

QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

FOR

WWJ NEWSRADIO 950

SECOND QUARTER, 2013

April 1st through June 30th, 2013

WWJ NEWSRADIO 950
ISSUES OF CONCERNS TO METRO DETROITERS
ADDRESSED IN RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMING IN THE
SECOND QUARTER 2013
April 1st - June 30th, 2013

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**

Made in Michigan

This program airs Wednesdays at 9:52am, 2:52pm and 8:52pm; Saturdays at 4:52am, 9:52am and 4:53pm. Each report runs one minute in length. Marie Osborne profiles companies who make products people can buy while trying to emphasize the jobs and business success each company has. (See topics attached)

Difference Maker in the Community

This program airs the last Monday of each month. WWJ profiles someone in the community who has made a difference to benefit others. These people have inspired positive change and made an impact in the community. Feature airs at 6:40am, 8:40am, 10:40am, 12:40pm and 3:40pm. (See topics attached)

What's Hot around Town?

This program airs Thursday and Friday 10:23am, 2:23pm, 4:53pm, 7:53pm, 10:43pm; 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.

Making the Grade

This program airs Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:53am, 2:53pm and 8:53pm; Sunday at 9:52am, 1:52pm, 4:52pm and 10:21pm. Each report runs one minute in length. Greg Bowman highlights innovations, achievements and interesting stories from the classroom, featuring students, teachers and administrators. (See topics attached)

Automotive Insight

This program airs Monday-Friday at 5:53am, 6:53am, 7:53am 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

This program airs Monday-Friday at 12:53pm, 3:53pm, 5:53pm and 6:53pm. 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

This program airs Monday-Friday at 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.

Staying in Touch

This program airs Saturday at 6:23am, 9:43am, 11:23am, 12:53pm and 9:53pm. Each report runs one minute. Ron Dewey highlights special events going on in the Southeast Michigan region. (See topics attached)

Caregivers Resource Guide

This program airs Mondays and Fridays at 9:52 am, 2:52 pm and 8:51 pm. Each report runs one minute. Pat Sweeting reports on issues about preparing or answering the need of a parent facing a health concern, undergoing changes in their economic situation, or who are dealing with a prolonged illness or death. (See topics attached)

News Stories Addressing Community Issues

PUBLIC SAFETY/LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

4/1/13

2:03 pm

Marie Osborne

New MSP Officers Hit the Roads

Michigan State Police with dozens of new troopers on the roads today across the state. More from WWJ's Marie Osborne.

4/1/13

4:34 pm

Jon Hewett

Romulus Corruption Probe Continues

After an unsettling week in which their Mayor found himself in the midst of a corruption investigation -- the City of Romulus gets back to business tonight under a cloud of controversy.

4/6/13

2:31 pm

Violet Ikonomova

Michigan National Guardsman Arrest

Police say a Michigan National Guardsman is caught in the act of a surprising crime -- breaking into a home. 32-year-old Christopher Murphy of Holly Township is charged with attempted home invasion.

4/9/13

7:34 pm

Jon Hewett

Criminal Charges for Canton Police Officer

A 24 year veteran of the Canton Public Safety Department is arraigned on criminal charges in connection with a weapon taken from the police department.

4/21/13

4:12 pm

Stephanie Garrette

Search for New Detroit Police Chief

There has been much speculation this week over who will be the next police chief. A few names surfaced including current and respected Detroit Deputy Police Chief, James Tolbert and Detroit native, Cincinnati Police Chief James Craig, who appears to be a front runner.

5/2/13

9:03 am

Pat Vitale

Triple Shooting in Detroit

On Detroit's east side – police are looking for the gunman who opened fired on 3 people. This happened in the 37-hundred block of Devonshire near Outer Drive and Mack. These victims were taken to the hospital -- their conditions NOT yet known.

5/2/13

3:06 pm

Zahra Huber

Dearborn Court Evacuation

The 19th District Court in Dearborn was briefly evacuated this afternoon because of a bomb threat. Police say a bomb squad was called to the scene -- after someone called in the threat to the 9-1-1 dispatch center. A dog with the bomb squad cleared the building. Police say everything is back to normal at the courthouse.

5/9/13

5:07 am

Jon Hewett

Westland Fatal Fire

He's being remembered as a loving husband, a great father -- and a neighbor who was always ready to help. 29-year-old Westland firefighter Brian Woehlke killed on the job yesterday. His body was found inside of the Electric Stick billiard hall -- after he had gone missing when the roof collapsed during a large fire.

5/14/13

8:10 pm

Greg Bowman

James Craig New Detroit Police Chief

Detroit's new top cop won't have to spend much time getting to know the city. James Craig is leaving Cincinnati to take over as police chief in his home town of Detroit. Board of Police Commissioners Chairman Jerome Warfield says Craig is an excellent choice for the job.

5/16/13

3:05pm

Newsroom

FBI Investigate Adrian Man for Child Pornography

An extremely disturbing case involving a cross-dressing Adrian man is being investigated by the FBI. Agents discovered at least one-thousand child porn images -- as well as images of what appears to be a dead infant. The images were discovered after a child found a thumb drive on the ground of a park in the town of Onsted, Michigan. It was turned over to police who traced it to an Adrian man.

6/4/13

4:21 pm

Rob Mason

MSP Partner with Inkster Police

The Michigan State Police and the City of Inkster have started a partnership to assist Inkster Police in a time when the city has seen an increase in crime and a decrease in patrol officers.

6/5/13

11:43 am

Ron Dewey

State to Fund Rape Kit Testing

The state Attorney general's office is providing \$4 million dollars to be used toward processing thousands of rape kits that were discovered in an abandoned Detroit police storage room in 2009.

6/17/13

11:30 am

Rob Blank

Montreal Mayor Corruption Bust

Montreal's new mayor, who pledged to stamp out corruption at City Hall when he took office late last year, was arrested by Quebec's anti-corruption police squad on Monday.

6/18/13

Brian Larsen

3:32 pm

Judge Declares Mistrial in Aiyana Jones Case

The judge has declared a mistrial in the case of the Detroit Police officer accused of shooting a 7-year-old girl to death during a police raid.

6/20/13

10:05 am

Newsroom

Fire Department Merger

The Dearborn and Melvindale fire departments will be merging this fall. Melvindale City Council members voted last night in favor of the merger. Dearborn leaders have already approved the move which will take effect September 1st. Dearborn will run the department, but Melvindale firefighters will keep their jobs. The merger is expected to save Melvindale 500-thousand dollars in the first year.

EDUCATION ISSUES

4/10/13

10:07 am

Rob Sanford Reports

MEAP Replacement

Michigan and about 2 dozen other states are working to develop a test that would replace the MEAP by the 2014-2015 school years. It's called the Smarter Balanced Assessment...an on-line test that would measure academic growth through a series of questions. The pilot project will be used in grades 3 thru 11 and will involve English language, arts/literacy and math. The tests will run from April 15th thru the 26th.

4/13/13

2:04 pm

Tim Skubick reports

Lawmakers Propose Changes to Graduation Requirements

Michigan lawmakers are seeking to change the state's high school graduation requirements to make it easier for students to pursue career and technical education programs.

4/23/13

12:10 pm

Scott Ryan reports

Williamston HS Students Attend White House Science Fair

President Barack Obama is getting a briefing from two Lansing-area teenagers about their new technology for warning swimmers about dangerous off-shore currents. Nineteen-year-old Spencer Ottarson and 17-year-old Julie Xu [ZHU] represented Williamston High School as one of 12 teams presenting their science projects at the White House's third science fair.

4/24/13

11:54 am

Ron Dewey reports

Preschool Not Prison

Oakland County Homeland Security Manager Ted Quisenberry says society reaps dividends by spending more money in early childhood education and less the criminal justice system. Area law enforcement is backing the governor's \$65 million dollar plan to provide early childhood education programs for more Michigan children.

4/28/13

6:42 am

Tim Skubick reports

State Level DREAM Act

A group of State House Democrats in Lansing have unveiled a package of bills they say will bring more fairness to the treatment of undocumented people in Michigan. Among other things, it creates what they call a "state-level DREAM Act" which would allow for undocumented students to pay IN-STATE college tuition.

5/1/13

3:42 pm

Greg Bowman reports

STEAM Education Plan at Detroit Prep School

When it comes to education, you've got to have art. That's the goal at a new University Prep Science and Math Elementary School opening in Detroit next fall. Along with Science, Technology and Math, Superintendent Margaret Trimmer Hartley says the school will also stress the Arts.

5/3/13

9:32 am

Paul Snider

Public Schools Prep for Medical Emergency

The House Education Committee is considering two measures that would help public schools prepare in the event of a medical emergency. The first would allow K-12 schools to substitute one of the fire drills they're required to conduct during a school year for a cardiac emergency response drill. The second would require the state to create educational materials for schools about the risks and symptoms of cardiac arrest.

5/4/13

8:20 am

Newsroom

Mayoral Candidate Duggan Resigns from EAA

Detroit mayoral candidate Mike Duggan has stepped down from the Education Achievement Authority board. The E.A.A. oversees several troubled schools in the city. Duggan was the secretary of the board. He resigned saying the E.A.A. was being drawn into the mayoral campaign and he didn't want to see the authority involved in controversy.

5/9/13

9:10 pm

Zahra Huber

Court Rules No Union Deductions from Public School Payroll

A federal appeals court ruling says Michigan Public School districts cannot collect union dues from teachers and other employees through payroll deductions. Supporters say the law puts more money in teachers' paychecks, and they could then pay their union dues if they wish. But opponents disagree -- and call it an attack on organized labor in the state by Michigan's Legislature and Governor Rick Snyder.

5/11/13

5:41 pm

Violet Ikonomova

Pontiac Avoids Payless Payday

Michigan's top education official has signed off on a plan to help the cash-strapped district. State education Superintendent Mike Flanagan has approved a deficit elimination plan for the district that will allow it to get withheld funds and continue to operate. Earlier this week, State Superintendent Mike Flanagan released a report saying the district's bleak finances meant it would be unlikely to make payroll this Friday. The district faces a \$37.7 million deficit.

