

Section I: Issues

WCMU Public Media has identified the following topics as significant issues facing our community this quarter:

- Agriculture
- Arts and Culture
- Economy
- Elections and Politics
- Environment
- Health and Healthcare
- Infrastructure
- Local and Regional News
- Sports
- Tourism

Section II: Responsive Programs

WCMU Public Media broadcast programs dealing with the various issues outlined in Section I of this list. The programming was aired on the dates and times as follows:

1. Agriculture

U.S. Experiences Agricultural Deficit – Will Bauer

Broadcast on Morning Edition 1/3/24 at 6:45am and 8:45am; and on All Things Considered at 4:44pm and 6:44pm. Duration 4:04. For the third time in five years, the United States will have imported more agricultural products than it has exported. It's what economists call a deficit.

From the Ground Up! – Pine Needles as Mulch – Judy Wagley

Broadcast 1/6/24 on Weekend Edition at 9:35am; and 1/9/24 on Here and Now at 1:34pm. Duration 5:04. Judy Wagley talks with Brent Crain about using pine needles as mulch.

Michigan Supreme Court to hear arguments on CAFO regulations – Ellie Katz

Broadcast on Morning Edition 1/12/24 at 6:45am and 8:45am; on Here and Now at 1:34pm; and on All Things Considered at 4:44pm. Duration 3:42. Michigan farmers are upset about the way the state regulates large livestock farms called CAFOs, and they're taking their concerns to the Michigan Supreme Court.

From the Ground Up! – Invasive Species – Judy Wagley

Broadcast 1/13/24 on Weekend Edition at 9:35am; and 1/16/24 on Here and Now at 1:34pm. Duration 5:03. Judy Wagley talks with Matt Lindauer about invasive species.

From the Ground Up! – Houseplants – Judy Wagley

Broadcast 1/20/24 on Weekend Edition at 9:35am; and 1/23/24 on Here and Now at 1:34pm. Duration 4:11. Judy Wagley talks with Trent Bowen about houseplants.

From the Ground Up! – USDA Gardening Zones – Judy Wagley

Broadcast 1/27/24 on Weekend Edition at 9:35am; and 1/30/24 on Here and Now at 1:34pm. Duration 5:09. Judy Wagley talks with Monica Jean about the changes to the USDA's gardening zones.

From the Ground Up! – Garden Tools – Judy Wagley

Broadcast 2/3/24 on Weekend Edition at 9:35am; and 2/6/24 on Here and Now at 1:34pm. Duration 3:45. Judy Wagley talks about gardening tools with Christian Zummer.

From the Ground Up! – Seed Catalogs – Judy Wagley

Broadcast 2/10/24 on Weekend Edition at 9:35am; and 2/13/24 on Here and Now at 1:34pm. Duration 5:10. Judy Wagley talks with Fred Monroe about seed catalogues ahead of the spring planting season.

From the Ground Up! – Indoor Seed Starting – Judy Wagley

Broadcast 2/17/24 on Weekend Edition at 9:35am; and 2/20/24 on Here and Now at 1:34pm. Duration 5:10. Judy Wagley talks with Janice Jenkins about starting your seeds indoors.

From the Ground Up! – Gardening for Wellness – Judy Wagley

Broadcast 2/24/24 on Weekend Edition at 9:35am; and 2/27/24 on Here and Now at 1:34pm. Duration 5:07. Judy Wagley talks with Holly Tiret about gardening for wellness.

From the Ground Up! – Planning your garden – Judy Wagley

Broadcast 3/2/24 on Weekend Edition at 9:35am; and 3/5/24 on Here and Now at 1:34pm. Duration 5:09. Judy Wagley speaks with Andrew Curtiss about planning out your garden.

From the Ground Up! – Preparing your garden site – Judy Wagley

Broadcast 3/9/24 on Weekend Edition at 9:35am; and 3/12/24 on Here and Now at 1:34pm. Duration 4:45. Judy Wagley speaks with Andrew Curtiss about preparing your garden site for summer.

From the Ground Up! – Spring Lawn Care – Judy Wagley

Broadcast 3/16/24 on Weekend Edition at 9:35am; and 3/19/24 on Here and Now at 1:34pm. Duration 3:45. Judy Wagley speaks with Brent Schultz about spring lawn care.

From the Ground Up! – CMU Greenhouse – Judy Wagley

Broadcast 3/23/24 on Weekend Edition at 9:35am; and 3/26/24 on Here and Now at 1:34pm. Duration 3:23. Judy Wagley visits the CMU Greenhouse with Karin Johnson.

From the Ground Up! – Controlling Weeds – Judy Wagley

Broadcast 3/30/24 on Weekend Edition at 9:35am. Duration 4:50. Judy Wagley talks with Fred Monroe about controlling weeds.

