

WPKZ PROGRAMS LIST Q4 2021

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, 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 and Regional 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 Sean Sweeney.

The following is a summary issues and guests during the K-Zone Morning Kommute from October to December which airs weekdays between 6:42 am and 9:00 am. The program is hosted during this period by Sean Sweeney. Interviews are approximately 20 minutes in length unless otherwise noted

October 1 -- Sherman says good bye

Oct. 1, 2021 was Sherman Whitman's final show as the morning show host, and he was feted by numerous phone callers wishing him well. New morning show host Sean Sweeney took over in the final 15 minutes to handle the pleasantries of the morning show staff.

October 6 -- Fitchburg Police Chief Ernie Martineau

Chief Martineau joined the program during the 7 o'clock hour to discuss an incident in Sudbury involving Fitchburg High School's football team, as well as welcoming a new officer to the department. Hour-long segment.

October 8 -- Bennie Dinardo, Twin Cities Rail Trail

Bennie Dinardo called in to give the public an update on the Twin Cities Rail Trail which connects Downtown Fitchburg and Downtown Leominster via an abandoned track bed adjacent to Route 12. Mr. Dinardo said that parts of the trail are finished but that the first phase is not expected to be completed until March 2022. Phase II of the project is up in the air due to design issues, and that the city of Leominster is in the process of purchasing a piece of track to finish its side of the project. 10-minute segment.

October 8 -- U.S. Representative Lori Trahan

In a half-hour long conversation with the Representative of the Third Massachusetts congressional district, Sean questioned Congresswoman Trahan about the debt ceiling, a question on how Democrats will approach the Midterm Elections, as well as other items of note from Washington.

October 11 -- Lunenburg Skate Park project

The Lunenburg Skate Park project was started by a group of current Lunenburg High School juniors -- when they were in 7th grade. They had been within \$100,000 of their goal ahead of coming on the air. The project is set to go in one of two locations in Lunenburg: at either Marshall Park, or in the back yard of the former TC Passios School building. One-hour interview.

October 13 -- Leominster mayor Dean Mazzarella

Mayor Mazzarella came on the show for a brief segment to talk about the Leominster Police Station project, which had been approved via the Leominster City Council approving a \$27 million bond order the night previous.

October 14 -- Leominster state representative Natalie Higgins

Natalie came in to talk about redistricting in the State House at both the House of Representatives and the state Senate levels, noting that more voices and a stronger coalition in the Northern Worcester County area is a good thing; APRA funding, mental health and wellness, a diaper drive, as well as Unitil's rate hike. Hour-long conversation.

October 15 -- Leominster mayoral debate

Sean spoke with part-time co-host Sean Flannagan about the Leominster mayoral debate, which was held the night previous on Fitchburg Access Television and Fitchburg-Leominster All Politics portal. 10-minute conversation.

October 20 -- Fitchburg mayor Steve DiNatale

Mayor DiNatale came on the show for a 20-minute spell, talking about the Baker Brook Drainage Basin, how the new City Hall feels two months after moving back in, the old 2020 Revitalization Plan -- DiNatale said it is being re-visited -- as well as the tax classification for FY 2022, two-way Main Street, and the ARPA funding.

October 20 -- Gardner mayor Mike Nicholson

Mayor Nicholson came on the show to talk about the Gardner Elementary School project as well as what's happening with the downtown revitalization project. Hour-long conversation.

October 22 -- Fitchburg state representative Mike Kushmarek

Mike called in to talk about Unitil's rate hikes and redistricting.

October 22 -- Fitchburg mayoral debate

Sean spoke with part-time co-host Sean Flannagan about the Fitchburg mayoral debate, which was held the night previous on FATV.

Pre-election conversations

In the week ahead (Oct 25-Nov 1) of the municipal election on Nov. 2, Sean Sweeney, with the help of Sean Flannagan, held pre-election conversations with candidates for contested City Council and Mayoral seats in Fitchburg and Leominster. Three candidates chose not to take advantage of the time offered: Olivia Tran, candidate for Ward 6 in Fitchburg, Claire Freda, incumbent candidate for Leominster Councilor at Large, and Bill Brady, candidate for Ward 1 in Leominster. All candidates were offered approximately 14-19 minutes, depending on the day due to sponsored spots, to satisfy equal time laws.

