

APRIL 2019 PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS WPKZ 105.3 FM & AM 1280

TUESDAY APRIL 2ND

7:40-8:00am

Fitchburg Fire Lt. Phil Jordan came in for the Department's monthly visit. He began talking about the burn season, how to obtain a permit, how the board of health evaluates sites, and the difference between residential and agricultural permits. He talked about some precautions to follow when burning. Lt. Jordan also talked about the importance of Spring clean ups. He also talked about disposal of cigarettes and bark mulch. Lt. Jordan also talked about fire pits and recreational fires and what is allowed under state codes. He also spoke about grill fires, grill cleaning, storage and grill safety. He also talked about generators and power washers and carbon monoxide risks.

8:00-9:00am

State Senator Dean Tran began his conversation talking about the Route 2 task force he established with local leaders. He spoke about the need for Route 2 improvements and funding to make the District more competitive and more of a viable options for companies looking for locations. He also talked about an upcoming meeting with DOT officials. Senator Tran spoke about the cost of transportation and the need for reimbursement for regional schools. Continuing the school discussion he talked about Chapter 70 funds and the Senate's efforts to work on education reform. He also talked about the budget process and the role of conference committees. Senator Tran also talked about some posts on his Facebook page regarding abortion and conversion therapy bills, his stances and the discussions surrounding those. He also talked about the Vietnam Veteran Memorial Day ceremony in Leominster.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 3RD

7:10-8:00am

Fitchburg Police Chief Martineau began his segment talking about the roadwork that is going on at the Upper Common area. He also talked about road maintenance in the City and how enforcement plays a role during and after construction. Chief Martineau talked about Mt. Elam road and difficulties with the intersection. He also talked about the Department participating in the Light It Up Blue autism awareness campaign. He also talked about how officers have undergone training in how to interact with someone who is on the spectrum and how much more awareness is paid to mental health overall. He spoke about the role of respect, dignity, patience, fair treatment, and diffusing situations. Chief Martineau talked about the kids RAD program the Department is doing at schools with their community engagement unit. He also talked about the role of naran as a lifesaving tool for officers and first responders. He also talked about a presentation along with Alyssa's Place featuring Louie Diaz a former convict. He wrapped up talking about opportunities for those interested in becoming a civilian dispatcher.

THURSDAY APRIL 4TH

7:10-8:00am

Fitchburg Republican City Committee members Mary and Kathy started their segment addressing the Mueller Report summary that is available to the public. They talked about

the investigation, the length, the cost and Democrats. They addressed the President's rhetoric about possibly closing the border. They talked about the ongoing discussions surrounding the border and healthcare. They talked about the President's remarks in terms of waiting until after 2020 to unveil his healthcare plan. They also talked about the cheating admissions scandal and buying and selling of influence and how it can be compared to lobbying. They wrapped up talking about the latest episode of their show Your Right To Know on FATV.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 10TH

7:10-7:40am

AJ Tourigny from the Fitchburg Mayor's office filled in for Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale. Tourigny started off talking about the options the City Council has for Ward 5 polling. Tourigny also talked about the improvements to the Upper Common made possible through grants. He talked about the City Hall renovation project. Tourigny talked about paving money they City receives and how much is needed for improvements and he also spoke about Mt. Elam road improvements and the current state of Oakhill Road. He talked about the new program the DPW is getting to prioritize and assess roads. Tourigny also provided an update on Crocker School which is going to remain closed later than previously expected due to delays in shipping of the vents for classes. He also spoke about a grant being provided for the airport area. Tourigny also talked about making it easier for food trucks to operate in the City.

8:10-8:30am

Fitchburg Veterans Services Commissioner, Michele Marino, came in to talk about the City's annual Patriot Day 5K. Marino talked about how the Patriot Day services in the City shifted from the ceremony to become a 5K with a smaller ceremony to kick it off. She also spent time talking about the Friends of Fitchburg Veterans and how the non profit helps area Veterans when they hit a hardship. She also spent time talking about the role of her office and how they can help area veterans.

THURSDAY APRIL 11TH

7:10-8:00am

State Representative Natalie Higgins began her segment talking about her trip to Taiwan and discussions she had about the economy, how they push themselves to improve infrastructure and provide affordable and accessible transit. She talked about how those ideas can be brought back here to help with transportation in the state. Representative Higgins also talked about her office hours at the high school and the STUMP club for students involved in politics and voter registration. She spoke about the importance of getting students interested in politics and the civics education bill. Higgins spoke about an upcoming event she is helping to host addressing teen sexual violence at Skyview Middle School for families and legislation she is working on sexual violence prevention and education. She spoke about her own experience as a survivor. Higgins wrapped up talking about the House version of the budget, focusing on the education and also the need to have a discussion surrounding revenue.

