

**QUARTERLY ISSUES**

**AND**

**PROGRAMS REPORT**

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

**July 1 through September 30, 2004**

## **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 TV5 by October 11, 2004. The report covers the period from July 1, 2004 through September 30, 2004. The report is based on ten 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 designed to call attention to or address the problem or need.**

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

**July 1 through September 30, 2004**

<u>ISSUE/TITLE/SOURCE</u>	<u>PROGRAM/TYPE</u>	<u>DATE/DURATION</u>
<b>1. Drugs and Alcohol</b>		
5:30P The Coast Guard is armed with guns and rifles, doubling their patrols over the 4 <sup>th</sup> of July weekend. They say have a good time; alcohol is totally legal. But make sure the driver is sober and knows what he's doing.	LOC/NEWS	07/02/04 1:55
5P The East side of Saginaw is a community hit hard by illegal drugs and the subsequent crime and violence that's often associated with it. A resident says drug use in her community is rampant because police can't control the dealers. She has no solutions, but says something has to be done to curb the drugs and violence in her community for the sake of her children.	LOC/NEWS	07/09/04 1:39
5:30P Parents have to get involved with their children such as those who sign their children up at the Boys and Girls Club. It is more than just a place to shoot pool or play video games. Civic and youth leaders agree—to keep kids out of trouble you have to invest some time.	LOC/NEWS	07/14/04 1:30
6P Car chase leads police to a man being held at gunpoint. They also found what looked like drugs, and he is being held on an outstanding warrant.	LOC/NEWS	08/20/04 :26
NOON A Swartz Creek man charged with stealing pain killers from patients at a Howell Nursing Home will not stand trial as a plea was reached with prosecutors.	LOC/NEWS	08/26/04 :20
5:30P Neighbors are still talking about the drug bust in Flushing near two schools. Three teenagers were arrested leaving the suspected drug house. The part that worries parents: The home is in a drug-free school zone, between the Flushing Junior High and St. Robert's Catholic School.	LOC/NEWS	09/13/04 1:26

6P LOC/NEWS 09/22/04 :35  
Dort Highway, in Flint, has a reputation for having problems with drugs and prostitution. The Genesee County prosecutor and Flint mayor announced a lawsuit to padlock The Genesee Motor Inn.

## 2. School Budget Cuts

Weekend WakeUp LOC/NEWS 07/04/04 :30  
The Mott Farm is in need of major funding. The site, in Flint, gives kids a close-up look at farm life, right near the city. The Flint Public School District almost closed it last week because of budget trouble.s

6PM LOC/NEWS 07/22/04 :14  
Despite its on-going budget struggles, the Essexville-Hampton School District will help pay for its new high school soccer team. The Board voted to give the team \$3,000, enough to cover transportation expenses only.

11PM LOC/NEWS 08/12/04 :59  
The school superintendent of Hemlock schools says the district needs to make cuts to keep the budget in the black. One way to do that is to cut ten teaching positions, saving about \$540,000.

Wakeup LOC/NEWS 08/17/04 :27  
The Hemlock School District will be short four teachers for this school year. Three junior high, and one high school teacher will be laid off.

11PM LOC/NEWS 08/24/04 :42  
The debate over how Michigan schools are funded continues. Its been that way the last ten years, when Michigan lawmakers approved Proposal "A".

5:30P LOC/NEWS 09/08/04 :25  
A new Michigan State Budget was worked out wherein a new proposal calls for a \$74 per student increase for school districts that already receive more than \$9,000 per student.

6PM LOC/NEWS 09/21/04 :29  
The Essexville-Hampton School District cut \$300,000 from their budget and will make students pay for extra curricular activities and are cutting clerical jobs.

### 3. Low Economic Growth in the Community

530PM LOC/NEWS 07/23/04 1:14

People are talking a lot about minimum wage. A visit was made to the local mall to obtain viewer reaction of this topic.

5PM LOC/NEWS 08/06/04 1:26

In East Tawas, the local Holiday Inn was filled, restaurants were packed and the streets were full of shoppers. According to shopkeepers, business depends on the weather—cool weather sends people to town to shop, but other sales dip when the temperature does.

