

**QUARTERLY ISSUES
AND
PROGRAMS REPORT**

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

JULY 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 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 October 10th, 2023. The report covers the period from July 1st through September 30th, 2023. 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, 2023

DATE/PROGRAM ISSUE /TITLE SOURCE

1. JOBS & ECONOMY

7/25/2023 – 11pm – Local Restaurant Owner Frustrated by On-going Power Outages – Local – Runs 2:35

Ongoing power outages are causing headaches for a Saginaw Township business.

On Tuesday, July 25, Harvey's Grill and Bar employees said an outage forced them to close their doors for the second time this month. "This has been an ongoing issue where that we lose a leg of power," said Brent Skaggs, the owner of Harvey's. Skaggs said he is frustrated that for the second time in the past two weeks, he has had to close his restaurant because of power issues. The outages have closed the restaurant for a few hours at a time, and sometimes for an entire day, not only costing Skaggs money but also affecting his staff. He said other businesses along the Bay-Tittabawassee corridor have also been affected.

7/17/2023 – 5pm – Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitation Brings Profits to Local Businesses – Local – Runs 1:12

Golfers are preparing for the Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational (GLBI) competition later this week, but the economic impact is already being felt before the first meaningful swing takes place. Tony Stamas, the president and CEO of the Midland Business Alliance, said he is glad the tournament is getting ready to tee off. "I think after last year estimated at over \$25 million, at this point well over \$25 million in terms of direct impact. But just it has such an impact at so many levels for our region, so we're really looking forward to the week, and so excited to have it back here again," he said.

8/11/2023 – 6pm – Pain at the Pump: Gas Prices on the Rise – Local – Runs 1:50

Gas prices continue to rise and Michigan has now hit its highest peak of the year.

Monday saw gas prices rise nine cents from last week and they've risen almost 30 cents in just a month. In the area, Flint is seeing some of the cheapest gas prices across the state, with prices being closer to the \$3.76 to \$3.80 mark.

8/23/2023 – 5pm – Manufacturer to Invest Over \$100M in Grand Blanc Township – Local – Runs 2:04

A French Automotive supplier plans to invest more than \$100 Million in Grand Blanc Township, making Mid-Michigan home of the largest hydrogen fuel storage manufacturing facility in North America. The 50 acre site is expected to bring over a hundred new well-paying jobs to the county.

9/18/2023 – 11pm – Auto Parts Supplier Sends WARN Notice About Layoffs – Local – Runs 2:11

CIE Newcore, an automotive components manufacturer with plants in Owosso and Corunna filed a Worker Adjustment and Retaining (WARN) notification announcing plans to lay off nearly 300 employees due to the United Autoworkers Union continue its strike against the Detroit Automakers.

9/26/2023 – 6pm – UAW Strike Impacting Some Vehicle Parts, Body Repairs – Local – Runs 2:02

The United Auto Workers (UAW) strike against the Detroit three automakers could have an impact on people looking to get body work done on their vehicle, depending on the type of parts they need. The Managing Partner at Graff Chevrolet told TV5 how long it may take to get your ride repaired. “Right now, a lot of what we’re doing with parts that we need for warranty-type vehicles and whatnot - we’ve been working with fellow dealers to get [them] because we can’t just necessarily go down to the distribution center to pick those up,” said Lisa Kusey-Rechsteiner.

2. CRIME

7/12/2023 – 6pm- Shiawassee County Sheriff Re-opens Cold Case – Local – Runs 3:09

The Shiawassee County Sheriff announces he is re-opening the cold case on the murder of Mathew Leach. The 22-year-old man was found dead on July 31, 1992 in Shiawassee County. Leach lived in Flint. The cold case has puzzled investigators for decades.

7/27/2023 – 11pm – Father Speaks Against Violence at 18-year-old Son’s Vigil – Local – Runs 1:35

A vigil was held for an 18-year-old student who was shot and killed this week. “Just leave it alone. Y’all can do anything y’all want to do. Just leave this violence alone,” said the father of 18-year-old Mazzie Rudison. The emotional plea comes just two days after Rudison was shot to death. He was a student-athlete at Saginaw’s Arthur Hill High School. Police believe Rudison was shot with a high-powered rifle. The motive is not yet publicly known.

8/05/2023 – 6pm – ‘Just Stop the Violence’ Parents of Murdered Children March, Rally in Saginaw – Local – Runs 2:10

Families forever changed by guns took to the streets on Saturday morning in downtown Saginaw, for a march and rally aimed at reminding the community of the lives lost. “To know them is to love them,” said Tiffany Owens, who lost a son and daughter to gun violence. “There were both very loving kids. God blessed me with three beautiful children, and two of them are in heaven right now.” She was part of a Parents of Murdered Children rally. Her 12-year-old son, Tamarius Steward, died in 2012; her 26-year-old daughter, Tamarea Steward, died in 2021.

