

**QUARTERLY ISSUES**

**AND**

**PROGRAMS REPORT**

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

**April 1 through June 30, 2005**

## **PROBLEMS AND NEEDS**

### **OVERVIEW**

**Based on WNEM TV5's ascertainment of community leaders and from data gathered from community organizations, the ten highest ranking problems and needs of the Bay City/Flint/Midland and Saginaw markets are:**

- 1. Drugs and Alcohol**
- 2. School Budget Cuts**
- 3. Low Economic Growth in the Community**
- 4. Unemployment**
- 5. Teen Options (to keep them out of trouble)**
- 6. Poor Road Conditions, No Sidewalks, Lack of Lighting**
- 7. Loss of Community; Lack of Volunteerism**
- 8. Tuition Costs (College and Vocational)**
- 9. Health Insurance Costs**
- 10. Crime**

## **ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT**

### **OVERVIEW**

The following is the quarterly "Issues and Programs" Report placed in the public file of WNEM July 11, 2005. The report covers the period from April 1 through June 30, 2005. The report is based on ten 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 designed to call attention to or address the problem or need.

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

**April 1 through June 30, 2005**

<u>ISSUE/TITLE/SOURCE</u>	<u>PROGRAM/TYPE</u>	<u>DATE/DURATION</u>
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**1. Drugs and Alcohol**

WAKEUP	LOC/NEWS	4/9/05 :24
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A Republican State Representative, John Stahl, is proposing the new state law. Besides carding everyone, if this bill passes, it would also make it harder for people convicted of drunk driving to buy any alcohol at all.

WEEKEND WAKEUP	LOC/NEWS	4/16/05 :25
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In Huron County this morning, a man is behind bars, suspected of selling drugs out of his home. Joseph Cartright, of Bad Axe, is being charged with three counts of delivering or manufacturing a controlled substance. The two most serious of the charges carry a maximum of 7 years in jail, and/or a \$10,000 fine.

5PM	LOC/NEWS	4/29/05 :14
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The Saginaw Township School Board has expelled a Heritage High School sophomore. They say the girl was seen on campus, last month, passing alcohol in a fruit juice bottle.

WAKEUP	LOC/NEWS	5/3/05 :23
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A State Senator wants to lift Michigan's prohibition era ban against selling alcohol on Sunday mornings and Christmas. Senator Gilda Jacobs says the ban frustrates and inconveniences customers.

530PM	LOC/NEWS	5/13/05 :29
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Although some previous research shows alcohol is harmful to the kidneys, a new study finds alcohol in moderation may prevent kidney failure. Researchers followed 11,000 men and found those who averaged at least seven drinks a week had a 30 percent lower risk for one of the major markers of kidney dysfunction compared with men who did not drink.

530PM                                      LOC/NEWS                                      5/20/05                                      1:30  
A mock car wreck, involving drinking teen-agers was intended to show the consequences of drinking and driving. It's the shock value that teaches the lesson—it's up to the observers to remember it. The mock situation demonstrates a real life situation about preserving life.

5PM    LOC/NEWS    6/16/05    :19  
Moms-to-be who drink alcohol may be upping the chance their newborn will get an infection. Researchers found increasing amounts of alcohol consumption at any point during pregnancy, or even during the 3 months before pregnancy, significantly increased the risk of neo-natal infection.

## 2. School Budget Cuts

5PM    LOC/NEWS    4/13/05    :22  
Six teachers in the Merrill Community Schools have received pink slips. The school board will discuss the cuts at a special meeting tonight at Merrill Middle School.

WAKEUP    LOC/NEWS    4/14/05    1:20  
The Saginaw School Board cut \$2 ½ million from its budget, by laying off 79 teachers, 12 principals and 35 other staff members. Superintendent Dawkins says it's a no-win situation. The teachers laid off are all first and second-year employees.

5PM    LOC/NEWS    4/17/05    :14  
Beaverton Schools are holding a meeting to find ways to shed \$2 million out of their budget. May fear up to 25 staff positions could be cut. A meeting is scheduled at 6 p.m. at Beaverton High School.

6PM    LOC/NEWS    4/26/05    :20  
The Saginaw Township schools face a deficit approaching \$2 million. The District thinks one way out would be to allow more students to enter the system, bringing with them some much-needed revenue.

