

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (Carter continued) - the typical thing where Republicans were left out of the room with legislative Democrats finally coming up with some sort of budget. Representative Carter says he thinks it'll just be a Band-Aid type of budget from the Democrats to get them through the November election ... and then after that you'll hear them talk of another huge tax hike needed again. But Representative Carter says what they really need is discipline to cut programs in the budget and make long-term structural changes to it so they don't keep revisiting this problem time after time.

On another front it was a big week for Representative Dan Carter, as he was nominated at the State Republican convention to be their U.S. Senate candidate and go up against Democratic incumbent U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal. Carter defeated two other GOP hopefuls for the nomination at the convention getting 86% of the delegates. He told that he is humbled to have this opportunity and is grateful for the people who are giving him their backing to go up against Blumenthal. Now even though he only announced just 5 weeks prior to the convention that he was a GOP candidate for U.S. Senate, Carter says it has really been a 6-year process for him when he first won the state representative seat beating an incumbent and then winning twice more. He says he has been for common sense reform in Connecticut. Carter says he prides himself on being honest and fair and works with the opposition Democrats to get things done and is very respectful.

In going up against popular incumbent Senator Richard Blumenthal, Dan Carter says obviously it'll be an uphill battle as people don't know him as well, while Blumenthal gets his face in front of the cameras every opportunity that he gets. Carter says that Blumenthal, a former State Attorney General in Connecticut, takes on easy issues using his U.S. Senate pulpit as if he were still an attorney general ... but does not take on the tough issues like Isis chopping off people's heads. Instead Carter told on the show that Blumenthal is taking on the airlines industry about the size of its seats. Carter says Blumenthal is out of touch with the real important issues like foreign policy and the military. He says he would like to see the U.S. build back up its military.

Now there is the possibility that before Dan Carter goes up against Blumenthal in the fall election, he might still have to fend off a primary challenge.

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (more Carter continued) - August Wolf, who did not get enough delegate support at the Republican convention to force an automatic primary, says he is still going to try and gather enough Republican petition signatures ... of which he would need about 8-thousand by June 7<sup>th</sup> to be able to force a primary in August. Dan Carter told on the show that he'll only think about that primary possibility if indeed it happens ... otherwise he has his sights set on trying to unseat Blumenthal. He feels he will be able to raise enough money to get his message out in a campaign against Blumenthal.

May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 - Donna Landerman - Founder of the group: Save Our Water CT.

Subject Matter: On this show Donna Landerman, founder of the group Save Our Water CT, discussed efforts to protect Connecticut water supplies from overuse or misuse by corporations. She explained this got started last December when she read a story in the newspaper that her local town council in Bloomfield had passed a resolution to give Niagara Bottling a huge tax abatement to build a water bottling plant in Bloomfield. Landerman told that this came as a complete surprise to most people in town including residents on the environment committee in town. She says they didn't feel it was a good idea for their town and that they should have some say over it. Landerman told they all went to the local town council meeting to protest with over 200 people there ... but the town council and the town attorney refused to allow the citizens to have any say over what was going on.

Donna Landerman told that what happened in Bloomfield was clearly a democracy problem with the citizens having no say. She says the process was shepherded through the town of Bloomfield in secret. Landerman says these type of companies pick a town that is economically stressed knowing that they'll want the jobs and taxes. But she says the company tells the town not to let anybody know about it, because the company knows people will protest it. She says townspeople in Bloomfield feel Niagara is a threat to their water supply, with people having no say over what happens to their water. Landerman told this is a process that is going on nationally and statewide, where private companies come in and try to control a public resource. In this case it is water, which she says is probably the most basic resource that people need. Landerman says the town

May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 - (Landerman continued) - and Niagara says it's a little bit of water ... but it's up to 1.8 million gallons a day. She says that's equivalent to all of the water being used by all the industrial users in the MDC water region ... so it's not just a little bit of water.

Because of this situation in her town of Bloomfield, Donna Landerman, founder of Save Our Water CT, tried to get a piece of legislation through the general assembly to stop this, but it didn't work out. She says being new to the process the bill changed many times. Landerman says when they started out they wanted a moratorium on any large water users/water bottling companies ... in other words super-sized users. So their thought was to have a moratorium until the state water plan is completed, which will be at the end of June next year. But as the legislative process went forward Landerman was told that was not going to happen. She also says they wanted a drought provision, where there would be some control over who would get the water in a drought condition. Landerman says they wanted residential and local businesses to get priority and not the water bottler. But she says they were stonewalled on that front too. Landerman feels this is going to be a problem for other towns in the state too because Connecticut has no real regulations. She also told that there is the question of is there enough water for the local community and the water bottler. Landerman says there may be enough today, but will that be the case in the future ... especially with climate change. Then she says there is the plastic water bottle issue which is a toxic substance which is made from petroleum. So Landerman says they are going to have to be vigilant as this is not a short-term fight, they are in it for the long haul. She says a water bottling plant is an extractive industry that is not making anything, just taking away from Connecticut's water supply.