6/2/13

7:30 am

Jayne Bower

Michigan Higher Ed Budget Receives Modest Increase

Higher Education in Michigan is in line for a 2 percent budget increase from the state... a number that is not sitting very well with university presidents. Michigan State President Lou Anna Simon says Michigan's public universities are proving their value. She says even liberal arts grads are finding ways to be entrepreneurs.

6/18/13

3:07 pm

Greg Bowman/Tim Skubick

Lawmakers Consider Plan for Cash-Strapped Districts

Michigan school districts with serious financial troubles could be closed under a plan being considered by lawmakers in Lansing. The bills would give state officials the power to dissolve financially insolvent districts with 25 hundred students or less.

6/19/13

4:10 pm

Bob Mundie

Teachers Rally at State Capitol

Hundreds of teachers and activists gathered on the capitol lawn in Lansing today -- to oppose controversial reforms to the public education system in Michigan. Organizers say they're worried about lack of funding for public schools...and efforts that would allow the state to dissolve financially troubled school districts.

6/20/13

7:04 am

Matt Roush

Michigan State University Expansion

Michigan State University broke ground on a new Bioengineering Facility, a 130,000-square-foot building which will serve as a hub for interdisciplinary research in MSU's colleges of Engineering, Human Medicine and Natural Science. The cost of the 61 million dollar building will be split by the university and the state.

6/24/13

3:03pm

Russ McNamara

Supreme Court Ruling

The Supreme Court ruled to send an affirmative action suit involving the University of Texas back down to a lower court today. The fight against Affirmative Action has strong ties to the University of Michigan. A lawsuit filed by former Southgate resident Jennifer Gratz against U of M in 1997 led to the 2003 decision that it was O-K to use race as a factor in college admissions.

ENVIRONMENT/ENERGY

4/2/13

6:04 am

Scott Ryan

Lansing Oil Spill

There's been an oil spill into the Grand River in Lansing. Sunday's mishap was caused by an equipment malfunction at the city's power plant. About 300 gallons of oil escaped before cleanup equipment was in place. Lansing's Board of Water and Light says state environmental officials are already aware of the situation.

4/8/13

11:07 am

Ron Dewey

Trucker Power Port

On any given night at the Detroit Truck Stop in Woodhaven -- anywhere from 100 to 200 big rigs park for the night, and they keep their engines running to stay warm or cool. But now, some new electric hook ups are being tested to help the long haulers save money, fuel and the environment.

4/11/13

11:42 am

Paul Snider

Federal Dollars Aid Great Lakes

In his proposed 2014 budget, the president asks for 300 million dollars for the Lakes Restoration Initiative, to support a number of research and cleanup projects. That's the same amount as the last three years. The money would finance such projects as removing contaminated sediments, battling invasive species like Asian carp, and restoring wildlife habitat.

4/17/13

8:11 am

Matt Roush

Michigan Energy Fair

The Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association says its annual Michigan Energy Fair will return to the Mason County Fairgrounds in Ludington June 7th and 8th. The event will feature the latest information on solar, wind, and energy efficiency products, financial assistance, and programs that can help homeowners, businesses, and institutions.

4/25/13

7:41 am

Scott Ryan

Windsor Blames Detroit for Dirty Air

A new report hints that Detroit is being blamed, in part, for Windsor's air quality problem. The Ontario Environment Ministry says Windsor's air has improved some over the past decade but is still riddled with smog-causing ozone and other pollutants. The report says the presence of dirty air particles is due to effects of "trans boundary pollution" and truck traffic, among other things. Ontario plans to close all of its coal-fired power plants by the end of next year to help the situation.

5/9/13

8:10 pm

Newsroom

Carpooling Saves Money and Environment

It is official... carpooling saves money and protects the environment. This is according to a new report from Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. SEMGOG's carpooling data reveals that MiRideshare can save users 3-thousand-dollars annually. In addition, it saved more than one million miles of travel, resulting in gas savings and less congestion on the roads -- as well as more than one million pounds of carbon dioxide.

5/10/13

1:05 pm

Paul Snider

Urban Waters Federal Partnership Expansion

The Environmental Protection Agency and other departments already operate restoration programs in seven locations and are adding more, announcing today (Fri) the Urban Waters Federal Partnership is being expanded to include the Grand River at Grand Rapids and Lake Erie near Toledo. The program links economic development to recreational and environmental improvement goals.

5/12/2013

8:51 am

Rob Sanford

Michigan Energy Survey

Michigan voters say keeping energy prices low and keeping the electric providers investing in Michigan should be the state's energy issue priorities. The survey by the Michigan Jobs and Energy Coalition shows that 59-percent of likely Michigan voters agreed "keeping electricity prices predictable and affordable" are issues that matter most to them. Only 21-percent agreed that removing the 'deregulation cap' on out-of-state energy marketers" should be a priority.

5/21/2013

8:14 am

Matt Roush

Community Solar Gardens

The Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association has won a 33 thousand dollar grant from the Michigan Energy Office to conduct a feasibility study on a community solar garden. When it comes to solar power, not every home has a great spot for solar panels. Renters and condo owners are shut out, too. And in any event the up-front costs of solar power are high. With a solar garden, neighbors pitch in together to install solar power and reap the benefits of lower energy bills together.

5/27/2013

6:03 pm

Brian Larsen

Michigan Renewable Energy

Michigan is 33rd in the nation in renewable energy consumption. That's the ranking released by the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Hydroelectric was the state's biggest renewable source, in keeping with the national trend. That was followed by geothermal, wind and solar.

6/1/13

1:55 am

Violet Ikonomova

Pet Coke Study

Congressman Gary Peters is hoping to gain support from regional leaders as he calls for a study on petroleum coke's effect on the environment. The 14th District Democrat took aim at the piles of pet coke lining the Detroit River during the Council of the Great Lakes Governor's summit.

6/4/13

5:47 am

Matt Roush

Green Fleets Program

If you want to see the latest in green automobiles, an event next week at Henry Ford Community College is for you. The Clean Energy Coalition's Green Fleets Program, funded by a 40 million dollar federal stimulus grant, has put more than 500 electric, hybrid, propane and natural gas vehicles on the road in corporate and government fleets. It's also funded building more than 50 alternative fueling stations. Now, the Clean Energy Coalition will host a showcase for Michigan Green Fleets at HFCC in Dearborn.

6/11/13

12:13 am

Rob Mason

Senate Passes Farm Bill

The Senate has passed a five-year, half-trillion-dollar farm bill that expands government subsidies for crop insurance, rice and peanuts while making small cuts to food stamps. The bill also would set policy for programs to protect environmentally sensitive land, international food aid and several projects to help rural communities.

6/13/13

12:10 am

Rob Mason

Legislation to Expand Bottle Return

Democratic State Representative Rebekah Warren of Ann Arbor has introduced legislation that would expand Michigan's Bottle Deposit Law to include water and most other bottled beverages.

6/16/13
5:41 pm
Zahra Huber

MSU Growing Renewable Energy

Michigan State University has planted the first of six plots of poplar trees as part of an initiative to generate power from renewable sources. The East Lansing school says the 10-acre plots will grow fuel for its T.B. Simon power plant. An MSU spokeswoman says the trees will be harvested, chipped and burned as an alternative to coal.

HEALTH/MEDICINE

4/11/13
3:10pm
Sean Lee Reporting

Doctors Writing Too Many Prescriptions?

The study suggests doctors are writing too many antibiotic prescriptions. how many? Enough to give them to 4 out of 5 Americans every year. Beaumont infectious disease expert Matt Sims says too many of us take the drugs for the wrong reason. The government is tracking at least 20 strains of resistant bacteria. The study appears in today's New England Journal of Medicine.

4/16/13
10:10pm
Sean Lee Reporting

DMC Cuts

In a letter to employees, DMC chief Joe Mullany says the cuts will mean about 300 layoffs for staffers not directly involved in patient care. Mullany says the two percent sequestration of federal and state funds, means a system loss of up to 18 million dollars a year. Mullany tells me the cuts won't affect ongoing expansion projects like the system's new heart and children's hospitals. The d-m-c is Wayne County's largest employer... with about 14-thousand people on staff.

4/19/13
11:04pm
Sean Lee Reporting

Court Grants Attorney General on Meningitis

The state court of appeals has granted Attorney General's Bill Schuette's request to empanel a grand jury. Schuette says the 13 member panel will investigate whether the Massachusetts compounding pharmacy linked to the cases broke any Michigan laws. Thirteen jurors will be chosen from Livingston, Genesee, Macomb, and Grand Traverse Counties. State and federal health officials say Michigan leads the nation in meningitis cases, with 259 infections and 17 deaths.

4/22/13

2:41pm

Sean Lee Reporting

University of Michigan Poll on OTC Drugs

In 2008, the F-D-A determined the risks of over the counter cough and cold drugs don't outweigh the benefits, in kids under the age of two... and advised parents to stop using them. But a new U of M poll finds... Doctor Matthew Davis says the potential side effects, a rapid heart rate, excessive sleepiness and even seizures... just aren't worth the benefits. Davis says when your child under four gets sick, play it safe and call your pediatrician.

4/30/13

12:10pm

Sean Lee Reporting

Local Health Expo

If you or someone you know lacks health insurance, you may want to head to Cobo Center today for Wayne County's FREE health expo. Among the screenings provided: blood pressure, cholesterol, and breast cancer. Information will also be available on how to obtain affordable health care coverage under the Obama Administration's Affordable Care Act. Parking is free on the Cobo roof and refreshments will also be free. The event runs from 9 until 4 today.

5/1/13

7:33am

Charlie Langton Reporting

Does Morning After Pill Violate Michigan Law?

The morning after pill will now be available to girls ages 15 and older. The government has lowered the age from 17. The FDA also has decided that the emergency contraception, known as Plan B One-Step, no longer has to be kept behind the pharmacy counter. It can be right on the shelf. We're asking this morning -- whether allowing 15 year old to get the "morning after" pill could potentially violate Michigan Law?

5/2/13

10:50am

Newsroom Reporting

Drug Take back

State police say their recent prescription drug take-back effort resulted in over 700 pounds of unwanted or expired medicine being removed from homes. The Brighton post had the most, with 120 pounds, followed by the state police post in Negaunee, in the Upper Peninsula--with 90 pounds. All 29 state police posts took part in the effort.

