

JULY 2018 PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS WPKZ 105.3 FM & AM 1280

TUESDAY JULY 3RD

7:40-8:00am

Fitchburg Fire Chief Kevin Roy joined Travis and Sherman to talk about the upcoming 4th of July events in Fitchburg. He spoke about the coordination between the different first responders and DPW when putting on events like the Block Party and 4th of July Parade. Chief Roy also spent time talking about fire and firework safety during the summer months.

THURSDAY JULY 5TH

7:10-8:00am

Fitchburg Republican City Committee members, Mary and Andrew, joined Travis and Sherman for their monthly visit. They spoke about their Republican City Committee's involvement in both the Civic Days Block Party and the 4th of July Parade. They talked about their booths and float. They also spoke at length about the importance of candidates coming to events and giving potential voters a chance to talk with them, to engage their concerns and really state their case for why they are the best fit. They also talked about how crucial it is for the federal candidates to come out to all communities in the district so they can also learn about the issues unique to the area.

FRIDAY JULY 6TH

7:10-8:00am

State Jen Benson began her conversation talking about the Unsung Heroine Award she gave to Sheila Kelly, organizer of the Women's March in Ayer. Benson talked about Kelly and other constituents that have stepped up in her District and the impact people can make in their community. Representative Benson also spoke at length about the Grand Bargain Bill. She spoke at length about how the Bill came to be. She talked about several aspects of the Bill including the minimum wage increase, sales tax weekend, sales tax, weekend and holiday pay, and paid family medical leave. Representative Benson also talked about which aspects of the legislation she felt worked and what did not and why she ultimately felt comfortable voting for it.

THURSDAY JULY 12TH

7:10-8:00am

State Representative Natalie Higgins joined Travis and Sherman for her annual monthly visit. She spent a bulk of the time talking about the Grand Bargain Bill. She talked about the increase to minimum wage and also about paid family medical leave, two topics we have addressed several times in the past. She also talked about the #MASNAPChallenge that she took part in last month.

TUESDAY JULY 17TH

7:40-8:00am

Fitchburg's Deputy Commissioner of Wastewater came in for his monthly update. Murawski talked about a presentation he recently gave to seniors at the Fitchburg Senior Center. He talked about common problems with wastewater and how they can be

avoided. He spoke about common household products as well as grease and fats that can cause major backups for the City lines. Murawski spoke about improvement projects on the horizon for the Department including the required sewer separation system. Murawski talked about a completed project on Goodwin Street to about 250 feet of sewer line.

WEDNESDAY JULY 18TH

7:10-8:00am

Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzarella started his conversation answering a listener question regarding yard waste pickup and why the City does not have it all year round. He also addressed the increased cost of recycling that Leominster and other cities are facing. Mayor Mazzarella also talked about efforts to try and keep trash and recycling costs down and how getting rid of larger items can be tricky. Mayor Mazzarella also addressed the recent payment to Royal Steam Heating for work that was done several years ago in the school system. He talked about the rules regarding bids and the process of going through the State to issue payments when the bid process is ignored as was the case in this scenario. He spoke about this happening multiple times in the City. Mazzarella also talked about the City Council working towards regulations for recreational marijuana businesses. Mayor Mazzarella also talked about several upcoming events happening in the City.

8:00-9:00am

State Senator Dean Tran came in for his monthly visit and started talking about the criminal justice reform bill recently sent to the Governor's desk. He spoke about the changes and costs associated with the bill. Tran also talked about a bill he filed to allow municipalities the ability to own their own electric company and acquire the necessary infrastructure. He spoke about the recent bond bill which would allow for the creation of affordable housing throughout the district. He also spoke about the need to modernize the foundation budget formula for chapter 70 funds for schools across the Commonwealth. He also spent time talking about the student loan borrower's bill of rights. He also spoke about the need to protect students from sexual assault on campuses and the need to protect victims and their rights.

THURSDAY JULY 19TH

7:40-8:00am

Tom Skwierawski from the Fitchburg Community Development Office started off talking about the approximately 215 thousand dollars from the Massachusetts Complete Streets Program the City is receiving. He talked about how this will be used to make the Upper Common more pedestrian friendly through sidewalk replacements, flashing beacons for pedestrians. Skwierawski also spoke about the shift two two lane, one way Main Street. Skwierawski talked about Boulder Drive also needing readjustments and a final study that will be done on Boulder Drive that will allow hem to apply for a MassWorks Grant.