530PM LOC/NEWS 08/20/04 :37

The unseasonably cool weather has affected the swimming pool sales locally, although it does spur other sales.

WAKEUP NAT/NEWS 08/26/04 :30

Vice-Presidential candidate John Edwards spoke in Oklahoma City promising to bring tax relief to the middle class and a new focus to the war on terror.

11PM LOC/NEWS 09/23/04 1:14

A large number of Portsmouth Township residents met to fight a zoning proposal that would bring a Walmart Super Center to their back yard. If approved, it would be built on 38 acres of farmland at M-15 next to the Rail Trail and bring much-needed jobs to boost local economy.

### 4. Unemployment

WAKEUP NAT/NEWS 07/09/04 :37

Many teens get a job during summer months to earn cash to get through the rest of the year. The overall unemployment rate for teens is 16.8 percent. Experts say you should start looking for a job in the winter months.

NOON LOC/NEWS 07/23/04 :21

In June, statewide, the number of people looking for work increased to just under 7 percent. The biggest increase was recorded in Detroit; Flint's jobless rate is up slightly while the Tri-Cities saw unemployment go up half a point.

WAKEUP NAT/NEWS 08/06/04 :19

The Labor Department says the economy added just 32,000 jobs in July, which is the smallest gain since December.

NOON NAT/NEWS 08/19/04 :31

First-time claims for unemployment benefits dropped for a third consecutive week. Claims were at the lowest level in six weeks. Analysts say the drop may signal that the labor market is improving after a slump in June and July. Michigan's unemployment rate climbed three-tenths of a percent in July.

6PM LOC/NEWS 09/06/04 1:12

The latest numbers show the Saginaw/Bay City/Midland job unemployment rate is at 7.9 percent. One business says traffic closures and poor weather have cooled off business which is why they are open on Labor Day.

WEEKEND WAKEUP LOC/NEWS 09/16/04 :22

Michigan's job climate improved slightly in August, due to many auto workers back from summer layoffs. Michigan's overall job picture has improved since August last year.

6PM LOC/NEWS 09/24/04 :39

The August unemployment rate dropped in all 12 of the state's labor market areas from July figures in Saginaw, Bay and Midland counties. In Flint, the August rate also dropped. This drop is attributed to temporarily laid off auto workers called back to work after plants finished their annual re-tooling in July.

## 5. Teen Options (To Keep Them Out of Trouble)

WAKEUP LOC/NEWS 07/07/04 :20

Members of the Victorious Believers Ministry began a tent revival which took on added importance to them, since two teenaged members of their congregation were shot and wounded last week.

6PM NAT/NEWS 07/28/04 :24

Students in Dallas, Texas are trying to learn how to become entrepreneurs. Classroom lessons involve running a business. Students say the operation is a hands-on learning tool for them and provides valuable services for the community.

530PM LOC/NEWS 08/04/04 :40

It was primary day across Michigan yesterday. In Saginaw County, a teenager has won his party's nomination for Richland Township clerk.

6PM LOC/NEWS 08/07/04 :23

A public playground is being restored to its full potential today in Saginaw. It's all part of a local teenager's Eagle Scout program. The public park is currently owned by the Warren Avenue Presbyterian Church, which is donating the money for the "fix up".

11PM LOC/NEWS 08/31/04 :20  
Some say the skate park in Bay City, which opened three years ago, has dealt with a steady stream of fights, vandalism and assaults. The most recent incident left a Saginaw teen needing reconstructive surgery on his face.

5PM NAT/NEWS 09/12/04 1:20  
A Racine, Wisconsin police officer came up with a program wherein police officers carry books in their patrol cars, and give them out to children they meet on patrol.

WEEKEND WAKEUP LOC/NEWS 09/25/04 :26  
Curfews can be controversial, but they can work if they are actively enforced. New curfews at two Detroit malls are showing positive results. Mall management says sales increased, despite less traffic in the mall.