5/6/13

8:10pm

Sean Lee Reporting

Skin Cancer Risk

Doctors who treat skin cancer designated the first Monday in May as a day to remind everyone about their risk for the disease. Metro Detroit Dermatologist Steve Grekin says reducing that risk means broad spectrum sunscreen, a hat and sun protective clothing. Doctor Grekin also says doing a full body home exam monthly can help you spot trouble early. And if you see anything suspicious, get to a dermatologist.

5/11/13

7:05am

Sean Lee Reporting

Teen Loses 130 pounds

Jonathan Bower says he's struggled with his weight for as long as he can remember. Jonathan says it in barest thing incident at Cedar point finally motivated him to do something about his weight. Jonathan says he found the tools he needed to succeed by joining weight watchers. And it worked. He's now 130 pounds lighter. To see pictures of Jonathan's amazing transformation go to CBS- Detroit.com.

5/21/13

9:05am

Vickie Thomas Reporting

Michigan Senator Wants to Test Welfare Recipients

A local state senator says if Michigan wants to test welfare recipients for drug and alcohol abuse--legislators and state appointees should get in line for testing as well.

6/2/13

9:10pm

Sean Lee Reporter

Michigan Deaf Figures

State figures show more than one million Michiganders are deaf or hard of hearing, many of them seniors, giving us the eighth largest hear-impaired population in the country. But with just 500 interpreters in the state, Michigan ranks near the bottom for providers. Linda Booth runs Deaf & Hearing Impaired Services, a non-profit agency that provides services for deaf and hard of hearing seniors and their families. As the Boomer Generation grows older, she's particularly concerned about Michigan meeting the needs of an aging deaf population. For more about Deaf and Hearing Impaired Services, click the link at CBS Detroit dot com.

6/4/13

4:34pm

Newsroom Reporting

Government-Funded Health Insurance

The Michigan Legislature has given the final thumbs up to a nearly \$49 billion spending plan for the fiscal year that starts in about four months. The major budget bill passed by the Republican-led Senate doesn't include a permanent boost in road funding or Governor Snyder's call to expand government-funded health insurance in more residents. The plan does include a one-time influx of hundreds of millions of dollars to fix deteriorating roads. The governor is expected to sign it.

6/10/13

5:10pm

Newsroom Reporting

Michigan Nurses Protesting

Michigan nurses will be protesting tomorrow (Tuesday) in Lansing over two bills that legislators are proposing to deny Medicaid expansion money that is designated by the Affordable Care Act. The Michigan Nurses Association says thousands of families desperately need Medicaid coverage because they can't afford insurance. Registered nurse Betty O'Connor-Rogers believes these politicians think Medicaid recipients are largely freeloaders. The rally will take place at 11am Tuesday outside of the state capitol and will include nurses and other concerned citizens.

6/11/13

9:04am

Sean Lee Reporting

FDA Approves Belviq, Local Doctor Speaks

After months of delays, Belviq is now available by prescription. The F-D-A approved the drug June for adults who are obese or overweight, and have at least one serious medical condition, such as diabetes or high cholesterol. Botsford Family Medicine Doctor Joseph Williams says patients expecting a magic bullet for weight loss will be disappointed. Belviq is designed to stimulate serotonin receptors in the brain linked with feelings of satiety, leading patients to feel full. Side effects include depression, migraine and memory loss.

6/11/13

5:10am

Sean Lee Reporting

Animal Fat and Carbs

Just swapping out ten percent of calories from animal fat and carbs with unsaturated fats like nuts and olive oil, could significantly raise a man's chance for beating prostate cancer. U-C San Francisco researchers studied 46-hundred prostate cancer patients and found men who made the switch were almost 30 percent less likely to die from the disease. Doctor Michael Lutz with the Michigan Institute of Urology says more evidence points to inflammation as the trigger for everything from heart disease to cancer. You can join Doctor Lutz and hundreds of others Sunday at the Detroit Zoo for the Fifth Annual Run for the Ribbon for prostate cancer.

LEADERSHIP/POLITICS/ELECTIONS

4/1/13

6:12pm

Tim Skubick reports

Tax Credits Gone

If you have already filed your income taxes, you may have noticed that some longstanding tax credits are now gone. State Democrats are blaming the Republican led legislature and Governor Snyder for creating a tax shift that's hurting lower income families. Senator Bert Johnson is leading a movement that calls on families to make their voices heard. Johnson says the tax changes are resulting in lower returns for many residents -- and that is having a devastating impact on families and the economy.

4/2/13

5:52am

Newsroom Reporting

Voters Deadline

The deadline is fast approaching to register to vote in the May 7th election. Monday is the sign-up deadline. No state or federal elections are slated for next month, but some communities will have local elections.

4/3/13

1:50pm

Newsroom Reporting

Duggan Files for Mayor Race

Former Detroit Medical Center CEO Mike Duggan is the first of several Detroit mayoral candidates to turn in his petition signatures to place his name on the November ballot. Duggan delivered a thousand signatures to the Detroit Election Office yesterday.

4/17/13

9:10pm

Tim Skubick reports

Snyder Unveiling Plan for Medical Expenses

Governor Rick Snyder is planning to unveil a proposal to end unlimited lifetime coverage for medical expenses tied to auto accidents. The governor and GOP lawmakers have scheduled a Thursday news conference to announce their plan. Drivers now pay \$175 per car per year to cover catastrophic injuries, and the fee is rising to \$186 this summer. Snyder is expected to propose capping personal injury protection coverage at \$1 million.

4/23/13

2:52pm

Rob Mason Reporting

Cockrel Jr. Not Seeking Re-Election

Detroit City Council Member Kenneth Cockrel Jr. has made it official -- he will not seek re-election. Cockrel tells WWJ that he has had reservations about running again for some time, and current events in the city have not affected his decision. Cockrel has served four terms in City Council and was previously an interim mayor for Detroit following Kwame Kilpatrick's resignation. He does not rule out a future role in politics.

4/25/13

9:03am

Charlie Langton Reporting

Pancakes and Politics Event

Dan Gilbert is looking into his crystal ball -- and he likes what he sees in Detroit. The Quicken Loans boss -- speaking this morning at Pancakes and Politics at the Detroit Athletic Club -- encouraged business owners to join him in re-building the city. Gilbert told the audience to look for some big announcements in the coming months -- including one from a technology company that'll be coming downtown.

4/30/13

9:51pm

Jon Hewett Reporting

Leadership Changes in Ecorse

After going from a nearly 15-million dollar budget deficit, to having a current \$2-Million budget surplus -- the city of Ecorse is no longer on the state's "Financial Emergency" list. Governor Rick Snyder is installing a new three-member "Transition Advisory Board" to take over city operations from Emergency Manager Joyce Parker. Parker was appointed "EM" in Ecorse back in 2009 -- and she will remain involved in the city's financial future as one of those new "Advisory Board" members.

5/4/13

4:21pm

Newsroom Reporting

Clerk Training Online

Michigan's Secretary of State says local election officials will have access to online resources in addition to in-person training. Ruth Johnson says elections clerks can now take courses, watch video tutorials and participate in online seminars from the Michigan Bureau of Elections. The online training tools will cover topics such as registering new voters, electronic poll book processing and issuing and tracking ballots for people serving in the military. The state says that many people only work as clerks part-time and often have other regular day jobs. This will allow them to fit election training into their daily schedules.

5/9/13

1:51pm

Vickie Thomas Reporting

Orr Expected 50-Page Plan

Detroit Emergency Manager Kevyn Orr is expected to deliver a 50-page plan next week offering an in-depth look into the city's failing finances. As we first told you on WWJ, that report is expected to show that Detroit's in much worse financial shape than previously thought. Meantime, Inkster's mayor is against the idea of emergency managers for cities that are struggling financially.

5/16/13

8:33am

Charlie Langton Reporting

Pancakes and Politics Event

The leaders of Detroit -- and Oakland, Wayne and Macomb Counties; sitting down together in Birmingham this morning for the latest installment of Pancakes and Politics. Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel, tipping his hat to Detroit Mayor Dave Bing -- and his work in office the past four years. Bing, announcing this week that he will NOT seek re-election ... and instead will explore a run for the office of Wayne County Executive. Ficano, when asked what he thought of Bing running for HIS job, declined comment.

5/20/13

6:10pm

Newsroom Reporting

Hackel Wants Money to go to Roads

What should the State of Michigan do with the nearly 500-million dollar surplus recently discovered? Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel figures directing it towards roads, schools or the general fund is being considered. But, he thinks serious consideration should also be given to sharing the money with struggling Michigan municipalities.... In Detroit, for example, he says the police department has not only cut the ranks of those who protect citizens... but also their pay.

5/27/13

7:32pm

Tim Skubick Reporting

Schauer Running for Governor

A former state Congressman says he's ready to take on Governor Rick Snyder. Mark Schauer, a democrat, will make the announcement in an email tomorrow. WWJ Lansing Bureau Chief Tim Skubick tells us, Schauer recently did very well against the Governor in a poll... even with VERY little name recognition. Schauer plans to make a formal announcement at this week's Mackinac Policy Conference.

5/30/13

11:21am

Vickie Thomas Reporting

Health Care Reform—Mackinac Policy Conference

Getting ready for health care reform at the Mackinac Policy Conference. Speaking live on WWJ this morning from Mackinac Island, Blue Cross Vice President Andy Hetzel says new federal requirements for additional benefits to basic coverage will increase costs. Hetzel says the Blues have created a new website to clear the confusion: "Health care reform basics dot com."

5/31/13

9:10am

Rob Sanford Reports

Bing Vetoing Cuts

Mayor Dave Bing is currently on Mackinaw Island but before he left he wrote a memo to the City Council saying he was vetoing their proposed cuts to his general fund budget. The Council was proposed a little over \$1 and half million more in cuts. The additional reductions would have affected a health-care cost sharing plan...along with cuts in firefighting operations, emergency medical services and police operations.

6/1/13

8:10am

Newsroom Reporting

Billboards Advertising Policy Conference

Macomb County Executive focuses on the two billboards along I-75 promoting his county at the Mackinac Island Policy Conference this week. The signs read "Macomb, Strong on Defense," and the other "Macomb Making It Regional." And Hackel says this isn't the first time they've put billboard signs up: Hackel says the defense industry is a big part of their county -- and they want to regionalize it.