October 25 -- Derrick Cruz, Fitchburg Ward 6

October 26 -- Miranda Tozier-Robbins, Anthony Zarrella, Muna Kangsen, Amy Green -- Fitchburg at large candidates

October 27 -- Marcus DiNatale, Tom Hughes, Sam Squalia, Sally Cragin -- Fitchburg at large candidates

October 28 -- Todd Deacon, Susan Chalifoux-Zephir, Tom Ardinger -- Leominster at large candidates

October 29 -- Andrew Cordio, Stephen DiNatale -- Fitchburg mayoral candidates

October 29 -- Andrea Freeman -- Leominster mayoral candidate

November 1 -- Dean Mazzarella -- Leominster mayoral candidate; Michael Stassen, Leominster Ward 1

November 3 -- Fitchburg Police Chief Ernie Martineau

Chief Martineau joined the program during the 7 o'clock hour to discuss a number of things involving the Police Department, including a pair of federal grants designed to help FPD become a certified and accredited police department, which only five percent of PD's in Massachusetts have achieved. He also noted the state of the 20 Elm Street police headquarters building, as well as the hopes for renovations, which is expected to go in front of the City Council in the coming months. He also noted FPD would have a presence at the Thanksgiving Game on Nov. 25. Hour-long discussion.

November 3 -- Post Election 2021 talk

Sean and Sean discussed the 2021 municipal elections, held Nov. 2, during the 8 o'clock hour.

November 4 -- Fitchburg East Rotary Club

Chris Grubel, the president of the Fitchburg East Rotary Club, came on to talk about the club's first annual cornhole tournament at River Styx Brewery in Fitchburg this weekend. Also noted that the club's Superbowl Brunch is expected to come back in February, and that the club is helping families this Thanksgiving. 15-minute interview.

November 4 -- Business Buzz with the Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce

Michael Hoffman, the vice president/treasurer of the StageWorks organization, came on as a guest of the Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce's Business Buzz segment, to discuss the launching of their performances at Leominster City Hall. 10-minute interview.

November 5 -- Sean McAdam, BostonSportsJournal.com

Sean welcomed Sean McAdam, the Red Sox beat writer for BostonSportsJournal.com, to the program to discuss the recently concluded 2021 Red Sox season.

November 8 -- Fitchburg/Leominster Rotary Clubs "Breakfast for the Bands"

Sean welcomed the Fitchburg and Leominster Rotary Clubs to discuss the Breakfast for the Bands, which returns on November 21 at Fitchburg High School. Proceeds of the event benefit to Fitchburg and Leominster High School Marching Bands.

November 10 -- Fitchburg mayor Stephen DiNatale

Mayor DiNatale spoke about the condition of the Police Department structure, noting that the building will need repairs very soon, as well as speaking about the Longsjo Middle School for the repairs to the auditorium ceiling as well as the windows and doors replacement project, which the WPKZ News Center has reported on. In addition, at Sean's prompting, the mayor spoke about how he is putting together a City Charter Commission to potentially look into extending the term of mayor to align with gubernatorial elections to help boost voter turnout in the city.

November 11 -- Leominster state representative Natalie Higgins

Representative Higgins made her monthly visit and spoke about many items on Beacon Hill as well as Capitol Hill via conversations with Congressman Jim McGovern. She is behind several bills that are up for a public hearing next week, along with securing \$350,000 in ARPA funding for Leominster Public Schools.

November 16 -- State representative Megan Kilcoyne

Representative Kilcoyne called in to talk about re-districting in the House -- she is NOT losing Sterling, her hometown -- but couldn't comment about the Sterling Town Hall controversy regarding the Town Administrator and Planner leaving in October. She also spoke about ARPA funding for her district, along with the Genocide Education bill that would be voted on that day.

November 18 -- Business Buzz with the Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce

Lori Meusel of LM Electrolysis and Beauty stopped by as part of the Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce's Business Buzz segment to promote her business, discussing the myths of electrolysis.

