

Quarterly Issues/Programs Report

Station Call Letters: **WZZM**
Location (City, State): **Grand Rapids/Battle Creek/Kalamazoo**
For quarter beginning: **April - June 2023**

January 1, 2023

April 1, 2023

July 1, 2023

October 1, 2023

Attached are descriptions of issue-responsive programming broadcasts by this station during the reporting period on the days and times indicated. Each program regularly provides information or addresses current local issues of concern to viewers in the area where our station is located.

LOCAL ISSUES ADDRESSED DURING THE QUARTER

The following are local issues of concern to the community. Programs that addressed these issues during this reporting period are listed on the following pages.

1. **Community** – The West Michigan region is comprised of several cities, each with its own identity and a real sense of community. WZZM is dedicated to covering the kinds of stories that allow each community to maintain its unique identity, while also focusing on the issues and stories that bind us all together.
2. **Crime/Safety** – With growth come challenges. The West Michigan region has experienced tremendous economic growth, bringing with it concerns about crime and personal safety.
3. **Diversity/Social Justice** – As the country grapples with issues of race and ethnicity, the movement toward greater social justice is very much a part of the conversation in West Michigan. Issues such as fair housing, racial reconciliation, diversity, equity, and inclusion are all being addressed.
4. **Economic Development** – Grand Rapids and several lakeshore communities continue to experience healthy economic growth. From new businesses to expansion of long-standing community institutions, there is tremendous potential for further growth. At the same time, employers in certain fields are challenged to find qualified or willing workers. Families are looking for ways to make their personal economies healthier, becoming smarter consumers and spending their money wisely.
5. **Education** – Among the many concerns are funding for education, the achievement gap, declining test scores, Michigan's third grade reading law/falling literacy rates and preparing our future work force.
6. **Health** – West Michigan is home to the Michigan State Medical School, the VanAndel Research Institute and many local health care providers. Changes in healthcare and developments in disease research and treatment are breaking news in this medical community.
7. **Family/Youth** – Issues and stories that will strengthen the lives of children and families are critical to the health and well-being of our community.

ISSUE: COMMUNITY

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME	DURATION
WZZM 13	After the donut and beer festival held last week, organizers are planning on having another "gouda" time with their mac and cheese festival. Almost 20 different mac and cheese vendors will be at LMCU Ballpark, sharing their dishes with West Michigan. Some of the samples from last year's event include brisket mac and cheese, mac grilled cheese sandwiches, and even mac and cheese ice cream. They will also have samples from breweries and drink vendors available. The festival is happening August 12th and 13th.	5/13/2023	7am	0:31
WZZM 13	The Green Apple Pantry in Kentwood partnered with United State Postal Service workers and the National Association of Letter Carriers as part of a larger "stamp out" hunger event to help collect food donations from the community to give to those in need.	5/13/2023	11pm	2:06
WZZM 13	There will soon be a new shelter for victims of sex trafficking in West Michigan. The founder says it will be the first of its kind in Kent County. "Crisis Aid International" partnered with Res-Life Church to break ground on the new facility. When police rescue a girl or woman, many times they do not have a place for them to go. This new facility will change that. The shelter plans to provide them everything they need to start a new life. Construction of the shelter could take up to 18 months.	5/14/2023	9am	0:30
WZZM 13	Hundreds of dogs are on their way across the country after a puppy mill was shut down in the Midwest. Some are even coming to West Michigan! 98 dogs were brought to Michigan, going to shelters across the state.	6/25/2023	6am	2:03
WZZM 13	A West Michigan family is asking for the community's help as their daughter battles a rare disease. Bryant Wise was diagnosed with Dagos Disease after being taken to the hospital with stomach pain and undergoing two surgeries. Her mother says the disease causes little	6/26/2023	5am	3:18

