

Problems, Needs and Issues
Quarterly Report
First Quarter, 2014

The following is a list of issues of community and public interest that the news department covered during the months of January, February, and March, 2014. Included is a description of each issue and the news stories that were written and aired to inform the local residents about each issue that had an impact on the community.....

1.) - **Superintendent and College President Search**....During the quarter the searches for a new superintendent for the Winona Area Public Schools and for a new president of Minnesota State College--Southeast Technical were concluded. The news department followed the searches with progress reports and by reporting on interview sessions with the candidates for the two positions and the final selection announcements. See attached news stories.....

2.) - **Levee Park Plan**.....During the first quarter a citizen's committee appointed by the mayor continued year-long discussions on the future of Winona's Levee Park that borders the Mississippi River. A design plan was received from consultants from the University of Minnesota and was presented to the public for their comments. The committee continued to review the plans and public comments before making any final decisions. See attached news stories.....

3.) - **Winona Bridge Project**.....The Minnesota Department of Transportation continued to complete plans for constructing a new interstate bridge over the Mississippi River and rehabbing the old bridge set to get underway in July 2014. MinnDOT also began purchasing properties in the right-of-way and announced the hiring a lead construction firm. The news department covered public meetings where the plans were discussed and kept the public updated on the progress. See attached news stories....

4.) - **Tax Bill and Tax Cuts**.....The Minnesota State Legislature passed a bill early in the 2014 session that called for some 500-million dollars in tax cuts. The funds were used from the state's projected 1-point-2 billion dollar budget surplus announced in February. Our station kept the public informed on the progress of the bill. See attached news stories

5.) - **Propane Shortage**.....During the extremely harsh winter of 2014, the

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State of Minnesota, and even the Winona area, experienced a shortage of propane fuel which impacted many residents. The state legislature, during the session, approved a bill authorizing additional funds to help low-income residents pay for the propane whose prices doubled and tripled at times. See attached news stories.....

Submitted by:

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