6/10/13

12:10pm

Newsroom Reporting

Clinton Leads MI Presidential Polling

Looks like the Mackinaw Policy conference didn't give Jeb Bush a big advantage in Michigan - at least not yet. Even though the next presidential election is over three years away, a new poll finds Rand Paul leading all Republicans in Michigan. Public-policy-polling-dot-com says Paul gets 18 percent support, followed closely by Jeb Bush at 16% and Chris Christie at 15%. If Hillary Clinton is the Democratic nominee, the poll shows her beating all Republicans head to head in Michigan, with Christie trailing by the smallest margin--just six points--44-to-38. She's leading Jeb Bush by 14.

6/11/13

11:10am

Tim Skubick Reporting

Lansing Could Help DIA Art

There are some moves in Lansing today to help protect the artwork at the Detroit Institute of Arts. The Michigan Senate has voted to block any sale or auctioning off of the art treasures inside the DIA if it becomes part of the Detroit bankruptcy court case.

6/24/13

6:03am

Newsroom Reporting

Gary Brown Could Work with Orr

Detroit City Council President Pro Tem Gary Brown has already announced that he is NOT running for re-election -- but it appears he will still be VERY involved in the city. Brown is expected to join Emergency Manager Kevyn Orr's restructuring team as early as today. An exact title and salary are not yet known -- but all indications are that he'll head up a restructuring of government operations ... including public safety.

6/25/13

6:05am

Tim Skubick reports

Governor Snyder Pushes for Medicaid Expansion

Governor Snyder is traveling the state to push the Republican-controlled state Senate to come back to the capital -- and vote on a plan to expand Medicaid eligibility to hundreds of thousands of low-income adults.

6/25/13

10:40pm

Newsroom Reporting

Cockrel Disappointment about Duggan

Outgoing Detroit city councilman Ken Cockrel Junior says Mike Duggan's departure from the mayor's race was a "huge disappointment"--given the prospect of running against another strong candidate, Wayne County sheriff Benny Napoleon... Cockrel speaking to the Oakland County Republican Party in Bloomfield Hills this morning--says it will be interesting to see how newly-elected council members mesh with those returning to office, plus a new mayor. Cockrel is one of five city council members not seeking re-election this fall.

HOMELAND SECURITY ISSUES

4/1/13

9:03am

Mike Campbell Reporting

Metro Airport Evacuation

One person is being questioned right now after a suspicious item turns up in a piece of luggage at Metro Airport ... prompting the evacuation of the North Terminal, and delays for hundreds of passengers.

4/10/13

11:30am

Newsroom Reporting

Homeland Security Cancels Siren Test

Homeland Security Division of Oakland County is canceling the siren test scheduled today at 1 P.M. Authorities say possible inclement weather may confuse residents. The siren tests ensure the outdoor warning sirens are effective and the public seeks shelter when activated. The next regularly scheduled siren test will be the first Saturday in May at 1 P.M

4/15/13

7:10pm

Newsroom Reporting

Homeland Security Reaction to Boston

Officials in Detroit are on alert after the bombings in Boston. Operators of the Ambassador Bridge and Detroit/Windsor tunnel declined to discuss security measures, but say they're closely following the bombings. Tunnel President Neal Belitsky says in an email that "all staff is sensitive to the incident in Boston." Detroit Police Chief Chester Logan says the city's Homeland Security office is "prepared to respond appropriately to any concerns as it relates to ... Detroit."

4/22/13

4:09pm

Newsroom Reporting

Canadian Terror Plot

Two men have been arrested and charged with plotting a terrorist attack against a Canadian passenger train. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police says the men were conspiring to carry out an al-Qaida supported attack against Via Rail, but posed no immediate threat. Police said the men are not Canadian citizens, but declined to say where they were from. The investigation was part of a cross-border operation involving Canadian law enforcement agencies, the FBI and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security

4/24/13

1:33pm

Ron Dewey Reporting

Homeland Security Spending

Oakland County Homeland Security Manager Ted Quisenberry says society reaps dividends by spending more money in early childhood education and less the criminal justice system. Area law enforcement is backing the governor's \$65 million dollar plan to provide early childhood education programs for more Michigan children.

5/2/13

3:10pm

Newsroom Reporting

Homeland Security Conference in Michigan

The state's annual Homeland Security Conference is underway in Western Michigan -- and much of the focus has been on the Boston marathon bombings. Michigan State Police Captain Chris Kelenski says the conference gives public safety officials a chance to talk about how they can respond BETTER to emergencies. This year's conference also focuses on school safety in the wake of the shootings in Newtown, Connecticut.

5/9/13

2:10pm

Newsroom Reporting

Ban on Materials across the Ambassador Bridge

The Michigan Department of Transportation has recommended lifting a ban on trucking hazardous materials across the Ambassador Bridge that connects the U.S. and Canada. That idea, however, has prompted concerns on both sides of the border. The agency is taking public input on the idea until May 27 and any changes likely could take a year before taking effect. The state's review of the issue came after a request from the Detroit International Bridge Company, which owns the Ambassador Bridge.

5/27/13

11:13am

Newsroom Reporting

Possible Fee to Enter the US Proposed in Homeland Budget

A possible fee to enter the United States by land is drawing opposition from lawmakers from northern states. The Department of Homeland Security requested permission to study an entry fee in its 2014 fiscal year budget proposal. Currently it costs nothing to enter the country by land, while air and sea crossings have a \$2 fee included in ticket prices. A bipartisan group of lawmakers argue the new land fee would hurt border communities that rely on people and goods moving between the U.S. and Canada.

5/27/13

11:53am

Newsroom Reporting

Dozens of Firearms Seized at Border

Dozens of illegal firearms seized at the U-S – Canadian border-- including at the Ambassador Bridge and the Detroit-Windsor tunnel. The Canada Border Services Agency says during the first five months of this year, officers confiscated 45 firearms, including illegal handguns, restricted handguns and high capacity magazines. During the same period last year, the C-B-S-A seized three-dozen firearms in the Southern Ontario region.

5/27/13

4:40pm

Newsroom Reporting

Dearborn Hotel Evacuated Due to Pressure Cooker Found

A pressure cooker discovered in a restroom at the Dearborn Adoba Hotel forces the evacuation of guests and the cancellation of a banquet for the University Of Muslim Association Of America. The organization was holding a weekend conference at the hotel. Kasin Hasn of Washington D-C among the attendees who had to leave the building until the all clear was given. Dearborn officers have since determined that the pressure cooker had not been converted into any type of explosive device. They say the investigation is ongoing.

5/31/13

5:10pm

Sandra McNeill Reports

Security at Grand Prix

With more than 100-thousand people expected in downtown Detroit tomorrow for the Grand Prix and the Hoedown at Comerica Park...Accuweather is calling for the potential for severe storms. Scott Berkseth is the Operations Manager for Detroit's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department. Berkseth says they routinely conduct mock drills on how to shelter in place or even evacuate the island. But he says they've never yet had to actually put the actions in place.

6/12/13

12:31pm

Newsroom Reporting

Lawsuit On US-Canada Border Crossing

A Detroit judge says a lawsuit can go forward against federal authorities accused of violating the rights of Muslims at U.S./Canadian border crossings. Federal Judge Avern Cohn says he's not ruling yet on the merits of the case. But he denied a request by the government to dismiss it. Some Detroit-area Muslims sued last year, saying they've been held at gunpoint, handcuffed and repeatedly questioned about their religion when returning to the U.S. from Canada. Some have given up on crossing the border.

6/12/13

7:20am

Bob Orr Reports

NSA Surveillance

The director of the National Security Agency says that a once-secret surveillance program disrupted dozens of terrorist attacks, explicitly describing for Congress how the programs worked in collecting Americans' phone records and tapping into their Internet activity.

6/18/13

5:10pm

Pat Sweeting Reporting

Airport Evacuated

The McNamara Terminal at Detroit Metro Airport was partially evacuated yesterday as officials investigated a suspicious package. Passengers were kept away from about ten gates for more than an hour after a bomb-sniffing dog drew attention to some cargo on a plane.

6/24/13

3:05pm

Beth Fisher reports

Security Tight for Fireworks

Security measure are in place for tonight's fireworks and Lt. Michael Shaw with the Michigan State Police says they are not expecting problems, but several agencies are working together and they're prepared for anything.

LABOR/WORKFORCE ISSUES

4/2/13

10:50am

Newsroom reporting

New Hotel Creates Jobs

A new hotel and office building is coming to the Western Suburbs.... An announcement will be made tomorrow morning at the site of the no longer existent Novi Expo Center... Land Owner Kevin Adell and developers will be present to give specifics on architecture, the construction timeline and job creation.

4/4/13

8:11am

Newsroom Reporting

Veterans Job Fair

Are you a military veteran looking for a job? The U-S and Dearborn chambers of commerce are teaming up for today's "Hiring Our Heroes" job fair. It runs from eleven until two at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center. One hundred companies will be on hand. People were asked to pre-register for the event. Job seekers should bring proof of military service.

4/4/13

9:10am

Newsroom Reporting

Mayor and City Council Jobs/Benefits Reinstated

The outgoing emergency manager is authorizing the reinstatement of pay for the mayor and city council members, after going without since the 2009 declaration. Louis Schimmel, who was appointed to bail out the city's red ink, says he decided to compensate elected officials in anticipation of his departure this summer and returning the city to local control. Mayor Leon Jukowski will have an annual salary for \$100-thousand dollars plus benefits while city council members will get \$100 each per meeting, \$50 per subcommittee meeting. Jukowski's previous consulting arrangement has since been dropped.

4/11/13

10:06am

Vickie Thomas reporting

Detroit Medical Center Layoffs

The D-M-C says tough choices are in order to deal with an anticipated annual shortfall of up to 18 million dollars in Medicare and Medicaid revenue. C-E-O Joe Mullany says that means 300 layoffs for administrative staffers. Mullany says expansion projects, like the new heart and children's hospitals, are still on track. The D-M-C employs about 14-thousand people.

