

## 1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER MAINE CONCERNS TOPICS 2020

### WEZQ

January 1 – March 31, 2020

The **WEZQ News Department** covers issues and community concerns during weekend programming with the Sunday morning show ***Maine Concerns***. Our News Director is in regular contact with local, county, state and federal officials. In addition, community leaders and nonprofit organizations are contacted to determine what issues are of greatest concern to our listening audience.

**The WEZQ community issues program, Maine Concerns, airs Sundays at 6:12 a.m. and some of our news stories are also posted on line on our website at [929theticket.com](http://929theticket.com).**

Stories covered generally fall into the following categories:

**Crime-** WEZQ 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-** WEZQ 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.

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

**Community-** WEZQ 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 seniors Downeast, to matching grant challenges to serve single mothers, to charity runs and concerts, WEZQ provides a lot of coverage for these kinds of events.

**Public Safety-** WEZQ 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.**

**The following is an extensive sampling of our community issues content during the first quarter of 2020:**

#### **1-5-20 Health, Education, Community, Economy, Education (Length - 24:53)**

**Bangor Area Recovery Network** – To start out this special edition, that focused on some of the best stories of 2019, Cindy Campbell chats with Jim Lapierre, Program Director for the BARN in Brewer. Jim talks about the many services provided by the facility, that offers support to people struggling with substance use disorder, including support groups, education, and help finding work.

**Life Flight of Maine** – Cindy Beaton and Melissa Arndt of LifeFlight talk with Cindy Campbell about the air ambulance service, which is the only one of its kind in the state. They describe the types of emergencies that the helicopters are called out for, and the challenges of finding viable places to land during remote calls.

**Dirigo Reads** – Cindy chats with Dan Cashman who, along with his wife Karen, founded this program that provides a free book every month to first graders in Maine. The program is starting out with just a few schools, but aims to include all schools in the next five years, as a way to promote literacy at a young age.

**211 Maine** – Cindy talks with Program Manager Nikki Busman about the 211 Maine database, that provides information about a wide variety of services to people across the state. Residents can find resources in their area, to include food pantries, heat assistance, rehab facilities, and much, much more, simply by calling 211.

#### **1-12-20 Health, Community, Environment (Length - 24:32)**

**Next Step Domestic Violence Project** – After Maine's first homicide of the year was determined to be a domestic violence homicide, Cindy Campbell chats with NSDVP Executive Director Dorathy Martel about warning signs that a partner may be an abuser. She discusses what to do if someone tells they're being abused, the different types of abuse, and the many resources available to victims.

**American Cancer Society** – Cindy talks with Stacey Durand, of the ACS, about an upcoming event called the Flaunt Your Flannel Formal. She says it's an early jumpstart on the Relay for Life Season, which is a huge fundraiser. Money from these events helps cancer patients in Maine, with things like providing rides to their treatments.

**Snowmobile Safety** – It's snowmobile season, so Cindy talks with Bob Meyers of the American Snowmobile Association about how to stay safe. He discusses things like always being in control of

the sled, being aware of changing weather conditions, and leaving a trip plan so, if necessary, searchers have a starting point to look for you.

### **1-19-20 Health, Community, Environment (Length- 24:58)**

**Northern Light Health Flu Policy** – Cindy Campbell talks with Dr. James Jarvis, Vice-President of Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center, about the facility’s flu policy that limits the number of visitors per patient, and restricts young children from visiting. In addition, Dr. Jarvis discusses flu symptoms, when it’s time to call for medical help, and the importance of washing hands often and keeping them away from your face.

**Carbon Monoxide Poisoning** – Cindy Campbell chats with Toxicologist Andrew Smith about how to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. He discusses generator safety, regular furnace maintenance, and making sure heater and dryer vents are clear of snow. In addition, he explains the symptoms of CO poisoning and what to do if your detector suddenly goes off.

**Relay for Life** – Cindy talks with Stacey Durand, of the ACS, about an upcoming event called the Flaunt Your Flannel Formal. She says it’s an early jumpstart on the Relay for Life Season, which is a huge fundraiser. Money from these events helps cancer patients in Maine, with things like providing rides to their treatments.