May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Michael Lawlor - Criminal Justice Advisor to Governor Dannel Malloy.

Subject Matter: On this show Michael Lawlor, Criminal Justice Advisor to Governor Dannel Malloy, discussed the governor's controversial "Second Chance Society" criminal justice reform bill. That bill was still awaiting a vote in the legislature's special session. (Note: In this election year however, lawmakers decided there was no appetite to take it up in the special session).

The governor's proposal had actually 2 parts. One part had to do with bail reform, the other had to do with raising the age for treating people as a juvenile for certain crimes. Michael Lawlor told that the main objective of the reforms is to reduce crime and secondarily to save a lot of money. On the bail issue Lawlor explained that on any given day there are about 33-hundred inmates in Connecticut's prisons who are there because they can't afford to post bail in a pending case. He says of those 33-hundred there are about 350 who are typically in there charged only with a misdemeanor. Lawlor says where that misdemeanor does not involve failure to appear in court, or any kind of family violence, or any hint of dangerousness ... the governor has proposed that a judge cannot impose money bail on someone who is charged only with a misdemeanor and it does not involve failure to appear, or some type of violence. Lawlor says that by itself will save the need to have 350 people sitting in jail, often times for a month or two, mainly because they are too poor to post their bail. He says the majority of people with a credit card, a job, a family, or a bank account can easily come up with the money to have their bond posted and get out the door ... but these people can't because they are too poor. Lawlor says that would save about 58-thousand dollars a day to have these 350 people or so, low-level misdemeanor defendants not sitting in jail.

The second part of the bill is a little more controversial, which has to do with raising the age limit for individuals who would be considered juvenile offenders, rather than adults. Michael Lawlor told that Governor Malloy felt Connecticut has had such great success in reducing crime committed by young people after the state raised the age about 10 years ago from 16 up to 18 ... most states are at 18. He says they've been monitoring the results of that and they've seen the number of young people getting into trouble, getting arrested, and

May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (Lawlor continued) - ending up sitting in jail has dropped significantly. Lawlor told for example the number of 17 year olds arrested statewide dropped 60% between 2008 and 2014. He says you could see a steady decline each and every year. Lawlor says although not as big, there's been a decline in the other ages as well.

So Michael Lawlor told on the show that Governor Malloy felt if Connecticut was getting these great results by treating younger people differently, why not try that same approach with 19, 20, and 21 year olds ... and that is the proposal. Lawlor explained that this is not about choosing to punish or not punish people. He says it's about finding a way for the criminal justice system to deal with younger people in a way that protects the public, but also doesn't make it extremely difficult for that person to succeed and turn their life around. Lawlor also pointed out that in the governor's proposal there's an allowance that anyone that commits a serious crime that warrants a significant prison sentence would be transferred to adult court and would get the same exact punishment that they would get today in adult court even if they were only 18, 19, or 20 years old. (But in this election year, lawmakers had jitters that if passed they'd be viewed as being "soft on crime," so the governor's proposals were never taken up for a vote in this legislative year).

June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Dr. Phillip Armstrong - Director of the State's Mosquito Management Program.

Subject Matter: On this show Dr. Phillip Armstrong, Director of the State's Mosquito Management Program, discussed the State of Connecticut's trapping and testing program. New to the mosquito-borne viruses that they are testing for this year is the Zika Virus, which has been linked to birth defects in newborns. This virus has been spreading in Latin America and in the Caribbean. Dr. Armstrong says there is a lot of travel from Connecticut to that part of the world. Right now he told that Zika Virus is a traveler's disease with 7 identified cases amongst Connecticut residents that have returned from traveling to these Zika affected areas. Armstrong explained however the concern is going into the summer months when mosquitoes are out and biting people here in Connecticut, that somebody could potentially contract the disease in another country, come

June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (Armstrong continued) - back here to Connecticut and then serve as a source of infecting mosquitoes here in the state. At this point they feel it's unlikely that would occur, but there is some potential for that. So he says they'll certainly be monitoring the mosquitoes to insure that if that does happen, they can go in and prevent the virus from being established here.

