

Program Descriptions January 2018

Tuesday Jan 2nd

7:40-8:00AM

Fitchburg Fire Chief Kevin Roy came in to talk to Travis and Sherman. He spoke about dealing with fires and other emergency calls in extreme cold conditions like the ones that have been affecting the area. Chief Roy also talked about safety concerns with carbon monoxide, generators, alternative heating sources and those that try to use stoves to heat homes. The Chief also talked about dealing with frozen pipes and the dangers of trying to use an open flame to fix the problem. He also spent time chatting about ice safety and safe disposal of Christmas Trees.

Wednesday Jan 3rd

7:00-8:00AM

Fitchburg Police Chief Ernie Martineau spoke with Travis and Sherman about how the Department prepares for Winter storms like the one expected to hit the next day. He also spoke about the parking ban, why it is crucial for the DPW and essential for first responders and he also spent time talking about how the ban has changed in the past years to become easier for residents who face tough parking situations. The Chief spoke about safety concerns with the cold and the partnership with Kevin Mclean from Our Father's House in trying to help homeless individuals especially during the Winter weather. The Chief also talked about changes to deployments and approaches to patrolling the City coming in 2018 as well his goals for the Department in the coming year.

Thursday Jan 11th

7:10-8:00AM

State Representative Natalie Higgins began her conversation with her comments on Andrew Lelling stating that he would need to prosecute recreational marijuana cases and the complications that could arise for businesses and people in her district. Representative Higgins also talked about her role on the mental health and substance abuse recovery committee and Charlie Baker's initiatives to combat the opioid crisis. She also talked about a mental health curriculum that passed in the Senate that the House is also working on. Representative Higgins talked about how the House is having to take a more proactive approach with legislation with the current federal administration and talked about Representative Benson's single payer healthcare bill. Representative Higgins was joined by her aide Taylor Landry where they spoke about their first year in office and the biggest issues like homelessness that they have dealt with when talking to constituents.

Friday Jan 12th

7:10-8:00AM

State Representative Jen Benson joined Travis and Sherman in the studio and began by addressing the President's recent comments on third world countries and immigrants. Rep Benson also talked about the latest tax collection revenue numbers, the lack of a tax holiday this year, and what that means in terms of the state budget. Representative Benson spent time talking about healthcare and her single payer healthcare bill, and how it would track costs over three years to see if it would be a better solution for the State. She also talked about her bill which proposes carbon pricing, and another bill she is working on that would provide consumer protections and allow them to much more easily freeze their credit in the wake of recent data breaches.

Tuesday Jan 16th

7:40-8:00AM

Fitchburg Superintendent of Schools Andre Ravenelle came in to talk about recent weather-related issues affecting Crocker, Reingold, and Longsjo schools as well as the High School with pipes, sprinklers, tiles, heating duct and flooding situations. Ravenelle went into detail about each issue, how they happened, and what the process is to fix each situation. He also talked about the protocols with the board of health and repairs. Ravenelle talked about the amount of money that has been spent on schools so far in terms of repairs and investment during his tenure as well as upcoming repairs that have already been approved by the City for Longsjo. He talked about being able to use the former St. Anthony's School in Fitchburg and the former T.C. Passios school in Lunenburg in the interim.

Wednesday Jan 17th

7:10-8:00AM

Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzarella talked about how the extended periods of cold this winter have led to more requests than usual with the Mayor's Heating Fund, and the warming centers available to residents. Mazzarella also talked about how the DPW is addressing the current storm. He talked about wanting to restart a redevelopment authority to help with getting investment in properties and getting them back on the tax rolls. Mazzarella also talked about choosing not to run for Chair of the School Committee anymore, and the need for more accountability heading into the upcoming budget session. Mazzarella also commented on the remarks by the Durkin Company regarding a contract with the City, Mazzarella talked about the process and requirements for a valid contract.

Wednesday Jan 24th

7:10-8:00AM

Gardner Mayor Mark Hawke started the conversation talking about attending the Governor's State of the Commonwealth Address and spoke about Governor Baker's ability to win over bipartisan support during his tenure. Mayor Hawke talked about his thoughts on where the State currently is in terms of recovering from the last recession and in handling the issues facing it especially the opioid crisis. Hawke spoke about the AED Foundation and Melissa's Place as resources in Gardner. Hawke also talked about being chosen as President of the Massachusetts Municipal Mayors' Association and their advocacy in the State. He also talked about the agreement Monty Tech has with Gardner and the communities it serves, and the letter he issued to the school about stopping payment until they come into compliance with that agreement and review it. He also raised concerns over their admissions, and their spending among other issues. He wrapped up talking about Gardner's new mobile app.

