

Withers Broadcasting
WDDD-FM, WVZA-FM, WTAO-FM, WHET-FM, WFRX-FM
Quarterly Issues/Programs List
4th Quarter (October/November/December), 2017

Withers Broadcasting provides its listeners with programming and public service elements that address issues of concern to our local community. Among the issues determined to be of most concern during the preceding quarter were:

A) State:

-- The state political landscape showed signs of change in the fallout of Illinois' first budget in over two years. Several Republican lawmakers announced they would not be running for re-election. J.B. Pritzker has emerged as the likely Democratic challenger for Governor Bruce Rauner. Rauner himself was under fire for his inability to prevent a tax hike, and notably his decision to approve a bill that expanded abortion coverage for state employees and those on Medicaid. Rauner looks to get a primary challenge from lawmaker Jeanne Ives, largely due to his abortion bill decision. The state continues to lose residents, the most of any US state, a trend that could cost Illinois a seat in the US House in time for the next census. 2018 marks Illinois' bicentennial year.

B) Local

--Several communities dealt with money concerns. Herrin, Marion, Harrisburg and Carbondale were among the towns hiking property taxes, largely to cover shortfalls in funding pensions for first responders. In Zeigler, commissioner Ryan Thorpe was indicted for stealing over 300-thousand dollars in city funds in a check writing scheme. The mayor admits the village may never fully recoup their losses. Franklin County continues to deal with years of missing and incomplete audits, relying on third parties for the time being to ensure transparency. The city of Harrisburg had conflicting budget numbers that resulted in overspending. Carbondale was under fire for spending money to book cover bands for eclipse weekend, and spending nearly \$100,000 on a new branding initiative. Many communities also reviewed and revised their sexual harassment policies in light of recent high profile allegations in both government and the entertainment industries.

--The city of Marion will be under new leadership for the first time in several generations, as longtime Mayor Robert Butler announced his retirement in early 2018. He had previously announced this would be his final term, but opted to step down early due to health concerns. Anthony Rinella will serve out Butler's remaining term through 2019. Butler's leadership has been a constant not only in Marion, but in the entire region, and his exit truly marks the end of an era.

--A controversial tax increment financing plan caused a rift between residents in Williamson County, as the Village of Cambria voted to create a TIF district despite concerns from parents and school leaders in the Carterville Unit 5 district, who worry about absorbing more students without the benefit of additional revenue created by the TIF district. The district is suing the village.

--SIU-Carbondale, the area's largest employer, faced with declining enrollment and budget constraints, continued to debate how they should approach their future. New chancellor Carlo Montemagno unveiled a controversial reorganization plan that would eliminate dozens of departments and reducing the school's 8 academic colleges down to 5. Both the Faculty Senate and Graduate Student Council passed resolutions opposing the plan. The city of Carbondale, recognizing their critical relationship

with SIU, has also echoed the sentiment of needing to do things differently going forward.

--Crime: As we drew closer to the holidays, law enforcement continued to warn residents about various scams. Many of them involved people calling up residents and businesses, fraudulently representing the IRS or Ameren, demanding immediate payment. In Murphysboro, two men were charged with both possessing and producing child pornography. One suspect was charged in a string of masked armed robberies that plagued the area dating back to summer. After a deadly church shooting in Texas, and the Vegas concert massacre, local law enforcement worked with local churches to develop active shooter plans of their own.

--Traffic and accident reports: In an effort to curb accidents along the Interstate 57 corridor, Illinois State Police stepped up enforcement, especially during the busy holiday season. ISP unveiled an initiative to patrol every 20 miles of interstate, with emphasis on preventing speeding, distracted driving and increased awareness of construction zones. Accidents involving out-of-state residents and semis are still an all-too regular occurrence, but not to the level it was over the summer.

C) National

– In the continued aftermath of hurricanes in Texas and the Gulf Coast, Florida and Puerto Rico, we directed listeners to our websites and offered ways people could make donations to national and local charitable efforts for disaster relief.

These topics were primarily addressed in newscasts, live appearances and/or promotional announcements. Additional topics of local importance were covered in studio interviews and announcements detailed herein:

Date	Time	Topic	Length
10/24/17	8:00 AM	Jory Dial, athletic director from Frankfort Community High School to talk about their benefit donkey basketball game	3:00
11/9/17	7:40 AM	Pastor Michael Nave from Cornerstone Church to discuss the recent church shooting in Texas, how his church and others handle security policies, and whether it's safe to attend church.	3:00
11/29/17	7:40 AM	Meghan Cole, Carbondale Main Street, to discuss the annual Lights Fantastic Parade in downtown Carbondale.	3:00
12/4/17	8:00AM	Tom Harness from Harness Digital Marketing and Amber Beike from the Children's Home & Aid Society of Illinois to promote the "Ugly Christmas Suit" campaign to raise money for adoption support and youth and family services.	3:00
12/11/17	8:00AM	Lindsey Bullman from the Night's Shield in	3:00

West Frankfort, to help kick off our Christmas Wish Auction, and to promote their rebranding and revised mission to serve children in crisis in 2018.

12/18/17	8:00AM	Lindsey Bullman from the Night's Shield in West Frankfort, in conjunction with our Christmas Wish Auction, promoting their rebranding and revised mission to serve children in crisis in 2018.	3:00
12/21/17	7:40 AM	Pastor Michael Nave from Cornerstone Church to discuss the true meaning of Christmas and the message of "peace on Earth and goodwill toward men"	3:00

In addition, we posted additional listings of community activities and non-profit events on our websites and shared on social media, and regularly announced many of these events at our discretion during the broadcast day.