	blood clots to form in blood vessels themselves and restrict blood flow. The disease is targeting Bryant's small intestine. There is no cure for the disease, and she is currently being treated with weekly IV infusions.			
WZZM 13	The Sand Lake Community was caught in a downpour last week leaving the downtown streets half-flooded. That did not stop residents from saluting their local heroes. Downtown Sand Lake hosted its 11th annual "Parade of Lights" on Thursday. It is a tribute to police, fire, and EMS workers. More than 20 departments took part. Organizers say they have been working on this for two months and it was not going to be stopped by the rain.	7/2/2023	6am	0:30
WZZM 13	The 7th Annual Heykoop Veteran Memorial Car Show was held in Muskegon yesterday. Cars, bikes, and even monster trucks were welcomed to participate at the show. Trophies were given out and there was a silent auction. All the fun was to support Veteran's mental health.	7/2/2023	7am	0:17

ISSUE: CRIME/SAFETY

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME	DURATION
WZZM 13	A former gymnastics coach is awaiting extradition this morning after being charged with sexually assaulting five girls in Kent County more than 15 years ago. 49-year-old Shannon Guay was arrested in Florida yesterday after being accused of assaulting five girls between the ages of 4 and 14 years old from 2006 to 2008. The sheriff says the assaults happened at two homes and a business in Kent County. Guay moved out of Kent County around 2010 and has lived in several states since then.	5/12/2023	6am	0:49
WZZM 13	The Blue Bridge in downtown Grand Rapids will be closed on weekend nights after a recent spike in crime. This is the second summer in a row the city has had to shut down the bridge.	6/6/2023	6pm	1:59
WZZM 13	Thomas Cronkright was sentenced to four months jail time after pleading guilty to	6/26/2023	6pm	0:51

	assaulting his wife in May at the Monkey Run Daycare they owned in Cedar Springs. The judge stressed the seriousness of the crime as she handed down the sentence.			
WZZM 13	The city of Muskegon wants to buy a new tool that could cut down on crime. City commissioners are discussing using license plate readers throughout the city. These cameras would be used to capture photos of a person's license plate and send that information to police.	7/6/2023	7am	0:35
WZZM 13	A new safety feature could be coming to Pere Marquette Beach in Muskegon this year. The city wants to add a gate to the pier to keep people from walking and being swept away during dangerous wave conditions. The city's Public Safety director says the gate could save lives. It costs 1,000 dollars to install. The gate still needs to be approved by the city commission and other agencies before it can be put up.	5/14/2023	9am	0:26
WZZM 13	The Ottawa County Sheriff's Office caught an armed suspect this afternoon accused of felonious assault and firing a gun. It happened around 1pm when deputies responded to reports of a man firing a handgun in the front yard of a home in Allendale Township. Police say when they arrived, the suspect ran. An hour later, the suspect was found walking near the area of 56th avenue and rich street. He is now in custody, and no one was injured.	5/14/2023	11pm	0:23
WZZM 13	A bill in Lansing banning people from holding a cell phone while driving is another step closer to becoming the law. The Michigan Senate passed the first bill in a distracted driving package, and it will now go back to the House for a concurrence vote. The legislation would make it illegal to hold a phone while driving, except for emergencies. If signed by Governor Whitmer, Michigan would be the 26th state to go hands-free while driving.	5/14/2023	7am	0:26
WZZM 13	A Grand Rapids woman is expected in court this afternoon to face charges related to a gun found inside a Grand Rapids School. It happened on May 3 rd and was the third time a gun had been discovered in a Grand Rapids Elementary School this academic year. Now, a mother and her fiancé have	5/17/2023	Noon	0:42

