

Quarterly Issues/Programs Report

Station Call Letters: **WZZM**
Location (City, State): **Grand Rapids/Battle Creek/Kalamazoo**
For quarter beginning: **January - March 2024**

January 1, 2024

April 1, 2024

July 1, 2024

October 1, 2024

Attached are descriptions of issue-responsive programming broadcasts by this station during the reporting period on the days and times indicated. Each program regularly provides information or addresses current local issues of concern to viewers in the area where our station is located.

LOCAL ISSUES ADDRESSED DURING THE QUARTER

The following are local issues of concern to the community. Programs that addressed these issues during this reporting period are listed on the following pages.

1. **Community** – The West Michigan region is comprised of several cities, each with its own identity and a real sense of community. WZZM is dedicated to covering the kinds of stories that allow each community to maintain its unique identity, while also focusing on the issues and stories that bind us all together.
2. **Crime/Safety** – With growth come challenges. The West Michigan region has experienced tremendous economic growth, bringing with it concerns about crime and personal safety.
3. **Diversity/Social Justice** – As the country grapples with issues of race and ethnicity, the movement toward greater social justice is very much a part of the conversation in West Michigan. Issues such as fair housing, racial reconciliation, diversity, equity, and inclusion are all being addressed.
4. **Economic Development** – Grand Rapids and several lakeshore communities continue to experience healthy economic growth. From new businesses to expansion of long-standing community institutions, there is tremendous potential for further growth. At the same time, employers in certain fields are challenged to find qualified or willing workers. Families are looking for ways to make their personal economies healthier, becoming smarter consumers and spending their money wisely.
5. **Education** – Among the many concerns are funding for education, the achievement gap, declining test scores, Michigan's third grade reading law/falling literacy rates and preparing our future work force.
6. **Health** – West Michigan is home to the Michigan State Medical School, the VanAndel Research Institute and many local health care providers. Changes in healthcare and developments in disease research and treatment are breaking news in this medical community.
7. **Family/Youth** – Issues and stories that will strengthen the lives of children and families are critical to the health and well-being of our community.

ISSUE: COMMUNITY

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME	DURATION
WZZM 13	Michigan State University is inviting Spartans from across the globe to light a luminary in honor of the victims of the tragic mass shooting on campus nearly one year ago. The shooting took the lives of three students—Arielle Anderson, Alexandria Verner and Brian Fraser—and left five others wounded. Since then, the university has increased their safety measures and gun laws have been passed in Michigan. On Feb. 13 at 8 p.m., Spartans are invited to post photos of their luminaries or a message of support on social media using the hashtag #SpartansTogether to join the community in remembrance. Luminaries can be picked up at alumni chapters across the country, the main MSU campus or the East Lansing community while supplies last from now through Feb. 13.	2/7/2024	6am	1:15
WZZM 13	This month, Comstock Park High School hosted its annual Cancer Classic basketball game and donated the proceeds to the VanDyke family. Word of Konnor's fight has spread beyond Comstock Park, too. The Sparta High School hockey team is a co-op that includes players from Comstock Park, and they donated part of the proceeds from their annual "Pink in the Rink" tournament to the VanDyke's.	2/9/2024	6pm	1:35
WZZM 13	Wayland hosted a community forum on safe gun storage after new gun legislation went into effect in Michigan. The legislation, which includes background checks, safe storage requirements and red flag laws-went into effect on the one-year mark of the fatal Michigan State University shooting. The forum will include a panel of law enforcement, school and government officials, staff from the Allegan County Prosecutor's Office and gun owners. Officials will give presentations on what the new legislation means for gun owners, as well as how to safely store guns and work to prevent gun violence.	2/13/2024	Noon	2:10

