

1st Quarter 2024

WQRC (6 a.m.) / WOCN (6 a.m.) / WFCC (6 a.m.) / WKPE (6 a.m.)

Segment times 17:30 unless otherwise indicated.

January 7 - Sunday Journal Program

Program Title: Cape Cod Childcare Needs

Program description: Dozens of Cape and Islands parents, caregivers, early educators, early education and childcare providers, business leaders, and advocates spoke recently in favor of legislation that would help make high quality early education and childcare affordable and accessible to all Massachusetts families. A meeting at the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce included Plymouth/Barnstable State Senator Susan Moran, First Barnstable State Representatives Chris Flanagan and Barnstable/Dukes/Nantucket State Representative Dylan Fernandes. “The cost of childcare here on Cape Cod is significant and very challenging for families like mine to afford. During my 8 years of paying for full time childcare, on average we were paying \$1,800 a month for full time care, 12 months of each year,” said Sara Gramback, a Barnstable parent, in a statement. “I currently work at a local community health center that has approximately 100 employees, most of whom are women, many of whom are raising children and growing their families. When our staff do not have sufficient care for their families, they can’t come to work. When our providers can’t come to the health center, patients can’t be seen for critical care,” Gramback said.

Program Title: Big Brothers Big Sisters Update and Future Plans

Program Description: The Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Cape & Islands (BBBSCI) just finished a successful year and are highlighting some of the more notable achievements of the organization as they head into 2024. With the first year of their new strategic plan titled Commitment 1000 underway, says JR Mell, Regional Director of BBBSCI, they have seen every fundraiser exceed goals and their “Erase the Wait” campaign surpass the needed numbers set. “Overall 2023 was the first year of our next five years in our strategic plan. It was a building year for us, and for the kids who we served over the year, it was a phenomenal year for them as well,” Mell said. The Commitment 1000 strategic plan sets a goal that the name would suggest, of matching 1000 bigs to 1000 kids by 2028, and the previously mentioned “Erase the Wait” was a successful way to start the plan by receiving 106 big sign ups for the 72 children in need. One of the hurdles the organization goes through when looking for new bigs, says Mell, is that adults are not sure what the commitment means when they sign up to mentor, as that word tends to have heavy implications to most. “When you look at our kids, and you look at the kids who

are referred to our program, the number one biggest thing that they need is just your presence. It's literally showing up, or if something comes up in your life communicating and saying 'hey instead of Wednesday can we do Friday instead?'" said Mell.

January 14 - Sunday Journal Program

Program Title: Cape Cod's Blue Economy

Program Description: The Cape Cod Blue Economy Foundation and its organizing partners have announced the sponsors for the upcoming 2024 WaterWORKS Blue Economy Career Day on Tuesday, January 16 at Cape Cod Community College. The half-day program will provide regional high school students in Barnstable, Plymouth, Dukes, and Nantucket counties with an up-close showcase of potential jobs in the growing "Blue Economy" sector, with exhibits, demonstrations, and activities highlighting lucrative opportunities to help the state in its transition to a sustainable marine economy. This year's sponsors include Avangrid, Bay State Wind/Orsted, Beacon Marine Construction Co., Cape Cod 5 Savings Bank, The Cooperative Bank of Cape Cod, Housing Assistance Corporation, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority, Massachusetts Marine Trades Association, MassHire Cape & Islands Workforce Board, Woods Hole, and Vineyard Offshore. "It is our pleasure to once again host WaterWORKS at Cape Cod Community College," said Dr. John Cox, President of 4Cs. "The future of our regional workforce lies in the Blue Economy, which makes this event a real game-changer for employers, our current students, and future students.

Program Title: Financial Aid Advice for Students

Program Description: As college application deadlines loom, financial aid expert with AAA Donald Kerr joins Sunday Journal remotely to provide tips for both students and guardians navigating the FAFSA process. He says some changes this year are meant to make the process easier, but some challenges can still crop up that he and others at AAA are ready to help explain. He also touches on college essays and some words of encouragement for prospective students looking ahead to higher education.

January 21 – Sunday Journal Program

Program Title: Cape Cod Water Quality

Program Description: The Association to Preserve Cape Cod has released its fifth-annual “State of the Waters” report. APCC executive director Andrew Gottlieb says Cape Cod continues to experience a high number of coastal embayments and freshwater ponds with unacceptable water quality. The Association has long-linked the water woes to excessive nutrients from inadequately-treated wastewater in septic systems, as well as stormwater runoff and fertilizers. The report acknowledges that some towns have recently ramped up efforts to reverse the impacts from decades of nutrient pollution, and Gottlieb says that “yes” votes are needed on an “unprecedented” number of water quality improvement projects at town meetings in the spring. Among those that received an unacceptable grade was Pleasant Bay. As Massachusetts enforces stricter regulations for nitrogen removal on the Cape, it’s been five years since the commonwealth granted a first-of-its-kind “watershed permit” for the management of the Pleasant Bay watershed to Brewster, Chatham, Harwich and Orleans. On the other hand, the State of the Waters is continuing to give high marks for the quality of the Cape’s public water supply.

