

**AM 1220 WQUN HAMDEN, CT**

**QUARTERLY ISSUES REPORT**

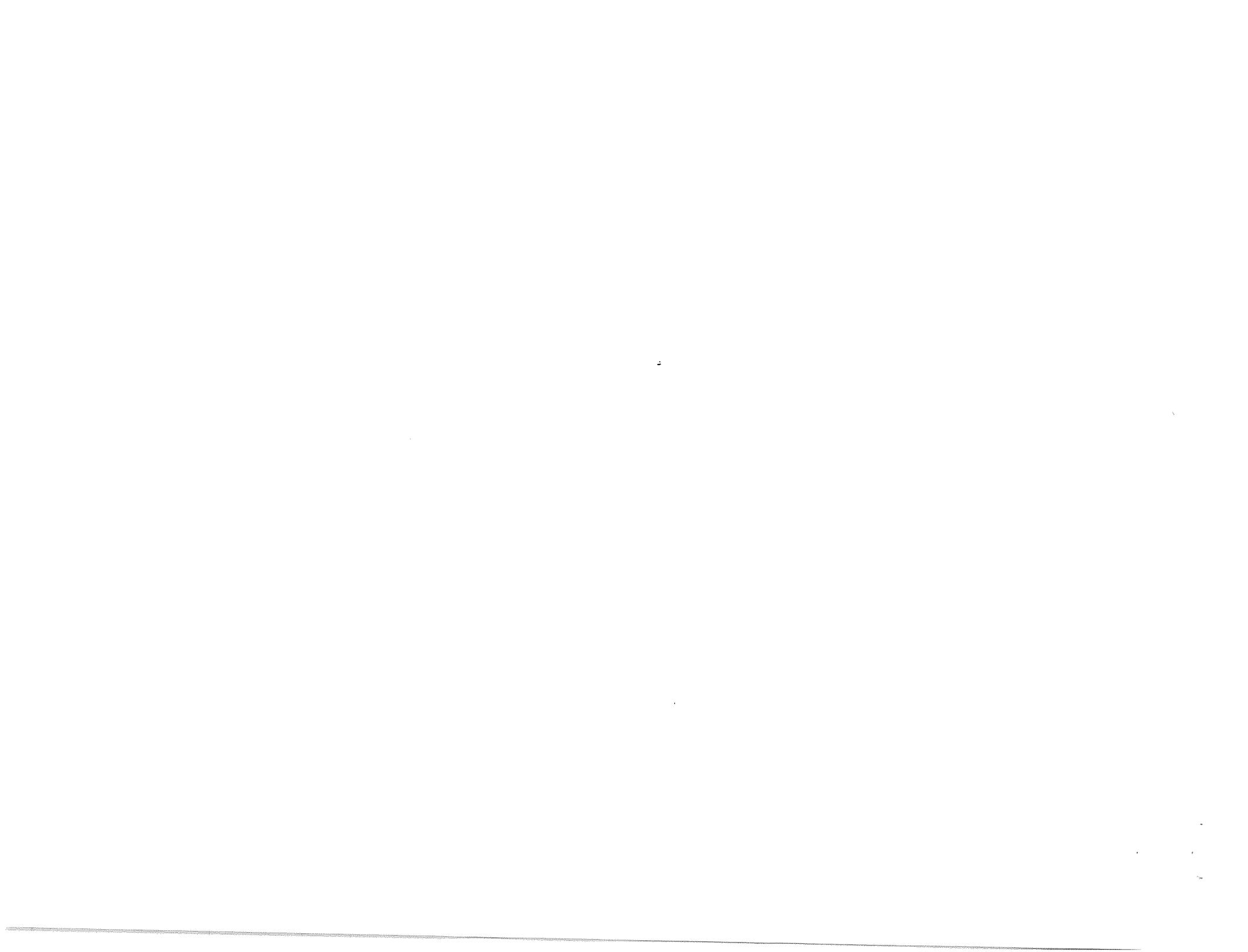
**JULY 2016 through September 2016**

AM 1220 WQUN is owned by Quinnipiac University. As a part of its directive and mission statement is to serve its city of license, Hamden, and the greater New Haven community, the station provides local news, public service announcements, and community-oriented programming originating from the facilities of WQUN. The station regularly schedules community guests to highlight events and issues in the greater New Haven community through its morning program.

**News:**

WQUN runs weekday news at 6:06, 6:30, 7:30, 8:08, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:04, 10:30, 11:04, 11:30, 12:04, 12:30, 1:04, 1:30, 2:04 2:30, 3:04, 3:30, 4:04 4:30, 5:04, 5:30 and 6:04 pm The newscasts include interviews with local community leaders, compiling local stories and utilizing the Associated Press, Metro News Source and CBS Radio Network. We also provide local traffic and weather reports.

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**JULY**

Man who destroyed stained-glass window at Yale's Calhoun College won't have criminal record

New Haven police union president calls for resignation of police Chief Dean Esserman

Killer of three Petit women in Cheshire re-sentenced to life in prison without parole

Corey Menafee no longer has felony charge on his record

Senator Richard Blumenthal calls for no-drive order on cars with defective Takata air bags

Yale giving a man his job back after he broke a stained glass window, but he cannot talk about it

Deal in place to clean up English Station power plant in New Haven

Hamden Planning and Zoning Commission rejects permit to allow outdoor activities at Hamden-North Haven YMCA

State's largest energy provider, Eversource, is gearing up for a big heat wave.

Senator Richard Blumenthal suggests New Haven's community policing could benefit other cities

State police say a tractor-trailer parked at I-95 rest area in Milford was struck by a bullet

Senator Chris Murphy on list of speakers at next week's DNC in Philly

State officials confirm that mosquitoes that could carry Zika are in Fairfield County

Another outbreak of mold at Church Street Housing Complex

Man shoots estranged wife in Naugatuck, drives to New Haven and shoots himself in head

Man released on bond in relation to fentanyl overdose incident in New Haven

Fundraising campaign underway for world class cycling facility in Elm City

Federal regulators take steps to block merger involving CT insurance companies Cigna and Aetna

Elm City man set for court after saying he wanted to kill police officers



August

**Connecticut taking new measures to combat zika virus**

Total Wine sues CT over state's minimum pricing for certain alcoholic beverages

Local Big Brother Big Sister looking for more volunteers

Fire closes portion of Boston Post Road in Milford

Former Employee at school in Derby charged with unemployment compensation fraud

West Haven Police now using encrypted channel for communication

Miranda Lambert brought to tears by soldier's sign at Hartford concert

Bacteria forces Milford to close five beaches to swimmers

Connecticut State trooper and two bystanders free man from burning car

13-year-old arrested for crashing car into wall in Hamden

Easton woman sentenced for stealing \$380,000 from her employer for personal expenses

Person steals non-lethal firearms from State Police in Simsbury

New Haven acting police chief told to hire more minorities

Man found floating in Meriden Pond may have had previous medical condition

Waterbury 911 dispatcher on leave during investigation into call involving a murder

