

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

FOR



FOURTH QUARTER 2020
October 1st through December 31st, 2020

WWJ NEWSRADIO 950
ISSUES OF CONCERNS TO METRO DETROITERS
ADDRESSED IN RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMING IN THE
FOURTH QUARTER 2020
October 1st – December 31st, 2020

1. **Public Safety/Law Enforcement**
Crime. Police staffing and training. Private security firms. Initiatives against crime. Courts. Prison facilities.
2. **Education**
Public schools and school reform. Private education. Colleges and University enrollment and development. Technology in the classroom. Job training. Continuing education for adults. School safety.
3. **Environment/Energy:**
Land Use. Pollution. Preserving open space and recreational areas. Status of the Great Lakes. Alternative Energy sources. Energy efficiency. Sustainability.
4. **Health and Medicine:**
Personal health and fitness. Child health. Medical facilities. Insurance, affordability and access issues. Costs of prescription drugs. Development and adoption of new life-saving techniques. Victim support. Alcohol and substance abuse.
5. **Leadership/Politics/Elections:**
Political leadership. Corporate leadership. Corporate citizenship. Energizing voters. Public participation in the electoral process. Local government. Effective government. Developing future leaders.
6. **Homeland Security:**
Emergency preparedness. Security measures. Protection against terrorist attack. Border security. Foreign nationals. Immigration. Government funding.
7. **Labor/Workforce:**
Union negotiations. Corporate and labor relations. Worker training. Layoffs. Worker preparation. Jobs and job creation. Worker benefits. Retirees.
8. **Race Relations:**
Racism. Civil Rights. Discrimination. Equal access. Racial profiling. Neighborhood segregation.
9. **Regional Revitalization:**
Taxes, infrastructure, support for business start-ups and company attraction. Sports facilities. Affordable housing. Commercial development. Attracting people downtown. Economic climate.
10. **Transportation/Logistics:**
Road construction. Traffic. Airport development. Light rail. Mass transit. New technologies for cars.

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMS
WWJ NEWSRADIO 950
PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS COMMUNITY ISSUES**

Difference Maker

Airs Thursdays at 9:52am, 2:52pm and 8:52pm. Brooke Allen talks with people who are helping others across Metro Detroit.

Your Eye on Health

Airs Monday-Friday at 1:22am, 3:40am, 1:53pm and 6:53pm. Dr. Deanna Lites reports on all things health including the latest breakthroughs in research as well as advice on living a healthy lifestyle.

Made in Michigan

Airs Wednesdays at 9:52am, 2:52pm, 8:52pm and Saturday at 4:52am, 9:52am and 4:53pm. Each report runs one minute in length. Sandra McNeill profiles companies who make products people can buy while trying to emphasize the jobs and business success each company has.

What's Hot Around Town

Airs Thursday and Friday at 10:23am, 2:23pm, 4:53pm, 7:53pm and 10:43pm on Saturday at 8:23am, 10:23am, 12:23pm and 3:23pm. Each report runs one minute in length. Roberta Jasina highlights a fun or unique event taking place in Southeast Michigan, with a special focus on Arts and Cultural Organizations.

Black Business Minute

WWJ's Vickie Thomas profiles businesses in Detroit and the area owned by African Americans. Airs Monday and Friday at 6:23am, 9:23am, 12:43pm, 5:43pm, 7:53pm

Detroit Skills

Airs Mondays at 9:52am, 2:52pm and 8:52pm. Tom Jordan talks about different skills and jobs that are in the Metro Detroit area.

Automotive Insight

Airs Monday-Friday at 5:43am, 6:53am and 11:53am. Each report runs one minute in length. John McElroy provides two unique insights daily into the business of making cars, and designing the cars of the future.

Car Chronicles

Airs Monday-Friday 12:53pm, 3:53pm, 5:53pm and 6:53 pm. Each report runs one minute in length. Jeff Gilbert highlights people and lesser-known stories from the automotive business, as well as critiquing new products as they come out from the manufacturers.

The Feldman Report

Airs Monday-Friday 8:53am, 10:53am, 3:23pm, 6:23pm and 9:53pm. Each report runs one minute in length. Murray Feldman provides insights for small business, discusses the general business climate, and highlights business leaders. He also provides advice for consumers.

NEWS STORIES ADDRESSING COMMUNITY ISSUES

PUBLIC SAFETY/LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

10/1/20

4:04pm

Sandra McNeill

Search on for murderer who shot man outside haunted house

The Oakland County Sheriff is asking for help in locating a suspect in the fatal shooting outside Erebus Haunted House in Pontiac early Sunday. Sheriff Mike Bouchard says 17-year-old Damon Terrell shot and killed the victim in the parking after an argument in line. Crimestoppers is offering a \$2-thousand reward for information in the case.

10/1/20

4:32pm

Stephanie Davis

Double murder in Warren

Police in Warren are investigating after two people were found dead in a home on the city's south side. Commissioner Bill Dwyer says the bodies were discovered this morning on Otis Avenue near Nine Mile and Dequindre. He is not yet releasing a motive in the case and will not comment on whether there is a suspect.

10/6/20

4:06pm

Dan Jenkins

Operation Legend announces arrest

The U.S. Justice Department is highlighting the arrest of a Detroit man as one case that was cracked as a result of Operation Legend. 44-year old Eric Walker was arrested on drug and weapons charges. The feds say Walker was allegedly selling cocaine, fentanyl-laced heroin and pills when he was arrested. Agents also found a loaded gun. Walker has past convictions including second degree murder and assault with intent to murder. Operation Legend started in Detroit in late July as a way to help the city combat an increase in violent crime.

10/8/20

5:12pm

Sandra McNeill

Campaign sign booby trapped

A Commerce Township worker suffered deep cuts when he was injured by a booby-trapped presidential campaign sign. Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard says the Trump signs were in the right-of-way and the worker was removing them when he was cut with hidden razor blades. Bouchard says the homeowner claims the signs had been stolen and replaced while they were on the vacation.

10/8/20

5:13pm

Ron Dewey

EMS workers sued after woman comes back to life

Southfield EMS being sued for \$50 million dollars on behalf of a woman declared dead but was actually alive. City rescue personnel declared Timesha Beauchamp in August, but was discovered breathing by funeral home employees hours later. Attorney Geoffery Fieger filed a federal suit claiming Beauchamp's civil rights had been violated. Four Southfield EMS personnel were put on leave as part of the city's investigation.

10/9/20

11:23am

Stephanie Raymond

Detroit Police job fair

This is a first for Detroit Police. The department is holding a drive-through recruitment fair to hire new patrol officers. Sergeant Starr Gonzales says some applicants will be driving away with job offers. Applicants who receive job offers will get a call within ONE WEEK to take a written and agility test before heading off to the police academy. Once hired, patrol officers have the chance to work within different units, such as homicide, special response, K-9 and even the mounted unit. It takes place tomorrow from 9 A-M until 2 P-M at D-P-D headquarters off Third Avenue and Howard Street.

10/9/20

Various

Jon Hewett

More on plot to kidnap the Governor

The kidnapping threat to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer was so serious that authorities moved her family around as law enforcement tracked alleged kidnapping plotters. Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel joined "CBS This Morning" to talk about the case. Meantime, there are some renewed calls to ban guns in the state capitol after a plot to kidnap Governor Whitmer and storm the capitol building was foiled. State Senator Dayna Polehanki and another senator have introduced a bill to ban guns on the capitol grounds. Senate majority leader Mike Shirkey says that he's "having further conversations" with capitol commissioners about a potential gun ban, but indicated he doesn't think increased security measures could adequately protect against the kind of threat the FBI is alleging.

10/12/20

7:13am

Tim Skubick

Criminal justice reform legislation

Governor Whitmer will be signing criminal justice reform legislation this afternoon. The so-called "Clean Slate" legislation involves seven bills that would, among other things -- simplify the process of applying for expungement for marijuana-related offenses and many traffic offenses. Supporters say the legislation will have thousands of Michigan residents clear their criminal records or automatically get their records cleared after a period of time.

10/18/20

8:07am

Sandra McNeill

Don't veer for deer

Oakland County Sheriff is out with its annual warning to drivers to watch out for deer. Sheriff Mike Bouchard says the deer are much more active in the fall, especially going into breeding season. Bouchard says a rule of thumb is that if you see one deer, there is likely more not far behind.

10/24/20

6:13am

Newsroom

Drug Take Back Day

It's time to clean out your medicine cabinet. Today is "National Prescription Drug Take Back Day" and police are encouraging everyone in metro Detroit to safely dispose of their unused, unwanted and expired prescription medications. Unused prescription pills can fall into the wrong hands, and pills flushed down the toilet can cause environmental problems. You can drop off your unwanted prescriptions at any police station, including all 30 Michigan State Police posts.

11/2/20

6:05am

Stephanie Raymond

Freeway shooting involving off-duty deputy

A reward is being offered for information about a freeway shooting in Livonia that involved an off-duty Oakland County Sheriff's deputy. Sheriff Mike Bouchard says the deputy was on his way to work Saturday night, around 8 o'clock, when someone in a blue Mercury Milan slowed down next to him on I-96 between Merriman and Farmington and fired one shot. The deputy wasn't hurt. Anyone who may have witnessed something should call Livonia police or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-SPEAK UP. A 1-THOUSAND dollar reward is being offered.

