



# **ISSUES & PROGRAMS**

## **WBFE-FM**

**4<sup>th</sup> QUARTER 2020**

**(OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER)**



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**Public Affairs**

WBFE-FM airs the public affairs show "Maine View" that is designed to address important community issues. The following is a list of show topics during the Quarter. Each edition of Maine View also includes Maine Governor Janet Mill's weekly radio address and the response from the Republican Party in Maine. Each address runs roughly 5 minutes. Maine View has a run time of 20 minutes and airs Sunday at 6:00am

10/4: This week's edition features a talk with Scott Dunn, owner of Dunn Family Maple in Buxton and the President of the Maine Maple Producers Association. The topic was the upcoming Maine Maple Producers Weekend on October 9-11. It's the first year of the fall event, which supplants the Maine Maple Sunday events that had to be cancelled in March because of Covid-19. It will be held in conjunction with the first North American Maple Tour in the U.S. and Canada. Because of social distancing guidelines, sugarhouses will not be open to the public. However there will be tours of other aspects of maple operations, with samples to try and products to purchase. One virtual component is a pure Maine maple recipe contest. Entrants will bring their creation - beverage, entree or dessert- to the Cumberland County Fairgrounds for judging, and the announcement of winners, on October 9. Dunn said he hopes the Maine Maple Producers Weekend will be an annual event, along with Maine Maple Sunday in the spring.

10/11: This week's edition includes welcomes Major Carl Lamb of the Maine National Guard and Major Michael Gary of the Guard's 11th Civil Support Team out of Waterville. The 11th is the team that shows up when some hazardous materials event in the suits and handle whatever the issue might be. Major Gary shares what the most common calls are for the 11th, the stresses of the job and the necessary training. Also, we connect with Cheryl Crabtree of Bangor, who along with friends, talked of the woes of 2020. They collectively launched the Serve A Neighbor program, urging all among us to do something nice for a neighbor this month, November and December. Cheryl shares examples of what one could do in our pandemic age and where to share accounts of your acts in hopes of inspiring others.



10/18: This week's edition includes Amanda Cost of the domestic violence advocate organization Partners for Peace, making October as domestic violence awareness and education month. Cost discusses how the pandemic has exacerbated cases of domestic violence in Maine. She also touches on the definitions of such violence and how the problem continues to grow. Also, we connect with U-Maine System Chancellor Dannel Malloy and U-Maine Orono & U-Maine Machias President Joan Ferrini-Mundi. The Harold Alfond Foundation has made one of the most generous grants ever to the System in a strategy to strengthen Maine's economy and educational growth. Both detail what the donations mean to Maine's future.

10/25: This week's edition features a discussion with Richard McCarthy, Assistant State Fire Marshall for Maine in the Prevention and Inspection Division. The topic was fire prevention to recognize October as Fire Prevention Awareness Month. Topics included safe cooking and stove safety, space heater safety, and safe operations of fireplaces and wood stoves. Also discussed were smoke alarms, extension cords and power strips, and how to prevent fires during the holiday season. McCarthy emphasized the importance of a fire escape plan, and never attempting to put out anything more than a small fire. "If there is a fire in the house, get out and call 911," he said. McCarthy said the Fire Marshall's office is involved in permits, law enforcement, and inspections of business properties. The office also works closely with local fire departments and other law enforcement agencies. More information is available at [maine.gov/office of state fire marshal](http://maine.gov/office-of-state-fire-marshal).

11/1: This week's edition includes our planned interview with Kristen Miele of Good Shepherd Food Bank ahead of the Blueberry Broadcasting Virtual/Love Fund Food Drive. From this interview, we will extract sound cuts to run on our stations and drive people to our sites to donate to the drive. Kristen details many of the latest figures on who is "food insecure" in Maine and just how drastic the issue is -- exacerbated by the pandemic. Also, we talk with Maine CDC Director Doctor Nirav Shah who follows this week's unplanned CDC update on the increasing numbers of COVID 19 cases in Maine. Dr. Shah answers direct questions over the way the virus is spreading, the possible need instating or re-instating mandates, and the decency of wearing masks and physically distancing.



11/8: This week's edition includes an interview with Shawn Laatsh of the (formerly) Emera Astronomy Center and Maynard F. Jordan Planetarium (now the) Versant Power Astronomy Center and Maynard Jordan Planetarium at the University of Maine. Along with announcing the name change, Shawn updates us on pandemic restrictions, new programs and just how much water they allegedly found on the moon. Also, Rebecca Kirk of Bangor Rotary phones in as the organization, which traditionally hosts Bangor's Festival of Lights parade has been forced to pivot the event to a house/business/organization "decorate for the holiday" event. Kirk explains how people will be alerted to where to see some of the housed "decked out for the holidays," who'll be judging (spoilers: it's you!) and more.