2. Arts and Culture**Midland Center launches \$50 million renovation – David Nicholas**

Broadcast on Morning Edition 1/5/24 at 6:45am and 8:45am; and on All Things Considered 1/5/24 at 4:44pm and 6:44pm. Duration: 4:10. WCMU's David Nicholas speaks with the Center's President and CEO John Loos about how the project will transform the Center.

3. Economy**Summit explores housing solutions in Great Lakes Bay region – David Nicholas**

Broadcast 2/21/24 on All Things Considered at 4:44pm; and on 2/22/24 on Morning Edition at 6:45am and 8:45am; and on Here and Now at 1:34pm. Duration 4:07. David Nicholas speaks with Ken Horn of the Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance about Michigan's housing crisis, and potential solutions.

Shock in Alpena after factory lays off over 150 workers – Rick Brewer

Broadcast 2/23/24 on All Things Considered at 4:44pm. Duration 4:24. WCMU's Rick Brewer speaks with Steve Schulwitz about the recently announced closure of DPI in Alpena.

4. Elections and Politics

Michigan Congressman Dan Kildee announces retirement from Congress – Rick Brewer

Broadcast on Morning Edition 1/10/24 at 6:35am and 8:35am; and on All Things Considered 1/10/24 at 4:50pm and 6:50pm. Duration 8:22. WCMU's Rick Brewer speaks with Rep. Dan Kildee about his retirement from Congress.

The city of Alpena is currently without a mayor – Tina Sawyer

Broadcast on Morning Edition 1/11/24 at 6:35am and 8:35am; on Here and Now 1/11/24 at 1:34pm; and on All Things Considered 1/11/24 at 4:44pm and 6:44pm. Duration 4:17. Elected officials are trying to determine the next steps to fill Alpena's vacant mayor position.

Alpena City Council appoints new mayor – Tina Sawyer

Broadcast on All Things Considered 1/18/24 at 4:44pm; on Morning Edition 1/19/24 at 6:45am and 8:45am; and on Here and Now 1/19/24 at 1:34pm. Duration 3:40. Cindy Johnson has been sworn in as Alpena's next mayor.

MichMash: Early Voting Discussion – Cheyna Roth

Broadcast on Here and Now 1/22/24 at 1:34pm. Duration 4:13. Hosts Cheyna Roth and Alethia Kasban speak with Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson about early voting in Michigan.

Local Michigan clerks prepare to implement new voting rules – Tina Sawyer

Broadcast on Morning Edition 1/24/24 at 6:45am and 8:45am; and on All Things Considered 1/24/24 at 4:44pm. Duration 4:39. Local clerks will have new rules for local elections, starting with next month's presidential primary. Tina Sawyer speaks about the new rules with the Midland Daily News' Isabelle Pasciolla.

Preschool, community college proposals headline State of the State address – Rick Pluta

Broadcast on 1/25/24 on Morning Edition at 6:45am and 8:45am; on Here and Now at 1:34pm; and on All Things Considered at 4:44pm. Duration 3:34. Governor Gretchen Whitmer put economic development, free community college tuition, and some love for the Detroit Lions front and center as she delivered her sixth State of the State address.

MichMash sits down with Gov. Whitmer following State of the State Address – Cheyna Roth

Broadcast on 1/29/24 on Here and Now at 1:34pm. Duration 3:50. Hosts Cheyna Roth and Zach Gorchow sit down with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to discuss her 2024 agenda.

MichMash discusses GOP 2024 agenda with Sen. Aric Nesbitt – Cheyna Roth

Broadcast on 2/5/24 on Here and Now at 1:34pm. Duration 3:50. Hosts Cheyna Roth and Alethia Kasban speak with Senate Minority Leader Aric Nesbitt about the GOP's 2024 agenda.

EVs and the Presidential race – Steve Carmody

Broadcast on 2/12/24 on Morning Edition at 6:45am and 8:45am; and on All Things Considered at 4:44pm. Duration 3:32. The future of electric vehicles in Michigan may depend on how the nation's next president decides to lead on the issue.

MichMash discusses Whitmer's latest budget proposal – Cheyna Roth

Broadcast on 2/12/24 on Here and Now at 1:34pm. Duration 3:50. Hosts Cheyna Roth and Zach Gorchow examine the governor's budget proposal. And Ben Solis provides an update on the redistricting process.

PFAs contamination becomes an issue in presidential race – Steve Carmody

Broadcast 2/13/24 on Morning Edition at 6:45am and 8:45am; and on All Things Considered at 4:44pm. Duration 3:18. Steve Carmody talks with Michiganders about what kind of presidential leadership they want to see on PFAs.

