

**Quarterly Issues Programs List for
WHLS, Port Huron
April 1st – June 30th, 2020**

Section I Issues

The station has identified the following issues as significant issues facing our community in the second quarter of 2020:

- A. The coronavirus pandemic and its effect on public health
- B. The coronavirus pandemic and its effect on the economy
- C. Agricultural market and planting conditions
- D. Local elections and ballot proposals
- E. The coronavirus pandemic and its effect on education
- F. The coronavirus pandemic and its effect on local governments
- G. Improving racial equality in the local area

Section II Responsive Programs

A. The coronavirus pandemic and its effect on public health

Name: COVID Update **Run Time: 1-2 minutes**
Date: April 1 - June 8, 2020 **Air Time: Hourly 12am-12pm**

COVID-19 updates aired once an hour on WHLS. They consisted of the latest data and information from local and state health authorities. The number of new cases and deaths and total cases and deaths were shared every morning for our listening area, including the counties of St. Clair, Sanilac, and Lapeer. These updates also included sound-bites from public health officials and elected officials including but not limited to: Dr. Annette Mercatante, Medical Health Officer for St. Clair County; Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, Chief Medical Executive for Health for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services; Port Huron Mayor Pauline Repp; Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley; Jamie Cain, Superintendent of Port Huron Area Schools; Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson; and Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

Name: Blue Water Beat **Run Time: 1 minute**
Date: April 18-19, 2020 **Air Time: 8 times daily 12am-12pm ROS**

A flattening of the curve when it comes to the number of COVID-19 infections in the local area may in fact be happening. April 16th was the third straight day of single digit increases in the number of new coronavirus patients locally. As of the 16th, the number of county-wide positive test results was 234 people with 8 attributable deaths. St. Clair County Medical Health Officer Dr. Annette Mercatante says

those numbers however are just a snapshot of the overall COVID-19 situation as more testing needs to be done. Earlier in the week, state health officials relaxed COVID-19 testing requirements. Healthcare workers, patients in long term care facility, those over 65 with symptoms, and first responders now all have priority when it comes to testing in Michigan. A website has also been set up to determine where the closest testing site is located in your community, you can visit michigan.gov/coronavirus.

Name: Blue Water Beat
Date: June 6-7, 2020

Run Time: 1 minute
Air Time: 8 times daily 12am-12pm ROS

Starting June 9th, free drive through COVID-19 testing began in St. Clair County. St. Clair County Medical Health Officer Dr. Annette Mercatante says a doctor's order is not needed, however you will need to make an appointment. The testing will take place in the parking lot behind the Health Department's offices on 28th Street in Port Huron during regular business hours each Tuesday. To date, just over 6300 COVID-19 tests have been deployed. About 7% have been positive, and nearly 93% were negative for the virus. To schedule an appointment for drive through testing, you can call 987-5300.

B. The coronavirus pandemic and its effect on the economy

Name: Blue Water Beat
Date: April 4-5 & 11-12, 2020

Run Time: 1 minute
Air Time: 4 times daily 12am-12pm ROS

Local businesses are being encouraged to take advantage of federal dollars being made available through the recently signed Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Dan Casey of the Economic Development Alliance of St. Clair County says one of those programs includes the Economic Injury Disaster Loan. He says applications are now being accepted for the low-interest federally insured loans. Casey also says businesses can request a \$10,000 advance when applying for the loan, giving them access to fact capitol that will be forgiven. Additional details are available on the EDA's website, edascc.com.

Name: Blue Water Beat
Date: May 9-10, 2020

Run Time: 1 minute
Air Time: 4 times daily 12am-12pm ROS

The Community Foundation of St. Clair County is partnering with the Economic Development Alliance to distribute \$25,000 in grant funding for women and minority owned businesses. Dan Casey, CEO of the EDA of St. Clair County says applications are being accepted now through May 20th at the EDA's website, edascc.com. The funds for the program are coming from the Community Foundation's Thumbcoast Regional Response fund.

C. Agricultural market and planting conditions

Name: Blue Water Beat
Date: April 25-26, 2020

Run Time: 1 minute
Air Time: 4 times daily 12am-12pm ROS

A relatively dry Spring has led to local farmers putting many more seeds in the ground compared to this time last year. Phil Kaats is an educator with MSU Extension serving the lower thumb area. He says much of the thumb's sugar beet crop is already in the ground, with corn and soybeans to follow suit. He also says the winter wheat crop, which was planted last year, is looking very healthy. Kaats says an

unusually wet spring in 2019 led to 1 out of every 3 tillable acres in St. Clair County and Sanilac Counties going unplanted last year.

