

**WSML
1200 AM
GRAHAM, NC**

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

FOR

STATION WSML

4th QUARTER 2023
(October 1 – December 31)

Operations Manager: Carson Johnson

Report compiled by:
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WSML PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS COMMUNITY ISSUES

WSML-AM, Burlington, NC
Issues and Concerns
4th Quarter 2023
October 1-December 31

Issue: CD Crime/Drugs FY Family/Youth
EC Economy GR Growth/Roads/Transportation
ED Education HO Housing
EH Environment/Health PA Private/Public/Accountability
IN Infrastructure POL Politics
NS National Security PS Public Safety
HC Healthcare AG Agriculture
MI Military Appreciation/Awareness HA High School Athletics/Extracurricular
TAX Tax Reform/Taxes ME Media
IM Immigration LE Law Enforcement
COVID COVID-19 PF Personal Finances
ART Arts And Family/Youth Programs HN Hunger Needs
Shows: The Maverick Morning Show with Tom Britt News and Weather 6a-10a M-F

WSML-AM 1200
4th Quarter Community Affairs
October 1 – December 31 2023

Tom Britt newscasts M-F 6a, 6:30a, 7a, 7:30a, 8a, 8:30a, 9a CD, EC, ED, EH, IM, NS, HB, FY, GR, HO, PA, POL, PS

10/1/23 8:30a-9:00a Carson Johnson, Tom Britt, and Leanne Petty talked with Aaron Davis, Director Of Mebane Recreation And Parks about Cycle NC's Mountains To The Coast Bicycle Tour. The tour passes through North Carolina and stops overnight in Mebane at the Arts and Community Center. 2023 is Alamance County's "Year Of The Trail" which celebrates the hiking and bike trails in the county and the bike tour helps promote Alamance County's tourism to other North Carolina residents. According to Davis, Mebane strives to promote happy and healthy residents and the tour does both. Discussed the bike and walking trails in the Mebane area and the downtown businesses that are visited by the bikers. **FY, EH**

10/4/23 8:30a-9:00a Carson Johnson, Tom Britt, and Leanne Petty talked with Senior Director Kelly Roberts and President Regan Gural from the Alamance County Chamber of Commerce. Discussed the upcoming annual Economic Summit hosted by the Chamber. This years summit focused on Agriculture and its significant impact on the Alamance County economy. NC Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler announced that in 2023 NC Ag ribusiness topped \$100 Billion dollars. Discussed the various crops grown in Alamance County, the current state of local farms, the Alamance County Farm Trust which protects family farmland from inheritance taxes and helps insure our farmers livleyhood. Talked about challenges faced by farmers. Also discussed the Alamance Chamber Small Business Grant Program which helps to promote local small business. Talked about the impact on the local economy by buying and supporting local small business. Discussed the upcoming Chamber trip to Vietnam which gives members an opportunity to see the business models of asian countries. **AG, EC**

10/5/23 8:30a-9:00a Carson Johnson, Tom Britt, and Leanne Petty talked with Army Recruiter Staff Sgt. Justin Carter. Discussed the current state of our military, current deployments, recruiting initiatives, and benefits of service. Talked about what Army life is like and how it has changed since Sgt. Carter enlisted. Discussed post service life for veterans. **MI, PA**

10/6/23 8:30a-9:00a Carson Johnson, Tom Britt, and Leanne Petty talked with Burlington Police officer Bobby Davis and PIO Emily Atkins. Officer Davis oversees Alamance County Crimestoppers. Disscussed current crime rates and the number of crimes in Alamance County solved by Crimestoppers tips, talked about the Alamance County Crimestoppers model which has been nationally recognized for its effectiveness. Talked about funding for Crimestoppers. Many don't realize the program is heavily funded by private donations. **LE, CD, PA**