WEDNESDAY JULY 25TH

7:10-8:00am

Gardner Mayor Mark Hawke talked about the recent 95,000 dollars awarded to the City of Gardner with the Green Communities Grant. Hawke talked about the steps needed to become a green community and the benefits for the City through the improvement projects. Hawke talked about the water treatment facility pump upgrade, and electrical vehicle acquisition projects the Green Communities Grant is going to cover. Mayor Hawke also spent time talking about the Foundation Formula, net school spending, and transportation costs. He talked about the strain that Gardner and other areas across Central MA is feeling. Mayor Hawke talked about recreational marijuana in the City of Gardner and the four host agreements the City is currently involved in. Before he left. Hawke talked about the Battle of the Badges Blood Drive.

8:10-8:30am

State Senator, and candidate for the 3rd Massachusetts Congressional District, Barbara L'Italien called into the show. L'Italien began her conversation talking about her recent appearance on Fox and Friends after her campaign manager was mistakenly contacted and she decided to use the opportunity to go on the show and address President Trump directly. L'Italien talked about her kitchen table conversations she has had throughout the third district. L'Italien spoke about her experience as a legislator as both a State Representative and a State Senator, and how it makes her the bet candidate to replace Congresswoman Tsongas. L'Italien talked healthcare and education, elderly services, and working on budgets.

THURSDAY JULY 26TH

7:10-8:00am

State Senator Dean Tran began his conversation talking about the Wage Theft Bill he supported in the most recent session. Senator Tran spoke about the forms of wage theft and how they can affect those in the district and across the state and the importance of having protections against this. Senator Tran also talked about his amendment seeking a study into how to improve Route 2 that remains in conference committee. Tran stressed a need to improve the Route 2 infrastructure and a need to invest in communities along the Route 2 corridor. Senator Tran talked about the Extreme Risk Protection Order and his reason for voting against it the second time around after voting in favor the first time. Tran talked about the mental health components being stripped from the bill and his feelings that it set a bad precedent in terms of stripping away property rights and due process for falsely accused. Senator Tran also talked about the final version of the budget sent to Governor Baker's desk. He also talked about the CDBG and its impact on cities and towns within his district. He talked about today's event with Lt. Governor Karen Polito which will announce CDBG grant funding. He wrapped up his discussion talking about the Karing For Kids in Fitchburg

August 2018 PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS WPKZ 105.3 FM & AM 1280

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 1ST

7:10-8:00am

Fitchburg Police Chief Ernie Martineau started his discussion talking about two recent shooting tragedies involving Massachusetts police officers. Chief Martineau talked about

the death of Sgt. Michael Chesna and the shooting of two Falmouth Police officers. Martineau talked about the dangers that are always on the back of officers' minds everyday on the job. He talked about having to make split second decisions and how officers do not have time to take things “under advisement” as can be done with conversations surrounding gun control, etc. Chief Martineau also talked about recent nationwide discussions surrounding plastic 3d printed guns. He talked about the illegal use of fireworks in the State. Chief Martineau also talked about the annual Brazilian Music Festival at the Fitchburg Airport and how the Festival and handling of it has changed following resident concerns over the last few years. Chief Martineau also talked about the switchback to two lane one way Main Street and how that changes enforcement. He wrapped up talking about the upcoming Junior Police Academy.

