



**WTBR 89.7
FM**

PITTSFIELD COMMUNITY RADIO

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

JANUARY—FEBRUARY—MARCH

Q1 2024

Compiled by Shawn T. Serre and David Cachat

WTBR 89.7 FM

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

QUARTERLY ISSUES & PROGRAMS LIST

January 1—March 31, 2024

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. **ECO-DEV, HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION, PLANNING:** Several issues emerged during this quarter which have a direct impact on the economy, economic development, the housing crisis, regional transportation, and planning. We attempt to address these in interviews with key players in the region and the state.
- B. **LOCAL NEWS & POLITICS:** We continue to bring crucial information to listeners directly from their elected officials on the local, state, and federal levels. A new mayor, nearly half of the city council, and a majority of the school committee began their first terms in office in January. Often, WTBR is a primary source for listeners to better understand these issues.
- C. **EDUCATION:** This is an area that often receives press when the news is bad, but less when the news is positive. While school budgets are expected to be a difficult process to navigate this year, there are also some new and innovative programs available to students and parents in the area, including a vocational Video and Performing Arts program at Taconic High School. We explore these issues.
- D. **LAW ENFORCEMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY:** These are critical issues that affect all of our listeners, from police and fire to health care and criminal justice concerns. We use our airtime to bring useful information to area residents, directly from the sources.
- E. **ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:** We typically think of the winter months as the quiet time in the Berkshire arts and culture scene. But surprisingly, there are plentiful activities available for year-round residents. Our programming seeks to connect listeners to these opportunities, and help local organizations keep their audiences connected.

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. ECO-DEV, HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION, 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:

- Jan. 31 - Mike Wynn, Greylock Glen Project
- Feb. 1 - Rebecca Brien, Downtown Pittsfield, Inc.
- Feb. 8 - Ricardo Morales, Commissioner of Public Utilities
- Feb. 16 - Justine Dodds, Director of Community Development
- Mar. 1 - Jim McGrath, G.E. Housatonic Rest of River Project
- Mar. 13 - Julie Copoulos, MassDevelopment, Pittsfield TDI Fellow
- Mar. 21 - Christine Hoyt & Kevin Pink, 1Berkshire
- Mar. 26 - Nick Russo, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
- Mar. 29 – Secretary Edward Augustus, Brad Gordon, Eileen Peltier: Housing Crisis

B. LOCAL NEWS & POLITICS:

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

- Jan. 8 - Earl Persip, City Councilor At-Large
- Jan. 23 - Pete White, City Council President
- Jan. 24 – State Sen. Paul Mark
- Jan. 29 – Congressman Richard Neal, 1st Massachusetts District
- Feb. 13 - Mayor Peter Marchetti
- Feb. 26 - Michele Benjamin, City Clerk
- Mar. 4 - Patsy Harris, Registrar of Deeds
- Mar. 6 - Alisa Costa, City Councilor At-Large
- Mar. 8 - Pete White, City Council President
- Mar.15 – State Rep. Tricia Farley-Bouvier, 2nd Berkshire District
- Mar. 18 – State Rep. Smitty Pignatelli, 3rd Berkshire District

C. EDUCATION:

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

- Jan. 15 - Laurie Vilord, Berkshire Community College (BCC Week)

WTBR 89.7 FM

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

- Jan. 16 - Laurie Gordy & Liesl Schwabe, BCC (BCC Week)
- Jan. 17 - Celia Norcross, Gabriella Martinez & Casey Young (BCC Week)
- Jan. 18 - Daryl Shrieve, BCC (BCC Week)
- Jan. 19 - Tammy Gage & Maggie Harrington-Esko, Pittsfield High School Offerings
- Jan. 22 - Adam Klepetar, BCC (BCC Week)
- Jan. 26 - Kim Conant & Students (Taconic High School CVTE Offerings)
- Jan. 30 - Ellen Kennedy, President Berkshire Community College
- Feb. 6 - Jake McCandless, Superintendent, Mt. Greylock Regional
- Feb. 15 - Matt Bishop, Jamie Choquette & Students (Live Remote from Taconic High)
- Feb. 19 - Cara Maiorano-Culver, Principal of St. Mary's School
- Mar. 5 - William Garrity, School Committee
- Mar. 7 - Joseph Curtis & Students (Live Remote from Taconic High School)

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:

- Jan. 8, Jan. 15, Jan. 22, Jan. 29
- Feb. 5
- Mar. 4, Mar. 18, Mar. 25

D. LAW ENFORCEMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY:

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

- Feb. 7 – Pittsfield Fire Dept. Chief Thomas Sammons
- Feb. 12 – Pittsfield Police Chief Thomas Dawley
- Feb. 27 - Maureen Daniels, Berk. Health Systems
- Mar. 11 – Berkshire County District Attorney Timothy Shugrue

E. 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:

- Jan. 11 - Howard Herman, Berkshire Eagle Sports
- Feb. 20 - Suzanne Logan, local author
- Feb. 21 - Jesse Kowalski, Berkshire Museum

WTBR 89.7 FM

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

- Feb. 29 - Jen Glockner, Cultural Development Director
- Mar. 12 - Joe Durwin, Local Historian
- Mar. 19 - Connie Hebert, local author

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:

- Jan. 5 - Jen Glockner, solo show
- Mar. 1 - Shiobbean Lemme

➤ COMMUNITY & NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS:

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

- Jan. 5 - WTBR Anniversary Program
- Jan. 12 - Hayley Sumner, Berkshire Horseworks
- Jan. 25 - Luke Fitzgerald, Love of T Foundation
- Feb. 2 - John Perrault, Berkshire Humane Society
- Feb. 9 - Melissa Helm, NAMI
- Feb. 22 - Bryan House, 18 Degrees
- Feb. 23 - Tom Bernard, United Way
- Feb. 28 - Joe Durwin & Ester Anderson, Springside Conservancy
- Mar. 20 - Wendy Healy & Chelsea Gaia, Ventfort Hall
- Mar. 22 - Rose Wessel, Berkshire Environmental Action Team
- Mar. 25 - Berkshire Villages
- Mar. 28 – Joyce Brewer, Gena DiSimoni Johnson, Berkshire AHEC

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

- Feb. 2 - Rebecca Brien, DPI
- Mar. 15 - Mary Beth Eldridge, Berkshire Art Association
- Mar. 29 - Lucie Castaldo & Jen VanBramer, Berkshire Art Center

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:

A. 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:

- January 6, 13, 20, 27
- February 3, 10, 17, 24
- March 2, 9, 16, 23, 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:

- January 7, 14, 21, 28
- February 4, 11, 18, 25
- March 3, 10, 17, 24, 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:

- Jan. 12, Jan. 19, Jan. 26
- Feb. 9, Feb. 16, Feb. 23
- Mar. 8, Mar. 22

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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