

**QUARTERLY ISSUES PROGRAM**

**LIST FOR**

**WWLP – SPRINGFIELD, MA**

WWLP Broadcasting, LLC

Issues Program List Herein  
Covers the Period  
APRIL 1, 2015 through MAY 31, 2015

ISSUES COVERED: Crime, Education, Environment,  
Government, Health-Smoking, Jobs







downtown Springfield. Main and State Streets were shut down businesses evacuated when three suspicious packages were found following two bank robberies. Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney told 22news they were called to the United Bank at 115 State Street for an armed robbery just before Noon. A small white package was outside, two more inside the bank. Moments later, Springfield Police got the call for another bank robbery. This one just a couple blocks down Main Street at the Bank of America. Springfield Police said the suspect's description matched in each robbery. As police searched for him throughout the city, the Springfield Arson and Bomb Squad quickly detonated the package outside United Bank. They later discovered a brick inside two of the three packages. The third was still being examined. Springfield Police are looking for a dark-skinned Hispanic man, with a pock-marked face, wearing a hooded sweatshirt, mirrored sunglasses.

**News**

**06/30/15**

**11pm**

**: 30**

Springfield Police made two quick arrests in a deadly shooting today. One man is dead and another wounded after a shooting in Springfield's North End this afternoon. And police have charged two brothers with murder. A 20 year-old man who was shot in the chest, died at Baystate Medical Center. You can see EMTs working on the victim on your screen right now. The other victim was shot in the hand and back. He's recovering at Mercy Medical Center. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News the men were shot at the intersection of Prospect and Massasoit Streets around 4:30 this afternoon. Someone was trying to bring the victim who was shot in the chest to the hospital, but he called 9-1-1 after the victim collapsed at Allendale Street. Springfield police have arrested 25 year-old Erik Rivera and his brother 27 year-old Yeyson Rivera. They have both been charged them with murder. And the two are being held without the right to bail.

**The following is WWLP programming addressing Education during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2015. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.**

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**News**                                      **04/01/15**                                      **5:30pm**                                      **: 30**

STCC President Dr. Ira H. Rubenzahl and Worcester State University President Barry M. Maloney will sign a \$30,000 degree agreement on Thursday, which will provide students with the opportunity to complete their associate degree at STCC and transfer directly to Worcester State University to complete their bachelor's degree for a fixed overall cost of \$30,000 for four years. The agreement expands upon the current MassTransfer agreement in place between the schools for general business and liberal arts transfer students and streamlines the transition from completion of a selected STCC associate degree program to enrollment and subsequent graduation in a corresponding bachelor's degree program at Worcester State University.

**News**                                      **04/13/15**                                      **10pm**                                      **: 30**

Bishop Mitchell Rozanski met with Cathedral and Holyoke Catholic High School students and parents tonight in West Springfield. This was the first of two meetings to discuss plans for a Regional Catholic High School. The actual location of the school hasn't been decided, but the Bishop said they have four sites in mind. That includes property the Diocese owns on Brush Hill in West Springfield, and a site in Chicopee near the St. Stans cemetery, also owned by the diocese. They're also looking at the old Uniroyal building site in Chicopee. And are still considering putting the new school on Cathedral's current location on Surrey Road.

**News**                                      **04/24/15**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Holyoke city leaders and parents want to know whether the state will take over the city's schools. For more than a decade, Holyoke Public Schools have been trailing behind other systems across Massachusetts. State education leaders have concerns about standardized test scores, the graduation rate, and reading levels. The commissioner recommended a state takeover. The Holyoke School Committee, led by Mayor Alex Morse, wants the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to vote on the possible receivership of Holyoke Public Schools at their meeting next week. They believe delaying it further would negatively impact students, faculty, staff, and the city. 22News spoke with Holyoke parents who said the most important thing is that their kids get the tools they need to succeed, state takeover or not. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will hold a public hearing this Monday the 27th from 4-7PM at the War Memorial Building on Appleton Street. The input they receive could influence a possible vote at their meeting the following day.