Presidential leadership and Michigan's housing shortage – Steve Carmody

Broadcast 2/14/24 on Morning Edition at 6:45am and 8:45am; and on All Things Considered at 4:44pm. Duration 3:06. Steve Carmody talks with Michiganders about what kind of presidential leadership they want to see on housing issues.

Presidential leadership on foreign investment – Steve Carmody

Broadcast 2/15/24 on Morning Edition at 6:45am and 8:45am; on Here and Now at 1:34pm; and on All Things Considered at 4:44pm. Duration 3:12. Steve Carmody has been talking with Michiganders about what kind of presidential leadership they would like to see on foreign investment.

Presidential leadership on infrastructure and climate change – Steve Carmody

Broadcast 2/16/24 on Morning Edition at 6:45am and 8:45am; on Here and Now at 1:34pm; and on All Things Considered at 4:44pm. Duration 2:57. Steve Carmody talks with Michiganders about what kind of presidential leadership they would like to see when it comes to infrastructure and climate change.

MichMash examines efforts to restrict firearms one year after MSU shooting – Cheyna Roth

Broadcast 2/19/24 on Here and Now at 1:34pm. Duration 3:50. An examination of legislation passed in the wake of the shooting on the Michigan State University campus in 2023.

Emergency services on the ballot in eastern UP – Renae King

Broadcast 2/23/24 on All Things Considered at 5:44pm; and on 2/26/24 on Morning Edition at 8:45am; and on Here and Now at 2:34pm. Duration 3:45. On this coming election day, one community in the eastern U-P will face a choice of whether to increase financial support for their emergency services in the face of a shrinking tax base.

Attention turns to Michigan in advance of primary vote – Rick Pluta

Broadcast 2/26/24 on Morning Edition at 6:45am; on Here and Now at 1:34pm; and on All Things Considered at 4:44pm. Duration 3:50. With Saturday's South Carolina GOP presidential primary out of the way, the race for Republican and Democratic delegates turns to Michigan primary.

MichMash discusses allegations against two MSU trustees – Cheyna Roth

Broadcast 3/11/24 on Here and Now at 1:34pm. Duration 3:50. Two Michigan State University trustees are facing removal after misconduct allegations.

MichMash speaks with CEO of the MEDC about tax incentives for businesses – Cheyna Roth

Broadcast 3/25/24 on Here and Now at 1:34pm. Duration 3:49. The Michigan Senate has passed a series of bills to attract and retain businesses. MichMash discusses these bills with Quentin Messer of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

Federal court approves new plan for Michigan legislative districts near Detroit – Colin Jackson

Broadcast 3/28/24 on All Things Considered at 4:44pm; and on 3/29/24 on Morning Edition at 6:45am and 8:45am; and on Here and Now at 1:34pm. Duration 3:32. A federal court this week approved new maps for Michigan's legislative districts near Detroit, after the court declared the old maps unconstitutional.

5. Environment**Restaurants in Traverse City could start composting by this summer – Izzy Ross**

Broadcast on Morning Edition 1/4/24 at 6:45am and 8:45am; on Here and Now 1/4/24 at 1:34pm; and on All Things Considered 1/4/24 at 4:44pm and 6:44pm. Duration 3:59. Restaurants in Traverse City could start composting by this summer. The goal is for restaurants to become more sustainable and cut down on greenhouse gas emissions.

Michigan DNR reverses course, cancels sturgeon season – Teresa Homs

Broadcast 2/2/24 on All Things Considered at 4:44pm; and on 2/5/24 on Morning Edition at 6:45am and 8:45am. Duration 4:55. WCMU reported earlier this week the sturgeon season in Cheboygan County could not be canceled. That all changed Friday morning, when the Michigan Department of Natural Resources announced it was calling off the season.

Farmers, landowners resistant to new pipeline projects – Eric Schmid

Broadcast 2/5/24 on All Things Considered at 4:44pm; and on 2/6/24 on Morning Edition at 6:45am and 8:45am, and on Here and Now at 2:34pm. Duration 4:04. Pipeline proposals dot the Midwest, but some farmers and landowners are hesitant because of a lack of clear regulations.

Warm winter conditions impact events across the state – Tina Sawyer

Broadcast 2/8/24 on Morning Edition at 6:45am and 8:45am; on Here and Now at 1:34pm; and on All Things Considered at 4:44pm. Duration 3:48. Tina Sawyer speaks with Tom Jones of Michigan Operation Freedom Outdoors about how the unusually warm winter is impacting outdoor events.

Disagreement over regulations shuts digester operation – Ellie Katz and Izzy Ross

Broadcast on 2/19/24 on All Things Considered at 5:50pm. Duration 7:53. A disagreement with state regulators has shuttered a digester operation in Fremont.

