

Quarterly Issues/Programs Report

Station Call Letters: **WZZM**
Location (City, State): **Grand Rapids/Battle Creek/Kalamazoo**
For quarter beginning: **January - March 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	A fire has displaced 60 residents in Walker. Fire crews say it started on a balcony at Green Ridge Apartments yesterday afternoon around 2:30pm. Crews were able to prevent the other half of the building from catching fire. Everyone made it out safely and the red cross is helping those who were impacted.	1/10/2023	5am	0:28
WZZM 13	Grand Rapids City Commission will meet today for the first time in the new year with three new commissioners. They plan to address the continued calls for ordinances that address safety issues downtown. When they last spoke, the City Commission was reviewing existing ordinances to address some of those concerns.	1/10/2023	5am	0:22
WZZM 13	West bound Lake Michigan Drive is closed again at Covell this morning. It was also closed for more than twelve hours last night. A water main break closed the road at 10:00am yesterday morning. It re-opened just after 10:00pm last night. Now, it is closed again for the same issue.	1/14/2023	7am	0:32
WZZM 13	Pete Bottorff, the Comstock Park man who resorted to a large sign to find a kidney, has found a donor. In November, Pete put up a roadside sign to help find a donor. Now, he's scheduled to get one February 20th. The donor is a family member.	1/15/2023	9am	0:53
WZZM 13	After 19 years at the university, Grand Valley's head football coach is stepping down to pursue other coaching opportunities. Coach Mitchell said in a statement "I am so thankful to have been a part of the Grand Valley State football program and Grand Valley State University. It was an honor to recruit and lead the young men that put so much time and effort into the culture that is Grand Valley State football." The University says the search for a new head coach will begin immediately.	1/16/2023	Noon	1:05

WZZM 13	Taking care of animals like Luther just got harder for Harbor Humane. The shelter recently had thousands of dollars stolen from it. The shelter director says she found a ten-thousand-dollar charge on their recent bank statement that wasn't authorized. She believes someone got the shelters banking information and used it to pay off a credit card.	1/18/2023	6am	0:39
WZZM 13	Portage firefighters rescued a man from a car yesterday morning just seconds before a train crashed into the vehicle. The Jeep's driver was injured and couldn't get himself out of the wreckage. Thankfully, firefighters were able to drag him from the car just before the train hit.	1/21/2023	7am	0:38
WZZM 13	A popular West Michigan Fundraiser is back in person for the first time since the pandemic. Catholic Charities of West Michigan is holding its annual, Soups on for All Fundraiser tomorrow night. The event raises money for God's Kitchen which provides a warm meal to those experiencing homelessness.	1/29/2023	9am	1:13
WZZM 13	After 12 years, Mr. Gyro in Walker closed its doors for good last night. The owner says he is ready for a new chapter. He recently turned 70 and made the decision to put the building up for sale.	2/10/2023	6am	0:31
WZZM 13	Three of the victims who lost their lives in the MSU shooting were laid to rest by friends and family. Brian Fraser, Alexandria Verner, and Arielle Anderson's funerals were yesterday in their hometowns of Grosse Pointe and Clawson, MI.	2/19/2023	7am	1:03
WZZM 13	MSU officials say the donations they have received from the community will be allocated to helping students move forward from the tragedy. The Spartan Strong Fund will go towards covering funeral expenses for the students killed as well as the hospital bills of those who survived. Currently, four of the five injured students are still in critical condition at Sparrow Hospital. The money will also be used to add mental	2/20/2023	5am	0:42