11/6/20

12:35pm

Stephanie Raymond

Drug bust in Wayne County

A months-long investigation into fentanyl trafficking in Wayne County leads to several arrests and dangerous drugs off the street. Michigan State Police served warrants yesterday in Detroit, Hamtramck, Taylor and Inkster. The searches resulted in the seizure of more than 1-point-2 kilograms of fentanyl, 54 grams of cocaine and 32 grams of Mexxy -- a new designer drug similar to PCP. Troopers also seized a pistol and nearly 50-thousand dollars in cash. Charges against the suspect are pending.

11/20/20

9:35am

Stephanie Raymond

Sheriff's Department announces new app

Something new to stay connected to the Oakland County Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Mike Bouchard has announced a new smartphone app that will allow residents to receive alerts to emergencies, learn about the latest news and upcoming events, find community programs, submit a tip about a crime and search for local inmates. The new App will also allow you to thank a deputy. To download the App, search "Oakland Sheriff" in the app store or with Google Play.

11/20/20

9:34am

Stephanie Raymond

Postal worker killed in crash

A United States Postal Service worker was killed yesterday in a crash in Monroe County. It happened around 5:30 last night in Milan Township. State Police say the worker was attempting to turn onto Ann Arbor Road from Ostrander [ohst-RAND-er] Road... when his USPS truck was struck by a Chevy Camaro. Despite rescue efforts, the worker-- a 69-year-old man from Ohio -- suffered fatal injuries. The other driver-- a 19-year-old Monroe man -- was taken to a hospital with minor injuries. Police say speed is a factor in the crash, which remains under investigation. Any witnesses are asked to contact Michigan State Police.

12/28/20

3:32pm

Jon Hewett

Remembering late Sheriff Benny Napoleon

A second day of public visitation will get underway later this morning for the late Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon -- who died earlier this month from complications of COVID-19. Retired Deputy Sheriff Bill Joiner worked with Napoleon for 25 years. He paid his respects during visitation yesterday.

12/29/20

12:03pm

Jon Hewett

Carjacking, shooting suspect in hospital

Southfield police say a person of interest in the shooting death and carjacking of a resident is hospitalized in critical condition after exchanging gunfire with the victim. Police say the suspect, who shot and killed Frederic Hudson at Hudson's home on Primary Drive, near 696 and Franklin, was shot in the neck and chest. He went to the hospital just a few minutes after the shooting.

EDUCATION ISSUES

10/6/20

4:05pm

Dan Jenkins

Detroit teachers have a new contract

A new contract for thousands of teachers and other workers in Michigan's largest school district. The Detroit Federation of Teachers announced its 43-hundred members have ratified a new one-year contract with Detroit Public Schools that includes a 15-hundred dollar bonus for all workers who are with the district in mid-November. First year teachers will start at a salary of 51-thousand dollars. The average teacher salary in the district will increase to 70-thousand dollars.

10/9/20

2:34pm

Terri Lee

Royal Oak schools returning to in-person classes

Students in the Royal Oak school district will be returning to in-person classes on November 9th. In an email sent to families, District Superintendent Mary Beth Fitzpatrick says elementary and middle school students will attend in-person classes two days per week, on an alternating schedule. High school students will remain all remote until the end of the first semester in January.

10/12/20

7:11am

Newsroom

Cyber-attack at Oakland County School

A system outage at Walled Lake Consolidated School District has been linked to a cyberattack. In an email sent to parents last night, Superintendent Kenneth Gutman confirmed the district's system was hacked... saying it's possible the attackers were able to obtain credential and other information. A team of cyber security experts are investigating the incident and authorities have been alerted. The hack has no impact on virtual learning, which will proceed as normal this morning.

10/26/20

4:35pm

Dan Jenkins

Detroit Public Schools on their own after ten years of state oversight

A celebration in the Detroit Public School District today. After more than ten years of state oversight, the Detroit Financial Review Commission has approved resolutions that turns financial oversight of the district back to the school board. The last time the district was fully in charge was in 2009 before several state-appointed emergency managers were installed with the directive to fix a district's budget woes.

11/2/20

9:07am

Mike Campbell

School District keeping kids home for classes

Nearly nine-thousand students in the Huron Valley School District in Oakland County will be staying home from school this week. A letter sent to parents from Superintendent Dr. Paul Salah says the number of cases of the coronavirus in the community led to the decision to have remote learning all week. He says the virus is a concern to all involved and there's no easy answer as to when to change to all online classes.

11/12/20

Various

Jason Scott

Detroit schools going all remote due to spike in coronavirus

A rise in Detroit's COVID-19 infection rate is pushing Detroit Public Schools to suspend in-person learning. Starting Monday, lasting through the New Year, the district's 50-thousand students will be taking online classes. Superintendent Dr. Nikolai Vitti says the infection rate in Detroit was nearly five-percent last week ... it's expected to hit six this weekend.

11/17/20

7:07am

Mike Campbell

School leaders resign

A conflict between the Farmington Superintendent of Schools and a school board member leads to the superintendent handing in his resignation last night. Board President Pam Green, who shortly after reading a statement also resigned, along with board member Terry Johnson. Superintendent Herrera says Angie Smith made comments in public and on social media, accusing him of being a racist -- a claim he denies. Herrera will continue as superintendent until Jan. 22, which is the end of first semester. Afterwards, he'll be in a consulting role until June 30, 2021, when his employment with the district will end. He'll receive a \$105,000 severance.

12/1/20

3:06pm

Amber McDonald

Tech hubs set up for DPS parents, students

A new way to help students while they learn from home. Detroit Public Schools, opening 13 technology support hubs across the city today. The goal is to keep students connected to their lessons, and help families use, repair, and replace their devices during the pause of in-person learning. DPS Spokesperson Chrystal Wilson says the superintendent is also working with the school board to extend free WI-FI through June. They're expected to discuss the issue at a meeting next Tuesday. The tech hubs are open Monday through Saturday, from 10 to 6. You can visit DPS' website to find a hub near you.

12/2/20

7:11am

Beth Fisher

Schools adjusting amid coronavirus

The coronavirus pandemic has meant a lot of changes for school districts in Michigan. The pandemic has caused many school districts to have some in person learning or go to all virtual learning. That's what the Hamtramck Public School district has done lead by Superintendent Jaleelah Hassan Ahmed. Ahmed says they're looking at online learning as an opportunity for kids to foster independence.

12/8/20

Various

Sandra McNeill

Big raise for Detroit schools boss

The Detroit School Board tonight will cast a vote -- on giving the district's Superintendent a raise. The proposal calls for giving Nikolai Vitti -- who makes over \$300-thousand dollars -- a raise similar to what was given to the teachers in October. It also asks for six weeks' vacation. Detroit Federal of Teachers President Terrance Martin says it's not the right time for this. Vitti's contract doesn't expire until 2022

12/28/20

4:10pm

Charlie Langton

Supreme Court ruling on non-public schools funding.

Supporters of public schools are considering more options after a Supreme Court opinion that allows non-public, or parochial, schools to receive state funds. The case started four years ago. More from WWJ Legal analyst Charlie Langton.

ENVIRONMENT/ENERGY

10/7/20

8:12pm

Jason Scott

Environmental activist diagnosed with cancer

A woman who was honored by the federal government for her environmental activism has been diagnosed with cancer. Sandy Wynn-Stelt has lived for more than 30 years across from a Kent County site where Wolverine Worldwide dumped PFAS-tainted sludge. Wynn-Stelt told WOOD-TV that her thyroid and lymph nodes were removed last week. PFAS is shorthand for a class of chemicals known as "forever chemicals" because they persist in the environment.

10/8/20

5:21pm

Ron Dewey

Boaters help keep invasive species out of lakes

To keep invasive species out of the waters, Oakland County hopes boaters will buy into the idea of cleaning off their vessels. A pair of mobile boat cleaning stations will be made available at boat launches. The county spends tens of thousands of dollars treating lakes for invasive plants and species.

10/12/20

4:22pm

Jason Scott

Fines levied after dock collapse

It's a fine of 60-thousand dollars and an order to install a new seawall along a portion of the Detroit River. The state of Michigan says the company Revere Dock has agreed to those terms following last year's dock collapse near Historic Fort Wayne. The site was the former location of Revere Copper and Brass Company. The collapse spilled dirt, asphalt, concrete and steel into the river.

10/24/20

6:13am

Newsroom

Drug Take Back Day

It's time to clean out your medicine cabinet. Today is "National Prescription Drug Take Back Day" and police are encouraging everyone in metro Detroit to safely dispose of their unused, unwanted and expired prescription medications. Unused prescription pills can fall into the wrong hands, and pills flushed down the toilet can cause environmental problems. You can drop off your unwanted prescriptions at any police station, including all 30 Michigan State Police posts.

11/5/20

7:06am

Beth Fisher

Proposal 1 passes

Voters in Michigan approved Proposal 1 which will protect the state's water, wildlife and parks. Michigan Environmental Council president and CEO Conan Smith says the proposal commits oil and gas royalties to protect our land, water sources and parks in perpetuity by lifting the cap on the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.