Worker survives fall off of Quinnipiac sport complex roof thanks to safety harness

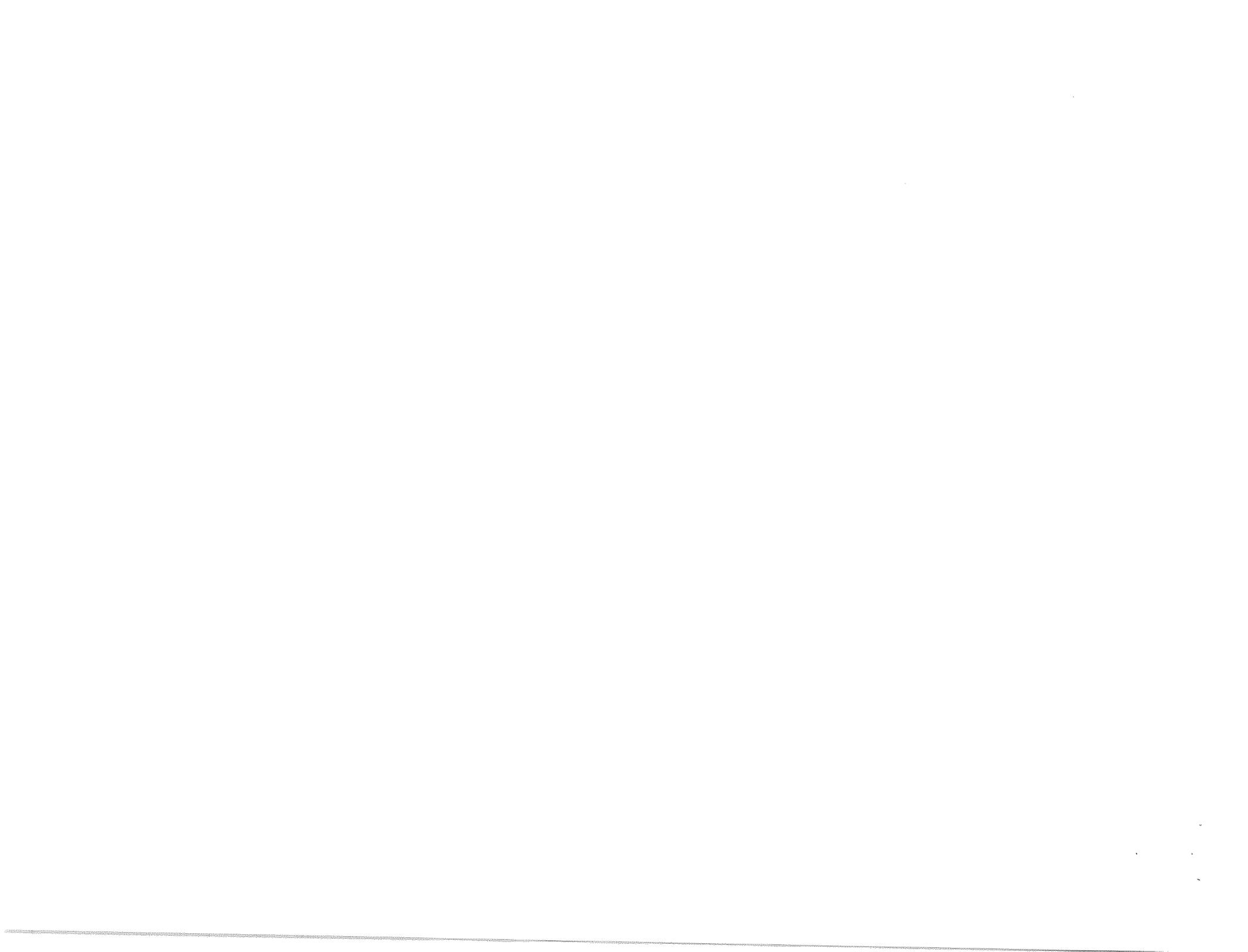
Yale students and Neighborhood Housing Service pick up trash around Beaver Pond Park

Yale University breaks ground on new building for grad students

Richard Blumenthal calls for maker of epi-pen to reverse the price spikes

State officials host forum in Durham to discuss people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

Yale announces new student housing complex on Elm Street



## September

Authorities have suspect in custody for Manhattan bombing the injured 29

Wallingford proposes adding two new generators to a privately owned power plant

Adult businesses are banned in West Haven for another year

Campaign called "Chill Daddy" educates parents on the dangers of shaken baby syndrome

Water quality in Meriden hurt by large algae bloom

Clinton man facing federal charges for trying to hire someone to kill his ex-wife

State prisoners between ages 18 and 21 are on the decline

Sale of CT's "Save the Sound" license plates on the decline

Chris Murphy plans to force vote to stop sale of military equipment to Saudi Arabia

Volunteers in New Haven, West Haven, and Madison clean up Long Island Sound beaches

Thousands expected to attend New Haven's second Grand Prix bike race

Elm City looks for ways to improve parking for drivers

Hillhouse High School football player shot in New Haven's Dwight neighborhood

Dunkin Donuts Park in Hartford has many construction problems according to architect

Household income in Connecticut rises one-point-eight percent from last year

State officials ask hunters to donate deer head for medical research

State Police warn residents about fake traffic tickets sent by email

Waterbury bus driver fired after dropping student off at wrong location

CT asks residents to reduce their water usage 10 percent due to dry summer

West Haven Veterans Museum and Learning Center dedicates Veterans Wall of Honor display

New Haven Board of Zoning approves Yale's plan for 100-million dollar Schwartzman Center



## Connecticut Radio Network Dialogue 2016 Guests and Subject Matters

(July, August, September)

July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 - John Larson – Connecticut First District Democratic Congressman.

**Subject Matter:** On this week's show, Connecticut First District Congressman John Larson discussed the sit-in protest that had just occurred in the U.S. House of Representatives in trying to force a vote on gun control legislation. Larson told that the idea came from Georgia Congressman John Lewis, an iconic member of the civil rights movement. Lewis had told Larson that the was proud of a few members walking out of the House chamber before a moment of silence was about to take place after the Orlando Pulse nightclub mas shooting. Those members, including Connecticut Congressmen Jim Hines (whose idea it was), Joe Courtney, and Larson, all walked out feeling that being silent isn't the answer anymore to stopping the continued mass shootings in this country. In the U.S. Senate Connecticut U.S. Senator Chris Murphy staged a 15-hour filibuster to get a vote in that chamber on gun control legislation. So Georgia Congressman John Lewis felt the U.S. House also needed to do something ... so they staged an unprecedented all day sit-in as a protest to not having any votes conducted on gun control legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Many Republicans in the House were highly critical of the sit-in, calling it a stunt, that it was disruptive, and broke all kinds of rules about House conduct.