	health resources and extra security measures on campus.			
WZZM 13	The weather should be perfect tomorrow to jump into Muskegon Lake. It is the annual polar plunge for Special Olympics Michigan. The fundraiser benefits athletes with intellectual disabilities in Muskegon and Ottawa Counties. Registration begins at noon at the Fricano Event Center, so there is still time to sign up. The event is sponsored by the Law Enforcement Torch Run.	3/3/2023	11pm	0:35
WZZM 13	The annual LaughFest Festival begins this week in Grand Rapids. Comedians and performers will take the stage starting Wednesday, with the festival wrapping up on Sunday. Proceeds benefit Gilda's Club, which supports families impacted by cancer.	3/3/2023	6am	0:37
WZZM 13	A historic landmark in Grand Rapids is hosting a brunch this weekend and the catering team is pulling out all the stops. Champagne brunch at the Sweet House, is happening this Sunday in partnership with Yo-Chef's catering company.	3/10/2023	6am	0:28
WZZM 13	Loved ones of Breonna Taylor marked three years since her death last night with a balloon release in Grand Rapids. Taylor was killed by Louisville, Kentucky police in 2020. Three years later, Taylor's family is still calling for accountability.	3/14/2023	6am	0:24
WZZM 13	The Michigan Senate passed an extensive 11-bill gun safety package yesterday. It is now headed to the Michigan House. The bills will require safe firearm storage, background checks on unlicensed gun sales, and enact extreme risk protection orders also known as a red flag law that would allow a judge to temporarily order firearms be taken away from an individual believed to be a danger to themselves and others. One of the most controversial bills for republicans and supporters of the second amendment is the so-called red flag law.	3/17/2023	6am	1:04

WZZM 13	A born-and-raised West Michigan woman celebrated her 106th birthday today. She was surrounded by generations of her loving family, and she told us the secret to a long life, and it's a bit unexpected. She revealed that it is onions. She grew up eating raw green onions straight from the garden. Now, she eats a concoction called an "onion sandwich", which her family says is just bread, butter, and onions.	3/19/2023	630pm	0:43
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ISSUE: CRIME/SAFETY

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME	DURATION
WZZM 13	In Ottawa County, an 82-year-old man is facing charges after an hour's long standoff with police. The man allegedly threatened two employees inside with a knife. One of them was able to escape, but a 50-year-old man was held at knifepoint until police arrived. Officers spent four hours negotiating, eventually using "non-lethal ammunition" to end the standoff.	1/10/2023	5am	0:26
WZZM 13	A Montcalm County woman has been arrested for driving on a suspended license months after being charged with drinking and driving and killing two people. Amber Martens is accused of hitting and killing Myrtle Fuller and Jeremy Wabeke in Greenville back in July. Her attorney says the prosecutor decided not to revoke her bond because she wasn't aware her license was suspended.	1/10/2023	5am	0:36
WZZM 13	The Fennville School District is stepping in to help with funeral services for a mother and her two daughters killed in Allegan County this week. Deputies believe they were killed by Cindy's ex-husband and father of the two girls. He then took his own life.	1/10/2023	Noon	0:29
WZZM 13	The offices of Orthodontist, Dr. Thomas Shannon are closed after his arrest last week. He is accused of possessing child pornography and soliciting underage girls for explicit content. An email from the business said operations have been suspended following his arrest and staff members are working to transfer patients to other	1/10/2023	11pm	0:39

	practices. Shannon had practices in both Grandville and Plainwell.			
WZZM 13	A Kent County jury found Harold Brewer guilty of second-degree manslaughter and two counts of assault with intent to murder in the death of Travon Seawood. Police found Seawood in a car that crashed near Ellsworth and Grandville Avenue on June 20, 2021. He died from two gunshot wounds and three other people in the car were injured.	1/12/2023	11pm	0:24
WZZM 13	Fifty cars have been stolen or broken into in Kent County so far this year. The thefts are happening day or night and even in busy areas. Police say thieves are targeting areas such as gyms and medical facilities. They are recommending moving valuable items in your car to out of view.	1/14/2023	7am	0:34
WZZM 13	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.	1/16/2023	11pm	0:53
WZZM 13	Police Departments throughout Kent County are working on an early morning surge of break-ins. They have happened at convenience stores, smoke shops, and at least one liquor store. The break-ins are causing a big financial hit.	1/27/2023	Noon	1:23
WZZM 13	Financial sextortion is on the rise rather than traditional sextortion which is when a predator threatens or blackmails a victim for more nude or sexual imagery. Financial sextortion is when a predator demands money or gift cards in exchange for keeping their sexual images private. Over the past year, law enforcement received more than seven-thousand reports related to the online financial sextortion of minors.	1/31/2023	6pm	1:39