10/12/23 8:40a-9:15a Carson Johnson, Tom Britt, and Leanne Petty talked with Kelly Hunter, PIO for the City Of Mebane about the hiring of a new fire chief. The previous chief is retiring after over 30 years of service. Discussed the hiring process, dates of public input sessions, the qualities the City is looking for in its new chief. Talked about the hiring of the City Of Mebane's new Waste Water Treatment Facility Director. Discussed the exponential growth of Mebane over the past five years and the need to set infrastructure for future growth. Discussed multiple new businesses coming to Mebane, including McKay's Books which is closing its facility in Greensboro to open in Alamance County. Also discussed the possability of a Buckees coming to Alamance County and the economic impact it could have on the area as well as the infrastructure needs to accommodate such a facility. **PA, GR, IN, EC**

10/18/23 8:30a-9:00a Carson Johnson, Tom Britt, and Leanne Petty talked with Chris Rice, president of Kaulig Racing which is based out of town but Rice is an Alamance County resident. Discussed NASCAR in North Carolina including its history and economic impact. Discussed the jobs associated with the stock car racing industry ranging from media, engineering, and even car decals. Talked about one of the major decal providers, The Decal Source, which is just outside Alamance County and employees local residents.

Discussed local short tracks including, Alamance County's own ACE Speedway, as a way of promoting tourism. **EC**

10/19/23 8:30a-9:00a Carson Johnson, Tom Britt, and Leanne Petty talked with Alamance County Fire Marshall J Nim Harris and David Sharpe with the Burlington Fire Department about Fire Prevention Month. Discussed common causes of household fires, the importance of having a family fire plan, office place safety, and the number of house fires in Alamance County over the past several months. Discussed the need for functional smoke detectors and the simple availability of them from the Burlington Fire Department. **PS**

10/25/23 8:30a-9:00a Carson Johnson, Tom Britt, and Leanne Petty talked with Scott Allred from Don Allred Insurance about the upcoming Healthcare insurance window. Discussed changes to the Healthcare system for 2024, the dates for registration, the registration process, costs associated with registering. Talked about the new providers, which providers are no longer available, and which local hospitals and doctors are in network for each provider. **HC, TAX**

10/30/23 8:30a-9:00a Carson Johnson, Tom Britt, and Leanne Petty talked with North Carolina Secretary of Treasury Dale Follwell. Talked about an additional 4% that will be paid to North Carolina retired state employees and teachers. The funds were appropriated by the General Assembly and did not come from the State pension plan. Discussed the passing of former NC State Controller Dr. Linda Combs and her impact on North Carolina's future economy. Discussed the NC Supplemental Retirement Board's recognition by the National Association of Government Defined Contribution Administrators for its leadership. Talked about the current state of the NC State pension and the economic growth of North Carolina. **EC, PA**

11/9/23 8:40a-9:15a Carson Johnson, Tom Britt, and Leanne Petty talked with Kelly Hunter, PIO for the City of Mebane, and Steve Krans, Vice President of Mebane Mainstreet/Downtown Development Corp and owner of two Mebane businesses. Discussed Krans' recent acquisition of Martinho's Pizza, a Mebane staple for many years. Talked about Krans' reasons for becoming so involved in the Mebane business community and the role of the Downtown Development Corp. Discussed the importance of shopping small, particularly with Christmas just a month away. Talked with Hunter about the demolition of the former Kingsdown factory, the opening of the new factory in Mebane, the impact of traffic the demolition of the old building will have, and new plans for the site. It will become a four story apartment/townhome building. Discussed the need for housing in Mebane with its quick growth and the need to plan for more growth. With a nod to Thanksgiving just ahead, discussed fire safety, particularly kitchen fire safety. Without fail Alamance County reports numerous kitchen fires around the holidays. Discussed upcoming events in Mebane including the last farmer's market of the year and events put on by the Mebane Recreation And Parks Dept. **PA, GR, IN, EC, HO, PS, FY, ART**

11/16/23 8:30a-9:00a Carson Johnson, Tom Britt, and Leanne Petty talked with Terry Cott from the Burlington Artist's League. Discussed upcoming artist's showcases and the groups role in fostering artistic achievement for all ages. **ART**