D. Local elections and ballot proposals

Name: Blue Water Beat **Run Time: 1 minute**
Date: May 2-3, 2020 **Air Time: 4 times daily 12am-12pm ROS**

Tuesday May 5th is Election day in Michigan and only a few area communities have issues on the ballot. A Blue Water Transit millage is up for renewal in the City of Port Huron and Fort Gratiot Township. Bob Buechler, Fort Gratiot Township clerk, says nearly all voting is being conducted through the mail but the clerk's office will be open Tuesday for last minute voters. All clerks offices will be open from 7am to 8pm on Election Day. There are also millage askings Tuesday in the Sandusky and Carsonville-Port Sanilac school districts.

E. The coronavirus pandemic and its effect on education

Name: Blue Water Beat **Run Time: 1 minute**
Date: April 18-19, 2020 **Air Time: 4 times daily 12am-12pm ROS**

Students currently enrolled or looking to enroll in courses at St. Clair County Community College now have access to federal coronavirus relief dollars. Pete Lacey from SC4 says the college has been granted slightly over \$950,000 from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Those who may need help with finishing their degree, housing assistance, or other college related costs are encouraged to apply. The application can be found at sc4.edu/CARES.

Name: Blue Water Beat **Run Time: 1 minute**
Date: May 23-24, 2020 **Air Time: 4 times daily 12am-12pm ROS**

Students in the Port Huron Area School District can mark their calendars for August 24th as Superintendent Jamie Cain says that is when he plans to resume classes for the 2020-2021 school year. "I think other districts will be looking at pre-Labor day starts this year as well," Cain said. He says plans are being made for multiple scenarios, including a "hybrid" model that includes a combination of in person and online learning. Port Huron Schools Superintendent Jamie Cain says the district will hold some form of in person commencement ceremonies for the class of 2020 later this year.

Name: Blue Water Beat **Run Time: 1 minute**
Date: June 20-21, 2020 **Air Time: 4 times daily 12am-12pm ROS**

The Michigan legislature green-lighted \$880 million in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act dollars. Up to \$3 billion has been doled out to the State of Michigan through the federal government to help offset the negative social and economic impacts of COVID-19. State Representative Shane Hernandez of Port Huron, who chairs the house appropriations committee, says schools and small businesses will be the beneficiaries. About \$50 million has been directed to schools, with Hernandez saying that is only the beginning. \$150 million is also headed to small businesses in Michigan in the form of grants and loans.

Name: Blue Water Beat **Run Time: 1 minute**
Date: June 27-28, 2020 **Air Time: 4 times daily 12am-12pm ROS**

The class of 2020 just might get their time in the spotlight after all... at least in the Port Huron Area School District. School officials say they are working with local health officials to put on outdoor graduation ceremonies in July. Superintendent Jamie Cain says the commencements are planned to take place July 7th, 8th, and 9th at Memorial Stadium for Port Huron Northern, Port Huron High, and Harrison Center graduates.

Name: Blue Water Beat **Run Time: 1 minute**
Date: June 27-28, 2020 **Air Time: 4 times daily 12am-12pm ROS**

Curbside services will begin Monday June 29th at all St. Clair County Library Branches. Allison Arnold is the director of the county library system and says they are also in the process of reopening for appointment-based services as well. Patrons are asked to return any books or other materials that were loaned out prior to the pandemic. To place requests for curbside library pickups, you can either call your local library or visit stclaircountylibrary.org and click on the "find a book" tab.

F. The coronavirus pandemic and its effect on local governments

Name: Blue Water Beat **Run Time: 1 minute**
Date: April 25-26, 2020 **Air Time: 4 times daily 12am-12pm ROS**

Port Huron's mayor is asking for the public's patience when it comes to routine activities such as processing payments. Mayor Pauline Repp says with a limited staff working at city hall, it will take longer than normal to process water payments, but that doesn't mean you'll get shut off. All water shutoffs in the City have been suspended due to the pandemic. Port Huron City Council does plan to meet Monday April 27th at the Municipal Office Center. Repp says social distancing will be used and the public is encouraged to view the meeting online rather than showing up in person to the city council chambers.

