

**QUARTERLY ISSUES
AND
PROGRAMS REPORT**

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

JANUARY 1 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2024

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 April 10th, 2024. The report covers the period from January 1 through March 31, 2024. 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

January 1 through March 31, 2024

DATE/PROGRAM ISSUE /TITLE SOURCE

1. JOBS & ECONOMY

1/4/2024 – 11pm - Flint Listed Among the Most Affordable Cities to Live in the U.S. – Local – Runs 1:53

The City of Flint is among the most affordable place to live in the U.S. The ranking is based on factors including the unemployment rate and cost of housing. As of November, Flint's unemployment rate was at 4 %. GM is set to expand it's operations in the city, creating more jobs and housing for people. Flint Mayor Sheldon Neeley says the city has affordable housing options that are well below the national average.

1/9/2024 – 11pm – Growing Demand for Local Hotels – Local – Runs 2:16

There is a growing demand for hotels in Genesee County. The Mundy Township Planning Commission is reviewing a request for a special land use and site plan to bring a Town Place Suites hotel to Hill Rd. and US-23. This comes as Genesee County's Convention and Visitors Bureau secured 22 meetings and events in the area, resulting in a need for approximately 8,000 hot room night stays in Flint and Genesee County, where there are fewer than 2,600 rooms available.

2/2/2024 – 5pm – Millions of Dollars Awarded to Repurpose Abandoned Properties – Local – Runs 2:29

\$87 Million in funding is being used to repurpose abandoned properties and sites across the state, and some of that money is going to have an impact on Mid-Michigan. More than \$4Million will be headed to Monitor Township to get a sanitary sewer in that area. It's an area that's labeled for future growth in the area. Flint's former Buick City sites is getting \$5.9Million and the Oscoda Wurtsmith Airport Authority will receive \$500,000.

2/27/2024 – 6pm – New Manufacturing Facility Coming to Saginaw Co, Creating Over 1100 Jobs – Local – Runs 1:51

Corning Inc. has chosen Saginaw County's Richland Township for a new manufacturing plant to create U.S. made solar components with support from the Michigan Strategic Fund. The investment of up to \$900 million is slated to create over 1100 jobs with starting wages expected to exceed the median wage for the region. Employees will also receive a comprehensive benefits package.

3/15/2024 – 11pm – Restaurant Excited for Bay City's Big St. Patrick's Day Weekend – Local – Runs 3:11

Bay City is gearing up for a big holiday weekend and businesses are excited for the flood of patrons decked out in green. "We have green beer, we have Irish car bombs, Guinness, anything you want St. Patrick's Day, we got it here at H2O's," H2O's Owner Marc Owczarzak said. Establishments are kicking off the holiday weekend festivities Friday night. For H2O's, they're fully stocked and prepared with drinks and traditional Irish foods. "Obviously, corned beef and cabbage is one of the things, but shepherd's pie, Irish stew, we also have Reuben egg rolls, Reuben soup," Owczarzak added.

But that's not the only thing being prepared. Live music will also fill H2O's to give people a chance to do an Irish jig.

3/18/2024 – 6pm – Economic Developments Coming to Bridgeport Township – Local – Runs 2:20

A vacant, burned hotel in Bridgeport Township is blossoming into something new. And it's not the only new development at what is considered the second busiest exit off I-75 outside of Detroit. A medical facility will soon fill the room of the abandoned Days Inn. There are two new coffee stops. A Biggby, which opened last summer, and soon a Starbucks. The Township manager hopes the next development will be housing, to entice people to move there for these new jobs coming in.

2. CRIME

1/2/2024 – 6pm – Genesee County Sheriff's Message on Billboards Brings Awareness to Human Trafficking – Local – Runs 2:04

A message from the Genesee County Sheriff is displayed on 62 billboards as part of an effort to bring awareness and an end to human trafficking. The billboards can be seen across the state. It reads "If you don't love your kids, someone else will. #EndHumanTrafficking.