Northern Michigan business fined over emissions violations – Teresa Homs

Broadcast 2/29/24 on Morning Edition at 6:45am and 8:45am; on Here and Now at 1:34pm; and on All Things Considered at 5:44pm. A district court ruled a northern Michigan business knowingly violated the Clean Air Act when it disabled "environmental controls" on hundreds of diesel trucks.

Millions of acres of farmland at risk of PFAs contamination – Teresa Homs

Broadcast 3/11/24 on Morning Edition at 6:45am and 8:45am; on Here and Now at 2:34pm; and on All Things Considered at 4:44pm. Duration 3:51. A group of toxic "forever chemicals" known as PFAS are slipping through the cracks and could be inadvertently contaminating millions of acres of farmland.

Grayling residents call on military to fund water main and advance cleanup – Teresa Homs

Broadcast 3/12/24 on All Things Considered at 4:44pm; and on 3/13/24 on Morning Edition at 6:45am and 8:45am; and on Here and Now at 1:34pm. Duration 4:06. Grayling residents are calling on the Department of Defense to help bring clean drinking water to the community.

Gray Fox populations plummeting in parts of the Midwest – Rachel Cramer

Broadcast 3/26/24 on Morning Edition at 6:45am and 8:45am; and on All Things Considered at 4:44pm. Duration 4:14. Researchers throughout the Midwest are trying to determine why gray fox populations are on the decline.

6. Health and Healthcare**Drug overdose mortality rate continues to rise in mid-Michigan – Tina Sawyer**

Broadcast on Morning Edition 1/8/24 at 6:45am and 8:45am; and on All Things Considered 1/8/24 at 4:44pm. Duration 4:19. Tina Sawyer speaks with Gail Bullard of the Central Michigan Recovery Education Network about overdose mortality rates.

7. Infrastructure**Four Lakes Taskforce likely to increase property taxes to rebuild dams – Tina Sawyer**

Broadcast on All Things Considered 1/17/24 at 4:44pm; on Morning Edition 1/18/24 at 6:45am and 8:45am; and on Here and Now 1/18/24 at 1:34pm. Duration 3:18. Over three years after a catastrophic flood struck Midland and Gladwin counties, the future of bringing back the dams and lakes that were destroyed remains unclear.

Tax assessments approved to restore lakes in Midland and Gladwin counties – Rick Brewer

Broadcast 2/7/24 on All Things Considered at 4:44pm. Duration 4:30. Tax assessments have been approved to help finance the rebuilding of dams that were destroyed by a flood in 2020.

States move to restrict local control of green energy projects – Jim Meadows

Broadcast on 2/9/24 on Morning Edition at 6:45am and 8:45am; on Here and Now at 1:34pm, and on All Things Considered at 4:44pm. Duration 4:06. Illinois and Michigan recently passed laws making it harder for local governments to say no to new green energy projects.

Solar Power works differently in different seasons – Teresa Homs

Broadcast on 3/20/24 on Morning Edition at 8:45am; and on All Things Considered at 5:44pm. Duration 3:39. Teresa Homs explains how solar power works from season to season.

Sault Locks open for 2024 shipping season – Teresa Homs

Broadcast 3/25/24 on Morning Edition at 6:45am and 8:45am; on Here and Now at 2:34pm; and on All Things Considered at 4:44pm. Duration 3:09. Teresa Homs produces an audio postcard from opening day at the Sault Locks in Sault Ste. Marie, MI.

8. Local and Regional News**Gratiot County program receives grant to support child abuse prevention initiatives – David Nicholas**

Broadcast on Morning Edition 1/10/24 at 6:45am and 8:45am; on Here and Now 1/10/24 at 1:34pm; and on All Things Considered 1/10/24 at 4:44pm and 8:44pm. Duration 3:18. WCMU's David Nicholas speaks with Jennifer Stambaugh and Morgan Roy about a grant received by the Gratiot County Child Advocacy Association.

9. Sports**Northwest Michigan girls' hockey team heads to national championships – Tina Sawyer**

Broadcast 3/6/24 on All Things Considered at 4:44pm; and on 3/7/24 on Morning Edition at 6:45am and 8:45am; and on Here and Now at 1:34pm. Duration 4:02. In its first season, an all-girls high school hockey team from northwest Michigan is headed to the USA Hockey National Championships later this month. The team is made up of girls from high schools in Cadillac, Traverse City, and Elk Rapids.

10. Tourism**Traverse City officials predict a somewhat normal tourism season – Michael Livingston**

Broadcast 3/8/24 on All Things Considered at 4:44pm. Duration 4:12. Despite a months-long construction project beginning in Traverse City this weekend, tourism officials predict a somewhat normal visitor season.