

**QUARTERLY ISSUES
AND
PROGRAMS REPORT**

**WNEM TV5
WNEM-DT
BAY CITY/FLINT/MIDLAND AND SAGINAW**

APRIL 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2023

PROBLEMS AND NEEDS

OVERVIEW

Based on WNEM's ascertainment of community leaders and from data gathered from community organizations, the highest-ranking problems and needs of the Bay City/Flint/Midland and Saginaw markets are:

1. Jobs/Economy
2. Crime
3. Weather
4. School/Campus
5. Politics

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

OVERVIEW

The following is the quarterly “Issues and Programs” Report placed in the public file of WNEM at the open of business day July 10th, 2023. The report covers the period from April 1st through June 30th, 2023. The report is based on significant problems and needs determined by WNEM’s community ascertainment. Below each problem/need is a brief description of some news segments broadcast during the quarter designated to call attention to or address the problem or need.

WNEM

BAY CITY/FLINT/MIDLAND AND SAGINAW

April 1 through June 30, 2023

DATE/PROGRAM ISSUE /TITLE SOURCE

1. JOBS & ECONOMY

4/20/2023 – 6pm – Owosso Being Considered for \$14.5M Funding for New Public Safety Building – Local – Runs 1:51

The city of Owosso is being considered for \$14.5 million in federal funding for the construction of a new public safety building. The city announced the United States Congress is considering proposals by Senator Gary Peters and Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin for the construction. The city hired an architecture firm in 2018 to form a public safety master plan strategy. An assessment of the city's current public safety facility demonstrated the need for major capital improvements and building modifications, the city said. The current public safety building has been around since 1969. It's too small for the number of staff and there are no facilities for women.

4/25/2023 – 6pm – General Motor's Successful First-Quarter Beats Expectations – Local – Runs 1:40

General Motors has reported a successful first-quarter, beating Wall Street's expectations. Those earnings beat Wall Street expectations with a first-quarter net income of \$2.4 billion on revenue of \$40 billion. GM previously projected earnings of between \$10.5 to \$12.5 billion, but now they are anticipating up to \$13 billion. "We have great new vehicles that is helping us keep this momentum going and improving it, including five new pick-up trucks and four new small SUVs," GM's Executive Vice President and President for North America, Steve Carlisle explained.

5/16/2023 -6pm – The Railyard Expected to Bring Prosperity to Fenton – Local – Runs 2:11

A new dining and entertainment venue is expected to bring a lot of people to downtown Fenton. With parking at a premium in the downtown area, city officials say there are plenty of options. "I think it's going to be very prosperous for the people and the community," said Fenton Mayor Sue Osborn. The new dining and entertainment venue coming to the city called The Railyard will occupy the space of the historic former beanery and home of Red Fox Outfitters.

5/26/2023 – 5pm – Feet on the Street Preps Underway – Local – Runs 1:49

Preparations for Bay City's Feet on the Street are in full swing. City leaders have brought the pandemic-era event back for another year. Portions of Center Ave., Saginaw St. and Third St. in downtown Bay City will be closed now thru Labor Day. The closures allow more people to walk the downtown area and allow restaurants to accommodate for more outdoor dining. City leaders expect Feet on the Street to bring nearly 200,000 people to downtown Bay City during the summer, bringing with it a \$22Million dollar economic impact.

6/5/2023 – 5pm – GM Investing \$1B in Flint Sites – Local – Runs 2:40

General Motors announced it is investing \$1 billion in two of its Flint manufacturing sites, Flint Assembly and Flint Metal Center.

The investment is to prepare the plants for the production of the next-generation internal combustion engine (ICE) heavy-duty trucks. GM is investing \$788 million to prepare Flint Assembly to assemble the next-generation ICE trucks. Plant updates will include a body shop building expansion, general assembly conveyor expansion, and new tooling and equipment. The company is also investing \$233 million in the Flint Metal Center for new stamping dies to support the production of the next-generation trucks, as well as press refurbishments and new equipment.

6/13/2023 – 6am – Governor Whitmer Holds “Make it in Michigan” Roundtable – Local – Runs 1:04
Gov. Gretchen Whitmer joined young residents in Grand Rapids for a roundtable discussion about her “Make it in Michigan” plan and strategy. The “Make it in Michigan” strategy could become a new way to bring more jobs to the state. Gov. Whitmer launched the program at the end of May. The comprehensive economic strategy will keep projects in the state, invest in people from pre-K through postsecondary, and revitalize places in every region of the state. The plan could make it easy for young people in the state to thrive economically by bringing more jobs in and investing in communities.