THURSDAY AUGUST 2ND

7:10-8:00am

Fitchburg Republican City Committee members, Andrew and Kathy, began talking about the 3rd Congressional District Race. They talked about the importance of opening up offices and having a presence in Fitchburg and in parts of the District further West than the Lowell and Lawrence area. They also talked about how much harder Republicans have to work in an area like Fitchburg that leans Democratic. They also talked about President Trump's Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, and how they think his nomination will go through. Andrew talked about the importance of Supreme Court members being able to set aside party and personal bias. They also talked about the recent impasse and the fact that Massachusetts was one of the last states to pass a budget. They wrapped up talking about their latest episode of “Your Right To Know on FATV”

FRIDAY AUGUST 3RD

7:40-8:00am

Democratic Candidate for the 3rd Congressional District, Dan Koh, talked about opening up a campaign office in Fitchburg. He talked about the fact that Fitchburg is such a diverse population with entirely different issues and needs as opposed to other parts of the District. Koh talked about the fact that even though he will be working on policy in DC, he would be working the People of Fitchburg and the entire 3rd Congressional District and that it is important to reach out and represent the entire district. Koh talked about the importance of working across party lines and reaching past the DC gridlock. He also talked about needing to bring affordable healthcare to the District and invest in infrastructure. He also talked about needing immigration reform by creating a pathway to citizenship.

TUESDAY AUGUST 7TH

7:40-8:00am

Fitchburg Fire Department Lieutenant and Emergency Management Director for Fitchburg, Rich Liberatore, started his conversation talking about the Department's recent involvement with the Project Soar paper airplane project at the Fitchburg Municipal Airport. Lt. Liberatore talked about the recent tornadoes confirmed in other parts of the State and what the protocol is should one occur in Fitchburg during the storm and after the storm in terms of damage assessment and recovery efforts. He talked about how

technology and constant communication with MEMA and NOAA has made it easier to be prepared in advance of storms. He also talked about mutual aid in the event of a disaster. Lt. Liberatore also spent time talking about the tech rescue squad and the intense training members of the fire department have undergone. He finished off talking about cooling centers available during the Summer with the hot and humid days we have been having.

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 8TH

7:10-8:00am

Fitchburg Mayor Stephen DiNatale started off his monthly visit talking about the sudden passing of Fitchburg's Redevelopment Director, Daniel Curley. He talked about Curley's involvement in Fitchburg throughout the years and about his role in the City. Mayor DiNatale talked about the 10 properties that are set to be demolished. He talked about the continued need to address blight in the City. DiNatale talked about the dangers of abandoned properties especially for first responders. DiNatale talked about the process the City goes through to take ownership and control of properties. He also spoke about the failed proposed land swap with the Leominster State Forest to increase the Westminster landfill. DiNatale addressed concerns of those opposed to the swap and also those who were in support of the swap. He talked about the possible future implications for Fitchburg where the swap did not pass. The Mayor wrapped up talking about recreational marijuana businesses heading to Fitchburg and the economic benefit it is expected to bring.

8:10-8:30am

Democratic Candidate for the 3rd Congressional District, Rufus Gifford, talked about opening an office in Fitchburg and how crucial the area is for the election. He talked about meeting with local leaders and residents. He talked about learning about what the federal government can be doing better to serve the residents of Fitchburg and western parts of the district. He talked about increases in costs of healthcare, living, and education without wages increasing. He talked about the potential closures with Health Alliance Hospital and universal healthcare. Gifford also talked about tariffs and trade wars, as well as his past experience working on trade policy.

THURSDAY AUGUST 9TH

7:10-8:00am

State Representative Natalie Higgins talked about the end of the legislative session. Representative Higgins talked about the extensive opioid bill that passed, including the controversial injection site component. She also talked about an attempt to lift the cap on benefits for families with disabled children. She also talked about recommendations to changing the foundation formula and how to implement those, especially without the fair share amendment passing. Rep Higgins also talked about the firefighter protection bill as well as the credit protection bill passed in the wake of the Equifax breach. She also spent time talking about the potential closures of services with Health Alliance Hospital and single payer healthcare. She also talked about the impasse regarding the budget.

MONDAY AUGUST 13TH

7:40-8:00am

Republican Candidate for the 3rd Congressional District Rick Green came into talk about his campaign. He spoke about his business and experience as a job creator. He talked about the opioid crisis and discussions he has had with voters across the district. Green talked about how he could apply his business experience and model to tackle the rising healthcare costs, and spoke about the importance of a free market. Green also talked about the tariffs and the fact that on a long term level, free and fair trade is better, but our system needs to be fixed where the other side and countries do not play by the rules. He also talked about campaigning not just to Republicans, but unenrolled and Democratic voters as well.