The new Pope Francis High School will be built at the former site of Cathedral High School on Surrey Road in Springfield. Students were forced out four years ago after the June 1st Tornado. Today means that we put closure on a chapter that started really with the tornado but instead I think started before the tornado and the need to look at Catholic secondary education. The new, regional school represents a merger between Cathedral and Holyoke Catholic High School. The location of where the school would be placed was also narrowed down to the land owned by Saint Stanislaus Parish off of Memorial Avenue in Chicopee. But it was expected to cost between 2 to \$4 million to build there, and the site in Springfield is expected to cost 50 million which the Bishop says leaves more for endowment and the building. Construction of the new Pope Francis High School is expected to be completed in 2018. It will be about 126,000 square feet and be able to carry about 450 to 500 students. It's a bit smaller than the original 275,000 square foot building that was Cathedral High School. Students from Cathedral and Holyoke Catholic helped contribute to pre-renderings, and came up with the new Pope Francis High School cardinal mascot they will be sharing. It's a historic investment in Catholic education. For the first time in Holyoke Catholics education we will have some much need amenities such as a gymnasium and a theatre. CBT architects will design the school and marketing and development will begin next month.

**The following is WWLP programming addressing Environment during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2015. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.**

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**News                                      04/10/15                                      6pm                                      : 30**

The cooler weather we've been having has been somewhat beneficial. You may have noticed a lack of insects lately but that is all about to change. Now that we're into April, we usually see more in the way of bugs around, but the cooler weather has prevented them from becoming active. Although with warmer weather in the forecast you'll likely be seeing more and more of those tiny pests.

**News                                      04/21/15                                      6am                                      : 30**

Massachusetts is ranked in the top five for the most environmentally friendly states in the country. That's according to a survey by Wallethub.com. It reports Massachusetts scored best for its energy efficiency efforts. The state also scored high for its air quality, gas consumption per capita, and for having a large percentage of the population choosing alternative ways to get to work, other than driving.

**News                                      04/23/15                                      5pm                                      : 30**

Spring is here! We can finally start to see those flowers blooming. You might already be sneezing and sniffing and chances are its only going to get worse. It was a cool and breezy spring day Thursday but you've probably been seeing more buds and flowers on the trees. This year's long cold winter has delayed the growing season but now that it's been getting warmer everything is starting to bloom and the tree pollen season is underway. Some people are affected more by the pollen than others. If you are an allergy sufferer there are some things you can do to help find some relief. Allergist, Dr. Robert McGovern says that in addition to taking over the counter medications there are some other things you can do. Stay indoors during the peak pollen hours of the day you can use air conditioning in your car to filter out the pollen rather than leave the windows open after you outside come in and take a shower and get the pollen off you. Right now tree pollen is in the medium to high range with Maple, Poplar and Elm being the main allergens. If your allergies are severe enough and over the counter medication is not helping you may want to see an allergist.

**News                                      04/26/15                                      10pm                                      : 30**

This is the last weekend for open burning in communities where it is acceptable. Some cities and towns allow "open burning" where you can burn certain materials outside. Open burning season is January 15th to May 1st. Chicopee, Holyoke, Springfield, and West Springfield \*do not\* allow open burning. Cigarettes and embers from open burning are the 2 biggest causes of spring brush fires. If you choose to burn something outside, it can only be from 10 a.m. to

4 p.m., and must be a minimum of 75 feet away from all buildings. You can find a link that explains open burning policies on our website at WWLP.com.

**News**                                      **05/13/15**                                      **6pm**                                      **: 30**

Once again, much of western Massachusetts is dealing with an increased danger for brush fires. Another sunny, dry and breezy day. We are under a Red Flag warning which means we are at an increased risk for brush fires. The warning applies to Franklin, Hampshire and Berkshire Counties. The Greenfield Fire Department says you should avoid outside fires. If you do need to have one, make it small, be sure you have a garden hose nearby and don't pile your wood more than two feet high. Greenfield says they've already dealt with some serious brush fires caused by sparks from trains on the tracks, and they say it doesn't take much.

**News**                                      **05/22/15**                                      **12pm**                                      **: 30**

After a little bit of rain earlier this week the dry weather is back. It's been so dry lately that we are now seeing drought conditions. The weather has been pretty nice lately but our dry weather is coming at a cost. Farmers have been irrigating their fields due to the persistent drier than normal conditions. The U.S Drought Monitor now has all of Massachusetts in D1 or the moderate drought category. Some home owners are seeing the effects of the dry weather on their lawns. Some lawns are still pretty green while others are showing signs of the lack of rainfall. And water levels like here on the Westfield River continue to go down. River levels are lower than what we would expect to see this time of year. But despite the dry weather so far there are no water restrictions in place. And for Westfield resident's construction on the Granville Reservoir is finished and the reservoir has been refilled. But if the dry weather continues we'll likely see some water restrictions being put in place across western Massachusetts.