2. CRIME

04/24/2023 – 6pm – Former Flint Township Clerk Receives Probation – Local – Runs 1:28
Former Flint Township Clerk Kathy Funk was sentenced to two years of probation after she previously pleaded no contest to misconduct in office in relation to the August 2020 primary. In exchange for her plea, prosecutors dismissed the ballot tampering charge. On top of the probation, Funk was ordered to 180 days of house arrest with a tether and a \$1,000 fine. She must also submit a public letter of apology within 30 days.

04/25/2023 – 6pm – Police: Teens Arrested After Assaulting 8-Year-Old – Local – Runs :54
Two teenagers are in custody after a video circulated on social media showing three teenage girls assaulting an 8-year-old boy on a sidewalk in Bay City. The assault happened in the 1100 block of N. Linn Street and resulted in the 8-year-old suffering minor injuries, police said, adding the child did not need medical attention. The victim’s mother contacted the department and made a report. The investigating officer was able to identify all three teenagers with the help of the viewers who saw the video, police said. Police said two of the teenagers have been taken into custody and lodged at the Bay County Juvenile Home. The third teenager has been identified and will be arrested once she is located, police said.

5/3/2023 – 6p – Family and Law Enforcement Talk Dangers of Sextortion Following Teen Death – Local – Runs 2:51
Three Nigerian men are being charged with sexually extorting more than 100 minors and adults in the Western District of Michigan, and across the United States. One of the men has also been charged with causing the death of Jordan DeMay, of Marquette. The charges were announced on Wednesday by U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Michigan Mark Totten, after the federal indictment was unsealed. On March 25, 2022, 17-year-old DeMay was found dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. His death prompted an investigation by the Marquette County Sheriff’s Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which culminated in the indictment unsealed on Wednesday, May 3, 2023.

5/15/2023 – 6pm – Teen Considered Armed and Dangerous Arrested – Local – Runs 1:15
The Saginaw Police Department arrested a 17-year-old who was considered armed and dangerous, Saginaw Police Sgt. Matthew Gerow said. The police department made the announcement that they

were looking for the teen Monday afternoon at 12:27 p.m. He had multiple arrest warrants from Saginaw, Saginaw Township, and Bridgeport Township stemming from several armed robberies, unlawful driving away of an automobile, and assault with intent to murder a police officer, the Saginaw Police Department said.

6/8/2023 – 5p – Equipment Stolen One Week Before STEM Camp – Local – Runs 2:39

The Sylvester Broome Empowerment Village (SBEV) in Flint was the target of a break-in Wednesday night, losing thousands of dollars of electronic equipment. The Empowerment Village offers local students programs in education, art, mental health, and more. They are hoping people who see the video will help to find the person responsible. SBEV is accepting donations to help replace the stolen computers. They're also in need of Xboxes.

6/12/2023 – 6p - \$30K of Equipment Stolen from Birch Run Restaurant – Local – Runs 2:20

A Birch Run restaurant owner was left to pick up the pieces after their building was ransacked. They were just weeks from opening when tens of thousands of dollars worth of equipment was stolen. Young said despite the setback, the community support has been their biggest blessing. Prep tables, sinks, racks, pots, pans, silverware, and even the catalytic converter off his truck that was parked in the lot were stolen. Young posted to Facebook Sunday, June 11, asking for the community's help. He said the response has been incredible. They received so many donations they have almost replaced everything that was stolen. Young said though this experience was setback for them, it was also a learning lesson.

3. WEATHER

04/07/2023 – 11pm – Flint Residents Worries about Fate of Historic Weather Ball – Local – Runs 1:57

The Huntington Bank building in Flint is now on the market, and with it, the iconic weather ball that sits on top. Residents are worried about what might happen to its very visible piece of history. Huntington is selling the building and moving many of its "colleagues" to a nearby building, and residents are saying they hope whoever buys it keeps the distinctive landmark in operation.

04/17/2023 – 5:30pm – Michigan Farmers Dealing with Weather Fluctuations – Local – Runs 1:47

Some plants sprouted during last week's warm-up and this week's cool-down could pose a potential problem for many Michigan farmers. A mid-Michigan agriculture expert said farmers shouldn't have to worry as long as the temperature doesn't drop any further. "You definitely need the soils to be dry, and in some respects, it's not really been the winter or early spring for that. We've got a lot of precipitation," MSU field crop educator Eric Anderson said.