TUESDAY AUGUST 14TH

7:40-8:00am

Republican Candidate for US Senate, Beth Lindstrom, began her conversation talking about the refusal of her fellow Republican candidates to debate her in recently scheduled television and radio appearances. Lindstrom talked about her experiences with the Republican committee and her business background. Lindstrom talked about what it takes to start a business, and her experience with education and her children with IEP's. Lindstrom also talked about the need to fix trade. She also spent time talking about her concerns regarding Elizabeth Warren and how she has handled issues at the State and Federal level. She also talked about needing to fix healthcare.

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 15TH

7:10-8:00am

Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzarella began his conversation talking about the recent rain storm the city was hit with. He talked about flooding near Blanchard Street, Burrage Ave, and the mall, and how the catch basins and storm system cannot handle rain fall that heavy for such a long period. He talked about first responders helping to pump out basements. Leominster Mayor Dean Mazzarella talked about the marijuana regulations the City Council passed limiting sales to industrial areas and limiting the number of permits that will be issued. He also provided a detailed update on the proposed police station and the location which involves buying two vacant properties, and the old Lincoln School, and uses for the current police station and the former plastics museum which is housing detectives.

8:10-8:40am

Register of Deeds for the Northern Worcester County, Kathleen Reynolds Daigneault, came into the studio. Daigneault took the time to explain what her office does, the documents they handle, and the efforts to bring records onto digital formats to make them more accessible to people. Daigneault spoke about hopes to partner with students and schools in terms of educating them regarding documents and home ownership. Daigneault also talked about declaring a homestead and the importance of not ignoring mortgage and debt troubles. She also talked about scams offering to provide deeds to people.

THURSDAY AUGUST 17TH

7:40-8:00am

Tom Skwierawski from the Fitchburg Community Development Office began his discussion on the 10 properties slated for demolition in Fitchburg. He talked about the NICE Committee and how the list of properties that should be demolished comes together. He spoke about the properties and how they determine if it can be fixed, if it needs to come down, if the City will hold onto the property, offer it up with a sidewalk sale or sell to be redeveloped. Skwierawski also spoke about the upcoming resource fair his department is holding for the public.

FRIDAY AUGUST 17TH

7:40-8:00am

Republican Candidate for State Representative for Fitchburg and Lunenburg Precinct B, Elmer Eubanks, came in to talk about his candidacy. He talked about how red tape in rehabing a house he bought in the city is what led him to want to run. Eubanks talked about how both his business and professor of economics backgrounds would help him in office. He talked about constituent concerns with roads and education with chapter 90 and chapter 70 funds. He talked about the need to rework the foundation formula and get more money back to the district. Eubanks talked about a need for legal immigration and talked about his prior experience helping immigrants and working on immigration issues, and wrapped up talking about healthcare costs and the opioid epidemic.

TUESDAY AUGUST 21ST

7:40-8:00am

Fitchburg's Deputy Commissioner of Wastewater, Jeff Murawski came in gave an update on the sewer separation project. He also talked about a major project that is a couple years down the pipeline which will be done to work on sewer lines and the system around the Water Street Bridge area and surrounding neighborhood. He talked about the different phases this project and others must go through before the work can actually begin. Tony Maressa, the sewer system manager, also came in to talk about the project.

THURSDAY AUGUST 23RD

7:10-8:00am

State Senator Dean Tran started off talking about the recent Ride For Your Life event and the importance of raising awareness about suicide and getting help and more funding for those dealing with mental health issues and those who may be experiencing suicidal thoughts. Tran talked about the state's opioid bill and the need to keep working towards more funds and projects to tackle addiction. Tran talked about 4 financial bills he worked on including the budget, capital improvement bond bill, economic development bond bill, and environmental bond bill. Tran talked about the need to keep bringing as much money possible back to the district. Tran talked about his first legislative session and the challenges of dealing with committees and vetoes. Senator Tran also talked about his concerns regarding Health Alliance's planned closures to services in Fitchburg and Leominster and potential legislation that would force essential services to remain open while the Department of Public Health could study plans.

