

Quarterly Issues/Programs Report

Station Call Letters: **WZZM**
Location (City, State): **Grand Rapids/Battle Creek/Kalamazoo**
For quarter beginning: **October - December 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	Across the world the Israel-Hamas war has been garnering support from both sides. Here in West Michigan, a vigil was held last night in honor of the hundreds of Jewish people who were killed this weekend.	10/9/2023	6am	0:20
WZZM 13	A West Michigan Animal Clinic is honoring a dog that passed away earlier this month with a special clinic. You may remember us telling you about Gemma, the small Golden Retriever that was hit by a car in Walker. She had a collar but no identification or microchip, making it difficult to find her owner. Eventually, the owners were tracked down, but Gemma's injuries were too much to overcome. Now, Kelley's Animal Clinic, which cared for Gemma, is hosting a 5-dollar microchipping clinic in her honor. Experts say microchips are more effective in reuniting lost pets with their owners because collars, tags and harnesses can break off.	10/21/2023	6am	1:00
WZZM 13	A Grand Rapids community is coming together this weekend to remember three lives lost. Darryl Yarber, Malik Eubanks, and Anayia Rodriguez were found on Tuesday in Burton Heights. Tomorrow, neighbors and city leaders will gather to mourn the lives lost and help find strength in the community. Grand Rapids police will be there to give an update, then the community will light candles and have a moment of silence. The bodies of Yarber, Eubanks and Rodriguez were found just a half mile from each other on Tuesday. Police believe two of the victims were killed somewhere else, and then driven to the area. Police have not released any information about potential suspects, but they did investigate a car they are calling a "vehicle of interest".	11/10/2023	6am	0:52
WZZM 13	The Big10 has suspended Michigan Football coach Jim Harbaugh for the rest of the regular season. It is in response to the illegal sign stealing allegations against the wolverines. The suspension affects three games; including tomorrows	11/10/2023	530pm	0:27

	<p>against Penn State and the showdown with Ohio State on November 25th. Additional disciplinary actions from the conference are possible as more information is received from the NCAA. Harbaugh has not yet responded.</p>			
WZZM 13	<p>When asked what the greatest barrier is for members of West Michigan's Asian American community accessing health care, Linh Truong responded with one word, "language". The West Michigan Asian American Association is working to become a bridge for Asians in West Michigan who have found themselves unable to navigate the healthcare system due to difficulties understanding and communicating in English, and a lack of translation resources.</p>	11/18/2023	11pm	2:35
WZZM 13	<p>When duty calls in Bangor, help is on the way, as fast as furry 6-inch legs will allow. "All he wants to do is just get belly rubs," laughed Bangor Community Fire Chief, Derrick Babcock. He is the owner of Max, who does not look like your typical firehouse dog. "Who does not like a little short-haired, short-legged dog?" questioned Babcock. Meet Bangor's new fire dog, a 20 pound, one-and-a-half year old wire-haired Daschund.</p>	12/14/2023	630pm	2:30
WZZM 13	<p>Linda Smalley contacted 13OYS after her aged furnace was deemed unsafe to continue using on Friday. She was uncertain of how she would heat her home this winter because a new furnace was out of the question in her budget. Now, her uncertainty has become joy. Soon after the initial story was aired, several individuals and businesses responded, wanting to provide help to make sure Smalley stays warm. "I was not expecting a phone call today telling me this wonderful news. I feel like I won the lottery," Smalley said. She has since been provided with the contact information of those wanting to help, along with the information of local nonprofits that help community members in her kind of situation.</p>	12/27/2023	530pm	2:20
WZZM 13	<p>A West Michigan couple needs support after they lost their home and 8 pets in a house fire in Allegan. The fire happened</p>	12/30/2023	6am	0:38

	<p>just days before Christmas. Stephanie Wiley and Zachary Sjöholm lived in the home. The Allegan County Fire District has not yet determined a cause for the fire. They lost Christmas gifts, along with their 6 cats, including some kittens, and 2 bearded dragons. On Tuesday, the couple decided to adopt an emotional support cat. Friends and family of the couple are rallying together to help them, starting a Go-Fund-Me with the goal of 20-thousand-dollars.</p>			
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ISSUE: CRIME/SAFETY

