

Townsquare Media Bangor

Issues Programs Report

2nd QUARTER

April 1 – June 30, 2020

Section I. Issues

"Townsquare Media Maine Concerns" is a long-form interview segment running every Sunday morning at 6:20 A.M. (WWMJ), 11:10 A.M. (WDEA), 6:00am (WQCB), 6:00 am (WBZN), and 6:12AM (WEZQ)

Each of the Maine Concerns reports is between 24 and 25 minutes in length. Stories covered generally fall into the following categories:

Crime- Maine Concerns covers stories we think are important to Maine residents from drug trafficking to scams and security related issues. When necessary, we support efforts of law enforcement by releasing names and information pertaining to missing person's cases or searches. We're in regular contact with the Maine Public Safety spokesman, Maine Emergency Management Agency, and Maine Drug Enforcement Agency. We also cover marine crime related stories with information provided by U.S. Coast Guard and Marine Patrol.

Health- Maine Concerns covers a wide variety of health related stories and work with regional hospitals, the Maine CDC, and other organizations to get the word out about conferences, medical developments, viruses, and seasonal concerns like Lyme Disease or flu. Many of our stories dealing with public safety can be considered health related as well, citing our warnings about CO poisoning during power outages as one example. The pandemic has dominated this quarter, with stories about available resources and how to access them.

Economy-The economic struggles faced by Maine and the nation continue to dominate our news coverage. We continue to report on laws and initiatives affecting the economy as it relates to municipal, state and federal programs and services. We report on training and development opportunities in the state as well as job fair activities.

Environment- Our environmental coverage spans a wide variety of stories to promoting public hearings such as the DEP hearings for the Juniper Landfill in Old Town, or the public hearings on the DCP Midstream proposed liquid propane tank in Searsport, to stories about necropsies on whales.

Education - Maine Concerns covers stories in Maine from school budgets to school safety initiatives. Stories about innovative college studies and research are also covered.

Community- Maine Concerns recognizes the work of community non-profit groups who utilize volunteers to promote the general welfare of Maine citizens. From food drives to help feed those struggling senior, to matching grant challenges to serve single mothers, to charity runs and concerts, Maine Concerns provides a lot of coverage for these kinds of events.

Public Safety- Maine Concerns covers stories that impact the public safety of community which can run the gamut from natural disasters to police emergencies like shootings or standoffs.

If the situation warrants, the News Director will include stories of national significance and those stories might include anything from National Security, Natural Disasters, Congressional activities or Presidential declarations.

Section II. Responsive Programming

April 5th – No program, as we adjusted to the stay-at-home order

April 12th Health, Community, Crime (Length - 24:35)

Next Step Domestic Violence Project – Cindy Campbell talks with Executive Director Dorothy Martel about how the stay-at-home order may be affecting abusive and potentially-abusive relationships. She discusses the challenges, and the many resources available to victims of abuse, including hotline numbers, possible housing, and the importance of reaching out.

Bangor Area Recovery Network (BARN) – Cindy Campbell chats with Jessica Jesiolowski of the Bangor Area Recovery Network, or BARN, about how the stay-at-home order could affect people already dealing with recovery. She talks about the importance of reaching out, and the avenues that are available, including hotline numbers and Zoom meetings. More about this topic on next week's program.

April 19th Health, Community, Economy, Education (Length – 24:53)

Bangor Area Recovery Network and the Importance of Peer Support – After the Commissioner for the Maine Department of Health and Human Services revealed startling increases in the number of calls to the Maine Crisis Hotline from people with substance use disorder, Jessica Jesiolowski of the Bangor Area Recovery Network talks with Cindy Campbell about the importance of peer support for these folks and how it's lacking for many during the pandemic. For people who are not in the Bangor area, the BARN's staff can help find resources in their area that can offer help. She provides phone numbers for statewide help lines, as well as the BARN's contact information, for peer support and Zoom meetings.

211 Maine – Cindy Campbell talks with Nikki Busmanis about 211 Maine, which offers an endless databank of information about goods and services across the state. By dialing 211 or logging onto the website, residents can get details about everything from heat assistance to online education to food pantries.

April 26th Economy, Community, Education (Length – 24:46)

Main Street Studios – Cindy Campbell talks with Andrew Clifford, owner of Main Street Studios in Brewer, about how he’s adapted his business to weather the pandemic. Clifford talks about continuing to teach drums to students via Zoom and other platforms, and processing audio that’s sent to him online. He says the stay-at-home and social distancing platform has actually helped in one way, because he’s learned how to look, virtually, at a student’s drum kit and make suggestions on a better set-up. But he says he’ll be happy when he can start working with students and clients in person.