1/22/2024 – 6pm – Flint Police Offering Residents Cash in Gun Bounty Event – Local – Runs 2:06

The Flint Police Department is offering residents cash for firearms, no questions asked. The program's goal is taking and keeping dangerous weapons out of circulation and it targets weapons that cause the most harm. As an incentive the program offers full street value of the weapons for cash on the spot. The program is part of a holistic report to reducing violent crime in the city.

2/6/2024 – 6pm – Legal Impact of Verdict for Mom of Oxford School Shooter – Local – Runs 3:28

Jennifer Crumbley, the mother of the Oxford High School Shooter, is the first parent in U.S. history to be found guilty of crimes related to a mass shooting at the hands of her child. Crumbley faces up to 60 years behind bars after a jury found her guilty on four charges of negligent homicide. But a local attorney feels these charges are a slippery slope. He says traditionally in this country, only the person who commits the wrongful act is the one that gets criminally charged.

2/20/2024 -6pm – Flint Man Charged for Not Storing Gun Safely – Local – Runs 2:43

A Flint Father is the first person in the state charged for violating the new Safe Storage Gun Law, after his toddler shot herself in the face. Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton says Michael Tolbert faces several felonies after his three-year-old daughter found an unsecured gun and shot herself thru the right eye.

3/05/2024 – 6pm – Nessel: Crumbley Trial Should be Wake-Up Call for Parents, Gun Owners – Local – Runs 4:40

Off the heels of being the first parent ever convicted for a mass shooting committed by her child, Jennifer Crumbley's husband James Crumbley is up next. He'll face a jury on the same four charges of involuntary manslaughter in the deaths of four students at Oxford High School in November of 2021. "Did you secure the gun properly? Yes or no? If the answer is no, and your child goes out and hurts somebody with that weapon, or hurts him or herself, you are going to have to face the consequences," said Attorney General Dana Nessel. She sat down with TV5 for an interview about what she said should act as a wake-up call to every parent with a gun in the home.

3/14/2024 – 5pm – Flint Crime Reporting down in 2023 – Local – Runs 1:29

Crime is trending downward in the city of Flint with homicide rates and all other crimes falling. Officials said several initiatives from police and city leaders are creating a safer city. Flint Mayor Sheldon Neeley said in 2023, homicides dropped by 40 percent, and overall crime was reduced by 17 percent. Daniel Spaniola, the owner of Paul's Pipe Shop in downtown Flint, said when crime is down, revenue is up. This summer, leaders in Flint are enacting a reenergized public safety effort to focus on building inspections, ordinance enforcement, demolition of dangerous structures, and blight removal.

3. WEATHER

1/19/2023 – 6pm – Ice Fishing Enthusiasts Excited About Ice Formation – Local – Runs 1:42

Fall has finally arrived in Mid-Michigan. Football fans around the area are braving the cold and wet weather Friday night to support their teams on the field. Students and fans filled the bleachers for Heritage High School's homecoming game to support them rain or shine.

1/26/2024 – 5p – Road Commission Patching Potholes as Weather Warms-up – Local – Runs 1:31

As the snow melts, the potholes appear, making many roads in Mid-Michigan look more like spring than winter. The Saginaw County Road Commission is used to plowing snow in January. Not filling potholes. But the road commission is cold patching during this break in the winter weather to make the drive smoother for Mid-Michigan drivers.

2/7/2024 – 5:30pm – Midland Golf Course Opens During Warm February Weather – Local – Runs 2:05

A Midland Golf Course opened nine holes for golfers taking advantage of the unseasonably warm weather. The Currie Municipal Golf Course opened its east course during the mild February weather, giving people a change to hit the links and get over their winter blues.

2/28/2024 – 11pm – Grand Blanc Neighbors Help Each Other Stay Warm Amid Storm Outages – Local – Runs 1:58

Some Grand Blanc residents are setting in for a cold night without power and heat following a rare February tornado. As the wintry weather returned Wednesday, some residents said they did have ways to stay warm, and said the community came together for those who didn't. Residents are sharing generators and offering to open their home to those who need it. Consumers Energy is working overnight to restore power.

