

July 1, 2014 - September 30, 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) Political/Government Issues
- 2) Education
- 3) Economic Development
- 4) Crime & Public Safety
- 5) Health
- 6) Race Relations

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

### **POLITICAL/GOVERNMENT ISSUES**

7/6 - Former Chattanooga Mayor Ron Littlefield. Littlefield covered a range of topics from the sign ordinance which he helped draft originally and is now under scrutiny, to the track records of the current and other former mayors, to the annual Riverbend Festival, which he says has run its course.

7/13 - Political activist, former Tennessee Republican Party Chairman, and co-host of Channel 45's "Tennessee Insider" program Robin Smith on the latest audit of EPB's over- and under-charges to the city of Chattanooga. Her proposal is for the state office created specifically to eliminate appearances of impropriety in audits of quasi local government entities like EPB handle the audit. The latest audit, instead, is being funded by EPB and conducted by an organization selected by EPB.

7/20 - 3rd District Hamilton County Commissioner Marty Haynes on why anyone would want to run for political office. Haynes is unopposed in the August election -- his bid for re-election -- and spoke candidly about what he does, what he thought he'd do before winning his first term, and what can actually be accomplished at the local level by local government.

7/27 - Mark West, director of Citizens For Government Accountability & Transparency, a local Political Action Committee created to help elect local candidates with Mark's mindset. He led the petition drive against the Domestic Partners Benefits ordinance after it was passed by city council and is spearheading the get-out-and-vote-against-it drive for the August 7th referendum.

## **EDUCATION**

9/21 - CNN White House correspondent Dan Lothian, who began his TV and radio career in Chattanooga and graduated from Tennessee Temple University. Lothian spoke about the issues faced by the White House, the deteriorating atmosphere in Washington between the political parties and between the White House and journalists, and of the future of journalism in general. Lothian is a two-day guest lecturer at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

7/27 - Pastor Brian Merritt with Mercy Junction, a ministry of East Tennessee Presbyterian. It's a new ministry on Chattanooga's east side working on housing and food issues for low income residents. His time on this show was spent specifically on the Domestic Partners Benefits Ordinance referendum which will be on the August 7th ballot in Chattanooga. Merritt and his ministry support the ordinance.

8/3 - Ann Banish, editor of SmarterTravel.com, on Chattanooga's inclusion on the list of Top Ten Best Small Cities on The Rise. Cities that showed new growth and development -- people moving there, job opportunities -- but also, places travelers would appreciate like great arts and culture, food destinations, microbreweries & distilleries. Banish says there's a lot of growth going on downtown and along with riverfront.

8/10 - Perrin Lance & Jefferson Hodge with Chattanooga Organized For Action on affordable housing in Chattanooga -- or the lack thereof. They're advocating for more of it and defining what, in their minds, is "affordable" housing.

## **CRIME & PUBLIC SAFETY**

8/24 - Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Hammond answers criticisms that local police forces have become too much like the military. He says procurement of surplus weapons and gear from the Pentagon is worthwhile -- not because they have an overwhelming immediate need for it, but because should there ever BE a need for it, they'd have it. And they wouldn't have it if they had to rely on local funding.

8/31 - Local attorney Jerry Summers on the Labor Day "No Refusal Checkpoints." Summers advocates refusing searches unless law enforcement has a warrant to search, even if it means you're detained for a much longer period of time than you would have been had you simply complied. Summers says it's the only way to maintain the rights guaranteed in the Constitution.

## **HEALTH**

8/10 - Infectious disease specialist Dr. William Shaffner from Vanderbilt University on the Ebola virus and the possibility of it spreading with two doctors now being treated at Emory university in Atlanta. He says it is NOT something to worry about, that the disease is NOT spread through the air. Shaffner says Ebola is not going to establish itself in the United States. He says it is spread only and with difficulty when the patient is very ill and only to people who have close, sustained contact with that patient's body fluids. It is not like flu.

8/17 - Tim Tatum, director of behavioral health at Sky Ridge Medical Center in Cleveland on depression and the influx of patients at his facility following the suicide of comedian Robin Williams. Tatum says we lose 900 people a year to suicide in Tennessee.

8/17 - Rhonda Jaxmore, program director at the AIM Center, on depression and suicide.

9/14 - Rhea Bond from the Hamilton County Medical Society on TennCare and how it relates to the new Affordable Health Care Law. She says Tennessee is different than the 49 other states and, when the ACA was drawn up, they didn't -- and couldn't -- account for Tennessee's version of Medicaid.

9/21 - Retired Major General D. Allen Youngman from Mission: Readiness explains why America is "too fat to fight." He supports the federal effort to make school lunches healthier by removing much of the unhealthy food as choices.

## **RACE RELATIONS**

9/7 - Dr. Clark White, a.k.a. "Deacon Bluz," a local blues musician challenges the Bessie Smith Cultural Center to produce the audit that was ordered two months ago following the theft of money after The Bessie Smith Strut. he contends the Center has completely lost its focus and is bleeding money. He says it's an important facility that needs to be saved. White has written about music, worked in the museum field, the cultural studies field, and the black arts movement.