

**QUARTERLY ISSUES  
AND  
PROGRAMS REPORT**

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

**JULY 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 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 October 10th, 2020. The report covers the period from July 1st through September 30th, 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**

**July 1 through September 30**

***DATE/PROGRAM    ISSUE /TITLE    SOURCE***

**1. JOBS & ECONOMY**

***7/12/20 - 6:00 am - WORKING PAST 62 GOOD FOR RETIREMENT - NATIONAL***

A recent study says people who gradually retire with part-time jobs, have greater retirement security. Published by the center for retirement research at Boston College the study looked at people older than 62 and their financial preparedness for retirement.

Researchers found non-traditional jobs helped older people in their ability to retire because it might let them delay taking social security, or payments from their retirement accounts.

***7/14/20 - 9:00 am - OUTDOOR JOB FAIR - LOCAL***

If you're in need of a job you're in luck! Michigan works is hosting a series of job fairs this week! Lots of employers will be there wearing masks and social distancing. Will be held at the S.V.R.C. Pavilion in Saginaw. Don't worry if you miss out there will be another at Wenona Park in Bay City tomorrow. In Alma on Thursday and Mount Pleasant on Friday.

***8/13/20 - 5:30 pm - UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS BELOW 1M, 1ST TIME SINCE MARCH - Local***

Encouraging news for the economy, the new jobs report shows first-time jobless claims fell below one million for the first time since March. The labor department says 963-thousand Americans filed for benefits last week. That's the lowest number of weekly initial claims since the pandemic shut down the economy continued jobless claims remain high.

***8/26/20 - 11 pm - ONE IN THREE MUSEUMS IN DANGER OF CLOSING - National***

Even in good times those in the museum industry will tell you they operate on a thin budget. The American Alliance of Museums in June surveyed 750 museum directors across the U.S. many museums remain closed or only partially open. Those with outdoor space like botanical gardens or zoos faring better than those that are indoors and interactive like science centers and children's museums. The industry accounts for three-quarters of a million jobs contributes 50 billion dollars to the economy each year and many benefited from PPP loans in the spring but now that money is running out.

***9/14/20 - 5:30 pm - AMAZON HIRING 100K JOBS - National***

Amazon needs workers and a lot of them. The jobs are paying roughly 15-dollars per hour with benefits. Amazon is holding a virtual career day on Wednesday. The company looking to fill 33,000 job openings in corporate and tech roles.

***9/25/20 - 5:00pm - SURVEY ECONOMY WORSE OFF - National***

A new study finding 63 percent of Americans believe the economy is worse than it was a year ago, long before the pandemic. The number down 10 percent from June. Since then more businesses have reopened and unemployment numbers are going down. But as the presidential election approaches the partisan divide on the economy has grown.

## **2. CRIME**

***7/1/20 - 5:00 am - GIFT CARD SCAMS - NATIONAL***

Gretchen Furlan says she received this Facebook message from a person she thought was an old childhood friend. He told her about a grant through the Lion Club International Foundation. He told her all she had to do was pay a \$1,000 clearance fee, to receive a \$100,000 grant that she wouldn't have to pay back, and it wasn't a scam. The man soon connected Furlan with a woman who approved her \$100,000 grant. The mother of two used her stimulus money to put \$500 on each Walmart gift card and sent the woman photos of the them. But it was all a con. Furlan believes someone hacked her old friend's Facebook account. There have been similar scams using the name Lion Club International. The legitimate organization, "Lions Clubs International" has put out warnings about them. So far this year the federal trade commission has received more than 9-hundred reports of grant scams like this one with victims losing more than 3 million dollars and gift cards are the most common form of payment.

***7/15/20 - 9:00 am - POLICE-INVOLVED SHOOTING - LOCAL***

The mask debate taking an ugly and deadly turn after a dispute in the parking lot in Lansing led to a stabbing and police-involved shooting. It's day three of the governor's state mandate. A move made to help slow the spread of Coronavirus as the state sees an up-tick in new cases. More than 580 cases were added that pushes us past the 70-thousand mark. A security expert is encouraging companies to train employees as retailers across the state must enforce the mask mandate. That's as confrontations over masks are ramping up like this one a 77-year old man is recovering after asking 43-year-old Sean Ernest Ruis to wear a face covering outside a convenience store in Lansing. Ruis stabbed the man then police say he charged at a deputy with the knife. He was fatally shot by police. Security officials say if you must approach someone about wearing a mask it's best to try a softer approach.

**8/29/20 - 8:00 am - NATURAL DISASTER SCAMS - National**

As people along the gulf coast continue to feel the devastation following hurricane Laura. Those who want to help may also face major challenges. The better business bureau warns scamming often happens after tragedies like wildfires in California and hurricanes in the south. Before donating, the B.B.B. advises to visit give.org to make sure a charity is legitimate. Donors should also inquire about the organization's plan to address immediate or gradual needs. Red flags include vague statements about how funds will be used and claims that say 100% of donations will be sent directly to victims and their families.

