



Pittsfield, Massachusetts

## ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

JULY—AUGUST—SEPTEMBER  
Q3 2022

Compiled by Shawn T. Serre and David Cachat

# WTBR 89.7 FM

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

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## QUARTERLY ISSUES & PROGRAMS LIST

July 1—September 30, 2022

**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. **STATE ELECTION 2022:** The Democratic primary on September 6<sup>th</sup> decided several state-held offices, including Berkshire County District Attorney, Berkshire County Sheriff, and State Senate. WTBR provides listeners exposure to the candidates and their ideas and views.
- B. **LOCAL NEWS & POLITICS:** Summer months are usually on the quiet side for local issues, but this year several persistent issues stayed on the minds of listeners, including charter objections on budget items, the city's homelessness problem, and road maintenance.
- C. **COMMUNITY, ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS:** Summer is the busy season for the area's arts and culture economy. Pittsfield continues to benefit from the increased attention to these activities, and WTBR profiles many of the offerings in interviews with these organizations.
- D. **EDUCATION:** September marked the beginning of the new school year for both public schools and community college. Students and families are grappling with the cost of college and keeping up with the possibility of student loan debt forgiveness.
- E. **LAW ENFORCEMENT & PUBLIC SAFETY:** Fire safety, ambulance issues, environmental police, and digital forensics dominated the topics covered in the category of public safety this quarter.

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## 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. STATE ELECTION 2022:

**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:

- 7/4/2022 – State Rep. Paul Mark
- 7/6/2022 - Alf Barbalunga, Sheriff candidate
- 7/11/2022 - Thomas Bowler, Sheriff candidate
- 7/12/2022 - Eric Lesser, Lt. Governor candidate
- 7/13/2022 - Timothy Shugrue, DA candidate
- 7/26/2022 - Brendan Phair, state senate candidate
- 8/1/2022 - Andrea Harrington, DA candidate
- 8/10/2022 - Smitty Pignatelli, State Rep
- 8/11/2022 - Alf Barbalunga, Sheriff candidate
- 8/12/2022 - Thomas Bowler, Sheriff candidate
- 8/15/2022 - Michele Benjamin, Pittsfield City Clerk
- 8/22/2022 - John Comerford, Gov. Council Candidate
- 8/25/2022 - Alf Barbalunga, Sheriff candidate
- 8/26/2022 - Thomas Bowler, Sheriff candidate
- 8/29/2022 - John Barrett, State Rep
- 8/30/2022 - Paul Mark, State Rep

### B. LOCAL NEWS & POLITICS:

**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:

- 7/21/2022 - Patrick Kavey, Pittsfield ward 5 city councilor
- 7/25/2022 - Earl Persip, Pittsfield city councilor at-large
- 7/27/2022 - Tim Sorrell, Lanesboro selectman
- 8/8/2022 - Peter Marchetti, Pittsfield city council president
- 8/16/2022 - Karen Kalinowsky, Pittsfield city councilor at-large
- 8/18/2022 - Cliff Nilan, Parks Commission
- 9/1/2022 - Linda Tyer, Mayor of Pittsfield
- 9/12/2022 - Dina Guiel Lampiasi, Pittsfield ward 6 city councilor
- 9/16/2022 - Peter Marchetti, Pittsfield city council president
- 9/27/2022 - Adam Hinds, outgoing MA state senator

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- 9/28/2022 - Richard Neal, U.S. Congressman
- 9/29/2022 - Ricardo Morales, Pittsfield Public Works Commissioner

## C. COMMUNITY, ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS:

**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:

### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT:

- 7/1/2022 – Peter Marchetti, Pittsfield July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade Committee
- 7/7/2022 – Albert Cummings, nationally-known blues musician
- 7/18/2022 – Josh Cutler, Eagles Band
- 7/19/2022 - Jennifer Beeson – Edith Wharton’s The Mount
- 7/20/2022 - Michael Fabrizio, Nashville country artist
- 8/4/2022 - Howard Herman, Berkshire Eagle sports reporter
- 8/9/2022 - Berkshire Theatre Group
- 9/5/2022 - Pittsfield Cultural Council

