

**QUARTERLY ISSUES  
AND  
PROGRAMS REPORT**

**WNEM TV5  
WNEM-DT  
BAY CITY/FLINT/MIDLAND AND SAGINAW  
OCTOBER 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020**

## **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 January 10th, 2021. The report covers the period from October 1st through December 31th, 2020. The report is based on significant problems and needs determined by WNEM’s community ascertainments. 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

October 1 through December 31, 2020

*DATE/PROGRAM    ISSUE /TITLE    SOURCE*

#### 1. JOBS & ECONOMY

***10/8/20 - noon - Unemployment Claims - :31 - national***

Another 840-thousand people filed for first-time jobless benefits last week. That's down from the week before, but still higher than economists expected. It's a pandemic low but four times higher than before the pandemic. Continued claims were down more than experts expected those dropped to 11 million.

***10/29/20 - 5:30pm - Economic Rebound - 1:21 - national***

As businesses shuttered by the pandemic started to cautiously reopen their doors, the economy exploded back to life. The Commerce Department reported the largest quarterly gain on record. A whopping 33% from July through September. Economists liked the news but are already looking ahead. Even with last quarter's encouraging growth, the economy has recovered only about two thirds of what it lost during the first half of the year when the coronavirus set off a global recession. And while weekly unemployment claims dropped to the lowest level since March, they still topped 750,000. Bankrate.com's Mark Hamrick says this is the time to have an emergency financial plan.

***11/16/20 - 9:00 am - Economic Downturn 1:13 - national***

Democrats and Republicans in Washington are still far apart on a new stimulus package to help Americans and the virus-infected economy, but on wall street the recovery appears to be in full swing. Hopes of a coronavirus vaccine helped the Dow end the week on a "record high." Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said to bankers: "we are not going back to the same economy." the nation's employers have added almost three million jobs in the last three months but restaurant owners are struggling. One in six about 100,000 restaurants are now closed permanently. Sean Kennedy from the National Restaurant Association says business owners are surviving "week to week."

**11/27/20 - 11 pm - Shop Local Campaign - :25 - local**

Ahead of small business Saturday, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation is urging residents to shop small by launching a new "support local" campaign. According to the Michigan Retailers Association, if one in 10 out-of-state purchases were switched to local stores, Michigan would gain 1.2 billion-dollars in increased economic activity, creating more than 10-thousand new jobs.

**12/5/20 - 11 pm - Stimulus Battle - 1:23 - national**

Renewed optimism about yet another coronavirus stimulus package to help the millions of struggling Americans. Lawmakers are closing in on the framework for a deal. One that could be passed before Christmas. This is normally peak shopping season, but the new numbers tell a grim story. The retail industry shed another 35 thousand jobs last month 550 thousand since the pandemic began. Congress has been gridlocked over more relief since May. But suddenly, leaders are talking and expressing new optimism they can cut a deal fast. Their talks come as a 908-billion-dollar bipartisan framework gains traction from both sides. The plan would provide an additional \$300 a week for the unemployed.

**12/16/20 - noon - Fastest Growing Jobs - :27 - local**

Despite a brutal hit to the workforce in 2020 there were some jobs in demand. PayScale says the fastest growing jobs included health screeners and personal shoppers this year. Recreational vehicle technicians also saw a huge surge up 97%. And although healthcare professionals reported the most stress in 2020 they were also more satisfied with their profession than most others.

## **2. CRIME**

**10/9/20 - 6:00 am - Whitmer Kidnap Plot - :33 - local**

Developing this morning Michigan and F-B-I officials have arrested 13 men a part of militia groups plotting to kidnap Governor Gretchen Whitmer six of the men are facing federal charges for a plot to snatch the governor from her vacation home and seven men are facing state charges for a separate plot to attack the state capitol and kidnap law enforcement and government officials including Whitmer. Investigators undertook a night-time raid to foil the elaborate plot.

**10/27/20 - 10:30 pm - Man Makes Threats Sports Teams - :24 - national**

A California man will spend a year in jail after making threats to harm players on the Ohio State University football team. Because they beat his favorite team the Michigan Wolverines. Federal prosecutors say Daniel Rippy threatened a shooting at Ohio State on Facebook during its annual game against Michigan in 20-18. It was also revealed that Rippy made similar threats against Gonzaga University after its men's basketball team defeated Duke that same year.

**11/15/20 - 11:00 pm - Saginaw Woman Killed at House party - :46 - local**

A woman is dead, and another is recovering after a shooting at a house party. Police say, early this morning, officers were called to 23 Rd street in Saginaw. They found a 20-year old woman suffering from a critical gunshot wound. Officers tried life-saving measures before she was loaded into an ambulance. She died from her injuries at the hospital. The second victim was shot in the ankle and has been released from the hospital.