4/28/13

7:50am

Newsroom Reporting

Freedom Hill Job Fair

The Freedom Hill Amphitheatre in Sterling Heights is gearing up for the summer concert season. Huey Lewis and the News just one of the acts scheduled to perform their starting in June. If you're looking for work, you may want to plan to be at Freedom Hill this coming Saturday for their job fair. They're looking to fill up to 300 part-time positions, including in the box office, guest services and event security.

5/3/13

8:11am

Jon Hewett Reporting

Ypsilanti School Layoffs

Next year's planned consolidation of the Ypsilanti and Willow Run school districts in Washtenaw County led to the dismissal of 55 teachers Friday -- and more layoffs could follow. Faced a nearly \$13-Million combined operating deficit and declining enrollment, Superintendent Scott Menzel says there was little choice. Menzel says 171 teachers are being retained to teach in the new Ypsilanti Community School District next fall -- and, depending on enrollment, up to another 32 COULD be hired back.

5/9/13

5:10am

Newsroom Reporting

Delta Job Fair

A subsidiary of Delta Air Lines is holding a job fair today. Pinnacle Airlines is looking to hire flight attendants. It runs from seven a-m to noon--and four to nine p-m--at the Marriott Hotel at Metro Airport. To get in, applicants must bring a signed copy of their online applications, a valid driver's license and a valid passport.

5/10/13

1:10am

Newsroom Reporting

Union Dues Deduction

A Federal Appeals Court is giving the green light to a contentious law that bans Michigan school districts from deducting union dues from employees' paychecks. It's a legal setback for four unions that filed suit to prevent the law from taking effect. The law ... "Public Act 53"... was passed last year. A lower court stopped it from taking effect...but yesterday's Federal court ruling reverses that decision. Opponents of the law maintain it is a direct assault on organized labor. Supporters claim dues collecting is too cumbersome and costly for school districts.

5/29/13

5:21pm

Newsroom Reporting

36th District Court Layoffs

Thirty-sixth District court union employees are considering walking-off the job in the wake of proposed layoffs. Attorney Robert Davis is the Chief Negotiator with AFSCME and says court employees are fed up. The State Supreme Court has assigned Judge Michael Talbot to take over 36th District court's finances after a report found mismanagement and a high number of backload cases--all resulting in a 4-point-5 million dollar budget deficit.

6/7/13

6:20am

Murray Feldman Reporting

Job Creation

A new jobs report comes out this morning. Feldman says manufacturing has shown some weakness in the past two months. He says outside of the auto industry, there are signs that job creation in manufacturing is falling -- which could be a factor in the number we see today.

6/11/13

9:01am

Newsroom Reporting

Plymouth-Canton School Layoffs

Almost two dozen teachers are expected to be laid off in the Plymouth-Canton school district. The Board of Education meets tonight to decide that issue. The expected layoffs are due to a projected drop in enrollment for the upcoming year. Evaluations are said to be the deciding factor in choosing which teachers to pink slip. In the past two years, 270 teachers were let go, only to be recalled in time for the start of the school year.

6/13/13

5:52am

Newsroom Reporting

Would-Be Retirees Staying Put

Rural America is losing population for the first time ever. Census estimates show that would-be retirees are staying put in urban areas near jobs. And recent weakness in the economy means some boomers have less savings than a decade ago to buy a vacation home in the countryside. From 2011 to 2012 - rural growth fell 0.1 percent.

6/20/13

6:03am

Ron Dewey Reporting

Detroit Pensions and Retirees

Emergency manager Kevyn Orr is meeting today with pension fund and union representatives, asking them to go along with reduced pension payouts to lower the city's liability. Orr sees it as unsecured debt, but at least one union attorney calls it delayed compensation--money already earned--that should not face the same scrutiny as investors they think are in a better position to cushion any cutbacks. Both sides see the other's position on pension funding as unrealistic, which ultimately may have to be decided by the courts.

RACE RELATIONS

4/6/13

6:10am

Newsroom

NAACP Conference

The Detroit Branch of the N-A-A-C-P says Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi will deliver the keynote address at the civil rights organization's 58th annual Fight for Freedom Fund Dinner. The dinner will be held April 28th at Cobo Center. Attorney General Eric Holder gave last year's keynote. The annual dinner draws 10-thousand people each year.

4/7/13

4:10pm

Newsroom

Housing Discrimination/Fair Housing Month

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson has declared April as Fair Housing Month in recognition of the 45th anniversary of the signing of the Federal Fair Housing Law under the Civil Rights Act. He urges residents to contact Oakland County's housing counselors if they think they have been the victims of housing discrimination.

4/15/13

1:05pm

Newsroom

Hospital Worker Claims Discrimination

A white employee is suing a Flint hospital alleging race discrimination following several high-profile lawsuits filed by black nurses. Mark Hillaker Jr. filed suit last month in Genesee County Circuit Court. The environmental technician at Hurley Medical Center says his black supervisor made derogatory comments to him because of his race and he was threatened with violence and discipline. The hospital isn't commenting on the lawsuit

4/29/13

8:35pm

Newsroom

Fight for Freedom Fund Dinner

The House Democratic leader said during her keynote address at the annual Fight for Freedom Fund Dinner "we don't need anyone else around here running the city of Detroit." Nancy Pelosi praised the work of Detroit Mayor Dave Bing, who on Sunday described the NAACP as a watchdog for fairness. The event is the largest fundraiser for the Detroit chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

5/1/13

1:33pm

Newsroom

Clerk Uses Racial Slurs during Township Meeting

A governing board in Michigan wants a township clerk to resign after she was recorded using a racial slur to describe a black supervisor. A resolution passed Tuesday night by the board in Saginaw County's Buena Vista Township calls for Gloria Platko to step down. She has declined to do so.

5/26/13

11:20am

Sandra McNeill

Civil Rights Activist

She's been called the mother of the civil rights movement...but the Michigan author of a new book says Rosa Parks didn't do it alone. Danielle McGuire says there are testimonies of violence inside and outside of buses involving other women who refused to give up their seats to white men. McGuire says many of the women are still alive...In her book..."At the Dark End of the Street," she hopes to keep their stories alive as well.

6/2/13

2:31pm

Newsroom

Anti-Discrimination Committee on Leave

The director of the Michigan Chapter of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee is put on administrative leave over sexual harassment allegations. ADC national has announced that an independent investigation has been launched into the allegations against Imad Hamad. State Representative Rashida Tlaib, who says she was harassed by Hamad 15 years ago, sent a letter to ADC detailing the accusations. She says more than a dozen women have come forward since then as well. Hamad's attorney Shereef Akeel says each allegation will receive its fair due process.

6/3/13

7:31pm

Newsroom

Indian Mascots Part of Discrimination

A federal agency has dismissed a complaint seeking to ban the use of American Indian mascots in Michigan's schools. In February, the Michigan Department of Civil Rights cited 35 Michigan school districts for discrimination, saying their mascots reinforce stereotypes and hurt American Indian students' self-esteem and learning. But the U.S. Education Department's Office of Civil Rights denied the state's complaint last week. The state civil rights department says it's disappointed by the ruling and is considering its options.

6/6/13

12:03pm

Pat Sweeting

DPS Teacher Tased in Civil Rights Protest

Lots of tension brewing after a retired Detroit Public School Teacher involved in a civil rights protest down south, says she was tased by police. Debra Pernell-Simmons is a local chapter vice president of National Action Network in Mississippi, where she was part of a rally in Nachez. The group posted a video from Monday showing Simmons being held by two sheriff's deputies while a third is holding a taser to her. Pernell-Simmons was jailed for two days for resisting arrest and picketing while interfering with public property. At the time of the confrontation with police, the group was commemorating the 1964 lynching of three civil rights workers that inspired the movie "Mississippi Burning."

6/14/13

8:10am

Newsroom

Jones Supporters Say Racial Make Up of Jury Not Fair

As jurors begin deliberations today in the trial of a Detroit police officer charged in the deadly shooting of a little girl -- supporters of Aiyanna Jones' family say they have NO confidence in the process ... because of the racial makeup of the jury. Only one African American is on the panel that'll decide the fate of Joseph Weekley ... who took the stand yesterday in his own defense. Weekley is charged with involuntary manslaughter. Prosecutors say he was negligent. 7-year old Aiyana Jones was killed when police raided a house to capture a murder suspect.

6/24/13

3:03pm

Russ McNamara

Supreme Court Ruling

The Supreme Court ruled to send an affirmative action suit involving the University of Texas back down to a lower court today. The fight against Affirmative Action has strong ties to the University of Michigan. A lawsuit filed by former Southgate resident Jennifer Gratz against U of M in 1997 led to the 2003 decision that it was O-K to use race as a factor in college admissions.

REGIONAL REVITALIZATION

4/4/13

4:10pm

Newsroom Reporting

Club Wants to Improve Detroit Neighborhoods

The Sierra Club is asking the team that helped develop a template for improving Detroit neighborhoods to address environmental issues in the city. The State-of-the-Environment Report was released TODAY by the Sierra Club's Environmental Justice Program. The group says it questions whether environmental issues have been adequately addressed in the Detroit Future City's strategic framework. Detroit Future City was unveiled earlier this year. It focuses on job growth, land use, improving neighborhoods and rebuilding infrastructure.

4/5/13

9:10am

Ron Dewey Reporting

Goodwill Providing Job-Hunting Assistance

Goodwill Industries vice president Lindsay Chalmers says they provide job-hunting assistance that ranges from fine-tuning a resume to obtaining a GED. But he says the one thing he sees people more in need of is hope. Chalmers sees more opportunities ahead for the Detroit area, with \$8 billion dollars in infrastructure investment over the next 10 years--including the Detroit-Windsor Bridge and the M-1 light rail line...

4/10/13

9:10am

Newsroom Reporting

Gilbert Buys Greektown

Dan Gilbert is rolling the dice on Detroit's worst-ranked casino. Gilbert has gotten the okay from the Michigan Gaming Control Board to buy Greektown Casino and Hotel. Greektown came out of bankruptcy three years ago -- and as part of the 500-600 million dollar deal, Gilbert will take on some of casino's debt. Rock Gaming CEO Matt Cullen says the purchase is all part of a bigger plan. Cullen says with the regulation hurdle cleared-- a final deal could be reached as early as next week.