8/9/2023 – 11pm - Domestic Violence Happens to Everyone: Expert Sheds Light on the Issue – Local – Runs 2:21

There has been a disturbing surge in domestic violence incidents in the past month. The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence said one in four women and one in nine men experience severe intimate partner physical violence. Richardson said this type of violence cuts across all ages, genders, and races. “Domestic violence happens to everyone, anyone of any gender identity. It occurs in minority populations and LGBTQ community at a disproportionately higher rate than in a cis heterosexual situation,” Richardson said. She adds the more people talk about abuse, the more normal the conversation becomes, and ultimately, that can be empowering to people who need help.

9/21/2023 – 4pm – Pastor Brings Passion for Peace to Forge – Local – Runs 3:13

A Michigan pastor is turning donated guns into gardening tools, and he’s coming to mid-Michigan on Saturday. Called “Disruptive Disciples Blacksmithing”, Reverend Corey Simon takes what he calls “symbols of death” and transforms them. The completed pieces are then donated to families affected by gun violence or the church hosting the event. Simon’s inspiration comes from the Bible.

9/26/2023 – 6pm – New Program Helps Inmates R.I.S.E. to Reclaim Their Lives – Local – Runs 2:44
Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson announced a new program for the county jail to help inmates reclaim their lives. R.I.S.E stands for reach, inspire, serve and empower. The program is collaboration of non-profit social service agencies to help connect inmates with social needs services once they leave the jail.

3. WEATHER

7/20/2023 – 11pm – Hail Damage Affects Davison Area Residents and Car Dealership – Local – Runs 1:27

Damaging storms hit Mid-Michigan leaving a trail of destruction. The Davison area in Genesee County was hit hard by golf ball size hail. Many homeowners suffered severe damage, as well as the Graff Chevrolet Car Dealership. Every vehicle on their lot suffered extreme hail damage.

7/21/2023 – 6pm – Avoiding Scammers in the Midst of Storm Damage – Local – Runs 2:05

After damaging storms ripped thru Genesee County, the Sheriff's department warns against scammers who may try to take advantage of those who suffered home or vehicle damage from the massive hail. They say be weary of contractors going door to door looking for your information and asking to be paid with cash up-front.

8/14/2023 – 6pm - Clean Up Crews, Community Working Around the Clock After Perry Tornado – Local – Runs 1:59

Cleanup efforts are still ongoing in Perry due to a tornado that ran through the town Friday night. There's not much left of a Department of Public Works (DPW) building after an EF-1 tornado hit on Friday night, Aug. 11. It was discovered the city's tornado siren pole was the first thing hit by the tornado. That is why residents didn't hear the warning. Crews are continuing their cleanup efforts, which is something they said will take weeks if not months.

8/15/2023 – 5pm – Expert Shares Home Protection Tips for Flooding, Water Damage – Local – Runs 1:45

All of the rain the past couple of days and throughout the summer has caused flooding and water damage for some homeowners. Home restoration companies have been slammed with calls for flooding and sewer back-ups, as well as numerous sump pump failures. It only takes an inch of rain to potentially flood a home. Experts recommend changing sump pumps every three to five years as well as check gutters, chimneys and get a roof inspection.

9/1/2023 – 6pm – Sugar Beet Crop 'Looking Really Good' Despite Dry Start, Big Rains – Local – Runs 1:41

Sugar beet farmers will soon begin their harvest and the Michigan Sugar Company says the crop is looking good despite the difficult growing season. The sugar beets endured a dry start to the growing season, followed by plenty of rain. What they need before the harvest is over is more heat, limited rainfall and cooler nights.

9/11/2023 – 6pm – Wet Summer’s Impact on Pumpkin Patches – Local – Runs 1:46

It’s the beginning of pumpkin patch season, but after a dry and then very wet summer, some are wondering how the gourds fared in those conditions. One local pumpkin farm, Flushing Farms, does not expect a shortage of pumpkins, but says there were hardships this growing season.

4. EDUCATION/SCHOOLS

7/24/2023 – 5pm – Flint Community Schools Announces New Back to School Backpack Rules – Local – Runs 1:50

The first day of school is less than three weeks away for Flint Community Schools and students and parents already have to prepare for some new changes. Pre-K to sixth-grade students will now have to use a clear backpack for the upcoming school year. The policy was approved by the Flint Board of Education, administration, and principals, with support from area law enforcement.

7/27/2023 – 5pm – Kingston Community Schools Leasing Propane Buses – Local – Runs 1:33

This school year, students in the Kingston Community School District will have new rides. For the next three years, Kingston Community Schools’ buses will run on propane. While leasing new propane-powered buses costs more than standard diesel, the change will ultimately save the district money on maintenance and fuel. “The diesel fuel rates were plus \$4 a gallon, and so we were able to lock in propane at \$1.50 per gallon,” said Shona Vennev, the superintendent for Kingston Community School District.

8/16/2023 – 6pm – Flint Students Adjust to New Safety Protocols – Local – Runs 2:29

Just two weeks into the new school year and the Flint Schools Superintendent addresses how new safety protocols are going. Pre-k to six grade students will have to use clear backpacks. The district is providing the backpacks to kids for free. Grades 7-12 have no backpacks at all. The district added metal detectors to all school buildings, and a new visitor sign-in policy will go into place in the coming weeks.