Some Theatre Company – Cindy Campbell chats with Elaine Bard, producing artistic director for Some Theatre Company, about the ways that the actors are still entertaining people. Members of the company are singing, doing readings, and telling stories virtually, on their website and social media. They’re even holding virtual auditions and rehearsals for an upcoming show. The challenge for them is that they lost a large amount of money from ticket sales, due to their ticket handler being affected by the pandemic, and are struggling to pay the rent on the space they can’t currently use. As a non-profit, they’re hoping for donations to keep them going.

May 3rd Health, Community, Crime (Length - 24:35)

Next Step Domestic Violence Project – Cindy Campbell talks with Executive Director Dorathy Martel about how the governor’s latest ruling has affected housing for victims of abuse. While the stay-at-home order is causing addition stress for abusive and potentially-abusive relationships, the governor has allowed hotels to house abuse victims, so it’s important to reach out through a hotline number to find resources in your area.

Bangor Area Recovery Network (BARN) – Cindy Campbell once again chats with Jessica Jesiolowski of the Bangor Area Recovery Network, or BARN, about resources available to those struggling with substance abuse disorder, despite the pandemic. The stay-at-home order is especially tough on these folks, who rely on meetings to sustain their sobriety and may look to their substance of choice to help them cope. Jesiolowski wanted to stress to anyone who’s struggling that help is out there, and is just a phone call away.

May 10th Health, Community, Education, Environment (Length – 24:56)

Lyme Disease Awareness Month – Cindy Campbell talks with Dr. Kristopher O’Connell of Northern Light Health about Lyme Disease. He explains how it originated, early symptoms, and long-term effects. In addition, Dr. O’Connell discusses treatment methods and their effectiveness, as well as ways to prevent becoming infected. We will continue this interview later this month, as Dr. O’Connell concentrates on ticks.

Pine Tree Camp for Children and Adults with Disabilities – Cindy Campbell chats with Pine Tree Camp Director Dawn Willard-Robinson about the alternative programming the camp has come up with, after being forced to cancel its summer programming due to the

COVID-19 pandemic. The campers are being treated to ‘Pine Tree Camp for YOU,’ which includes virtual campfires, craft activities, virtual dance parties and more to keep the kids connected to their community every day of the week. In addition, the camp is planning Adventure Day Passes that will give children with disabilities and their families/caregivers safe access to the camp for a day, to take part in regular camping activities.

May 17th Health, Education, Economy, Environment, Community (Length - 24:43)

Emergency Medical Services – Cindy Campbell talks with Rick Petrie, of Atlantic Partners EMS, about what it takes to be an EMT or paramedic, and how the job has changed in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Atlantic Partners is a non-profit that acts as an information center and advocate for recruiting new job candidates. They offer continuing education for people on the job, so they can continue their certifications, and do inspections to ensure the agencies are operating within the state guidelines. Petrie talks about the many challenges of the job, including the emotional toll on EMS workers and the commitment it takes to succeed. He also discusses the need for better pay and new candidates, as the number of EMS workers is dwindling.

Bears – Cindy Campbell talks with bear biologist, Jen Vachon, about the fact that bears are waking up and looking for food. She offers a variety of tips on how to avoid attracting them to your yard, including taking in bird feeders, locking up trash and grills, and not leaving food dishes out for pets.

May 24th Public Safety, Health, Environment, Community (Length - 24:15)

Boating Safety – Cindy Campbell talks with Corporal John MacDonald of the Maine Warden Service about boating safety. Corporal Macdonald talks about the importance of wearing a lifejacket, doing safety checks on the boat before heading out, and having something on-board to deal with possible fires. He suggests trip plans and notifying someone if those plans change at the last minute. Later this month, we’ll continue this topic, as Corporal MacDonald talks about staying ‘dry’ on the water.

Lyme Disease and Ticks – Cindy Campbell talks with Dr. Kristopher O’Connell of Northern Light Health continues his conversation about Lyme disease by concentrating on ticks. The University of Maine has a tick lab, where you can have your tick identified and analyzed for lyme disease. Dr. O’Connell once again stresses the importance of doing regular tick checks and taking precautions against the insects whenever you spend any amount of time in nature.

Bangor Area Recovery Network (BARN) – Cindy Campbell chats with Jessica Jesiolowski of the Bangor Area Recovery Network, or BARN, about how the stay-at-home order could affect people already dealing with recovery. She talks about the importance of reaching out, and the avenues that are available, including hotline numbers and Zoom meetings.

