



# ISSUES & PROGRAMS

## WBKA

### 3rd QUARTER 2023 (JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER)

#### **Public Affairs**

WBKA 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

7/2: This edition features, Kristen Porter of the Maine Lobstermen's Association. Kristen details the latest US appellate court ruling that finds the Biden administration's rules concerning gear designed to protect endangered North Atlantic right whales to be unjust to the industry in Maine. Kristen talks of the decision, how notified, how the industry is reacting and how they are not leading up in their fight to ensure the survival of lobstering off the Maine coast. We also connect with Tim Hobbs of the United States small business administration in Maine. Hobbs describes opportunities for small business in taking on federal contracts. There may be a great deal of red tape to work through, but the SBA is helping small business in Maine work through the details in order to land long-term and often profitable contracts with the United States government. This edition runs 22:30.



7/9: This edition is an emotional connection with the paternal grandmother of three-year-old Maddox Williams, the young boy killed by his mother in Stockton Springs two years ago. Victoria Vos describes to us her battle against the department of health and human services in Maine, and what she calls grave errors in its care of children in state custody. During the segment, both speaks of the good work of former state senator Bill Diamond. Bill Diamond calls in to the segment and reinforces Victoria's work.

We also speak with Susan Johnson of Brewer. Susan worked at the legendary drug store LaVerdiere's years in Maine in the 1980s. Susan reached out to other former employees and found an astounding following, which has developed into an annual reunion picnic for the employees in Winslow's fort Halifax on July 15. Listeners of our program chime in with memories of the legendary drugstore during the segment. This segment runs 22:30 .

7/16: This week's edition features a talk with Lieutenant Jason Luce, a 24-year veteran of the Maine Warden Service. He leads the boating safety efforts for the Service and is based out of the offices in Gray. He has been a member of the service's Critical Incident Stress Management Team for ten years, and has worked at the national level to enhance Maine's recreational boating safety and enforcement efforts. Topic include: the headway speed law; boater education; invasive water plant control; boating under the influence; lifejackets; water wildlife; and reporting incidents or problems to the warden service. Luce said it's important to be courteous on the water, and be mindful of the surroundings. That includes familiarizing oneself with a body of water before speeding off on it. According to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife website, game wardens are "progressive, highly-motivated, faithful to the Maine heritage and adaptive to change." Luce says he embraces those ideals in service to the public.

Time 20:03

7/23: This edition features a conversation with Maine Secretary of State Shenna Bellows, who confirms that Maine voters set a record last November with turnout. Bellows fields questions on how absentee and mail in voting versus in person voting may have help spike numbers. Bellows also mentions changes passed by the 131st Maine Legislature affecting Notary Publics and those performing marriages in our state. We also reconnect with Tim Hobbs of the Small Business Administration in Maine, on the specific topic of exporting. Maine exports a great deal of products, more than potatoes, blueberries and lobster -- the number one being aviation components. Hobbs talk of the complexities of exporting and how MITC (the Maine International Trade Commission) is helping small businesses in Maine export their goods worldwide. This edition runs 20:30.



7/30: This is a special business, focused edition of MaineView. Jack, Bob, Jim, Thom, and David Quirk of Quirk auto group gather in our studio as the venerable automotive franchise celebrates 50 years in business.

The father and brothers talk of the creation of the business in 1973, the acquisitions, and the successes and failures of some automotive lines that has led to their business success. Each talks about what they perceive to be the turning point in the family companies success, and they celebrate some of the charitable interests. The family has carried over half a century. This edition runs 22 minutes and 30 seconds.

8/6: This edition features a talk with Rick Sieberg, the Chief of the Gardiner Fire Department and the director of ambulance services based in Gardiner. Sieberg is a 25-year veteran of the department, and took over from retired chief Al Nelson in 2020. The ambulance service serves the city of Gardiner and neighboring towns Chelsea, Farmingdale, Litchfield, Pittston, Randolph, Richmond and West Gardiner – an area of 240 square miles. Sieberg explains that the role of a firefighter is adjoined with Emergency Medical Services accredited training, and all of the full-time Gardiner firefighter staff are also EMS trained. Recently there have been large fires in Gardiner, including one that destroyed the historical Laura Richards house, and a difficult fire in a three-story building on Main Street. Sieberg said there is a need in all area fire departments for additional employees. He said there are always a handful of high school-age job shadows, but ever fewer fully trained volunteers. The chief said he is always ready to talk with someone who is interested in the profession. Qualifications include a high school diploma, ambition to learn and study, and physical fitness to carry up to 40 pounds of equipment to a fire or emergency scene. Time 20:30

8/13:

This edition features a conversation with Michael Hallundbaek of Waldo County Action Partners. On the day, after state investigators, determined a fire that flattened their offices along with the entire Wentworth complex in Belfast, we talked with Michael about his organizations recovery plans. He discusses the needs of his clients and how WCAP is continuing to meet them in their community.

