

TELEVISION QUARTERLY ISSUES-PROGRAMS REPORT

Station: WFGX-TV
Location: Fort Walton Beach, FL
Quarter ending: June 30, 2009

ISSUE/description: 5. GROWTH MANAGEMENT. Planning for the needs of the future.
Balancing growth versus preservation of lifestyle and environment.

How Issue was treated (Program, PSA, etc.):

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time/Duration</u>	<u>Program type</u>	<u>Description</u>
1. In Focus	04/05/09	11:30AM/30 minutes	Public Affairs	*

*Today we discussed three separate projects that are headed for conclusion in the Pensacola area. Our guest was Pensacola Mayor Mike Wiggins. First he discussed Curbside Recycling. The city did an experimental project in East Hill with 375 customers, and the result was so positive that the city will now implement mandatory recycling for all residents beginning in June. The Emerald Coast Utilities Authority (ECUA) already has a similar program in the remainder of the county, but on a volunteer basis. Next, Wiggins gave an update on the Maritime Park project, on which he's been involved for 13 years. A proposal from the Community Maritime Park Associates Board goes before the City Council to get its final stamp of approval next week, and on August 9 at the formal City Council meeting, the project will receive final approval and construction will begin shortly afterward. And finally, Steve Sorrel, Executive Director of the ECUA, reported that the moving of the Main Street Sewage Plant is about 20% complete. The \$315 million project is ahead of schedule and under budget. What is normally a 15-20 year project will be completed by summer of 2010, only 4 years. FEMA provided \$134 million following damage to the plant from Hurricane Ivan in 2004. The new plant will make sewage service available to the central part of Escambia County also, and is expected to be a tremendous boon to the entire county. Sorrel also discussed the success of the county's recycling program.

2. In Focus	05/03/09	11:30AM/30 minutes	Public Affairs	**
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** Today's guest was Becky Bray, Administrator of the Community Redevelopment Agency of Pensacola. The Agency is a district in downtown Pensacola that has a special taxing structure that gives it a budget separate from the regular city budget, and their goal is to maximize the resources in the downtown area and to reconnect the downtown neighborhoods to the public waterfront on Pensacola Bay. Their biggest investment project is the Maritime Park, followed by the re-use of the property currently occupied by the Main Street Sewage Plant. She also discussed an idea they're studying involving terminating I-110 at Cervantes Street, preventing travelers from bypassing downtown. This would be a long-term project. They would also like to convert more downtown streets from one-way to two-way to slow the traffic. She also talked about their other projects designed to draw people to the downtown area, such as their free outside movies, "Thursdays in the park", the New Year's "Pelican Drop", and others.

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3. Channel 3 News at 10PM (simulcast from WEAR-TV)	05/18/09	10:33PM/2 minutes	News	***

*** County commissioners and environmental groups are asking the governor to veto legislation aimed at speeding up development. Lawmakers in Tallahassee say the upfront cost of water, sewer and roads is impeding growth. Developers building big projects in Florida cities often have fix and widen roads, so in some cases they're simply choosing other states that don't have the high impact fees. The legislature has passed a bill eliminating the road fees to speed up the process, and Florida Home Builders say lowering the costs will attract more businesses to the state. The Florida Association of Counties opposes the bill, saying it allows development to occur in areas without the proper transportation infrastructure, and also eliminates state oversight on large-scale developments. The governor will receive the legislation this week and has 15 days to make a decision.

4. Channel 3 News at 10PM (simulcast from WEAR-TV)	06/01/09	10:07PM/2 minutes	News	****
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**** Government officials and environmentalists are joining forces against changes to Florida's Growth Management laws. Builders and developers are complaining that they'd like to see some growth to manage. The legislation allows developers to no longer consider the impact of their projects on local roads. But the Florida Association of Counties argue that over time, it would degrade the quality of life...taking longer to get to work, longer to get to school, etc. Environmentalists argue that it would exempt 245 cities in 8 counties from growth management controls, and that's not appropriate. The Florida Homebuilders Association favors the bill because it would stop suburban sprawl by making it easier to build in the urban centers where infrastructure already exists. Florida's Growth Management Agency says the change is the most significant growth management bill to be passed since requirements for growth were enacted in 1985.