Friday Jan 26th

8:10-9:00AM

State Senator Dean Tran talked to us about his first month in the Senate. He talked about making the transition into the position and how his local political experience has helped prepare him for his new role. Tran spent time talking about building relationships with Senators and Representatives from surrounding districts and the importance of being willing to cross party lines and set aside personal opinions and vote with what's best for the District and along with the will of the people. Senator Tran went into depth about the different committees he has been assigned to including healthcare finance, transportation, higher education, state administration and oversight, and intergovernmental affairs. Senator Tran talked about issues and concerns currently facing those committees.

Wednesday Jan 31st

7:50-8:00AM

Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale called in to talk about improvements to the state-owned Water Street Bridge. He talked about the temporary repairs put in place and the lane shifts taking place until

the repairs can be made. He talked about working with Mass DOT and the plan and timeline to get the bridge fixed.

8:10-8:30AM

Bridgewater State University Professor Dr. Jason Edwards called in to give his critiques of both the State Of The Union Address by President Donald Trump as well as the Democratic response from Representative Joe Kennedy III. Dr. Edwards took the time to break down what he thought was done well in each speech and what could have been better. He also commented on the content and overall tone of the messages.

Program Descriptions February 2018

Thursday February 1st

7:10-8:00AM

Fitchburg Republican City Committee members Mary and Kathy came in for their monthly conversation with Travis and Sherman. They started off talking about President Trump's first year in office. Mary and Kathy also spent time talking about the President's State Of The Union Address, covering his remarks, the demeanor of Democrats in attendance as well as Representative Joe Kennedy III's response. They talked about issues in the Address which should appeal to both sides including healthcare, infrastructure and criminal justice reform. They also talked about his tweets and ways that this can end up hindering more than helping him. They also talked about Jeff Sessions and Andrew Lelling indicating they will prosecute recreational marijuana in terms of states' rights. They also spent time talking about their latest episode of their FATV show, "Your Right To Know."

Friday Feb 2nd

7:10-8:00AM

State Representative Jen Benson talked about the recent economic forum she hosted to let the small towns know about the resources and opportunities available to them. She spoke about finding the balance between a town keeping its image and feel with growth. She also addressed the recent GIC attempt to switch healthcare plans and her bill regarding single player healthcare and how it would provide an opportunity to research the potential cost savings. Representative Benson also talked about co-sponsoring a bill that supports automatic voter registration. She finished up talking about finding solutions to climate change through carbon pricing.

Tuesday Feb 6th

7:40-8:00AM

Lt. Rich Liberatore with the Fitchburg Fire Department came in to talk about his role as Emergency Management Director and Training Officer. Lt. Liberatore explained his role as Emergency Director coordinating between departments within the City and with state agencies. He talked about emergency preparedness during the winter as well as other situations including active shooter scenarios.

Wednesday Feb 7th

7:10AM-8:00AM

Fitchburg Police Chief Ernie Martineau gave a reminder about winter parking bans. He spoke about the community engagement arm of the department and attending safety patrol inductions and cupcake with a cop events. He spent time talking about the importance of beginning community engagement with students at a young age. Chief Martineau also spoke at length about the Fitchburg Drug Court and battling addiction. He also spoke about the Shannon Grant and to combat violence that has been

awarded to the City. Chief Martineau also spoke about tax scams and the importance of educating seniors about them.

Thursday Feb 8th

7:10-8:00AM

State Representative Natalie Higgins spoke with Travis and Sherman about approaching another budget session and working with the new Chair of Weights and Means. She talked about school funding, struggling to find where the money will come from and how the Fair Share Amendment could help. She also spoke about dealing with school funding increases and Chapter 70 funding. Representative Higgins also talked about paid family medical leave. She also talked about Joint 10 Rule Day and the executive sessions she sat in for her communities. Representative Higgins also talked about having advocacy sessions in Leominster to handle issues important to the community.

Wednesday Feb 14th

7:10-8:00AM

Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale talked about his State of the City Address that he recorded on FATV because of the weather. Mayor DiNatale talked about the renovations for Old City Hall passing in the City Council. He spoke about the funding for the project and how it does not affect the Crocker feasibility study and Longsjo roof project funding. He spent time talking about each of the projects and explained the City's bond capacity. He also spent time talking about the weather related disasters that recently happened to the school buildings, the repairs, and ways to be more proactive down the road. Mayor DiNatale also talked about the crews working to fix roads with durapatch.