November 19 -- Fitchburg State representative Mike Kushmarek

Representative Kushmarek called in to discuss ARPA funding; he believes the final bill will go to Governor Charlie Baker's office for his signature within two weeks. He also discussed the Massachusetts Cultural Council's visit to Downtown Fitchburg, and gave an update on Unital's proposed rate hike, which he said was halved.

November 22 -- Gail Steele, Theater at the Mount

Gail came in to talk about The Winter Wonderettes, as well as auditions for Little Shop of Horrors. She noted she had to refund thousands of season tickets due to COVID. 15-minute interview.

November 22 -- Fitchburg High School Athletic Hall of Fame

Alan Twomley, the chairman of the FHS Athletic Hall of Fame Committee, came in to unveil the 11th Induction Class, which will be inducted on Nov. 6, 2022 at Great Wolf Lodge in Fitchburg. The Class is the smallest class, with two teams inducted. Half-hour interview.

November 23 -- New Hampshire Motor Speedway

David McGrath, an Executive Vice President at the speedway, came in to discuss the "Gift of Lights" display which will be happening in the holiday season. Also discussed NASCAR moving to a new type of stock car.

December 1 -- Fitchburg police chief Ernie Martineau

Chief Martineau discussed a few of the things we touched on during his last visit, including the COPS grant (the outside consultant is now in place), along with how the incident in Wisconsin has changed the department's plans for safeguarding the Christmas tree lighting on the Upper Common for that Saturday. He also alluded to the fact that he will be doing a lot of hiring for new police officers in the 2022 year, noting that it takes upward of 36 weeks -- 9 months -- to fully train an officer from hiring to deployment.

December 2 -- Business Buzz with the Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce

Melissa Fetterhoff stopped by with Tye Jordan of CinchIT in Marlboro to discuss cybersecurity.

December 3 -- American Heritage Museum

Hunter Chaney from the American Heritage Museum called in and told listeners about the museum's symposium about World War II. 10-minute interview.

December 9 -- State representative Natalie Higgins

Representative Higgins came in and spoke about several hearings that are on the House floor, including several sexual assault survivors bills. She also spoke about a GREEN Act that she and Fitchburg state representative Mike Kushmarek filed back in January; it is tied to the state's ARPA funding that awaits Governor Charlie Baker's signature. It will trigger \$6.5 million in funding to transform affordable housing into more energy efficient units. She also gave her thoughts on Governor Baker not running for re-election. Hour-long interview

December 10 -- State representative Dan Sena

Representative Sena called in and spoke about redistricting -- he is losing Lunenburg, but gained Groton and all of Ayer -- as well as a number of other initiatives including Devenscrest, ARPA funding for ClearPath for New England, and a driver's license bill currently in the House.

December 14 -- State senator John Cronin

Senator Cronin called in for the first time with the Early Risers to talk about ARPA funding, sports betting (that should come up during the next session) in Massachusetts, along with other topics of interest. 16-minute conversation.

December 15 -- Leominster mayor Dean Mazzeella

Mayor Mazzeella called in for his regular monthly spot. He notes businesses expanding into Leominster, the tax classification setting (which is the smallest in the area), as well as a few items from the past City Council's agenda that Sean questioned. He also noted the Searstown Mall developers are committed to revamping the mall within the next year. He also praised the work of the City Council from this past term during his 15-minute conversation.

December 15 -- Dr. Nathaniel Hafer

Dr. Hafer with the UMass Chan Medical School called in to discuss the rapid COVID-19 test units that Governor Baker had announced were being released to 102 communities in the Commonwealth. WPKZ had reported on December 14 that Fitchburg, Leominster, and Gardner would receive tests. 12-minute interview.

December 16 -- Salvation Army Red Kettle Telethon

WPKZ devoted the 7-8 a.m. hour to the local Salvation Army's annual Red Kettle Drive, interviewing Envoy Lynnette Valentine-Warren and Paul Gauvin and encouraged listeners to give.

