

April 1, 2014 - June 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) Crime & Public Safety
- 2) Economic Development
- 3) Health & Recreation
- 4) Political/Government Issues
- 5) The Environment
- 6) Local Entertainment

The following issues were covered during the second 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

5/4 - Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke and new Chattanooga Police Chief Fred Fletcher on Fletcher's crime fighting philosophy and comparisons to Austin, Texas, the city from which Fletcher is coming.

5/25 - Author Anand Giridharadas talked about his new book "The True American: Murder & Mercy in Texas." Tennessee currently has 75 inmates on death row -- 74 males and one female. The youngest is 31 years old, the oldest is 70 and the longest-serving death row inmate has been there for 36 years. There are three death row inmates from Hamilton County.

6/1 - Attorney Robin Flores on the case alleging police brutality on the part of three Chattanooga Police officers who followed a 25-year-old man onto his property without permission, without a warrant and without probable cause, then tased him. Flores argued it's actually a case of racial profiling. Flores has brought several cases against the Chattanooga Police Department.

6/8 - Attorney Jerry Summers on DUI laws in Tennessee, how they've changed over the years and, specifically, how some people can get off with almost no penalty even after multiple DUIs. The discussion was sparked by the story of a third offense DUI defendant who got almost no time despite running into and killing a cab driver in Nashville while drunk.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

5/18 - Chattanooga Councilman Ken Smith on the end of the contract with Global Green Lighting for high-tech streetlight replacement. The decision was made by the Mayor with input from EPB and needed no council approval; GGL is in Smith's district and the decision affects dozens of jobs in his district as well as long-term cost savings in the city budget that GGL argues would be substantial.

HEALTH & RECREATION

4/21 - Demtris Agrafiotis with Scenic City Vapors on the health benefits of "vaping" versus smoking. Agrafiotis also addressed the massive business it is becoming and attempts to regulate it and tax it like tobacco which, he says, will turn people right back to tobacco products which, he argues, will defeat all the efforts to wean habitual users away from the cancer-risk products. He cites research showing "vaping" causes no health harm whatsoever. Scenic City Vapors is a support group for people who use "e-cigs."

5/11 - USA Cycling Vice President of Events Micah Rice on the Volkswagen/USA Cycling Professional Road Race & Time Trials National Championships scheduled for Chattanooga Memorial Day Weekend. This is the second year of a three-year contract. It was huge last year and is planned to be bigger this year, a major economic boom for the city.

POLITICAL/GOVERNMENT ISSUES

4/14 - Former Chattanooga Times Free Press editorial writer Drew Johnson on the issues that led to his dismissal, what he's doing now, and the current issues that have him involved. He centered on political issues, but also touched on business conflicts with his viewpoints and newspaper clients.

6/15 - Why can we get no more funding to repair the dilapidated Chickamauga Lock in Chattanooga? Washington Post writer Phillip K. Howard, author of "How To Fix Washington," says the answer is a long-term period of "common sense" over bureaucracy in Washington -- NOT creating a bureaucracy that is only "successful" if the forms line up. People over projects.

6/22 - Fired Chattanooga Park Ranger Deryl Nelson on the complaint that led to his termination at Coolidge Park. Nelson talked about PR for the city, park rules, and visitors to city parks.

6/22 - Attorney Chris Varner of Chattanooga on retention elections, specifically retention elections for state Supreme Court justices. It means they don't face an opponent in the statewide vote; voters are simply asked to decide whether they should keep their jobs or someone else -- an unnamed someone else -- should be appointed. Senate Speaker Ron Ramsey has declared "war" on the justices, despite their endorsement by the state

Bar Association and local bar associations. Varner contends Ramsey is trying to erode the separation of powers as defined in the constitution: eliminating the judicial so that the legislative branch controls everything.

THE ENVIRONMENT

4/7 - Mellissa Davenoport, owner of "The Corner Cafe" in East Ridge. Melissa has been in business 36 months but may have to shut down because of new environmental requirements being enforced by Hamilton County's Water & Wastewater Treatment Authority (WWTA) requiring a "grease interceptor," which will cost \$18 to \$20K and force her to close for three weeks during installation. She doesn't own the building, it took her 6 months to get the landlord to agree to let her do it, but she has now run out of time to try to get financing for the Interceptor. A Grease Interceptor keeps residual grease on plates from going into the wastewater stream.

LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT

4/28 - Chattanooga Lookouts pitching coach Scott Radinsky, the only pitcher in Major League Baseball history to win 40 games, strikeout 300 batters, sell 50,000 records and open for Green Day.

6/29 - Audio book producer and narrator George Taylor and local author Becky Wooley on the publishing business, writing, editing and marketing. Also on the process of creating audio versions of your printed work.