

Program Descriptions October 2017

Tuesday October 3rd

7:40-8:00AM

Fitchburg Fire Department's Lt. Phil Jordan came in to talk about Fire Prevention Month and what the Department is doing locally to remind families and residents about fire safety. Lt. Jordan talked about checking fire and carbon monoxide detectors and checking them each time the clocks switch. He also talked about things to have on hand in terms of preparedness including radios, extra batteries, flashlights, etc. Lt. Jordan talked about the benefits of fire extinguishers, the different types, and how they can be the first line of defense. He also talked about generator placement as the weather gets colder, and importance of maintenance of chimneys and heating equipment. Lt. Jordan also spoke about grilling in the Fall and frying turkeys.

Wednesday Oct 4th

7:40-8:00AM

Fitchburg Police Chief Ernie Martineau talked to Travis and about the community policing week happening in the City and how it coincides with his and the Department's philosophy. He talked about a recent conference with other Chiefs from across the State and was able to see what they are already doing in Fitchburg and ideas that they may still be able to implement down the road. Chief Martineau also talked about the "Coffee With a Cop" series happening in town. He spoke about having officers representing the department at Fitchburg's Community Resource Fair and how the CDBG Grant recipients provide crucial resources for residents. Chief Martineau also talked about attending the recent graduation at the Fitchburg Drug Court and the progress of the individuals. Chief Martineau also addressed the shooting in Las Vegas and spent some time talking about how the Department prepares for events in the City and how training has changed with active shooters and emergency situations over the years. He finished talking about the firearms licensing process in Fitchburg and penalties for weapon modifications in the Commonwealth.

Thursday Oct 5th

7:00-8:00AM

Kathy and Mary from the Fitchburg Republican Committee came to the studio and began chatting about the tragic shooting in Las Vegas. They talked about the gun purchasing process, and whether or not changes need to be made in terms of requirements or communications between agencies. They also talked about whether or not it is actual possible to prevent future scenarios like the tragedy. They also talked about finding middle ground on both sides of the gun debate and how that plays into the larger narrative where both Democrats and Republicans are unwilling to cross the aisle but still get voted in come the next election. Mary and Kathy also talked about the President's recent visit to Puerto Rico and comments on the country's financial situation. They also spent time talking about the President's comments on different world issues and his use of Twitter and whether or not it is hurting his presidency. They finished up talking about their upcoming episode of "Your Right To Know" which addresses PAC's.

Friday Oct 6th

7:40-8:00AM

State Representative Jen Benson started her conversation with Travis and Sherman talking about her credit legislation. The legislation is designed to remove fees for those looking to freeze their credit and make sure consumers get disclosures for anyone looking at their credit reports or applying for credit in their names. She talked about the recent Equifax breach and how it can affect listeners. Representative Benson also talked about filling Jen Flanagan's seat on the Women in Government board, and about

getting more women involved in running for office and politics. Benson also spoke her own experiences about being a woman in government and some of the comments she has encountered. She also spoke about legislation to ban bump stocks.

Tuesday Oct 10th

7:40-8:00AM

Representatives from Loaves and Fishes and the Nashoba Valley Medical Center came in to talk about the upcoming 5K to benefit Loaves and Fishes. They spent time talking about how Loaves and Fishes began and how it has grown as a food pantry over the past 30 years. They spoke about the amount of people who face hunger here in Central MA and how listeners can help to end hunger. They also spoke about the partnership between the Medical Center and Loaves and Fishes through the Hunger Run.

Wednesday Oct 11th

7:00-8:00AM

Fitchburg Mayor Stephan DiNatale started out talking about renovations to the Yarnworks building and the need to repurpose the older mill and factory buildings in the City. He talked about how projects like Yarnworks help create new revenue for the City and help bring new housing opportunities for those looking to work in the area. He also spoke about cultivation facilities looking to open up in a few different old mill buildings. DiNatale also spoke about the Facing Addiction Program in Fitchburg and how it has further helped to bring discussions to the opioid crisis to the forefront in the City. Mayor DiNatale also spent time talking about the New Life Spanish Christian Church and their work to help with Puerto Rico's recovery efforts. The interview finished with a discussion about one way Main Street and the surveys that were sent out looking for feedback as well as what would be involved in making it permanent.

