

WAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SECTION 6: Community Issues

January, February, March 2013

Community Issues – 1st Quarter

Crime

Crime remains a top concern with people living in the Decatur – Champaign – Springfield areas. Homicides, Scams, and Drug-related arrests topped our coverage in this category.

Government

After long and arduous debates, pension reform was finally passed by the house and senate. Budget cuts were at the forefront of local municipalities and school districts.

Education

Education was tied in to government more than usual. Spending and budget management were priorities. Some schools were closed down because local school districts could not afford to keep them open.

Economy & Jobs

Job growth took a hit, especially in Decatur. Unemployment remained high, topping 13 percent. Home sales in the Springfield and Champaign areas began to increase.

Health and Public Safety

Flu season began to wind down while weather became public safety issue #1.

Military

People in central Illinois opened their heart and their wallets to help veterans for various causes.

Performing Arts & Charitable Events

Various charitable events to benefit the American Cancer Society, American Red Cross, Muscular Dystrophy, and March of Dimes were covered heavily by WAND.