Another precedent occurred as well during the sit-in where cellphones were used to stream the sit-in protest so that people could see what was happening and get out their message. This was done after House Speaker Paul Ryan has the TV cameras turned off in the chamber. Congressman John Larson told that it was a dissent over not having the right to vote on pieces of legislation trying to stem gun violence in our country. He says over a thousand mass shootings have taken place since the mass murder occurred at Sandy hook elementary school in Newtown in December of 2012, and in all that time they have not had a vote, nor debate, or dialogue on gun control legislation. Larson said all they've done is stand for moments of silence. So he says they had a sit-in to disrupt things in a good way so they could standup for the right to vote.

A recent national Quinnipiac University Poll found that 93% of people in the

July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 - (Larson continued) - United States believe there should be background checks on all gun sales. Also in the poll 86% feel that anyone on the U.S. no-fly-terror watch list should not be able to purchase a gun ... no fly-no buy. So with the public feeling this way Congressman John Larson was asked why Congress has not done anything on legislation regarding background checks and no fly-no buy. He says it shows the vast power of the NRA (National Rifle Association) and its lobby. Larson told that there are bipartisan common sense pieces of legislation that should be voted on, but haven't been brought up for a vote in the House, while there have been 3 votes in the U.S. Senate that did not pass. Larson feels one of the reasons they haven't been brought up this year in the House is because it's an election year. But he says they are going to continue to push the issue with House Speaker Paul Ryan and put pressure on him to allow a vote, either up or down on common sense legislation on gun control. Congressman Larson says more and more people are demanding something be done and maybe they'll have a viral effort to get it done, like what happened with the ice bucket challenge to call attention for research dollars to try and find a cure for ALS-Lou Gehrig's Disease.

July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Tom Tyler – State Parks Director.

Subject Matter: On this week's show State Park's Director Tom Tyler discussed the situation with state parks this summer due to state budget cuts impacting things. One of the tough decisions Tyler says they had to wrestle with was coming to the decision that they needed to close three state park campgrounds due to the budget cuts. He told that there are 14 Connecticut state park campgrounds with over 14-hundred camp sites available. Tyler says they looked with a critical eye at the different facilities and where they could carve back on expenses and impact the public the least. He says they looked at the occupancy rates at all of the campgrounds across the state and identified 3 state park campgrounds to close early: Salt Rock campground in Baltic, Green Falls in Voluntown, and Devil's Hopyard in East Haddam. Tyler says these 3 campgrounds had the lowest occupancy rates, but are places that also have relatively nearby alternatives for people to go to instead.

Aside from the closing of these 3 campgrounds in the state, Parks Director Tom Tyler also told on the show that the camping season will be ending earlier than usual because of the budget cuts, with the exception of Rocky Neck State Park

July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (Tyler continued) - in East Lyme and Hammonasset State Park in Madison. Tyler explained that historically they have offered a number of their campgrounds to be open after Labor Day and as late as Columbus Day weekend. But with the occupancy rate way down after Labor Day and the state budget cuts, they won't be able to offer that this year. So he says only Rocky Neck and Hammonasset will be open for camping after the Labor Day weekend. But Tyler says they believe they have adequate capacity for people who do want to get in some fall camping at Hammonasset and Rocky Neck.

State Parks Director Tom Tyler told on the show that state budget cuts have also necessitated cutbacks for days in which lifeguards are on duty at state park swimming areas. He told that providing lifeguards at beaches is a very expensive undertaking, so they've looked at the days of the week where they have the least number of people coming out to swimming areas. Tyler says lifeguards will now be on duty 5 days a week at state park swimming areas Wednesday through Sunday, and for 3-days Friday-to-Sunday at Burr Pond in Torrington. He told that across the park system there are 23 designated swimming areas, with 8 of them having lifeguards at areas of the beach. Tyler says they post that info both at the beaches and on their website with the hours and days for lifeguards at those 8 locations. He did say however even if there are lifeguards on duty, that parents or guardians still need to keep a close watch on their kids in the water and not assume that the lifeguards are taking over for them. Tyler also advised that kids and even adult swimmers who are not very strong swimmers could be kept much safer by putting on personal flotation devices while in the water.

Tom Tyler told that this year features the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dinosaur State Park in Rocky Hill with special events happening there all year long. But he also noted that again due to budget cut, some state park museum days and hours of operation may have been cut back, like at Gillette State Park in East Haddam. So he urged people to check on the days and hours of operation before coming out. Tyler says this is true too at some of the nature centers in the state as well.

With Connecticut having 109 state parks and 32 state forest recreation areas across the state, State Parks Director Tom Tyler says Connecticut is a great place to enjoy the outdoors. He urged listeners to come out and enjoy all that Connecticut has to offer at its parks, because one is located right near them, with the state having so many.

July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Steven Reviczky - State Agriculture Commissioner.

Subject Matter: On this week's show State Agriculture Commissioner Steven Reviczky talked about how summer crops are doing this year in the state. He told that for a while it was quite difficult for Connecticut farmers with the dry summer weather. Commissioner Reviczky says it seems every year mother nature throws them a curve ball and this year was no different. He says the moderate drought here in Connecticut was a challenge for some growers, but a lot had backup plans with drip irrigation. So Reviczky says it was a lot of work, but now that Connecticut has received sufficient rain things are back on track. The agriculture commissioner says beans, beats, lettuce, cucumbers, summer squash, and delicious sweet corn are all in good shape in Connecticut. Reviczky says however the peach crop in Connecticut was all but wiped out from a cold snap in February, but that this year's apple harvest seems like it'll be good.

State Agriculture Commissioner Steven Reviczky told that farmer's markets are in full swing all across the State of Connecticut. He says in most areas of the state people can find a farmer's market nearly any day of the week. Reviczky says it's a good thing for Connecticut farmers to be able to get their product off of the back roads in the state and have a venue where they can develop a relationship with their consumers. He says most of these markets have created a nice little Main Street for Connecticut farm families to be able to sell their product. Then he says there are a number of farms that have farm stands on their farms where they sell their goods. Commissioner Reviczky also says there are a lot of supermarkets that also obtain product from local farms which is nice.

Commissioner Reviczky told that there are 125 certified farmer's markets in the State of Connecticut. He explained that these are markets where the growers work with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, provide them with growing plans, and indicate to the department that all of the product they are offering for sale is Connecticut grown. Reviczky told that at those markets they also are able to accept WIC (women with infants and children) vouchers and nutrition vouchers for qualifying senior citizens. So he says there's an opportunity for people who qualify for assistance to be able to buy Connecticut grown fresh, nutritious, healthy, Connecticut grown fruits and vegetables. Reviczky says it's a win for the consumers and it's a win for the farmers who are able to provide that product to those folks who are in need.