WZZM 13	78 dogs in total were taken from Cober's Canine Rescue in Norton Shores. Norton Shores Police say the owner of that rescue is now in custody, charged with multiple counts of animal neglect.	1/31/2023	6pm	0:60
WZZM 13	A former Trinity Health employee is facing charges after police say she stole more than 2-million dollars. 60-year-old Cindy Sue Norgren is charged with embezzlement of 100 thousand dollars or more which is a 20-year felony. She was an accounting manager at Trinity Health of Grand Haven.	2/10/2023	6am	0:26
WZZM 13	After Monday's shooting and the growing concern of gun violence in the state, leaders at Grand Valley State University are considering safety improvements. Right now, the university employs full-time dispatchers, who monitor 16-hundred surveillance cameras across their 3 campuses. Those dispatchers can also put each campus into lockdown which locks exterior doors to all their buildings. The university recently labelled all their doors to help first responders.	2/18/2023	6am	0:31
WZZM 13	A murder suspect in Holland is in custody after a manhunt this morning. Police were called to a housing complex in the holland heights neighborhood at 3:30 this morning after a report of shots fired. One person was pronounced dead at the scene and has not yet been identified. The suspect who has also not been identified, was able to run away. Resources like K9 units and a drone were used to help officers find the suspect at 8:25 this morning.	3/3/2023	Noon	0:40
WZZM 13	This morning, a jury has found Jacob Ryan, the man charged with killing a woman and attacking her children in Rockford, guilty on murder and assault charges. In September of 2021, a woman asked deputies to do a welfare check on Ryan. That day, investigators found Ciara Paul's body inside her Rockford area home.	3/3/2023	Noon	0:35
WZZM 13	One person is dead after a shooting at the Delta Hotel on 28th Street. Police got a call just before 7 last night. When police arrived, they found a 21-year-old male who was pronounced dead at the scene.	3/5/2023	9am	0:36

WZZM 13	A shooting suspect from Lake County has been arrested after police searched for him throughout the weekend. 40-year-old Alton James Corbin is accused of shooting and injuring a 33-year-old man Friday night. Corbin left the house before deputies arrived and they believe he stole the victim's handgun. He was considered armed and dangerous before his arrest, and he is being held at the Muskegon County Jail.	3/13/2023	Noon	0:25
WZZM 13	There are new stop signs at a dangerous intersection in the Grand Rapids Creston Neighborhood. There are now several new stop signs at that intersection, and the city has made other safety upgrades in the neighborhood as well.	3/17/2023	6am	0:34

ISSUE: DIVERSITY/SOCIAL JUSTICE

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME	DURATION
WZZM 13	Turning now to an update to a story we first brought you in December. Jenison Public Schools has suspended the students who are accused of making racist remarks during a basketball game against Wyoming Public Schools. In the video, Jenison students can be heard making "monkey sounds" as a black Wyoming player is shooting free throws. After the incident the school held assemblies to address racism.	1/10/2023	Noon	0:57
WZZM 13	The Michigan Senate this week is passing a bill to prohibit discrimination against Michigan's LGBTQ community. It is a call to amend the pre-existing civil rights law in the state to include members of the LGBTQ community.	3/5/2023	11pm	2:21
WZZM 13	March is Women's History month and to celebrate, the greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council is highlighting a group of pioneers. Some of the women ran for public office during the 1970's.	3/12/2023	11pm	:11