### COMMUNITY & NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS:

- 7/5/2022 - Goodwill Industries
- 7/15/2022 - Jim McGrath, Pittsfield Open Space manager
- 7/22/2022 - Cathy Carchedi, Ad-Lib, disability issues
- 8/3/2022 - EforAll Participants
- 8/5/2022 - John Perrault, Berkshire Humane Society
- 8/8/2022 - Mike Stewart, Adams Fall Run motorcycle charity ride
- 8/19/2022 - Jim Clark, COA Director
- 9/2/2022 - Janis Broderick, Elizabeth Freeman Center
- 9/7/2022 - Gt. Barrington Food Bank
- 9/13/2022 - Alex Reczcowski, Director of Berkshire Athenaeum (library)
- 9/23/2022 - Becky Manship, Pittsfield recreation director
- 9/30/2022 - Tom Bernard and Berkshire United Way

**Backstory – Let’s Hear It!**—Broadcast each Friday morning at 10:00 AM; Duration 60 minutes. Hosted by Roberta McCulloch-Dews, this program featured interviews on this topic with the following people:

- 7/8/2022 - Mary McGinnis, Artwalk Pittsfield and other downtown events
- 9/2/2022 - Elizabeth Heller, author: her new book and how children can use it

**Cultural Pittsfield Radio Show**—Broadcast each Friday morning at 8:30 AM; Duration 30 minutes. This is a weekly hosted by City of Pittsfield Cultural Development Director Jennifer

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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:

- 7/8/2022 - Lesley Herzberg & Erin Hunt, Arrowhead
- 8/5/2022 - Patrick O'Toole, Shakespeare in the Park

**On Patrol with the PPD** – WTBR-FM features a regular 1-hour weekly program on Fridays, produced by the Pittsfield Police Department, entitled “On Patrol with the PPD.” The program discusses incidents and police response in the community. Programs aired this period include:

- 8/5/2022 - Rebecca Brien, Downtown Pittsfield Inc.

## D. EDUCATION:

**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:

- 7/28/2022 - Nate Buddington, Berkshire College Advising
- 8/2/2022 - Katherine Kidd, OLLI Instructor
- 8/23/2022 - William Cameron, Pittsfield School Committee chair
- 9/14/2022 - Ellen Kennedy, Berkshire Community College President
- 9/21/2022 - Laurie Vilord, Berkshire Community College

## E. LAW ENFORCEMENT & PUBLIC SAFETY:

**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:

- 7/29/2022 - Tom Sammons, Pittsfield Fire Chief
- 8/17/2022 - Brian Andrews, County Ambulance
- 9/15/2022 - Brian Andrews, County Ambulance

**On Patrol with the PPD** – WTBR-FM features a regular 1-hour weekly program on Fridays, produced by the Pittsfield Police Department, entitled “On Patrol with the PPD.” The program discusses incidents and police response in the community. Programs aired this period include:

- 7/8/2022 - Lt. Carlow, Looking at the Environmental Police
- 7/22/2022 - Sgt. Jeff Arena, PPD's new Digital Forensic Evidence Unit

## Section III. Additional Programs Aired This Quarter

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**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:**

- F. CULTURAL DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION:** We recognize the need to feature diverse voices which represent the population of our community. It is important for our listeners to hear information and opinions from a wide variety of people and experiences, and to promote those voices using our broadcast platform.

**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:

- 7/14/2022 - Shirley Edgerton: ROPE, Women of Color Giving Circle, trip to Ghana

**Cultural Pittsfield Radio Show**—Broadcast each Friday morning at 8:30 AM; Duration 30 minutes. This is a weekly 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:

- 9/2/2022 - Barbara Grill, OLLI: Upcoming Diversity and university days from OLLI

**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. This program aired on the following dates:

- July 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29;
- August 5, 12, 19, and 26;
- September 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30.

**NOMADAS Radio**—Spanish-language talk program which tackles issues important to the Latino community, hosted by America Lopez. Aired weekly on Monday afternoons 5:00-6:00 PM. This program aired on the following dates:

- July 11, 18, 25;
- August 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29;
- September 12, 19, and 26.

- G. FAITH, SPIRITUALITY & RELIGION:**

**Morning Drive with Bill Sturgeon**—Broadcast each weekday morning at 7:30 AM; Duration 60 minutes:

- 8/31/2022 - Bishop William Byrne, Diocese of Springfield MA

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## H. ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, CULTURE, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

**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, 7:00-9:00 PM:

- July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30;
- August 6, 13, 20, and 27;
- September 3, 10, 17, and 24.

**The program descriptions listed above represent a portion of the informational programming provided during the quarter. In addition, the station produces and broadcasts local and national Public Service Announcements free of charge throughout the broadcast day.**

Compiled by Shawn T. Serre and David Cachat