	<p>One main goal of the forum was to reduce accidental shootings, especially by children. The forum was in the Carpenters & Millwrights Skilled Training Center. It began at 6:30 p.m. Any additional questions for the panel or about future events should be sent to ucwgunsafety@gmail.com.</p>			
WZZM 13	<p>A family in Rockford is in dire need after a fire destroys their home, leaving the father in the hospital with severe burns. The Rockford Fire Department says it responded to a call they received around 2:20 am for a house fire. Crews found the garage and the back half of the house in flames. Erik Jorgensen is in the hospital, his sister telling us he is currently sedated. In addition to burns across his body, he is also being treated for soot burns in his throat and lungs. Jorgensen's wife, and three of their children who were inside the house are uninjured, but his sister tells us they are now without clothes, shoes, glasses and contacts, and other necessities. She describes her brother as a hero, saying he ran back into the home to make sure his kids got out safely.</p>	2/24/2024	630pm	1:10
WZZM 13	<p>In Grand Rapids, a community garden will be blooming downtown this summer. About 40 to 50 plots will be installed on Seward Avenue NW for people to plant their own gardens. There will be raised beds of various sizes for people to claim. The gardens are being supported by Downtown Grand Rapids, Inc., and will be completely free for residents to use. Bill Kirk, communications director for Downtown Grand Rapids, Inc., said the project was made possible after hearing feedback from the community about a need for more access to fresh food. While everyone is welcome to use the garden, priority will go to those living downtown without a yard.</p>	2/28/2024	Noon	1:20
WZZM 13	<p>In southwest Michigan, 12 families are displaced following a fire at their apartment complex. It happened near Benton Harbor Saturday night. Fire fighters say by the time they arrived a</p>	3/4/2024	Noon	0:33

	dryer fire had spread through the three-story building. Fire crews rescued 6 people trapped on the 3rd floor. All the victims are expected to be okay. Every apartment in the building has smoke and water damage. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.			
WZZM 13	Around 7:50 p.m. on Friday, hundreds of people filed into At-Tawheed Islamic Center on East Paris Avenue. They removed their shoes as they went inside for the sunset prayer. After that, it was time to eat. During the holy month of Ramadan, Muslims fast between sunrise and sunset. "We try to get together as a community and break the fast together. Tonight, we have what they call 'iftar' - breaking the fast. The community comes in and prays and then they go down and break the fast and eat together. We normally do that one time during the weekend - either Friday or Saturday" said Dr. Ali Metwalli, who serves as a board member for the mosque. Ramadan ends on Tuesday, April 9.	3/15/2024	11pm	0:55

ISSUE: CRIME/SAFETY

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME	DURATION
WZZM 13	Grand Rapids Police need your help tracking down the owner of a black Chevy Equinox and the vehicle itself. The vehicle is linked to a homicide on Nov. 6, which is the same day a man and woman were found bloodied in the street in two separate areas just blocks from one another. The man's toddler was found wandering alone about a mile away from the crime scene covered in blood. The boy was not hurt himself, but detectives believe the boy more than likely witnessed the crime.	1/2/2024	Noon	0:35
WZZM 13	A Kent City man is accused of sexually abusing a child for years, the Kent County Prosecutor's Office says. Christopher Michael Haggerty, 30, of Kent City, faces three counts of criminal sexual conduct first degree, one count of criminal sexual conduct second degree and a charge related to having sexual contact while knowing his positive HIV status.	1/16/2024	Noon	0:50

WZZM 13	The Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety (KDPS) posted to X, formerly Twitter, saying one of their K9s was stabbed Tuesday night. The K9 was stabbed during the apprehension of a suspect. They said the dog has been taken to an emergency animal hospital in Byron Center to receive medical care. The dog's condition is unclear at this time.	2/6/2024	6pm	1:25
WZZM 13	The Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC) Police Department is asking for help identifying a man suspected of sexual assault. In a "GRCC Alert" text and email to students, GRCC Police said a sexual assault took place between 1 and 1:15 p.m. in the elevator stairwell of Parking Ramp A, formerly known as "The Bostwick Street Ramp". This parking ramp is the largest on GRCC's campus, with multiple entrances and exits. Entrances are located at the top of the ramp, off Ransom Street, and on the lower level at Fountain Street. The alert said the victim was approached by the suspect on the street between Library Street and Fountain Street Church and was threatened, then taken to Parking Ramp A.	2/24/2024	630pm	0:42
WZZM 13	A 20-year-old who testified against his mother at her murder trial in the death of a teenage boy stood before a judge Monday and learned his sentence. A Muskegon County jury convicted Paul Ferguson's mother, Shanda Vander Ark, of open murder and first-degree child abuse in the December 2022 death of her 15-year-old son Timothy Ferguson.	2/26/2024	6am	0:55
WZZM 13	All in-person classes at Muskegon Community College (MCC) have been canceled Wednesday following a threat. MCC officials say a threat was made late Tuesday night and police were contacted. The investigation found no imminent threat to the school. However, all MCC buildings will be closed Wednesday, and in-person classes were canceled. Online classes will still take place.	3/27/2024	6am	0:25

