



Pittsfield, Massachusetts

## ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

JULY—AUGUST—SEPTEMBER  
Q3 2023

Compiled by Shawn T. Serre and David Cachat

# WTBR 89.7 FM

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

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## QUARTERLY ISSUES & PROGRAMS LIST

July 1—September 30, 2023

**Note: WTBR-FM, Facility ID 52749, was granted a License to Cover Construction Permit BPED-20190701AAX on January 14, 2020. The Application for Renewal of License 0000166230 was granted on 04/26/2022 for a term expiring on 04/01/2030.**

### **Section I. Issues**

**This station has identified the following issues as significant ones that are facing our community in this quarter:**

- A. **ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:** The important summer cultural season is in full swing during this quarter. It is a critical component of the Berkshire economy, and important for the edification of our residents as well. We hope to explore these opportunities for our listeners on WTBR programming.
- B. **PITTSFIELD MUNICIPAL PRELIMINARY ELECTION:** Pittsfield holds a municipal election in 2023, which will include choosing a mayor, as incumbent Linda Tyer decides not to run for a third four-year term. There is a preliminary election on September 19<sup>th</sup> to narrow the field of candidates in three races: Mayor, and two city council wards.
- C. **OPIOID USE DISORDER & HARM REDUCTION:** Pittsfield and Berkshire County are in the midst of a crisis of overdose fatalities with use of opioids. Several initiatives, such as Healing Communities, Harm Reduction, and Narcan distribution are in operation. We explore the issue in depth on several programs.
- D. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION, AND PLANNING:** Small business is an important economic engine in Pittsfield and the Berkshires, as the area does not feature many large corporations as employers. We aim to spotlight small businesses making an effort to survive and thrive in the area, along with other general topics in this category.
- E. **EDUCATION:** Almost as soon as it begins, summer is over and the new school year ramps up. As always, there is discussion surrounding many issues in the education community, for students, parents, and educators at the elementary, secondary, and post-secondary levels here in Pittsfield and the Berkshires. Offerings at the local community college are an area we hope to spotlight with our coverage.
- F. **LOCAL NEWS & POLITICS:** Beyond the topic of the municipal election, there are important topics to explore with state and local elected officials, which could benefit listeners. The state budget process continues during the quarter, so we seek to learn more from our state representatives, as much of this information does not reach Berkshire County from Boston.

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## Section II. Responsive Programs

**This station has broadcast programming dealing with each of the above-referenced issues. The programming dealing with each issue is set out below.**

### A. ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

#### ➤ ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT:

**Morning Drive with Bill Sturgeon**— Broadcast each weekday morning at 7:30 AM; Duration 60 minutes. This is a daily current affairs program produced by Bill Sturgeon. This program featured interviews on this topic with the following people:

- July 11 - Rocco Sisto (actor)
- July 14 - Cast of Million Dollar Quartet at Colonial Theater
- July 18 - Michael Fabrizio, musician
- July 20 - Artists in Eagle Building
- July 27 - Rocco Sisto
- August 4 - Howard Herman, Berkshire Eagle Sports
- August 15 - Mark Dold & Chris Invar (actors in play at BSG)
- August 17 - Allyn Burrows, Shakespeare & Co.
- August 30 - Kathy Jo Grover, Colonial Theater/BSG
- September 18 - Alan Paul, Barrington Stage
- September 20 - Mark St. Germain, playwright

**Cultural Pittsfield Radio Show**—Broadcast each Friday morning at 8:30 AM; Duration 30 minutes. This is a weekly hosted by City of Pittsfield Cultural Development Director Jennifer Glockner and features a wide range of guests discussing the impact of culture and arts on the city. This program featured interviews on this topic with the following people:

- July 7 - Jen Glockner, solo show
- July 21 - Jen Glockner, solo show
- September 8 - Jen Glockner, solo show

#### ➤ COMMUNITY & NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS:

**Morning Drive with Bill Sturgeon**—This program featured interviews on this topic with the following people:

- July 7 - Brenda Petell, Berkshire United Way
- July 19 - Dave Wildgoose, Pittsfield Babe Ruth Tournament
- August 16 - Shauna Dandy & Virginia O'Leary (Alzheimers Org.)
- August 17 - Liana Toscanini, Nonprofit Center of the Berk.
- August 23 - Jim Clark & Danielle Raimer (Pittsfield Senior Center)

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- September 14 - Elizabeth Freeman Center
- September 21 - Joe Durwin, Springside Park
- September 25 - Adams Fall Run Organizers
- September 26 - Brian Berkel & Christian Bianchi, Suicide Prevention
- September 28 - Jane Winn, BEAT (environmental issues)