8/21/2023 – 11pm – Abandoned Flint School Buildings Targeted By Vandals – Local – Runs 2:28

The Flint Fire Department responded to a fire at a vacant school on Monday, shedding light on the problems these empty, sometimes abandoned, buildings are bringing to the community. “Do we want to handle blight tomorrow? Yes, but we can’t do it alone. It’s going to take a lot of funds to be able to do that,” said Kevelin Jones, the superintendent for Flint Community Schools. “We do have a team that that checks those buildings on a weekly basis. The unfortunate thing is we have a lot of vandalism in our community,” Jones said.

9/5/2023 – 6pm – Handley Elementary Welcomes Students to New School – Local – Runs 2:18

After pushing back the opening, Handley Elementary Schools in Saginaw welcomed students to the new building. The new facility was part of a \$100 million bond proposal in 2020. After delaying the first day of school by a week, some finishing touches, students and staff were welcomed in to the 60,000 square foot building.

9/19/2023 – 6pm – New Bill Aims to Continue Free, Healthy Lunches for Students – Local – Runs 1:53

While the state legislature passed one year funding for free healthy school lunches for all Michigan students, a new senate bill is aiming for it to continue. Senate Bill 500 is sponsored by 7 state reps with the hope of keeping healthy lunches free for all Michigan Public School students, saving the average family over \$800 per year.

5. POLITICS

7/18/2023 – 11pm – Grand Blanc School Board Member Charges in Alleged False Electors Scheme – Local – Runs 2:30

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel has charged 16 people with felonies for their roles in the alleged false electors scheme after the 2020 presidential election.

Among the 16 accused is 55-year-old Grand Blanc School Board member Amy Facchinello. She is charged with multiple felonies for conspiracy and forgery, accused of signing fraudulent election certificates claiming Donald Trump won the state in the 2020 presidential election. Nessel said the accused met covertly in the basement of Michigan Republican Party headquarters to sign their names to certificates claiming they were the elected and qualified electors.

7/24/2023 – 11pm – Flint City Council Fails to Allocate ARPA Money Once Again – Local – Runs 2:22

Once again, the Flint City Council failed to approve the allocation of ARPA funding.

After a more than five-hour meeting on Monday night, July 24, the council unanimously voted to send a resolution awarding funding to assist homeowners back to committee.

The sticking point was how the ARPA advisory committee made its decision to recommend the six organizations members picked to receive funding.

8/11/2023 – 11pm – Flint City Council to Begin Process for a Council Parliamentarian – Local – Runs 2:22

Flint City Council members moved towards a possible solution to their council meetings that typically involve personal disputes and long meeting hours. Several meetings have been impacted because of long meetings or arguments among council members. A vote to bring in a parliamentarian to council meetings was approved Wednesday, Aug. 9. A parliamentarian is someone who understands council rules and can keep council members in order. "If we can stop all the bickering back and forth and the pettiness, then maybe something can be done," said Robert Williams, a Flint resident.

8/23/2023 – 11pm – Local Political Expert Weighs In on Trump's Absence from GOP Debate – Local – Runs 1:24

A local political expert gave his insight into the first GOP debate and how former President Donald Trump's absence and charges are expected to impact the debate and campaign.

All eyes were on the 2024 Republican primary debate in Wisconsin on Wednesday evening, Aug. 23, and while nine candidates were eligible to attend, only eight took to the stage. Political expert Paul Rozycki, a retired political science professor from Mott Community College, predicted their strategy for Wednesday night. "I think they're all going to suggest they are a better candidate because of Trump fatigue because of the turmoil of the Trump administration and all of the chaos of these indictments and so forth," he said.

9/26/2023 – 6pm – Mixed Feelings: UAW Strikers Talk President Biden's Visit to Picket Line – Local – Runs 1:55

President Joe Biden joined striking United Auto Workers (UAW) members in Metro Detroit on Tuesday, and it is prompting mixed feelings from local strikers. Biden joining the UAW members on the picket lines made history, as he is the first president to support a labor strike. His presence a welcome by some

local union members. “If we can’t get something done with the bargaining team and the companies, if Biden has to step in we support him either way,” said Eric Price, President of UAW Local 651. But unwanted by others who say this is not a political matter, nor should it be. “The UAW has always supported Joe Biden and he’s always supported the worker. However, right now is not a time for politics in this battle with General Motors with the UAW members,” said one striker.

9/27/2023 – 11pm – Burton City Council Pushes for Mayor’s Cooperation With Police Investigation – Local – Runs 2:12

Burton City Council is voting on a resolution to make the mayor cooperate with an investigation into the city’s police department. “Up ‘til now he hasn’t cooperated,” said Steve Heffner, the president of Burton City Council. “He hasn’t returned the investigators, any of his phone calls, texts, or emails. So, we just wanted to send him a message to the council’s behind this.” The Burton City Council voted on a resolution Wednesday night to compel Mayor Duane Haskins to cooperate with the investigation into sexual harassment and discrimination within the police department.