

The Public's Radio - Issues and Programs Lists

Q3: July 1, 2023 thru Sept 30, 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 07/01/23 thru 09/30/23. The listing is by no means exhaustive. The order in which the issues appear does not reflect any priority or significance.

1. ENVIRONMENT JULY 28, 2023

VIRAL TIK-TOK VIDEO SHOWS CLASH BETWEEN HOMEOWNER AND

BEACH-GOER OVER SHORELINE ACCESS: Beachgoer Cheyne Cousens was trying to get to a beach area at the end of a state-designated right-of-way to the Easton Bay shoreline, when he ended up getting into a confrontation with a property owner. Cousens' video of the incident went viral, with over seven million views at last count, and he's since been charged with trespassing. He met up with our South County Bureau Reporter Alex Nunes at the site of the confrontation to explain what happened.

Length: 4:00

2. ARTS/AUGUST 24, 2023

New Bedford says good-bye to a downtown eccentric:

Ira Cohen, a bookseller and art model who kept a literary spirit alive in a tough New England seaport, died this January at 70 years old after a brief illness. Cohen was the focus of what turned out to be the last show UMass Dartmouth exhibited at its gallery in downtown New Bedford before the university abruptly closes its campus there at the end of the month. For this week's Artscape, South Coast Bureau Reporter Ben Berke interviewed more than a dozen people who knew Cohen. The result is a collection of stories, memories and impressions that form another lasting portrait of Cohen.

Length: 7:39

3. POLITICS/ENVIRONMENT SEPT. 15, 2023

The Weekly Catch: Hurricane Lee has weakened and continues to do so as it moves off the New England Coast. But that doesn't mean it won't have an impact on the area. We talk about how to prepare. Also, a former White House COVID advisor shares what you need to know about the new vaccines. Plus, we hear about a new URI study that found an alarming amount of microplastics in Narragansett Bay. And we introduce you to a local singer and harmonium player who's gained a huge following by sharing his love of Bengali music with the world.

Length: 29:00

4. LABOR/MIGRATION SEPT. 18, 2023

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Underage and Unprotected: The Public's Radio launches its investigative series in collaboration with FRONTLINE called Underage and Unprotected, revealing long-standing practices of employing underage, often undocumented migrant workers in the fish processing industry in New Bedford.

Length: 8:00

5. LABOR/MIGRATION SEPT. 20, 2023

Underage and Unprotected: How a migrant teen tried to juggle going to high school and working overnights at a seafood processor: In the summer of 2022, Rodrigo had a decision to make: The then 17-year-old could go back to New Bedford High School for 11th grade or keep working to send money to his family in El Salvador. Rodrigo had spent most of the school year going to class during the day, and working a 9- or 10-hour shift at night at a New Bedford seafood processing plant, rarely getting more than a few hours of sleep. Nadine Sebai reports.

Length: 8:11

6. HOUSING July 17, 2023

Priced out of Newport, Jeffrey Marcus calls his SUV home: Newport is one of the few communities in Rhode Island that exceeds the state's mandate for affordable housing. Yet, local officials say Newport has a housing crisis and risks losing its diverse community, as tourists, part-time residents and investors drive up rents and home prices. It's becoming more common for local residents to fall on hard times and more difficult for them to get back on track to find stable housing. In part five of our series "Falling Short: In search of affordable housing," we hear the story of a man who's struggled to make the city by the sea his home and is currently living in his car.

Length: 7:29

7. HEALTH SEPT. 1, 2023

Rhode Island plans for supervised consumption site for illegal drugs proceeding cautiously: Across the country, overdose prevention centers continue to face pushback, most recently in New York City. Plans to open Rhode Island's first supervised consumption site for illegal drugs in 2024 are proceeding cautiously. Health reporter Lynn Arditì talked with The Public's Radio Morning Edition host, Luis Hernandez, about what's at stake in Rhode Island.

Length: 4:30

8. ARTS/CULTURE SEPT. 7, 2023

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Edward Bannister, 19th-century Black artist, honored with new statue in

Providence: A new bronze statue will be unveiled this weekend honoring Edward M. Bannister, an African-American artist who lived in Providence in the late 19th century and was one of the founders of the Providence Art Club. Artscape producer James Baumgartner talked with members of the Bannister Community Art Project, who helped make the statue a reality.

Length: 5:38

9. **POLITICS/TRANSPORTATION SEPT. 22, 2023**

Political Roundtable features an interview with Rhode Island Public Transit Authority CEO Scott Avedisian, on the endemic issues facing the state's public transit system. After a gusher of federal COVID money, the transit agency now faces a looming deficit next year. And it's unclear where the money will come from to pay for an ambitious improvement plan -- or even the continuation of free fares on RIPTA's busiest bus line. The person responsible for addressing all this is RIPTA CEO Scott Avedisian, the longtime former mayor of Warwick. He says RIPTA is doing a good job with available resources. But Avedisian has been under fire from Senate President Dominick Ruggerio and state DOT Director Peter Alviti, who now chairs RIPTA's board. So what will it take to improve public transit in Rhode Island? Ian Donnis talks with Avedisian about his answers to that question.

Length: 14:00

10. **ARTS/CULTURE/SEPT. 28, 2023**

Lily Henley's new album combines her love of fiddle music and Ladino

language: Lily Henley is a vocalist and fiddle player who performs songs in Ladino, a language of the Sephardic Jewish people. She's playing Thursday, Sept. 28 at Community College of Rhode Island. Artscape producer James Baumgartner talked with her about her music.

Length: 5:38