, and the environment. Higgins spoke about her plans for future public conversations and how important they are both for constituents to learn about what is going on at the State level and for her to learn about issues her constituents care about. Higgins also spoke about the need to revamp the State's formula that is used to determine net school spending, citing Leominster as one example of communities encountering issues. Higgins also talked about the vetoes that the House took up in response to Governor Baker's cuts.

Monday September 18th*7:40-8:00AM*

Donald Flagg from Crossing Over Sober House came in to talk to Travis and Sherman about opioid abuse and how his sober house helps people make a change in their life. Flagg talked about his own experiences with addiction and going through recovery. He also talked about how important it is for residents to know about all the services that are available to help in the fight against addiction. He talked about their upcoming 5K race and resource fair.

Wednesday September 20th*7:10-8:00AM*

Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzaella began the conversation with Travis and Sherman talking about storm preparedness and how the City has worked to put together comprehensive emergency plans. Mazzaella spoke about resources and training that has been implemented in the wake of past snow and ice storms. Mazzaella also spoke about the new Reliant Medical building project. He spoke about a few other construction projects happening in the City and then dovetailed into how his social media posts about constructions and improvements always go back to the school budget issue from the Summer. Mazzaella talked about the work he and his office did to help fix the issue.

Wednesday September 27th*7:10-8:00AM*

Gardner Mayor Mark Hawke joined Travis, Sherman and Jack to talk about updates in Gardner. He started off talking about his new Mayor's Corner Update on the City website. Hawke also spoke about the circumstances surrounding the Council holding off on voting on his raise. Hawke spoke about how holding off on competitive pay for the Mayor's position could greatly hurt the City in future elections for years to come in terms of who decides to run. Hawke also spoke about being able to budget more than net school spending and tax under proposition 2 and a half for the second year in a row. He spoke about

how the financial picture has changed over the past decade. Hawke also spoke about where the City currently is in terms of building a new elementary school. He finished taking about the Gardner Chair Luge.