

WJLP Issues/Programs List
Fourth Quarter 2015

WJLP in Middletown, New Jersey has determined that the following issues are matters of importance to its community of license:

- 1) Property Tax
- 2) State Pensions
- 3) State Assembly Election
- 4) Syrian Refugees
- 5) Terrorism
- 6) State Budget
- 7) Transportation/Gas Tax
- 8) Heroin Epidemic
- 9) Attack on Police
- 10) Gun Control

These issues were addressed in the following programs aired on WJWP:

Jersey Matters - this 30 minute discussion program airs Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. and re-airs Sundays at 9:00 a.m. and tackles issues of importance to the citizens of New Jersey.

Another Thing with Larry Mendte - this 30 minute program airs Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and re-airs Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and addresses issues of importance throughout the service area through conversations between host Larry Mendte and guests.

WJLP News Breaks- Run Monday - Friday at 11:45 p.m., 1:45 p.m., & 3:45 p.m. WJLP, in conjunction with The Asbury Park Press, covers the top stories of the day in three one-minute news breaks.

Treatment of specific topics was provided as follows:

Program: *Jersey Matters*

Date: October 10th & October 11th

Time: 5:00 P.M. & 9:00 A.M.

Duration: 5 minutes

Topic: Property Tax

Description: Host Larry Mendte speaks with Asbury Park Press reporter Susanne Cervenka. According to the press the top issue for residents is the very high property taxes. Many residents struggle to pay their property tax. She shares examples of residents who have had their property taxes increase by up to 35%. They have found that both seniors and millennial are moving out of the state. Five years ago the average tax bill was \$7300, in 2015 it is \$8200, and in 2020 the average will be \$9000 if nothing changes.

Program: *Jersey Matters*

Date: October 24th & October 25th

Time: 5:00 P.M. & 9:00 A.M.

Duration: 14 minutes

Topic: State Funded Pension

Description: Asbury Park Press reporter Michael Symons talks to host Larry Mendte about the state's pension program. It's underfunded by \$40 billion dollars and getting worse. The amount of money owed to current beneficiaries threatens to cripple the state. The state cut pension payments to cover other programs and functions and has yet make up those payments into its pension program. Gov. Chris Christie promised to slowly increase payments into the pension system. Early in his administration he kept his promise but has failed to keep up with that promise since.

Program: *Jersey Matters*

Date: November 4th, 2015

Time: 8:00 PM

Duration: 21 minutes

Topic: State Assembly Elections

Description: Jersey Matters did a special election coverage show with host Larry Mendte. The Democrats picked up 3 state assembly seats which is almost veto proof majority. Monmouth County which is a strong Republican county lost two seats to Democrats. Larry's guests included Asbury Press reporter Bob Jordan, Mercer County Democratic Party Chair Elizabeth Muoio, and Monmouth County Republican Chair and County Sheriff Shaun Golden.

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Program: *Jersey Matters*

Date: December 5th & December 6th

Time: 5:00 P.M. & 9:00 A.M.

Duration: 6 minutes

Topic: Refugee Crisis

Description: Host Larry Mendte is joined by US Congressman Donald Payne Jr. who represents New Jersey's 10th district. Congressman Payne is also on the Committee of Homeland Security. Congressman Payne shares his disappointment with the passing of a bill that suspends allowing refugees from Syria and Iraq. He goes into details about the 14 step vetting process that takes 18-24 months to complete. Congressman Payne believes that the country should accept the refugees.

Program: *Jersey Matters*

Date: December 5th & December 6th

Time: 5:00 P.M. & 9:00 A.M.

Duration: 5 minutes

Topic: Terrorism

Description: US Congressman Donald Payne Jr. represents New Jersey's 10th district and sits on the committee for homeland security. He tells host Larry Mendte that there is at this time no credible threat to the United States. In the aftermath of attacks in Paris and Mali the United States is going to intensify efforts to ensure that the homeland is safe. Congressman Payne says the US has a robust plan to secure the country and make sure that the American people are safe.

Program: *Jersey Matters*

Date: December 19th & December 20th

Time: 5:00 P.M. & 9:00 A.M.

Duration: 10 minutes

Topic: State Budget

Description: State Senator Ray Lesniak sits with host Larry Mendte and they discuss the status of the state budget. Senator Lesniak feels that the state spends money foolishly and doesn't put the money where it belongs. He gives an example of the prison system not putting money into programs that will keep that person out of prison after their release. He's also in support of sports betting to help bring in some additional revenues and increasing the gas tax. He closes by saying the state needs to find new forms of revenue.

Program: *Jersey Matters*

Date: December 19th & December 20th

Time: 5:00 P.M. & 9:00 A.M.

Duration: 4 minutes

Topic: Transportation Infrastructure

Description: Host Larry Mendte welcomes Martin Robins of the Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University. Martin explains that the state is in dire need of supplementing the transportation fund. New Jersey has crumbling infrastructure. There are roads and bridges that are deteriorating and need to be maintained and updated. Robin agrees with many politicians that New Jersey needs a gas tax, and it needs to be used solely for transportation projects.

Program: *Another Thing*

Date: December 5th and December 6th

Time: 5:30 P.M. & 9:30 A.M.

Duration: 17 minutes

Topics: Heroin Epidemic

Description: Host Larry Mendte talks to Ocean County Assistant Prosecutor Rory Wells about the uptick in Heroin usage in New Jersey and surrounding states. Rory goes into detail about how the prescription drug plays a role in the rise of use. Consumers are taking prescription pain killers and when that prescription is over they turn to heroin for a similar high/feeling. Rory also mentions the 'Bon Jovi' law which encourages individuals who see someone overdosing to contact first responders and not face prosecution themselves.

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Program: *Another Thing*

Date: October 24th & October 25th

Time: 5:30 P.M. & 9:30 A.M.

Duration: 6 minutes

Topics: Gun Control

Description: Asbury Park Press reporter Bob Jordan and mental health specialist Dr. Michael Cunningham join host Larry Mendte to talk about mental health assessments and gun violence. New Jersey Governor Chris Christie argued at the time that the mental health is the real issue behind gun violence. Mental health assessments are currently not a part of background checks. There are HIPPA laws and privacy issues that prevent health assessments from being a part of background checks. And all of these issues would have to be worked out before moving forward.