**News**                                      **05/28/15**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

Thunderstorms rocked parts of western Massachusetts for a second day in row. And once again, strong winds caused damage and outages. Severe thunderstorms ripped across the four western counties Thursday afternoon. Franklin County saw the most damage from these fast-moving storms. Residents told 22 news it felt severe enough that they thought they should have taken cover in the basement. Here in Conway residents lost power due to down trees on electric lines, Main Poland Road was shut down for several hours after the storm. Along with Conway, Greenfield and Ashfield were among the areas that were heavily hit by the storm. Eversource Energy crews were there to restore power to several hundred customers. But they couldn't start working until large trees were removed from the power lines. One Resident told 22news they bought a generator because they've been losing power too often due to storm damage in heavily wooded, rural Franklin County.

**News**                                      **05/29/15**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**











**The following is WWLP programming addressing Health-Smoking during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2015. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.**

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**News**                                      **04/08/15**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

A 12 year tradition of helping teenager's lead healthy lives continued in Springfield's Mason Square tonight. Dozens of teens took part in the 12th annual Teen Health Night at the Mason Square Neighborhood Health Center. "Teen Night" staffed informational tables focused on pregnancy prevention, bullying, help finding jobs, proper eye care and healthy eating.

**News**                                      **04/09/15**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

The town of Amherst is considering raising the minimum age to buy tobacco. Tonight the board of health heard from the community before it makes its decision. Four communities in western Massachusetts have raised the minimum age to buy tobacco from 18-to-21. Now Amherst could be next. Thursday, the Board of Health heard comments from a state health leader. That's why the proposal also aims to ban the sale of flavored e-cigarettes and raise the minimum age to purchase e-cigs to 21. Fewer than ten people turned out for Thursday's public hearing, but the residents who did show up, supported the age increase. The board of health is also considering a restriction to keep tobacco retailers 500 feet from schools. The Board of Health plans to make a decision May 14th.

**News**                                      **04/13/15**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

A medical marijuana dispensary could be open and operating in Northampton this fall. New England Treatment Access has been in the process of trying to open a medical marijuana dispensary in the city for two years. The Northampton Building Inspector approved locating the dispensary in a former physician's office at 118 Conz Street. Department of Health spokesman Scott Zoback told 22News the company has also been approved to grow marijuana at their facility in Franklin.

**News**                                      **04/14/15**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

Massachusetts Health Insurance Companies are about to feel the impact of Obamacare. Other states have to play "catch-up" with our state, but business expenses could grow for some companies here. 98% of Massachusetts citizens are insured under the State Health Connector. The Affordable Care Act, "Obamacare," has a goal of 100% coverage. And a federal mandate under Obamacare, will force insurance companies to share the risk for the people who still have no health coverage. It's assumed that the people who have no insurance aren't as healthy, and will cost more to cover.

**News**                                      **05/24/15**                                      **10pm**                                      **: 30**



People in Springfield's Brightwood neighborhood had an opportunity to learn about their health today for free! Today's health fair, offering free testing, was ahead of this weekend's national HIV testing day, June 27th. According to the latest statistics from the Aids Foundation of western Massachusetts, there were close to 2000 people living with HIV/AIDS in Hampden and Hampshire counties; more than 1100 in Springfield alone. HIV can be transmitted through unprotected sex, unsterilized tattoo needles, or injection drug use.

**News**

**06/24/15**

**11pm**

**: 30**

You now have to be 21 years old to buy tobacco products in the city of Holyoke. The Holyoke Board of Health voted unanimously this afternoon to raise the legal age to purchase tobacco. This includes products like e-cigarettes and liquid nicotine. Under the new rules, any adult, including parents are prohibited from buying tobacco products for a minor. The new rules also ban e-cigarettes from being smoked in public places.

**The following is WWLP programming addressing Jobs during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2015. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.**

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**News**                                      **04/03/15**                                      **12pm**                                      **: 30**

Employers added only 126,000 jobs in March. That marks the fewest jobs added since December of 2013 and ends a streak of 12 straight months of gains above 200,000. According to the labor department, the unemployment rate remains at 5.5%. The manufacturing, construction and government sectors shed workers and hiring at restaurants has plunged since February. Economists believe if hiring continues to slow, the Federal Reserve may delay raising interest rates.