TUESDAY AUGUST 21ST

7:10-8:00am

Cannabis Control Commissioner Jen Flanagan came in to provide an update. She talked about the recent issuing of licenses for testing of recreational marijuana. Flanagan talked about the differences between medical and recreational regulations and the need for separate licenses for companies testing both sides of sales. Flanagan talked about the rights of individual cities and towns in forming host agreements with companies. She also spent time talking about the timeline of the rollout and went into depth talking about the awareness campaign recently launched by the Cannabis Control Commission about recreational marijuana.

SEPTEMBER 2018 PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS WPKZ 105.3 FM & AM 1280

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 4TH

7:40-8:00am

Fitchburg Fire Chief Kevin Roy began his conversation talking about school buildings, and concerns the Department has once they are occupied by children and staff. He talked about sending fire prevention officers out to inspect and give recommendations to any needed changes to the building department. He talked about state mandated fire drills required to be done by the department and schools. Chief Roy talked about checking to make sure walls are not covered in combustibles, detectors are working, extinguishers are ready, and outlets are not overloaded. He also talked about training for active shooter and other emergency incidents. He also talked about the demolition of 10 residential buildings and the NICE committee. He spent time talking about concerns with dilapidated and blighted buildings.

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 5TH

7:10-8:00am

Fitchburg Police Chief, Ernie Martineau started his conversation talking about the department's role on election day in terms of securing the polls. Chief Martineau talked about the school resource officers currently in the Fitchburg school system. He talked about the emergence of officers within schools, and how their role has changed over the years to be more of a mentor and part of the school system, breaking barriers with students. He also talked about students returning to school and the need to be aware of pedestrians and buses, especially in school zones. Chief Martineau also took time to talk about the recent Junior Police Academy.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 6TH

7:10-8:00am

Kathy and Andrew from the Fitchburg Republican City Committee sat in for the hour. They started their conversation talking about the recent primary results. They spoke about the importance of turning out for all elections, even primaries which can sometimes determine positions where no one on the opposite political party is running. They spent time talking about the Democratic primary and recount. Both expressed their surprise with what appears to be a Trahan win despite Gifford and Koh having offices and endorsements in the area. They also talked about the recount and how it will further draw attention away from the Republican side and make it harder to craft message without

knowing who the opponent will be. They also spent time talking about several other primaries including the Governor's race, US Senate race, and the Attorney General race. They wrapped up talking about the latest episode of "Your Right To Know" on FATV.

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 7TH

7:10-8:00am

State Representative Jen Benson talked about the recent primary. She took the time to explain why she had chosen to endorse Rufus Gifford including his presence in the district and experience with climate change. Benson talked about the challenges in running for such a large district and the importance of reaching voters in each community and having a visible presence. Benson talked about whether or not Green had a missed opportunity not getting out earlier even though he had no Republican opponent. Benson took the time to address several other primaries including the Governor's race, Senate race and Attorney General race, and whether turnout spells trouble for the Republican side. Benson talked about automatic voter registration in Massachusetts. She talked about Civics returning to education. Benson talked about the budget in terms of what she was glad passed and what she wished had passed including her carbon pricing bill.

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 11TH

7:20-7:30am

Sue Christensen from the Fitchburg Community Development Office, came in to talk about their 3rd Annual Resource Fair. Sue talked about the growth of the fair in attendance of both the public and participating groups. Christensen talked about the different local and state agencies that will be at the event and about the sorts of help that is available to Fitchburg residents. She talked about how the CDBG funding does assist a few of the groups that will be there.

8:10-8:20am

Fitchburg Fire Chief Kevin Roy called in to talk about the 9-11 Ceremony happening at the North Street Fire Station. He talked about the event and the unveiling of the steel beam from the World Trade Center site. He talked about the process of getting a permanent spot for the beam spearheaded by Mayor DiNatale, and other officials and local businesses and community members including work from Monty Tech students. He talked about support services that are available for firefighters after incidents.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 13TH

7:10-8:00am

State Representative Natalie Higgins talked about wrapping up her first legislative session. She spoke about her work on the rape kit tracking bill and how meaningful it is for victims of sexual assault. Higgins spent time talking about the opioid bill and the need to keep providing money for mental health services, especially with it being suicide prevention month. Higgins talked about her work with fellow legislators to get legislation passed that could give the Department of Public Health the ability to delay closures. She talked about the services Health Alliance is planning on closing and how essential they are.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 20TH

7:40-8:00am

Tom Skwierawski from the Fitchburg Community Development began his conversation recapping the resource fair. He also talked about the departure of Sue Christensen as she moved on to become the Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator in Fitchburg. He talked about the planned re-configurations of Main Street and Boulder Drive and planned study to look at a two way Boulder Drive in addition to adjustments to Main Street. Skwierawski talked about a new housing pilot project with NewVue Communities and four others. The goal is to provide incentives for homes that have vacant for more than 3 years.