	<p>been charged. 32-year-old Aubrey Wilson is charged with a misdemeanor, fourth degree child abuse. Her fiancé, 29-year-old Chelsea Berkley is charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm and is expected before a judge today. Grand Rapids Police Chief, Eric Winstrom, called the child a victim, and said the charges send a strong message to any adult with a gun.</p>			
WZZM 13	<p>In just under a week, the new distracted driving law will go into effect. The new law bans drivers from holding cell phones while on the road. The only exception is to call 911 in an emergency. That means, once the law is in effect, police will be on the lookout for anyone who tries to use their GPS or change their music while driving.</p>	6/24/2023	7am	0:20
WZZM 13	<p>In Ottawa County, Sheriff's deputies are investigating a rollover crash that injured 3 people. It happened on I-196 near the Zeeland Rest Area around 5pm yesterday. Deputies say the car blew a tire, the driver lost control and it rolled over onto the shoulder. The 40-year-old driver and 67-year-old passenger have serious injuries. While a 30-year-old passenger has minor injuries. Two children were in the car but were not injured.</p>	6/25/2023	6am	1:13
WZZM 13	<p>Tonight, Grand Rapids police are investigating another shooting for the third day in a row. A toddler was hurt in today's incident. Shortly before 3:00pm this afternoon police received several calls about shots being fired between two cars over several blocks. Police say one of the cars hit a third car on Eastern. A toddler in the third car was taken to the hospital with minor injuries. The other car believed to be involved in the shooting crashed into a tree, and the person inside ran from the scene.</p>	6/25/2023	6am	0:28
WZZM 13	<p>A woman has been arrested after police walked in on her allegedly drowning her child. The Calhoun County Sheriff's Department says they arrived at the house yesterday morning. A police officer says he found a 35-year-old woman holding a two-year-old girl under the water in the bathtub. Police saved the child and detained the woman, who they believe is the mother. She was then taken into custody and transported to the hospital.</p>	6/25/2023	6am	0:28

WZZM 13	Michigan's new distracted driving law is now in effect. Under the new law you cannot hold your phone while driving to call, text or scroll. It expands Michigan's "no texting" law to prohibit any use of a cell phone without hands-free technology. Michigan is now the 26th state in the U.S. to implement hands-free device legislation.	6/30/2023	530pm	0:21
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ISSUE: DIVERSITY/SOCIAL JUSTICE

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME	DURATION
WZZM 13	A Muskegon native starring in the HBO Series, "The Rise of the Lakers Dynasty" spent the evening in his hometown talking about diversity in Hollywood. Quincy Isiah who plays Magic Johnson in the series, was the keynote speaker in the panel that included other west Michigan filmmakers. The event was inspired by reaction to the casting of an actress of color, as Ariel in Disney's Live Action version of, "The Little Mermaid."	5/10/2023	430am	0:45
WZZM 13	The 35th Grand Rapids Pride Festival is currently underway at Calder Plaza. There is live music, food, and tons of local businesses and vendors there as well. Talking to those who are here today, they say it is not only a celebration of the LGBTQ+ community, but a place where people feel they can be who they are and express their identities.	6/17/2023	630pm	1:14
WZZM 13	Western Michigan University's Cooley Law School is holding a community conversation today. The event features life-long social justice advocate and author Valada Parker Flewellyn. Her books include "Poetically, Just Us" and "Yours Truly." The event is being held in-person and virtually.	6/19/2023	5am	0:23
WZZM 13	On this Juneteenth, a local nonprofit is continuing the celebration of freedom today. The folks at "I Am Academy" are hosting their 3rd annual Juneteenth Freedom festival. It involves a lot of fun events, food, and live music, and it ends	6/19/2023	5am	1:11