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

530PM LOC/NEWS 07/02/04 :22  
The Gladwin County Road Commission says their roads and bridges are closer to being back to normal—about 90 percent closer. They estimate they had 50 major repairs to make since March and now they have all but eight left.

NOON LOC/NEWS 07/15/04 :48  
Hundreds of people are complaining about vehicle damage caused from “chip and seal” projects around the county. The county road commission is posting warning signs as it has about 15 more miles of road to treat.

6PM LOC/NEWS 07/19/04 1:12  
Five lanes, instead of six are open on I-75 between M-57 and Birch Run Creek. The road work is a cone zone challenge for many Michigianians. While many drivers are speeding up to keep up with the flow of traffic, others are playing it safe.

5PM LOC/NEWS 08/10/04 :24  
Until the middle of August, the north and southbound lanes of I-75 are undergoing major repairs, between Bristol and Miller Roads. During the day expect single lane closings and then double lane closings at night. There will be adjustments for weekend drivers.

5PM LOC/NEWS 08/23/04 :15  
Crews are making repairs to State Street, in Saginaw, between Passolt and John. That portion of State Street, which is three lanes, will be reduced to one and will conclude on Wednesday.



5PM LOC/NEWS 09/07/04 1:20  
A Saginaw Township mother petitioned for a four-way stop outside her Saginaw Township home on Plymouth and Baines Roads. Eighteen months later the county instead installed a slow-down circle and several signs to remind people to put on the brakes. Officials insist the round about turns may not be permanent.

NOON LOC/NEWS 09/27/04 :20  
The Michigan State Police say 764 people have been killed in accidents on state highways since the beginning of the year. Over the same period in 2003, 140 more people were killed.

### 7. Loss of Community, Lack of Volunteerism

5PM LOC/NEWS 07/22/04 :24  
Saginaw's new boat launch was plastered with graffiti by vandals recently. A local company power-sprayed the paint away with the help of local volunteers.

530PM LOC/NEWS 07/27/04 :34  
Dozens of employees and company executives from Dow Chemical Company were working with volunteers from the Midland County Habitat for Humanity. They were taking part in the charity's blitz build.

NOON LOC/NEWS 08/08/04 :33  
Mary Jacobs is trading in her mobile home for a brand new home. Congressman Dave Camp was part of the crew that helped put the roof on the new home. Midland County's chapter of Habitat for Humanity has built 25 homes so far.

6PM LOC/NEWS 08/12/04 :25  
Local church leaders continue their crusade against violence tonight through an ongoing event called "Save the City." Right now they are gathering at Houghton School in Saginaw, to pray for the community.

11PM LOC/NEWS 08/15/04 1:42  
A Saginaw volunteer leaves for Florida to help the victims of Hurricane Charley. Once at the site, she expects to work long days and nights, but says that's just part of the job. She has worked with the Red Cross for the past 20 years.

11PM LOC/NEWS 09/13/04 :39  
The United Way's "Day of Caring" involves more than 250 adults, students and kids who Clean up a cemetery, plant flowers and paint playscapes across Bay County. The students involved say they wanted to give something back to the community.

6PM LOC/NEWS 09/18/04 1:54

Paint and Pride is a program which involves students from Bay City, Essexville and Auburn, along with realtors, bankers and other people who are interested in helping people. There are 15 homes that will be painted by this group who have to get up early on the weekend, and work on someone's house they don't even know, with the lesson being learning how to be neighborly.

## 8. Tuition Costs (College and Vocational)

WAKEUP LOC/NEWS 07/26/04 :19

Michigan's 47 private colleges and universities are raising tuition an average of 6 percent to nearly \$16,000. Michigan's public universities are expected to stay in line with inflation which is nearly 3 percent.

6PM LOC/NEWS 08/23/04 :25

The suspected nursing shortage may be proving to be something of a myth. In Minnesota, graduating nurses are having a tough time finding work. But in other areas, more than one-fourth of nursing jobs are still open. Here in Michigan, the state is offering people who train to become nurses, college tuition breaks.

NOON LOC/NEWS 08/24/04 :14

Michigan graduate students are bearing the brunt of tuition increases this fall. At the University of Michigan, increases will range from 5 percent to 12.1 percent. The state is capping undergraduate tuition at the rate of inflation.