11/20/23 8:30a-9:00a Carson Johnson, Tom Britt, and Leanne Petty talked with NC State Secretary Of Treasury Dale Follwell about North Carolina's current economy, discussed the negative impact of a new weight loss drug, Zepbound, on the NC State Health plan. Many of the weight loss drugs on the market cost over \$600 per month and could potentially bankrupt the state health plan. Discussed NCCash.com which houses millions of dollars of NC resident's money that for one reason or another was unable to be delivered. Discussed the millions of dollars that have already been claimed by residents, non profits, businesses, and local and city governments. **EC, PA, EH**

12/7/23 8:30a-9:00a Carson Johnson, Tom Britt, and Leanne Petty talked with Scoutmaster Deleno Flynn from Boy Scout Troop 265 in Gibsonville. Each year the troop sells luminaries to honor loved ones and they light up the Gibsonville cemetery with them. The luminaries offer comfort to for loved ones around Christmas and also are a major fundraiser for the Scout troop. Discussed the role of scouting in youth and its impact on their lives. Talked about molding boys in to men and giving them the skills to become exemplary members of society. **FY**

12/8/23 8:30a-9:00a Carson Johnson, Tom Britt, and Leanne Petty talked with Jel Henry, Public Relations Director for the Alamance County Salvation Army about their upcoming concert with the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra at Williams High School's auditorium in Burlington. The concert is a canned food drive

for the Salvation Army. Talked about the role of the Salvation Army in providing food, housing, and healthcare for those in need and the need for donations throughout the year, not just for the kettles around Christmas time. **HN, HO, FY**

12/13/23 7:30a-8:00a Carson Johnson, Tom Britt, and Leanne Petty talked with Alamance County Sheriff Terry Johnson about the recent arrest of six arsonists. Two abandoned mills were burned down within the last year and through investigation and tips from Alamance County Crimestoppers it lead to two different groups of arsonists in the area. Discussed the role of Crimestoppers. **CD**

12/14/23 7:30a-8:00a Carson Johnson, Tom Britt, and Leanne Petty talked with Kim Suleki from the EM Holt Backpack Program about its current need for donations leading in to Christmas break. The backpack program is 100% funded by donations on nonperishable foods that can be sent home with over 30 students to insure they have food over the weekend and during holidays. Many of these students rely on free or reduced lunches at school for their only nutrition and the program makes sure they are able to eat when school isn't in session. **HN**

12/14/23 8:40a-9:15a Carson Johnson, Tom Britt, and Leanne Petty talked with Kelly Hunter, PIO for the City Of Mebane about the retirement of Fire Chief Bob Louis and his role in developing the Mebane Fire Department during his 30 years of service. He was Mebane's first Fire Chief. Discussed the new Fire Chief, John Wellons, who was previously the Interim Chief Of Operations and Training for the Chapel Hill Fire Department but was already a Mebane resident. Discussed his qualifications and his goals for the Mebane Fire Department. Discussed the closing of Huey's Oyster Bar in Mebane. Huey's has been in business for 66 years and has been a Mebane staple. Discussed the approval by the Mebane City Council for the WRRF expansion which should keep residents from paying higher sewer and water rates. Discussed a request for a Special Use Permit for a Water Resource Recovery Facility around 23 acres. The area was rezoned previously. Upon approval the facility will improve capacity from the current two and a half million gallons per day to four million, and eventually, six million gallons per day. Expansion comes from an influx of commercial businesses, jobs, and residential growth. Population projects show the need to expand and prepare infrastructure. Discussed an upcoming Chlorine Burnout which is done annually to optimize water quality for the city. Further discussed the possibility of a Buckees in Mebane and an upcoming Planning Board meeting on the subject. Discussed upcoming events for the City of Mebane as well as government offices holiday schedule and dates of closure, as well as changes in trash pickup during Christmas and New Year's. **PA, GR, IN, EC**