Agriculture Commissioner Steven Reviczky told on the show that

July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (Reviczky continued) - Connecticut has a fairly new Connecticut-Grown labeling law passed last year. He says they will be conducting unannounced surprise inspections at farmer's markets across the state to make sure that product that is labeled Connecticut-Grown is indeed Connecticut grown. Reviczky says the Connecticut-Grown label has value to Connecticut consumers, and they want to make sure that there is truth in advertising so consumers can trust that if product has that label on it, that it indeed is Connecticut grown. He says they'll also investigate any complaints they receive. Reviczky says they'll initially issue warnings and try to educate, but if it happens again a \$100 dollar fine will be issued.

On another front, a lot of people may not know it ... but aquaculture is part of the State Department of Agriculture in Connecticut with its own Aquaculture Bureau. Commissioner Steven Reviczky says this involves the cultivation of hard shelled clams and oysters. He told probably most people don't realize that the largest farm in the State of Connecticut is actually under the water in Long Island Sound, where farmers plant seed for clams and oysters and then cultivate those animals for harvest. Reviczky says the state monitors water quality and the meats of shellfish to ensure that those products are safe to eat. Unfortunately, he told that recently the state had to shut down Connecticut's biggest natural oyster bed near the mouth of the Housatonic River after shellfishing boats violated harvesting regulations. Reviczky says they did that to prevent contaminated shellfish from reaching the public after illegal harvesting activities by those boaters.

State Agriculture Commissioner Steven Reviczky told that agriculture brings the State of Connecticut 3.5 billion dollars a year to its economy. He says it also generates 28-thousand jobs. Reviczky says they are trying to help new farmers in the state get any loans they need and provide them with necessary information to succeed in farming in Connecticut.

July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Dr. Kenneth Long - Professor of History and Politics at the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford.

Subject Matter: On this show, Dr. Kenneth Long, Professor of History and Politics at the University of St. Joseph, gave his reaction to the Republican National Convention in Cleveland and his outlook for the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia. He told there are really 2-goals for political conventions. One told Dr. Long is to fire up the rank and file, and especially the campaign workers

July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (Long continued) - and staff and get them energized for the general campaign. Dr. Long says the more important task is to reach out to prospective voters, introduce their nominees in the best possible light, and try to get people who don't know much about the candidates acquainted with them ... and hopefully pleased with them enough to cast their vote for them. So he says getting the undecided voter to their side is really what the campaign is all about now.

On the Republican National Convention, Dr. Kenneth Long says the Donald Trump campaign had an unfortunate incident right on night one with Trump's wife Melania, delivering a speech that plagiarized the speech of current First Lady Michelle Obama from just a few years ago. Another distraction at the RNC was Ted Cruz not endorsing Donald Trump and another opponent Ohio Republican Governor John Kasich not even attending the convention in his host state. Though Dr. Long doesn't think these situations will hurt Trump in the long run, as he has already fought these rivals during the primary run and his wife's speech was partly the fault of a speech writer. But he says they need to be more professional in their campaign.

During the convention Donald Trump's children took center-stage with four of them giving speeches. Dr. Kenneth Long says that's been pretty common in recent years to bring in children to speak on how good a person their parent is. He says most conventions are also going to bring in other politicians to speak about how well the candidate has done on certain issues over the years. But Dr. Long says Trump hasn't been in politics ... he's been in the business world ... so he wouldn't be in a position to bring in politicians that he's worked with.

On GOP Presidential Nominee Donald Trump choosing Indiana Governor Mike Pence as his Vice-President running mate, Dr. Kenneth Long called it a safe pick. He feels the choice for a Vice-President is not of great importance. Dr. Long told on the show about the comment made by Richard Nixon, who said if you make a smart Vice-Presidential pick it can't do a thing for you, but if you make a dumb pick it can really hurt you. So Dr. Long says the theory is to pick someone safe, with no scandals, who won't be incompetent on the campaign trail. He added that the pick does have to be competent because there will be a Vice-Presidential debate that will be heavily viewed and analyzed.

As for the Democratic National Convention with Hillary Clinton as the Democrats nominee, Dr. Kenneth Long told that Democrats would need to smooth

July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (more Long continued) - things over with the Bernie Sanders supporters. He says the Democrats need to appeal to Sanders' supporters to come on board to the Clinton side and not have them disrupt things.

Dr. Kenneth Long told on the show that he thinks the general election campaign between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump is going to be rough and tumble on steroids! He feels it'll be the most negative campaign in modern times, maybe ever. Dr. Long says neither are warm and fuzzy or well liked, as both have high negatives with the voters. So he feels each of them will be looking to win the election by making the other candidate look even less desirable. Long thinks that might wear down many voters to the point where many don't vote, leading to a depressed turnout. Long however told that others disagree with him on this and feel it'll be a high turnout with voters fearing the other candidate might win.

July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016 - Lee Sawyer - Project Manager for the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

Subject Matter: On this week's Dialogue show they were talking trash ... literally, with Lee Sawyer, Project Manager for the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Mr. Sawyer discussed the State DEEP's new comprehensive strategy on trash as they are looking for ways to reduce trash and increase recycling. He told that for most people once they throw their trash away it's out of sight and out of mind. But Lee Sawyer explained that there is the environmental impact of trash and the economic impact of trash. He told that when they look ahead here in Connecticut they anticipate there's going to be a reduction in the capacity of some of the facilities that take people's trash ... which means that the cost of managing those materials is going to increase. Sawyer says they are also concerned that it could lead to the increase in landfilling trash out of state, which has a bad impact environmentally for greenhouse gases from transportation and from landfilling.

Lee Sawyer with the State DEEP explained that for the past 25 years Connecticut has been using trash to energy plants. He told that there are currently 5 in the state, but that some of them are beginning to reach the end of their useful life and will have to be phased out. Sawyer says for household trash there is no landfill capacity in the state anymore. He explained that over the years Connecticut has phased out landfilling and has capped and sealed those landfills. Sawyer says that's a good thing environmentally and really makes Connecticut a

July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016 - (Sawyer continued) - leader in the country. He told that Connecticut made a very positive step when the state moved to trash to energy facilities 25 years ago, but now it's time to move to the next chapter with newer technologies.

In the development of the latest strategy the State DEEP went through a whole process of holding hearings. Lee Sawyer says they did it to coordinate this on the state and local level, working with towns and cities as well as business and residents. So he told that they spent a lot of time talking and listening around the state and tried to understand what issues were most important to residents and local officials. He says people had concerns about the cost of the system, but right now municipalities are spending tens of millions of dollars per year to manage waste materials. Sawyer though says part of their strategy is to try and bring those costs under control. He says the number one action they need to take collectively is to reduce the amount that we throw away, and recycle as much as we can recycle. Every state resident on average generates about 3.5 pounds of trash a day, which Sawyer says is about 13-hundred pounds per year per person.

On the recycling side Lee Sawyer says right now Connecticut recycles about 35% of the materials that we discard. He says that is consistent with the national average. So he says we are on the right track as the state has made a lot of progress over the last 10 to 15 years. But Sawyer says they think we need to do better, as they know there's still a significant amount of recyclable material that is in the trash. He says they've found that over 20% of the material that's in the trash could have been recycled. Sawyer says they are looking at keeping about another 200-thousand to 400-thousand tons out of the waste stream, which would equal out to a savings of about \$25-million per year at least.