FRIDAY APRIL 12TH

8:20-8:30am

Dr. Catherine Brown, Epidemiologist and State Public Health Veterinarian with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health called in to talk about the dangers of ticks and tick born illnesses in the State. Dr. Brown addressed the different kind of ticks found throughout the area as well as some of the illnesses they are known to carry. She also talked about how to do a tick check on people and animals and what to do if a tick is discovered and what to do if bitten by a tick.

TUESDAY APRIL 16TH

7:40-8:00am

Nathan Bilotta, of the Mass Youth Football Alliance, called in to talk about the state of youth and tackle football in the commonwealth. He talked about changes to the way children are taught to tackle. He talked about a petition circulating which is responding to proposed legislation to ban tackle football below eighth grade. Bilotta also talked about the Alliance and an upcoming rally at the State House.

8:10-8:30am

Jeff Murawski Deputy Wastewater Commissioner with the DPW in Fitchburg talked about how yesterday's heavy rain can impact the sections of sewers that have not yet been separated and how it will bypass part of the treatment process with the heavy flow. Murawski talked about the Consent Decree the City must meet and gave some history into nationwide legislation throughout the past several decades. Murawski also talked about Earth Day and the ward clean ups in the City. Murawski finished up talking about proper disposal and what should not be put down drains in homes and on streets.

MONDAY APRIL 22ND

7:10-8:00am

Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzarella began his segment talking about his role in the New Player Theatre Guild production of "Love Letters." Mazzarella talked about the supply of homes being down and the slowdown of new construction in the City. He talked about the pros and cons with housing prices rising in the area and how the City has more commuters looking to come to the area. Mazzarella talked about the April meeting with the Route 2 task force and the response from Mass DOT. He talked about some of the projects Mass DOT has already lined up along the Route 2 corridor. He spoke about the upcoming Mass DOT meeting he is attending later in the day. He spent time talking about the city wide clean up going on over the next several weeks and the upcoming Taste of Leominster.

TUESDAY APRIL 23RD

7:10-7:30am

State Representative Stephan Hay spoke about the budget that was submitted last week. He talked about the increases to chapter 70 and 90 funds and additions to the stabilization fund. He also talked about revenue and the fair share amendment. Representative Hay spoke about a few of the amendments he put in including improvements to the Fitchburg and Lunenburg senior centers, a playground at Coolidge Park, funding for the storage of emergency vehicles in Fitchburg that are used across the area, and money for the North

Worcester County Drug Task Force. Representative Hay talked about the meetings regarding amendments he is attending throughout the week and then went on to talk about the rest of the budget process.

8:10-8:30am

Fitchburg Substance Abuse Coordinator, Sue Christensen, along with Steve Curry, the Health Director, joined Travis and Sherman. Christensen talked about the first daytime narcan training being held in the City. Christensen spoke about what people will learn at the training and how they can obtain free narcan. They also spent time talking about the National Drug Take Back Day. Curry spent time talking about the upcoming recycling and shredding event in conjunction with the ward 6 cleanup. He gave the dates and locations for the rest of the cleanups as well.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 24TH

7:10-8:00am

Gardner Mayor Mark Hawke began his monthly segment talking about the changes and updates to the Watkins Field complex. He also talked about the recommendation to put more funds back into the stabilization account this year. He went on to explain free cash and how school funding affected it. Hawke also spent time talking about OPEB liability. Mayor Hawke also talked about the proposed vacant lot site for the elementary school and the city council's desire to hold a public hearing over the matter despite endorsements from other boards and committees.

8:10-8:30am

Congresswoman Lori Trahan addressed the complaint filed by the Campaign Legal Center in regards to her campaign finances. Trahan spoke about where the money came from in terms of a loan and money from her business. Trahan talked about transparency and wanting to clear the air surrounding the complaint. Congresswoman Trahan talked about her recent 3rd District tour stop in Fitchburg talking about education concerns. She talked about education and infrastructure bills in Washington. Trahan also talked about the Mueller Report which is currently largely redacted and the need to be able to view the entire report. Trahan talked about some of the bipartisan legislation that she has worked on to help the District.

THURSDAY APRIL 25TH

7:10-7:30am

2nd District US Congressman Jim McGovern began talking about the Mueller Report. He talked about saying he read about corruption, lies and deceit. He also addressed the fact that it is still largely redacted. McGovern called it a serious indictment of the Administration. When asked about possible impeachment, the Congressman said nothing is off the table. He also talked about the upcoming medicare for all hearing he will be attending in a few days. McGovern also talked about the new report indicating reduced security benefits may be needed by 2035. He also talked about the need for a more progressive tax reform to keep social security solvent.

FRIDAY APRIL 26TH

8:10-9:00am

State Senator Dean Tran talked about the latest meeting of his Route 2 task force. He talked about Route 2 having a design problem not a volume problem. He talked about friction points like the rotary. Senator Tran also talked about the need to get projects on the state's funding list to get matching federal grants. Senator Tran talked about his role on the legislative transportation working group. Senator Tran talked about the need to prioritize how the State spends revenue. Tran talked about some of the priorities he had for the budget including fully funding of the circuit breaker and regional transportation funding.