We also talk with Peter Geiger of the Lewiston-based farmer's almanac. The 2024 edition is out, which includes extensive coverage of the upcoming total eclipse that will reach Main in the spring of next year. Peter also details some of the fun and informative information detailed in the latest edition. This edition runs 20 minutes.



8/20: This edition features, a conversation with Vanessa Corson of Maine emergency management agency. Corson, recaps, meteorological information indicating the state is indeed, receiving more rain than “normal,” how Maine is no longer in a drought which plagued our state last year, and discusses the importance of disaster, planning as continued severe weather threatens flash flooding in our state. Corson also discusses the importance of insurance and understanding that disaster declarations at either a state or federal level may not help homeowners recover from personal loss. This edition runs 22 minutes.

8/27: This week’s edition features a talk with Peter Geiger, editor of the Farmers’ Almanac - which is published in Lewiston. Since 1818 the Farmers’ Almanac has provided recipes, living tips, gardening ideas, natural remedies, folklore, and the weather forecast for the next 16 months. For the winter of 2023-24, fictional prognosticator Caleb Weatherbee is calling for the “Brrr” to return – meaning cold weather and lots of snow. Storms are forecast for early December, 2023, the early weeks of February and April of 2024. Features in the 2024 issue include: Monarch Butterfly myths; flowers you can eat; the history of garden gnomes; cats, dogs and chickens as pets; home remedies for itching skin; winning reader blueberry recipes; fishing hacks and a look at the total solar eclipse that will be visible in Maine on April 8, 2024. Time: 20:44

9/3: This edition features a conversation with Michael Michelle Probert to talk about changes to health coverage through MaineCare, and share some important information about how Maine people can stay connected to stay covered.

MaineCare is Maine’s Medicaid program. MaineCare provides free and low-cost health insurance to people who meet eligibility requirements. MaineCare pays for doctor visits, prescription medications, emergency care, substance use disorder treatment, and more. In March 2020, the federal government temporarily waived certain requirements for states. This helped prevent people with Medicaid from losing their health coverage during the pandemic, even if their circumstances changed during that period. However, Congress has now directed all states, including Maine, to resume reviewing the eligibility of Medicaid members to determine if they are still eligible. MaineCare will be doing these reviews over the next year.

We also reconnect with Tim Hobbs of the Small Business Administration in Maine. The SBA recently turned 70 and the SBA in Maine marked the event by recognizing two businesses that partnered with the SBA to find success.

One is Seabags of Maine, transforming recovered sails into bags, and selling them to excited consumers. The second is Courtney Beds, which manufactures specially constructed beds for people of all ages to sleep with security and comfort. Hobbs talks of the individual successes of these companies and how the SBA helped guide them.

This edition runs 21:00 minutes.



9/10: In this edition, we welcome into our studio, Paul McCarrier of the Maine craft cannabis association. Maine's Congressional Delegation has written the US Department of Justice over concerns of illegal Chinese cannabis operations in Maine doing "billions of dollars" in business.

McCarrier talks of the realities of these crimes and how Maine's voter approved yet. Federally shunned cannabis operations are faring against the foreign competition. We also reconnect with the president of the university of Maine and the University of Maine Machias Joan Ferrini-Mundy. She talks of changes to the flagship campus in the past year, what new courses are being offered to address workforce shortages in our state, and how the university is working to continue its role in growing means economy. This edition runs 21 minutes.

9/17: This week's edition features a talk with Lee Palmer, founder of Spirits Place Cat Sanctuary in St. Albans. Established in 2016, Spirits Place houses, cares for, and treats feral and community cats so they can be adopted or sponsored by the public. Palmer said the cats come from farms, abandoned or condemned buildings, abuse and hoarding situations, or just brought by people who can't care for them anymore. The dozens of cats, many of whom are free ranging at the sanctuary, get medical care and are inoculated for disease and spayed or neutered. Spirits Place is run by volunteers and is funded by grants and donations. It mostly serves Somerset, Piscataquis and Penobscot Counties. Palmer said it is possible to turn a feral cat into a domesticated one, although it takes time and attention. The sanctuary's main goal is education the public about the overpopulation of cats in Maine and how to identify their needs. More information of Spirits Place can be found at [sprintsplace.org](http://sprintsplace.org). Time 20:19

9/24: In this edition, we welcome Erica Davis of Maine's Bureau of Highway Safety. The Bureau is marking Child Safety Seat Awareness Week with online and in person events this week and beyond. Davis shares what some might consider the disturbing share of child safety seats that are improperly/unsafely installed. Davis directs us to the events around our state and the events on line to help parents more safely transport kiddos in car seats.

We also meet Ryan Lorrain of Maine's Bureau of Veterans Services. The Bureau is planning "stand down" events in communities across Maine -- working with employees and volunteers to find and present services to veterans -- some homeless -- in our state. "Stand Down" events continue each Wednesday through October 25th. This edition runs 20:30.