

January 1, 2014 - March 31, 2014

Through surveys of community leaders, newsmakers and from listener input, Cumulus of Chattanooga has found the following key issues facing our area of license:

- 1) Crime & Public Safety
- 2) Education
- 3) Economic Development
- 4) The Environment
- 5) Political/government Issues
- 6) Health/Athletics
- 7) Local Entertainment

The following issues were covered during the first quarter of 2014 in the locally-produced, weekly public affairs show called "Conversation Piece," hosted/moderated by Cumulus of Chattanooga News Director Kevin West:

CRIME & PUBLIC SAFETY

1/5 - Chattanooga Police Sargent Craig Joel on turnover in the CPD. Joel has been with the department for 20 years and is the head of the Chattanooga Chapter of the International Brotherhood of Police Officers. Turnover in the CPD was more than twice the rate in 2013 as a normal year and much of it came from senior leadership.

2/9 - Goodwill Youth Advantage Mentorship Program Director Patrick Hampton. Hampton was a mentor to 13-year-old Denotrey Southers, who was killed when gang members shot up his house in East Lake the night of M-L King Day. Police immediately said it wasn't gang related; Hampton says it most assuredly was. He also talked about Mayor Berke's "High Point Initiative," noting that some of the elements the Mayor is studying in that initiative from North Carolina are already being done here -- and being done well.

3/2 - Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke on economic development and violence in the city, specifically the High Point Initiative he's touting to reduce the number of shootings. The WGOW Newsroom Whiteboard Count shows shootings to date have increased in the first two months of this year compared to the first two months of last year -- and last year was an increase over the same two-month period from 2012.

3/30 - Chattanooga Director of Public Safety Paul Smith, Chattanooga Police Captain Edward McPherson who's the acting police chief, Chattanooga Police Lieutenant Todd Royval, and John Jay College criminologist David Kennedy on Chattanooga's Violence Reduction Initiative, sometimes called "The High Point Initiative" after the model in High Point, North Carolina. The initiative kicked off in earnest this past week with a meeting of

criminals on probation, speaking directly to the various "groups" to which they belong. Kennedy doesn't use the term "gangs" for these groups because gangs are highly organized, have a specific focus, and have an economic methodology funding their focus. The groups in Chattanooga are loosely organized and sometimes even chaotic and people are often affiliated with more than one group.

EDUCATION

2/23 - State Senator Todd Gardenhire from Lookout Mountain on his bill to allow the children of illegal immigrants -- children who were legally born in the United States and are legal residents of the state of Tennessee -- to pay in-state tuition at institutions of higher learning like the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2/23 - Chattanooga Airport Authority Vice Chairman Jim Hall on air service to Chattanooga. The board has asked Airport president & CEO Terry Hart to arrange a meeting with Delta in Atlanta in an effort to improve air service to Chattanooga -- reduce the number of delayed take-offs to prevent missed connections and reduce the number of cancelled or rescheduled flights back into Chattanooga.

3/9 - Chattanooga Organized for Action's Perrin Lance on the Chattanooga Housing Authority effort to sell the old Harriet Tubman Housing Project. Lance and the COA maintain that the CHA board is not being transparent in its bid process. A Chicago-based company's bid was accepted once, it couldn't come up with the money after three tries, and now the CHA is looking at another bid from the same company while other bids are also on the table -- including one from the city of Chattanooga.

THE ENVIRONMENT

1/19 - Beth Foster with Occupy Chattanooga and Will Potter, environmental journalist and author of the book "Green Is The New Red" on the fight against a re-introduction of the "Ag Gag Bill" in Tennessee. The bill would require anyone with evidence of an environmental or animal-related crime to turn that evidence over to authorities within 24 hours.

3/23 - Dr. Stelios Chatchaminolis, a biology professor from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Dr. Chatchaminolis has discovered in Chattanooga a species of beetle that Charles Darwin first discovered in Argentina about 180 years ago, but was then forgotten.

POLITICAL/GOVERNMENT ISSUES

1/5 - Chattanooga Fire Department Captain David Brooks on debate over the Chattanooga Fire & Police Pension Fund. Fire and police officers object to changes in the plan but mostly to changes in the plan that they were guaranteed when they came in under it.

2/2 - Chattanooga Councilman Chris Anderson on the recall effort targeting him. Organizers say it's because he hasn't been effective in his district after nine months on

the job. he says it's obviously since he's gay, since he's the only member of city government being targeted for recalled. The Election Commission will consider the petition at its February meeting; it can't move forward until the Election Commission approves the petition language.

HEALTH/ATHLETICS

1/12 - State Representative Sherry Jones of Nashville on her proposal to legalize marijuana medicinally in Tennessee. The distribution would be tightly controlled, only be available to people with certain painful, hard-to-treat diseases or ailments, and would require a prescription from a doctor.

3/16 - University of Tennessee football coach Butch Jones

LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT

1/26 - Barbara Agee and Karen Shostak with Friends of the Festival on changes to this year's Riverbend Festival. The most noticeable change is the wristband admission replacing the pin admission. The wristbands will be removable, but gatekeepers will scan the band on the way in and on the way out to track whether a person is already inside the festival grounds and prevent "pin passing" that has occurred so often in the past. This year's Riverbend Festival runs Jun 7th-June 15th.

2/16 - Talk hosts Jeff Styles and Jerry Harvey, along with local concert promoter George Parker, discuss their experiences with drug addiction and recovery in the aftermath of the heroin overdose death of actor Phillip Seymour Hoffman.