Dr. Phillip Armstrong told that there are 2 mosquito species that are primarily responsible for Zika Virus. He says the main mosquito species is called the Yellow Fever Mosquito which is not found in Connecticut as it's found in tropical areas and the Southern U.S. Though Dr. Armstrong says there is a second species called the Asian Tiger Mosquito and that mosquito has been found in Southern Connecticut ... but the number of these mosquitoes are relatively low ... so the risk is also fairly low. He told that if we do see outbreaks of Zika Virus in the U.S. it's much more likely to be seen in places like Florida and Southern Texas, where they have both of the mosquito species that can transmit the virus ... and of course in the Caribbean and Latin America. Again Dr. Armstrong told the biggest threat is for pregnant women as they could deliver a baby with birth defects, especially one with a smaller head. For healthy adults however he says the symptoms for Zika Virus are relatively mild which are flu-like, fever, and is often accompanied by a rash, and conjunctivitis, aka pink eye.

Meantime Dr. Phillip Armstrong says they'll be testing once again this year for the mosquito-borne West Nile Virus, which has been in the Northeast since 1999. He told that mild infections for West Nile Virus start out a lot like Zika Virus with fever, accompanied lots of times by a rash. But he says some people go on and develop much more severe symptoms with neuro-invasive disease that can start out with a stiff neck, then intense persistent headaches, and problems with motor control, confusion, slurred speech, and even a coma in the worst cases that require hospitalization.

Dr. Phillip Armstrong told that West Nile Virus is dependent on one mosquito species primarily, which is the Northern house mosquito, or *Culex Pipiens*, the scientific name. He says that species tends to do better during hot, dry weather... which is different from a lot of the other mosquitoes we have that do better when there's a lot of rainfall. So Dr. Armstrong told when we have intense heatwaves, that is when people should start thinking about guarding

July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (more Armstrong continued) - against the West Nile Virus.

Another virus Dr. Armstrong told the state tests for is the Triple-E Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis. He says it is rare, but it can be very deadly, and those that survive often suffer from permanent neurological damage. He says fortunately we don't see that virus every year in Connecticut, but in 2013 there were problems with it in Eastern Connecticut where the state had to shut down a couple of state parks, and there was one death from someone contracting the Triple-E Virus.

So Dr. Armstrong urges people to take precautions this summer not to get bitten by mosquitoes. He says people should use repellent with DEET especially when mosquitoes are most prevalent at dawn and dusk. He also told to try and get rid of any standing water around the home where mosquitoes could breed, like bird baths, buckets of water, and kid's wading pools.

June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Doug Schwartz - Quinnipiac University Poll Director.

Subject Matter: On this show Doug Schwartz, Director of the Quinnipiac University Poll, was back to discuss their latest polls. In the poll they did on Governor Dannel Malloy with regards to the governor's job approval rating with Connecticut voters, Schwartz told that it came back with the governor's lowest number ever at only 24%. He says a 24% job approval rating in the world of polling is really bad. Schwartz says it's one of the worst scores they have seen for a governor. He says that ties former Governor John Rowland for the lowest Connecticut governor job approval rating ever, and that was after Rowland admitted he had lied about favors he had received for his vacation cottage and Rowland's integrity was questioned. (Rowland ultimately resigned and went to prison). There's no scandal for current Governor Dannel Malloy ... the rating is simply Connecticut voters' opinion of how he's doing his job. Schwartz says people are just so unhappy with the economy and Malloy's handling of the economy, that his job approval ranking has really sunk.

Q-Poll Director Doug Schwartz says voters have never really warmed up to Governor Malloy as the highest his job approval has been in their polls is only 48%. Schwartz says from the moment Malloy took office in 2011 and had to deal

June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (more Schwartz continued) -

In a nonpolitical poll Doug Schwartz told that they polled on Connecticut's favorite baseball team, which they do annually. He told that the New York Yankees are the most popular at 44%, followed by the Boston Red Sox at 36%, and the New York Mets have 13% of the fans rooting for them. Schwartz says it's the Yankees largest lead over the Red Sox in 8 years. Meantime the 13% for Met's fans is the most fan support in Connecticut they've had in 6 years. He says the surge is no doubt fueled by their appearance in last year's World Series.

June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Douglas Fisher - Executive Director of Connecticut Humanities.

Subject Matter: On this show Douglas Fisher, Executive Director of Connecticut Humanities, discussed the negative impact Governor Dannel Malloy's line item budget veto would have on grant funding for cultural programs across the state. He explained that Connecticut Humanities is an advocate for liberal arts, promoting things like history, literature, the study of law, political science, ethics, philosophy, and various social sciences, and the way they enrich and shape our lives. Fisher told that they are not a state agency but a nonprofit ... though they do administer state funds to promote cultural activities. He also says they have federal funds that they are stewards of from the National Endowment for the Humanities, which is further augmented by foundation grants and individual contributions from people in Connecticut.