11/11/20

1:06pm

Jeff Gilbert

Auto industry and President elect Biden

President elect Joe Biden giving some hints on the direction he may take when it comes to dealing with the auto industry. Biden turning to many veterans of the Obama Administration, as he appoints members of his transition teams for the Environmental Protection Agency and Transportation Department. Many of those people were very involved in writing fuel economy rules that the Trump administration had been working to roll back. Carmakers have said that they are on a path to meet those standards...and say they will work with the new administration.

11/15/20

10:13am

Dan Jenkins

A warning from local leaders to those raking their leaves this weekend

As many people continued to enjoy fall colors across the area, the Macomb County Public Works Office has issued a few important environmental reminders. Homeowners and landscaping companies are urged to not dump leaves into any drains, including streams, rivers, ditches and sewers. Leaves and other debris – including grass clippings – can clog drains and increase the chance of flooding. Natural debris also causes algae problems which impacts water quality. All sewer grates should be cleared of leaves, litter and other debris.

12/7/20

3:35pm

Dan Jenkins

Lead contamination crisis in Flint

Officials say Flint is making progress toward resolving the lead contamination crisis that made the Michigan City a symbol of poor drinking water. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says Flint has used federal and state funds to replace nearly 10-thousand lead service lines, which carry water to homes. Fewer than 500 remain to be checked. Other completed steps include a study of corrosion control treatments and sampling of water from homes that still have lead service lines.

12/20/20

12:23pm

Newsroom

More electric vehicle fast-charging stations are coming to Michigan.

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy says more than 448-thousand dollars in grants have been awarded for six new charging locations and three expansions of previous projects. The sites are in Mount Pleasant, Kalamazoo, Shelby Township, Marlette, Grand Rapids, Owosso, Marshall, Indian River and Northville. They will be part of a network of direct current fast chargers the agency is partially funding as part of its Charge Up Michigan Program.

12/21/20

5:50pm

Dan Jenkins

Great Lakes funding approved as part of new US budget

Congress has approved a five-year extension of a program that deals with long-term environmental injuries to the Great Lakes. The U.S. Senate voted unanimously Sunday to continue the restoration initiative, months after it passed the House. President Donald Trump will have to sign the bill before it takes effect. Under the new measure, annual funding for the program will increase from 300-million dollars to 475-million by 2026. The program focuses on long-term problems, such as toxic pollution and invasive species.

HEALTH/MEDICINE

NOTE--With the coronavirus pandemic hitting Michigan and other states, WWJ Newsradio 950 had stories each day regarding the pandemic. These stories including clips of interviews with doctors, residents, political leaders and anyone who was dealing with the virus. Many messages included the symptoms of the virus along with ways to limit infections which includes wearing masks and social distancing.

NOTE-- From November 16th through December 30th, each weekday except for holidays, WWJ's Brooke Allen conducted an interview with various doctors as part of an Ask The Doctor segment that aired. These interviews focused on the coronavirus and ways to stop the spread. The interviews ranged in length from 4 to 10 minutes.

10/2/20

11:32am

Deanna Lites

President Trump has symptoms of coronavirus

President Donald Trump is said to be experiencing mild symptoms of COVID-19 after revealing that he and first lady Melania Trump tested positive for the coronavirus. It might sound concerning, but Dr. Trini Mathew of Beaumont Health says there's no reason to be alarmed just yet. The White House physician says the president is expected to continue carrying out his duties "without disruption" while recovering.

10/9/20

6:13am

Beth Fisher

World Mental Health Day

Saturday is World Mental Health Day and the superintendent of Great Lakes Learning Academy, Heather Ballein says with the coronavirus pandemic, they're seeing an increase in student stress levels. Ballein says they have teachers and counselors at the online academy trained to help with students' mental health, but she says parents should watch for irritability in their student or if they are withdrawn and may need help.

10/26/20

6:26pm

Beth Fisher

A push to get a mammogram

The head of THAW, the Heat and Warmth Fund, wants to remind women to get their mammograms since she was recently diagnosed with breast cancer. CEO and former Detroit city Councilwoman Saunteel Jenkins was diagnosed with stage three breast cancer. She's undergoing chemotherapy and may have surgery. She found a lump during a self exam, but had neglected to get a mammogram for a couple of years. cut Jenkins says she will beat this. its breast cancer awareness month.

11/2/20

6:07am

Beth Fisher

Coronavirus cases increasing in Michigan

More people are testing positive for the coronavirus in Michigan. Over the entire month of October there were more than 50-thousand new confirmed cases of the virus as the positivity rate increased to five-and-a-half percent. More than 17-hundred people are hospitalized. There have been 121-thousand people who have recovered from the virus since mid-March. We'll find out later today how many more outbreaks have been reported in schools.

11/10/20

6:05am

Jason Scott

New visitor restrictions at Beaumont Hospitals

New visitor restrictions are going in place at Beaumont Hospitals, as COVID-19 cases continue to surge. This includes Royal Oak, Troy, and Grosse Pointe locations. Visitation will be limited starting this morning. NO one will be allowed in patient rooms if the patient has a pending or positive COVID-19 test. Exceptions will be made for patients approaching the end of life, patients under 21 years old, women in labor, or for other extreme situations. For patients who do not have the virus, only one family member or friend may visit at a time under similar circumstances. Exceptions will only be made if the visitor screens negative for symptoms.

11/20/20

9:31am

Deanna Lites

Cases of coronavirus are skyrocketing

The state's top doctor says every region of the state is seeing alarming cases and positive test rates of COVID-19. The positivity rate had been in the single digits, but is now over ten percent.

12/1/20

3:05pm

Brooke Allen

COVID vaccines on the horizon

With a vaccine on the horizon, health leaders are sharing their expertise. We asked Beaumont Infectious Disease Dr. Matthew Sims whether the vaccine will cover different strains. He says similar to what happened with H1N1, once a vaccine is made, it will be easier to make more. Dr. Sims says new technologies are allowing a speedier process for making vaccines.

12/10/20

10:11am

Deanna Lites

Flu Vaccination Week

It's National Influenza Vaccination Week. Have you gotten a flu shot? It's not too late. Doctors are encouraging shots as they want to keep as many people as healthy especially with hospitalizations from the coronavirus.

12/29/20

6:10am

Deanna Lites

Helping to lose weight in the new year

The new year is just around the corner and with it are resolutions. If losing weight is your resolution, you can start to ease into it before the new year with a bit of cleaning. Here's WWJ health reporter Dr. Deanna Lites reports.

12/29/20

4:04pm

Deanna Lites

More concerns about COVID vaccinations

Nearly 71-thousand people in the state have been given their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. But many people are still concerned about possible side-effects like allergic reactions. WWJ health reporter Dr. Deanna Lites reports

LEADERSHIP/POLITICS/ELECTIONS

10/9/20

Various

Jon Hewett

More on plot to kidnap the Governor

The kidnapping threat to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer was so serious that authorities moved her family around as law enforcement tracked alleged kidnapping plotters. Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel joined "CBS This Morning" to talk about the case. Meantime, there are some renewed calls to ban guns in the state capitol after a plot to kidnap Governor Whitmer and storm the capitol building was foiled. State Senator Dayna Polehanki and another senator have introduced a bill to ban guns on the capitol grounds. Senate majority leader Mike Shirkey says that he's "having further conversations" with capitol commissioners about a potential gun ban, but indicated he doesn't think increased security measures could adequately protect against the kind of threat the FBI is alleging.

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NOTE--Throughout October and early November until Election Day, WWJ covered visits by President Trump, Vice President Pence, Democratic Presidential candidate Joe Biden and his running mate Kamala Harris. Each day between October 1st and Election Day there was a story about the campaign.

11/2/20

6:05am

Stephanie Raymond

New rules for Michigan restaurants

Get ready to give your name and phone number if you want to dine out in Michigan. Starting today, restaurants and bars are required to collect phone numbers from all diners to support COVID-19 contact tracing. The new rule also limits seating to six people per table and a maximum of 50 people inside a restaurant at once. Some people think the mandate is an invasion of privacy, while others say it makes little difference because we already give our phone number so frequently.

11/3/20

Various

Newsroom

Election Day

WWJ has a team of reporters out all day talking with voters and telling voters what is on the ballot. Along with President and US Senator, all Michigan U.S. Reps are up for election as are member of the Michigan House. Several local ballot proposals are under consideration.

11/4/20

Various

Newsroom

Winners and loser on election day

Ballots were still being counted in Wayne County as the president's race turns from a Trump lead to a Biden lead and ultimate victory. Oakland County's interim executive won a four year term. The new Prosecutor in Macomb County is state Senator Pete Lucido.

11/11/20

1:06pm

Jeff Gilbert

Auto industry and President elect Biden

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11/20/20

9:32am

Charlie Langton and Tim Skubick

Michigan GOP leaders going to White House

President Donald Trump calling Michigan's Republican legislative leaders to the White House for a meeting today. It comes amid a GOP push to overturn the certification of Democrat Joe Biden's victory in the state. The office of House Speaker Lee Chatfield is confirming to WWJ -- that he WILL BE at the White House today. As expected -- the governor has a strong reaction to today's White House meeting.