3/7/2024 – 5:30pm – "The First Step": Consumers Spokesperson Talks Burying Power Lines – Local – Runs 2:09

Consumers Energy is kicking off a pilot project that will move power lines from the sky, into the ground. It's in an effort to cut down on the amount and length of power outages. "We want all of our customers get power back in 24 hours, even in the worst possible storms," said Brian Wheeler, spokesperson for Consumers Energy. To do that, it's going to require taking a new approach to how they do energy. First up on the list is a pilot program that will move more power lines from overhead to underground. "This calendar year we're going to bury only about 10 miles of power lines. Compare that to a system that has about 100,000 miles in total. But this is the first step," Wheeler said.

3/12/2024 – 5:30pm – Early Warm Weather Maybe Detrimental For Crops – Local – Runs 2:05

Many people may enjoy these higher-than-normal temperatures, but some farmers dread them; they worry the unseasonable weather could trick plants into sprouting too early. Schomaker Farms is a 40-acre centennial farm in Saginaw County's Thomas Township. Being a "you pick" oriented farm, it likes to get its customers' hands on the crops they grow. Too much early warm weather can be bad for business. Abnormal and fluctuating temperatures during winter can be nice for the typical person trying to enjoy their day, but for a produce farm, like Schomaker Farms, early warm weather could be detrimental for crops.

4. EDUCATION/SCHOOLS

1/19/2024 – 5:30pm – Stop the Bleed Kits Distributed to Bay County Schools – Local – Runs 2:18

Thousands of teachers, students and community members from Bay County are now trained in basic bleed control techniques. It's part of the the Stop the Bleed campaign in an effort to save lives. With school shootings becoming more frequent, Bay County has created a task force to train, equip and empower bystanders to help in a bleeding emergency until first responders arrive. Kits will now be available at the middle and high schools that contain everything someone would need to stop the bleed: a tourniquet, packing gauze, a marker and gloves.

1/22/2024 – 11pm- Flint Teachers Angry After Proposed Union Contract is Rejected – Local – Runs 2:26

Flint teachers were shocked and outraged after the Flint Board of Education rejected a settlement agreement between school district administrators and the United Teachers of Flint Union. After going in to closed-door sessions during last week's school board meeting, the board voted unanimously to reject the agreement and instead, according to the teacher's union, proposed to micromanage the negotiations between the district and the union.

2/13/2024 – 5:30p – Fourth Grader Writes Saginaw Elementary School's Theme Song – Local – Runs 2:26

A Saginaw Fourth Grader is sharing her talent and passion for music by creating her school's first theme song. Aubrey Campbell wrote Jessie Rouse Elementary Schools new official song "Rouse House". Aubrey is following in the footsteps on her teacher, Eddie Thigpen, who is also a rapper. The song talks about using PAWS, which stands for politeness, achievements, willing to learn and safety. It's a skill teacher use daily to uplift the students.

2/26/2024 – 6pm – MEA Frustrated as Flint Teachers Wait for Collective Bargaining Agreement – Local – Runs 2:21

Teachers in Flint are saying they're underpaid and under-appreciated and are accusing the school board of pushing their backs against a wall. Their frustrations are stemming from a rejected settlement agreement that took months to reach. Until that point, they thought it was a done deal. The board has since said it just can't afford it.

3/13/2024 – 12pm – Flint Schools Closed After More Than 100 Teachers, Employees Call-in Sick – Local – Runs 2:59

Flint Community Schools announced all school buildings will be closed on Wednesday, March 13 after 119 teachers and employees called in sick. The teachers are part of the United Teachers of Flint, and the employees are MEA/NEA employees, the district said. “The district certainly does not appreciate how this unexpected school closure will impact our families. While the district understands that this school closure will hurt our scholars more than anyone else, the district hopes that UTF employees will return to work tomorrow, so scholars can be educated tomorrow,” the district said in a statement. Principals, secretaries, and all central office staff are still expected to report to work.