5/24/2023 – 6p – DNR Urges Great Lakes Visitors to Check Red Flag Warnings – Local – Runs 2:23

The Michigan DNR is implementing the use of double red flags to warn people visiting the Great Lakes to stay out of the water. The DNR said this is one tool it is using to increase safety at the beaches it manages. The DNR says a current or on-going water rescue, high waves, E. Coli, or dangerous items in the water can all constitute double red flag warnings. Those who chose to ignore the warnings will get a \$500 citation.

5/30/2023 – 5p – Gardening Expert Gives Tips on Plant Care During Hot, Dry Weather – Local – Runs 1:52

The hot, dry weather in mid-Michigan is showing no signs of letting up, meaning lawns and gardens could be in for a rough time this week.

A local gardening expert gave some tips on what homeowners need to do to keep their yard from shriveling up. "The biggest thing is to remember that lawns and your landscapes or your garden plants are different. You don't treat them the same way," said Jim Begick, the president of Begick Nursery and Garden Center in Bay City.

Begick said now is a critical time to make sure lawns and gardens are getting the right amount of water. He said water has to get down to the roots. He also says the time plants are watered is important. Make sure to water in the early morning. It will give plants the water they need over the course of the day.

6/7/2023 – 6p – Bavarian Festival Cancels Fireworks Due to Dry Weather – Local – Runs 2:04

The Bavarian Festival has canceled its fireworks show this year due to safety concerns and dry weather. The Bavarian Festival usually ends every night with a fireworks show, but organizers have decided to cancel them this year. The decision isn't because organizers don't want to have fireworks, but because they literally can't. Due to the dry weather and safety concerns for fire, the committee decided it was best to cancel the show.

6/9/2023 – 5p – Wheat Crop Suffering from Lack of Rain – Local – Runs 2:04

May 19 is the last time many mid-Michigan residents have seen any rain, and farmers are saying wheat crops are suffering because of it. The rain deficit is impacting what would've been a wheat surplus in Michigan. The TV5 First Alert Forecast is calling for rain this weekend. For many farmers, it would be the first raindrops they've seen since May 19. For now, all farmers can do is wait and see.

4. EDUCATION/SCHOOLS

04/04/2023 – 6pm – Saginaw Twp. School District Faces Backlash for Ballot Proposal – Local – Runs 1:59

Saginaw Township's school district is asking voters for help to the tune of nearly \$243 Million to improve its buildings. While some residents are in support, others say it's too big of an ask.

"Perhaps there are some critical fixes that may be needed but shouldn't we maybe hit the pause button on this big ask and rethink how we go about the funding on it," Saginaw County Commissioner Richard Spitzer. Spitzer and Thomas Roy, a Saginaw Township resident, said they will be voting "No" on a May 2023 ballot proposal for Saginaw Township. The \$242.9 million bond would help renovate all school buildings and rebuild the high school.

04/19/2023 – 5pm – New High School on Track for Opening in Fall 2024 – Local – Runs 1:23

An important milestone in the construction of a towering new school in Saginaw; crews celebrated the placement of the final steel beam for what will become Saginaw United High School.

So far, the project is right on time. "It's extremely exciting," said Saginaw Public Schools' Superintendent Ramont Roberts. Roberts made that remark about the final steel beam that put in place at what will be Saginaw United High School.

5/22/2023 – 6pm – News Agriculture Business Center at MSU – Local – Runs :41

Michigan State University is getting a new agricultural business center.

U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow was on-campus at MSU to share the news.

The center will aim to help local farmers find and get the resources they need.

The new business center will also offer a place for farmers across the Great Lakes Bay Region -- to figure out the best way to sell their products and find new markets.

5/25/2023 – 6pm – Teen Receives Diploma While Recovering in Hospital from Crash – Local – Runs 1:21

A Carrollton High School student received his diploma while in recovery at a hospital following a crash. The Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation facility at Covenant HealthCare said the high school senior Douglas “DJ” Coleman was involved in a crash that left him hospitalized and in need of three surgeries after he suffered serious injuries to his pelvis, bladder, and spleen. Coleman is still in recovery. However, the incident didn’t stop him from receiving his diploma. Before Carrollton High School’s commencement ceremony took place Thursday evening, May 25, school officials and hospital staff held a special ceremony for Coleman, the rehab facility said. Carrollton High School Principal Ed Boell presented Coleman with his diploma while family, friends, and hospital staff cheered.