12/8/20

Various

Sandra McNeill

Big raise for Detroit schools superintendent

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12/9/20

4:33pm

Sandra McNeill

State rep threatened, FBI investigating

A state representative, facing discipline, after she posted a warning to Trump supporters on social media. Representative Cynthia Johnson has been removed from her committee assignments, after she took to Facebook last night in response to recent threats made to her on social media. She says the FBI and State Police have already found one caller who left a threatening voicemail. Johnson mentioned "soldiers", telling them to quote "make them pay".

12/21/20

5:50pm

Dan Jenkins

Great Lakes funding approved as part of new US budget

Congress has approved a five-year extension of a program that deals with long-term environmental injuries to the Great Lakes. The U.S. Senate voted unanimously Sunday to continue the restoration initiative, months after it passed the House. President Donald Trump will have to sign the bill before it takes effect. Under the new measure, annual funding for the program will increase from 300-million dollars to 475-million by 2026. The program focuses on long-term problems, such as toxic pollution and invasive species.

12/29/20

1:30pm

Brooke Allen

Governor signs legislation to help workers, businesses

Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer has signed legislation that will help small businesses and unemployed workers in Michigan. Live on WWJ, the Governor said the relief bill includes 55 million dollars to help small businesses who have been hurt by the coronavirus pandemic. The legislation also includes 45 million dollars in direct payments to workers who have been laid off or furloughed as a result of the pandemic.

12/29/20

4:30pm

Tom Jordan

Congressman pushes for more money for taxpayers

President Donald Trump has been pushing for more stimulus, Congress agreed and passed the Cash Act Monday. Now, it's up to the Senate. WWJ's Tom Jordan speaks with Michigan Congressman, Andy Levin, who helped pass the Cash Act.

12/29/20

6:03pm

Jason Scott

Stimulus checks going into accounts tonight

As the U.S. Senate is pressured to increase the amount of economic stimulus checks, the Treasury Secretary says some people may start seeing the 600-dollars in their accounts as early as tonight. Secretary Steve Mnuchin tweeted this evening that the U.S. Treasury has delivered a payment file to the federal reserve. The payments will start tonight and continue into next week. Mnuchin says paper checks will begin to be mailed tomorrow.

12/29/20

6:33pm

Jason Scott

Liquor licenses suspended

The state is cracking down on more Metro Detroit businesses that are still allowing customers to eat indoors. The Michigan Liquor Control Commission issued emergency suspensions of liquor licenses for Brooklyn's in Wyandotte, Plymouth ROC in Plymouth, Sahara Restaurant in Sterling Heights and Powell's Tavern in Ypsilanti. The businesses will be allowed to state their case during hearings tomorrow. The state says the businesses violated the current Health Department order on gatherings and face masks.

12/30/20

Various

Zach Clark

Dearborn Heights Mayor dies from COVID-19

The City of Dearborn Heights says Mayor Dan Paletko has lost his battle with COVID-19. Paletko died late last night from complications associated with the virus, according to a post on the city's Facebook.

HOMELAND SECURITY ISSUES

10/10/20

Various

Charlie Langton

Plot to kidnap Governor may lead to other violent acts

The arrest of a group of anti-government vigilantes in a kidnapping plot against Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer presents a new twist in the 2020 political fight for the battleground state. Experts warn other extremist groups could attempt violent acts in the months ahead.

10/12/20

7:11am

Newsroom

Cyber attack at Oakland County school

A system outage at Walled Lake Consolidated School District has been linked to a cyberattack. In an email sent to parents last night, Superintendent Kenneth Gutman confirmed the district's system was hacked... saying it's possible the attackers were able to obtain credential and other information. A team of cyber security experts are investigating the incident and authorities have been alerted. The hack has no impact on virtual learning, which will proceed as normal this morning.

10/29/20
10:10am
Terri Lee

Homeland Security agents arrest UM professor

A retired University of Michigan music professor has been indicted on child exploitation charges. The U.S. Attorney's office says 67-year old Stephen Shipps was arrested at his Ann Arbor home this morning. Investigators say Shipps, who retired last year, took a teenaged girl out of the state in 2002 to have sex with her. There could be more victims. Agents with the Homeland Security Investigations say Shipps worked for 20 years with the U of M School of Music, Theatre and Dance as a violin professor and worked with young musicians ranging from elementary school through high school age.

11/3/20
7:34am
Beth Fisher

Concern about violence on Election Day

Many businesses around the country are boarding up their windows and a fence has been erected around the White House, in anticipation of rioting over the outcome of the presidential election. WWJ's Beth Fisher spoke with a former assistant of Homeland Security, Retired Brigadier General Michael McDaniel, a former deputy assistant secretary for Homeland Defense says he's not expecting violence.

11/15/20
3:37pm
Dan Jenkins

Homeland Security push for Dreamers protection

The push by Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf to remove protections for so-called Dreamers suffered a setback in federal court. U.S. District Judge Nicholas Garaufis wrote yesterday that the DHS failed to follow an order of succession established when then-Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen resigned in April 2019.

12/3/20
7:23am
Stephanie Raymond

Bond reduced for domestic terrorists

Two of the 14 men charged in an alleged plot to kidnap the governor had their bond amounts reduced yesterday. Twin brothers Michael and William Null were in court yesterday where their attorney was arguing for immediate release. The judge at first denied a request to lower a 250-thousand dollar bond for the brothers, but then agreed to allow a 10 percent cash surety bond -- effectively lowering the bond amount to 25-thousand dollars. The brother are accused of acting as "lookouts" during surveillance of the governor's vacation home. Both are charged with providing material support for terrorist acts and felony firearm.

12/9/20
4:33pm
Sandra McNeill

State rep threatened, FBI investigating

A state representative, facing discipline, after she posted a warning to Trump supporters on social media. Representative Cynthia Johnson has been removed from her committee assignments, after she took to Facebook last night in response to recent threats made to her on social media. She says the FBI and State Police have already found one caller who left a threatening voicemail. Johnson mentioned "soldiers", telling them to quote "make them pay".

12/14/20

5:42am

Stephanie Raymond

Feds investigate government agencies breach

The F-B-I and Homeland Security are investigating what appears to be a large-scale penetration of government agencies. Hackers broke into the network of federal agencies - including the Treasury and Commerce departments. The attacks were disclosed less than a week after a National Security Agency advisory warned that Russian government hackers were exploiting vulnerabilities in a system used by the federal government which gave the hackers access to protected data.

12/25/20

5:22am

Stephanie Raymond

President pardons former Congressman who lobbied for terrorist group

Republican Congressman Fred Upton is not happy with one of President Donald Trump's pardon of former Michigan Congressan Mark Siljander. He pleaded guilty in 2010 to obstruction of justice and acting as an unregistered foreign agent. He served a year in federal prison and was accused of lobbying for an international terrorist group with ties to Osama Bin Laden, al-aida and the Taliban. Upton says he's beyond disappointed with the pardon..

LABOR/WORKFORCE ISSUES

10/6/20

4:05pm

Dan Jenkins

Detroit teachers have a new contract

A new contract for thousands of teachers and other workers in Michigan's largest school district. The Detroit Federation of Teachers announced its 43-hundred members have ratified a new one-year contract with Detroit Public Schools that includes a 15-hundred dollar bonus for all workers who are with the district in mid-November. First year teachers will start at a salary of 51-thousand dollars. The average teacher salary in the district will increase to 70-thousand dollars.

10/9/20

11:23am

Stephanie Raymond

Detroit Police job fair

This is a first for Detroit Police. The department is holding a drive-through recruitment fair to hire new patrol officers. Sergeant Starr Gonzales says some applicants will be driving away with job offers. Applicants who receive job offers will get a call within ONE WEEK to take a written and agility test before heading off to the police academy. Once hired, patrol officers have the chance to work within different units, such as homicide, special response, K-9 and even the mounted unit. It takes place tomorrow from 9 A-M until 2 P-M at D-P-D headquarters off Third Avenue and Howard Street.

10/29/20

8:31am

Murray Feldman

Michigan jobless claims increase

A jump in the number of people filing unemployment claims in Michigan. The U.S. Labor Department reports just over 16-thousand claims were filed in Michigan last week. That's more than double the number from the previous week when 73-hundred workers filed for unemployment help. Nationwide, 751-thousand people filed for benefits. That's the lowest number since March when the coronavirus pandemic started.

11/11/20

11:34am

Stephanie Raymond

Work from Home Success Group meeting

One of the largest human service agencies in metro Detroit, is launching a FREE four-week "Work from Home Success Group." The goal is to bring people together to share ideas and help others navigate the virtual office environment. Jason Charnas, Director of Career Services at J-V-S Human Services says the first session begins tomorrow. To register for the free program, go to J-V-S human services dot-org.

11/18/20

5:22pm

Amber McDonald

Unemployment numbers drop in Michigan

New numbers out today, showing Michigan's jobless rate dropped in October. Data from the state department of technology, management, and budget show the adjusted rate was 5.5 percent, the lowest it's been since March. But, unemployment continues to be above where it was in February, before the pandemic began. The sectors with the most job growth in October include professional and business services, trade, transportation and utilities, and leisure and hospitality.

11/21/20

12:12pm

Sandra McNeill

Zoom bullying is a thing, including racial threats

Employees may not be in the workplace -- but that doesn't mean there's no workplace bullying. In fact, C-E-O LeBaron Meyer of Not Me Solutions, says reports of workplace bullying are up this year by over 20-percent. Meyer runs the Not Me app, a forum for workers to report abuse on the job. Meyer says some of the bullying includes racist and sexist remarks on Zoom and Slack, but also things like leaving someone out of a virtual meeting out of revenge.