**News**                                      **04/14/15**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

Massachusetts Labor groups have been pushing for a higher minimum wage; and new research shows they might have a good argument. Minimum wage in Massachusetts is \$9 an hour. It will rise to \$11 over the next three years, but many people say even that still isn't enough. Wage growth is well behind the economy's growth. And in Massachusetts, it's affecting nearly 600,000 people who live off of \$9 an hour. According to the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center if minimum wage had kept up with inflation from 1968 until now, it would be nearly \$18 an hour, but it's half of that, and many people here say that's impossible to leave off of. Some would say the compromise is on its way. Minimum wage will increase another two dollars more over the next few years. But minimum wage earners will tell you, a couple extra bucks still might not be enough. 10 states tie minimum wage to the cost of living, Massachusetts is not one of them.

**News**                                      **04/14/15**                                      **12pm**                                      **: 30**

A pay gap between men and women continues to persist in Massachusetts. The national partnership for Women and Families is arguing that men continue to earn more money than women in Massachusetts. The groups analyzed U.S. census data and reports that full-time employed women in Massachusetts are currently earning \$.82 for every one dollar men earn. Karl Petrick, economics professor at Western New England University told 22News, the issue used to be blamed on women more commonly working in jobs that tend to pay lower, but he says that's no longer the case, arguing now women and men doing the same job with the same education level are very often making different pay early on in their careers.

**News**                                      **04/21/15**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

Unemployment in Springfield is the lowest it's been in years. The city's unemployment rate fell to 9% in March, from 9.6% in February. Those numbers are from the Executive office of Labor and Workforce Development. Between February and March, 213 people were hired in Springfield; lowering the unemployment rate to levels the city hasn't seen since 2008.

**News**                                      **04/22/15**                                      **11pm**                                      **: 30**

As soon-to-be college grads get ready to enter the workforce a new wallet hub report sheds some light on the best and worst paying jobs for 2015. The report says web developers, web designers, and software engineers, are topping the best paying list. It warns computer operators have a far grimmer outlook with nearly 20% of the field expected to be cut back in the next 5-7 years. Career advisors at Western New England University say grads should think of the first job as the first steps to moving up in your career.

**News**                                      **05/02/15**                                      **10pm**                                      **: 30**

Democratic lawmakers from Massachusetts are supporting an effort to raise the federal minimum wage to \$12 per hour by 2020. Senators Edward Markey and Elizabeth Warren have already signed onto the Senate version of the bill. The bill would also phase out the \$2.13 tipped wage. The Massachusetts Legislature approved a law last year raising the state's minimum wage to \$11 per hour by 2017. Now there's a push in Massachusetts for a \$15-per-hour minimum wage.

**News**                                      **05/08/15**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

Thousands of Hampden county teenagers will compete for a limited number of jobs this summer. Young people employed last year by the Youthworks summer jobs program helped launch this year's program. Just one thousand jobs are available for six weeks of employment at summer camps, companies and hospitals. Teens who got jobs last summer told 22News they were grateful for the opportunity.

**News**                                      **05/12/15**                                      **5pm**                                      **: 30**

Manufacturing companies from all over the country are in Western Massachusetts this week for one of the largest manufacturing expositions in the New England. Machines that use plasma to etch detailed designs, others that use water mixed with abrasives to cut through aluminum; all on display for the three days at the Big E fairgrounds for this year's Eastec exposition. Manufacturers, students, and businesses can get an up close look at the latest technology like this robotic arm that I'm moving with just the touch of a button. Roughly 45% of the manufacturing jobs in Hampden and Hampshire counties are in the advanced manufacturing fields. But many companies at Tuesday's event said there is still a major skills gap in the region which one manufacturing company out of Agawam told 22News can really hurt a company from growing. State Senator Eric Lessor told 22News the skills gap is a major issue he expects will be addressed in upcoming budget debates. One effort he says he's working towards is an increase in training programs in Western Massachusetts schools.

**News**                                      **05/21/15**                                      **5:30pm**                                      **: 30**

For the seventh consecutive month, the Massachusetts jobless rate slipped slightly. The state unemployment rate now stands at 4.7%. According to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, Massachusetts added more than 10,000 jobs last month. 22News visited





Unemployment in the city of Springfield is on the rise again. Just from April to May the unemployment rate rose from 7.6% to 8.2%. This is however an improvement from last year's unemployment rate in Springfield at this time which was at 10.5%. The city is almost double the statewide average of 4.4%.