MAY 2019 PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS WPKZ 105.3 FM & AM 1280

WEDNESDAY MAY 1ST

7:10-8:00am

Fitchburg Police Chief Ernie Martineau addressed the recent home invasion where one of the victims referenced growing pot as the reason for the attack. Chief Martineau spoke about recreational marijuana being its infancy and talking about how the department along with the cannabis control system being there to answer questions. The Chief also talked about how police response changes when they get reports of shots fired, especially when schools are close by like the recent home invasion. He also talked about how law enforcement response has changed to run into shooter situations as opposed to staying back and setting a perimeter. Lt. Jeffrey Howe talked about the recent drug take back day and the event held at the senior center for the elderly to educate them about the dangers of unused opioids in the home. Lt. Howe and Chief Martineau also talked about the importance of the Minority Coalition and Three Pyramids in Fitchburg and their participation in the Stand Against Racism event. Lt. Howe spoke about the Jr. Police Academy and their resource officers. He spoke about the memories and positive interactions that they try and make for the city's youth.

THURSDAY MAY 2ND

7:10-8:00am

Fitchburg Republican City Committee members Mary and Kathy came in for their monthly visit. They began by addressing the President's recent comments about sending illegal immigrants to sanctuary cities and letting the situation become their problem. They talked about immigration at the southern border and said how they do not think Congress can come to an agreement. They spoke about the increase in polarization between the two parties over the past several presidencies and the unwillingness of the parties to move forward to work on legislation. They also addressed Robert Mueller's comments about his report and the Summary. They fielded a call from Fitchburg resident Mark G. whose father was a State Representative; he also commented on divisiveness and how a common ground needs to be found. Mary and Kathy also took a look at 2020 candidates on the Democratic side. They talked about the importance of going out to rallies, town halls, and local appearances to actually hear the candidates speak and how crucial that is, especially where there are so many to choose from. They wrapped up with the latest episode of Your Right To Know on FATV.

FRIDAY MAY 3RD

7:10-8:00am

State Representative Jen Benson began talking about the budget process and how the sessions work for debating budget amendments. Representative Benson talked about conference committee and the process of sending everything to the Governor for approval or veto before they get a chance to veto as well. Benson talked about securing funds for the Lunenburg Fire Department for new breathing apparatus, and money for removal of underground storage tanks for replacement for their DPW headquarters and money for Acton's planned community center. She also talked about securing funds for the Acton Maynard shuttle. Benson also talked about the need for a complete count for 2020 because legal or not, those numbers determine reimbursement, district seats, federal funds, state funds, and more. She also addressed information circulating indicating that she is supporting sanctuary cities. She talked about the actual bill she is supporting after police chiefs have given their support.

TUESDAY MAY 7TH

7:40-8:00am

Fitchburg Fire Chief Kevin Roy talked about some of the events the Department recently participated in beginning with the Charles W. Moore Masonic Lodge Kids Safety Day at the fire house on Summer Street., as well as a recent truck pull event. Chief Roy talked about the end of burning season and how despite the rainy season, it is not being extended. He also talked about some safety tips with bark mulch. Chief Roy talked about the recent drug take back initiative and he spoke about a decrease in the number of narcotic administrations and overdose calls in recent years. He talked about the process of when department members respond to overdose calls. Chief Roy talked about using Spring cleaning to make sure doorways and pathways inside homes are clear and picking up yard waste. Chief Roy also talked about the campaign to update the firefighters' memorial at the Upper Common.

THURSDAY MAY 9TH

7:10-8:00am

State Representative Natalie Higgins talked about the 200 million dollars just appropriated by the State in chapter 90 funds with Leominster receiving around a million dollars. She also talked about funding matched from the federal level and money for commuter rail travel and improvements. She also talked about the constitutional convention to advance the fair share amendment to another reading, and that it may make it to the ballot in 2021. She talked about a need to find more revenue in the interim. Higgins explained how the fair share amendment would work and affect around 13 residents in the district. Representative Higgins also talked about legislation aimed at protecting student loan borrowers and support them. She also talked about the need to partner at the federal level. Higgins talked about the topic of debt free higher education by funding state tuition and fees. She also spent time talking about trades and workforce training opportunities. She also talked about hearings regarding healthcare, most recently with prescription costs and transparency.