8:40-8:50am

Jennifer Ringuette of Gardner called into the studio to talk about her recent act of heroism that involved freeing a man whose leg had gotten stuck between two train cars at an intersection in Gardner. Ringuette talked about the incident and about having a day proclaimed in her honor from Gardner Mayor Mark Hawke.

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 25TH

7:10-7:50am

State Representative Stephan Hay came in to talk with Sherman for his monthly visit. They started off talking about the 9-11 Memorial in Fitchburg. Hay also spent time talking about Monty Tech student involvement in the memorial and other projects the students have undertaken throughout the city. Hay talked about a few past cultural festivals in the city and some upcoming festivals with different ethnic groups on the calendar. Hay also talked about the resource fair, and talked about the need for constituents to contact him with their issues and needs so he knows what needs to be advocated for at the state level. Representative Hay also talked about the recent BYOB discussion in Fitchburg.

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 26TH

7:10-8:00am

Gardner Mayor Mark Hawke talked about a recent conference for municipal officials and how that event has helped bring ideas to Gardner in the past including the drug take back boxes at the police station. Hawke also talked about municipal aggregation to bring lower utility rates to Gardner residents. He also talked about solar in the city after the council went back and forth regarding ground mounted solar. Hawke also talked about how crucial it is for the planning board to have marijuana zoning regulations and how the industry shows it is important to update the city's zoning laws. Hawke talked about industrial growth in the city. He finished his interview talking about the city's chair luge event.

WPKZ Radio Third Quarter Issues Report

July 1 through September 30, 2018

The issues in this report were covered during the K-Zone Lunch Box. The program airs on Mondays from 12 noon to 1:00 pm, and air time is adjusted during the 2017 Red Sox Baseball season. All interviews are 20 minutes in length unless otherwise noted, and the Monday program is hosted by Sherman Whitman.

FITCHBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY --THE NEXT 125 YEARS July 2nd, 12 noon

A 30-minute conversation with Executive Director Susan Navarre talked to us about the city's history and the many items they have that tell about the city's past. She explained how papers and other items have been preserved over the years, the stories some of these items tell, and how the 4th of July was more of a solemn celebration during the 18th and 19th centuries. She discussed how people wrote things on paper before the days of ballpoint and fountain pens, how kids learned about responsibilities back on those days and the types of jobs they were working by the age of 10. She also talked about industries and businesses in the area and the bicycles that were on display, and how bikes that were made more than 100 years ago were built to last to this day.

HEATWAVE, July 2nd, 12:40 pm

A 15-minute conversation with Christopher Besse of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency about the summer season, and the challenges we face with the hot temperatures. He warned about the dangers of leaving children and pets left unattended in cars, the need to re-adjust schedules for outdoor activities when temperatures reach the 90's for extended periods, staying hydrated with water and other non-alcoholic and/or non-caffeinated beverages, cooling centers for people who are struggling with the heat and checking on your neighbors to make sure they're making it through the weather.

THE BEAUTIFUL GAME, July 9th, 12 noon

Sean Sweeney, who covers the New England Revolution for the Boston Sports Journal, talked with us for the hour about Soccer. He explained why it's called "The Beautiful Game," how the game has struggled for and made progress, and the recognition it's getting from the sporting public to where it is more popular in some communities than baseball. He told us what made him a soccer fan, why soccer for many is called "futbol" or more football than American football, how events like the World Cup bring people together to watch, and how Revolution fans have welcomed Leominster resident Diego Fagundez with open arms to the team during his rookie season.

