

Problems, Needs and Issues
Quarterly Report
Third Quarter, 2014

The following is a list of issues of community and public interest that the news department covered during the months of July, August and September of 2014. Included is a description of each issue and the news stories that were written and aired to inform local residents about each issue.....

1.) **2015 Property Tax Levies**.....During the quarter the local governments, including Winona County, City of Winona, Winona Public School District. and Goodview set their preliminary property tax levies. Most were slight increases from 2014 with the exception of Winona County which set a zero percent preliminary increase. Final levies will be set by the end of December so the figures may change. See attached news stories.....

2.) **Rail Safety**.....During the quarter the rail safety issue became more of a concern especially for our listening area because trains carrying crude oil and other hazardous materials continued to pass through our communities. Meetings were held with lawmakers and local officials to voice their concerns. See attached news stories.....

3.) **Flag Burning**.....Winona Police continued their investigation into a series of American Flag burnings at residences on the city's west side and also in Goodview. Some 20 flags were set on fire over a three-week time span in August. By the end of the quarter the crimes had not been solved and police were continuing to ask for the public's help in locating the person responsible. See attached news stories.....

4.) **Winona Bridge Project**.....Work got underway in July with a groundbreaking for the Winona Bridge Project which is slated to last until 2019. It involves the construction of a new bridge over the Mississippi River and rehabbing the old one. Attached news stories were used to inform the public about the project's progress.....

5.) **Hebert Discrimination Suit**.....After being fired by the Winona County Board of Commissioners in May, former County Administrator Duane Hebert filed a discrimination lawsuit against the county with the State of Minnesota Department of Human Rights. At the same time the board began discussions on the hiring process for a new administrator and approved an updated job description for the position. See attached news stories.....

Submitted by,

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