Lee Sawyer with the State DEEP says a big component of the state's new materials management strategy will be a big educational campaign. He says unfortunately many people don't realize what can be recycled and what cannot be recycled. Sawyer told for example you should not put plastic bags in your recycling bin, nor should you put things like garden hoses or leaves and grass clippings ... as those are not recyclable either. So he says they want to have a statewide message on what can be recycled and have a central source of information. Sawyer says that most people want to do the right thing if they know what to recycle because it's better for our environment. He says the more we can reduce, reuse, and recycle ... the better our environment will be.

August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Dr. Randall Nelson - State Department of Public Health Senior Epidemiologist.

Subject Matter: This week on Dialogue Dr. Randall Nelson, State Department of Public Health Senior Epidemiologist, discussed the Zika virus and what the State of Connecticut is doing to protect state residents from it. Dr. Nelson explained that Zika is a mosquito-borne virus that is especially dangerous for pregnant women to contract because it can cause birth brain defects in the fetus, causing the baby to be born with a smaller head. For the rest of the general population Dr. Randall says many may not even know they have Zika virus because they may not feel the symptoms. He says some could get a rash or feel fatigued. So Dr. Randall says Zika virus is really of great threat to pregnant women or those who may get pregnant. He says Zika virus can be spread through sexual contact with a partner who has recently returned from an infected area. Dr. Randall says the Zika virus can still be transmitted through sexual contact for a period of about 8 weeks. So a woman looking to conceive should not have sexual contact with a partner coming back from a Zika infested area for 8 weeks as the Zika virus could still be transmitted to the female partner and to the fetus through sexual contact.

State Health Department Senior Epidemiologist Dr. Randall Nelson told that travel is the major risk factor for Connecticut residents contracting the Zika virus. He told the main mosquito that carries Zika virus is the Yellow Fever mosquito, which does not exist in Connecticut. Dr. Randall did say though that Connecticut does have one kind of mosquito that is capable of carrying Zika, the Asian Tiger mosquito .. but he feels the risk in Connecticut is very, very, low. So he says Connecticut residents have to guard against Zika virus when traveling by avoiding mosquito bites and using mosquito repellent that contains DEET. Dr. Randall says so far of the 63 Connecticut people that have contracted Zika virus after traveling, 24 of them had traveled to the Dominican Republic and 12 returned from Puerto Rico, with 13 of the 63 infected pregnant women. He says Connecticut participates in the National Zika Virus Pregnancy Registry, which is coordinated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that is keeping tabs on pregnant women who have been exposed to Zika virus. Dr. Randall also mentioned on the show that the Miami area in Florida now has had mosquitoes testing positive for the Zika virus ... so Florida was the first state in the United States that travelers had to be mindful of for Zika infected mosquitoes when traveling.

Here in Connecticut Dr. Randall Nelson says the State Health Department

August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (Randall continued) - works closely with entomologists at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven who trap and test mosquitoes across Connecticut. He says they are testing them for Zika virus for the first time this year, as well as two other mosquito-borne viruses that they have been testing for the past few years – West Nile virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis. Dr. Nelson told that they have done quite a bit of planning for Zika virus. He says aside from monitoring for it, they are also making people aware of the dangers and to protect themselves ... especially when traveling. Dr. Randall says they are alerting travelers at Bradley International Airport with print materials and messaging, on their website, and through interviews like on this Dialogue show.

August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Michael Bzdyra - Connecticut Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.

Subject Matter: On this week's show State Motor Vehicles Commissioner Michael Bzdyra discussed where the Motor Vehicles Department is at, after all of the computer glitches that kept happening after a switchover to a new computer system. Commissioner Bzdyra actually took over as DMV commissioner when the previous Commissioner Andres Ayala resigned after the switchover had people waiting in long lines for hours. But the problem didn't end there as other glitches in the new system occurred too with people being pulled over and having their vehicles towed for not having proper insurance. The only problem was these people **did** have proper insurance, it was just that the DMV computer system did not pass that info onto law enforcement. Commissioner Bzdyra says they have reimbursed those people for the tickets and towing fees that they had to pay. In the meantime, he says they are not allowing that info to go to law enforcement until they've fixed those bugs and glitches in the computer system.

New DMV Commissioner Michael Bzdyra told that he's been with the DMV for about 5-years and has a knowledge of the agency and what needs to be done going forward. He says he enjoys the job and wants to right the ship and make things much better for their customers. Bzdyra says he knows after all of the problems with the switchover to the new computer system the DMV has a public image problem. He says his whole focus now is to change that and they are looking at how to make it best for their customers. Bzdyra says the goal is to build trust with their customers, cut wait times at their branches, and improve things

August 14th, 2016 - (Bzdyra continued) - overall.

Of course one would think the new computer system would have improved things. New DMV Commissioner Michael Bzdyra told that over 40-million pieces of data had to be converted from the old system over to the new one, and unfortunately the transition did not go well with lines out the door and people waiting for hours to be served. He says now they've gotten those wait times down to roughly an hour ... which is still too long he says. Bzdyra says he'd like to get wait times down to less than half-an-hour. He says one of the things they'd like to do is get more people to do whatever DMV business they can online. He says that way people can go online, instead of waiting in line. Bzdyra told if they can do that it would probably reduce the wait times down to 15-to-20 minutes. He says they'll be doing a marketing educational campaign to inform people what motor vehicles transactions they can do online. Commissioner Bzdyra told that things people can do online are: renew their registration, order vanity license plates, and cancel their registration online. Bzdyra explained that motorists still need to come into a DMV branch to register a used or new vehicle for the first time to get the hard plates to put on their vehicle, if they are not doing it through a dealer. He also says people still need to come into a DMV branch (or a AAA branch) to renew their driver's license.

New DMV Commissioner Michael Bzdyra says they want to get everything on track soon and fix all of the bugs and glitches in the new computer system. Unfortunately, they just had another problem recently that sent some car taxes out taxing people in the wrong town. But he says they are working out those issues with the vehicle owners and towns. Bzdyra says they've fired the computer contractor 3M over all of the glitches, but are still holding them accountable for all of the problems. He told also that Microsoft was brought in to give an overview of the system and advise them what they need to do to make sure the system is functioning as well as possible.

On another issue DMV Commissioner Bzdyra says the DMV has gotten into compliance with motor voter registration, after being sued by the federal Department of Justice. He told that now every person that comes into a DMV branch or an AAA branch for a new driver's license or license renewal has to be asked whether they want to register to vote, and that info is sent to the secretary of the state's office.

August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 - Kevin Sullivan - State Revenue Services Commissioner.