Program Title: Opioid Settlement Fund Update

Program Description: The Town of Barnstable is inviting the public to take part in an Opioid Settlement Funds Workshop, a facilitated conversation regarding the opioid pandemic at the Barnstable High School cafeteria on Tuesday, January 30, 2024 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. Residents whose personal lives, families, or communities have been affected by the opioid crisis and professional crisis responders alike are encouraged to attend and help Barnstable determine priority needs to guide the spending of the settlement funds as the region recovers from the damages caused by the opioid epidemic. Through the statewide opioid settlements with opioid manufacturer Johnson & Johnson, announced by current Governor and then-Attorney General Maura Healey in 2021, Barnstable will receive \$1.8 million in structured settlement funds, the largest allotment of the 15 Cape towns.

Program Title: Cape Cod Homeless Prevention

Program Description: Barnstable County homelessness programs have received about \$2.4 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Continuum of Care (CoC) initiative. The money will help efforts quickly rehousing individuals and families facing homelessness, as well as providing support to minimize the trauma associated with displacement. Grantees include Barnstable County, Housing Assistance Corporation (HAC), Catholic Charities of Fall River, Duffy Health Center, the MA Department of Mental Health, Sandwich Housing Authority, and Independence House. All recipients were funded as requested. The funds will also kickstart a new program, Sandwich Housing Authority’s Fresh Start Expansion, providing two additional beds to the region’s inventory, says county officials. “This award acknowledges both the strength of our application and the needs of the region,” said Joseph Pacheco, Barnstable County’s Director of Human Services in a statement. “We appreciate HUD recognizing the work of the Cape and Islands CoC and our partners, and for providing the resources needed to ensure impactful programming.” Amid a rise in homelessness across the country, this year saw a record amount of funding by the federal government at \$3.16 billion dollars.

February 4 – Sunday Journal Program

Program Title: JFK Hyannis Museum & Wendy Northcross

Program Description: JFK Museum Executive Director and former Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce CEO Wendy Northcross joins Sunday Journal this week to discuss new and upcoming events at the museum, as well as the work they’re doing to preserve archival footage of Cape Cod cultural landmarks. She also dives into some of the latest issues facing the Cape’s economy, including an overview of cultural institutions post-COVID and her thoughts on the Canal Bridge replacement project.

February 11 – Sunday Journal Program

Program Title: Alternative Septic Options

Program Description: The town of Falmouth could be investing in a new wastewater initiative this spring. In the interest of helping Cape Cod address its water quality problem, The Green Center, a nonprofit organization in Falmouth, is drumming up support for a tactic referred to as “urine diversion”, which would keep that particular waste from going into the ground using

specialized septic systems. Speaking on the CapeCod.Com Sunday Journal earlier this month, Earle Barnhart with the Green Center said urine diversion has been in practice for 20 years in parts of Europe. “France now has companies that collect urine on a huge scale, commercially. They make it safe to use for fertilizer, and they sell it to agriculture,” said Barnhart. He added, “They also have tried to figure out how to not pollute the rivers in France, so they are now subsidizing new developments, homes, houses and apartments, 80 percent of the cost if they would be urine-diverted.” A citizens’ petition to fund a urine-diversion pilot project with a price tag of about two-million dollars is coming before Falmouth town meeting voters in April. Hilda Maingay with the Green Center says they think towns should pay for this like they pay for sewer infrastructure. “I think it would benefit the towns to actually invest in it if they were allowed to. So, we have to prove to Mass DEP that this is a strategy that is worth giving credit to, and to what degree, that is to be determined by this project,” she said.

Program Title: Heritage Museums and Gardens

Program Description: Heritage Museums and Gardens’ new \$15 million Barbey Family Welcome Center will be a leading example of sustainability as well as functionality, said officials after they broke ground on the project last week. President and CEO Anne Scott-Putney said the buildings will all be powered by solar panels, and the parking will feature permeable paving. “A lot the work we do at Heritage has to do with water and water runoff to make sure we’re not spilling into the ponds or into ultimately the ocean. The design of all the paving is to percolate the water into the ground and to catch it before it goes any further than where we are,” said Scott-Putney. Stormwater runoff channeling fertilizers, driving debris, and other pollutants has been cited as a major source of pollution for the Cape’s diminishing water quality by the Association to Preserve Cape Cod. As an organization specializing in enjoyment of the outdoors and local greenery, Scott-Putney says they have an added responsibility to lead the way when it comes to addressing climate change and incorporating sustainable technology on top of green energy.