**8/31/20 - 5:00 am - 3 KIDS INJURED IN DRIVE BY - Local**

3 children are injured in Oakland County after a drive-by shooting Saturday night. The sheriff's department says residents were at home watching their grandchildren. When they heard gun shots and glass breaking. Three children were struck by bullets from the gunfire, one is just ten months old. All are in stable conditions. Police are investigating.

**9/15/20 - 11 pm - SETTLEMENT IN BREONNA TAYLOR DEATH - Local**

A 12-million-dollar settlement and police reforms announced in Louisville, Kentucky after the police shooting death of Breonna Taylor. Officers shot and killed the 26-year old in March while executing a search warrant for drugs at her apartment none were found. Police said officers returned fire after Taylor's boyfriend shot at them. Taylor's mother says the settlement with her family is the first step in justice for her daughter. The shooting led to widespread protests. One officer involved in the shooting has been fired. Two others are on administrative leave.

**9/25/20 - 6:00 am - PROTESTS OVER BREONNA TAYLOR - National/Local**

Protesters were back out on the bricks last night in Flint marching in front of traffic on Saginaw Street demonstrators across the country continue to question the police tactics that led to Taylor's shooting death during a raid.

### **3. WEATHER**

**7/10/20 - 6:00 am - FLOOD RELIEF SIGNED - LOCAL**

President Trump approved a federal emergency declaration it's for those affected by severe flooding in Mid-Michigan. That declaration authorizes FEMA to coordinate disaster relief efforts to ease the burden on local authorities. It's also expected to help clear the way for an additional 6-million-dollars in state flood relief funding passed by the state house and awaiting action by the state senate. Congressman John Moolenaar says residents should understand that there will be limitations and it will be done on a case-by-case basis.

***7/11/20 - 8:00 am - TROPICAL STORM FAY DOWNGRADES - NATIONAL***

The National Hurricane Center has downgraded 'fay' to a tropical depression. Fay hit the northeast by dumping buckets of rain and causing flash floods with the possibility tornados in the forecast. It slammed into the coast with maximum sustained winds of about 50-miles per hour submerging neighborhoods throughout the day. Fay, the sixth named storm this hurricane season.

***8/31/20 - 9:00 am - HURRICANE STORM DAMAGE - National***

In terms of windspeed Laura was the strongest hurricane to hit Louisiana since the mid-1800s. Now as residents clean up the state a COVID hotspot is struggling with a backlog of cases. Speaking on face the nation Sunday, acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf said FEMA was prepared for this combination of natural disasters and is doing everything it can to minimize contact between evacuees. Over the weekend, President Trump toured some of the damage. The storm made roads impassable and ripped roofs off buildings leaving some people scrambling to put up tarps as scattered showers moved in. Others had nothing to even put tarps on as many homes were completely wiped out. Thousands remain without power in Louisiana. Governor Edwards signed an order extending phase 2 and the statewide mask mandate including closing bars to onsite consumption, for another two weeks.

***8/31/20 - 6 pm - FEMA DOCUMENT DROP-OFF - Local***

FEMA is opening its document drop-off center today it's for victims of may's historic flooding. This center is in Saginaw at the holy spirit Catholic Church that's on North River Road. Flood victims can drop-off their documents today through Tuesday, September 8th. The site is open from 8 am until 7 pm, and a friendly remember the deadline to register with FEMA is also September 8th.

***9/16/20 - 10 pm - HURRICANE SALLY - National***

Hurricane Sally made landfall today leaving significant damage in its wake. Sally is now a tropical storm, but it is still disrupting the lives of millions of gulf coast residents. The storm with winds over 100 miles an hour brought an onslaught of rain near the Florida-Alabama state line.

***9/22/20 - noon - - TROPICAL STORM BETA: DRIVER ESCAPES FLOODED - National***

Tropical Storm Beta making landfall in Texas today causing dangerous situations for motorists. The main threat storm surge and heavy rainfall leaving some residents walking through the streets in high flood waters reaching up to their waist. Beta is the 23rd named storm this hurricane season.

**4. EDUCATION/SCHOOLS**

***7/10/20 - 5:00 am - FLINT COMM SCHOOLS CONSOLIDATION - LOCAL***

THE Flint Community Schools Board of Education has voted to consolidate schools. Flint Junior High School will not re-open in the fall students will instead go to Holmes STEM Academy. That school will now be re-configured to become a middle school for grades 6 through 8. Brownell STEM Academy will now expand to K-through-5.