6/16/2023 – 11pm – Beecher Community Schools Kicks Off First-ever Juneteenth Celebration – Local – Runs 2:24

The Beecher Community School District gathered to kick off its first-ever Juneteenth to honor history and look forward to the future. Juneteenth is a holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. The two-day event at Beecher Community Schools tipped off with a basketball fundraiser between alumni and the state-champion boys’ basketball team, helping to raise money to renovate and reopen the old Beecher High School building.

6/20/2023 – 6pm – Bay City Schools Terminates Multiple Coaches – Local – Runs 2:36

Bay City Public Schools is parting ways with multiple coaches. Three coaches have been terminated in order to bring the school district in compliance with federal labor laws regarding overtime provisions.

5. POLITICS

04/25/2023 – 11pm - Local Political Expert on Ages of 2024 Presidential Candidates – Local – Runs 1:15

A local political expert gave his insight on the 2024 presidential campaign after President Joe Biden announced his candidacy. Because Biden is 80-years-old now, age is likely to become a campaign issue. However, Paul Rozycki, a retired political science professor from Mott Community College, pointed out if former President Donald Trump gets the Republican nomination, the playing field would be fairly even. “He’s only a couple years older than Trump, so particularly if we have a rematch, which is looking increasingly more likely, it could be two folks in their late 70s or early 80s who are running for president and either one could be our oldest president in 2024,” Rozycki said.

04/26/2023 – 6pm – Governor Whitmer on Political Future: ‘I ain’t going anywhere’ – Local – Runs 1:41

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer was in Grand Blanc Township on Wednesday to celebrate the Flint Mass Transportation Authority’s hydrogen bus initiative. That’s where we got the chance to ask Whitmer about her political future. As TV5 reported, Whitmer was named co-chair of President Joe Biden’s re-election campaign. Whitmer shared her thoughts on being selected as co-chair of President Joe Biden’s re-election campaign. TV5 asked if Whitmer, if she is still planning to finish out her second term as Michigan’s governor. “I ain’t going anywhere. I love this state and I’m grateful for the opportunity to serve a second term and I’m going to fill it out,” Whitmer said.

5/23/2023 – 6am – Dr. Pamela Pugh Announces Candidacy for U.S. Senate – Local – Runs :52

Dr. Pamela Pugh has officially announced she is throwing her hat into the ring as a candidate for Michigan's U.S. Senate seat. "I am Michigan made and Saginaw, Michigan has made me strong. It certainly has prepared me to be the next U.S. senator of this great state," she said. She hopes to be elected to take over for outgoing Sen. Debbie Stabenow, who has been in her position since 2001. Pugh is currently the president for the Michigan State Board of Education, which she has been elected to serve since 2014.

5/24/2023 – 5pm – Bill Introduced to Require Adult Changing Tables in Public Restrooms – Local – Runs 2:30

Liam's Law was re-introduced to the State House of Representatives on Wednesday, May 24. If approved, the bill would require most establishments with public restrooms to install at least one universally accessible adult changing table. Liam's Law was first introduced in 2020, named after Liam, an 8-year-old who is nonverbal. Liam was born with several rare life-altering conditions that impact his daily life and his family's. Those challenges will have Liam in diapers for the rest of his life due to his inability to learn proper potty training. Gomez, a Bay City native, said the lack of adequate changing areas in public has led them to stop going out altogether and prevents them from enjoying normal family activities.

6/7/2023 – Noon – Distracted Driving Bill Signed into Law – Local – Runs :32

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed the Distracted Driving Bill into law Wednesday, June 7. Drivers will now be banned from using their cell phone at all while driving, including taking a phone call or while stopped at a red light. Using the hands-free mode on your car, having a Bluetooth device, or using phones for navigation is still allowed as long as they're not being held in your hand. The law will go into effect Friday, June 30.

6/20/2023 – 11pm – Saginaw Co. Controller Fired Amid Bullying Accusations – Local – Runs 2:39

The Saginaw County Board of Commissioners voted to terminate County Controller Robert Belleman amid accusations from current and past county employees. It was a packed house inside the County Commission chambers Tuesday evening, June 20 as current and former county employees spoke against Belleman. This was the result of complaints made by Joshua Brown, the head of the county's IT Department. Brown and other county officials spoke against Belleman, describing a toxic work environment. Brown said he was the target of months of disciplinary actions and suspensions as a way to have him terminated. Board members initially voted to place Belleman on paid administrative leave and to conduct an independent investigation into the nearly 20 complaints brought up during the meeting, including Brown's. However, after a recess, board members returned, rescinding their vote and ultimately deciding to fire Belleman.