Subject Matter: On this Dialogue edition Kevin Sullivan, State Revenue Services Commissioner or the State Tax Commissioner, talked about good tax news this time: Connecticut's sales tax free week. He told that while some states have done away with it like Massachusetts ... Connecticut, despite the state's budget problems, is still having its sales tax free week from Sunday August 21<sup>st</sup> to Sunday August 27<sup>th</sup>. Sullivan admitted that with it being an election year perhaps there was no sentiment for suspending it. He told that the sales tax free week is tied to the back-to-school shopping time ... but is open for all to take advantage of. Sullivan let listeners know that all clothes and footwear under \$100 dollars would be sales tax free during the week. (At one time it was under \$300 dollars, so there was a concession made there).

Commissioner Kevin Sullivan says sales tax free week is good for consumers on clothing and footwear under \$100 dollars where they won't have to pay the State of Connecticut's 6.35% sales tax. He told that it's also good for retailers, as brick and mortar stores use it as a marketing tool. Sullivan says they get people into their stores, which is especially important these days whereas they are competing with Internet retailers. But he also pointed out that online retailers that honor Connecticut's sales tax, also honor sales tax free week and don't charge the tax during this week. Sullivan told that this is the 16<sup>th</sup> year that Connecticut was having a sales tax free week, so it is very popular for both consumers and retailers. He estimated that about 4.5 million dollars would probably be lost to the state coffers as a result of not collecting the state sales tax for the week. Sullivan told that if the money was going to go into the state's rainy day fund he'd feel bad, but it wasn't so it would have been spent. So his view is let the consumers spend it instead. He did advise consumers though to keep their receipts to show that their item was purchased during the sales tax free week if they should need to exchange it. Sullivan also told that during the years there have been some people feeling the sales tax free goods should be expanded to other items like school supplies or even furniture ... but that has never gotten any traction and is limited to clothing and footwear.

On another subject State Revenue Services Commissioner Kevin Sullivan was asked on the show where the battle stands to get all online retailers to collect Connecticut's 6.35 sales tax. He told that it is not going well ... with the exception of some online retailers like Amazon, because they have a physical presence in the

August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 - (Sullivan continued) - state now with a distribution center, so they do collect Connecticut's sales tax on purchases, but many, many other online retailers do not. Sullivan says the problem is Congress has refused to act on it, and the Supreme Court has said that Congress should fix it. But he says Congress has shown no desire to force online retailers to charge state sales taxes. Sullivan says that is bad for the states who are losing millions in revenue, and for brick and mortar stores who are required to charge the state sales tax and are at a big disadvantage with their online retail competition. Sullivan did say though that theoretically all consumers are responsible for reporting their own online purchases or items purchased out of state and used in Connecticut where sales tax was not paid. He says that is supposed to be declared and paid as use taxes when state residents file their state income tax return. Sullivan says the state is considering requiring all online retailers to inform both their customers and the State of Connecticut of all the sales that they have transacted with Connecticut residents, and that info would give the State of Connecticut the ability to collect the use tax.

August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Amy Parmenter – Spokesperson for the AAA in Connecticut.

Subject Matter: On this week's show, Amy Parmenter of the AAA in Connecticut discussed many issues that they deal with. One thing she says they always watch intently is gas prices because their members care about gas prices. Parmenter says it's been a great year for gas prices as they went down dramatically. This summer, she told, gas prices have been as low as they were back in 2004, just over 2-dollars. Parmenter says the Triple-A expects gas prices to remain relatively low with a good supply of oil worldwide, and that they could drop even further with the switchover to the winter blend coming, which is less expensive. With the lower gas prices Parmenter says that has enabled people to get out on the road this summer and take motoring vacations in record numbers. It was also the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Parks this summer, so people were able to travel to them without spending a ton of money on gasoline to get there. Parmenter says lower oil prices have not only translated to lower gasoline prices for drivers at the pumps ... but also to lower air fares for people flying. She says the Triple-A's travel business has been booming, with people flying to vacation spots.

Another thing that the Triple-A advises motorists about is new technology in the auto world. Amy Parmenter says they looked at the newly-developed automatic emergency braking systems that automatically slow down a vehicle. She says auto

August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (Parmenter continued) - manufacturers have agreed to make the automatic emergency braking systems standard in vehicles by the year 2022. She told there are two types, one that slows down the vehicle enough to avoid the crash altogether, and one that slows down the vehicle to lessen the crash.

Amy Parmenter of the AAA of Connecticut told that it's an exciting time for auto safety, with such things as lane assist and rear-side cameras being added to vehicles for safety. She says this is all moving quickly to autonomous self-driving vehicles ... and the Triple-A wants to make sure that it is a safe trip. Parmenter told that about 94% of crashes are driver-related, caused by something the driver did wrong. So she says if the driver can be eliminated from the decision making, imagine how many lives will be saved ... and the Triple-A is looking at the steps in that direction.

On the other hand, car manufacturers are putting more and more things into vehicles for drivers to look at like navigation systems, video screens, and touch screens, that can lead to distracted driving ... one of the biggest problems with motoring. Amy Parmenter says the AAA is weighing in on this situation on a regular basis and researching how these systems in the vehicles affect driving. She says Triple-A tests these systems that car-makers come up with and see if they do distract drivers' attention from the road ... and for how long. Parmenter says they also review what kind of voice systems work ... or are **less** distracting, as she says none are 100% safe at this point. Parmenter says unfortunately these days drivers on the road are always being distracted by something. She says a traffic culture study showed that people are aware that distracted driving is a problem, and that they themselves are distracted drivers ... however they think they are better at dealing with it. Parmenter added that it's not just teens that are doing things in vehicles that causes distracted driving, it's a widespread problem. However, she says everyone wants the same thing from the Triple-A, auto manufacturers, insurance companies, and drivers ... and that is to save lives and still get to where you are going to.

It's also the time of year where kids are going back to school after the summer. Amy Parmenter told that the Triple-A has been involved in the School's Open-Drive Carefully campaign for about 75-years. She says it's more important than ever with all of the distractions there are for drivers, and pedestrians as well. Parmenter says people these days are looking down all of the time. She says both drivers and pedestrians need to keep their heads up and look out for what's coming

September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Denise Merrill - Connecticut Secretary of the State.