Name: Blue Water Beat **Run Time: 1 minute**
Date: May 2-3, 2020 **Air Time: 4 times daily 12am-12pm ROS**

Port Huron officials say economic activity is starting to resume in the city. Port Huron City Council was briefed at their Monday council meeting about the potential budget impacts the COVID-19 pandemic may have on the city. Mayor Pauline Repp says with less people working, less income taxes will be collected, and that the city may need to adjust their budget as a result.

Name: Blue Water Beat **Run Time: 1 minute**
Date: May 23-24, 2020 **Air Time: 4 times daily 12am-12pm ROS**

Memorial day is going to look quite different at Port Huron parks and beaches. Port Huron City Manager James Freed says the city will be doing everything possible to limit capacity and encourage social distancing. Freed says the Governor's office so far has not provided guidance on what municipalities should do regarding beaches. He adds that parking lots at Port Huron City beaches will be reduced to 50% capacity in hopes of limiting the number of people using the beach.

Name: Blue Water Beat **Run Time: 1 minute**
Date: May 23-24, 2020 **Air Time: 4 times daily 12am-12pm ROS**

The City of Marysville could go to the voters to help ease the burden of the coronavirus pandemic. Marysville Mayor Wayne Pyden says revenue sharing from the state of Michigan is expected to be down, and that a millage could help back fill that expected loss in funding. Pyden says the state has traditionally shared sales tax revenue with local municipalities, with that expected to be down considerably this year due to stay at home orders. Michigan also provides road funding under public act 51 which relies on gasoline taxes, which are also expected to be down this year due to less people driving.

G. Improving racial equality in the local area

Name: Blue Water Beat

Run Time: 1 minute

Date: May 16-17, 2020

Air Time: 4 times daily 12am-12pm ROS

The Community Foundation of St. Clair County is partnering with the Economic Development Alliance to distribute \$25,000 in grant funding for women and minority owned businesses. Dan Casey, CEO of the EDA of St. Clair County says applications are being accepted now through May 20th at the EDA's website, edascc.com. The funds for the program are coming from the Community Foundation's Thumbcoast Regional Response fund.

Name: Blue Water Beat

Run Time: 1 minute

Date: May 23-24, 2020

Air Time: 4 times daily 12am-12pm ROS

Racism and social inequities are now deemed as a public health crisis in the City of Port Huron. At Monday night's meeting of Port Huron City Council, members unanimously approved two resolutions, one denouncing the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis last month, and the other setting the groundwork to combat prejudice in city departments. Port Huron Mayor Pauline Repp says the resolution calls for racism equity training for all city agencies, including the Port Huron Police Department. City administration would also be required to identify diversity goals and objectives, and to report periodically on their progress to city council. A similar measure was passed by the Marysville City Council June 22nd.

Section III Public Service Announcements

Name: Community Events Run Time: 30 seconds
Date: April 1st – June 30th, 2020 Air Time: 12 times per day 12am-12pm ROS

The Following Public Service Announcements aired on WHLS:

- Marwood Nursing and Rehab celebrates “Older American's Month” with an essay contest.
- A Spring Fashion Show to benefit Mid-City Nutrition soup kitchen May 2nd
- Mental health hot line for St. Clair County Community Mental Health.
- Phone numbers and websites for local COVID-19 information for the St. Clair and Sanilac County health departments.
- A can and bottle drive to benefit the Blue Water Area Humane Society
- Port Huron Recreation department's “Rec on the Go” sports equipment loan program.
- Weekly bicycle safety checks courtesy of Alpine Cycles.
- Free outdoor movie screenings courtesy of Sperry's Movie House.
- Drive through COVID-19 testing form the St. Clair County Health Department.
- Trama-relief Yoga offered online by St. Clair County Community Mental Health.

Name: Business Announcements Run Time: 30 seconds
Date: April 6-18, 2020 Air Time: 12 times per day 12am-12pm ROS

Liggett Communications offered local businesses the opportunity to share a message with our listeners for free to help offset the negative impacts of the pandemic. The announcements related to how businesses were adapting new safety protocols, whether they were currently open or closed, and instructions on contactless and curbside service. A total of 296 announcements aired on WHLS during this period.