ISSUE: DIVERSITY/SOCIAL JUSTICE

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME	DURATION
WZZM 13	On a Martin Luther King Jr. Day when the weather outside was frightful, the warm culture inside the Muskegon Museum of Art was just what the doctor ordered. The museum hosted a free community day to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The celebration included an interactive museum tour of African American artists whose works are in the museum's permanent collection. Visitors got help learning about the art from some young experts. AP art students from Muskegon High School served as "docents" for the artworks on display. Each student chose a work of art from the collection to research and present to visitors. There were also coloring activities inspired by the highlighted works of art.	1/15/2024	11pm	1:05
WZZM 13	At the end of the month, the community is invited to enjoy a fish fry fundraiser to benefit Black nonprofits. On Feb. 28, there will be interactive art, poetry, performances, a live DJ, resources, donations, food, and desserts at 4470 Breton Road SE in Kentwood. While the event is free to attend, all proceeds from the fundraiser will be donated to Black nonprofits that help children in the community. Organizers said their goal is to raise \$6,000 for two Black nonprofits. However, if they raise \$10,000, they could support three.	2/22/2024	12pm	1:30
WZZM 13	The Minnesota shoe company, Minnetonka is woven into the fabric of the community dating back to 1946. As the fourth generation of the family behind the shoes brings in fresh ideas, they are listening to consumers more than ever before. "I am really grateful that we had a chance to learn, listen and understand more around what cultural appropriation is," Jorie Miller Sherer, Minnetonka's president said. Miller Sherer and her father, David Miller the company's CEO, began educating themselves on cultural appropriation years ago. Miller Sherer says the	3/31/2024	11pm	0:45

	<p>conversations became more of a focus in the fall of 2019. Following the civil unrest in Minneapolis after George Floyd's murder, Miller Sherer says the mission to reconcile with the indigenous community skyrocketed to their top priority in May 2020.</p>			
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ISSUE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME	DURATION
WZZM 13	<p>A major development is moving forward that could generate thousands of new jobs in Kent County. The state has announced a multi-million-dollar grant for a new project in Lowell Township, which is partnering with The Right Place. It will be built just off I-96, at the corner of Cascade Road and Alden Nash. "Lowell Charter Township has had a vision for this parcel for the better part of 30 years," says Travis Alden, community development director for The Right Place. Now, the township can make that vision a reality thanks to a \$17.5 million dollar grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, specifically its new Strategic Site Readiness Program.</p>	1/31/2024	6pm	0:25
WZZM 13	<p>The Right Place, a Grand Rapids-based organization that helps grow business in West Michigan, is working with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to assist Amway in bringing more jobs to its Ada campuses. "We have some new positions that have already opened, and the facilities we're starting the investment, we've committed over \$125 million over the next five years," said Michael Nelson, chief operating officer and chief people officer at Amway. Amway is using a \$2 million grant from MEDC for the investments. One of the investments will be the construction of a state-of-the-art nutrition manufacturing center at Spaulding Avenue, utilizing 48,000 square feet of unused space.</p>	3/27/2024	6pm	0:44

ISSUE: EDUCATION

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME	DURATION
WZZM 13	In a pivotal State of the State address for Governor Gretchen Whitmer Wednesday night, she pushed for a number of different policy priorities and proposals heading into a key election year in Michigan. One such proposal: a push to make community colleges in the state tuition-free for all qualifying high school graduates. The proposal does, however, come with a few requirements. According to reporting from the Associated Press, to qualify, a high school graduate must have lived in Michigan for at least a year and would be required to obtain an associate degree within three years.	1/25/2024	6pm	0:50
WZZM 13	Nominations are now being accepted for the annual Roots in Education grant from Lake Michigan Credit Union (LMCU). The grant will distribute \$1,000 to 25 teachers to revamp their classroom or teaching process. The prize can be used for classroom supplies, subscription services or anything that will improve the classroom or teaching experience for students. This year, LMCU is searching for teachers who have an optimistic attitude. Parents, students, coworkers, and community members are encouraged to nominate an outstanding teacher in their community for the grant.	2/1/2024	Noon	1:30
WZZM 13	Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson announced on a twitter post her call to have driver's education and training return to being offered at public schools across the state, working with the Michigan Education Association on the new initiative. She referenced how 20 years ago, the state "shifted" driver's education away from public schools to private driving instructors but is now looking to what are being described as "gaps" in access to driver's education. Secretary of State Benson says her office and the MEA are continuing to work on providing grants to help families afford driver's ed but says public schools should once again be able to provide that need.	2/1/2024	6pm	1:00