NOON    LOC/NEWS    5/30/05    :27  
Teachers, parents and school lobbying groups are set to rally at the state capital. They are backing a bill giving schools and colleges an inflationary increase each year. The group wants legislators to understand how hard it is for schools to make a budget with tentative funds.

6PM    LOC/NEWS    6/10/05    :17  
Pink slips have been handed out to 16 employees of the Buena Vista school system. The Board looks to save more than a million dollars by laying off 11 paraprofessionals, 4 librarians and a security guard.

NOON LOC/NEWS 6/24/05 :25  
Chesaning Unions Schools say its enrollment has dropped more than 350 students in the past 10 years, and so has its state funding. The school board is discussing possible budget cuts for the district, including transportation and administration staff.

### 3. Low Economic Growth in the Community

6PM LOC/NEWS 5/20/05 :10  
A local developer, Michael Rapanos wants to turn land on James Savage Road in Midland into lots for industrial or retail use. The idea will go before the City Planning Commission.

WAKEUP NAT/NEWS 6/2/05 :19  
A new poll shows people are still worried about the economy, despite recent signs of growth. According to the poll by the PEW Research Center, only about one in three Americans think the national economy is in good shape. Concerns include high gas prices and the stock market.

WAKEUP LOC/NEWS 6/9/05 :42  
Vassar's Tiercon Components Plant is closing its doors in July. More than 100 people will lose their jobs. Another Vassar auto parts facility, Eagle Picher Hillsdale Tool recently filed bankruptcy. City leaders say it will be difficult to bring new businesses to the area.

6PM LOC/NEWS 6/25/05 :35  
Thousands of speed boat race fans are expected to pack Bay City for the River Roar, pumping an estimated several hundred thousand dollars into the local economy. It's a weekend of non-stop sales and shopping, for stores on both sides of the river.

### 4. Unemployment

530PM NAT/NEWS 4/5/05 :20  
The Ford Motor Company plans to offer early retirement and buyout packages to employees later this month. If Ford can't get enough employees to take the offer, they may have to resort to layoffs.

NOON LOC/NEWS 4/14/05 :23  
Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 6.9 percent in March. The state says that's the lowest rate since April, 2004. The payroll jobs survey showed Michigan lost 17,000 jobs in March.

WAKEUP LOC/NEWS 5/20/05 :20

Michigan actually gained about 34,000 jobs for the month of April; but at the same time, Michigan's unemployment rate moved up to 7 percent. The biggest job loss last month came in professional and business positions, while the state showed the most gains in the hospitality, leisure and manufacturing sectors.

WAKEUP LOC/NEWS 5/25/05 :27

Northwest Airlines wants to lay off more than half of its mechanics and cut base pay by 25 percent. While a strike is not imminent, the Union has a strike committee set up, with Northwest advertising for replacement mechanics in case there is a strike. Northwest has already announced that 669 mechanics will be laid off by July.

5PM LOC/NEWS 6/7/05 1:20

According to General Motors, one fourth of the company's hourly work force will be out of a job in the next 3 years. The company calls it competitive choices. Here at home, local workers are stunned.

11PM LOC/NEWS 6/11/05 :20

The summer job hunt is turning out to be a tough one for teenagers. Fast food outlets and retail stores are the most likely to hire teens. Roughly 18 percent of them probably won't find a job, which is about the same situation as last year.

NOON LOC/NEWS 6/16/05 :15

Michigan's unemployment rate is on the rise. State officials now say total employment dropped by 15,000 workers last month. In April, Michigan held the highest unemployment rate in the country.

### 5. Teen Options (to keep them out of trouble)

11PM LOC/NEWS 5/11/05 1:02

Members of the group "Students Promoting Unity and Diversity" at Lapeer West High School are working on a mural they will hang up at school. "SPUD" strives to break down stereotypes and promote equal rights for all groups

11PM LOC/NEWS 5/13/05 1:00

Prom 2005 for the students at Saginaw Township's Heritage High School started with a sit-down dinner, which is a little bit differently than most other schools. The dance ended at midnight so students could avoid the Friday night bar crowd.

NOON LOC/NEWS 5/27/05 :40

In Livonia, two high school seniors donned duct tape outfits in hopes of receiving a scholarship from the Duck brand duct tape company. Theresa Bailey spent more than two months designing and assembling her dress. Meanwhile her date stuck to his girl with his duct tape designed tuxedo. They're hoping to win a combined \$5,000 scholarship. Results will be announced in early June.

