

Issues Programs List

Quarterly Issues Programs List

Stations: WTRV, WLHT, WGRD, WFGR, WNWZ

July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023

Section I. Issues

The stations have identified the following topics as significant issues facing our community in this quarter:

- A. **MENTAL HEALTH** – A recent study found that Grand Rapids, MI has one of the highest rates of depression compared to other large metro cities in the United States with twenty-five percent of Grand Rapids residents having been diagnosed with depression.
- B. **VETERANS** – Approximately 7,000 veterans live in the Grand Rapids area. The most widely publicized mental health challenges veterans and service members encounter are posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression.
- C. **EDUCATION** – The projected enrollment in Grand Rapid Public Schools is projected to be 13,707 students. Parents are urging the school board to address a handful of concerns for the 2023-2024 school year, including more mental health support for students, improving air quality, ensuring schools with predominately Black students are fully staffed, support for bus drivers, behavioral issues, and better lunches.
- D. **HOMELESSNESS** – According to the Coalition to End Homelessness, 1,239 people were homeless as of January 2023. We addressed the plight of homeless women and a local agency's program to offer shelter and jobs.
- E. **CHILD WELFARE** – Dominick's Law was established here in Michigan in 2012 and strengthens penalties for first-degree and second-degree child abuse, and adds penalties when abuse is committed in front of another child. We featured a local agency that is expanding their programs and staff to better serve abused and neglected children in the community.

Section II. Programming

“Sunday Morning Townsquare” is a locally produced **30-minute program that airs every Sunday morning at 6:00 a.m.** on all five Grand Rapids stations. The program log for this show is set forth below.

Date Aired	Issue Discussed. Description of Program
7/2/23	Volunteering, Youth Resources – Maribeth Groen of Heart of West Michigan United Way discussed summer volunteering opportunities for people from teens to seniors. Mental Health, Relationships – Linda and Charlie Bloom, authors of An End to Arguing: 101 Valuable Lessons for all Relationships, discussed a healthy relationship between couples, arguing, listening, trust and the three words never to use in an argument.
7/9/23	Mental Health – Mental Health America President & CEO Schroeder Stribling, discussed mental health in America and why housing stability and home environment play a large role in our mental health. Mental Health, Divorce – Attorney Jeffrey Stephens, collaborator on the book The Road to Splitsville: How to Navigate the Road to Divorce without

	<p>Making Yourself Crazy, discussed how to deal with divorce and not make your children miserable and your lawyer rich.</p>
7/16/23	<p>Veterans, Mental Health, Community Resources – Rodgers and George Germain from Stanton, Michigan, discussed their fundraiser to assist local veterans living in the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans.</p> <p>Public Health, Vaccines – Mike Luyeks of the Michigan Families for Vaccine Choice discussed their information program and rally for people to understand vaccine choice.</p>
7/23/23	<p>Education, Poverty, Children – Maribeth Groen of Heart of West Michigan United Way discussed their Stuff the Bus program to collect school supplies for children in need.</p> <p>Public Safety, Violence – Grand Rapids Mayor, Rosalynn Bliss discussed some downtown shootings and late-night gang parties and how the city, along with the Grand Rapids Police, are addressing it.</p>
7/30/23	<p>Employment, Education – Joe Schaefer, President of Education Technology Services, discussed job retention and how better education benefits from employers will help.</p> <p>Health, Alzheimer's – Dr. Sharon Cohen, a behavioral neurologist and medical director of the Toronto memory program, discussed the FDA's approval of the first and only Alzheimer's Disease treatment medication.</p>
8/6/23	<p>Employment, Small Business, Inflation, Supply Chain Issues – Lauren Svensson from Instacart, discussed their new program to assist small businesses facing supply chain, staffing shortages and rising costs.</p> <p>Mental Health, Medical, Family Needs – Dr. Udo Erasmus, Canadian Biochemist, author, and lecturer, discussed violence and tragedy and the health problems it can cause, while offering positive steps to reduce the aftermath.</p>
8/13/23	<p>Education, Technology – Albert Lawrence, tech expert, and correspondent for CBS' Henry Ford Innovation Nation, discussed the latest apps and tech available for students returning to school and for use around the home.</p> <p>Healthcare Services – Cathy Weirick, grants manager for Cherry Health in Grand Rapids, Michigan's largest FQHC, Federally Qualified Health Center, discussed the organization's health services for the underserved in our community.</p>
8/21/23	<p>Nutrition, Food – Shanisty Ireland, home chef and lifestyle influencer, discussed fun foods for the family and how to make them healthy.</p> <p>Travel, Recreation – Kat Pay, Executive Director of the National Cherry Festival, Traverse City, promoted fun Labor Day travel to Northern Michigan, concerts and family fun for the end of summer.</p> <p>Entertainment – Jennifer Pascua, promotion manager for Broadway Grand Rapids, announced the new season of Broadway show coming to Grand Rapids.</p>

8/27/23	<p>Education, Finance – Vanessa Okwuraiwe, Principal at Edward Jones, discussed financial education in schools and the need for a better financial curriculum in schools to better prepare student for adulthood.</p> <p>Education – Ericka Souther, parenting expert and journalist, discussed new strategies to inspire more learning fun and student success.</p>
9/3/23	<p>Student Safety – Tucker Perkins, CEO of Propane Education and Research, discussed school bus safety for students with the move away from gas/diesel fuel and to a much safer fuel of propane.</p> <p>Community Safety – Grand Rapids Mayor Rosalynn Bliss discussed the recent storms in the area and the cleanup efforts and power restoration. She also addressed the community Emergency Response Team and its progress.</p>
9/10/23	<p>Homeless Community – Jenna Vermeer, Director of the Open Door Bakery of Degage Ministries, discussed their effort to help the homeless, primarily women, with their shelter and how their Open Door Bakery is helping.</p> <p>Child Welfare, Child Abuse – Marry Mullett, President and CEO of D.A. Blodgett/St. Johns Home, the oldest child welfare nonprofit in the region, discussed their expansion that will boost their work for children and provide safety for them from abuse and neglect.</p>
9/17/23	<p>Health, Addiction, Alcoholism, Recovery – Brian Elve, Executive Director of Guiding Light in Grand Rapids, a non-profit helping individuals recover from addiction, discussed their work that has helped hundreds recover from addiction.</p>
9/24/23	<p>Mental Health/Suicide – Dr. Matthew Miller, the VA's Executive Director for Suicide Prevention, and Heidi Arthur of the Ad Council, discussed the high rate of suicide among veterans, some of the reasons behind it and the campaign to bring more awareness to the public.</p>