Thursday Feb 15th

7:40-8:00AM

Mary Jo Bohart, the Economic Development Director for the City of Fitchburg, came in to talk about the Smart Growth America tour and workshop from the Fall, and the next steps. The specialized workshop provided suggestions for how the City can build up the downtown area. Ms. Bohart talked about the Next Steps Report from Smart Growth America that talks about immediate changes they can make as well as fixes for the short term, and long term. She spoke about the need to do more events in the downtown area, and how the theater block and city hall projects go with the core principles of Smart Growth America. She also talked about the upcoming public meeting for the economic strategic planning process in the City.

Wednesday Feb 21st

7:10-8:00AM

Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzarella started off the conversation talking about the budget for snow removal, and how this season is going. He also talked about the patch crew that has been out and how the North Street renovations will begin in July. He spoke at length about preparations in the wake of the Parkland School Shooting, including the new communications system throughout the schools, ALICE training, and dealing with large school buildings. He also spoke about the need to have more resources for mental health and follow ups when police are called. Mayor Mazzarella also talked about the new Economic Development Coordinator Nikki Peters and talked about what her role will be. He wrapped up his discussion talking about the upcoming budget and focused on the school budget and a need for accountability and prioritizing to avoid a repeat of the last budget.

Friday Feb 23rd

8:10-9:00AM

State Senator Dean Tran started his conversation talking about settling into the committees he has been assigned to. He spent time talking about the healthcare finance committee and insurance through the GIC. He talked about needed improvements on Route 2 and 117 and how that can help spur economic growth and provide good jobs for constituents. He spoke about a capital bond bill being worked on in the Senate. He also talked about the 11 million dollars he was able to bring back to the District. Senator Tran also spoke about bringing back more circuit breaker funds for education and the need to increase Chapter 70 funds.

Tuesday Feb 27th

7:40-8:00AM

State Representative Stephan Hay started off his conversation talking about going out to support corrections workers this past weekend who are trying to raise awareness about the respiratory dangers associated with K2 getting into the prisons. Representative Hay spoke about the need to get more Chapter 70 funds back to the communities. He also talked about the need to ensure that Central MA gets its fair share of Chapter 90 funds as well. Representative Hay also talked about the recent credit freeze legislation spearheaded by Representative Benson in the wake of the Equifax breach. He also spoke about the housing bond bill that passed in the house for investment in affordable housing components to projects and finished up talking about the current budget session.

Wednesday Feb 28th

7:40-8:00am

Gardner Mayor Mark Hawke started off talking about the closure of the South Main St Bridge. He talked about the cost to repair the bridge and the fact that it is tied in with a railroad bridge because of a shared abutment. He also talked about ALICE training that has occurred in the school system, and how they are continuing training especially in the wake of the Parkland Shooting. He also talked about a lawsuit the City is currently facing in terms of a complaint regarding conditions of the water.

Program Descriptions March 2018

Thursday March 1st

7:10-8:00AM

Mary and Kathy began talking about the current gun control debate following the Parkland Shooting and the teacher who locked themselves in a classroom before firing a handgun. They spoke about tying up a mental health loophole and also spoke about President Donald Trump's most recent comments which seemed to be attempting to find a common ground. They also talked about PACs and lobbyist money involved in Washington, especially as to how it effects major issues like gun control. Mary and Kathy finished up their conversation talking about the most recent episode of their FATV show, "Your Right To Know"

Tuesday March 6th

7:10-7:30AM

State Representative Jen Benson talked about the recent passing of her bill aimed at providing free credit freezes and more consumer credit protection following the Equifax breach. She also spoke about the calls and responses she had received after the GIC wanted to switch insurance plans for those who get health plans through the GIC. Representative Benson also talked about her plans for International Women's Day as well as the Equal Pay Act, which goes into effect on July 1st.

7:40-8:00AM

Fitchburg Fire Chief Kevin Roy started off talking about the collapse at a mill being renovated yesterday and how they were able to rescue the injured man. He also talked about how the Department works with companies on the renovation sites, and how responding to a demolition and renovation site is different than responding to a traditional house or building call. Chief Roy talked about how the Tech Rescue Team responds to these sorts of calls. He talked about the upcoming snow storm and cold temperatures hitting the area this Winter. He spoke about the challenges with the wind and snow when responding to calls. Chief Roy also talked about the burning season and reminded folks about safety and the process to obtain a burning permit.