WEDNESDAY MAY 15TH

7:10-8:00am

Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzeella started off his segment talking about the recreational park being built in the French Hill area. Mayor Mazzeella talked about the different phases of the project and what this means for the surrounding neighborhood along Mechanic Street. He also talked about changes coming to the intersection of Nashua Street and the Leominster Connector and the major safety concern that it currently presents. He also talked about the ongoing process of fixing the intersections along Route 13 in front of Wymans and down below in front of the fire station. He talked about needing to get the right of way straightened out with properties along the route. Mayor Mazzeella addressed free cash that has yet to be certified in Leominster. Mayor Mazzeella talked about the process of borrowing from the stabilization fund and then transferring it back to the free cash. He also talked about the recent water situation Leominster had with contaminants, and whether the rains could cause the situation to arise again. He also talked about a partnership with the state to address water changes to the area and infrastructure through grants for improvements as part of the battle against climate change.

FRIDAY MAY 17TH

8:10-8:30am

Tom Skwierawski with the Fitchburg Community Development office came in for his monthly segment. The first thing he talked about is the approval for a testing facility for marijuana that will be opening up in Fitchburg. Skwierawski talked about the city's willingness to embrace and diversify in the marijuana industry. Tom talked about the Activate Mill Street campaign and how it is aimed at bringing art, live performances, culture, and foot traffic. He also talked about the DTF festival coming up which will bring live performances to the area. Skwierawski also talked about grant money to help with the cleanup of brownfield sites in Fitchburg.

TUESDAY MAY 21ST

7:10-7:30am

Third District Congresswoman Lori Trahan talked to Travis and Sherman about her support for the Equality Act, which reaffirmed support for providing full civil rights to everyone, particularly members of the LGBT community. She also talked about the ban on transgender people serving in the armed forces. Trahan discussed the opioid epidemic, and her support for a bill that would provide funding for communities working to combat addiction. She talked about why she considers working against the opioid crisis as vitally important. Trahan addressed the restrictive abortion laws passed in other states, and how the laws could impact people in Massachusetts. She also spoke about giving a commencement address at UMass-Lowell, and why it's important for young people to be politically active.

WEDNESDAY MAY 22ND

8:10-8:30am

Gardner Mayor Mark Hawke talked to Travis and Sherman about new businesses opening up in Gardner and ways to continue to stimulate economic growth in Gardner. They also discussed updates being made to Watkins Field and the importance of having a

strong school system to bringing people into the area. Mayor Hawke addressed the \$350,000 Brownfields grant the town is receiving, and how the money will be used. Hawke said other grants are being used for development projects. They also discussed some federal funding being given to the Elm Street School as part of the “Safe Routes To School” program, which provides funding for updating sidewalks and roads. Hawke also provided an update on the 2019-2020 budget for Gardner with the new fiscal year approaching. He talked about certain unfunded mandated projects the town has to take into account when designing the budget. He also talked about some summer job opportunities with the Gardner Department of Public Works.

THURSDAY MAY 23RD

7:10-7:30 am

Second District Congressman Jim McGovern came on for his monthly phone interview. McGovern spoke about giving a tour to some middle school students from Auburn earlier in the week. The students asked McGovern questions about his experience and other concerns about current events. McGovern also spoke about President Donald Trump walking out of a meeting with Democratic congressional representatives. McGovern discussed the need to update infrastructure in the area. He also talked about the debate over whether the Democrats in the House of Representatives will move to try to impeach Trump, and discussed why he posted a video on Facebook of him reading Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s Report. McGovern talked about the importance of improving access to affordable health care, and why health care bills being passed in the House of Representatives are not being taken up by the Senate. McGovern was also asked about abortion. Finally, McGovern was asked about his experience delivering the commencement speech at the Tufts School of Nutrition and his efforts to address hunger.

WEDNESDAY MAY 29TH

8:10-8:30 am

Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commissioner Jen Flanagan came in studio and spoke with Travis and Sherman about the status of the rollout of recreational cannabis being legalized in Massachusetts. She discussed the process for transferring the ownership of a license to sell marijuana. Flanagan previewed public meetings the Commission is having tomorrow and Friday in Boston. She talked about the Commission’s office being moved to Worcester. Flanagan discussed the do’s and don’ts of cannabis consumption, as well as the importance of the public to be educated about how to use marijuana safely. She added that parents and other adults should talk to their children about marijuana. She talked about the price of cannabis, and why she thinks buying cannabis from a licensed company is safer than growing it yourself or buying it off the street. Flanagan also talked about the plausibility of pot cafes. She discussed how access to public transportation impacts marijuana use. She said marijuana use needs to be more regulated in central and western Massachusetts, where there is less access to public transportation and ride share services.

FRIDAY MAY 31ST

8:10-9:00am

Massachusetts State Senator Dean Tran came on the K-Zone Morning Kommute for his May monthly visit. With it being a few days after Memorial Day, Tran talked about what Memorial Day means for him and his family and why honoring military veterans, especially those who lost their lives while serving, is still important. He talked about a bill he filed about domestic violence and sexual assault prevention and his hopes for it being passed soon. He spent much of the interview talking about the state budget. He discussed different amendments to the budget, including funding for a first responder training academy in Westminster and funding he secured for Fitchburg State University and Mount Wachusett Community College. Tran said education was a priority for the Senate, the House and Governor Baker. They were especially focused on increasing funding for special education. He also talked about a budget amendment that provides funding for a restoration and recovery center for people suffering from addiction. At the end of the interview, Tran talked briefly about funding for public transportation and infrastructure. He also discussed what the budget means for Fitchburg, Leominster and Gardner, and why he decided to support the Breakfast After The Bell program. Tran also talked about the next steps in the process for the budget being passed and signed.

