



ISSUES & PROGRAMS

WBFE-FM

**1st QUARTER 2020
(JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH)**



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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

1/5: This edition features a conversation with Maine labor Commissioner Laura Fortman, on Maine’s recent change to minimum-wage and recent changes to overtime laws. Fortman discusses the future of minimum-wage changing as tied to the consumer price index, the likelihood of it ever going down, and what possible impacts the increased wage as approved by Maine voters might have on employment opportunities. Also, we talked with David Gulya Senior of Blue Hill, recently elected as Grand Master of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Grand Lodge of Maine. Gulya compares and contrasts the Odd Fellows with Shriners and Masons and outlines much of the community charity work the fraternal organization performs.

1/12: This week’s edition features a talk with Anne Trenholm, Agriculture Promotions Coordinator with the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The topic is the 2020 Maine Agricultural Trade Show, January 14-16 at the Augusta Civic Center. More than 100 booths will feature agriculture groups and businesses. The show serves as a source for agricultural resources and products. Producers and consumers alike attend the show to take stock of current programs, new technology, and to gather information. The event is free and open to the general public. Tuesday is MOFGA Day at the show – with workshops and information from the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association. In addition to meetings and exhibits, there are demonstrations and workshops, and a producer and products showcase. All of Maine’s 16 counties are represented at the show. A current hot topic is “Agritourism,” which combines agriculture promotion and tourism – targeting the many visitors to the state in every season of the year.



1/19: This week's edition presents two sides of the debate over legalizing sports gambling in Maine. Governor Janet Mills, last Friday, vetoed a bill to legalize sports gambling, as New Hampshire has done. Supporters of the measure, such as State Representative Scott Strom (R-Pittsfield), suggests Maine has lost and continues to lose the opportunity to tax, regulate and stream revenue by not passing the bill he co-authored in Augusta. Strom, in a Maine View interview discusses the work into the bill that passed in the last legislative session but then sat in limbo on the Governor's desk before her pre-January session veto. We also speak with Carroll Conley of the Christian Civic League of Maine. As Conley says, the League seems to rarely agree with Governor Mills on many matters, yet the League agrees with her veto. Conley discusses cases of gambling destroying lives and families in Maine. He suggests the Governor is correct in waiting longer to see the effect of legalized gambling on other states.

1/26: This week's edition features a look at the upcoming installment of the Gardiner Public Library's Bicentennial Speaker Series: "Maine's Bicentennial on the Lower Kennebec." Guests included Maine historian and author Tom Desjardins. He previewed his January 30 talk on the events of the Colonial and Revolutionary period on the Kennebec River, focusing on the Colburn family and their influence on settlement, development, and military operations in the valley. Desjardins is the author of "Through a Howling Wilderness: Benedict Arnold's March to Quebec, 1775." He was joined by Dennis Doiron, chairman of the library's bicentennial series. The speaker series is free and open to the public. Also discussed was an effort by the Gardiner Library Association to identify and inventory existing buildings in the area built in or before the bicentennial year of 1820. The Association received a \$3,500 grant from Maine's Bicentennial Commission to complete the project. Towns of concern are Farmingdale, Gardiner, Litchfield, Pittston, Randolph and west Gardiner.

2/2: This week's edition welcomes Northern Light Health Epidemiologist and Infectious Disease Specialist, Robert Pinsky MD and Northern Light Health Director of Infection Prevention and Control Carrie Rice, RN to address the Corona virus outbreak. They compare the Chinese-based disease to influenza A and B and the common cold. They also address the level of preparedness Maine hospitals and health centers have ahead of what could be an outbreak in Maine. We also catch up with Kristen Mailee, President of Good Shepherd Food Bank. A Christmas Eve editorial from the Portland Press Herald - asking why is there still hunger in Maine -- piqued her interest. She wrote back and the paper published her response. Her response prompted letters from others. We dig into the points and counterpoints with Kristen and compare hunger in Maine to hunger in our New England neighbors.



2/9: This week's edition welcomes Sergeant Wade Better of the Bangor Police Department and Jamie Beck of Dignity First, an organization working to find homeless people, and guide them to more than just a safe place to stay for an evening. Rather Dignity First seeks to place them in semi-permanent housing, link them to employment or job training programs, and the necessary support to become productive citizens. Beck speaks of where such programs are working it the world and how they might work here in Maine. Also, Kathryn Ravenscraft of Penobscot Theatre Company brings actors Brad LaBree and Ben Layman into our studio during performances of Don't Dress For Dinner, a spicy comedy at Bangor's Historic Opera House running through February 16th. The actors discuss the content, staging and challenges to presenting this fast-paced multiple doors opening and closing play.