THE ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE, July 16th, 12 noon

Linda Hubley and Steve Rhoden of the US Department of Agriculture's Asian Longhorned Beetle Eradication Program updated our listeners on the struggles with the insect in Worcester County. They talked about the actions taken after the first cases were reported in and around the city of Worcester and Faulkner Hospital in Boston. They discussed what the beetle looks like, how it goes from tree to tree, the damage to trees, the trees they like to feast on, and why Central Mass became Ground Zero. They explained their fears were that if they didn't catch the beetles when they did, the Maple Industry was at stake. They talked about how it made its way to the United States, their lifespan may be just nine months, but they live enough to multiply and cover an area that covers 110 square miles around Worcester. They also said that while they've made great strides since the first cases were reported 10 years ago, elimination of the beetles could take a few more years.

"THE SPIRITUAL MANDELA" July 23rd, 12 noon

Dennis Cruywagen, author of the book, wrote the book to mark the 100th birthday of the late South African leader. He said Mandela was born the son of an African tribal chief, how his personal life and his goals changed after his mother became a Methodist and he would become a Sunday School teacher. He also discussed how Mandela's life would change when he met Oliver Tambo of the African National Congress, his role in the organization, his imprisonment, and how his faith helped him survive life on Robben Island. And how he allowed his faith to guide him after his release and his election as President of South Africa

COMIC BOOK HEROES AND THE MOVIES, July 23th, 12:30 pm

Dario Delle Chiaie, Coordinator of Marketing for That's Entertainment North, talked to us about comic books and their impact on American life. How comic books have helped kids to begin reading at early ages, how girls and women are not only reading but writing comics and becoming part of the industry, how Wonder Woman's success at the box office has brought more women to comics, and how storylines for characters have changed over the years...from the death of Superman to the life and death of Archie Andrews.

"STANDOFF: HOW AMERICA BECAME UNGOVERNABLE," July 30th, 12 noon

Bill Schneider, former Senior Political Analyst for CNN, says his book looks back at America and the elections he has covered since 1964. He discussed how both the Republican and Democratic parties have gone in different directions, and created two different worlds with two different values. He said the conflicts of values between the parties have made governing very difficult. He discussed how the nation has changed with the election of Presidents from Nixon to Ford to Carter to Reagan, to Clinton to Bush to Obama and then to Trump. He expressed concern about polling that suggested the nation was moving closer to a second Civil War, and what needs to be done to prevent that.

THE CHAMP IS HERE, July 30th, 12:30 pm

Three-time World Boxing Champion Jose Antonio Rivera talked about his career in the ring, his work as an officer in the courts with young people, and a new beginning as a fight promoter. He told our listeners about a night of boxing that would bring local talent to the stage, and his hopes of his son being on the same boxing card with him. He also discussed the business part of boxing, what he has learned during his career, what he continues to learn now as a promoter and advice for young men and women who are looking to begin their careers.

HAPPY MOTORING, August 6th, 12 noon

John Paul of AAA Northeast offered suggestions for people before and during their travels during the summer season. He recommended preventative maintenance for tires and batteries, making sure vehicles are "hydrated" by keeping the radiator and other fluids at proper levels, things to look for before your vehicle undergoes the annual inspection and how the inspection procedures have changed, whether rising gasoline prices have kept from people from travelling and how confidence in the US Economy has meant more people taking to the highways during the Summer of 2018.

CHANGES IN RETAILING, August 6th, 12:30 pm

Jon Hurst, President of the Retailers Association of Massachusetts, shared his thoughts on the changes in retailing and they will affect retailers. He had mixed feelings about the approval of compromise legislation that allows retailers to have an annual Sales Tax Holiday for the second weekend in August, but also for a dramatic increase in wages for people who work in retail. The association is marking its 100th anniversary, and he discussed how the industry has changed and how the challenges facing retailers have changed over the years, the loss of retailers like K-mart and Toys R Us, what the future holds for Sears, and need for retailers to change or evolve as the tastes and interests of consumers continue to change or evolve.