TUESDAY JUNE 4TH

7:30-8:00am

Members of the Fitchburg Fire Department, P.J. Roy and Kris Maillet, came onto the K-Zone Morning Kommute to discuss a memorial being built for fallen Fitchburg firefighters. They both talked about the training firefighters have to go through, and how being a firefighter has changed. They discussed why they enjoy being firefighters. They also talked about what it's like for the families of firefighters and the difficulties they face, and what it's like knowing a loved one could be killed in the line of duty.

8:10-8:30am

Doug Bushman became the Executive Director of the Fitchburg Housing Authority in January. He talked about the transition into the role. He also discussed Fitchburg's vacancy rate and why the FHA is important. He also touched on how his experience growing up in affordable housing affects him in his job. He also talked about the FHA's ceremony on Thursday, June 6th to commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-Day. He talked about Green Acres, the first housing development in Fitchburg, which was built for World War II veterans. He provided details on the flag-raising ceremony planned for Thursday at Green Acres and plans for the future of Green Acres.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 5TH

7:00-8:00am

Fitchburg Police Chief Ernie Martineau came on the K-Zone Morning Kommute for his monthly visit. He discussed the Spree Day event, the preparation for it and how it's changed over the years. He talked about an incident of gunshots being fired and assured that it was not related to the Spree Day event. He discussed prom season, as well as how the police respond to people blasting music as the summer begins. Chief Martineau encouraged listeners to not shy away from calling the police, and said people should call if they need anything. He also discussed reports of a shooting around the Brigham Park

area and the collaboration between local, state and federal officials when shootings occur. He also talked about the frustrations police are having with skimming devices at gas stations. He discussed the importance of respecting people and the need for conflict resolution. He also talked about two incidents in the past week of people drowning in Massachusetts and ways to stay safe around water. He wrapped up the interview talking about some upcoming events, including DPW Days and the Fitchburg Police 5K Road Race.

8:10-8:30am

Massachusetts Retirees President Frank Valeri came on over the phone and discussed the funding of the Leominster Pension System anyways to fund pensions. Valeri said Leominster has a trust fund to pay the pensions of its retirees. He said the pension also helps taxpayers and the city government. He said the system is meant to help lower-income retirees. He also talked about the concerns that retired people have in Massachusetts, including health care costs. He discussed how employees can plan for their future retirement and the importance of putting money aside as soon as possible.

THURSDAY JUNE 6TH

7:10-8:00am

Mary and Dr. John Strang with the Fitchburg Republican City Committee discussed the 75th anniversary of D-Day, and Dr. Strang talked about his book in which he writes about Fitchburg's role in World War II. They discussed U.S. immigration policy and the southern border, including newly released statistics on the number of detained migrants. The members of the Fitchburg Republican City Committee talked about what they want to see done about immigration at the border. They also talked about the partisan divide in Washington's politics and the difficulty in passing laws in Congress. They also discussed tariffs being placed on Mexico, the upcoming 2020 Presidential campaign, and which Democratic candidate has the best chance to beat Trump in the general election. They talked about key issues in the upcoming election for undecided voters. They also discussed the findings of the Mueller Report. They concluded the interview by previewing the latest edition of the Your Right To Know show on Fitchburg's local access television.

FRIDAY JUNE 7TH

7:10-8:00am

State Representative Jen Benson talked about two Memorial Day ceremonies she attended, and why it's important to observe Memorial Day. She discussed Chapter 90 funding and how it will help her district. She talked about other funding for infrastructure that was passed in the House version of the budget. She discussed some of the roads and areas that she wants to be updated. She talked about the House passing a hands-free driving bill and the chances that a House and Senate bill can be combined, passed and signed by the governor. She addressed some of the concerns people had about the bill and how to enforce the law if it passes. She talked about groundbreaking for a new MBTA parking lot at the Ayer station. She talked about the 2020 fiscal year budget.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 12TH*7:10-8:00am*

Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale came on for his monthly interview on the K-Zone Morning Kommute. He talked about the construction of a new city hall and how the buildings will help Fitchburg in the future. The mayor also discussed the city's operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year, including an increase in the education budget for the city. They also discussed what the city is doing to repair roads in the city, and why it has been difficult to secure state and federal funding for construction and infrastructure. He also talked about Unitil utility rates and how the city plans to deal with the costs. He discussed why it is difficult to switch to a different utility, even though Unitil's rates are 6% higher than National Grid's rates.