**11/27/20 - 5 pm - 3-year-old Shooting Latest - :33 - local**

A three-year-old boy remains in critical condition after finding a loaded handgun. It happened yesterday afternoon at the Maplebrook Complex in Grand Blanc Township. Investigators say the toddler found the gun in a bedroom and fired the weapon shooting himself in the head. Grand Blanc Township Police Chief Ron Wiles says this is a tragic example of why it is so important to keep guns properly locked and stowed away.

**12/2/20 - 11 pm - MI Crash Turned into Shooting - 1:12 - local**

A freighting moment caught on camera in Metro Detroit. Sterling Heights police posted this video on Facebook of a shooting in a parking lot of an apartment complex where a woman in a black s-u-v backs out of a parking spot while a pickup truck also pulls out behind her. The two almost collide then the pickup driver exits the truck and fires shots at the s-u-v the woman tries speeding off but is chased by the person. Police say she safely returns home while still being followed.

**12/16/20 - 9 am - Dog Slashed, Stabbed, Beaten - 1:20 - local**

A plea to find the person or persons responsible for slashing, stabbing, and beating a dog. The Bay County Humane Society says "Tank" was found lying near Bangor Road Friday night. A vet determined his wounds were the result of ongoing torture. His extensive antibiotic treatment surgery for infected wounds and skin grafts are estimated to cost 10-thousand-dollars. The Humane Society hopes people will donate or submit tips about tank's abusers and eventually give Tank a forever home.

### **3. WEATHER**

#### ***10/9/20 - 6:00 am - Hurricane Delta - :20 - national***

Hurricane delta picked up strength last night as it headed towards the gulf coast. The category3 storm is now packing winds of up to 120 miles per hour. Parts of Louisiana are still recovering from Hurricane Laura.

#### ***10/26/20 - 6:00 am - Tropical Storm Zeta Forms - :37 - national***

Tropical Storm Zeta is taking aim at the US gulf coast. The tropical depression east of Mexico strengthened into a tropical storm yesterday. It's expected to become a hurricane by early tomorrow. If Zeta makes landfall in Louisiana on Wednesday it would be the 5th named storm to do so this season.

#### ***11/8/20 - 9:00 am - Sanford Strong Christmas - 1:20 - local***

Nearly six months after May's historic flooding residents are still trying to help their neighbors get back on their feet and as the holiday season nears locals are stepping up with the Sanford strong Christmas project the project aims to adopt families mostly within the Meridian School District and provide them with basic needs so they can have a holiday season to remember. They expect to make deliveries to families by Mid-December.

#### ***11/18/20 - 6 am - Hurricane Iota - :33 - national***

Around 98% of the infrastructure on the Colombian island of Providencia was destroyed as hurricane Iota passed overhead on Monday the category-5 storm left at least two people dead and countless more homeless this was the first time a category-5 storm had hit the coast of Colombia since records began that's according to the Colombian government.

#### ***12/2/20 - 6:00 am - Snow Storm - 1:46 - national***

While Michigan got a small taste of winter this week other states got much more this major storm system is being felt from Ohio to Maine and dangerous winter weather all down the eastern seaboard. Drivers across Ohio spinning their wheels as up to a foot of heavy snow and wind gust up to 35mph that caused white-out conditions, the state declaring a snow emergency in several counties.

One word that sums up today. Devastating. Devastating shaker heights public works assistant director John Becker says his snowplow operators are working 12-hour shifts. But we saw firsthand that isn't enough. So, Wednesday and Thursday morning's temperatures will feel-like twenty degrees here outside Cleveland and in the teens all over the Midwest.

***12/18/20 - 5 am - Winter Storm Aftermath - :37 - national***

As the winter storm swept through the northeast treacherous road conditions led to at least 5 deaths. In New York, police responded to more than 600 accidents this deadly pileup in central Pennsylvania Wednesday involved more than 60 vehicles. This Spirit Airlines flight slid off the runway in Maryland and Binghamton, NY saw a record 41 inches of snow despite concerns over shipment delays, St. Luke's University health network in Pennsylvania received its first Pfizer COVID vaccine delivery Thursday morning.

**4. EDUCATION/SCHOOLS**

***10/8/20 - 6:00pm - Heritage Football Players - :29 - local***

Most of the Heritage High School varsity football team is in quarantine after a player was exposed to covid-19. The school's athletic director says the athlete was exhibiting symptoms. The Saginaw County Health Department directed the district to quarantine anyone in close contact with the athlete for 14 days. The quarantine caused the school to cancel its game this weekend against Davison which is celebrating its homecoming.

***10/23/20 - 11:00 pm - COVID-Exposed Athlete Not Allowed to Compete - 1:36 - local***

Jeremy Williams had one thing he was looking forward to cross country regionals, an event that wasn't canceled this year. But now his season appears to be over. He'll miss the first qualifier tomorrow because the Lapeer High School Junior was exposed to coronavirus last Friday and has to quarantine. And here's the kicker he's tested negative twice. But because of the county health department and school rules, Williams can't compete until next week. He started a petition that's generated thousands of signatures. He had a doctor examine him and write a letter to the Michigan High School Athletic Association and health department attesting to his good health. Still, nothing.