ISSUE: HEALTH

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME	DURATION
WZZM 13	<p>Community of Hearts, a nonprofit organization that provides advocacy for mental health, is partnering with Prince of Peace Church in Grand Rapids to host an open forum discussion to raise awareness about mental and emotional health in the Black community.</p> <p>“Community of Hearts is an organization that exists to help promote mental health advocacy,” said Founder Monica Sparks. Founded in 2020, Community of Hearts has been changing the narrative of mental health in the Black community. It provides ongoing training and resources to create mental health advocates.</p> <p>The mental health awareness event will be held at Prince of Peace Church at 715 Evergreen Street SE and starts at 1 p.m. The event is open and free for anyone to attend and will include a read-along for those coming with children.</p>	2/1/2024	6pm	0:50
WZZM 13	<p>Corewell Health announced Friday night that one of their key vendors experienced a cyber-attack. The attack prompted health systems, pharmacies, and insurance companies across the country to disconnect from the vendor to prevent additional issues. Corewell said they usually rely on this vendor's service to send prescriptions to pharmacies electronically. For the time being they said they may not be able to do this and will need to fill prescriptions on paper instead.</p>	2/23/2024	6pm	0:35
WZZM 13	<p>We have a health alert for you this noon hour. Two more measles cases are being reported in Michigan. One in Wayne County and one in Washtenaw County. Measles spreads through the air when people breathe, sneeze, or cough. Symptoms include a high fever, tiny white spots on cheeks, gums or roof of your mouth, and a red, blotchy rash. If you are experiencing these symptoms, contact your local health department. Health</p>	3/4/2024	Noon	0:35

	officials in Wayne and Washtenaw counties are encouraging people who may have been exposed to get vaccinated. Vaccines are typically free and are available at your doctor's office or local pharmacy.			
WZZM 13	A new dental center is now open for walk-in urgent care in Grand Rapids' Belknap neighborhood. The Belknap Commons Dental Center officially opens Thursday. It offers only walk-ins on a first-come, first-served basis for those needing care for urgent, unplanned dental issues.	3/7/2024	6am	0:55

ISSUE: FAMILY/YOUTH

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME	DURATION
WZZM 13	"For the last week, both Colin and Clay have been in the same ICU unit in the same hospital," said Nadean Moore, a family friend of the Rogers Family. Nadean, her daughter Samantha and their family are members of ColinCrew, a group of community members who have been supporting Colin Rogers and his family. The group has been seeking justice and law change after Colin was dragged by a vehicle and left with a severe brain injury in June of last year.	1/31/2024	5pm	1:00
WZZM 13	A Kent County toddler with autism is growing so fast, she is already in size five clothes despite only being three years old. And recently when she fell out of her crib her parents found a special bed to keep her safe, but they could not afford it. A parent should feel safe when they tuck their child into bed at night, but for the Leeuw family this has not been the case for their young daughter. So, John and Ashley decided to ask for help. "We decided to start a GoFundMe and just, you know, put it out on our Facebooks asking friends and family for donations," said John. But that post caught the eye of more than just family and friends, a member of the 'Free Beer and Hot Wings' radio show came across the post and passed it along to the radio	2/16/2024	11pm	0:50

	<p>hosts. "We all talked about it and said, well, maybe there's a way that we can help through our charity idiots for underdogs," said radio show co-host Chris "Hot Wing" Michels. The show plays daily trivia games choosing a random listener each day, Michels knew this was the perfect opportunity to tell John the news.</p>			
WZZM 13	<p>Grand Rapids healthcare leaders are celebrating what they call a "transformational financial gift" from the DeVos Family Foundation to support pediatric health in West Michigan, totaling \$50 million. Leaders from Corewell Health, Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation and Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services, along with Doug DeVos and other DeVos family shared details about the financial gift Monday morning.</p>	2/16/2024	6am	0:40