

ISSUES AND ANSWERS (July - September 2014)

Air Date: 7/6/14

Guest: Dennis Browning, Saginaw mayor

Mayor Browning discussed the financial challenges facing the city of Saginaw, the constant problem of fighting the perception that downtown Saginaw is too dangerous to visit (crime numbers are, in fact, down in 2014) and the difference in the mayor's role in Saginaw (where there is a City Manager form of government, relegating the mayor to being the PR person from city council) and being mayor of a city like Flint or Detroit (where the mayor basically calls the shots under normal circumstances).

Air Date: 7/13/14

Guest: Rich Margittay, retired police officer/author

Margittay, a retired police officer from the city of Dearborn, has written two books and spent several years investigating what he says is the common practice of carnival game runners ripping off customers by making them believe they have a chance of winning prizes when they really don't. He has been particularly bothered by seeing youngsters spending hard-earned money for games only to regularly come away losers because the games, he says, are rigged and police officers won't act on it. With the fair and festival season in full swing in mid-Michigan it was an enlightening segment because it is Margittay's contention that "90 to 95 percent" of carnival games are rigged.

Air Date: 7/20/14

Guest: Andrew Younger, Director, Crim Festival of Races

Younger is the 3rd year director of an annual event that many consider the crown jewel of the good things that annually happen in downtown Flint – usually the butt of jokes and derision for the city's high crime rate. An event that began in 1975 as a single race for Special Olympics now boasts two days filled with a variety of events that help fund several local charities. It draws nationally-known runners and also contains a year-round training program. Younger also addressed the newly-heightened attention to security that followed the Boston Marathon bombing incident of 2013.

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Air Date: 7/27/14

Guest: Cara Mitrano - Student, Midland High School

Cara was the recipient of the “Kohl’s Cares” award for the volunteer work she has done to bring awareness to the challenges of autism. Cara quizzed autism experts for a production done by a local cable TV show, and in the process says she gained a wealth of knowledge about the problem. Well-spoken 17-year-old did a thorough job of explaining autism challenges.

Air Date: 8/3/14

Guest: Linda Perkowski – Interim Dean, Central Michigan Univ. medical school

Dr. Perkowski appeared on the program to update listeners on the progress of the brand new CMU medical school and the qualifications required to be enrolled in the program. Many of mid-Michigan’s future physicians figure to come from there, and she explained some of the challenges of running the facility, particularly from a business standpoint.

Air Date: 8/10/14

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Guest: Kendra Marshall, Great Lakes Bay Animal Society

The GLBAS recently celebrated its 200th animal adoption over less than two years. Marshall took time to explain to listeners the mission of the GLBAS and how the organization differs from the Humane Society in its operation. It primary services animals that cannot be placed in shelters and places them in foster homes until permanent owners can be found.

Air Date: 8/31/14

Guest: Betty O'Neill, Alzheimer's Association

Cumulus stations WHNN-FM is a co-sponsor of the annual "Walk to End Alzheimer's" events in Saginaw, Grand Blanc and Midland, held on consecutive weekends. Ms. O'Neill explained how difficult the road becomes for both patients and family members when Alzheimer's enters the picture. She told listeners who is most vulnerable to the disease and how people can read the clues in advance of a loved one contracting Alzheimer's disease.

Air Date: 9/7/14

Guest: Carlton Jenkins, Superintendent, Saginaw Schools

Jenkins has run the financially-strapped school system for four years, and on this program he detailed how a school system prepares for a new school year, his discussed the upcoming dilemma of having to close one of the city's two high schools in view of sharply declining student enrollement, and how the Saginaw School District felt the effects of the closing of a nearby school system (Buena Vista).

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Air Date: 9/21/14

Guest: Sidharth Kakkar

The nationwide "Common Core" method of teaching is stirring lots of debate throughout Michigan's school districts, including questions over how teachers will be able to effectively manage their students' rate of learning. Kakkar is an engineer who has designed tablet application called "Front Row" that enables teachers to instantly get a gauge on each student's rate of learning, then immediately provide any individual instruction necessary to ensure they won't fall behind the rest of the class as the school year progresses.

Air Date: 9/28/14

Guest: Carlton Jenkins, Superintendent, Saginaw Schools

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ISSUES AND ANSWERS (October - December 2014)

Air Date: 10/5/14

Guest: Carlton Jenkins, Supt., Saginaw Public Schools

Jenkins tackled the controversial topic of an educational system being enacted in Michigan schools known as “Common Core”. The concept is standardizing testing for students so they more closely resemble what is being taught in other states’ schools – allowing for easier transition for students who have to move to another state and quickly adjust to their lessons. Critics claim it takes away the individual creativity for teachers.

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ISSUES AND ANSWERS (October - December 2014)

Air Date: 11/2/14

Guests: Rick Snyder, Republican incumbent governor/Mark Schauer, Democratic challenger

The two gubernatorial candidates appeared via phone on the program just days before Election Day, with Gov. Snyder seeking his second term and former state representative Schauer attempting to unseat him. Snyder rattled off the accomplishments achieved during his first four-year term and pledged to make road repair the first item on his agenda upon re-election. Schauer emphasized making improvements in the education climate in Michigan.

Air Date: 11/9/14

Guest: State Sen. Roger Kahn (R – Saginaw Twp.)

Sen. Kahn recapped and analyzed the results of the just-completed election and provided his forecast for how the outcome would affect the residents of mid-Michigan. Since his own time in the State Legislature ends with this election (since he is term-limited) Sen. Kahn also gave his thoughts on his time as a state lawmaker.

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ISSUES AND ANSWERS (October - December 2014)

Air Date: 11/23/14

Guest: Vinnie Vernuccio, Mackinac Center for Public Policy

Vernuccio appeared on the program to talk about the findings that led to his report dealing with unions and how he believes they must evolve in order to be effective in the 21st century. Ours has historically been a heavily pro-union area (thanks mainly to its history in the auto industry) and there are plenty of strong feelings about the topic. Since Michigan became a “right to work” state that many feel is weakening the position of unions, this became an important topic to tackle.

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Air Date: 12/7/14

Guest: Tim Kelly, State Rep., 95th District

Rep. Kelly sat in on the program alongside State Sen. Roger Kahn to discuss the upcoming lame-duck session of the Michigan Legislature and map out the priorities that the lawmakers were to tackle. Perhaps the most urgent matter is the condition of the state’s roads – believed to be among the worst in the nation. How to handle road funding has long been debated in Lansing, and the two lawmakers chatted about that topic, education and several other points.

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Air Date: 12/21/14

Guest: Jeff Sabolish, Certified Public Accountant

Sabolish annually joins us in the final weeks of the calendar year to provide tips on organizing personal finances at year's end so tax filing by the April deadline won't be so chaotic. He explained the difference between credits and deductions, recapped the changes to the tax laws over the past year and offered hints on how to prepare for the next tax year so as to maximize savings.

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