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

State Representative Natalie Higgins came on the K-Zone Morning Kommute for her monthly visit. She talked about a bill being passed regarding unions and worker's rights. She discussed a bill addressing sexual violence, and how her experience as a school counselor made the bill a priority for her. She talked about a hands-free driving bill and why people are addicted to their phones. Higgins also discussed the so-called Millionaires Tax and how its potential enactment will impact people in Leominster and Fitchburg. She also talked about local students visiting the State House.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 19TH*7:10-8:00am*

Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzarella discussed the town's budget on the K-Zone Morning Kommute. He discussed his version of the city budget and why the school budget has increased. He also talked about the city being the Commonwealth's first to pay off its pension liability and what it means for Leominster financially. He touted the strength of the city's school system and improvements made to the school. He also talked about tax increases for the coming year, where the money will go, and potential tax breaks for longtime Leominster residents and families. He also talked about Leominster's efforts to help students find alternatives to college after graduating high school, as well as ongoing construction and road work in the city.

FRIDAY JUNE 21ST*8:10-8:30am*

Tom Skwierawski came on the K-Zone Morning Kommute for his monthly visit. He talked about the Activate Mill Street project and how they were able to finish fundraising for it. He discussed the Better Block program and how it will affect Fitchburg. He talked about the upcoming Long Show festival. He also discussed Fitchburg being given an Opportunity Zone Academy designation by the state and what it means for Fitchburg and its economy. He also talked about plans for more affordable housing in Fitchburg and why affordable housing is important to economic development in Fitchburg.

TUESDAY JUNE 22ND

7:10-7:30am

State Representative Stephan Hay came on the K-Zone Morning Kommute and discussed a groundbreaking ceremony he recently attended for a new city hall in Fitchburg. He talked about why building a new city hall is important for Fitchburg. He also discussed his support for a bill that protects bees, and how protecting bees is important for the environment. He also talked about where the state budget stands, and what he wants changed in regards to education funding. He also talked about the importance of health care and civic days events that are coming up in the next couple of weeks in Fitchburg.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 26TH

7:10-8:00am

Gardner Mayor Mark Hawke came on the K-Zone Morning Kommute to discuss a show being filmed in Gardner, and how it's impacting traffic and local businesses. He talked about the upcoming Small Business Saturday in downtown Gardner. He discussed how Gardner was founded and how it got its name. He talked about the Bruins losing the Stanley Cup Final in seven games. He discussed where the town budget stands, and how the state budget not being finalized yet impacts the town's budget. He also talked about changes potentially being made to state education funding, and why he thinks there needs to be more focus from the state government on central and western Massachusetts.

THURSDAY JUNE 27TH

7:10-7:30am

Massachusetts Congressman Jim McGovern came on the K-Zone Morning Kommute and discussed last night's and tonight's Democratic debate. He talked about the different wings of the Democratic and Republican parties, and why the two parties are so polarized. He discussed healthcare and what he thinks needs to change. He also talked about a bill he is co-sponsoring that would provide funding to cancer patients who have lost their hair and want to buy a wig. He talked about Special Counsel Robert Mueller's upcoming Congressional testimony. He told listeners about some Coffee With The Congressman events he is having later this week.

FRIDAY JUNE 28TH

7:10-7:30am

Massachusetts Congresswoman Lori Trahan talked about why there are fewer teenagers working over the summer and how to create more job opportunities for young people. She talked about why having a job or an internship is important. She discussed the first Democratic debates and her thoughts on the upcoming elections. She talked about her experience running for office in the summer and how it can be difficult to get voters to pay attention during the election. She discussed two Supreme Court rulings, one saying federal courts can't control gerrymandering, and another saying there will not be a citizenship question on the U.S. census. She talked about the Democratic strategy in the 2020 presidential election, and if there should be less focus on President Trump.

7:30-8:30am

Massachusetts State Senator Dean Tran came on the K-Zone Morning Kommute and talked about the state budget and what needs to be done to pass it. He talked about how the state budget not being finalized will impact cities and towns, most of which have already passed their budgets for the upcoming fiscal year. He talked about what can be done to improve Route 2 and other roads and area infrastructure. He discussed how to stop people from using their phones while driving, including the passage of a hands-free driving bill. He addressed an accident in New Hampshire a couple of weeks ago that involved seven motorcyclists, and why people who have committed traffic violations are still able to drive. He talked about upcoming events in the district, including Civic Days and the Longsjo bike race. He discussed the First Responders Thank-You Barbeque that took place at the Fitchburg Health Center.