12/3/20

8:33am

Murray Feldman

Jobless claims drop in Michigan over past week

The number of Michigan residents who filed for unemployment claims last week dropped. The U.S. Labor Department says more than 21-thousand claims were filed last week. That's down 12-thousand from the week before when the number of jobless claims doubled. Over the entire United States, 712-thousand workers filed for benefits. That's a drop of about 75-thousand.

12/03/20

11:20am

Beth Fisher

Survey shows workers are working more

Are you putting in more hours at work during this pandemic? New research from Robert Half Staffing firm shows that 37-percent of remote employees in Detroit say they often work more than eight hours a day and 59-percent say they work on weekends. Robert Half Senior regional vice president Tricia Plovie says the longer hours are happening because of company furloughs and layoffs. She says take your vacation time, and reclaim your commute time to focus on yourself.

12/8/20

9:07am

Tim Skubick

Governor optimistic about benefits for unemployed

For the first time the governor says she is "hopeful" that Michigan's 600-thousand jobless workers will get an extension of their unemployment benefits before the end of the year. The Governor wants to extend benefits until the end of March.

12/14/20

1:07pm

Stephanie Raymond

Minimum wage will not go up this year

A wage increase that was supposed to take effect on January first will likely not happen as planned. Workers had been expecting 22 cent bump to bring the minimum wage up to \$9.87 an hour. However, Michigan law prohibits scheduled minimum wage increases when the state's annual unemployment rate for the preceding calendar year is above eight-point-five percent. While jobless numbers have been trending downward, the annual average from January through October currently sits at ten-point-two percent.

12/29/20

1:30pm

Brooke Allen

Governor signs legislation to help workers, businesses

Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer has signed legislation that will help small businesses and unemployed workers in Michigan. Live on WWJ, the Governor said the relief bill includes 55 million dollars to help small businesses who have been hurt by the coronavirus pandemic. The legislation also includes 45 million dollars in direct payments to workers who have been laid off or furloughed as a result of the pandemic.

RACE RELATIONS

10//6/20

11:34

Terri Lee

A plea from a former First Lady

Former First Lady Michelle Obama is making an emotional appeal to voters, in support of Joe Biden - who served as Vice President during the Obama administration. In an over 20 minute, "closing argument" released by the Biden-Harris campaign this morning {Tuesday}, the attorney and best-selling author said this election is a chance for a "fresh start." She criticized President Trump for what she portrayed as his spread of disinformation regarding the pandemic, racist

rhetoric amid protests against systemic injustice, and disrespect toward current and fallen members of the military and their families

10/10/20

3:51

Dan Jenkins

Yelp warns users about racist incidents at restaurants

Yelp has started warning users of the crowd-sourced business review website of alleged racist incidents at restaurants, shops and other establishments listed on the platform.

10/29/20

10:41pm

Ingrid Kelley

Racial threats during fight at Troy bowling alley

Troy Police responding to Bowl One on East Fourteen Mile Road Wednesday on reports that a large group of juveniles were starting fights with customers. Employees told the group they had to leave, at which point one of the males picked up a chair and threw it. The same male also approached a customer who told him he needed to put a mask on and punched him in the face. Police say the group also called employees and patrons "racists" and yelled "Black Lives Matter" while throwing water. The group left the bowling alley before police arrived. If you have any information on the incident contact police

11/2/20

1:35pm

Terri Lee

McDonalds hiring new diversity officer

McDonald's is hiring a new chief diversity officer as it struggles with charges of harassment and racism at all levels of the company. Reginald Miller will become the company's global chief diversity equity and inclusion officer next week. In January, two Black McDonald's executives sued the company, claiming McDonald's shifted advertising away from Black customers, graded Black-owned stores more harshly than white ones and implemented business plans that had a discriminatory impact on Black franchisees.

11/17/20

5:33am

Zach Clark

Claims of racism in school district

A conflict between the Farmington Superintendent of Schools and a school board member lead to the superintendent stepping aside Monday night. Dr. Robert Herrera says Angie Smith made comments in public and on social media, accusing him of being a racist -- a claim he denies.

11/18/20

1:05pm

Sandra McNeill

Groups upset with Board of Canvassers vote

Detroit's Mayor and the NAACP are blasting the two Republicans on the Wayne County Board of canvassers after they initially last night refused to certify the election results from Detroit, before changing course. NAACP President Wendall Anthony says it was a blatant attempt to suppress black votes.

11/21/20

12:12pm

Sandra McNeill

Zoom bullying is a thing, including racial threats

Employees may not be in the workplace -- but that doesn't mean there's no workplace bullying. In fact, C-E-O LeBaron Meyer of Not Me Solutions, says reports of workplace bullying are up this year by over 20-percent. Meyer runs the Not Me app, a forum for workers to report abuse on the job. Meyer says some of the bullying includes racist and sexists remarks on Zoom and Slack, but also things like leaving someone out of a virtual meeting out of revenge.

12/3/20

2:05

Sandra McNeill

Racial disparity task force recommendations

The Governor today said that preliminary findings show the state's efforts to reduce the racial disparity in the impact of COVID 19 have worked. Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist, who headed up the taskforce, says the efforts now need to turn to encouraging African Americans to the COVID vaccine once it comes out. A recent NAACP study showed that only 14 percent of those in the Black community trust that a vaccine will be safe.

12/8/20

7:13am

Stephanie Raymond

EMU student sues school for racial discrimination

An Eastern Michigan University graduate says she's suing the school for sexism and racial discrimination after a 65-year-old professor allegedly sent her a picture of genitals using his university email. Destinee Hayes says she emailed the professor seeking a letter of recommendation and received the unsolicited photo in response two months later. Hayes says she reported the incident to the school in August, and has received no response about an investigation. Attorneys are holding a conference later this morning. The university has not commented on the situation.

12/9/20

4:33pm

Sandra McNeill

State rep threatened, FBI investigating

A state representative, facing discipline, after she posted a warning to Trump supporters on social media. Representative Cynthia Johnson has been removed from her committee assignments, after she took to Facebook last night in response to recent threats made to her on social media. She says the FBI and State Police have already found one caller who left a threatening voicemail. Johnson mentioned "soldiers", telling them to quote "make them pay".

12/14/20

2:40pm

Dan Jenkins

Team changing name due to Native American name

The Cleveland Indians are changing their name. They just don't know to what or when. After months of discussions with a variety of groups, including Native Americans who have long protested against the team's use of a moniker and symbols that many deem racist, the American League team is dropping the name it has been known by since 1915. Owner Paul Dolan told the Associated Press in an interview today that the team will continue to be called Indians until a new name is chosen.

REGIONAL REVITALIZATION

10/3/20

10:10am

Mike Campbell

Habitat for Humanity build

Hammers will be pounding in Southfield today. Volunteers with Habitat for Humanity are holding a neighborhood repair and cleanup day in the South Evergreen Neighborhood. Work projects include repairing porches, installing fences, replacing cracked concrete and yard cleanups. The projects take place over 12 work sites, which allow for social distancing among the volunteers. Officials say the revitalization event will benefit 32 homeowners.

10/6/20

2:07pm

Jason Scott

Main Street business and pandemic

The coronavirus pandemic will force some downtowns in Oakland County and throughout the state to change. Main Street Oakland County members heard about ways to recover from the pandemic from Matthew Wagner, the Vice President of Revitalization Programs at the National Main Street Center. Wagner says companies should think about five things, Resolve, resilience, return, reimagination and reform.

10/6/20

4:07pm

Jason Scott

Grocery store opening in Pontiac

Efforts to open a new grocery store in Pontiac are moving forward ... despite a hang-up with the city. Local investment firm Rubicon Capital will soon open "Glenwood Market by Hollywood," it'll be alongside a marijuana grow facility and cultivation center. Despite the hiccup, Manni Farioulo with Rubicon Capitol says communication with the city is ongoing. He hopes to have the grocery store constructed before the winter.

10/20/20

10:04am

Jeff Gilbert

GM investing one billion dollars in plants

General Motors is expected to announce investments of more than one-billion dollars in plants across the United States. Bloomberg reports GM plans to build the first fully electric Cadillac -- a crossover sport utility vehicle named the Lyriq -- at a former Saturn plant in Spring Hill, Tennessee. The automaker also will move production of the Acadia SUV to a plant in Lansing. GM's plant in Lake Orion, where the Chevy Bolt is made, will also be making a larger version of the same vehicle starting next year.

11/16/20

Various

Jim Matthews

Northland Center property sold

The Southfield City Council, giving the go ahead to the sale of the majority of the former Northland Center. Contour Companies of Bloomfield Hills buying the property for just over \$11-million dollars with plans set for a mixed-use redevelopment that includes apartments, retail and restaurants, and office and green space. Contour plans to save the original five retail pads from the former mall... as well as the underground tunnels and Hudson's building.

11/30/20

4:33pm

Jason Scott

Ten million dollars to help small businesses

The state is out with a ten million dollar program to help some businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The Michigan Strategic Fund Board approved a new \$10-million dollar Pure Michigan Small Business Relief Initiative. Business owners could win grants of up to 15-thousand dollars. The money will come from the federal CARES Act. The focus of the grants will be on restaurants, bars, gyms, movie theaters and other businesses that were shutdown for months when the pandemic first started in the Spring.