Wednesday March 7th

7:10-8:00AM

Fitchburg Police Chief Ernie Martineau was joined in studio by Fitchburg State University Police Chief Michael Cloutier. The two spent the hour talking about how the role of policing has changed throughout their careers as well as the role of officers on campus. They talked about the training between departments as well as with other first responders to prepare for active shooter or any other emergency situations. The two talked about the cooperation between the two departments acting as a backup to one another. Chief Cloutier also spoke about a seminar he teaches on camps about active shooter scenarios.

Thursday March 8th

7:10-8:00AM

Leominster State Representative Natalie Higgins called in for her monthly visit, beginning the conversation with the passing of the Equifax Bill, something she voted to support. Representative Higgins talked about the need to have more conversations regarding cybersecurity and cyber commerce. Representative Higgins talked about the need to pass measures for paid family medical leave. Representative Higgins also talked about the Patch Act closing a HIPAA loophole for those adults still on their parents' health insurance. She also spent time talking about the importance of the Equal Pay Act. She also talked about the upcoming budget season and the concerns about Chapter 70 funds and an upcoming meeting in Leominster to walk through how the foundation budget works and how things are calculated and to answer any questions for the school committee.

Friday March 9th

7:10-8:00AM

Congressman Jim McGovern talked about the importance of ending hunger locally and across the country, especially among school age children. He spoke about a two fold approach of keeping food benefits for people, and also bringing up wages so those who work full time can afford a living. Congressman McGovern talked about getting past partisan politics to work across the aisle and create compromise to get things done. McGovern talked about legislature he works with on the Republican side and talked about how the President is making compromise difficult and also called a need to return to regular order in order to open things up to get done. He also spoke about the trade imbalance and a need to find a fix, but was not sure the President's tariff idea is the way to go. He also spoke about things he believes would pass in terms of gun control if it could be brought to the floor.

Wednesday March 15th

7:40-8:00AM

Tom Skwierawski, from the Fitchburg Community Development Office, came in to talk about the public input from the recent meeting about the City's Economic Strategic Plan. He also talked about the

designation of Moran Square as a historic district and what kind of opportunities this opens up for redevelopment and investment. Skwierawski also talked about the recent forum about buying and selling in Fitchburg.

Tuesday March 27th

7:10-8:00AM

State Representative Stephan Hay spoke about attending the March For Our Lives Rally in Worcester as well as the event held at Fitchburg High School. Hay spoke about the fact that ending gun violence is such a multifaceted issue encompassing not only guns, but ability to access guns, ability for police to remove guns, mental health, and more. Representative Hay talked about a bill passed in the Senate requiring civics being taught in school. Hay expressed his support for the measure when it reaches the House. He also spoke about a meeting with Representative Jen Benson and Unitil regarding concerns about rates they have been receiving from their constituents.

Wednesday March 28th

7:10-7:45AM

Gardner Mayor Mark Hawke spoke to Travis and Sherman about having the opportunity once again to speak in front of newly sworn in American citizens at Mount Wachusett Community College. He also talked about the Government Week and the importance of getting children to pay attention to civics and politics at a young age. Mayor Hawke talked about the recent Gardner Square 2 meeting and how the group is working to improve Gardner and grow the development and investment in the City. Mayor Hawke also talked about the Gardner News being sold to a new publisher and the importance of local papers today in communities in terms of still keeping people informed on school committee, city council meetings and more.

8:10-8:30AM

State Senator Dean Tran started talking about the senate bill requiring civics to be taught in school and why he voted against the bill. He talked about his support for civics in schools, but not through a required or unfunded mandate where municipalities will have to find their own funding. He talked about the March For Our Lies Really and how it was great to see young people getting engaged in the democratic process. Senator Tran also spoke about the need to be a strong advocate and a need to be willing to be aggressive in terms of ensuring funds come back to the District. He talked about reaching out to local delegations to make sure he is aware of their concerns as work on the current budget progresses.

Thursday March 29th

7:10-8:00AM

Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzearella talked about the late start to Spring and pothole season. He talked about the ongoing process of fixing holes after each storm and how the longer storms have created more challenges for the DPW in dealing with storm clean up. Mayor Mazzearella spoke about the recent Facebook data scandal and his use of Facebook to get information out to City residents. He also talked about ALICE training in schools, the use of school resource officers, new officers joining the department and the establishment of the new rapid response task force for active shooter scenarios in the City. Mayor Mazzearella also provided an update on the new police station, and about work on the City budget.