WPKZ Radio Issues Report Q2 2019

K-Zone Lunch Box Second Quarter Issues

April 1 through June 30, 2019

The program airs on Mondays from 12 noon to 1:00 pm. All interviews are 20 minutes in length unless otherwise noted. The Monday Edition of the Lunch Box is hosted by Sherman Whitman.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JACKIE ROBINSON, April 1st, 12 noon

The 2019 Major League Baseball season begins and this year we celebrate the 100th birthday of the man who broke the color barrier in the game. For this program we mark the occasion with an interview done with his widow Rachel Isum Robinson. In 1996 she wrote "Jackie Robinson: An Intimate Portrait." She called the book her contribution to the celebration of his life. She recalled Jackie as a husband, father, athlete, his confidence when they first met at UCLA, his commitment to family and society and his fighting spirit. She talked about his struggles from UCLA to being court martialed in the Army for not riding in the back of the bus, to his baseball career. And she discussed how his struggles, the pressures of being involved in the civil rights movement and differences with people within the movement may have led to his passing at the age of 53.

NARCAN AND THE OPIOID CRISIS, April 8th, 12 noon

Keith Barnaby, an Addiction Outreach Educator for AIDS Project Worcester, talked to us about his work in reaching people who are struggling with addiction and helping those who have overdosed as a result of their addiction. He stressed the importance of being non-judgemental in helping those who struggling with addiction and how this has helped people begin to turn the corner in their lives. He talked about Narcan, how to assess a person who has suffered an opioid overdose, what needs to be done to bring someone back from a Narcan overdose...be it chest compressing or mouth-to-mouth rescue breathing and if necessary how to apply Narcan. He also shared where listeners can attend classes to learn how and when to use Narcan to save a life.

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH, April 8th, 12:30 pm

Kenisha Coy of the My Care Initiative talked about the trauma and stigma caused by sexual abuse, how not to be forced to continue living with that trauma and stigma, the need to recognize that men and women are victims of abuse, the need to overcome the shame of being abused and being around people who will support you as you emerge from the abuse. She also talked about her journey to recovery from assault, realizing that what happened to you is not your fault and she told our listeners about a resource fair that is aimed at helping people find those safe havens to help them move forward.

THE SUMMER DRIVING SEASON, April 29th, 12 noon

John Paul of AAA Northeast talked to us about cars, the improvements that have been made over the years, how our driving habits and how we care for our cars have changed over the years. He discussed gasoline prices and what factors into those prices be it the price of crude oil, political matters, confrontations between nations, demand for gasoline, the types of fuels used during the winter and summer months and how consumers play a role in keeping gasoline prices lower, the reason gasoline prices vary from state to state and the need for people to make sure their vehicles are properly maintained.

"HUMILITY IS THE NEW SMART," April 29th, 12:30 pm

Author Ed Hess says his book takes a look at how smart machines are replacing humans in practically every industry and what humans need to do not just compete, but survive. Hess contends that smart technology has not just cost the jobs of factory workers, the technology is also handling people's investments, diagnosing illnesses and analyzing written documents.

Hess says people need to cultivate important abilities that smart machines don't have (yet): like thinking critically, creatively, and innovatively and building close relationships with others so we can collaborate effectively. He says people must unlearn behaviors that make us compete against one another, and learn skills that enable us to learn from and work with one another.

WALK FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES, May 6th, 12 noon

Dr. John Hogue, Executive Director of the Montachusett Interfaith Hospitality Network; gave us a preview of their 4th annual walk. He told about us about the shelter, how it began and emerged from just a place for homeless people to sleep at night, the building they occupy, and families that occupy the building, learning what led the families to reach their situation and helping them acquire the skills to emerge from homeless. He also discussed the challenges facing families, including basic needs like finding housing that is affordable, employment that will cover food, transportation clothing and other expenses.

THE HEART OF THE CITY: CREATING VIBRANT DOWNTOWNS FOR A NEW CENTURY, May 13th, 12 noon

Alexander Garvin said his book is about cities, why and how some manage to thrive, while other have struggled over the years and continue to struggle. He says the city's downtown area is the key to their success and survival, and while some cities remain in decline, others have rebounded to where they may have more than one "downtown" area. He presented lessons on how to plan for a mix of housing, businesses, and attractions; enhance the public realm; improve mobility; and successfully manage downtown services. He also discussed what is possible for downtowns in the future, and suggested national, state, and local legislation to create standard downtown business improvement districts to better manage downtowns.

THE CHAMP IS HERE, May 13th, 12:30 pm

Three-time World Boxing Champion Jose Antonio Rivera looked back at his boxing career and looked ahead to his 50th professional boxing match and what will be the final match in his career. He looked

back at his life without his parents at an early age, his moving to Worcester, how the Boys and Girls Club helped him find his goals in life, and learned that he was stronger than his circumstances. He talked about his work with in the courts as officer, helping young people find direction in their lives, his travelling to Germany to defeat a world champion in the champion's hometown, his learning the business of boxing and becoming a fight promoter, and the dream of stepping into the ring one last time as his son would make his professional debut.