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME	DURATION
WZZM 13	<p>Kent County Prosecutor Chris Becker says it is easy to see that juvenile crime is on the rise. "Probably one of the most frustrating things we are dealing with right now," he says. Becker says it really began during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when kids were stuck at home and may have been looking for ways to lash out, and that rise has steadily continued year by year. The frustration comes because he legally cannot do much about it. "We don't really have great options of what to do with them," says Becker. He says right now, the Kent County Juvenile Detention Center has 98 beds inside, and they are all full.</p>	10/19/2023	6pm	1:29
WZZM 13	<p>A Detroit synagogue president was found stabbed to death outside her home this morning. Police found Samantha Woll around 6:30 a.m. after they were called about a person lying on the ground unresponsive. In a statement, Governor Gretchen Whitmer said Woll's death was heartbreaking. She led the Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue since 2022 and was a former aide to Democratic Representative Elissa Slotkin and campaign staffer for Attorney General Dana Nessel.</p>	10/21/2023	11pm	0:08
WZZM 13	<p>According to the Kent County Sheriff's Office, crime is on the rise across the county. "There is an increase in violence in Kent County, and as a result, we have to</p>	11/15/2023	5pm	0:30

	improve our response to it," said Kent County Sheriff, Michelle LaJoye-Young. Crimes in the county have been steadily rising since 2019, with many recent violent crimes happening south of Grand Rapids.			
WZZM 13	A father and son are headed to trial, accused of setting their family restaurant on fire in Newaygo County. 'Charlie's Family Grill' in White Cloud burned to the ground last spring. Prosecutors say David and Ryan Robinson set the fire intentionally. Yesterday, the court saw surveillance video that allegedly showed the Robinson's pick-up trucks leaving the restaurant just before smoke can be seen. The Fremont Police Chief testified, describing fraudulent insurance claims from the family's garage fire in February. A court date has not yet been set.	12/30/2023	6am	0:35
WZZM 13	An investigation shows no evidence that anyone employed by Michigan State University mishandled confidential information when it comes to insider leaks during the Mel Tucker scandal. The findings of the investigation have been released by the law firm 'Jone's Day.' Tucker, MSU's former head football coach was accused of sexually harassing activist and rape survivor Brenda Tracy. Tracy was hired to teach players about issues related to sexual abuse when the alleged harassment happened. She filed a complaint with the university. Her name was later released to the media. The source who provided the information has not been identified.	12/30/2023	6am	0:41
WZZM 13	Four people are dead, and two others injured after a house exploded in the Ann Arbor area. It happened in Whitmore Lake, near U-S 23. Northfield Township Police say debris from the explosion was scattered across the area. One resident a mile away says he found pieces of the house in his fire pit. Officials are still investigating the cause of the explosion.	12/31/2023	7am	0:27

ISSUE: DIVERSITY/SOCIAL JUSTICE

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME	DURATION
WZZM 13	Construction is officially underway on the outdoor complex at the Special Olympics Michigan Unified Sports and Inclusion Center in southern Kent County. The official groundbreaking was held Tuesday afternoon on the property that used to be the South Christian High School on 68th Street. Special Olympics Michigan is transforming the inside and the outside into the world's largest inclusive sports facility. "It is gonna be an incredible Sports Complex for Special Olympics Michigan, but for the entire community," said Hileman. "We have six soccer fields going in, 10 bocce courts, a putting green, chipping green, pickleball courts, as well as an eight-lane track and artificial turf, soccer field and flag football field. It is gonna be fantastic".	11/14/2023	11pm	1:05
WZZM 13	Harvard President Claudine Gay will remain leader of the prestigious Ivy League school following her comments last week at a congressional hearing on antisemitism, the university's highest governing body announced Tuesday. "Our extensive deliberations affirm our confidence that President Gay is the right leader to help our community heal and to address the very serious societal issues we are facing," the Harvard Corporation said in a statement following its meeting Monday.	12/12/2023	7am	0:35

ISSUE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME	DURATION
WZZM 13	Now to the latest developments on the UAW contract negotiations. Five weeks into the strike, GM has made an offer to the union. GM's offer raises pay to 40-dollars and 39-cents an hour by the end of a four-year contract. The company also said it would reinstate cost of living raises for many employees, boosting the pay increase to more than 30 percent by September of 2027. UAW president	10/21/2023	6am	0:31

