



Pittsfield, Massachusetts

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

OCTOBER—NOVEMBER—DECEMBER
Q4 2023

Compiled by Shawn T. Serre and David Cachat

WTBR 89.7 FM

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

QUARTERLY ISSUES & PROGRAMS LIST

October 1—December 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. **PITTSFIELD MUNICIPAL ELECTION:** This year's general municipal election, held on November 7th, featured races for mayor, all city council seats, all school committee seats, and city clerk. This election was closely followed by residents of the city, and many important issues were raised and discussed by the candidates during the campaign. Listeners desired to get live election results on the evening of the election.
- B. **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. Often, WTBR is a primary source for listeners to better understand these issues.
- C. **VETERANS ISSUES:** Along with regular coverage of veterans' issues, during this quarter U.S. Air force Staff Sgt. Jacob Galliher, a 2018 Taconic High School Graduate, died along with seven of his fellow crew during a training exercise off the coast of Japan in late November. WTBR addresses the community's efforts to come together to bring him home.
- D. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION, AND PLANNING:** Several issues in this category featured prominently in community discussions this quarter, including hiring and job placement; digital equity; activities at the Berkshire Innovation Center; inflation and the economy; and the reconstruction of Wahconah Park.
- E. **EDUCATION:** As a Noncommercial Educational station, we often spotlight educational offerings at the elementary, secondary, and post-secondary levels. There are many issues to explore at all of these levels during the quarter.
- F. **ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:** After the busy Berkshire summer arts and culture season, things slow down a bit in the fourth quarter. But there are still many activities and interests to explore in this space, and our programming reflects that.

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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. PITTSFIELD MUNICIPAL ELECTION:

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:

- Oct. 16 - Craig Benoit & Kathy Amuso (Council Candidates)
- Oct. 17 - Alisa Costa & Pete White (Council Candidates)
- Oct. 18 - Luke Marion & Rhonda Serre (Council Candidates)
- Oct. 19 - Tony Maffuccio & Matt Wrinn (Council Candidates)
- Oct. 23 - Earl Persip & Dina Lampiasi (Council Candidates)
- Oct. 24 - Craig Gaetani & Alex Blumin (Council Candidates)
- Oct. 25 - John Krol (Candidate for mayor)
- Oct. 26 - Peter Marchetti (Candidate for mayor)
- Oct. 30 - Brittany Bandani (Council Candidate)
- Nov. 1 - Michele Benjamin & Heather Brazeau (City Clerks)

B. LOCAL NEWS & POLITICS:

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

- Oct. 2 - State Senator Paul Mark
- Oct. 3 - Patsy Harris, Central Berkshire Registrar of Deeds
- Oct. 20 - Tricia Farley-Bouvier, State Representative
- Nov. 7 - Congressman Richard Neal
- Nov. 13 - Mayor Elect Peter Marchetti
- Nov. 20 - State Senator Paul Mark
- Nov. 21 - State Rep. John Barrett
- Nov. 28 – Ward 7 Councilor Elect Rhonda Serre
- Dec. 1 - Pete White, City Councilor at-large
- Dec. 6 - Matthew Wrinn, Ward 3 councilor-elect
- Dec. 7 - Kevin Moran, Berkshire Eagle Executive Editor
- Dec. 14 - Dina Lampiasi, Ward 6 City Councilor-elect
- Dec. 19 - State Senator Paul Mark
- Dec. 20 - State Rep. Smitty Pignatelli
- Dec. 26 - Peter Marchetti, Mayor-elect

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- Dec. 27 - State Rep. John Barrett
- Dec. 28 – At-large City Councilor Elect Alisa Costa

C. VETERANS ISSUES:

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

- Oct. 4 - Jim Clark, Veterans Services Agent, City of Pittsfield
- Nov. 8 - Jim Clark
- Dec. 15 - Jim Clark (episode on SSGT. Jacob Galliher)

D. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION, AND PLANNING:

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

- Oct. 12 - Heather Boulger, MassHire Workforce Board Exec. Dir.
- Oct. 13 - Wylie Goodman & Kevin Zawistowski, Digital Equity
- Oct. 27 - Earl Persip, Wahconah Park Restoration Cmte.
- Nov. 2 - Ben Sosne, Exec. Dir. Berkshire Innovation Center
- Nov. 3 - Allen Harris, Berkshire Money Management

E. EDUCATION:

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

- Nov. 9 - Josh Mendel, MCLA MBA Program
- Nov. 30 – School Cmte. Incoming members: Sara Hathaway, William Garrity, William Cameron & Dan Elias
- Dec. 4 - William Cameron, School Committee Chair
- Dec. 21 - Matt Bishop & Marcie Simonds, Taconic High & Vocational
- Dec. 29 - Vanessa Justice & Madeline Kelly, Berkshire Athenaeum

Up On Taconic—This is a half-hour weekly, student-run show produced by the Video & Performing Arts students and their teachers at Taconic High School. Topics include events, programs, and activities happening at the vocational high school here in Pittsfield. Episodes produced during this quarter:

- Oct. 2, Oct. 16, Oct. 23,
- Nov. 13
- Dec. 11, Dec. 18

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F. 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:

- Oct. 6 - Howard Herman, Berkshire Eagle sports
- Nov. 15 - Ray Pulver, Parade Program
- Nov. 27 - Rocco Sisto, Actor
- Nov. 29 - Clock Tower Artists
- Dec. 12 - Josh Cutler, Eagles Band
- Dec. 22 - Andy Kelly, Peter Marchetti, Pete White & Santa (Holiday Special)

Cultural Pittsfield Radio Show—Broadcast each Friday morning at 8:30 AM; Duration 30 minutes. This is a weekly program 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:

- Oct. 20 - Jen Glockner, solo show
- Nov. 24 - Jen Glockner, solo show

➤ COMMUNITY & NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS:

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

- Oct. 5 - Carolyn Valli, Exec Dir, Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity
- Nov. 14 - Lisa Torrey, Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
- Dec. 8 - Brian Berkel, Board pres., Berkshire Coalition for Suicide Prevention

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

- Oct. 6 - Ileen Richards & Shany Porras, Clock Tower Artists
- Nov. 10 - Shakespeare & Co.

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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. LAW ENFORCEMENT & PUBLIC SAFETY:

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

- Oct. 11 - Andy Cambi & The Pittsfield Health Dept.
- Nov. 6 - DA Timothy Shugrue
- Dec. 11 - First Assistant DA Marianne Shelvey
- Dec. 13 - Sheriff Thomas Bowler

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:

- October 7, 14, 21, 28;
- November 4, 11, 18, 25;
- December 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30

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

- October 8, 15, 22, 29;
- November 5, 12, 19, 26;
- December 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31

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:

- Oct. 13, Oct. 20, Oct. 27,
- Nov. 10, Nov. 17, and Dec. 8

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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