6PM LOC/NEWS 6/10/05 :23

Some political science students at CMU came up with a plan to re-vamp the merit scholarship program. It was well received and they were able to present it to lawmakers. Under the students' proposal, the merit award would jump to \$5,000 for 4 years. Students would have to do more community service and hold a 2.0 GPA.

## **6. Poor Road Conditions, No Sidewalks, Lack of Lighting**

530PM LOC/NEWS 4/7/05 1:25

Pothole season is here and they can be tough o your car with high repair bills. Residents say potholes have been a problem here for years. Road crews say they're doing the best they can right now to smooth streets, because the frost is still in the ground.

530PM LOC/NEWS 4/11/05 1:17

With spring here, orange barrels are popping up with lane closures on I-75 through Genesee County. There are options to get around the highway headache with your best bet being to avoid the I-75 Cone Zone is using I-475, and if you need to, you can cut across I-69 to get back to I-75.

5PM LOC/NEWS 5/26/05 :29

For the second time in two months, a chunk of crumbling overpass fell of the 8-Mile Road underpass in Detroit, landing on a car. No one was seriously hurt.

6PM LOC/NEWS 5/28/05 :20

A sidewalk project along Euclid Avenue in Bay City should wrap up next month. The project started at the south end of Euclid and is moving northward. It's at various stages of progress.

6PM LOC/NEWS 6/1/05 1:18

An accident in Bay County today involved two parties working at the same location. It demonstrates how road projects are noisy, dangerous places. Road construction companies say current penalties of up to 15 years in prison and a \$7500 dollar fine for accidentally killing a worker while speeding through a construction area aren't tough enough.



6PM LOC/NEWS 6/27/05 :20  
Reconstruction of Ashman Street, from Nelson to Buttles, began today. Crews will be replacing water mains and fixing curbs. The entire project is expected to be completed in September.

**6. Loss of Community; Lack of Volunteerism**

6PM LOC/NEWS 4/13/05 1:40  
The Caro Wal-Mart store manager, Shawn Roddy has a special interest in at risk kids. He's at athletic events, school events, anything to do with kids, he's the first one called. Shawn says getting children the materials they need makes him feel good.

WAKEUP LOC/NEWS 6/3/05 :38  
Volunteers for Saginaw's Habitat for Humanity started with a prayer rally. The goal is to build 8 brand new homes for families in Saginaw and Bridgeport. The project should be done by the end of the month.

WAKEUP LOC/NEWS 6/8/05 :25  
The Detroit Super Bowl Committee says it has surpassed its goal of recruiting volunteers. So far, 10,000 volunteers have been selected for Super Bowl week activities. There are no volunteer positions available inside Ford Field.

5PM LOC/NEWS 6/17/05 :45  
Volunteers for Habitat for Humanity have put up 7 homes in Saginaw's Cathedral District and one home in Bridgeport. They've finished up landscape work and interior trim work and dedicate the new homes June 24.

WAKEUP LOC/NEWS 6/24/05 :29  
A dedication ceremony was held this afternoon at Atwater and S. Warren Street in Saginaw. Volunteers and new home owners got to see the final result of the building blitz going on all month. Dedication ceremonies were also held in Bay City and Pinconning.

**8. Tuition Costs (College and Vocational)**

11PM LOC/NEWS 4/8/05 :24  
There is a possible tuition increase for students taking off-campus classes at Central Michigan University. If approved, the rate hike would mean a \$35 per credit hour increase for those affected.

6PM LOC/NEWS 5/11/05 :23  
Delta College has hiked tuition up 5 percent for the coming school year. It'll cost \$72.50 per credit hour for students in Midland, Bay and Saginaw counties, which is an increase of \$3.50. Out of district students tuition goes up \$5 and \$7 for out-of-state students.

5PM LOC/NEWS 6/2/05 :12  
A higher education spending bill has been approved tonight. The 1.7 billion dollar budget has been sent to the full Senate Appropriations Committee.

### 9. Health Insurance Costs

5PM NAT/NEWS 4/14/05 :35  
Negotiations are underway between UAW members and General Motors. UAW officials refuse to re-open the Union's 2003 Contract to lower health care costs. GM officials say cutting health care costs would be limited in the current contract which expires in 2007.

WAKEUP LOC/NEWS 4/20/05 :22  
Starting April 25, Merck will distribute cards to allow people to get discounts of 15 to 40 percent on some of the medicines Merck makes. A company official says the card will be available to anyone not covered by health insurance.