NOON LOC/NEWS 09/10/04 :26

State lawmakers have passed a new university spending plan. Western Michigan, Lake Superior State and Northern Michigan Universities would have to give tuition refunds to students to recoup state money. The plan now goes to Governor Granholm.

## 9. Health Insurance Costs

5PM NAT/NEWS 07/01/04 :16

The U.S. government says more U.S. children have health insurance now than ever before on record and attributes it to expanded state programs, like Michigan's "My Child" program.

6PM NAT/NEWS 07/13/04 :32

A new study shows that those who have health insurance may be willing to help those who don't. Groups debated the pros and cons of lending a helping hand, and in the end all groups voted yes to help.

WAKEUP NAT/NEWS 07/15/04 :25

A teacher's union survey says the average educator is not making enough to keep up with expenses, and that for the second straight year, double digit increases in health insurance have eroded a teacher's ability to make a living.

5PM NAT/NEWS 08/04/04 :21

A new study shows nearly half of the 8.5 million American kids without insurance, have not seen a doctor or nurse for a medical check-up in the last year. By comparison, 70 percent of kids with private or public health insurance did have a check-up in the last year.

11PM NAT/NEWS 08/24/04 :26

In 2002 about 27 percent of self-employed workers did not have health insurance. That number is up according to new data from the Kaiser Family Foundation. Just over 18 percent of all workers lack insurance.

NOON LOC/NEWS 09/23/04 :20

The Michigan Prescription Drug Discount Card allows as many as 200,000 senior citizens and working people with no insurance to cut prescription drug bills, saving as much as 20 percent on the drugs. Statewide, at least 11 counties are using some sort of prescription drug program.

11PM LOC/NEWS 09/28/04 :25

Health insurance premiums paid by U.S. workers have risen nearly three times faster than earnings in the past four years. Americans without health insurance is a contributing factor, because the cost of treating the uninsured is passed along to others.

## 10. Crime

6PM LOC/NEWS 07/10/04 :26

In Clare County, residents help capture a burglary suspect, wanted by the police for days. The thief was trying to break into a vehicle at a home in Harrison yesterday morning. That's when homeowners detained the man until deputies got there.

6PM LOC/NEWS 07/17/04 :45

Over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend, at least 3 teens became victims of gun violence in Saginaw. So far in 2004, Saginaw police have responded to more than 50 shootings.

5PM LOC/NEWS 07/25/04 :21

A man accused of killing a Midland woman in her apartment in January, has now been charged with first degree, premeditated murder.

11PM LOC/NEWS 07/28/04 :40  
Police responded to a domestic disturbance in Clare County last night. They found a 40-year-old man holding a rifle when they arrived. The man refused to put his gun down and troopers say he pointed his weapon, which is when police fired.

6PM LOC/NEWS 08/16/04 :45  
A 67-year-old man says he accidentally shot his 70-year-old sister and 40-year-old niece. He says he was cleaning his gun to sell it, when it went off. He is currently in custody until detectives sort out exactly what happened.

530PM LOC/NEWS 08/19/04 :36  
The man accused of using a sword to sever another man's hands is facing the possibility of life behind bars. Dion Goodel was in court today facing charges of assault with intent to commit murder. The victim is recovering after surgeons worked to re-attach both his hands.

5PM LOC/NEWS 08/30/04 1:20  
Police questioned 11 CMU football players after a June fight outside a night club in Mt. Pleasant, which led to one man's death. The coach says all his players will continue practicing until police determine whether any team members were involved in a crime.

11PM LOC/NEWS 09/14/04 :31  
An intense search continues in Mt. Morris Township after two gunmen used a Nine millimeter gun and possibly an A-K 47 to shoot several people inside a motel room. Two people are dead and four others wounded.

11PM LOC/NEWS 09/14/04 1:22  
An 11-month-old child dies after apparently being hit in the head with some form of blunt object. The girl was being watched by her mom's boyfriend while she was at work. The boyfriend call 9-1-1 saying the baby had trouble breathing.