***11/6/20 - 9:00 am - Cows Visit Elementary School - :32 - national***

An elementary school in Wisconsin had some visitors taking a field trip on Wednesday. This group of cows went searching long and hard for students who are learning virtually for the first half of November. But the school staff was there, and they got a kick out of this rowdy bunch. The cows took a trip to the playground and other parts of the school they even tried to get in but the doors were locked. It's unclear where the herd came from, but we'd guess a near-by farm.



***11/27/20 - 5:30 pm - College Students Return Home - 1:12 - local***

With thousands of college students heading home as schools move to online learning health officials fear it could cause further outbreaks in communities across the country. University of Michigan Sophomore Elliot Boz took an extra test before leaving campus and reuniting with his family in San Mateo, California for Thanksgiving. A negative COVID test. Despite a late plea from the CDC advising people to stay put, he's one of the hundreds of thousands of college students who traveled home for the holiday because staying put wasn't an option. The University of Michigan and many universities nationwide ended all in-person classes for the semester this week.

***12/9/20 - 5:30 pm - Flint Virtual School - 1:20 - local***

Virtual learning presents significant challenges for parents and students adjusting to classes online. One Mid-Michigan school district finds the struggle especially difficult for younger students. When it comes to virtual learning, Kevelin Jones admits it's not the most effective way to teach. But as the Flint Community Schools assistant superintendent - he says they are adjusting in the name of safety. He says learning gets easier online the older the students get. in the Flint school district, there are over 3,200 students. Jones says some students may be falling behind during virtual learning but says some were already falling behind before - when they were in school. He says the biggest problem isn't virtual instruction it's actually adjusting to the technology.

***12/17/20 - 11 pm - Flint Schools Unsung Heroes - :23 - local***

Even during the most challenging of times that's why the Flint classroom support fund invited Flint-area principals to receive COVID rescue grants. Anna Johnson principal at Freeman Elementary she says 100-dollars for each teacher will greatly contribute to the classroom. From Johnson's perspective having the support can make all the difference especially during the pandemic.

## 5. POLITICS

### ***10/8/20 - 5:00 pm - Governor Presser - 1:32 - local***

Governor Gretchen Whitmer appeared both deflated and yet defiant as she addressed the plot to kidnap her and try her in some militia-style kangaroo court. While seemingly shaken, learning how close she'd unknowingly come to danger, the governor also stood firm, sending a message to the accused conspirators and laying at least part of the blame for their actions at the feet of President Donald Trump. Whitmer also has glowing praise for all the state and federal law enforcement officers and agents involved in foiling the plot against her, especially singling out Michigan State Police Colonel Joe Gasper for his leadership in the state investigation.

### ***10/23/20 - 10:00 pm - Campaign 2020 - :49 - national***

President Trump led a Friday night rally in Pensacola Florida, a crucial state in his bid for reelection. The president made his fourth visit in the past month to the sunshine state the day after his Nashville debate with democratic nominee Joe Biden. President Trump narrowly defeated Hillary Clinton there in 2016 and polls show the race in Florida now appears to be a toss-up. In the afternoon, the president railed against Biden while seeking the votes of seniors at the Villages Retirement Community.

### ***11/17/20 - 6:00 am - Biden: A Very Dark Winter - :20 - national***

President elect, Joe Biden issued a dire prediction as President Trump continues to refuse to work with Biden's transition team on the pandemic. He also took issue with atlas' tweet after Governor Whitmer announced the health department's new restrictions. Atlas later tweeted he was not calling for violence.

### ***11/26/20 - 6:00 am - Whitmer Time Nominee - :25 - local***

Governor Gretchen Whitmer has taken a lot of heat for her COVID crackdowns but she's now in the running for Time magazine's Person of the Year. The magazine chooses people who've had the greatest influence throughout the year other nominees include essential workers activists doctor Anthony Fauci and President Trump among others.

### ***12/8/20 - noon - Pandemic Order Extended - 1:15 - local***

The partial shutdown of Michigan businesses and schools beginning 3 weeks ago continues for 12 more days. Governor Gretchen Whitmer made the announcement yesterday citing data showing adults with positive COVID tests were twice as likely to report recently dining-in at a restaurant. Right now, 79% of all Michigan hospital beds are occupied. The state is adding more than 93 hundred COVID cases combined on Sunday and Monday and it's looking at more than 32-thousand probable cases.

**12/17/20 - 11 pm - Granholm Named Energy Secretary - :34 - national**

Michigan's first female Governor Jennifer Granholm is officially president-elect Joe Biden's nominee for energy secretary. Granholm was a key adviser on Biden's campaign team, and she worked with Biden on clean energy investments while governor of Michigan. In a tweet she said she hopes to use this opportunity to build back better while creating millions of jobs. Granholm's nomination now heads to the senate for approval.