### **1-26-20 Education, Community, Environment, Health (Length - 24:54)**

**Pine Tree Society** – Cindy Campbell talks with the Pine Tree Society’s President and CEO, Noel Sullivan, about the many services the organization provides. In addition to its most well-known facility, the Pine Tree Camp, the PTS offers audiology, sign language interpreting, children’s case management, parent education and support, and much more.

**Pine Tree Camp** – After Sullivan explains the services of the organization, Cindy talks with Pine Tree camper, Cooper Jarvis, about what he loves about the camp. The 17-year-old is already an 8-year veteran, who explains that he’s spoiled there, and gets time away from his parents. Cooper’s Dad, Chris, chimes in to explain how tough it was to leave Cooper there for the first time, but how much it has come to mean them that there’s a place where Cooper can learn independence and have fun without his parents by his side.

**Snowmobile Safety** – In the spirit of the snowmobile ride-in that’s coming up to benefit the Pine Tree Camp, Cindy chats with Bob Meyers of the Maine Snowmobile Association about snowmobile safety. He talks about the importance of always being in control of your sled, never combining alcohol and sledding, and leaving a trip plan so, if you do get lost, searchers know where to look for you.

**211 Maine** – After directing a friend to 211 Maine (a service he’d never heard of) Cindy shares an interview she did with Program Manager, Nikki Busman, about the vast database. Busman explains that people can find information about everything from educational opportunities, low-cost housing, heating assistance, drug rehab, and more, just by calling 211.

### **2-2-20 Economy, Community, Health, Public Safety (Length - 24:25)**

**Dignity First** – Cindy Campbell chats with Dignity First founder Jamie Beck, who discusses the organization’s mission of moving the area’s homeless population into permanent housing. She talks about the reasons some people find themselves without a home and how challenging the local housing market is, even for those who can afford to pay. In addition, she explains the financial benefits to taking people off the streets, including reduced incarceration, medical emergencies, and police action. Bangor Police Sergeant Wade Betters echoed this sentiment in a letter to Cindy, that she shares with the audience.

**Welcome to Housing Bangor** – Cindy talks with founder Chris Olson about the organization that provides for people moving from shelters to housing. WHB provides everything from furniture to can openers, toilet paper, and linens, and is always in need of donations. He explains how people can donate items, money, and even volunteer to collect or distribute the goods.

**Flu Season** – Cindy Campbell chats with Dr. James Jarvis of Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center about flu season. Dr. Jarvis explains the symptoms of the flu and when it’s time to stay home from school or work. He also discusses the value of flu shots, washing hands often, and disinfecting shared surfaces.

## **2-9-20 Health, Community, Education (Length - 24:58)**

**Wuhan Coronavirus** – Cindy Campbell talks with Dr. Nirav Shah, Director of the Maine Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about the Wuhan Coronavirus. Although the illness has not shown up in Maine, Dr. Shah helps dispel some of the scarier, and often incorrect, information being circulated. He discusses the seriousness of the virus, while also encouraging residents to take precautions against the flu which, he says, is a much more realistic threat to Mainers.

**Next Step Domestic Violence Project** - Cindy Campbell chats with Executive Director, Dorothy Martel, about the many services provided to victims of domestic violence. Next Step offers everything from a 24/7 hotline, to counselors, temporary and more long-term housing, educational opportunities, and help finding a job. In addition, they offer some financial counseling for people who have never been on their own before.

## **2-16-20 Health, Community, Education (Length – 24:35)**

**Camp Capella** – Cindy Campbell talks with Camp Director Harvey Chesley, of Camp Capella, about the many programs the camp offers to children and adults with special needs. He talks about how it gets these children into the environment, swimming, hiking, and boating, when they might not otherwise get to have those experiences. In addition, Chesley talks about the upcoming Polar Dip, which is one of the organization’s largest fundraisers of the year.

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**Influenza** – Cindy Campbell talks about influenza with Dr. James Jarvis of Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center about flu season. Dr. Jarvis explains the symptoms of the flu and when it’s

time to stay home from school or work. He also discusses the value of flu shots, washing hands often, and disinfecting shared surfaces.

### **2-23-20 Education, Community (Length – 24:58)**

**Literacy Volunteers of Bangor** – Cindy Campbell talks with Literacy Volunteers of Bangor’s Executive Director, Mary Marin Taylor, about the program that teaches everything from how to read, to how to better comprehend what you’re reading. The organization is looking for volunteer tutors, and Taylor explains the requirements of the job, and its many rewards, from emotional satisfaction to experience on your resume.