WPKZ / K-Zone Lunch Box First Quarter Issues Report

The program airs on Mondays from 12 noon to 1:00 pm. All interviews are 20 minutes in length unless otherwise noted.

THE CARS AND THE WINTER OF 2018, January 8th, 12 noon

John Paul of AAA Northeast updated our listeners about this Winter season, how the below-zero temperatures take a toll on our vehicles, causes highway hazards like potholes and the damage that can cause damage to vehicles, freeze lines that affect your steering, what grades of motor oil are best to use, the do's and don't's of starting your car in winter, and the need for keeping an emergency kit in your vehicle for winter travel plus what should be in that kit.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING, AN UPDATE, January 8th, 12:30 pm

Jon Hurst, President of the Retailers Association of Massachusetts talked about the year for retailers. He discussed the success and shortcomings for retailers in 2017, how retailers have found success while competing with smartphones and tax-free New Hampshire, challenges they've faced from Amazon, the loss of retailers like K-Mart and Radio Shack, the tools consumers have for shopping, how they've found consumers going back to Main Street to do their shopping, how critical the Christmas Shopping season has been for retailers, and looking ahead to 2018.

"CHASING KING'S ASSASSIN," January 15th, 12 noon

James Swanson's book takes us back to the last three days of the life of Martin Luther King Jr, and focuses on the life of James Earl Ray, the man who assassinated King. The book looks at Ray's life, what influenced him, how he began tracking Dr. King's movements before travelling cross-country to Georgia and then to Memphis, Tennessee. Swanson also talks about his escape from Memphis, how he was identified while in Canada, and his capture in London before catching a flight to Portugal. He argues that despite suggestions that more than one person plotted to murder Dr. King, he says Ray acted alone.

CLOSED FOR BUSINESS, January 22nd, 12 noon

Robert Boatright, Professor of Political Science at Clark University; look at the shutdown of the US Government. He discussed how this happened, how this compares to times when the government was shutdown during the presidencies of Barack Obama and Bill Clinton, how this could happen with a Republican President and a Republican majority in Congress and who may get blamed for this shutdown. He also looked at which government employees would be affected as how and when they would be paid, essential vs. non-essential employees, what is the Trump administration seeking before the shutdown, citizens who could be hurt by the shutdown, how long this could last and could there be future government shutdowns.

"KNOCK 'EM DEAD: THE ULTIMATE JOB SEARCH GUIDE," January 22nd 12:30 pm

Martin Yate says his new edition of the book discusses taking the steps that lead to a new job, and the skills that are needed for the job search, including writing a resume that is based on what the future employer is seeking, learning to sell yourself without sounding a snake oil salesman, showing your skills in problem solving, how to keep looking after the potential employer says "no," how to get into an employer's head, and establishing what he calls "a behavioral profile for success."

CURLING, January 29th, 12 noon

Scott Ennis, Vice President of the Petersham Curling Club, talked our listeners about the sport, how the game and the materials used to play the sport have changed, the history of their club, how the game is played, how long does it take to learn the game, their joy of the game becoming an Olympic sport, their joy over how the community has responded to their sport, special events at the Club during the Winter Olympics, and their hopes for the United States Team.

Note: The United States won a Gold Medal in Curling in South Korea

SUPER BOWL LII, January 29th, 12:30 pm

Erica Wacker of Explore Minnesota told our listeners about preparations for the game between the New England Patriots and the Philadelphia Eagles. She talked about the plans make the event safe and secure for visitors and residents alike, game-related events like concerts and the NFL Experience, special events at the Mall of America, plus other events outside of the Twin Cities Minneapolis and St. Paul for those looking for something different. She also discussed what it means for Minnesota to be hosting this event, and the millions of dollars that the state will gain from the event and the visitors from around the world that will be there to witness it.

"PRESENT AT THE CREATION," February 5th, 12 noon

Upton Bell, author the book; joined us for the hour to share his thoughts about Super Bowl 52, and his life in game. He shared stories about his father Bert Bell who was Commissioner of the National Football League, his responsibilities in the game which ranged from scouting to negotiating player contracts to winning a Super Bowl as Personnel Director of the Baltimore Colts, to becoming General Manager of the New England Patriots. He talked about becoming the owner of the New York Stars in the World Football League, and how the game became what many call "America's Game."