12/9/20

6:13am

Stephanie Raymond

Archdiocese outlines plan for families

The Archdiocese of Detroit is set to reveal a new reorganization plan for area churches that will create what it calls "families of parishes." Archbishop Allen Vigneron will detail the new governance model this weekend. The Archdiocese says it's the most significant change to parish structures since the 1960s. The plan -- to be carried out over two years -- impacts more than 200 parishes in metro Detroit.

12/10/20

3:40pm

Vickie Thomas

Milestone at Hudson's building in Detroit

It is being called a milestone at the construction site at the old Hudson's store in Detroit, now known as "the Block." Concrete was poured at ground level -- which soon means they'll start work "above the street." Joe Guziewicz Vice President of Construction at Bedrock says the project is expected to be completed by the end of 2023.

12/23/20

9:05am

Beth Fisher

Help for Michigan businesses

COVID relief bills approved by federal and state legislators will help businesses in Michigan. That according to the president and CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Mark Burton, who says it's been a wild year with the pandemic. Burton says they helped more than 20-thousand businesses with several relief programs. He says he looks to move from relief into full economic recovery in early 2021.

12/29/20

5:20am

Stephanie Davis

Equity program in Detroit

The new year may bring mergers and some closures of organizations that are crucial to helping people in need during this pandemic. On a WWJ News Special tonight at seven o'clock, we focus on some organizations have struggled to pivot or change as a result of the pandemic and bringing equity to Detroit.

TRANSPORTATION/LOGISTICS

10/8/20

5:23pm

Vickie Thomas

Detroit parking system upgrade

A state-of-the-art experience is coming to Detroit's parking system. Pending City Council approval, touch-screen technology is coming to Detroit's 500 parking kiosks while 300 new kiosks will be installed. Keith Hutchings, director of Detroit's Municipal Parking Department, says when fully implemented with an upgraded mobile app, the "ParkDetroit" system to be the most sophisticated and advanced parking system in the world.

10/13/20

8:12am

Deanna Lites

Warning about scooters

A new warning from doctors: Be careful riding those electric scooters. Doctors at Henry Ford Health System say emergency room visits for e-scooter injuries have spiked in the last couple years. Most people suffer head and neck injuries, including concussions and fractures. Most e-scooter accidents involve cars and ground obstacles like curbs, poles and manhole covers.

10/18/20

8:07am

Sandra McNeill

Don't veer for deer

Oakland County Sheriff is out with its annual warning to drivers to watch out for deer. Sheriff Mike Bouchard says the deer are much more active in the fall, especially going into breeding season. Bouchard says a rule of thumb is that if you see one deer, there is likely more not far behind.

10/18/20

8:21am

Jeff Gilbert

Teen Safe Driving Week

Lots of work is being done to help reduce the number one threat to teenagers--traffic crashes. This is National Teen Safe Driving Week and technology can prevent crashes...drivers ed and graduated licenses also help. But communications is the key...says Mike Lopez, a driver assist senior engineer at Ford--and father of a teenager

10/29/20

Various

Jason Scott

I-75 project complete

In Oakland County, the majority of the Modernize-75 project is set to be complete. Rob Morosi is with the Michigan Department of Transportation and says over the last several months it's been a challenge to drive through and around the ongoing work ... but he knows Metro-Detroiters appreciate the time-and-effort of those behind the project.

11/3/20

7:34am

Newsroom

Delta Airlines plans flights to China

People wanting to fly from Detroit to Shanghai, China will be able to catch a direct flight starting December third. The Global Times says the non-stop service will also resume from Seattle to Shanghai at the same time. Currently, Delta flights to Shanghai are stopping in Seoul, South Korea.

11/11/20

10:03am

Jeff Gilbert

Feds investigate Cadillac SUVs

Federal investigators are looking into complaints that the rear suspensions on older Cadillac SUV's are failing and causing drivers to lose control of their vehicles. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration investigation covers about 345-thousand SUVs from 2010 through 2015. The agency says it has nine complaints from owners, including two that caused crashes. Three people were hurt.

11/21/20

3:13pm

Amber McDonald

Concern over new traffic cameras

The City of Detroit receiving some resistance over its plans to install 200 more traffic cameras at city intersections. There have been privacy and racial discrimination concerns, with some community members saying they want assurances that police will not misuse the technology to put more Black residents in jail. The plan is part of a pilot program to install more than 300 traffic cameras by October 2021.

12/3/20

4:22pm

Jason Scott

Traffic volumes picking up amid pandemic

Traffic volumes across Metro Detroit continue to inch back to pre-pandemic levels. Rob Morosi with MDOT calls that a good thing ... ahead of the anticipated winter snowfall. At last check, Morosi says traffic volumes across southeast Michigan have more than 80-percent returned to February levels.

12/7/20

5:07pm

Jason Scott

Snowplow plans in place as winter approaches

Plans are in place this winter to keep the roads plowed, even if a COVID-19 outbreak causes staffing shortages at the Michigan Department of Transportation. Rob Morosi is spokesperson for MDOT's southeast region and says while cleaning and sterilization is ongoing at each garage, Morosi assures us that MDOT's salt supply is fully stocked and the pandemic has not caused shortages.

12/30/20
2:22pm
Dan Jenkins

Ruling on speed limit on rural road

A long-running dispute over a speed limit is over after Michigan's highest court sided with the driver and threw out evidence of drunk driving. The Supreme Court says it will let an appeals court decision stand in favor of the driver. Anthony Owen was accused of drunk driving in Ionia County in 2015. A sheriff's deputy said the stop was justified because Owen was traveling at 43 mph in a 25 mph zone. Owen's attorney successfully argued that because there was no sign, the speed limit was 55 mph by default.

WWJ COMMUNITY OURTEACH EVENTS

10/21/20
6:04pm

Schools and the coronavirus

WWJ's Jackie Paige and Jason Scott host a WWJ News Special focused on schools and the coronavirus. Superintendents Robert Shaner from Rochester Community Schools and Mark Greathead, Supt at Woodhaven Brownstown Schools, talk about what parents can do to help their students succeed.

Ask the Doctor

From November 16th through December 30th, each weekday except for holidays, WWJ's Brooke Allen conducted an interview with various doctors as part of an Ask The Doctor segment that aired. These interviews focused on the coronavirus and ways to stop the spread. The interviews ranged in length from 4 to 10 minutes.

12/29/20
7:04pm

Neighborhoods Rising

We will air a WWJ News special Neighborhoods Rising focused on what non-profits and community groups doing to stay relevant during the pandemic. Plus social justice and creating equity in the city. WWJ's Stephanie Davis hosts.

WWJ REGULARLY SCHEDULED FEATURES

DIFFERENCE MAKER

10/1/20

Melissa Greer

Making a difference, with research and care for those living with inflammatory bowel disease

10/8/20

Kyle Prue

Making a difference, by sparking literacy in kids of all ages

10/15/20

Lexis Nousoff

Making a difference by helping people with disabilities achieve the highest quality of life

10/22/20

Gwenivere Coles

Making a difference, touching people's lives one career at a time

10/29/20

Nicolas Kristock

Making a difference, one fleece and thank you at a time for kids in Michigan hospitals before and during the pandemic

11/5/20

Steven Kalczynski

Making a difference, with pristine cleanliness and hospitality during the pandemic

11/12/20

Cindy Eggleton

Making a difference, by creating one brilliant neighborhood at a time for kids in Detroit

11/19/20

Noeful Akash

Making a difference, by stepping up to play a big part in the community during the pandemic

11/26/20

Bill Birndorf

Making a difference, by giving hope to families in need during the pandemic

11/20/20

Curt Lawson and his team

Making a difference, with a badge and a Christmas tree for a family in West Bloomfield

12/17/20

Christopher Swanson

Making a difference, one step at a time for social justice and those in need as the holidays approach

12/24/20

Fredi Bello

Making a difference by raising awareness for autism, even during the holidays

12/31/20

Frontline workers, teachers and restaurant owners

Making a difference by offering hope during the pandemic and into the New Year

YOUR EYE ON HEALTH

10/1/20

Alcohol

A report finds alcohol use is up since the pandemic.

10/2/20

Flu shots

A national poll looks at parents views on getting their kids vaccinated against the flu.

10/5/20

Mammograms

It's Breast Cancer Awareness month. A doctor explains the importance of a mammogram and when to get one

10/6/20

Flu shots

To avoid a twindemic of COVID-19 and the flu, the CDC recommends everyone six months of age and older get a flu shot

10/7/20

Cancer screenings

A survey looks at how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected cancer screenings

10/8/20

Weighted blankets

A report finds weighted blankets may help with insomnia

10/9/20

Heart disease

A survey looks at heart disease and women

10/12/20

Music therapy

How music can help young patients manage pain

10/13/20

Clinical trials

A survey looks at how Americans feel about clinical trials for cancer

10/14/20

Depression

An on-line depression screening test and available resources to help residents

10/15/20

E-scooters

A new report looks at head and neck injuries in the emergency room from electric scooters

10/16/20

COVID-19

State health officials say cases and hospitalizations are on the rise from the virus and recommend steps to slow the spread of the virus

10/19/20

Mammograms

Why you shouldn't let the pandemic stop you from getting a mammogram

10/20/20

Medication

A recent poll finds many older adults are not having their medications reviewed by a pharmacist even when it's a free service

10/21/20

Autism

A report finds signs of autism may be present in infancy

10/22/20

COVID-19 survey

A survey looks at how Americans are handling the pandemic

10/23/20

Choosing a doctor

Some advice when it comes to picking a healthcare provider

10/26/20

Mask up America

A campaign from an infectious disease organization

10/27/20

Halloween

How to enjoy the holiday during a pandemic

10/28/20

COVID-19

The state health department is concerned as cases, hospitalizations and deaths are on the rise

10/29/20

Flu shot

Health experts urge you to get a flu shot to avoid a twindemic of flu and COVID-19

10/30/20.