8:00-9:00AM

Dan Bartlett of Hillary's Chucks Hillary Bartlett Newsome Foundation came into the studio to talk about the organization. Bartlett started off talking about Hillary's life and her involvement with Camp Sunshine helping children dealing with life threatening illnesses. He spoke about how the organization is helping to raise money and awareness about the Camp in Central MA.

Thursday OCT 12th

7:00-8:00AM

State Representative Natale Higgins began talking about the bump stock legislation. Higgins talked about the conversations she had with people on both sides of the gun debate in the wake of the tragedy in Las Vegas. Higgins spoke at length about needing to strike a balance between protecting the rights of gun owners as well as the general public and steps we can do to ensure responsible gun ownership. She also talked about healthcare at the federal level and how the changes will affect residents here in MA. Higgins also spoke about her recent testimony related to student loans and her efforts to pass new protections for student loan borrowers.

Wednesday Oct 18th

7:00-8:00AM

Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzeella started off chatting with Travis about their recent experience as models in the fashion show at Guys Night at City Hall. They also spent time talking about how events like this highlight local businesses and how important it is to support the local economy. Mazzeella talked about a resurgence of growth with local businesses and the economy. He also spent time talking about bringing back the union custodians who were laid off in an effort to save money in the school budget. He

also spoke about the complaint that was raised about how they were laid off. Mazzarella also talked about his position as chair of the school committee and how he is one vote and how he pointed out spending problems starting several years ago. He also spent time talking about net school spending, and what needs to be done moving forward to ensure the school budget does not fall into the same problems in the coming fiscal year. Mayor Mazzarella also talked about two new positions created: a substance abuse outreach advocate and domestic violence advocate. He spoke about the grants that allowed these to be created and how crucial they are for substance abuse and domestic violence issues.

Thursday Oct 19th

7:40-8:00AM

Tom Skwierawski from Fitchburg's Community Development Office sat in to talk about his prior positions in the City and his current position. He spent time talking about the Community Development Office, the several departments that make up the office, and how each one helps city residents and businesses. Skwierawski also talked about Community Block Development Grants and some of the projects that are funded by the grants in the City. He also spoke about working to streamline the process of zoning vacant and abandoned residential properties to make it easier for developers.

Wednesday Oct 25th

7:00-8:00AM

Gardner Mayor Mark Hawke started off his segment talking about the Chair Luge. He spoke about the history of the event and the boom that it helps create for local businesses. Mayor Hawke also talked about the new athletic complex that will be moving forward at the High School, how long it has been in the works, and what it will look like once completed. Hawke also talked about the City's progress with MSBA in terms of a new school and the need to continue maintenance on city and school buildings to prevent more costly repairs in the future. Hawke spoke about the opening of the new recovery center Alissa's Place and how crucial it is to continue talking about the opioid epidemic. He spoke about Gardner's efforts to combat addiction in the City.

Thursday October 26th

7:40-8:00AM

Democratic Candidate for State Senate Sue Chalifoux-Zephir came in to talk about her campaign. Chalifoux-Zephir spoke about concerns she encountered with people throughout the eleven cities and towns within the district she is running for. She spent time talking about the fair share amendment. She also spent time talking about the need for economic development, updating the funding formula for public schools, increasing access to public transportation. She also spoke about concerns from residents related to healthcare costs and the possibility of moving to single payer healthcare. Chalifoux-Zephir also talked about her plan to continue fighting the opioid crisis and spend time talking about how her prior political and business experience has helped prepare her for her run.

Friday October 27th

7:00-8:00AM

Fitchburg State Representative Stephan Hay began his conversation on the recent vote to pass bump stocks that passed both the House and the Senate. Senator Hay spoke about The recent opioid forum in Lunenburg and the Facing Addiction in Fitchburg. He spoke about community members getting involved in erasing the stigma around addiction. He spoke about the partnerships with local police departments, The North Worcester County Drug Task Force and the Worcester County DA's Office. Representative Hay also talked about some details regarding the Criminal Justice Reform Bill, the importance of

programs helping to avoid recidivism, and the cost saving efforts of diversion programs instead of incarceration.