"WILD WORLD" June 3rd, 12:00 noon

Peter S. Rush says his book looks back at 1970 and life in America with the setting being the campus of Brown University. It follows a student named Steve Logan who attends a demonstration after learning about the killings of four students at Kent State University. While attending the day of demonstrations he meets a New York City Police officer and decides he can make a difference by becoming a member of the Providence Police Department. The story follows the challenges he faces as an officer from his colleagues, from the people he is trying to serve, his former college classmates, and the corruption within the Police Department.

MOSQUITOES June 3rd, 12:30 pm

Tim DesChamps, Executive Director of the Central Mass Mosquito Control Project talks about how the agency is preparing for another season of mosquitoes. He discussed conditions that bring about mosquitoes, how they'll start looking for its "hosts" -- as in humans, pets and other animals be they warm or cold-blooded once the temperatures climb above 50 degrees, the 50 types of mosquitoes that are in our listening area, the viruses they spread like EEE and West Nile, the testing of viruses they spread what happens when they are called to communities to combat the mosquitoes, and things we need to do to protect ourselves -- be it with DEET and eliminating areas where there are standing water.

GAME SEVEN FOR THE GOOD OLE HOCKEY GAME June 10th, 12 noon

Eric Lindquist, Vice President of the Worcester Railers, helped our listeners get ready Game 7 of the Stanley Cup Finals between the Boston Bruins and the St. Louis Blues. He looked back at the game's history in Central Massachusetts, some of the people who grew up here or played with the AHL or ECHL teams that have called Worcester home, how some fans were torn over cheering for the Bruins or the Blues whose AHL team the IceCats called Worcester home for 11 years, how these teams have expanded the game's fan base over the years and the contributions they've made and continue to make to the local communities.

CROSSING OVER June 10th, 12:30 pm

Donald Flagg, Founder and CEO of the Sober House for Men, told our listeners about what led to the forming of Crossing Over. He shared the story of his life and struggle with substances and how it continues today and what keeps him going. He also shared what has helped with their success as a place where men can live as they begin or continue their recovery from substances, the importance of holding residents accountable for their actions, the realization that while there may be lapses when a

person is in recovery -- every day is a new beginning and an opportunity, how families of loved ones who are struggling can help themselves and to extend an invitation to a night of comedy where people can come together to celebrate life.

ASTHMA June 17th, 12 noon

David Guydan, Executive Director of the Asthma And Allergy Foundation of America New England Chapter; and Jan Hanson, Board President of AAFA New England; told our listeners about the organization, and their goal of helping people improve the quality of their lives. They say with their help Massachusetts has become a state that has played a role in leading the fight for smoke-free places in the commonwealth. They discussed what is Asthma, what causes it, the environmental triggers that can lead to Asthma, how it has become the primary reason for visits to hospital emergency rooms, that there may be foods that trigger allergies and lead to Asthma, things that lead to Asthma "flares" or "attacks," treatments and developing an action plan for Asthma. They also say there is no cure for Asthma, there are things that can be done to prevent one from suffering from Asthma on a daily basis and improve your health.

OUT OF THE DARKNESS WALK June 17th, 12:30 pm

Michelle Lee, Associate Area Director of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Boston Chapter; previewed an upcoming event where participants take part in a walk along the streets of Boston during the overnight hours. She said the walk is aimed at helping people realize that with the sun rising there is another way, and we move forward to a brand new day. She told our listeners about their organization and how they support people who are struggling with their mental health. She said there is no one single factor that leads to suicide, but there are a number of factors being divorce, bullying, a history of suicide in their family, a person's mood or change in mood or a feeling of hopelessness. Lee also talked about the importance of being a good listener for someone who is going through a difficult time, and the worst thing that can happen is trying to offer advice.

ESTATE PLANNING June 24th, 12 noon

Harry S. Margolis, an Estate Planner and the author of "Get Your Ducks In A Row;" says his book is a guide to help baby boomers with estate planning. He said there are 74-million people between the ages of 55 and 73 that may not have these plans in place that would enable people to help their families move forward following their passing or to be able to speak on their behalf if and when they are not able to. He discussed how to get those matters in place, and the difficulties that may occur if you don't have the funds to develop such a plan. Margolis discusses things like Durable Power of Attorney, Health Care Proxy and other essential documents to help those who could speak for you if you're not able to while you're alive.

SUMMER SAFETY June 24th, 12:35 pm

Chris Besse of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency talked to us about summertime weather, and how they prepare for situations that can arise such as damage from thunderstorms,

tornadoes and other natural disasters. He also focused on the beginning of the Atlantic Hurricane season and the chances of hurricanes and/or tropical storms making their presence felt in Massachusetts; the need for families to develop emergency plans should there be a need leave their homes; plans for making sure there are enough items in case these storms cause residents to lose power; making sure air conditioners work; the proper use of generators in case of power outages; and making sure the very young, the elderly and pets are safe during times of extreme heat.