December 16 -- Business Buzz with the Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce

LuAnn Columbo, a nutritionist, came in for a 10-minute interview about her business, and gave holiday eating hacks... as well as sang in the Chiquita Banana commercial style. Melissa Fetterhoff also spoke about goings on at the Chamber.

December 17 -- U.S. Representative Lori Trahan

Congresswoman Trahan called in for her monthly visit and spoke about Republican Congresswoman Liz Cheney and the work she is doing to keep the truth of Jan. 6 center stage, as well as talking about the apparent disconnect between Democrats and the electorate when it comes to the economy. She also spoke about several initiatives she has sponsored on Capitol Hill, including Restaurant Recovery, as well as her visit to Gardner the day before about broadband access as part of the infrastructure bill. 20-minute interview.

December 17 -- Fitchburg state representative Mike Kushmarek

Representative Kushmarek called in at the end of the show to speak about ARPA and the \$25,000 he secured for the Lunenburg Primary School. He also spoke about a few of the visits he's made around the Third Worcester District in past weeks. 15-minute interview.

December 21 -- State representative Megan Kilcoyne

Representative Kilcoyne noted that the conference committee between the House and Senate that they came to an agreement on egg legislation to avoid an egg shortage. She also spoke on ARPA's reconciliation process and how she felt it went; she noted she didn't get any additional earmarks through ARPA that wasn't publicized. She did say that Senator Cronin received an additional earmark for Clinton. She spoke about a budget roundtable at the Wachusett Regional School District she attended a few weeks ago, mainly about the challenges regional schools face in terms of transportation cost reimbursement. Megan added that local legislation is coming forward with some last-minute advocacy. 15-minute interview.

December 22 -- Gardner mayor Mike Nicholson

Mayor Nicholson noted the rapid antigen COVID 19 tests allocated by the Baker-Polito Administration; he mentioned that Henry Heywood Hospital had called a hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to place a COVID patient due to a lack of beds in the northeast in response of a question about mask advisories by the governor and the Gardner Board of Health. Gardner BoH voting on a municipal building mask mandate on this day. He spoke about a school department-run vaccine clinic at the Gardner Middle School which made national news following a protest that turned violent. He also spoke about Congresswoman Trahan's visit to Gardner on December 16; he said a number of streets in Gardner have access to satellite broadband internet access. He also alluded to the City Council's request to expand the parking meter ban in downtown Gardner for Small Business Saturday, noting Councilor Judy Mack's suggestion was a great idea. 15-minute interview.

December 23 -- U.S. Representative Jim McGovern

Congressman McGovern called in and spoke about the apparent disconnect between Democrats and the economy; he noted inflation and the pandemic, but things are going in the right direction and that President Biden is working on it. He said "I hope so" when asked if Dems can stave off a Red Wave in the Mid-Terms, noting that the country will get through the economic challenges. Adds our democracy is at stake in the Mid-Terms. In talking about Build Back Better Act, we spoke about West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin putting the kibosh on the Act as it stands. Hopes to find a way forward. Also spoke about a bill that has been passed in the Senate that he sponsored regarding China labor camps. 15-minute interview.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

GINNY's HELPING HAND

Ginny's Helping Hand and Food Pantry, located at 92 Mechanic Street in Leominster; is there to residents of Central in need, Their hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. If you'd like to find out more, if you want to lend a helping hand, call them at 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)

CITY OF FITCHBURG

The City of Fitchburg, in cooperation with Weston and Sampson, is conducting smoke testing of sanitary sewers in the Downtown Area from now until October 22nd. The testing is being conducted from Main Street to Whittemore Street between Ashburnham Hill Road and Blossom Street. If you have respiratory concerns, call 978-548-4808, and leave a message so appropriate precautions can be taken.
(ended October 21st)

MASSACHUSETTS LAW REFORM INSTITUTE

The Massachusetts Law Reform Institute is there to ensure that low-income and underserved populations across the state are provided the same legal protections, rights and liberties enjoyed by all members of society. If you are in need of legal assistance, call this number 617-357-0700.
(ended October 15th)

END 2021 Q4 ISSUES REPORT WPKZ RADIO