Program Title: Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority

Program Description: The Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority is hoping to make fixed-route bus fares free permanently for adults over the age of 60, as well as people with disabilities. Starting on February 1st, the CCRTA says the fixed-route schedule which covers 15 Cape Cod towns will not cost those passengers. Administrator Thomas Cahir says the public transportation service is extremely pleased to have been awarded a grant of about 500-thousand dollars by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to take care of the most vulnerable population. About five years ago, the CCRTA started “free fare Wednesdays” for older adults. Cahir says the MassDOT grant is for one year, but the plan is to get additional funding to extend the service indefinitely. With a median age of 55 on Cape Cod, he says the transit agency is constantly thinking about senior mobility. Initially, the new free fare program can be accessed with the Charlie Card picture ID, but Cahir said a new, more sophisticated card is being transitioned to in February.

February 25 – Sunday Journal Program

Program Title: Turtle Stranding Update

Program Description: In honor of Valentine’s Day, dozens of sea turtles are receiving flower-themed names as they rehabilitate from life-threatening conditions suffered during the cold stunning season, which ended in mid-January. Naming turtles that have undergone extensive care is a tradition for the aquarium, and the 53 turtles that remain out of almost 400 turtles rescued from Cape beaches during the cold stunning season are those that require extra care for conditions such as bone infection and chronic pneumonia. This year’s group includes Kemp’s ridley sea turtles named “Rose,” and “Marigold,” and a loggerhead named “Water Lily”. “This is the time of year when we shift our operations from triaging and stabilizing hundreds of turtles to the next critical phase,” said Adam Kennedy, Director of Rescue and Rehabilitation at the New England Aquarium. “At this point,” he said, “the focus is on those turtles that were too sick to be transported: Ensuring that the proper medical treatment is given, spending long hours coaxing the turtles to eat, and keeping a watchful eye on all of these animals’ behavior.” Upon successful rehabilitation, the Aquarium plans to release the majority of the remaining turtles into Nantucket Sound during the summer when water temperatures are sufficiently warm enough to do so.

March 3 – Sunday Journal Program

Program Title: Cape Cod Bridge Update

Program Description: Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce CEO Paul Niedzwiecki has joined Governor Maura Healey's Transportation Funding Task Force. Niedzwiecki and other members of the newly-formed task force were sworn in last week. According to the Healey administration, the group will develop recommendations for a long-term, sustainable transportation finance plan in Massachusetts. Niedzwiecki said he is honored to serve on the task force, and that he looks forward to working to ensure Cape Cod's transportation needs are strongly considered in the planning process. That includes the replacement of the Bourne and Sagamore Bridges. Governor Healey has secured 372-million dollars in federal funding to rebuild the Cape Cod Canal bridges, but the Cape Chamber of Commerce notes that a multi-*billion*-dollar gap remains. The estimated price tag for replacing both bridges is over \$4.5 billion dollars.

March 10 – Sunday Journal Program

Program Title: Cape Symphony

Program Description: The search for the next Artistic Director of the Cape Symphony continues to move forward after the announced departure of Jung-Ho Pak, and as the organization gets closer to making their choice they are explaining more about what they are looking for in an applicant. With a large number of candidates to choose from, says Michael Albaugh, Executive Director of the Cape Symphony, the need to find the right fit who cares about the community is at the top of their priority list. "The community loves the orchestra. They are very involved, they care deeply, and it's not just because we're a source of entertainment, I think they feel like if you go to Boston and say something bad about the Patriots then you're basically going to get thrown out. Our public is that way, especially here on the Cape, it's their orchestra," Albaugh said. He went on to say that the region is very invested in the future of the Cape Symphony as much as the organization is, and Albaugh gets to see that at every concert where he gets to speak to the attendees about what they want and love. As the committee filters through the candidates working down to the top 25% and eventually the final three, says Albaugh, they will be looking for someone who is more than a conductor, but also invested and protective of the community as a whole. "Regardless of what happens or what obstacles there are, we're putting forth great concerts. We have talented musicians that care, we have a wonderful staff, and everybody believes in the institution and that's what matters. I want somebody that believes in the institution," said Albaugh. With the right choice of a candidate that can help realize the potential the Symphony has, Albaugh believes the future can be bright and the organization can grow and impress the community even more every year.

March 17 – Sunday Journal Program

Program Title: Democrat Julian Cyr Re-running for Cape and Islands State Senate Seat

Program Description: Incumbent Julian Cyr discusses his campaign for the Cape and Islands State Senate seat. The Democrat from Truro faces challenge from Republican Chris Lauzon of Barnstable.

March 24 – Sunday Journal Program

Program Title: Francisco Noya Guest Conducting “Better Together”

Program Description: Conductor and Nantucket resident Francisco Noya is joining the Cape Symphony for their “Better Together” show April 6 and 7. Now in his sixth season as Music Director of the Boston Civic Symphony Orchestra, Noya joins Sunday Journal to discuss both the upcoming show and the latest trends in music—including AI’s place in an orchestra.