ISSUE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME	DURATION
WZZM 13	A cafe and dry bar honoring the owners' French American roots officially opened in Grand Rapids this weekend. The sisters wanted to honor their roots with fusion drinks and pastries. The two opened the doors to their dream café, Chartreuse Sisters, yesterday afternoon.	1/15/2023	9am	0:44
WZZM 13	The West Michigan Whitecaps made a major announcement this week. LMCU Ballpark will undergo major renovations this spring. The project will take place in two phases. Phase one includes a new player clubhouse and suite level club space. The lawn spaces will be turned into tiered hospitality areas for large groups. Additionally, phase two will include a brand-new entrance to the park with a full view of the field.	1/15/2023	9am	1:01
WZZM 13	The Michigan Public Service Commission approved a 155-million-dollar increase for Consumer's Energy. A customer using 500- kilowatt hours a month will see their bill increase a little more than two dollars. As part of the settlement, Consumer's agreed to refund all customers a total of 15-million dollars through a credit on their bill. The rate increase goes into effect starting today.	1/21/2023	7am	0:33
WZZM 13	It's costing more to fill up this week. According to Gas Buddy, prices in Grand Rapids are up 17cents compared to last week. On average, drivers are paying \$3.41 a gallon. The cheapest gas in Grand Rapids is \$3.12 a gallon. Industry experts predict oil supply will tighten in the weeks ahead meaning gas prices will likely continue to rise.	1/23/2023	5:30pm	0:29
WZZM 13	The Mackinac Island ferry will go electric with support from EGLE grant funds. A \$3.06 million award from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Fuel Transformation Program (FTP) Part 2 will support the first-ever conversion of a Mackinac Island passenger ferry to zero-emissions electric power. The grant	3/10/2023	6pm	6:01

	covers half the cost of the project, which includes installing 1.5 megawatts in shore power infrastructure at the Mackinaw City ferry dock, as electric power upgrades are also planned for the ports of St. Ignace and Mackinac Island.			
WZZM 13	A new report shows there's a multi-billion-dollar Road Funding Crisis in Michigan. The Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association says less money is coming from the state's gas tax. Cars, trucks, and electric vehicles are more fuel efficient, and technology has been upgraded. Some suggestions to close the gap include higher gas taxes and toll roads.	3/11/2023	7am	0:31
WZZM 13	It's estimated that more than 68-thousand people in West Michigan have an auto-related job. This week, Governor Gretchen Whitmer made plans to expand the state's auto infrastructure. During the Automotive Suppliers Symposium at GVSU, Whitmer talked about the changing market. She also touched on supply chain issues and gave some insight into what could change in the future. One thing, is the ongoing shift to electric vehicles.	3/12/2023	11pm	0:28
WZZM 13	Construction is underway in Muskegon on a new, nearly 14-million-dollar medical center for veterans. Officials hope this clinic will provide a modern and efficient space to heal. The work is happening at the site on Apple Avenue and Walker Street. It will serve an estimated 12-thousand veterans living in Muskegon County and is double the size of the current outpatient clinic.	3/12/2023	11pm	0:24
WZZM 13	Today, Governor Gretchen Whitmer awarded a \$790,000 state Transportation Economic Development Fund (TEDF) grant to upgrade Shelby Road in Oceana County to an all-seasons roadway, so that Perdue Farms and Peterson Farms can expand their businesses. The grant will support a total of 128 new jobs and will enable \$31 million in private investments in the Village and Township of Shelby in Oceana County. The TEDF grant helps	3/31/2023	5am	5:31

	finance public highway, road, and street projects that are critical to the movement of people and products, and getting workers to their jobs, materials to growers and manufacturers, and finished goods to consumers.			
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ISSUE: EDUCATION

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME	DURATION
WZZM 13	More controversy in Ottawa County, this time involving the Allendale Public School Board. At last night's meeting, the school board voted four to three to replace its current legal counsel with the Kallman Law Firm. That's the same law firm that was hired at the Ottawa County Commission meeting.	1/10/2023	5am	0:28
WZZM 13	The Muskegon Heights Public School Academy is moving forward with recommendations from the county intermediate school district to address violations in the district's special education program. Last month, the Muskegon ISD shared their investigation that multiple students in the special education program were not getting the services they needed.	1/23/2023	11pm	2:26
WZZM 13	Major changes could be coming to schools across the state. The state legislature has passed a bill that would remove a requirement to hold back 3rd graders if they don't meet certain reading benchmarks on the M-Step test. Some teachers are hoping the changes will give less stress to students and parents over a single test.	3/13/2022	Noon	0:38
WZZM 13	Governor Whitmer hopes to get funding approved for free breakfast and lunch for all students in Michigan Public Schools. Grand Rapids Public Schools already provides free meals for kids every day. The district has been serving free meals to all its students for more than 10 years. Serving 10,000 lunches and 5,000 breakfasts per day.	3/17/2023	11pm	0:31
WZZM 13	Muskegon Community College is hosting a conversation on mass shootings this	3/20/2023	6am	0:25