	today with a special message through art and history.			
WZZM 13	In Grand Rapids there is a Freedom parade of Soul strolling from noon to 1 that starts at Hall and Eastern and will end at Dickinson Park. After that, there is a celebration at the park from 1 to 7 with artists, vendors, food, activities for children and more.	6/19/2023	6am	1:02
WZZM 13	Both President Joe Biden and Governor Gretchen Whitmer have proclaimed Juneteenth a national and state Holiday this year. However, the Michigan Legislature now appears to be on a fast-track to turn Juneteenth into a permanent state holiday.	6/19/2023	6pm	0:16
WZZM 13	A local artist is asking for the communities help with a new mural painting on the city's west side. Artist Chelsea Holley and owner Chris Wawee are asking for suggestions from the west side community for the big piece. They want to hear from the public on what they think represents the west side and best displays the area's culture.	6/19/2023	6pm	0:30
WZZM 13	A Muskegon man is hoping to be a light in his community by bringing people together for a day of fun. James Coffee tells me he was born and raised in Muskegon. He describes himself as hardworking, religious and a community activist. He recently started what he calls, "Giveback Days" on his birthday, June 24, when he does something to uplift his Muskegon neighbors.	6/23/2023	5am	0:37
WZZM 13	One year ago today, the Supreme Court overturned the nationwide right to abortion access, setting off legal fights over continued access across the country. Since Roe v. Wade fell, Michigan has been one of the most volatile battlegrounds in the fight over abortion access. Both sides of the debate here saying, even a year later, it remains far from over.	6/24/2023	11pm	3:09

ISSUE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME	DURATION
WZZM 13	The Gerald R. Ford International Airport serves West Michigan, it is really an engine for economic growth, job creation, it literally has a multibillion-dollar impact into the local economy, and that is why it is important to make investments here in these airports to continue to provide a crease service, as well as expand opportunities for job creation.	4/28/2023	5pm	0:24
WZZM 13	Gas prices across West Michigan have dropped slightly compared to last week. Michigan drivers are paying an average of 3 dollars and 34 cents a gallon which is about 20 cents below the National average of 3 dollars and 53 cents. Kent, Ottawa, and Muskegon County drivers are paying below the state average for gas. In Kent County, the average is 3 dollars and 30 cents. In Muskegon County, drivers are paying 3 dollars and 23 cents, and in Ottawa County, drivers are paying 3 dollars and 16 cents.	5/15/2023	6am	1:45
WZZM 13	West Ottawa Public Schools broke ground this afternoon on an elementary school. Riley Farms Elementary is being built on 120th Street between Riley and James Street in Holland Township. The district is still trying to figure out how the new school will change the current district's alignment. Discussions include making Riley Farms the 9th elementary in the district, or have it replace one of the 8 existing elementary schools.	5/15/2023	5pm	0:35
WZZM 13	Time is running out for leaders in Washington to strike a deal on paying the nation's debts. As the U.S. inches closer to a potential default, a new report out from Moody's Analytics labeled Michigan as one of the states facing the biggest hits.	5/15/2023	6pm	1:54
WZZM 13	With less than one week to go before officials say the U.S. could default on its debt and collapse the economy, leaders in Washington are hoping to push through a compromise deal designed to prevent it.	5/30/2023	530pm	3:28

WZZM 13	Construction is underway at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport. They are building a 156-million-dollar rental car facility. The facility will put rental car companies under one roof, making it easier for travelers to find transportation. It will also reduce car emissions making the rental process more sustainable. A skywalk will connect the new building to the airport terminals. The facility is being paid for with the Elevate Program which invests money into airport infrastructure.	6/1/2023	5am	5:25
WZZM 13	President Joe Biden and many congressional leaders are celebrating the new "debt limit agreement" passed by both the house and senate. It prevents a debt default that could have damaged the global economy.	6/2/2023	Noon	0:16
WZZM 13	The Federal Reserve is putting an end to a streak of 10 consecutive interest rate increases. Saying the job market is holding up better than expected. Two more interest rate increases are expected before the end of the year. That is to bring inflation down to 2-percent, with it currently at 4-percent.	6/15/2023	6am	0:36
WZZM 13	The President Biden Administration announced more than 40-billion-dollars to connect households and small businesses in underserved areas to affordable and reliable high-speed internet. Michigan is set to get more than 1.5-billion-dollars through the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment or "BEAD" Program. The fourth highest grant funding in the nation. Governor Gretchen Whitmer called the historic funding a "game-changing investment."	6/26/2023	6pm	1:20
WZZM 13	After burning to the ground more than a year ago, a West Michigan party store is back open. "El Royal Party Store" is located on Airline Road in Fruitport. Investigators say the fire was started by a 10-year-old who was left un-attended, setting fire to the wood that was outside the building. The wood-frame structure has since been replaced with fire-proof cement blocks and a metal roof, built with the goal of preventing any similar	7/2/2023	6am	0:36