FITCHBURG CULTURAL COUNCIL, August 13th, 12 noon

Joe Bowen, a member of the Council Commission, told our listeners about the work that is done by the Council to promote events and programs of interest to the local community, the numbers of programs and events that take place, and to tell listeners about a public hearing where listeners can learn about funding that is made available for the events. He explained who and what events and programs would qualify for grant funding, how they obtain the grants, the application process for the public, how the process works and when applicants would know if they have qualified for the funding.

MASSACHUSETTS ENERGY CONSUMERS ALLIANCE, August 13th, 12:30 pm

Larry Chretien, Executive Director of the Alliance, told our listeners about the organization and how they help consumers make their homes more energy efficient, and make energy more sustainable. He

offered suggestions for listeners to make their homes more efficient...be it using LED lightbulbs, an energy audit, a new heating system whether you use oil or gas, making sure heating systems are running at peak levels during the Winter of 2019, rebates for all appliances, the differences between "peak" and "non-peak" energy hours, whether your home is in a location for installing solar panels and how the alliance can help consumers lower the cost of their heating bills this winter.

THE WORCESTER RED SOX, August 20th, 12 noon

Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, Worcester Mayor Joe Petty, City Manager Ed Augustus were among those who discussed the plans of the Pawtucket Red Sox to move their Triple-A baseball team from Rhode Island to Central Massachusetts. They discussed how they first approached the team about Worcester as a location three years ago, the changes that made the Red Sox say it was time to find a new home after 50 years in Rhode Island, the plans for a building a new ballpark, the permanent jobs that will be created, how a neighborhood in the city will be transformed in less than three years and the steps to be taken with their goal of playing baseball at Polar Park in April of 2021.

REMEMBERING THE QUEEN, August 20th, 12:30 pm

Sue Auclair, Director of Marketing for the The Cabot, paid tribute to Aretha Franklin. She talked about Franklin's life, growing up the father of a minister who had her first child at the age of 12, and her second at the age of 14. She talked about working with Franklin in Newport at the Jazz Festival, how she went from a newcomer to the music industry as a jazz singer to "Lady Soul" and then "The Queen of Soul," how her music inspired generations of listeners and musicians, what it was like to see her live on the stage and what she meant for the city she would call home -- Detroit, Michigan.

BACK TO SCHOOL, August 27th 12 noon

Fitchburg State University Richard Lapidus and Fitchburg School Superintendent Andre Ravenelle spent the hour talking about what was being done to get ready for another year of classes. Dr. Ravenelle discussed the challenges the public school system was facing in preparing for the 2018-2019 year, plus the challenges students and their parents would face, whether it was the very first day of Kindergarten, 1st Grade, Middle School or High School. Dr. Lapidus talked about the challenges students would face in preparing for the first day of college, and life away from home, the support services that are available for students if they're struggling with their studies and college life, and learning about the city of Fitchburg and what the city has to offer.

AMERICAN RED CROSS OF CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS, September 17th 12 noon

Executive Director Kim Goulette joined us for the hour and told our listeners about the work done by the organization, the programs and services they provide, updated our listeners on the series of gas explosions and fires that erupted in Lawrence, Andover and North Andover, the injuries and damage

caused by those explosions, and the greatest need or needs of those affected by the explosions. She also discussed the work being done to assist the people in Carolinas who are effected by Hurricane Florence, the people from Massachusetts who are there to provide assistance, the training they underwent in disaster services, and the greatest need or needs for people in North Carolina. She also discussed the need for blood donations and other things the public can do to help the Red Cross do its work.

"ON THE OTHER SIDE OF CHAOS," September 24th, 12 noon

Ellen Van Vechten says her book is aimed at helping families that are trying to survive as a loved one is struggling with addiction. She also talked the troubles of her family as her son struggled with addiction, the science of addiction, the programs that are there to help those struggling with addiction like the 12 Step Model of Recovery, understanding when "letting go" is not "giving up" on a loved one and how family members can support one another while their loved one continues their recovery.

"THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC," September 24th, 12:30 pm

Janice Stillman, Editor of the Almanac, talked about the 2019 edition of the publication. She discussed what has made the almanac popular more than just a New England tradition since it was first published back in 1792, the calendar pages that give the best days for handling chores, gardening tips, home remedies and other features that readers can put to use like putting sunscreen on a pig, and the weather forecasts for all parts of the country.