COVID-19 & flu shots

The flu shot may offer protection from COVID-19

11/2/20

Voting

The state health department offers advice for voting during a pandemic

11/3/20

COVID-19 vaccine

A personal injury offers some advice if you're thinking of volunteering for a COVID-19 vaccine trial

11/4/20

Vitamin D and COVID-19

Is there a link between low vitamin D and worse COVID-19 symptoms?

11/5/20

Thanksgiving

Should your college student be tested for COVID-19 before coming home for thanksgiving?

11/6/20

COVID-19 Vaccine

Health officials talk about when a vaccine may be available.

11/9/20

COVID-19

A concern hospitals have as cases of COVID-19 ramp up across the state

11/10/20

COVID-19

State health department recommends working from home as cases climb

11/11/20

Dementia

An increase in dementia deaths in Michigan during the pandemic not related to COVID-19 according to the CDC

11/12/20

COVID-19 Survivor

A local man urges everyone to wear a mask after he is still receiving from the effects of COVID-19

11/13/20

Osteoporosis

More men may have the bone condition than are being diagnosed

11/16/20

Marijuana

Experts say it's important for doctors and patients to discuss marijuana use during a check-up

11/17/20

Vaccine Trial

Volunteers wanted for a COVID-19 vaccine trial. Beaumont hospital is looking for volunteers to be part of a COVID-19 vaccine trial

11/18/20

COVID-19 vaccine volunteer

A local woman explains why she volunteered for the study

11/19/20

COVID-19 - Flu test

A first of its kind test that can look for both viruses

11/20/20

Measles

There's a pandemic and its flu season. Now some health experts say a measles outbreak may be just around the corner

11/23/20

Thanksgiving

A warning from the state health department about gathering with family and friends at Thanksgiving

11/24/20

Thanksgiving

A national poll finds many parents are putting tradition over health safety by planning to gather for Thanksgiving

11/25/20

Thanksgiving

Some healthier side options just by swapping or adding an ingredient

11/26/20

Vaccine poll

A national poll asks seniors if they'll get the COVID-19 vaccine

11/27/20.

COVID-19

Screening for the virus is now required before cornea transplant surgery

11/30/20

Stroke

Younger people are having strokes, but many don't know common symptoms of the condition

12/1/20

Smoking

Why the COVID-19 pandemic is a perfect time to kick the habit

12/2/20

Thanksgiving and COVID-19

Advice from the state health department if you traveled or gathered over the holiday

12/3/20

COVID-19 vaccine

Who will be offered the vaccine first in the state once it becomes available?

12/7/20

COVID-19 vaccine

Surveys show not all Americans are ready to step up and get a shot in the arm

12/8/20

COVID-19 vaccine

Preparations are underway at hospitals and health departments to distribute the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available

12/9/20

COVID-19 vaccine volunteer

A local man talks about volunteering for the vaccine

12/10/20

COVID-19 quarantine guidelines

The CDC changes the number of days for quarantine

12/11/20

Flu shots

It's National Influenza Vaccination Week. A reminder that it's not too late to get a flu shot

12/14/20

COVID-19 vaccine

State health officials discuss vaccine distribution

12/15/20

Dry hands

Winter weather, frequent hand washing and the use of sanitizer is leaving a lot of people with dry, cracked hands

12/16/20

Emergency care

A new poll looks at why some older adults are delaying care

12/17/20

COVID-19 vaccine

How the vaccine will be distributed in the state

12/21/20

COVID-19 Vaccine

Do people who had COVID-19 still need to get the vaccine?

12/22/20

Weight gain and kids

During the pandemic there's been an uptick in weight gain in kids

12/23/20

COVID-19 vaccine

Why many people need to get the vaccine in order to stop the spread of the virus

12/24/20

Health concerns for kids

A new poll looks at parent's health concerns for kids during the pandemic

12/25/20

COVID-19 vaccines

Vaccinations for those in nursing homes and long term care facilities

12/28/20

COVID-19

A new strain of the virus is spreading throughout the world

12/29/20

Eye surgery

The pandemic is leading some people to toss their glasses and have eye surgery

MADE IN MICHIGAN

10/7/20

Detroit Sewn

Pontiac Company is bringing clothes production back to the U.S. and making masks during the pandemic.

10/14/20

Fam's Printing

Local print shop has locations in Romeo and Birmingham, helping local residents to design their own clothes like putting their faces on a bathrobe.

10/21/20

Blake's

Local cider company grows during the pandemic by extending sales of hard cider outstate.

10/28/20

The Toffee Store

Local woman was on unemployment and decided to make toffee. She failed her way to a successful recipe.

11/4/20

Gaddis Gaming

Detroit man makes and sells games that honor forgotten African American war heroes from World War 1.

11/11/20

1701 Bespoke

Local company makes Bespoke suits and is now branching out into ready-to-wear shirts made at its new location in Detroit.

11/18/20

Cinful Snacks

An auto engineer comes up with a snack made out of his cheesecake crust recipe.

11/25/20

Detroit Distillery

Detroit whiskey revives its collaboration with Bees In The Dee for honey inspired liquor and bourbon flavored honey.

12/2/20

Two Dogs Hot Sauce

A local man begins making hot sauce after having a stroke and finding out hot peppers are good for his blood vessels.

12/9/20

The Village Fine Art Gallery

40 local artists take part in seasonal holiday market at the Village of Rochester Hills mall.

12/16/20

National Council of Jewish Women Michigan

Charity group sells jars of Broken Jewelry to raise money to help the needy. It is used to make crafts.

12/23/20

Nurses Helping Nurses

A local woman starts a website selling gifts for nurses, with programs going to help those in the healthcare professions.

12/30/20

Johnny's Treasure Quest

Local man sells chocolates made in Romeo with winning silver tickets for an up north treasure hunt.

BLACK BUSINESS MINUTE

10/5/20

Black Business Minute featuring Det Pottery

Michelle Dinwiddie Segue of Det Pottery venturing out on her own after her pottery club was disbanded due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

10/9/20

Black Business Minute featuring Develop Detroit

After steering Detroit through bankruptcy, Sonya Mays went to work to Develop Detroit neighborhoods with intentionality.

10/12/20

Black Business Minute featuring Black Folk Apparel

One online business owner seeing a jump in sales as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

10/16/20

Black Business Minute featuring Avanath Capital

One native Detroiter who moved to the west coast is coming back to the city to build affordable housing in neighborhoods.

10/19/20

Black Business Minute featuring Paisley Paper Co

One online retailer had an unanticipated boost in sales as a result of COVID-19 and struggled to keep up.

10/23/20

Black Business Minute featuring Smokey G's Smokehouse

A pit master opens up a new smokehouse restaurant along Detroit's East riverfront during the pandemic and is offering discounts to workers on the frontline.

10/26/20

Black Business Minute featuring The Bean Brothers Coffee

A local man leaves his job in July to follow his passion by opening an online cafe specializing in premium coffee from Africa.

10/30/20

Black Business Minute featuring Ilera Apothecary

A local entrepreneur celebrates 5 years in business and credits the community with keeping her natural and plant based skincare line of products going through the pandemic.

11/2/20

Black Business Minute featuring Native Detroiter

A Ferndale branded merchandising business owner sets up shop only to be forced to close about 2 months after opening due to the pandemic.

11/6/20

Black Business Minute featuring Lanette's Shrimp House

A local attorney opens up a restaurant naming it in honor of his late wife with a commitment to social responsibility

11/9/20

Black Business Minute featuring Muse Cosmetics

A former nurse follows her dream of getting into the cosmetics industry and sees a major jump in sales as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

11/13/20

Black Business Minute featuring Central Kitchen Restaurant

A former nurse follows her dream of getting into the cosmetics industry and sees a major jump in sales as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

11/16/20

Black Business Minute featuring iBartend Shake and Sip

A pandemic inspired business has you serving up your own cocktails in Downtown Detroit with COVID19 protocols in place.

11/20/20

Black Business Minute featuring Designer Tracy Reese.

Famed Detroit designer Tracy Reese who has dressed the likes of Michelle Obama and Oprah focuses on creating a fashion hub in Motown.

11/23/20

Black Business Minute featuring Sleeping Beauty Mobile

A mobile massage and spa business picking up a lot of traction as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic as people opt to stay home.

11/27/20

Black Business Minute featuring East Eats Restaurant

Three partners launch a domed dining experience in Detroit developed out of the Coronavirus pandemic.