	afternoon. There will be a panel of public safety, psychology, and political science experts. It's all part of the college's "And Justice for All..." series. 'Mass Shootings: A Conversation About an American Problem' was added to the lineup after the deadly shooting at Michigan State University.			
WZZM 13	The families of wrestlers on West Ottawa's team, say students are devastated after the school severed ties with their wrestling coach. Coach Ryan Lancaster was let go this week after serving as West Ottawa's head wrestling coach for the last 7 years.	3/31/2023	5am	:34
WZZM 13	State lawmakers are getting feedback from West Michigan teachers about the upcoming education budget. Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks, and Chair of the Pre-K Appropriations Subcommittee, were at a round table at Brookwood Elementary this afternoon. Kentwood teachers and administrators talked with them about strengthening recruitment and salary, ways to support staff and students, and school safety.	3/31/2023	5am	0:27

ISSUE: HEALTH

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME	DURATION
WZZM 13	Overdose deaths from the pills containing Fentanyl are increasing around the country, including here in Michigan. According to the CDC, two-thirds of drug overdose deaths in 2021 involved synthetic opioids.	1/23/2023	11pm	3:09
WZZM 13	After two years of decline, the CDC says suicide rates are on the rise across the country. In Michigan, mental health leaders hope to save lives and spread awareness.	1/22/2023	7am	0:33
WZZM 13	Cancer research at the Van Andel Institute has received a financial boost from a prestigious foundation. A post-doctoral "Fellow" at the VAI is one of 14 scientists in the country selected to receive money from the Damon Runyon Cancer Research foundation.	1/31/2023	6am	0:29

WZZM 13	A vaccine designed to prevent Breast Cancer is moving into the next phase of study. Researchers say it could be years before they know if this will work.	2/13/2023	6am	0:53
WZZM 13	According to the CDC, no county in our state is in the high-risk category. Only eight counties are currently in the medium-risk category. Seven are on the east side of the state. The other 75 counties are in the low-risk category.	2/19/2023	9am	:25
WZZM 13	It has now been three years ago to the day since the World Health Organization officially declared the COVID-19 virus a global pandemic. Many are looking back on how far we've come since then. Kent County having been the largest hotspot in West Michigan, recording over 180,000 cases alone over the course of the pandemic, with more than a thousand county residents having died.	3/11/2023	630pm	1:03
WZZM 13	It has been two days since the FDA approved the over-the-counter sale of Narcan. The nasal spray has long been a resource to reverse opioid drug overdoses. Dr. Gilbert Masterson with Sanford Behavioral health says this is a great step that has also been a long time coming. With questions about pricing and access, he says there is still more work to be done.	3/31/2023	5am	1:02

ISSUE: FAMILY/YOUTH

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME	DURATION
WZZM 13	A school bus driver is on administrative leave after a five-year-old student was injured during what the superintendent calls "a severe bullying incident". The student's parents say the driver did not do enough to help their son. It happened last week, when Blanton says her son got off the bus on Thursday in tears. He told them a sixth grader had kicked him repeatedly in the stomach. The parents went to the school district, who couldn't show them video from the bus's camera until days later. When they finally saw it, Burrell says it was only a	3/17/2023	5pm	1:00

	<p>portion of the entire event and he wants to be shown the whole thing. He says the video showed his son's head being smashed against the window, being suffocated, and having his head stepped on. All this happening without the bus driver's intervention. Both parents say they feel the school district failed their son.</p>			
WZZM 13	<p>An Ottawa County family is celebrating after a father surprised his children at school this Thursday afternoon. Staff Sergeant, Kyle Greenway, is in the National Guard and has been deployed for 46 weeks, with his most recent tour in Kuwait. His kids weren't expecting to see him until next week, but with the help of his wife Ashley, the two, along with the West Ottawa School District, organized a surprise homecoming at Macatawa Bay Middle School.</p>	3/31/2023	5am	0:33