11/15: This week's edition features a talk with Andrea Pasco, Development Director for the non-profit Kennebec Valley Community Action Program - where services are geared toward helping clients achieve economic and social self-sufficiency. Since 1965, KVCAP has been serving those needs in Kennebec and Somerset Counties, and has satellite offices in Lincoln and Sagadahoc Counties. Services are offered in three areas: for Families (child care, pre-school, home visits, and obtaining health insurance); for the Home (heating assistance, weatherization, and home buyer education); and Transportation (general public-use busses, and non-emergency transportation to medical appointments). Pasco talked about challenges KVCAP faces with the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, and just meeting regular tasks like finding housing. "That's very challenging right now," she said. "There's not enough housing, period, especially housing for affordable for lower income individuals." All information is on the website, [kvcap.org](http://kvcap.org).

11/22: This week's edition includes welcomes Dixie Shaw of Catholic Charities Maine. Catholic Charities is a partner in the Blueberry Broadcasting (Virtual) Food Drive. Dixie confirms a fifty percent increase in demand since March and the launch of the pandemic. She doesn't hold back. She tells it like it is. She talks about the need, the pride, and the fact "you can't eat that car." Also, Jeni Lloyd of Northern Light Philanthropy dials in the share the news that -- even as the pandemic pinched this past August's Champion the Cure Challenge -- organizers are planning to expand next year's event to two days. Lloyd explains how riders and runners will launch the first day. Walkers -- the lion's share of participants -- will step off on the second day.



11/29: This week's edition includes a discussion with Lance Boucher of the American Lung Association in Maine. The 2020 State of Lung Cancer Report is out with "good news" and "bad news." Boucher discusses the good including what the report calls disproportionate levels of lung cancer in "people of color" compared to "white people." Boucher also mentions the Associations plan to seek a hike in Maine's cigarette tax in the coming session. Also, Stacey Coventry of Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center is tasked with rounding up qualified and eager volunteers to help at the "big tan house of healing." Stacey details what opportunities are available and gives George and Ric a "mock interview" to see if they are "qualified" to volunteer.

12/6: This week's edition features a talk with Rick Dorian, Executive Director for the Maine Children's Home For Little Wanderers – based in Waterville. The organization offers programs in adoption, counseling, teen-parent education and trust-based relational intervention, and the Christmas Program – which is the topic here. In 2019, the Home provided needed clothing, toys and games to 1711 children in Maine, serving 845 families in 149 cities and towns. Dorian said this year's total will match or exceed last year. The website, [mainechildrenshome.org](http://mainechildrenshome.org), provides an 'urgent needs list' that is updated daily until the December 11, 2020 deadline. "We will take donations all year," said Dorian, adding that many contributors give after-Christmas sales items. Dorian talked of the challenges faced by the Covid-19 pandemic, such as limiting the number of volunteers to about 20 persons to ensure safety. In years past the volunteers would number 100 or more. Also contributing is a Giving Tree network at stores and retailers across the state. Corporate sponsors include the New Balance Foundation, Mardens, the Pajama Program (a clearing house for children's PJ's), and Toys for Tots.

12/13: This week's edition includes a discussion with Laurie Lachance, President of Thomas College. Laurie co-chaired Governor Mills' (massive) Economic Recovery Committee, charged with plotting a path forward and out of the pandemic. Lachance details the eight strategies/recommendations from the Committee and answers the jackpot question: "where is cash-strapped Maine to find the money to make these suggested investments. Also, Jess Pottle of Bangor-based CES on the surveying/engineering company's decision to change its name to Haley Ward. Jess discusses why the company opted for the change, how an acquisition led to the change, and the company's plan to move forward as an employee owned company.



12/20: This week's edition includes a discussion with Paul McCarrier of Legalize Maine. State sales figures confirm that medical marijuana sales in Maine topped \$221M January through October of this year, doubling sales same time in 2019. Medicinal pot sales eclipsing \$181M million in potatoes, \$123M in milk, and \$26M in blueberries in 2019. McCarrier compares sales figures with his predictions and ballpark how recreational sales might stack up a year from now. Also, Doug Dunbar of Eastern Maine Development Corporation and Gerry Corcoran of Workforce Solutions answer questions about the Connecting With Opportunities Initiative. The program works to help those addicted to substances, now in recovery, find their place in Maine's workforce. Dunbar and Corcoran discuss resources available, jobs available (in a pandemic) and share a bit of their personal stories of recovery.

12/27: Due to a technical error Maine View did not air as scheduled this week. The error was the result of limited staffing due to Covid-19 concerns, and a high level of staff vacations around the holiday season. The station did air the same amount of local news, weather, sports, and public service announcements that are broadcast each and every week. New protocols have been put in place to make sure this error does not happen again in 2021.