Monday Oct 30th

7:40AM-7:50AM

Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey called in to talk about the town hall meeting her office is holding in Leominster. Healey spoke about the role of the Attorney General's Office in terms of consumer protection, healthcare, the opioid crisis, utility rates, and gun violence. Healey spoke about the importance of the office and the importance of having town halls and getting in front of constituents to have conversations about issues they are facing.

8:40-9:00AM

Democratic Candidate for State Senate Michael Kushmerek came in to talk about his campaign. He spoke about concerns of people throughout the eleven cities and towns within the district he is running for. He spent time talking about the fair share amendment, and the need for economic development, and updating the funding formula for public schools. Kushmerek spoke about the need to provide affordable healthcare to constituents as well as increased access to public transportation. Kushmerek talked about the opioid crisis and criminal justice reform as well as his experience on the Fitchburg City Council, currently as President and how it has prepared him for his run for State Senate.

Tuesday Oct 31st

8:10-8:30AM

Democratic Candidate for State Senate Michael Mahan came in to talk about his campaign. He talked about his business experience and why he is running for State Senate. He talked about his experience visiting the district and some of the issues that he has talked about with constituents throughout the district. Mahan talked about criminal justice reform, the fair share amendment and the need for more economic development in the district. Mahan also spoke about updating the funding formula for public schools. He also talked about the opioid crisis and the need to be able to provide affordable healthcare to residents.

Program Descriptions November 2017

Wednesday Nov 1st

7:10-8:00AM

Fitchburg Police Chief Ernie Martineau joined Travis, Sherman and Jack in the studio. He started off his conversation talking about Halloween the night before and the extra preparation that the Department put in to ensure safety. He spoke about how training and preparation for city wide events has changed throughout his career with the Department over the past several decades. He spoke about the need to balance safety and keeping people from feeling they are part of a "police state." Martineau spoke about the growth of the Department under his tenure and the current administration's commitment to providing more resources to public safety. Chief Martineau talked about recent community engagement in the past month during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Martineau talked about his unit dedicated to community engagement opportunities.

8:40-9:00AM

Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzarella came into the studio to talk about his campaign for reelection. He spoke about his lengthy tenure as Mayor and his plans if re-elected. He spoke about the new police station that has been in the works. Mazzarella talked about the problems with the school budget and the need for a comprehensive review. He spoke about how the school budget problems were handled

by the School Committee and the City Council. He also spoke about his track record as Mayor and the growth the City has seen under his leadership.

Thursday Nov 2nd

7:10-8:00AM

Mary and Kathy from the Fitchburg Republican Committee began talking about the recent terrorist attack in New York City and President Donald Trump's response and using the incident to politicize. They spoke about government surveillance and balancing safety and privacy as well as censorship when it comes to monitoring internet traffic or blocking sites. They also commented on the recent arrests of Paul Manafort, Rick Gates, and George Papadopoulos and how this reflects on the administration. They also spoke about the use of opposition research in campaigns, and where candidates should draw a line in terms of what they use and how they obtain it. Mary and Kathy also spoke about the special election for State Senate to fill Jen Flanagan's seat, and talked about unique challenges when facing a compressed election cycle. They finished up talking about the latest episode of their show on FATV.

Friday Nov 3rd

7:10-8:00AM

State Representative Jen Benson joined Travis and Sherman. She started off talking about the House voting in favor of a resolution still supporting the Paris Climate Accord despite the President saying he would pull out of it. Benson talked about the need for reducing carbon emissions and continuing green initiatives in the State. She spoke about the challenges the state could face in terms of emissions and other avenues should other parts of the Country not follow suit. Benson also spoke about heading to the United Nations Climate Change Conference as an official UN Observer. Benson also spoke about the upcoming Criminal Justice Reform Bill and her concerns making sure juvenile justice, solitary confinement use, and CORI reform are addressed. Benson also talked about diversion programs for drug addicts and the cost of incarcerating addicts as well as the recent legislation banning bump stocks.