Subject Matter: On this show Denise Merrill, Connecticut Secretary of the State, discussed concerns that have been in the news lately on possible cyber threats to the election process and whether or not it is possible to rig elections this November by the Russians or somebody else. Merrill told that there has been no real threat identified and that it's really all speculative. She says the FBI did send out a memo to all Secretaries of the State in each U.S. state, telling that there had been some ping-pong of voting data bases in some states and in two of them they actually got in. Merrill explained that the voting system in the U.S. is really 2-things: the voter registration list, which is a statewide database that is maintained at the local level, and is not on the Internet but on a closed system. The other part she told, is the actual machines that people vote on, which in Connecticut are really scanners that count the votes, and they are not at all connected to the Internet. She says they are free standing machines ... so when people talk about somebody hacking the election Merrill says there's really no system nationwide or even statewide to hack. Merrill says there's no way someone could mess with the results. She also told that there's a paper backup record. Merrill says any talk of hacker being able to rig the elections in November are unfounded. She says that's why it is so important for people like herself who work in elections to make sure the public is educated, so that people's confidence is not shaken in our voting system. Merrill says it really is a pretty far-fetched idea that hackers can rig it. Merrill says there are just too many safeguards in place for it to happen, especially in this big, but controversial presidential election year. She says if there is anything she might ever be worried about it might be physical intimidation at the polls. But she says there are thousands and thousands of jurisdictions in the country and they are all free-standing. Merrill says there is not a state in this country that does any form of Internet voting or even connectedness of the machines to the Internet. She says it's just not connected at all. Merrill added though, that this is a big reason why she is against voting online because then you would be susceptible to hackers, and that's why no states in the country have online voting.

Also on the show, Secretary of the State Denise Merrill discussed the new motor voter registration that the State of Connecticut has now finally gotten on board with. The state was in the process of getting it going ... but the federal government pushed Connecticut to speed up the process by suing the state. But now Connecticut has complied and when someone either gets a new driver's license or renews their driver's license, at either a Department of Motor Vehicles

September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (Merrill continued) - branch or a Triple-A office they are asked by the clerk if they'd also like to register to vote. Secretary of the State Merrill says in just the initial amount of time since it started on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 10-thousand new people have registered to vote ... an astonishing number. She also told that another 10-thousand people have refreshed their information, such as a new address. She says this saves people from having to go down to their local town hall to register. Merrill says it's convenient and a lot of people are taking advantage of it.

On another voting related topic, the Pew Charitable Trusts came out with an Elections Performance Index and Connecticut came out in the top 5, moving up in the rankings. Secretary of the State Denise Merrill is very thrilled about this because the index measures the ease of voting. She says they measure things like wait times and how easy it is to vote. Merrill says the State of Connecticut has made great strides in this regard with Election Day registration now and having developed an online registration system. So she says this is a good measure of progress the state has made.

Another responsibility of the Secretary of the State's office is to register companies to do business in Connecticut. If they don't do it, Denise Merrill's office charges them penalties. On the show Merrill says as a result they have just raked in \$1.1 million in fines. She says it's all about accountability. Merrill says most of these companies that have been fined are from out of state and are doing business in the state without registering in the state.

September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Joe DeLong - Executive Director of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities.

Subject Matter: On this week's show Joe DeLong, Executive Director of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities talked about how they've formed a new state-local partnership panel. He says it came after some of their members expressed concerns and frustration with the so-called MORE Commission that was supposed to spur regional cooperation and pool resources for certain services. He says while the MORE Commission was well intended it was starting to be used against local governments. So they decided to put their own panel together because they the initiative was good but they wanted input from those on the ground level. DeLong says they wanted to study this, come up with a plan where services could be delivered in a more cost effective and efficient manner. He says

September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (DeLong continued) - then of course there is also the funding side, trying to figure out how to pay for the services. DeLong told that Connecticut has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest property taxes in the nation, and local governments are completely hamstringed with the taxing system. He says the only thing they can do to raise revenue is raise property taxes or go to the legislature for more municipal aid. DeLong says it is an unsustainable system and has been for quite some time. He says it really squashes job growth, home ownership, and is especially tough for urban areas because they have less and less properties that they can tax.

CCM's Joe DeLong says some of the things they discussed to pool resources regionally were to consolidate 911 call centers, open up labor contracts, and try to cut down on duplicating certain education programs, and office services. He says they were also looking at what they did well and what works well in the other 49 states...and what doesn't. DeLong says there are very few new ideas, as most of the time somebody else had done it or tried it. He says they want to look at what's going on across the country and make Connecticut more competitive.

Joe DeLong told on the show that while the fiscal situation with the State of Connecticut has gotten worse in the 2-years since he came to the state as director of CCM, the relationship in working with the legislature has gotten a lot better. He told that when he first took the job it would take multiple phone calls trying to get a lawmaker to call him back to talk about a bill that would have a major impact on cities and towns. DeLong says trying to get a returned call was very frustrating, and he had never experienced that before in other states where he's worked. But he says now they've built up relationships with these lawmakers and have a much better dialogue with them. DeLong says they aren't always going to agree, but says it's important that they turn the page after a disagreement and work together on another issue... and that has been occurring because they are all in this together.

On the show Joe DeLong was also asked about the judge's decision in the state education funding lawsuit. The judge ruled that the State of Connecticut needs to come up with a new education funding formula and he also addressed teacher evaluation, as well as some standards for high school and elementary school graduations. DeLong told that he was in the courtroom for that decision and he says it was fun to be there as he says he never lost interest in the judge's long detailed ruling. He feels that the judge to some degree blew up the whole public education system in the state ... and DeLong feels it was needed. DeLong

September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (more DeLong continued) - says he's not only the CCM director but also a parent with 2 children in the public education system. He feels Judge Thomas Moukawsher left no stone unturned. He hoped the state wouldn't appeal the judge's ruling. (But State Attorney General George Jepsen is appealing). DeLong however feels that everybody knows the state has challenges that need to be addressed, and the sooner they get to work on them the better the education system the state will have for our children. DeLong says their organization is willing to be a part of any committee and sit down in any room and talk to anybody and share suggestions and recommendations. He says it can't be about individual cities and towns, or about Democrats or Republicans, it has to be about the kids. DeLong says they need to come together and fix these problems for the kids and their education ... especially in the poverty districts of Connecticut. He says funding for education in Connecticut as far as they are concerned needs to be transparent, fair, and predictable ... and that hasn't been the case for quite some time. DeLong says state lawmakers will often change the funding for cities and towns after the local municipalities have already made out their budgets. He says it's like moving the goal posts in the middle of the game, and it's a terrible way to govern and set education budgets. DeLong says they know the state has a very good education system in the state's wealthier districts, but not in the state's impoverished districts. He says that's an injustice and needs to be fixed as soon as possible, which DeLong says should be done immediately following the election.

CCM's drug abuse prevention work group recently released recommendations for communities to follow concerning the opioid epidemic that's plaguing the state. Joe DeLong says this opioid problem doesn't affect just one city or town or one economic area or population, race or gender. He says anybody you talk to across the state has some connection to someone who has an opioid drug problem whether it be a family member or a neighbor, this drug abuse problem is prevalent right now in Connecticut. He says CCM realizes that it needs to be addressed with the right tools and resources across the board. DeLong says that means working with church groups and community groups, as it's not all from the government side in trying to get a handle on the opioid epidemic and leave no stone unturned.

September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Shawn Lang - Chair of the Connecticut Opiate Overdose Prevention Work Group.