11/30/20

Black Business Minute featuring Detroit Dream

L A's loss is Detroit's gain as a community investment company focuses on social equity and responsibility in redeveloping city neighborhoods.

12/4/20

Black Business Minute featuring Backstitch

A local businesswoman turning her passion of sewing into profit.

12/7/20

Black Business Minute featuring Good Times on the Avenue Restaurant

The owners of a Detroit restaurant doing whatever it takes to keep customers coming including pumping \$20,000 into creating heated outdoor dining.

12/11/20

Black Business Minute featuring Huron Wholesale

A serial entrepreneur breaking new ground in the commercial wholesale construction supply industry and bringing other African-Americans along.

12/14/20

Black Business Minute featuring Bath Savvy Naturals

One local business pivoting to online sales and makes it into a Meijer store as more people practice self-care at home.

12/18/20

Black Business Minute featuring COVID Busters

A Detroit business doing battle with the coronavirus and focuses in on wiping out COVID-19 at senior living facilities in the city.

12/21/20

Black Business Minute featuring Filthy Americans Arts and Cultural Preservation Center in Detroit

A Grammy nominated music producer opens Filthy Americans Arts and Cultural Center in Detroit during the pandemic.

12/25/20

Black Business Minute featuring Joy Jem Community Development Corporation

A local developer following in his father's footsteps to make a difference in underserved communities.

12/28/20

Black Business Minute featuring Reverie Detroit

A local teen working to have a positive impact on his peers through his new online clothing brand.

CAR CHRONICLES

10/1/20

Aging baby boomers are better drivers than their parents were at the same age. We discuss it with Insurance Institute for Highway Safety President David Harkey.

10/2/20

We test drive the BMW X-3

10/5/20

Nissan rolls out a new version of its Rogue mid-size SUV. We discuss with marketing exec Nick Reese.

10/6/20

Hyundai is having success with its "Smart Park" feature. We hear about it from Hyundai's Chief Safety Officer Brian LaTouf.

10/7/20

There are lots of ways to personalize Ford's new Bronco. Paul Nagida is in charge of that personalization.

10/8/20

The United Auto Workers Union is closely watching the impact of electric vehicles on plant jobs. We talk about it with UAW Vice President Gerald Karim.

10/9/20

We test drive the Nissan Rogue

10/12/20

Is Canada about to become a big center for electric vehicle production? Carleton University Business Professor Ian Lee says that's a major priority of the Canadian government.

10/13/20

Hyundai's luxury Genesis brand has some big plans. We hear about them from Genesis CEO Mark Del Rosso.

10/14/20

Volkswagen unveils the new Taos small crossover. VW of America CEO Scott Keoh explains how the vehicle fits into the brand's lineup.

10/15/20

The automotive recovery gets tougher from here. Greg Daco, chief economist for Oxford Economics, says most of the easy gains have already been made.

10/16/20

We rate the best vehicles of 2020.

10/19/20

SUV's now make up more than half of all vehicle sales. IHS Markit Analyst Tom Libby breaks things down for us.

10/20/20

Why is GM bringing back the Hummer name? We discuss it with analyst Karl Brauer of sidecars.com.

10/21/20

Ford decides to use the Escape as its automated vehicle. We talk to Ford Automated Vehicle Director John Davis.

10/22/20

GM's new Hummer EV is off to a good start. GMC marketing chief Phil Brooks shows that the Hummer name still resonates with people.

10/23/20

We test drive the Cadillac Escalade

10/26/20

Auto plants are pumping out vehicles at full capacity. Conway McKenzie Managing Partner Fred Heubacher says the restart has been "nothing short of phenomenal"

10/27/20

Ford getting down to precision work in the restoration of the Michigan Central Station. Bob Renella of Computer Aided Technology is helping remanufacture some of the pieces that are needed.

10/28/20

Fiat Chrysler has some important Jeep launches. CEO Mike Manley says the plans will not be delayed by the pandemic.

10/29/20

Ford is preparing to unveil the electric version of its transit van. Marketing Manager Yaro Hepman says they have plans to sell a lot of these vehicles

10/30/20

We test drive the Land Rover Defender

11/3/20

Fiat Chrysler CEO Mike Manley sees a lot of potential for automated commercial vehicles. His company is working with Waymo to put automation equipment in delivery vans.

11/4/20

Will sales pick up after the election? Edmunds analyst Jessica Caldwell says the more important question is whether we will get a new stimulus plan.

11/5/20

Ford plans to deliver the first Mustang Mach E by the end of the year. CEO Jim Farley says the vehicle will compete on its own merits against gasoline powered vehicles.

11/6/20

We test drive the Acura TLX

11/9/20

Could good news on a vaccine be good news for the auto industry? Cox Automotive economist Charlie Chessborough says anything that helps the economy helps vehicle sales.

11/10/20

Hyundai plans to do more vehicle production in the U.S. CEO Jose Munoz says they employ 100 thousand people in America, and plan to grow that number long term.

11/11/20

We talk with Bronco Sport marketing manager Jovina Young about her experience driving in the Rebelle Rally, an all-woman off road competition.

11/12/20

Ford wants to electrify the commercial vehicle business. Ted Cannis, who heads Ford's commercial vehicle business says their new electric Transit van will cut the cost of ownership by 40 percent.

11/13/20

We test drive the Chevy Tahoe.

11/16/20

It looks like the merger between Fiat Chrysler and PSA is on track. PSA CEO Carlos Tavares says they are only looking for a few more approvals.

11/17/20

Fiat Chrysler puts a V-8 in the Wrangler, and unveils the 470 horsepower Rubicon 392. Propulsion chief Mickey Bly says there's customer demand.

11/18/20

Onstar looks to reinvent the auto insurance business. We get the details from Onstar Insurance President Andrew Rose.

11/19/20

We run down Consumer Reports most reliable vehicles list with Jake Fisher, who heads the publication's auto testing unit.

11/20/20

We test drive the Ford F-150.

11/23/20

GM is rethinking the sales experience as they move to electric vehicles. Chief EV Officer Travis Hester talks about how things may be changing.

11/24/20

What will carmakers do about fuel economy with a different administration coming into office? We discuss with Sam Abuelsamid, who's an analyst with Guidehouse Insights.

11/25/20

Ford is ready to ship the first Mustang Mach E to customers by the end of the year. We talk about the vehicle with Ford's product development VP Hau Thai Tang.

11/26/20

Reinventing the concept of hazard warning systems on vehicles. We talk with Steven Powers who is founder of Emergency Safety Solutions.

11/27/20

We test drive the Maserati Quattroporte

11/30/20

On "cyber-Monday" we look at the evolution of online car sales. AutoTrader editor Brian Moody says the pandemic has changed everything.

12/1/20

Lots of speculation that carmakers could close the year on a strong note. We discuss with Jessica Caldwell of edmunds.com.

12/2/20

Carmakers look to the incoming administration for help in making electric vehicles competitive. LMC Automotive's Jeff Schuster says infrastructure and tax credits are high on the agenda.

12/3/20

The pandemic has changed the auto industry a lot. Toyota Vice President Bob Carter says customers in their 30's are buying their first vehicle, because they had been using public transportation.

12/4/20

We test drive the Ram 1500 TRX

12/7/20

Ford is learning a lot from delivering fresh food to families in Miami. We talk with Navin Kumar, who heads the business efforts of Ford's automated vehicle program.

12/8/20

There's a new off road "Tremor" package for the F-150. We hear about it from F-150 consumer marketing manager Travis Calhoun.

12/9/20

GM begins cold weather testing of the new GMC Hummer Pickup. We talk with project engineering manager Courtney Lindwurm.

12/10/20

Online sales are here to stay. JD Power Vice President Chris Sutton says that's a takeaway from their Sales Satisfaction Index.

12/11/20

We test drive the Ford Bronco Sport.

12/14/20

The UAW has a deal with the U.S. Attorney. We talk about the implications with Art Wheaton, who studies labor at Cornell University.

12/15/20

Carmakers want to work with the incoming Biden Administration. We talk with John Bozella, CEO of the Alliance for Automotive Innovation.

12/18/20

We test drive the Ford Mustang Mach E

12/21/20

Fiat Chrysler is almost ready to open its plant on Detroit's East Side. FCA exec Ron Stallworth talks about how the company plans to engage with the community.

12/22/20

Apple is once again showing interest in developing a car. LMC Automotive analyst Jeff Schuster says if Apple does bring a vehicle to market, expect a lot of things to be different.

12/23/20

We are spending more than ever for new vehicles. Tyson Jominy of JD Power explains why the average transaction price keeps going up.

12/24/20

The auto industry will be a big part of next month's virtual CES show. We talk about it with Consumer Technology Association President Gary Shapiro.

12/25/20

We test drive the Toyota Sienna

12/28/20

What impact did OJ Simpson have on the Ford Bronco? We talk with Ford archivist Ted Ryan.

12/29/20

Hyundai's luxury Genesis brand is expecting a big year in 2021. We hear from Mark DelRosso, who's Genesis CEO.

12/30/20

Toyota plans 25 new vehicles in the next 16 months. Vice President Bob Carter says they still believe passenger cars can be profitable, even if they are only twenty percent of the market.

12/31/20

Vertical Integration is back, as carmakers build more of their own components. Tesla CEO Elon Musk says it's important to own your technology.