



Pittsfield, Massachusetts

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

APRIL—MAY—JUNE
Q1 2023

Compiled by Shawn T. Serre and David Cachat

WTBR 89.7 FM

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

QUARTERLY ISSUES & PROGRAMS LIST

April 1—June 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. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION, AND PLANNING:** Many issues in this category were in the headlines and in the minds of listeners this quarter. For example, the health of downtown Pittsfield businesses, street traffic patterns and pedestrian safety, incentives for black-owned businesses, roads, bridges, and infrastructure concerns, and water and sewer costs were the top issues among city residents.
- B. **EDUCATION:** The end of the school year brings 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. We attempt to address many of these issues on our programming. Opportunities for summer programs is also a topic of discussion.
- C. **LOCAL NEWS & POLITICS:** While the local municipal election is still months away, there is still robust discussion about state and local issues that arose during this quarter. It is now known that incumbent Mayor Linda Tyer will not seek a third four-year term in office. The state budget process is in full swing 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.
- D. **DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION:** There are many issues surrounding this topic which are relevant during this quarter: Pride month celebrating the LGBTQ+ community in June; a local instance of antisemitism in a local school prompts much discussion; Juneteenth and other activities from our local NAACP branch; and other topics of DEI are important for our listeners.
- E. **ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:** The important summer cultural season arrives 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.

WTBR 89.7 FM

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

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. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION, AND PLANNING:

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:

- April 6 - Rebecca Brien, E.D. Downtown Pittsfield Inc.
- May 2 - AJ Enchill, E.D. Berkshire Black Economic Council
- May 3 - Local Business: Dan Proskin (BBE) & Craig Benoit (Hot Dog Ranch)
- May 12 - Linda Dulye (LIVE)
- May 16 - Local Business : Danny Mack (Dry Cleaners) & Jim Bronson (Your CBD Store)
- May 17 – Local Business: Deirdre’s & Dotties
- May 19 - Allen Harris, Berkshire Money Management: Inflation & Bank Failures
- June 21 - Local Business : Patricks Pub & American Homes and Rentals
- June 23 - AJ Enchill, E.D. Berkshire Black Economic Council
- June 29 - Ricardo Morales, City of Pittsfield Public Works Commissioner

B. EDUCATION:

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

- April 3 - Alex Reczkowski, Dir. Berkshire Athenaeum
- April 19 – Pittsfield High School Drama Teachers & Students
- April 21 - Josh Mendel, MCLA: Summer Programs
- April 25 – Pittsfield School Committee Member Dan Elias
- May 11 – Pittsfield School Committee Chair William Cameron
- June 5 - Adam Klepetar, Berkshire Community College
- June 6 - BCC STEM Programs
- June 7 - BCC Liberal Arts & Business Programs
- June 19 – Pittsfield Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Joseph Curtis

C. LOCAL NEWS & POLITICS:

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

- April 5 – MA 3rd Berkshire District State Rep. Smitty Pignatelli
- April 20 – Pittsfield City Councilor Dina Guiel Lampiasi

WTBR 89.7 FM

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

- May 8 – MA State Senator Paul Mark
- May 9 – Pittsfield Mayor Linda Tyer
- May 25 - Josh Landes, WAMC Radio Berkshire Bureau Chief
- June 9 – MA 2nd Berkshire District State Rep. Tricia Farley-Bouvier
- June 15 - Catherine Van Bramer, Mayor’s Tyer’s Office

D. DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION:

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

- May 26 - Dennis Powell, President NAACP Berkshire County Branch
- May 31 - Michael Taylor: Berkshire Pride
- June 8 - Michael Obasohan, City of Pittsfield DEI Director
- June 13 - Dana Kaufman: Antisemitism program

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:

- April 21
- May 5, May 12, May 19, May 26
- June 23, June 30

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:

- April 10, April 24, May 8

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:

- June 30 - Warren Dews

E. ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT:

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

- April 10 - Nick Paleologos & Kathy Jo Grover (Colonial Theatre)
- April 13 - Josh Cutler (Eagles Band)
- April 19 - PHS Drama Teachers & Students

WTBR 89.7 FM

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

- May 4 - Alan Paul (Barrington Stage Artistic Director)
- May 15 - Sander Stotland (Pittsfield Suns)
- June 1 - Jen Glockner (Pittsfield Cultural Director)
- June 2 - Howard Herman (Eagle Sports)
- June 28 - Peter Marchetti & Matt Tucker (4th of July Parade)
- June 30 - Josh Cutler (Eagles Band)

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:

- April 7 - Vladimir Zeleny, Berkshire Theatre Group
- April 21 - Jen Glockner, solo
- June 23 - Peter Marchetti & Rebecca Brien, 4th of July Parade

COMMUNITY & NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS:

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

- April 3 - Alex Reczcowski, Dir. Berkshire Athenaeum
- April 4 – RSVP- Retired Senior Volunteer Program
- April 7 - Berkshire AHEC
- April 11 - Berkshire Relay for Life
- April 12 - Liana Toscanini, E.D. Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires
- May 24 - Dr. Virginia O’Leary, Pittsfield Prospers
- June 12 - Strike Out Cancer Organization--Joe Diccico
- June 16 - Christian Bianchi, Brien Center
- June 20 - Megan Lemay, Alzheimer’s Association
- June 27 - Lisa Torrey, RSVP

WTBR 89.7 FM

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

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. LAW ENFORCEMENT & PUBLIC SAFETY;

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

- April 24 - Marianne Shelvey (1st Assistant DA)
- May 1 - Andy Cambi (Pittsfield Health Director)
- May 5 - Bob Dean (Berkshire Harm Reduction) (LIVE)
- May 18 - Marge Cohan & Galen Mook (Bike Safety) (LIVE)
- May 30 - Timothy Shugrue (Berkshire DA)

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:

- April 7, April 14, April 28
- May 5, May 12, May 26
- June 9, June 30

G. FAITH, SPIRITUALITY & RELIGION:

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

- May 10 - Bishop William Berne, Diocese of Springfield
- June 26 - 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

- May 29 - Jim Clark, Director of Veteran Services, City of Pittsfield: Annual Memorial Day Parade and services

WTBR 89.7 FM

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

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. 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.

Compiled by Shawn T. Serre and David Cachat