"MARCH FORWARD GIRL" February 12th, 12 noon

Melba Patillo Beals joins us for the hour to talk about her book and her life. She was one the Little Rock Nine, one of nine African-Americans who integrated Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1956. Her book talks about growing up in Arkansas, her decision to become one of the students who would attend Central High, the mobs they faced as they went to school and the federal troops sent by then President Dwight Eisenhower to protect them. And a conversation she had with a soldier to told her "In order to get through this year, you will have to become a soldier. Never let your enemy know what you are feeling." In 1999 she and her classmates were awarded the nation's highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold Medal."

MUSIC FOR A KING, February 19th, 12 noon

Musical composer John Moss talked about his career and the music he composed for "Love and Justice" a production that premiered in Worcester. The score he composed was used in a program that featured Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream" Speech. He talked about the preparation of the score, what it was like to witness the rehearsals with the chorus and the speaker, and then to see the premiere of the production.

SCHOOL VACATION WEEK, February 19th, 12:30 pm

Mary Maguire and Drew Carlson from AAA Northeast told our listeners about the many places to go see and things to do during School Vacation Week. They suggest there is a world of things to see and do within 50 miles of home, and people don't realize how much there is and how fortunate we are to be living in New England. They also offered recommendations for making sure your vehicles are ready for those journey, and having items at the ready in case of emergencies.

"FROM LIBERTY TO MAGNOLIA," February 26th, 12 noon

Janice Ellis says her book is about her search for the American Dream, and the obstacles she faced in achieving them as a black woman. She talked about growing up in Mississippi, its segregated facilities, witnessing the lynching of a man in her church as a child, she questioned why people accepted these things as "normal" and how her temper as a child nearly cost her her life. She also talked about her reading books and her schoolwork led integrating an all-white college, and how watching television changed her life when she first saw CBS News Correspondent Eric Severeid, and the day she met him outside of Washington, DC.

"BLACK PANTHER," February 26th, 12:30 pm

Dario Dellachei of That's Entertainment North in Fitchburg shared his thoughts about the success of the Marvel film, the box office records the film has broken, the images presented by the film and the positive impression it will leave on children of color, how many filmmakers are angry at the movie's success, and how the success of Black Panther has brought more people to comic books, including new issues of Black Panther.

THE IDES OF MARCH, March 5th, 12:30 pm

March is here, and Christopher Besse of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency updated our listeners on the most recent winter storm that left its impressions on some parts of the state, while other areas were saying what storm? It would a storm that dropped more than a foot in many communities in western Mass, while eastern Mass and coastal areas dealt with snows, power outages, flooding and the need for people to be re-located into shelter. He also cautioned that even with all these events, they were also preparing a dry season where the humidity falls below 20 percent, leading to brush fires.

RETAILERS: AN UPDATE, March 19th, 12 noon

Jon Hurst, President of the Retailers Association of Massachusetts joined us at the organization begins celebrating its 100th anniversary. He talked about the cost of retailers doing business and the challenges they are facing. He was pleased with how retailers fared in 2017, but also noted the loss of K-Mart and Radio Shack in recent years, and the fact that Toys R Us has announced it would be closing this year. He also mentioned there are more retailers that will be closing their doors in the months to come in part because there are too many stores as compared to the nation's population. And that as stores closed, buildings that once housed those stores will have to be re-purposed in order to be used.

FITCHBURG CULTURAL COUNCIL, March 19th, 12:30 pm

Joe Bowen of the Council told our listeners about how the Council supports the arts and humanities within the cities, and discussed the funding that the Council seeks from near and far. He mentioned some of the programs that have become the recipients of the funding, and talked about variety of programs that can be found on a daily basis at the Fitchburg Public Library. He explained why it is important for cities and

towns to know about the Council's work and the need to support the arts and humanities, and he looked ahead to their summer meeting in August that help to determine which organizations will receive funding in fiscal year 2019.

"TOM YAWKEY," March 26, 12 noon

Bill Nowlin joined us for the hour to talk about baseball, and his book about the longtime owner of the Boston Red Sox. He discussed how Yawkey came to own the team, the money he put into the franchise and Fenway Park, how he is credited with keeping the Sox in Boston, and his charitable work in the city, especially with The Jimmy Fund. Nowlin also said that another question to be answered is whether Yawkey was a racist. The question is raised because when the Red Sox had a chance to audition Jackie Robinson and two other black players in 1945, the players never got an answer back. And while the Boston Braves added Sam Jethroe to their roster, the Red Sox would be the last team to integrate, adding Pumpsie Green to the roster in 1959.