2/16: This edition features a talk with Michael Burnham, Executive Director/Interscholastic Division of the Maine Principals Association. The topic was the ongoing MPA high school basketball tournaments: How they are run; the venues; and some of the people behind the scenes. Also discussed was the Unified Division of high school basketball, where developmentally-delayed athletes pair with partner students, and the decision to put a two-year moratorium of state championships in Unified. "It was getting too competitive," said Burnham. "It was taking away from the original spirit of the leagues." The decision will be reviewed in two years. Also discussed was the move of many high schools from 11-on-11 football to eight-man football, because of decreasing enrollment and the physical toll of the game. Maine high school ice hockey is also undergoing change with many schools collaborating to make one varsity team – for instance Biddeford-Massabesic-Old Orchard Beach or Marshfield-Traip Academy-Bonnie Eagle.

2/23: This week's edition brings Stephanie Oiler and Roberta Winchester of Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center Auxiliary into our studio to promote the organization's annual Winter Beach Ball. They've again booked disco band Motor Booty Affair to play this March 7th fundraiser to support the recently renovated Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Oiler and Winchester extend the invitation to the event and detail recent -- and welcomed -- changes to the NICU. Plus, Harvey Cheslea of Camp Capella calls in ahead of the February 29th Leap Day Polar Dip to benefit the camp for disabled kids. Harvey reminds us of the good work of the camp, how it benefits kids and their parents, and a recent fundraiser that successfully say a new kitchen area for the camp. Then -- one of our hosts get suckered into jumping into Phillips Lake on the 29th to support the campaign.



3/1: This week's edition features a conversation with Jim Fernald of Brookings Smith funeral homes and Melissa Pepper of the New England Donor Services. Jim and Melissa work closely with families of those who have died and made the decision to donate their organs. Melissa reveals the startling low number of people who participate in organ donation and what is the most sought after donation. Jim chimes in with some of the complications he's witnessed as families have last minute questions about organ donations. Melissa closes our segment giving everyone an idea where they can go to find out more information and possibly take part.

3/8: This week's edition of Maine View features a conversation with David Cheever, Vice Chairperson of the Maine Bicentennial Commission. Maine celebrates its 200th birthday as a state in 2020, with a kick-off event on the exact date, March 15, at the Augusta Armory. Statehood Day will feature speeches by Secretary of State Matt Dunlap, State Historian Earl Shuttleworth, and Commission Chairperson Bill Diamond. There will be a band, and a birthday cake to feed as many as 200 people. Other events discussed were a Bicentennial Parade in Lewiston/Auburn on May 16, a Sailing Ships Festival along the coast in June and July, and a Time Capsule sealing on October 10. The website maine200.org has many other events listed in all 16 counties. Those include: a presentation of 200 years of sport fishing in Maine, May 1, at the fish hatchery in East Orland; the presentation of a plaque in Thomaston on May 9 to recognize 200 years of shipbuilding in Maine; a Bicentennial Bash in Portland on June 12; and a Bicentennial Rendezvous at the Windsor Fairgrounds on August 1. Cheever said the Commission is still accepting other non-profit bicentennial events for Commission funding.

3/15: This week's edition features a conversation with Kristen Miele of Good Shepherd Food Bank. She had advocated for a stronger understanding of "food insecurity" in Maine. In this conversation, she introduces us to a new term -- "poverty aware." Nationally, businesses owners are being urged to be alert to recognize the needs of employees who may have suddenly come in to hardship. Miele suggests employers that make efforts to recognize poverty cultivate a more productive and successful workplaces. We also meet Bruce and Mary Graybill of Sider's Woodworking. Fire destroyed their family woodworking business. They're rebuilding and enjoying remarkable support from their community in Holden -- and beyond -- from so far away as Russia! The Graybill's tell of how they discovered the fire, their losses, how they are meeting orders and their plans to rebuild.



3/22: This week's edition brought multiple guests to share insight and expertise related to Covid-19. Northern Light Health Eastern Maine Medical Center Dr. James Jarvis on how hospitals are reacting. Dr. Edison Liu of Jackson Lab on supporting research to find the cure. Judy Long of Emera Maine on suspending winter disconnection rules. Maine Public Advocate Barry Hobbins on other utilities cooperating. Home School Instructors Ed and Kathy Green with tips on educating your kid at home. Shirah Patterson of United Way of Eastern Maine on community response. Scott MacDonald of Maine Technology Group on cyber criminals pouncing. Bob Cutler of Novio's Bistro on how restaurants are being forced to close and losing their shirts.

3/29: This week's edition features a talk with Scott Dunn, President of the Maine Maple Producers' Association. Dunn is a fourth-generation maple syrup maker, proprietor of Dunn Family Maple in Buxton, and the head of the more than 200-member association over the 16 counties of Maine. This year, Maine Maple Weekend (March 21-22), was postponed because of the Covid-19 outbreak – meaning sugarhouses took a big economic hit. Dunn said many producers count on up to 50 percent of their annual sales during the annual event. He said a similar event may be scheduled for the fall, although evaporators will not be running. Discussed was the impact of Maine Maple farmers: more than 575 gallons of syrup are produced; the industry adds 27 million dollars annually to the economy; producers employ 560 full and part time workers, representing 17.3 million dollars annually in wages. Dunn said Maine maple products are marketed worldwide, and are starting to be recognized for their anti-oxidant and sugar alternative properties. Maine is third in the nation in the amount of maple production, behind Vermont and New York.