Tuesday Nov 7th

7:40-8:00AM

Fitchburg Fire Chief Kevin Roy spoke about the recent massive recall of Kidde fire extinguishers. Roy also took time to talk about the different type of fire extinguishers that are available to the public for their homes, and which types are best for different types of fire. He also spoke about fire extinguisher placement in residences. He also talked about how helpful fire extinguishers have been in terms of preventing major fires at homes and industrial and commercial calls he has responded to over the years. The Chief talked about the solar array training his firefighters recently went through to better prepare for fighting a fire at residences with solar panels on their roof. With Winter on the way, Chief Roy spoke about the use of space heaters, he also talked about upgrading outlets in older homes to include 3 prong plugs. He also spoke about carbon monoxide concerns with generator use and placement as well as when warming up cars.

Wednesday Nov 8th

7:10-8:00AM

Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale talked about yesterday's election. He talked about the difference in running as incumbent as opposed to his last campaign. Mayor DiNatale reflected on how much of an impact he has on Fitchburg in his role as Mayor versus during his tenure as State Representative. He also spoke about what he hopes to accomplish in his second term as Mayor. He spoke a lot about continuing economic development and how vital that is to Fitchburg's success. He talked about working to continue

to redevelop downtown Fitchburg. Mayor DiNatale talked about the vacant Kmart building and the push to get new business into it. He also talked about an upcoming public meeting which will present the results of a feasibility study regarding the old City Hall on Main Street. He also talked about the recent acquisition of the old Bank of America building and how that building will be used for some City Departments to help keep the cost of renovating old City Hall down. He also talked about the Oak Hill bridge donation from the marijuana industry and the agreement.

Thursday November 9th

7:10-8:00AM

State Representative Natalie Higgins started off her conversation reflecting on the recent election and the positions that were up for grabs in Leominster. She talked about the younger candidates that ran and how important it is to bring more voices, more ages, more backgrounds, and more life experiences to the table in politics and the advantages of having more perspectives serving in positions. Representative Higgins talked about the recent bill that passed aimed at protecting access to contraceptive care and recent bills aimed at veterans allowing for designated veteran parking spaces and donation boxes on bills to make it easier to donate to veteran causes. Representative Higgins also spoke about speaking at the Massachusetts Trail Conference recently held in Leominster and the importance of acknowledging the trails and green space we have and incorporating them into our communities. She also spoke about legislation having to be proactive and take preemptive measures before things get cut or changed at the Federal level.

Thursday November 16th:

7:40-8:00AM

Sue Christiansen from the Fitchburg Community Development Office came in to talk to Travis and Sherman. She talked about the application process for those interested in receiving a portion of the money that the City receives in the form of Community Development Block Grants. Ms. Christiansen spoke about the requirements for programs and the impact they must make to be able to qualify. She talked about specific projects that benefited from the grants over the past year. She also took the time to go through the application process from start to finish.

Tuesday Nov 21st

7:40-8:00AM

Monty Tech Superintendent of Schools, Sheila Harrity, came in to talk about all of the different programs that are offered for students at Monty Tech. She talked about working with local communities and talking to industry experts to figure out which careers and certifications are needed in the workforce. Harrity spoke about incorporating new technology and new fields into the curriculum, and talked about the rising demands of skilled workers in the area. Harrity also talked about the growth of women in the trades and in their numbers at the school. She also spoke about students working in the industry and building their resumes through co-op opportunities as well as using students to build the facility for their new veterinary sciences program. Harrity also spent time talking about the continuing education opportunities and classes open to the public. She also talked about the recent accomplishments of the Junior ROTC members at a cybersecurity competition.

Wednesday Nov 22nd

7:10-8:00AM

Gardner Mayor Mark Hawke joined Travis, Jack and Sherman to provide an update on events in Gardner. He began talking about recently honoring Veterans with a ceremony at Gardner High School. He talked about the Veteran services and activities in Gardner, and the need for younger Veterans to get involved. Mayor Hawke spoke about the recent unemployment rates showing declines during the past year for the Gardner area. He spoke about the efforts this past year and changes over the past decade to address blight, the addition of the new police station, the new Cumberland farms, and properties bought by the City. He spoke about how those changes to Gardner's landscape is making it attractive for business. Mayor Hawke also talked about the newer Wachusett station, whether or not it is realistic to think about bringing the commuter rail back to Gardner, and way to make transportation o the rail more efficient by lessening stops. He also talked about Gardner negotiating for a lower electrical rate on behalf of the citizens and businesses.