**Cultural Pittsfield Radio Show**—This program featured interviews on this topic with the following people:

- August 11 - Rebecca Brien, Downtown Pittsfield Inc.
- August 25 - Alex Reczkowski, Berkshire Athenaeum
- September 22 - Shirley Edgerton, ROPE (Rites of Passage & Empowerment)

## B. PITTSFIELD MUNICIPAL PRELIMINARY ELECTION:

**Morning Drive with Bill Sturgeon**—This program featured interviews on this topic with the following people:

- August 29 - Michele Benjamin & Heather Brazeau, City Clerks
- September 5 - Karen Kalinowsky & Rhonda Serre (Candidates)
- September 6 - John Krol & Jonathon Morey (Candidates)
- September 7 - Peter Marchetti & Alex Blumin (Candidates)
- September 8 - Brittany Bandani & Anthony Maffuccio (Candidates)

## C. OPIOID USE DISORDER & HARM REDUCTION:

**Morning Drive with Bill Sturgeon**—This program featured interviews on this topic with the following people:

- July 28 - Bob Dean / Berk. Harm Reduction
- August 25 - Julia MacDonald, Living in Recovery
- August 31 - Samantha Kendall, Berk. Harm Reduction
- September 15 - Jason Cuyler & Lindsay Maynard, 2nd St 2nd Chances

## D. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION, AND PLANNING:

**Morning Drive with Bill Sturgeon**—This program featured interviews on this topic with the following people:

- July 17 - Tavern at the A (local business spotlight)
- July 21 - Mad Macs & RJ Stohr Jewelry (local business spotlight)
- August 3 - Jim McGrath, Open Space Manager
- August 24 - Rebecca Brien, Downtown Pittsfield Inc.
- August 28 - AJ Enchill, Berk. Black Economic Council
- August 22 - Ricardo Morales & Tyler Shedd, Pittsfield Public Works & Engineer

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- September 27 - Madelyn Brown, City of Pittsfield Recreation Manager
- September 29 - Christine Hoyt, 1Berkshire

## E. EDUCATION:

**Morning Drive with Bill Sturgeon**—This program featured interviews on this topic with the following people:

- July 10 - Alex Reczcowski (Berkshire Athenaeum)
- July 17 - Josh Mendel, MCLA (master's program)
- August 14 - Mark Brazeau (School Comm. member)
- August 22 - Maria Wagner (Superintendent Springfield Diocese Schools)
- September 11 – BCC: Celia Norcross & Tina Schettini, (Student Activities)
- September 12 – BCC: Kathy Penna, Jenny Sutherland, Laurie Gordy & Gina Foley
- September 13 – BCC: Christina Wynn, Chris DeGray
- September 19 - Fadia Rostom Makdisi, Principal St. Agnes Academy

## F. LOCAL NEWS & POLITICS:

**Morning Drive with Bill Sturgeon**—This program featured interviews on this topic with the following people:

- July 3 – State Rep. John Barrett
- July 4 - State Senator Paul Mark
- July 12 - Congressman Richard Neal
- August 1 – Pittsfield Mayor Linda Tyer
- August 21 – State Rep. John Barrett

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## Section III. Additional Programs Aired This Quarter

**This station airs additional programming which doesn't always deal with issues of urgency, but may still be viewed as being in service to the community. This section also includes ongoing and regular efforts to address issues in the community. Here is a summary of those programs aired:**

### A. VETERANS' ISSUES:

**Morning Drive with Bill Sturgeon**—This program featured interviews on this topic with the following people

- August 2 - Dalton American Legion Vietnam Moving Wall

### B. CULTURAL ENRICHMENT:

**Berkshire Jazz**—An educational two-hour program hosted by Phil Tierney from the Berkshires Jazz organization, featuring the original American musical genre. Aired weekly on Saturday evenings, 8:00-10:00 PM:

- July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29;
- August 5, 12, 19, 26;
- September 2; 9; 16; 23; 30

**Jazz Collector Live**—An educational two-hour program hosted by Al Pearlman discussing and highlighting classic jazz albums from the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Aired weekly on Sunday evenings, 8:00-10:00 PM:

- July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30;
- August 6, 13, 20, 27;
- September 3, 10, 17, 24

**Mundo Latino**—Spanish and English-language music and talk program hosted by Martha and Deisy Escobar, aired weekly on Friday afternoons 4:00-6:00 PM. Duration 120 minutes. This program aired on the following dates:

- July 7, 14, 21;
- August 18 & 25;
- September 1, 8, 15

**The program descriptions listed above represent a portion of the informational programming provided during the quarter. The station regularly broadcasts weather forecasts from the National Weather Service and produces and broadcasts local and national Public Service Announcements free of charge throughout the broadcast day.**

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