

## The Public's Radio - Issues and Programs Lists

Q4: Oct 1 - Dec 31, 2023

Here follows a listing of some of the significant issues responded to by The Public's Radio in Providence, Rhode Island, along with the most significant programming treatment of those issues for the period of 10/01/23 thru 12/31/23. The listing is by no means exhaustive. The order in which the issues appear does not reflect any priority or significance.

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### 1. Politics and Policing: October 5, 2023

#### **Years of alleged abuses by Fall River cop show limits of internal police**

**investigations:** Michael Pessoa remained a police officer for nearly two decades despite receiving frequent complaints of physical and verbal abuse, exposing the limits of the Fall River Police Department's attempts to police itself. Editor's note: This story references offensive remarks about race and sexual assault that some readers may find upsetting. Ben Berke reports.

Length 8:11

### 2. Arts and Culture: October 18, 2023

#### **Artist Umberto Crenca elevates the commonplace in the neighborhoods of 'Divine Providence':**

Umberto Crenca is a co-founder of nonprofit community arts organization AS220. He's also been active as an artist in Providence for decades. WaterFire Arts Center is now showing his series of paintings called "Divine Providence." Artscape producer James Baumgartner visited the space to talk with Crenca about his work.

Length: 8:30

### 3. Politics: The Weekly Catch: October 17, 2023

#### **U.S. Senate addresses child migrant crisis, Brown professor wins national award, and more:**

This week, U.S. Senators addressed the crisis of migrant children working in dangerous jobs across the country. But can a divided Congress work together to find solutions? And a conversation about tenants' rights, a week after a condo complex in North Providence was abruptly condemned, leaving some residents living out of their cars. Also, the story of a local artisan who makes hand-carved gravestones. Plus, political reporter Ian Donnis on the week in politics. All that and more on this week's show.

Length: 29:00

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4. Health: November 17, 2023

**Doctor, staffing shortages strain Rhode Island Community Health Centers:** Rhode Island community health centers and their patients are feeling the effects of nationwide health workforce shortages, raising concerns about access to primary care. Lynn Arditi reports.

Length: 6:11

5. Politics: November 27, 2023

**Brown president shouted off microphone as vigil turns to protest:** A vigil meant to honor Hisham Awartani, a Palestinian student at Brown who was wounded in a shooting in Vermont, turned into a protest, with dozens of students asking the school to call for a ceasefire and to divest from companies profiting off the violence in the Palestinian territories.

Length 3:16

6. Politics: December 1, 2023

**Rhode Island Attorney General Peter Neronha on healthcare, gun violence and his criteria for a possible gubernatorial run:** Rhode Island Attorney General Peter Neronha is closing 2023 much as he began the year – with a higher profile thanks to his frequent missives on X, formerly known as Twitter. Neronha shifted into a higher gear on the social messaging platform early in the year, with comments on topics ranging from gun violence and the state's healthcare landscape to the fortunes of local sports teams. The state's top prosecutor says his tweets are a way of communicating about his job and how he pursues it. More recently, Neronha ran afoul of a Superior Court judge with a tweet criticizing one aspect of the court process. And all this comes as Neronha is contemplating a possible run for governor in 2026. Is this an early version of campaigning? Does Neronha think the state is moving with enough urgency to address key issues? And will he sail off after his term as AG is done or pursue another course? Ian Donniss interviews Neronha in this week's edition of Political Roundtable.

Length: 14:00

7. Health: December 5, 2023

**A prescription for Rhode Island's primary care shortage:** The nationwide shortage of primary care doctors is expected to get worse. A study by the [Robert Graham Center](#) projects that by 2030, Rhode Island will have a shortfall of [about 100](#) primary care physicians, or 11% of its workforce. That would leave as many as 200,000 Rhode Islanders without access to primary care, said Dr. Jeffrey Borkan, assistant dean for primary care at Brown University's Warren Alpert Medical School. Borkan talked with

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Health reporter Lynn Arditi about what Rhode Island can do to replenish the ranks of the state's primary care providers.

Length: 4:11

8. Health: December 21, 2023

**Tis the season for viruses:** The holidays are upon us and so are some unwelcome guests: COVID-19, the flu and the respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV are all circulating this season in what Dr. Philip Chan, a medical director for the Rhode Island Department of Health, calls a "triple-demic." He talked with Health Reporter Lynn Arditi about the viruses and what to do to try and avoid catching them.

Length: 4:00

9. Transportation: December 21, 2023

**Free ferry service between Bristol and Providence greeted with enthusiasm but low ridership:** Dec. 21 was the opening day of a free ferry between Bristol and Providence. The state started the temporary service to help ease traffic following the closure of the I-195 Bridge connecting the east bay and Providence. Olivia Ebertz reports.

Length: 3:11

10. Politics: December 21, 2023

**How should Rhode Island promote its heritage?** Tourism has been an important sector in Rhode Island's economy for years. But state marketing focuses more on beaches than historic places of interest that mark the state's prominent role in American history. Is it time for that to change? Ian Donniss reports.

Length: 5:30