8:10-8:20AM

Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzearella called in to speak about the recent election and recount. He spoke about his campaign and conversations before he made the decision to run for reelection. He attributed the close numbers to his supporters not turning out because they thought he would be all set. He also spoke about reflecting on the election and issues currently facing the City as he prepares to move into his next term. He defended the City's school spending numbers and changes that have been made throughout his more than 20 years as mayor. He also spoke about doing a comprehensive audit into the school budget and spending as well as moving forward with a new police station.

Tuesday November 28th

7:40-8:00AM

Green-Rainbow Candidate for State Senate, Charlene DiCalogero, came in to talk about her candidacy for the Worcester-Middlesex District seat. She began talking about her background in education, administration and advocacy for education and how that has helped prepare her for her run. DiCalogero spoke about refusing money from corporate lobbyists, PACs and limiting her donations so she can listen to the people not those with financial interests in her. DiCalogero spoke about the dangers of money being involved in elections. She spoke about her work with community organizations throughout the districts and how her small town background puts her at an advantage over other candidates. She spoke about the fair share amendment, being more responsible with how we spend money and invest. She spoke about investing more in teachers as opposed to standardized tests, single payer healthcare, and criminal justice reform.

Wednesday November 29th:

7:40-8:00AM

Unenrolled Candidate for State Senate, Claire Freda, came in to talk about her candidacy for the Worcester-Middlesex District. She spoke about her extensive political background in Leominster politics and the connections she has formed and lessons she has learned over the past decades. Freda spoke about the need for affordable healthcare and affordable housing in the district. She also spoke about the need to be careful with finances and plan ahead in case funding for the state and various programs re cut at the federal level. Freda also spoke about the need for the fair share amendment. She also spoke about the need for education reform as well as a need to update the school spending funding formula.

Freda also talked about the advantage of running as an unenrolled candidate and the need to work across party lines.

Thursday Nov 30th

7:40-8:00AM

Democratic Candidate for State Senate, Sue Chalifoux-Zephir, talked about her primary win for the Democratic candidacy in the upcoming election for the Worcester-Middlesex District. She spoke extensively about her role on the Leominster City Council as well as her prior work at WGBH and current work at Ginny's Helping Hand. She talked about how these roles have equipped her with the experience necessary to serve as the role of as State Senator, and how these roles have given her a unique perspective on the needs of area residents. She reaffirmed her positions on single-payer health care, the fair share amendment, investing in education and updating the spending formula. She also spoke about the need to ensure access to mental healthcare

8:40-9:00AM

Republican Candidate for State Senate, Dean Tran, came in to talk about his campaign for the upcoming election. He spoke about visiting all 11 communities in the districts and the conversations he has had with voters about issues facing the area. He spoke about his role on the City Council and committees he has been involved in within the City, and his private sector jobs and how they have prepared him for a run for the state senate. He talked about a need to fix the healthcare system in the state, and reducing fraud so those who really cannot afford it can receive it. He spoke about the need to invest in education infrastructure and the economy. He expressed concerns over the fair share amendment in terms of how the money would be spent, and could lead to a graduated income tax, something he hopes to avoid. He also spoke about the importance increasing access to programs that provide help for opioid abuse and mental health treatments.

Program Descriptions December 2017

Tuesday December 5th

7:10-7:20AM

Newly elected State Senator Dean Tran called in to talk about his win in yesterday's election. He spoke about his campaign, the issues that were brought up and the conversations he had with voters. He talked about the challenges involved in running a special election campaign on a shortened timeline of just three months. He talked about moving forward in terms of beginning the transition into the position. He spoke about his position on the Fitchburg City Council and how that will aid in his transition. He also talked about wanting to begin looking at the bills he will be voting on in the upcoming session.