**Dirigo Reads** – Dirigo Reads co-founder Dan Cashman chats with Cindy Campbell about this pilot program that is currently putting a new book, every month, into the hands of 1<sup>st</sup> graders at 6 Maine schools. The goal is to increase that number by another 20 schools for the 2020/2021 school year, and eventually to include ALL first graders by 2025. Dan updates us on the programs progress, and emphasizes the great need for sponsor businesses, to help keep it funded.

### **3-1-20 Health, Education, Economy, Community (Length: 24:46)**

**Suicide** – Cindy Campbell talks with Mary Gagne of Health Affiliates Maine about Suicide, after a very public suicide was in the news last week. Gagne describes many of the warning signs that someone may be contemplating suicide, and discusses how others can help them through their despair. She also talks about where people who are considering taking their own lives can get help.

**211 Maine** – Maine has an endless database of available services, that’s right at residents’ fingertips. Cindy shares an interview she did with Program Manager, Nikki Busman, about 211 Maine. Busman explains that people can find information about everything from educational opportunities, low-cost housing, heating assistance, drug rehab, and more, just by calling 211.

**Carbon Monoxide** – After one of the biggest snowstorms of the winter, for parts of Maine, Cindy Campbell shares an interview she did with Toxicologist Andrew Smith about CO Poisoning, its symptoms, and how to avoid getting sick. He discusses everything from properly venting generators to clearing snowbanks away from heating and dryer vents.

### **3-8-20 Health, Community, Education, Environment, Economy (Length: 24:59)**

**COVID 19 Coronavirus** – Cindy Campbell talks with Dr. James Jarvis of Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center about the coronavirus. Dr. Jarvis dispels many of the myths about the illness, like whether or not you can catch it from packages being delivered from overseas, and whether people need to be stockpiling food. He also talks about how residents can protect themselves, and the importance of protecting against a much more current threat – influenza.

**Erin’s Run** – Cindy Campbell chats with race director Ben Sprague about the woman the event is named for and the many organizations it benefits, all of which were important to Erin Wooley. Proceeds from the 5K will benefit Partners for Peace, the Bangor YMCA, the University of Maine swimming and diving program, and two scholarships at Bangor High School.

**Cinderella Project of Maine** – Cindy Campbell talks with Amanda Simmons of the Waldo Community Action Partnership about the Cinderella Project of Maine, which hands out free prom dresses to high school students across the state. The program is an effort to take away some of the peer pressure of prom, and financial burden on parents, as well as teaching the girls who receive the dresses the importance of paying-it-forward.

**Bangor Greendrinks** – Cindy talks with Bangor Greendrinks chair Greg Edwards about the organization that works to improve the sustainability of the Bangor area, and get people interested in being outside. The organization, that hosts monthly parties to get their message out, has purchased bike racks for public parks, bought a dishwasher for the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter, and published a trail map of walking and biking trails around Bangor.

### **3-15-20 (Education, Economy, Health, Community)**

**Brewer Outdoor Education** – Cindy Campbell talks with Cindy McLaughlin of Brewer High School about a yard sale fundraiser for the outdoor education program. This alternative physical education program offers students outdoor activities like hiking, rafting, and camping, instead of the usual baseball and gymnastics. While an accredited program, the activities are not funded through the school, so fundraiser like next month's yard sale are needed to keep the program going.

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### **3-22-20 No Maine Concerns this week due to vacation and Coronavirus closures**

### **3-29-20**

**United Way of Eastern Maine** – Cindy Campbell talks with Shirar Patterson, President and CEO of the United Way of Eastern Maine about how they're helping local agencies, who are offering services and goods to people affected by the pandemic. She explains the challenges many agencies are finding and how the United Way is helping them cope, including a drop in funding. Patterson also talks about how people can get more information and how they can donate, a drive that had already resulted in almost \$110,000 in two days.

**211 Maine** – Cindy Campbell chats with Nikki Busmanis, Program Manager for 211 Maine, about the agency that offers statewide information about everything from the latest COVID-19 statistics to how people can protect themselves. 211 has partnered with the Maine CDC to provide that information, as well as their usual databank of hotline numbers, food pantry locations, and more.