Subject Matter: On this week's show Shawn Lang, Chair of the Connecticut Opiate Overdose Prevention Work Group, discussed the opiate addiction epidemic in Connecticut and what they are doing to address it. She told that this group got started over 3-years ago. At that time, she says legislation had changed to make it easier for people to have access to Narcan (Naloxone) which reverses an opiate overdose, but there wasn't any central coordination to get that information out to the public and family members. So Ms. Lang says they pulled together people from the relevant state departments like Public Health, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Corrections, Children and Families, Consumer Protection, plus people who work in treatment programs and researchers at Yale. She says they went to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner to look at opioid involved overdose death data from 2009 to 2014. Ms. Long says they found that there were about 2-thousand accidental and unintentional opioid involved deaths, which occurred in 152 of Connecticut's 169 towns and cities. She says the demographic breakdown was 70% male and 84% white, though she told that it does not discriminate with both younger and older people dying. Ms. Lang says 70% of those involved pharmaceutical opiates with a bit of an uptick in heroin involved overdoses between 2012 and 2014.

Shawn Lang says she feels people have a picture in their mind on who overdoses on opioids, probably an older guy behind a dumpster in a dark alley. But she told that 82% of those overdose deaths occurred in residences, either in their own home, or a family's or friend's home. She says this is why it's important to talk about this because it's happening all around us, whether people want to admit it or not. Ms. Lang told that Yale researchers made a map showing where the hot spots are where this is happening across the state. Ms. Lang also says that the Department of Consumer Protection just released an interactive map so people can find pharmacies that will prescribe and dispense Naloxone. She says their group wants to make people aware of Naloxone and how to access it.

Shawn Lang, with the Connecticut Opiate Overdose Prevention Work Group, says unfortunately opioid abuse starts off by being prescribed to people for legitimate medical reasons ... but people get hooked on them and sometimes make the transition to heroin because it's cheap and readily available. She says also troubling is there are some doctors who prescribe opioids as if they were giving out

September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (Lang continued) - Skittles for pain or anxiety. Land says also doctors don't always tell their patients how dangerous these opiates are, and are not offering a co-prescription for Narcan or Naloxone to reverse an overdose. She really feels that pharmaceutical companies also bear part of the blame too because opiates were originally not intended for regular or long-term pain management. Lang says they were really intended for end of life care for people who have cancer to manage that pain at the end of their life. She says some good things have occurred in Connecticut where legislation was passed to try and limit the supply when an opiate is prescribed – 7 days for the initial prescription. But Lang says the state needs a better coordinated effort, perhaps a drug policy director that coordinates all of the activities in the state departments. She also feels there needs to be better data collection on for instance when Naloxone is administered by first responders in all locales across the State of Connecticut.

As for the overdose reversing drug Naloxone goes (distributed under the brand name Narcan) Shawn Lang feels it should be in every first aid kit. She explained that it's perfectly safe and it has no side effects. Lang says it is very easy to use with no special training needed to administer Naloxone, and most importantly it is very effective as it saves lives. So she says why not carry Naloxone as it can save a life. Funding of course is also very important in fighting the opioid crisis in Connecticut, and she told that \$5 million dollars the state just received in federal funding to address the opioid epidemic will help.

September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Mary Lee Kiernan – A Leader of the New Non-Profit Permanent Commission on the Status of Women.

Subject Matter: On this show Mary Lee Kiernan told that the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women was a state agency for decades, but because of the state's budget crisis several agencies were either done away with or combined. The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women had some of their roles put into a new smaller state agency. But Mary Lee Kiernan told that they'd like to take the PCSW non-profit. She says the decision was a collaborative one with former commissioners and other key employees of the former PCSW after it was eliminated as an agency. Kiernan says they want to continue the 43-year legacy of progress for women and girls in Connecticut, and they decided on a non-profit format and will carry forward and advance the agenda of the former agency, making progress on gender equity ... and keep it "permanent".

September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (Kiernan continued) -

Mary Lee Kiernan says it's unfortunate that state government in their priority list didn't feel that promoting women's issues was amongst them. She says that's why they feel it is necessary to continue the PCSW as a non-profit, as there are significant issues around women's economic security, health and safety, and education. Kiernan says these issues go to the heart of the wellness of the population and our economy. She says to minimize women and girls is a step in the wrong direction and they want to bring that back into the forefront.

Now the legislature made a new commission – The Commission on Women, Children, and Seniors. Mary Lee Kiernan says the new commission has been tasked with overseeing public policy for not only women and girls throughout the state, but also children and seniors too. She says that is certainly an enormous undertaking. Kiernan says they'll also have to do that with a reduced budget and staff versus what existed before for those three populations. She says they are looking to partner with the new state agency and collaborate with them to move the agenda forward and pick up where they may not be able to address some of the issues that are on the PCSW's agenda.

Mary Lee Kiernan, of the new non-profit PCSW, says they are still identifying how big they would like to grow. She says they are fundraising from private foundations, community foundations, from individuals, and from corporations. She says there's a lot of enthusiasm for this effort. Kiernan tells that they will be lobbying for women's issues at the State Capitol with lawmakers, but are not a lobbying firm. She says they'll set their own legislative agenda that is independent of what may be going on in any given year in the general assembly and the State of Connecticut.

Ms. Kiernan says while the new non-profit Permanent Commission on the Status of Women is still organizing, she says they know some of the issues they'll be fighting for when the 2017 Connecticut legislative session gets underway. She says they will certainly be a partner in the ongoing fight to make Connecticut the next state to pass a comprehensive program of paid family and medical leave. Kiernan reminded listeners that Connecticut was the first state (with the help of the PCSW) to pass the right to keep your job if you are out on family medical leave. She says then the federal government passed it, as well as other states. However, Kiernan says only a handful of states have passed **paid** family and medical leave. She explained that this is an insurance program that is paid for by employees, via

September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (more Kiernan continued) - payroll deductions, not by employees. She says they are “blueskying” 12 weeks of leave with up to a thousand dollars a week in insurance that would help sustain these families when they are out caring for their loved ones.

Another issue that Mary Lee Kiernan says the new non-profit PCSW wants to continue to address that the PCSW was working on when it was a state agency is human sex and labor trafficking. She says they had gathered law enforcement and policy makers together last winter on this issue, and Kiernan says it became very clear that there was a problem with enforcement and not enough convictions going on which didn't make sense. Kiernan says there needs to be a more in depth assessment to pinpoint what the issues are and how legislation can address it. She feels the scope of the problem is vastly underestimated in Connecticut.

Kiernan says they also will be fighting for more rights for domestic workers who are under paid and work in conditions that are not appropriate and probably not legal. She says underpaying and maltreatment of domestic workers is something Connecticut should not tolerate. She told that in general in all walks of paying jobs, women still earn 71-cents for every dollar that men earn ... so there still is a chronic wage disparity that needs to be addressed. Kiernan told that anyone who would like to get involved by contributing to the new non-profit PCSW can go to their website [www.ctpcsw.org](http://www.ctpcsw.org) or contacting them by email at: [info@ctpcsw.org](mailto:info@ctpcsw.org).