	Shawn Fain encouraged those striking to continue standing strong.			
WZZM 13	Kids Food Basket and the Outdoor Discovery Center received a 25-hundred dollar grant to expand resources in Allegan and Ottawa counties. The money is from a program that partners local lawmakers with community-based organizations to address health equity and improve health outcomes in the community.	10/21/2023	6am	0:22
WZZM 13	Grand Valley State University's "Muskegon Innovation Hub" is getting a "1-point-7-million-dollar grant" from the state of Michigan. The Hub was created by GVSU in 2003. It provides guidance and resources to West Michigan small businesses and start-ups. Staff at the Muskegon center say the money will help them reach Entrepreneurs who need support for their projects.	11/11/2023	6am	0:23
WZZM 13	Other new changes coming in 2024 are to the minimum wages in 22 states, including Michigan. It will give nearly 9.9 million Americans a pay raise. The increase in Michigan is a small one - going from \$10.10/hour to \$10.33-cents/hour. It does translate to an additional \$216/year for an average full-time worker. There is also currently a case before the Michigan Supreme Court that could increase the amount for low-wage workers.	12/31/2023	7am	0:29

ISSUE: EDUCATION

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME	DURATION
WZZM 13	Ferris State University launched its inaugural AI day, bringing Michigan high schoolers to the Big Rapids university to get hands-on experience with artificial intelligence. "We are exploring the bridge to comfort and security with the concept of artificial intelligence" said Amy Dorey, Ferris State University's Hospitality Management Program Director.	12/1/2023	5pm	2:00

WZZM 13	Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced the launch of a new education department on Friday. The new department, Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP), will focus on improving outcomes of students from preschool through early adult life. MiLEAP was established through an executive order by the governor in July, but the department was not officially launched until December 1 st . With the creation of the new department, 300 staff members from the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA), Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO), Education (MDE), and Treasury will be transferred to MiLEAP. MiLEAP will be comprised of three offices: Office of Early Childhood Education, Office of Higher Education, and Office of Education Partnerships.	12/1/2023	6pm	0:35
WZZM 13	New gun laws take effect at the beginning of the new year. Following the deadly mass shooting at Michigan State University earlier this year, the state legislature passed several gun violence prevention bills. One of those laws is the "red flag" laws. Courts will be able to take guns from people they deem dangerous to themselves or others. The state also passed a universal background check bill, a safe storage bill, and a temporary law that will make it more difficult for people with misdemeanor domestic violence convictions to access guns.	12/31/2023	7am	0:55

ISSUE: HEALTH

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME	DURATION
WZZM 13	The Grand Rapids Pride Center is hosting their second annual health fair this Thursday. It will be a one-stop shop to get tested, vaccinated, and learn more about available health resources.	10/22/2023	9am	0:57
WZZM 13	Ottawa County will not have a seamless transfer from one health official to another Tuesday if commissioners are successful in removing Adeline	10/24/2023	6pm	2:45

	<p>Hambley from her post. That is because the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has not approved Ottawa County's request for Nathaniel Kelly, who works as a safety manager for a West Michigan HVAC company, to replace current Administrative Health Officer Adeline Hambley. In a letter to Ottawa County Administrator John Gibbs Monday, the state health department said Michigan Administrative Code R 325.13008 requires a vacancy for them to appoint an acting health officer.</p>			
WZZM 13	<p>The integration of the former Spectrum Health and Beaumont Health into Corewell Health has been a game-changer for organ transplant programs. The newly integrated transplant programs allow for streamlined patient referrals and seamless care throughout the transplant process across regions. We caught up with Dr. Catherine Bartnik, Medical Director of Hepatology at Corewell Health in West Michigan, and Dr. M. Rasm Al Sibae, Director of Transplant Hepatology at Corewell Health William Beaumont University Hospital to learn more about the success of the liver transplant program. Dr. Bartnik said collaboration made perfect sense for the two historic programs. Corewell Health on the east side of the state offered adult kidney and liver transplants, and Corewell Health in West Michigan offered adult heart, lung, and pediatric kidney transplants.</p>	12/19/2023	Noon	3:00
WZZM 13	<p>The Holidays are a time of year many people look forward to. For some, this time of year can be tough. Mental health experts say January is when they see the highest suicide rate. Now is a good time to make sure you are checking on your loved ones, and conversations about mental health need to start now. Noticing and recognizing changes in someone's behavior that are unlike what they typically are, how they behave, how they are thinking, how they are acting, we need to be very mindful to pay attention. If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health, you are encouraged</p>	12/30/2023	6am	0:52

	to call the suicide prevention hotline at 988.			
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ISSUE: FAMILY/YOUTH

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME	DURATION
WZZM 13	A local non-profit hosted a “packing party” to fill backpacks with personal care items that will be given to local youth in foster care. Event organizers say while not everyone can adopt children in the foster care system, events like today are just one way you can make a difference for foster youth in your community.	12/20/2023	6pm	2:15