4/12/13

11:20am

Sean Lee Reporting

New Affordable Housing for Senior's

Project partners call Rivertown neighborhood the first affordable assisted-living option for seniors. The 40 million dollar development is a partnership among Henry Ford Health System, Presbyterian Villages of Michigan and United Methodist Retirement Communities. Phase I: Open now - creates nearly two hundred new health care jobs. Phase II: Which will include 50 independent living senior apartments - Is expected to open spring 2014.

4/12/13

12:04pm

Mike Campbell Reporting

New Bridge Will Attract More to Detroit/Canada Border

Michigan has won approval from the Obama administration to build a second bridge between Detroit and Windsor, Ontario. A presidential permit awarded TODAY by the U.S. Department of State allows Michigan and Canada to move forward with their span over the Detroit River. Construction could be finished in seven years, though lawsuits challenging the project have been filed by owners of the current border bridge.

4/16/13

7:50pm

Newsroom Reporting

More Money for MI Roads

A key lawmaker working to raise more money for Michigan roads says he hopes to recommend a package of bills for consideration by early May. House Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Wayne Schmidt says a plan in the works could generate at least 1-POINT-5 billion a year more. Road funding advocates say they're more optimistic because Schmidt's committee took testimony on actual legislation. That may be a positive sign because so far legislators haven't acted on bills despite Governor Rick Snyder's calls to do so.

5/2/13

3:10pm

Matt Roush Reporting

New Business in Downtown Detroit

Detroit is attracting another new business downtown. WWJ Technology Editor Matt Roush says it's a growing tech firm that believes Detroit's available office space is perfect for its expanding business. Hudson Editorial, a new sister company of 25-year-old Avalon Films, will open a 6,400-square-foot post-production studio on the fifth and sixth floors of downtown Detroit's Wright Kay Building, 1500 Woodward. Hudson offers graphics, visual effects and audio finishing. The company is scheduled to open its Detroit office in early June with 16 full-time employees, doubling its current staff.

5/2/13

5:03pm

Tim Skubick Reporting

Voting for Road Taxes

Michigan voters might have the final say on whether or not to raise taxes to pay for road and infrastructure repair. WWJ's Lansing Bureau Chief Tim Skubick has the latest.

5/14/13

5:10am

Marie Osborne Reporting

Detroit Neighborhoods Revitalization

Is there any hope left in the neighborhoods of the city of Detroit? WWJ Newsradio 950's Marie Osborne continues her series about the changing landscape in the city of Detroit - where some spots are seeing vibrant revitalization... while others are being swallowed up by decay. Today -- in the Tale of Two Cities ... Marie takes us to a neighborhood where nearly every home is burned out and every lot is filled with trash ---- every home except one!

5/26/13

9:10pm

Sandra McNeill Reporting

Affordable Housing for Mentally Ill

Nearly 40 mentally ill Detroiters will soon have a brand new and affordable home on the city's east side. The Northeast Guidance Center is opening an apartment building in mid-July at Mack and Ashland. Speaking on CBS 62's Michigan Matters, CEO Cheryl Coleman says they're holding a drive to help the residents furnish their new homes. What do they need? Coleman says the units are subsidized and will help the residents become more independent.

5/30/13

1:10pm

Jackie Paige Reporting

Plymouth Business Start-Up Highlighted at Mackinac Conference

One of the topics discussed this morning at the Mackinac Policy Conference is entrepreneurship. A group of young entrepreneurs talked about encouraging people to start new ventures to help lead Michigan's resurgence. Among those is Caitlin James, Co-owner of DROUGHT in Plymouth and Caitlin joins us for a live interview.

6/9/13

11:34am

Newsroom Reporting

Downtown Development Happening Recently

Lots of Development in Downtown Detroit recently ... a lot of it initiated by businessman Dan Gilbert. What's Bill Ford Junior's take on things? A lot of young people are moving in; we just moved in 700 people into Ford Field ... there's a lot of good business activity ... it's getting lost in all the negative headlines that are out there. Ford points to the number of young people who are choosing to live and work in the city ... the number of startup companies in Detroit and the fact that large corporations are moving back into the city as proof that Detroit is poised for a comeback.

6/12/13

7:32pm

Pat Sweeting Reporting

Increased Security for Fireworks Hope to Bring More People Downtown

Detroit Mayor Dave Bing says keeping the annual fireworks show safe and secure is of paramount importance. But he says even before the appointment of Emergency Manager Kevyn Orr, there were concerns about how the city was going to accomplish that. The cost in 2012 is more than \$164 thousand dollars. This year, the cost is none. So far sixteen law enforcement and other agencies have stepped up to help with the June 24th event.

6/16/13

9:11am

Kathryn Larsen Reporting

Wayne State Forum for Jumpstarting Urban Revitalization

Using joy to jumpstart urban revitalization is the focus of a forum this week at Wayne State University in Detroit. The university is hosting a series of events Monday and Tuesday dubbed "Joy: in the Midst of Transition." It includes a public lecture and panel discussion with urban planning, creative and design experts. The lecture and discussion are scheduled for Tuesday evening at Wayne State's Community Arts Auditorium. They are free and open to the public.

6/20/13

6:10am

Ron Dewey Reporting

New Sports Facility and Entertainment District in Detroit

The city of Detroit has announced plans for a new arena in downtown Detroit. The \$650 million facility is expected to include shops and housing and be located across the Fisher freeway...and across the street...from Comerica Park. Detroit Economic Growth Corporation President George Jackson says the plan is tentative and there's still a lot of work to do on it. It's not clear what the arena will look like or when construction will start. About a quarter of the money will be raised through property taxes and other public money.

6/26/13

9:03am

Newsroom Reporting

Business Trying to Hire for Economic Boom

The Tim Hortons restaurant chain is teaming up with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to host a live Virtual Career Fair today. Job seekers are invited to visit any of Tim Hortons' four participating Michigan restaurants to take part. Computers will be set up and connected to free Wi-Fi ... which job seekers can use to upload their resumes to the Michigan Works website and apply for openings at participating employers.

TRANSPORTATION/LOGISTICS

4/1/13

11:04am

Jeff Gilbert

GM Pickups tops in fuel economy

GM North America President Mark Reuss says the automaker's new pickup trucks will top the industry in fuel economy.

4/3/13

3:33pm

Newsroom

Road Construction Underway in Oakland County

The Road Commission for Oakland County will be working on 18 road projects starting this summer. Craig Bryson with the commission says the construction will require lane closures -- and even in some cases, road closures. But he says he's asking for patience from the drivers. One of the biggest projects is the widening of Tienken Road in Rochester Hills. We'll have a list of some of the projects on CBS-Detroit.com.

4/16/13

7:50pm

Newsroom Reporting

More Money for MI Roads

A key lawmaker working to raise more money for Michigan roads says he hopes to recommend a package of bills for consideration by early May. House Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Wayne Schmidt say's a plan in the works could generate at least 1-POINT-5 billion a year more. Road funding advocates say they're more optimistic because Schmidt's committee took testimony on actual legislation. That may be a positive sign because so far legislators haven't acted on bills despite Governor Rick Snyder's calls to do so.

4/21/13

7:23pm

Newsroom

Woodward Construction

Construction begins next month along Woodward Avenue, from Pleasant Ridge to the north end of Royal Oak. The nearly five-million dollar project includes resurfacing of the eight-lane road. The project will last until November. The Michigan Department of Transportation plans to hold two meetings later today [Mon] at the Royal Oak Library, for residents and business owners to get details of the project. The meetings take place from 3-5pm and 6-8pm.

4/22/13

10:07am

Newsroom

Gas Prices Jump

Average retail gasoline prices in Detroit have risen 19 cents per gallon in Michigan. Spikes in gasoline prices that come with the territory of springtime travel.

5/9/13

2:10pm

Newsroom Reporting

Ban on Materials across the Ambassador Bridge

The Michigan Department of Transportation has recommended lifting a ban on trucking hazardous materials across the Ambassador Bridge that connects the U.S. and Canada. That idea, however, has prompted concerns on both sides of the border. The agency is taking public input on the idea until May 27 and any changes likely could take a year before taking effect. The state's review of the issue came after a request from the Detroit International Bridge Company, which owns the Ambassador Bridge.

5/9/13

9:10pm

Jeff Gilbert

New Technology for Cars to Drive Themselves

Are drivers ready for cars that drive themselves? It's one of the main concerns about new technology. Due to the new technology, it may take drivers a while to get used to a car that drives them and that might cause a problem on the roadways.

5/15/13

3:52pm

Jeff Gilbert

Future of Mobility

University of Michigan research Vice President Steven Forrest announces a new center to look at future mobility.

5/20/13

10:40am

Jeff Gilbert

Technology Allows Ford to See a Big Growth in Small Engines

Are we about to see a big growth in small engines? Ford thinks two thirds of cars could have four cylinder engines by 2020. With new rules coming and consumers more interested in fuel economy, four cylinders now account for just over half the market now. These engines are much more advanced than ever before...many using technology to allow them to put out the power of a six cylinder engine, with much better fuel economy. Ford's new Fiesta will be the first American vehicle in decades to have an optional three cylinder engine.

5/20/13

6:10pm

Newsroom Reporting

Hackel Wants Money to go to Roads

What should the State of Michigan do with the nearly 500-million dollar surplus recently discovered? Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel figures directing it towards roads, schools or the general fund is being considered. But, he thinks serious consideration should also be given to sharing the money with struggling Michigan municipalities.... In Detroit, for example, he says the police department has not only cut the ranks of those who protect citizens... but also their pay.

6/4/13

8:11am

Russ McNamara

Light Rail Service

Roger Penske has been the driving force for many projects around Detroit including the Woodward Avenue light rail and today's Belle Isle Grand Prix. Clearly he has a bright outlook for the city, but Penske says all of this is being done with a lot of help... Of course Penske's first love is auto racing. He'll have 3 drivers in today's Grand Prix including Dancing with the Stars winner Helio Castroneves.

6/04/13

9:12am

Jeff Gilbert

Working toward a Driverless Car

WWJ's Jeff Gilbert and John McElroy hosted a business breakfast focused on the driverless car. The director of the Michigan Department of Transportation and Insurance Institute for Highway Safety talked about the pros and cons of a driverless car.