May 31st, 2020 Health, Education, Economy, Community (Length - 24:39)

Young Mainer's Workforce Academy – Cindy Campbell talks with Leah Gulliver of the Eastern Maine Development Corporation about this virtual academy that will teach young people about different career paths they could follow, what's involved, how to apply, the importance of professionalism, among other topics. Gulliver says the course involves some paid hands-on training in the workplace, and lots of information about the opportunities here in Maine open to them.

Stroke Awareness Month – Cindy Campbell talks with Dr. Andrew Ehrhard of Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center about the stroke. Dr. Ehrhard describes what a stroke is, details the warning signs of a stroke, and explains the importance of getting help as quickly as possible. He also goes into the long-term effects and that the speed of care makes a huge difference.

June 7th, 2020 Public Safety, Environment, Health, Education, Community (Length - 24:47)

Boating Safety – Cindy Campbell once again talks with Corporal John MacDonald of the Maine Warden Service about boating safety, as Mainers begin getting out more and finding activities they can do while social distancing. Corporal Macdonald concentrates on drinking and boating, and the importance of staying 'dry' on the water. He talks about the importance of always remaining in control of the boat and the safety of your passengers, which means wearing life jackets and waiting to enjoy alcoholic beverages until the end of the journey.

Lyme Disease and Ticks – Cindy Campbell talks with Dr. Kristopher O'Connell of Northern Light Health about the long-term effects of Lyme disease. For anyone who doesn't catch the infection early enough, Dr. O'Connell says the affects can include things like debilitating joint pain. He stresses the importance of doing regular tick checks and seeking medical help as soon as symptoms arise.

211 Maine – Cindy Campbell talks with Program Director Nikki Busmanis about 211 Maine, which the Maine CDC has utilized to set up COVID-19 information help lines, to answer questions about the pandemic. People can learn about testing sites, signs and symptoms of the virus, and where the most-affected areas are in the state. In addition, 211 Maine is a valuable resource to find information about financial programs available to residents and small businesses, to help them while they're out of work.

June 14th, 2020 Health, Education, Community, Crime (Length - 24:56)

Childbirth Classes – Northern Light Health has put together a 3-step online program, in which new parents can learn everything from how to prepare for the trip to the hospital to postpartum care. The program includes education about pregnancy, delivery, and possible issues after mom gets home, including infections and post-partum depression. There are online activities and educational materials, as well one-on-one conversations with nurses, and a virtual tour of the maternity ward.

Domestic Violence – The Maine Department of Health and Human Services has warned about a drastic increase in cases of domestic violence during the pandemic, so we're re-broadcasting Cindy Campbell's interview with Dorothy Martel, Executive Director of the Next Step Domestic Violence Project, about the resources that are currently available to victims of abuse. Next Step isn't doing any face-to-face counseling, but the hotlines are open and they are available for sessions by Zoom or on the phone. She says, in emergencies, call 911.

June 21st, 2020 Community, Environment, Public Safety, Health (Length - 24:48)

Bicycle Coalition of Maine – Jim Tasse of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine talks with Cindy Campbell about the sudden uptick in bicycling enthusiasm, since the beginning of the pandemic. He discusses bike safety tips and the organization's new campaign 'Slow ME Down.' This multi-media campaign will remind motorists that it's okay to drive the speed limit or a slightly lower to protect bikes.

Ronald McDonald House Charities – Cindy Campbell talks with Rachael Severance, of the RMHC of Maine, about a fundraising auction, coming up next week. The Purses with a Purpose event is usually held in Portland, but has gone virtual this year, so is more accessible to our audience. Money raised by the online auction will help to fund the Ronald McDonald Houses in Bangor and Portland, as well as Ronald McDonald House Family Rooms in both cities.

June 28th, 2020 Community, Health (Length – 24:32)

Manna of Bangor – Cindy Campbell talks with Manna's Executive Director, Bill Rae, about their current need for bottled water. Bangor's homeless population doesn't even have the limited access they did before the pandemic to fresh water, so Manna is handing out bottles to anyone in need. Rae is asking for bottled water, as well as donations of non-perishable food items, as they continue to operate their food pantry and provide to-go meals for anyone who wants them.

Anah Shriners – Dave Gulya of the Anah Shrine talks with Cindy Campbell about several upcoming events to help support their good works. As the state begins to reopen, they're holding a blood drive next week, to help supplement the state's dwindling supply. Later in the month, it's a NASCAR weekend, and then a rodeo, all to support their pre-screening clinics for Shriner's Children's hospitals.