***7/13/20 - 6:00 pm - COVID SPIKES & SCHOOLS - NATIONAL***

Cases are climbing fast in another COVID hot spot Arizona. The state reported more than 25 hundred new cases yesterday. Over the past seven days, nearly 27 percent of tests there were positive that's the highest rate in the nation. ICU's are nearly full, and the state is preparing for the outbreak to get much worse. Kimberley Lopez-Byrd was an elementary school teacher in Phoenix and was teaching summer school online. She was sharing a classroom with two other teachers when she came down with the virus.

***8/28/20 - 6 pm - PRIVATE SCHOOL ENROLLMENT - Local***

Some area public schools are moving online, leading some parents to seek other, private school options, to keep their children learning in person. Kelly Breasbois is the admissions director at Nouvel Catholic Central schools, where it's business as usual with some safety modifications. She says that even though classes are in person, their students are safe. It's the flexibility that private schools have that allows them to still teach in person.

***8/31/20 - 9 am - UM-FLINT CLASSES BEGIN - Local***

It's back to classes for students at the University of Michigan-Flint today. This fall, school will look different due to the COVID-19 pandemic most classes will be taught remotely and in-person courses will be limited there'll be health checks, and everyone is required to wear a face mask.

***9/16/20 - 11pm - LAKE FENTON STUDENTS GET COVID - Local***

Lake Fenton Schools says two students have tested positive for COVID-19. The superintendent tells TV-5 one is from the high school the other from Torrey Hill Intermediate. She says contact-tracing has identified one other student as a possible contact and families have been notified.

***9/27/20 - 11 pm - LIST ELEMENTARY SHUT DOWN - Local***

List Elementary in Frankenmuth will be closed until Thursday after multiple staff members may have been exposed to COVID-19. The Saginaw County Health Department believes that staff exposures have not resulted in any student cases for now, students in grades K through 4 will continue their education online. Parents are asked to continue to be on the lookout for signs and symptoms in their children. The school will reopen as normal on Thursday

## 5. POLITICS

### ***7/7/20 - noon - TRUMP COVID - NATIONAL***

President Trump left little doubt about his timeline for the nation's schools tweeting: "schools must open in the fall!!!" the administration will hold a discussion this afternoon on reopening US schools safe arguing there are severe negatives impacts of keeping them closed. Dr. Anthony Fauci says schools are going to have to re-think what their classes look like. Last week presumptive democratic nominee Joe Biden called for the federal government to help cover the costs.

### ***7/9/20 - 6:00 pm - MOS on Whitmer's mask warning - LOCAL***

Concerns over a growing number of COVID-19 cases, has Governor Gretchen Whitmer warning the public to continue wearing their masks. The governor says she does not want to use penalties as a way of enforcing mask use but doesn't want our state to fall back in its recovery. And local business owners are trying to do the same, by upholding the mask requirements already in place. Rhonda Bridgewater owns Annie Mae's internet cafe in Saginaw. She says ever since the pandemic started, she's been forced to close her services dine in areas, and only allow takeout, but despite the lack of traffic inside her restaurant, Bridgewater believes following Governor Whitmer's orders, are better for her and her customers in the long run.

### ***8/27/20 - 6 am - RNC DAY 3 WRAP - National***

Vice President Mike Pence formally accepted his party's nomination last night with a forceful defense of the Trump administration's record, including its handling of the pandemic. Pence warned of rising lawlessness and violence under a democratic white house, alluding to the unrest sparked by a police officer's shooting of a black man in Wisconsin on Sunday. President Trump was among those who attended Pence's speech at Baltimore's Fort McHenry. Mister Trump did not address the gathering, appearing onstage only while country star Trace Adkins performed "The Star-Spangled Banner." many speakers expressed strong support for the president's 'law and order' agenda.

### ***8/28/20 - noon - Let Them Play Rally - Local***

Happening today parents rallying at the State Capitol calling on governor Whitmer to allow high school football this fall. The let-them-play-rally running from 4 until 7 tonight.

### ***9/13/20 - 11 pm - MAGA PARADE FRANKENMUTH - Local***

Hundreds of President Donald Trump's supporters were in Mid-Michigan today for a make America great again parade. Vehicles decked out with Trump flags could be seen driving down Frankenmuth's main street in support of the president's re-election campaign.

***9/27/20 - 10 pm - CAMPAIGN 2020 - National***

President Trump has indicated he wants judge Barrett confirmed before November 3rd because she may be needed to help decide a disputed election. But congressional democrats say she should recuse herself from any election contest involving the president. Sunday, democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden warned Americans Barrett would likely vote to dismantle the affordable care act in the middle of a pandemic. The former vice president and President Trump will meet for their first debate Tuesday night in Cleveland.