6/5/13

11:40am

Newsroom

Lodge Emergency Road Repairs

As of 9:00 this morning, M-DOT is closing the northbound Lodge Freeway service drive at Schaefer for emergency wall repairs. That's ahead of a full closure on northbound M-ten from the Davison Freeway to Seven Mile Road. Also today, resurfacing begins on Van Dyke Avenue between Eight Mile and Helen roads in Macomb County. Drivers will see lane closures on weekday overnights and all weekend hours.

6/17/13

7:01am

Newsroom

I-75 Resurfacing Starts Tonight

I-75 resurfacing work begins tonight in Detroit. M-DOT is doing work on a four-mile section between I-94 and Seven Mile Road. Work will be done during overnight hours on weekdays. Drivers will see lane closures. The project will wrap up in October. Check out traffic and construction info anytime at CBS Detroit dot com.

6/21/13

9:50am

Newsroom

I-696 Closure

Starting at nine p-m, eastbound I-696 will be closed from the I-275 interchange to Telegraph Road for pavement repairs. Drivers can take Grand River to Eight Mile Road to Telegraph and reconnect with I-696. Work will wrap up by Monday morning. For more construction info visit our website at CBSDetroit.com.

WWJ Community Outreach Events

5/30/13

WWJ's Roberta Jasina, Tom Jordan and Vickie Thomas interview business and political leaders during a special one-hour broadcast from the Mackinac Policy Conference. Topics range from improving Detroit to mental health issues affecting Michigan to ways to improve the jobs picture in the state.

6/5/13

WWJ's Jeff Gilbert and John McElroy hosted a business breakfast focused on the driverless car. The director of the Michigan Department of Transportation and Insurance Institute for Highway Safety talked about the pros and cons of a driverless car.

WWJ Regularly Scheduled Features

MADE IN MICHIGAN

4/6/13

MASTRANARDI TOMATOES, Coldwater Michigan: Paul Mastranardi's great grandfather brought production tomatoes growing to Michigan in 1940 with North America's first green houses. Today they produce tomatoes for major retailers most of the year.

4/17/13

PIXO, Southfield Michigan: Founder Chris Firestone developed this nationally recognized company two years ago. The company produces mobile games and apps with an emphasis on hand held marketing.

4/24/13

PETITE CHEESECAKES, Southfield, Michigan: Patrick Petite founded his company after he had to close his family's real-estate company during the recession. A life-long love of baking sparked the idea to make cheese cakes. Today the company produces 90 flavors of all natural, hand-made cheese cakes.

5/1/13

MONTE NAGLER PHOTOGRAPHY: For more than 40 years Monte Nagler has been a fine art photographer, teacher and entrepreneur. Nagler's current project is producing fine art for installations in hospitals around the country. The art is used as a therapy tool to relax patients during treatments and tests.

5/8/13

AMERICAN CONEY ISLAND, Detroit Michigan: Grace Kiros says her great grandfather founded the company 95 years ago. What started as a food cart quickly turned into a brick and mortar restaurant for Detroit's working class, with fast, portable foods.

5/15/13

HARD LUCK VODKA, Grosse Pointe Michigan: Chris George and founders discovered they could crush candies and put them into vodka and create unique flavors. At first, the group only produced the vodka for their bar. Soon, customers began to ask to purchase the product and large scale production began.

5/22/13

YUKON SEAT GRIP, Northville, Michigan: Builder David Dowling wondered why it was he could build a sky scraper but could not fix a wobbly toilet seat. He set out to solve the problem and came up with the Yukon Seat Grip which is sold nationally in big box stores

5/29/13

WEINGARTZ, Macomb Michigan: Dan Wiengartz is the third generation family member to run this company which still operates out of its original location. Founded in 1945 the company now has several locations which sell and service lawn and snow equipment.

6/5/13

VARSTIY SHOP, Birmingham Michigan: Mark Secontine, third generation owner of this full service sporting goods store. Opened in 1954, Secontine says the store has survived the day and age of big box stores by providing superior customer service and products. The store also has a hall of fame dating back to the early 50's where local championship teams are featured.

6/12/13

CUP OF ZUP: 32 year old Cindy La Rue founded this daily email service after working for two years at a major Detroit company where she had to develop the company e-mail. Today, her "Cup of Zup" daily email has more than 10 thousand subscribers and membership is growing.

6/19/13

YAEGER SHOES, Monroe, Michigan: Yaeger shoes, was founded 167 years ago and is one of the state's oldest company's. Today it's run by the great-great-great grandson of the founder, Greg Yaeger. The store specializes in hard to find sizes and expert shoe repairs.

6/26/13

WOW WATER: Peter Andonni, a long-time local restaurateur, founded Twisted Concepts/Wow Water when his 8 year old son was diagnosed with Type II diabetes. The water does not contain sugar of any form and is fortified with vitamins. The product is now distributed through-out the metro area.

DIFFERENCE MAKER IN THE COMMUNITY

April 2013

Joan Fogler is a 50 year Girl Scout leader and helped found the Older Persons Commission in Rochester. That organization helped raise six million dollars for the for a senior center. She's been a township supervisor and assistant supervisor.

May 2013

Mike and Gena Spehn, founders of the New Day Foundation: Mike and Gena's spouses were childhood friends, when they both died of cancer, Mike and Gena struck up a friendship that grew into love and marriage. The pair founded the New Day Foundation to help families who are dealing with the financial side effects of cancer treatment. To date, they have raised millions of dollars to help families in need in Southeast Michigan.

June 2013

Mona Farroukh, Program manager ACCESS, Dearborn Michigan. Farroukh, an immigrant from Lebanon came to this country with her husband. Her marriage was quickly marred by abuse. She says she eventually found the strength to leave the marriage. After earning degrees in counseling, she now heads up the domestic violence programs for ACCESS in Dearborn.

MAKING THE GRADE

4/2/13

University of Michigan Entrepreneurs

Students aren't just fired up about the Final Four; they're also excited about entrepreneurship. "Bringing students from the city and suburbs together to talk about entrepreneurship in Detroit..." Aashka Soni is a co-founder of the Detroit Entrepreneurship Program at University of Michigan.

4/4/13

Student Athletes and Concussions

State officials kick off a new campaign regulating sports concussions. Michigan recently became 39th state to enact a law about sports concussions and when an athlete can return to competition. "Part of that law required our department to come up with training and educational online resources in the community as well as for athletes," says Michigan Department of Community Health Angela Mincucci. The department recently launched a new website.

4/9/13

Student Loans and Oakland University

Concerns among Michigan college students today: Oakland University junior Samantha Wolf is the student body president was fortunate enough to have a scholarship and grant. She says many students are facing huge debts when they graduate. Shelby Reynolds is a journalism major, she says the future of journalism is there but changing.

4/11/13

FIRST Michigan Robotics

The FIRST Robotics State Championship happens this weekend at Eastern Michigan University. "We partner up schools with engineers from the industry and they work to design and build a robot that can play a sport and compete in a game." Gail Alpert is the FIRST Robotics Michigan President. She says more than 5,000 kids from more than 200 Michigan high schools participate. This year the game is Ultimate Ascent...similar to ultimate Frisbee.

4/16/13

Homeless Students Succeed in Classroom

Homeless students succeed in the class room. They house these students they provide them with access to education and with job placement while they're living in the facility," says Wayne State medical student Nabil Al-Kourainy. He provides tutoring at the Covenant House. Melissa Golpe is with the Covenant House, "it's been a great program and a lot of our kids have said they get a lot of help from it." Shaquille Denson is a resident at the Covenant House, he came in with no birth certificate and is working on completing his GED and hopes to go to college.

4/18/13

Macomb County Girl Honored by Johns Hopkins

At nine years old, a Macomb county girl wants to go to Princeton University, "I want to be a symbol engineer," she says. Lexie Enders, a third grader in the Utica schools, was honored by Johns Hopkins University for being a top student at its center for talented youth.

4/23/13

Country Day Freshman Wins at Science and Engineering Fair

I wanted to do a project on arsenic and rice. Anuush Vejalla is a ninth grader from Detroit Country Day Upper School. He took home a \$1000 scholarship and an iPad from the environmental management association for winning at the science and engineering fair of metro Detroit. "There's a new discovery every day and I want to find a way to help people around the world," says Vejalla. His teacher from Country Day says "these are the kids...there's a lot to be hopeful for."

4/25/13

Reading Volunteers for DPS

Calling for more volunteers to help Detroit public schools students learn to read. Kids need someone to come in and help, according volunteer supervisor at DPS Evelyn Mann. We ask them to work one hour a day, once a week.

4/30/13

CMU in Spotlight after NFL Drafts Student

Central Michigan University football player Eric Fisher was selected as a first pick in the NFL draft. Junior Stephanie Santostasi of Dearborn says her brother wishes he had stayed in state to play football. She also says the CMU broadcast program is excellent. Senior Alex Decker of Clarkston would love to stay in Michigan but doesn't mind if she goes somewhere else. Junior Rodney Harris of Canton likes the on-campus TV station at CMU.

5/2/13

STEM Education is STEAM at New Detroit Prep

Mosaic is truly the top of performing arts in our city and new University Prep is teaming up with the theater in Detroit. Margaret Trimer Hartley is the superintendent of University Prep Science and Math Academy and is opening a new elementary charter prep in Detroit. She is excited to bring arts to the students.

5/7/13

A Big Thank You from DPS Students

Students at Detroit Public Schools in grades 3-8 nominate their favorite teacher and offer a few words explaining why that teacher deserves a nod. Frank Brady is the President of Detroit Goodfellows. Students can nominate their favorite teachers and the winning teacher is awarded various prizes including money for school supplies. The winning teacher is announced in the first week of June.

5/9/13

Students and Business at Utica HS

WWJ's Greg Bowman profiles a unique, student operated store in one Utica High School. There are food vendors and university apparel says Utica High School marketing teacher Dana Boice. Boice supervises students who run the student store, which has been named one of the top ten in the country by a DECA marketing competition. Devin Werner, Mirna Ayar and Peter Lulgjuraj are students and store managers. The students all enjoy the benefits of the unique store.

