

The Public's Radio-Issues and Programs Lists

Q1: Jan 1 thru Mar 31, 2024

Here follows a listing of some of the significant issues responded to by The Public's Radio in Providence, Rhode Island, along with the most significant programming treatment of those issues for the period of 01/01/24 thru 03/31/24. The listing is by no means exhaustive. The order in which the issues appear does not reflect any priority or significance.

Transportation: January 25, 2024

Lessons from Rhode Island's free ferry experiment: The Bristol-to-Providence free ferry was a short-lived experiment that started on Dec. 21 as an emergency response to the Washington Bridge closure. But it was dropped on Jan. 19 because of low ridership and steep costs. Does that mean commuter ferry service in the Ocean State is a lost cause, or could it play some role in Rhode Island's public transit future? Olivia Ebertz has more. Length: 3:25

Education: January 31, 2024

Providence superintendent remains optimistic about student performance, absenteeism: Since taking over as Providence School Superintendent in 2021, Dr. Javier Montañez has been faced with the challenge of trying to help turn the struggling district around. Plagued by underperforming schools and chronic student absenteeism, the district has been under state control for the past four years. Dr. Montañez spoke with Morning Edition Host Luis Hernandez about these challenges and what's being done to improve Providence schools. Length: 6:53

Politics, Criminal Justice, Environment: February 2, 2024

Police misconduct in Fall River, a plan for coastal resiliency in Rhode Island, and more: A Fall River police officer was found guilty this week of covering up a beating at the police station. It's the second time in less than a year that a city police officer was found guilty of covering up excessive force with false reports. Also, Providence Superintendent Dr. Javier Montañez is optimistic about the future of the district, despite lagging test scores and high absenteeism. And Rhode Islanders living near the water are increasingly vulnerable to flooding. A group of lawmakers say we need a statewide plan for coastal resiliency. Plus, our review of "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" at The Gamm Theatre. And a look back on the week in Rhode Island politics. Length: 29:00

Arts and Culture: February 8, 2024

Hunky Dory closes after more than 2 years of serving Southern-inspired food – and cultivating a folk music community: Less than three years after opening, and just months after being [featured in The New York Times](#), Hunky Dory in Warren has closed. The restaurant was known for its unique approach to local, seasonal, Southern-inspired food – but it was also home to a community of folk musicians. Every month on the first and third Wednesdays, while the restaurant was closed, chef and banjo player Sam Duling would open the doors for an old-time music jam session. Mareva Lindo reports.

Length: 8:29

Health: February 14, 2024

RI landlords are required to ensure their units are safe from lead paint. But who checks? Roughly 500 children a year who are lead poisoned in Rhode Island. Most cases result from exposure to toxic lead paint, according to the state health department. For most rental housing, Rhode Island law requires landlords to regularly inspect units and obtain “lead certificates” showing they’re safe from immediate lead hazards, like peeling or pulverized paint. But according to records obtained by The Public’s Radio and interviews with dozens of experts, landlords rarely face consequences for failing to obtain the certificates, leaving tenants in the dark about the potential hazards in their homes. Nina Sparling has this story as part of our series “Renters at Risk”. Length: 8:15

Arts and Culture: February 29, 2024

Studio Session: Allysen Callery’s quiet, haunting ‘Ghost Folk’: For Artscape this week, we have a studio session with Allysen Callery, a singer/songwriter from Bristol, R.I., who creates quiet, haunting, ‘ghost folk’ with her acoustic guitar and delicate voice. Luis Hernandez has more. Length: 8:00

Politics, Housing, Environment Arts and Culture: March 1, 2024

What’s causing rents to go up in New Bedford? And what’s needed to make a safer North Main Street in Providence? A new commuter train will soon connect New Bedford to Boston. Some residents are worried this could lead to the gentrification of their community. We’ll find out why. Also, we continue our series Renters at Risk and look at why millions of federal dollars are not being used in Rhode Island to protect people from lead in paint. And Providence leaders promise to make roads safer for people on bikes and for pedestrians. We’ll focus on one street that has been extremely dangerous for both – North Main Street. Plus, we’ll have a studio session with local singer/songwriter Allysen Callery. All that and more, on The Weekly Catch.

Length: 29:00

Health: March 11, 2024

More people who use cocaine in Rhode Island are dying of overdoses: The combination of cocaine and methamphetamines with fentanyl – a synthetic opioid 50 times [more powerful](#) than heroin – is driving what experts call the “[fourth wave](#)” of the opioid epidemic. Rhode Island had the country’s [fourth-highest rate](#) of overdose deaths involving cocaine in 2022, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Lynn Arditì has the story. Length: 4:39

Environment: March 29, 2024

Fishermen displaced by offshore wind farm apply for compensation: Mitigation funds are rolling out this spring for fishermen affected by offshore wind development. If successful, the funds could support fishermen and help them adapt as the region embraces offshore wind as its largest source of clean energy. But a coalition of 11 East Coast states is already trying to create an alternative to the emerging patchwork of privately administered funds. Ben Berke reports. Length: 5: 18

Politics: March 29, 2024

Ken Block on disproving 2020 election fraud and how to improve American elections: The Trump campaign hired Ken Block to investigate their claims of widespread voter fraud in the 2020 election. Block detailed his findings in a new book, “Disproven.” Ian Donnìs interviews Block on this week’s edition of Political Roundtable. Length: 14:00