Governor Dannel Malloy in his line item vetoes cut \$1.7 million dollars out of the state budget for the humanities. Douglas Fisher says that cut in funding is going to be devastating and hurtful to hundreds of organizations that they support across the state and most of which are very small. Fisher says the local historical societies, small house museums, and libraries are all going to be hurt by the lack of grants the Connecticut Humanities now won't be able to give them due to the governor's budget cut. Fisher says unfortunately the cut is a convenient target ... but a false choice, especially in this social media age. He says social media has really been isolating people, whereas they are about trying to get people engaging with one another in a community setting like discussing books with one another. He says going from \$1.7 million dollars to Zero will mean they won't be handing out any grant money from the Connecticut Humanities Fund to

June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (Fisher continued) - community organizations.

Now with all of that going down with the governor vetoing that funding, Douglas Fisher is still holding out some hope that they might be able to come up with some “gap funding.” Fisher told that the Malloy administration is actually working with them to try and find some ways of helping to mitigate the issue as they know this has really put everybody in a fix. Fisher says the administration has looked to try and get a small amount of funding to them through the Department of Economic and Community Development to keep them slightly afloat. He says it would be a very small amount of what they were supposed to receive, basically he told it would just be better than nothing. So Fisher says they are also hoping that corporations or wealthy donors might be able to step up and help out by contacting them at 860-685-2260 or at [www.cthumanities.org](http://www.cthumanities.org).

June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Kevin Borrup - Associate Director of the Injury Prevention Center at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center.

Subject Matter: On this week’s show Kevin Borrup, with the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center’s Injury Prevention Center, talks about keeping kids safe now that they are out of school for the summer months. He says this period is also known as “the trauma season” because it’s the time of year when kids are most apt to get injured and end up at hospital emergency rooms.

Kevin Borrup during the show discussed many areas of concern where attention needs to be devoted to keep kids safe. One of these is around water, where tragically just this week a 7-year old Plainfield girl died in her backyard pool after she ventured out there without anyone’s knowledge. Borrup says unfortunately every summer there are a number of drownings. He told the key to preventing drownings is supervision and making sure there is a designated adult carefully watching them. Borrup says for younger children they recommend an adult actually be in the water with the kids. He says often times on television or in the movies when someone is having problems in the water their arms are flailing giving everyone notice they are in trouble. But Borrup says many times in real life that is not the case with a person just silently falling under the water. Going beyond supervision Borrup says they advise parents to get their children swimming lessons. He also says parents can get a U.S. Coast Guard approved

June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (Borrup continued) - life jacket for their children to wear while they are still learning to swim. Borrup says it's also not a bad idea for parents to learn CPR should something ever go wrong with a child swimming.

Another area that needs safety attention with kids is with them on wheels ... be it on a bicycle, roller blades, skate boards, or scooters. Kevin Borrup says on all of these kids need to have on a properly fitting helmet to protect them from a possible head injury. He also says they need to be on these in the safest areas, which often times is a sidewalk.

When it comes to wheels Kevin Borrup, from the Connecticut Children's Medical Center Injury Prevention Center, says one of the most important places to be concerned about safety is in motor vehicles. He says unfortunately motor vehicle crashes are the number one way that children are going to be injured or killed. So Borrup says children need to be properly restrained every time they are in the car, whether they are just going down the road or on a long trip. He says they should be appropriately in a child passenger restraint, whether it's a car seat, a booster seat, or if they are old enough just sitting with a lap and shoulder belt on. Borrup told listeners that they can go to [www.ctsafekids.org](http://www.ctsafekids.org) where they can find educational material to help parents know what is appropriate at the certain age and stage their child is at.

Kevin Borrup told that another area of concern is leaving a child in a hot car ... which should never, ever be done. He says every year in the United States there are about 37 children who die because of heat stroke after being left in a hot car. Connecticut had a death 2-years ago in Ridgefield when a father forgot about his son in the backseat, left him there during his workday after forgetting to drop him off at daycare, and the boy sadly died as a result. Borrup says it doesn't take long for a child left in a hot car to be in danger as their bodies heat up 3-to-5 times faster than an adult. He told that they have a campaign going called the "Where's Baby" campaign to remind people to look at the backseat before exiting a vehicle and leaving the child back there in a hot car. Borrup says to put something in the backseat like your cellphone, lunch, or even your left shoe, so that you'll retrieve it and remind yourself that the child is also back there. For older teens driving in this summer, Borrup says parents need to drive home the point for them not to text or talk on a cellphone, and not joyride with friends.