3/15/2024 – 5:30pm – Michigan High School Athletes Could Soon Get NIL Deals – Local – Runs 2:01

High School athletes in the state could soon make money off of their name, image and likeness. NIL Deals have been a thing at the college level for the past few years. Now, thanks to a bill making its way through the Michigan legislature, Michigan could become the 30th state to allow high school athletes to enter into NIL deals. The bill has been passed by the house and is currently sitting in committee. The Michigan High School Athletic Association would oversee those deals, and they’re not expecting to see many deals for high schoolers.

5. POLITICS

1/4/2024 – 6pm – TV5 Sits Down with Dan Kildee Ahead of Leaving Congress – Local – Runs 7:51

47 years after being elected to his first public office at the age of 18, Congressman Dan Kildee has decided it’s time to leaving Washington, DC and head home to mid Michigan. Kildee says he wasn’t even thinking of retirement, until 10 months ago when we was diagnosed with a serious form to cancer and it made him realize he needed to step back.

1/30/2024 - 11pm – Michigan AG Responds to Lawsuit Filed Over Prop 3 – Local – Runs 3:21

The fight over abortion is continuing in Michigan, with the state responding to a lawsuit seeking to overturn Proposal 3.

Proposal 3 was the 2022 ballot proposal that was approved by nearly 60 percent of Michigan voters. TV5 spoke with Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel on Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 30. Nessel said not only is this a health issue but a concern for democracy, with 2.5 million Michiganders voting for Proposal 3.

2/16/2024 – 6pm – Dead People on Voter Files? County Clerk Reacts to Lawsuit – Local – Runs 2:19

A conservative group has filed a lawsuit against the Michigan Secretary of State say it needs to clean up its voter rolls. The Public Interest Legal Foundation claims Michigan has 27,000 registered voters on file who are no longer alive. Saginaw County Clerk Vanessa Guerra says steps are taken to an effort to keep voter rolls as accurate as possible in Saginaw County.

2/27/2024 – 5pm – Beaver Township Fire Millage Removed From Ballot for Election Law Inconsistency – Local – Runs 2:04

Voters in Bay County’s Beaver Township were supposed to approve or deny a fire millage today, but an issue with the ballot language is causing a setback. The language that was included on the ballot was inconsistent with applicable election law. A resident brought the issue to the attention of the Fire Chief. The proper language will be added to the August primary ballot and voters will make a decision then.

3/5/2024 – 5pm - Flint city Council Looking to Fill Seat of Eric Mays – Local – Runs 2:38

The Flint City Council is working to fill the seat that late Councilman Eric Mays held for more than 10 years. “He received more votes than any council person. And so, his ward overwhelmingly supported him,” said 6th ward Councilwoman Tonya Burns speaking on the impact Mays had on his community. Those living in Flint’s 1st ward spoke about the work Mays has done for the community and who they would like to see replace him. “What fueled Councilman Mays was showing up every day to fight for the people in the 1st ward. That gave him his energy; that was his food, that was his life,” Burns said. The road to fill Mays’ seat has begun after his untimely death last month. Friday, March 1, the city announced it would begin accepting applications for a 1st ward council member this week.

3/15/2024 – 5pm – Biden Stops at Saginaw Councilman’s Home During Visit – Local – Runs 2:04

Local leaders who took part in President Joe Biden’s visit to Saginaw are working to mobilize diverse voters for November’s general election. One of the stops from the president was the home of Saginaw City Councilman Bill Ostash. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for Ostash. It’s not every day you have the most powerful man in the United States visit your home. “I was so nervous. Matter of fact, when I first started talking to President Biden, my voice started to shiver a little bit and then I had to kind of calm down,” Ostash said. Biden spent an hour congregating with Ostash’s family and other community members.