5P NAT/NEWS 4/22/05 :43  
Changes in the Medicaid program and other state budget problems are putting a strain on Community Mental Health of Central Michigan. CMH says its spending more money than its bringing in, and that, coupled with a \$737 million state projected shortfall mean Staffing cuts may have to be made.

6PM NAT/NEWS 5/9/05 :15  
U.S. lawmakers would like to have some beneficiaries pay more for health care and give states more power over services. Congressional leaders have expressed interest in cutting back on the program.

WAKEUP LOC/NEWS 5/23/05 1:21  
Flint Township is in the red by half a million dollars, but officials say switching all township employees to the same, cost-cutting health care plan could save as much as \$250,000 per year. The Township Board voted to move all 108 township employees to a Blue Cross Blue Shield Health plan. Several township unions, including the police, say they don't approve of the health plan.

NOON LOC/NEWS 6/14/05 :25  
Union officials in Detroit are telling locals that hourly workers can expect to shell out more for co-pays in light of General Motors cutbacks. Those changes must come by the end of this month or General Motors has threatened to take cost cutting actions itself.

11PM NAT/NEWS 6/27/05 1:36  
Robots have become a fixture in the medical world. Surgical instrument servers, voice-operated robotic assistants created by scientists are programmed to assist in surgery. This technology will eventually make surgery safer and more cost effective.

5PM LOC/NEWS 6/28/05 :22  
When the new Medicare prescription drug plan starts next year, some of your medicine won't be covered. The plan will not pay for widely used drugs to treat anxiety, such as Valium, Xanax and similar medications. Congress is still deciding whether to exclude Viagra as a non-essential "lifestyle" drug.

## 10. Crime

NOON LOC/NEWS 4/5/05 :46  
Saginaw Police are investigating the shooting death of a Buena Vista mother of three. She was shot multiple times, while inside a car with friends. The 3 a.m. shooting was only a few feet away from a church, and on a street where kids often play.

6PM LOC/NEWS 4/27/05 1:17  
An anthrax scare shut down The Midland Daily News for more than 3 hours. Editor Jack Telfer opened a letter that launched a massive Hazmat investigation. White powder latched onto Telfer's clothes and hands. He then noticed a note with the word "anthrax." Investigators have already questioned the young man who's return address appeared on the suspicious envelope and are looking for other leads.

6PM LOC/NEWS 4/29/05 1:14  
Ignitable fluids fueled the flames in the industrial technology classroom at Hemlock High School. Investigators believe two kids did the damage using accelerants and Molotov cocktails as ammunition. Repair crews have already started replacing shattered windows, while police gather evidence and students try to salvage their projects.

6PM LOC/NEWS 5/10/05 1:35  
Saginaw and Saginaw High School campus police are still investigating the stabbing of a 15-year-old 9<sup>th</sup> grader inside the school. As a result of the stabbing, Saginaw High officials are limiting entrance to the school to only two doors, and visitors to the school can no longer bring other people with them.

11PM LOC/NEWS 5/26/05 1:12  
Current and former Detroit Lions players laced up their basketball shoes to challenge some Saginaw County Law Enforcement officials. The goal is to raise money and awareness for Crime Stoppers. It's a program that financially rewards the public when a crime solving tip is given to the police.

11PM LOC/NEWS 6/5/05 1:17  
Police responded to a shooting call at a home on Olde Saybrook Road. When police arrived they learned that a 17-year-old had been already taken to the hospital with a gunshot wound. Neighbors say the teen attended Grand Blanc High School and played on the school's Lacrosse Club. More information will be released on Monday.

5PM LOC/NEWS 6/8/05 1:17  
A 25-year-old Flint man was shot in the arm and leg at Bluebell Beach on Tuesday night around 7 p.m. It's the second time in three days police were called to the beach. Today there are 20 park rangers patrolling the 11,000 acres while the investigation continues. Residents are hoping for a save and uneventful rest of the summer in Genesee Township.

WEEKEND WAKEUP LOC/NEWS 6/19/05 :35  
A 14-year-old was fatally shot in the chest at Lapeer Avenue in Saginaw around 11 a.m. yesterday. It's believed a 14-year-old friend accidentally pulled the trigger. The victim was transported to a local trauma center where he was pronounced dead.