5/14/13

Keeping Kids Healthy

Marissa Orzame, a seventh grader at Boulan Park Middle School in Troy, says doing a dance battle or jumping jacks while watching TV is an easy way to be active. She won the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan "Make the Play for Healthy Habits" video contest. Orzame gets to bring Matthew Stafford to her school this spring to talk about healthy lifestyle choices.

5/16/13

Solid Foundation Mentoring for Young Women

A special program is providing a solid foundation for women in many Metro Detroit schools. "We don't want them to just graduate from high school or college, we want to prepare to live a life full of success," says Dawn Stephens is the founder and director of Solid Foundations Mentoring. She works with female students in Southfield, Pontiac and Detroit Public Schools.

5/21/13

New Face of Michigan College Savings

Jennifer Farrell's 12-year-old daughter Madison, a seventh grader in the Chippewa Valley School District, won the Cover Kids Contest for Metro Parent Magazine. Madison, of Macomb Township, is the June Cover girl for Metro Parent and received more than \$1500 toward her college education. Madison also made a commercial for the Michigan Education Savings Plan.

5/23/13

Big Changes at Schoolcraft in Livonia

Schoolcraft President Conway Jeffers says the college will spend \$18 million in renovations and other improvements over the next 18 months. The new building is located at Seven Mile and Haggerty. Jeffers says the college is hoping to partner with one or two universities to offer bachelors and masters degrees and says the goal is to help students complete their education without ever leaving the Livonia campus.

5/28/13

Detroit Summer School Academy

There is a range of options for thousands of DPS students enrolled in summer school this year. Karen Ridgeway is the Superintendent of Academics for Detroit Public Schools. She says there is everything from drivers training to special courses in special education.

6/6/13

Eisenhower Student Recognized by State

Eisenhower student Lindsay Moore was named Michigan's Top Yearbook Editor. She is also among the Top 15 Best Student Journalists in the state of Michigan. Moore says she was very humbled to receive this recognition and thinks it's very important to make each student feel included in the yearbook. Eisenhower Publications Advisor Erica Kincannon says that Moore has a natural talent for journalism and has worked very hard. Moore will attend the School of Journalism at Indiana University in the fall.

6/11/13

Wyandotte Student Stands Up for Student Tuition Rights

Spencer Genrich, a graduating senior at Roosevelt High School in Wyandotte, is standing up for students' tuition rights. Her video just won the Michigan 20/20 Scholarship competition. Genrich hopes her video can help pass the free college tuition plan in Lansing. She plans to attend Wayne State in the fall for journalism.

6/13/13

Detroit Public Schools Art Teacher Receives Award from Goodfellows

Illya Tolbert, an art teacher in Detroit Public Schools, won the annual Detroit Goodfellows' teaching award. Tolbert says that people often overlook the importance of art in students' lives. He says that art can help students in a variety of other subjects

6/20/13

Teaching Teens to Date

Michigan gymnastic star and Olympic Gold Medalist Jordyn Wieber is helping teens date safely. A new "text for help" program sponsored in part by Mary Kay is called "Don't Look Away." There are warning signs, and according to Wieber, it's often more than physical abuse. Wieber has two sisters and wants to them, along with other teens, to text "love is" to 77054 to talk to a trained peer advocate.

6/25/13

Northville Student Takes Center Stage at Balshoi Ballet Academy

A Northville high school student is attending Balshoi Ballet Academy for a six-week-long program. Anna Pearson, 15, says it's a dream come true and she is very excited about this opportunity. The scholarship takes her, along with a group of other students, to Moscow this summer.

STAYING IN TOUCH

4/06/13

RUN FOR LITERACY

It's a run for reading writing and arithmetic...Jessica Pappas of Detroit Central City Community Health says these programs make basic literacy skills possible for Detroiters, not only for jobs, but for everyday functionality. Pappas says it's important that people who need these skills know they are available.

4/13/13

METRO DETROIT TEENAGERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Marwa Harp, along with Eli Elriechouni, both seniors at Dearborn Fordson High School being honored among Michigan leading youth volunteers. All part of the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards: a national program recognizing outstanding acts of volunteerism. Outstanding doesn't begin to scratch the surface for either. Harp is a founding member of the Cue Teen Grant Initiative, and helped raise \$300-THOUSAND dollars for youth-based community organizations through donations, events and grant funding...

4/20/13

FEEDING THE HUNGRY FOR OVER 20 YEARS

Dulcie Rosenfeld, being honored at the 20th annual Women's Power Breakfast in Detroit, as one of the driving forces behind the very first one in 1993...with 120 attendees...growing since to over 500 prominent female business and community leaders raising over \$600-thousand dollars for the Gleaners Community Food Bank.

4/27/13

A PLEDGE AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

Students at Detroit Carstens Elementary and Middle School took part in an assembly that spelled out the dangers of gun violence, to teach kids how to handle dangerous situations. Director of Victim Services Karen Hall says they want kids to get away from the snitch stigma and let them know it is okay to tell a parent or another grown up when they see guns.

5/04/13

PRE-SCHOOL INSTEAD OF PRISON

Auburn Hills Police Chief Doreen Olko reading to youngsters, says you only have to look at the numbers...70 percent of state prison inmates are dropouts. The focus of a new push to get more kids in early education programs that will put them on a learning track and away from a life of crime. Olko among local law enforcement who see the investment in quality pre-school as a way to reduce crime and taxpayer dollars spent on prisons.

5/11/13

MOTORCYCLE CRASHES ON THE RISE IN METRO DETROIT

Carmine Polumbo of the Southeast Michigan Council on governments says the double-digit jump in area crashes is enough to raise eyebrows. There's no single cause that stands out behind the increase. It's not known if there's any connection between the higher number of crashes and last year's repeal of state helmet laws. He says motorcyclists and drivers both have a responsibility to follow the rules of the road.

5/18/13

A NEW APPROACH TO A DIFFICULT PROBLEM--MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

Doreen Nied Executive director of the Carelink Network of Wayne County, which coordinates mental health services...She is leading a new program to destigmatize mental health, so anyone will know what to do when they see a problem. Nied says the program takes the knowledge beyond the experts and brings it to everyone in the community, so they can approach co-workers friends and family members to take the first step in getting the help they need.

5/25/13

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU ARE TOO OLD FOR FOSTER CARE?

Sabo Jubrai is Executive Director of the Park West Foundation who has helped over 500 young people make the transition from foster care to real life, with housing transportation and jobs. During foster Care Moth, she wants people to understand the need for foster care can happen for any child at any time.

6/08/13

PROM SEASON NOT OVER FOR THESE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Michelle Soto is president of Wish Upon a Teen in Michigan, a group that works with teenagers coping with serious illnesses that don't allow them to enjoy the same activities as others. For several years they have held spa days for teenage girls, and wanted to expand the idea for a special prom for today.

6/22/13

A FARM THAT KNOWS HOW TO GROW

Kathy Hale of the MSU Ag Extension Office says there is maybe one other bi-centennial farm in all of Michigan...just like any other business, Hale says farm must be willing to shift gears to meet the needs of the marketplace...As part of that, Westview Orchards in Washington Township will hold a Bicentennial celebration next weekend...

6/29/13

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF AN IMPORTANT PUBLIC ACT THAT HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE

Mary Griffiths of the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority says Oakland was the first county in Michigan to adopt the act that helped opened eyes as well as doors. A carnival is planned Thursday July 18th at the Great Lakes Golf Dome in Auburn Hills ...along with games, food and live music, the event will recognize those who have received help under the act as well as those who provide it.

CAREGIVER RESOURCE GUIDE

4/1/13

At the Detroit Medical Center, Dr. Richard Santucci, Director of Reconstructive Urology, is one of a small number of specialists who use a procedure called Urethraplasty to correct the problem.

4/8/13

Reading aloud to children should begin at infancy. Specialists tell us that by age six weeks, the child will likely begin responding to certain words and pictures.

4/15/13

Resistance exercise for the elderly is crucial to protecting bone health. Harvard Medical School suggests that this type of exercise helps increase cellular activity and calcium deposits.

4/22/13

Do you smoke with your children nearby? Loretta Davis, President and CEO of the Institute for Population Growth in Detroit strongly advises that children need to be in a well-ventilated area. The American Lung Association warns that babies exposed to second-hand smoke more vulnerable to the poisons in smoke and run higher risk for bronchitis, pneumonia and sudden infant death syndrome.

4/29/13

Parents are strongly advised to know what their children are doing when on the internet. Learn passwords and routinely check activity. Remind children about potential threats and that in a chat room not everyone is who they say they are. Block access to chat rooms you think are inappropriate. For more tips check the Missing and Exploited Children website.

5/3/13

More African Americans are needed for the National Bone Marrow Registry according to Tarita Gibson of the NBMR's Be the Match Registry.

5/6/13

Helping a loved one kick the smoking habit? Amanda Holm of Henry Ford Health System recommends stress-management, physical activity and nutrition counseling.

5/10/13

Does everyone know what to do if a fire breaks out in the home? Do you have the recommended equipment: smoke detectors, extinguishers, emergency ladder that can be used to escape through a second floor window? Detroit Fire Commissioner Donald Austin recommends regular family fire drills with everyone meeting up at a designated spot outside.

5/17/13

Oakwood Health System's Boost Nutrition on a Budget offers free, interactive sessions with registered dietitians who help people maintain a healthy diet despite a limited income.

5/20/13

Robert Avedisian, Principal of the Detroit Public School's Drew Transition Center says parents are able to find programs connecting them to services like respite care and financial aid. The center's students, aged 18-to-26, range from moderately to severely cognitively impaired. They're taught to function in society on their own or with assistance.

5/24/13

Cheryl Thompson, Deputy Director of Field Operations for Michigan Department of Human Services, helps people on state assistance leave it behind. Working with the PATH program, people receiving cash assistance learn skill building and resume writing in an effort to find jobs.

5/27/13

Cancer Specialist Dr. Michael Simon of the Karmanos Cancer Institute offers recommendations for women about when to have their first mammogram and how often the screening exam is needed as they age.

5/31/13

Finding services for seniors is as close as the Detroit Area Agency on Aging's Senior Services Resource Guide.