



Pittsfield, Massachusetts

## ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

JANUARY—FEBRUARY—MARCH  
Q1 2023

Compiled by Shawn T. Serre and David Cachat

# WTBR 89.7 FM

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

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## QUARTERLY ISSUES & PROGRAMS LIST

January 1—March 31, 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. **LOCAL NEWS & POLITICS:** Local issues that arose during this quarter included the city's response to an unexpectedly severe winter storm at the end of December; grant funding for Springside House; a proposed ballot initiative concerning traffic patterns and bike lanes on North Street; and many more. WTBR aired several programs featuring interviews with local officials to discuss these issues.
- B. **EDUCATION:** We address the upcoming transition of Taconic High School to an all-vocational school and explore the diverse offerings of our local community college, along with many other issues.
- C. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION, AND PLANNING:** Issues surrounding recent economic development initiatives; specific issues concerning black-owned businesses; and the state of our roads, bridges, and infrastructure are all issues that face our listeners. We address all of these with programming this quarter.
- D. **PUBLIC SAFETY & LAW ENFORCEMENT:** Substance Use Disorder and the opioid / fentanyl epidemic are a major concern for the Pittsfield area. The overdose rates per capita are higher in this community than many others in the Commonwealth. We address this issue and what is being done to address it, with programming.
- E. **ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:** While the winter season is perhaps the slowest for many local cultural organizations, there is still much happening behind the scenes. These activities are of significant interest to listeners.

# WTBR 89.7 FM

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

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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. LOCAL NEWS & POLITICS:

**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:

- January 12 - Earl Persip, Pittsfield City Councilor At-Large
- January 20 - Tricia Farley-Bouvier, State Rep. 2<sup>nd</sup> Berkshire District
- January 30 - Sen. Paul Mark, State Senator
- February 9 - Brittany Polito, iBerkshires Berkshire Bureau Chief
- February 10 - Peter White, Pittsfield City Councilor At-Large
- February 17 - Dina Guiel Lampiasi, Pittsfield City Councilor, Ward 6
- February 24 - Mayor Linda Tyer
- March 6 - Congressman Richard Neal
- March 7 - Lanesboro Public Safety Building Vote
- March 9 - Ken Warren, Pittsfield City Councilor, Ward 1
- March 10 - Joe Durwin, Springside House & Park
- March 14 - State Rep. John Barrett, 1<sup>st</sup> Berkshire District
- March 15 - Sen. Paul Mark, State Senator
- March 29 - Michele Benjamin & Heather Brazeau, Clerks (Upcoming election season)

### B. EDUCATION:

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

- January 23 - BCC Week (Promotion of upcoming semester offerings)
- January 24 - BCC Week
- January 25 - BCC Week
- January 26 - BCC Week
- January 27 - BCC Week
- February 2 - PHS Theatre Department
- February 13 - Superintendent Joseph Curtis, Pittsfield Public Schools
- February 15 - Tammy Gage & Matt Bishop, CVTE @ Taconic High School
- February 21 - Read Across America
- February 28 - Ellen Kennedy, BCC President
- March 8 - William Cameron, Pittsfield School Committee President
- March 21 - Kathy Yon, Former Teacher & School Committee member
- March 31 - Coach Bill Heaphy, Taconic Boys Basketball Div. 5 State Champions

# WTBR 89.7 FM

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

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

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

- January 31 - AJ Enchill, Berkshire Black Economic Council
- March 16 - Ricardo Morales, Public Utilities Director
- March 23 - Christine Hoyt, 1Berkshire

## D. PUBLIC SAFETY & LAW ENFORCEMENT:

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

- February 27 - Brian Andrews, County Ambulance – Opioid epidemic & Narcan distribution

**On Patrol with the PPD** – WTBR-FM features a regular weekly program on Fridays from 9-10 AM, produced by the Pittsfield Police Department, entitled “On Patrol with the PPD.” Duration 60 minutes. The program discusses incidents and police response in the community. Programs aired this period include:

- January 6, January 13, January 20, February 10, March 10

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

### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT:

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

- January 6 - Tom Conklin, former radio news professional
- January 11 - Rocco Sisto, nationally recognized actor
- January 13 - Howard Herman, Berkshire Eagle Sports reporter: local & national sports roundup
- February 16 - Sander Stotland, Pittsfield Suns collegiate baseball team
- March 28 - Doo Wah Gang Fundraising Event

**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:

- January 6 - Local Cultural Events
- February 17 - Rebecca Brien, Downtown Pittsfield Inc.: 10x10 Festival

# WTBR 89.7 FM

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

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- March 17 - Local Upcoming Cultural Events

## COMMUNITY & NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS:

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

- January 2 - Sal Garozzo, Executive Director, United Cerebral Palsy
- January 10 - Allyn Burrows, Shakespeare & Co.
- January 19 - Jess Rumlow, Executive Director, Berkshire Family YMCA
- February 1 - Shawn Serre, Executive Director, PCTV
- February 3 - Tom Bernard, President & CEO, Berkshire United Way
- February 8 - Allyn Burrows, Shakespeare & Co
- February 22 - Matt Tucker, Engagement Coordinator, PCTV
- February 23 - Elizabeth Freeman Center
- March 2 - Bob Heck, Advancement Coordinator, PCTV
- March 3 - John Perrault, Executive Director, Berkshire Humane Society
- March 17 - Irish Sister City Committee
- March 22 - Irish Step Dancers Fundraising & Trip
- March 24 - Jane Winn & Rose Wessell, Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT)
- March 27 - Howard Marshall & Liz Filkins, United Cerebral Palsy
- March 30 - Cody Buffato, Berkshire Museum

# WTBR 89.7 FM

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

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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:**

### F. DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION:

**Backstory – Let's Hear It!**—Broadcast each Friday morning at 10:00 AM; Duration 60 minutes. Hosted by Roberta McCulloch-Dews, this program featured interviews on this topic with the following people:

- January 6 - Bryan House, 18 Degrees
- January 20 - Matt Cusson
- February 3 - Chantell McFarland
- March 3 - Gina Coleman
- March 17 - Jenny Herzog, Chaos Theory Art Collective

**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:

- January 13, January 20, January 27,
- February 3, February 10, February 17, February 24,
- March 3, March 17, March 24, March 31

**NOMADAS Radio**—Spanish-language talk program which tackles issues important to the Latino community, hosted by America Lopez. Duration 60 minutes. Aired weekly on Monday afternoons 5:00-6:00 PM. This program aired on the following dates:

- January 16, January 30
- February 6, February 13
- March 13, March 27

### G. FAITH, SPIRITUALITY & RELIGION:

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

- February 20 - Bishop William Berne, Diocese of Springfield

### H. VETERANS' ISSUES:

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

# WTBR 89.7 FM

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

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- January 9 - Jim Clark, Director of Veteran Services, City of Pittsfield
- March 20 - Jim Clark, Director of Veteran Services, City of Pittsfield

## I. 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, 7:00-9:00 PM:

- January 7, 14, 21, 28
- February 4, 11, 18, 25
- March 4, 11, 18, 25

**The program descriptions listed above represent a portion of the informational programming provided during the quarter. In addition, the station produces and broadcasts local and national Public Service Announcements free of charge throughout the broadcast day.**

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