	<p>disasters. The store has now grown and even includes a new liquor wall. The owners say they are happy to welcome back loyal customers.</p>			
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ISSUE: EDUCATION

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME	DURATION
WZZM 13	<p>Forest Hills Eastern has one of the best track programs in the state. Sullivan is going big alright. He is heading to the University of Michigan to run track as a preferred walk-on. He says, "I am really excited to see what I can accomplish."</p>	5/23/2023	6pm	2:04
WZZM 13	<p>A Grand Rapids Public Schools student has earned The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Scholarship. Jay-lynn Colderon Monterrosa had about a one-percent chance of receiving the scholarship.</p>	5/24/2023	5am	1:43
WZZM 13	<p>A deal to lift the federal debt limit and assure the United States can pay its bills is now working its way through Congress. The deal comes after weeks of negotiations between President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy. As part of those negotiations several measures were added to the bill not directly related to the debt ceiling.</p>	6/2/2023	11pm	0:18
WZZM 13	<p>A new Creative Learning Center opens at the Grand Rapids Art Museum this morning. The 45-hundred square foot center will bring hands-on creative exploration to visitors of all ages. There are two new workshop classrooms and a discovery gallery.</p>	6/17/2023	6am	4:16
WZZM 13	<p>Grand Rapids Public Schools has more insight on the upcoming school year this morning. The Board of Education approved its operating budget with a unanimous vote. Members of the board had to consider how to distribute money for the general fund, the special revenue fund, and the debt retirement fund.</p>	6/20/2023	6am	0:33
WZZM 13	<p>Applications are now being accepted for the Teaching for Equity Fellowship. This is open to teachers and school staff who reach students in grades 3 through 12.</p>	6/26/2023	6am	0:32

	The fellowship is organized by the group Leading Educators. The hope is to help build a coalition of educators who are anti-bias and anti-racism.			
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ISSUE: HEALTH

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME	DURATION
WZZM 13	A West Michigan College received a big gift that will help support its mental health services. The Klingenberg Family awarded 1-million-dollars to Davenport University to go towards a new wellness center at the Grand Rapids campus. The University has seen more than a 100 percent increase of use of its mental health services since the pandemic. The donation is a part of a bigger fundraising campaign to help fund the center, as well as add 2 new mental health degrees.	4/17/2023	6pm	0:37
WZZM 13	Superheroes of all sizes and ages came together today to support mental health. Hope Network and Celebration Cinema teamed up for the first ever “Heroes for Hope 5k.” It kicked off in downtown Grand Rapids inviting heroes of any age to wear their favorite superhero costume and participate in a 5k.	5/7/2023	11pm	0:24

ISSUE: FAMILY/YOUTH

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME	DURATION
WZZM 13	The Mental health and Security of Students were at the center of a safety forum last night with parents and staff from Grand Rapids Public Schools. This, after four guns were taken from students in separate incidents over the last school year. Around 50 parents showed up to speak with district leaders on changes they would like to see. This was the district's second safety forum. The discussion centered around providing more mental health resources in schools.	6/29/2023	430am	0:32
WZZM 13	The Grant School Board is going to hold a second vote on a proposal to close the	6/29/2023	11pm	0:32

	<p>Children and Adolescent Health Center at the middle school. It has provided healthcare services to students for 13 years. On June 19th the Superintendent said the board made a surprise motion to close the center and it passed. Since then, there has been pushback from the community, and some have raised concerns the sudden decision violated the open meetings act.</p>			
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