7:40-8:00AM

Anthony Marrama from the Fitchburg Fire Department came in to talk about his involvement with the regional tech rescue team. He spoke about the different areas and situations that the tech rescue team responds to. He spoke about the different training that goes into being on the team, as well as the different calls they face during different points within the year. He spoke about safety with icy conditions throughout the Winter.

Wednesday Dec 6th*7:10-8:00AM*

Fitchburg Police Chief Ernie Martineau began talking about the recent coat and blanket drive that the department held in conjunction with several local businesses. He talked about the Police Assisted Addiction Recovery Initiative conference in Boston, and sending representation from Fitchburg. He spoke about the importance of collaborating on ideas with other departments and community organizations to fight opioid addiction. He also talked about the upcoming Community Development Block Grant public input meeting and spoke about how the CBDG grants have helped with initiatives at the police department. Chief Martineau spoke about the dangers of the cold, and partnering with Our Father's House to get the homeless population out of the cold and off of the streets. He spoke about the changes to the animal control services in the City and wrapped up talking about safety when it comes to Christmas shopping, car break-ins and package thefts.

Thursday Dec 7th*7:10-8:00AM*

Mary and Kathy from the Fitchburg Republican City Committee began the conversation talking about the recent elections and most recently the special election for State Senator for the Worcester and Middlesex District. They spoke about the voter turn out and how to motivate the public to come to the polls. Mary spoke about her experiences working the polls and how every vote counts especially after the recount in Leominster. They also spoke about Senator-Elect Dean Tran's campaign. They also spoke about the willingness of voters in Central MA to vote across party lines in local and state elections. Mary and Kathy also spoke about the controversy of Roy Moore running in Alabama and whether or not he can win the election and if he does win, whether or not his party force him to step down following the election. They also spoke about President Trump and how his comments could impact the election and future midterm elections. They finished up by talking about the latest episode of their television show on FATV.

Wednesday Dec 13th*7:10-8:00AM*

Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale talked about dealing with the cold in the City and partnerships with the police and Our Father's House who work with the homeless to get them in out of the cold as well as groups like the Ahmadiyya community, and other groups who have held donations for blankets and winter clothes. He also spoke in details about work anticipated to be done at Longsjo Middle School on the roof and the classes that have been moved until the work is complete. He spent time talking about the City's bond rating as well as maintenance to city buildings and how costly deferred maintenance can be. He also spent time talking about the Wall That Heals Vietnam Memorial Wall that is headed to the area. He also talked about the Fire Department placing a beam from the World Trade Center terrorist attack on display for the public.

Thursday Dec 14th*7:10-8:00AM*

State Representative Natalie Higgins started off talking about her recent toy drive and Santa visit event. Representative Higgins also spoke about the latest mailer sent out about her from the Mass Fiscal Alliance PAC. She addressed the bullet points from the flyer that accused her of turning Leominster into a sanctuary city. She talked about the Safe Communities Act that the flyer is referring to and spoke about her position on the Act. She mentioned how important it was for her to not establish any type of registry and the dangerous precedent that it sets. She also talked about how she felt local law enforcement should not be conducting immigration activities unless they will be paid for them from federal money. Representative Higgins talked about the calls she has received from both supporters and people who were fired up by the flyer and the types of conversations she has been able to have with the public on both sides of the aisle as a result. She also talked about making her maiden speech and the legislation regarding tracking of rape kits that was able to pass with bipartisan support

Wednesday Dec 20th

7:10-8:00AM

Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzarella began the conversation with Travis and Sherman talking about the recent changes to the stock market and how people are motivated by incentives, something local and small businesses are also having to incorporate into their strategy as well. Mayor Mazzarella spent a great deal of the interview speaking about the current janitor situation in Leominster where the paper reported Emerald Green was being paid for custodians no longer working and insisted that there was no proper contract with Emerald Green signed by the Mayor or the purchasing agent, and there was never one brought through the proper channels of the school committee. Mayor Mazzarella also spoke about property taxes for the upcoming year, and how some rose while others stayed the same, and how others fell depending on how the homes and businesses were assessed. He spent time talking about the single tax rate versus communities who operate under a dual tax rate.