

KQYB

2021 ISSUES PROGRAMMING Q1

KQYB PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS 2021 Q1

Issue Category	Broadcast Dates	Time	Length	Amount	Description - PSA
Community Needs	Jan - March 2021	12A – 12A	:30	30	Art Dash
				75	Houlee in the Coulee
				48	Minutes in Motion – Activity Challenge
				95	Polar Plunge – for special Olympics.

KQYB PUBLIC SERVICE INTERVIEWS 2021 Q1

Description of issue	Program Segment	Date/ Time	Description of Program Interviews
Community Health/ COVID-19	Phil Costigan in the Morning	03/22/21 9:30A 5 minutes	Gundersen Health System promotes their Minutes in Motion Activity Challenge.
Community Needs	Phil Costigan in the Morning	01/12/21 7:10AM 5minutes	Rose, Redfeather MFG – Community Outreach and enhancement
		02/02/21 8:30AM 5 minutes	Kerri Gloede from Special Olympics Wisconsin promotes their mission and fundraiser – Polar Plunge and how it’s different this year.
		03/09/21 9:30AM 3 minutes	Sally Egan, Director of Entrepreneurial Experiences for the Girls Scouts of Wisconsin, Badgerland Council discusses their COVID-19 Cookie Drive.
		03/10/21 9:45 AM 5 minutes	Tracey Mullaney with Irishfest promotes the annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade
		03/10/21 7:10A 6minutes	Kayha Fox from Habitat for Humanity discusses their programs and mission.

KQYB NEWS ISSUES 2021 Q1

News stories are approximately thirty seconds long and air on KQYB between the hours of 5:30AM and 9:00AM

Health/Coronavirus:

01/04 - for the second consecutive day, Winona County reported a COVID-19 death, while La Crosse County added another 69 cases of the virus yesterday La Crosse is now averaging 56.9 cases a day the past week. A month ago, that average was 97, which included a day with 191 cases. La Crosse now has a total of 10,229 cases. Winona added 31 cases and has a total of 3,617. The death was the 45th in the county. There have been 15 since Dec. 1. Winona is averaging 14.7 cases a day the past week. A month ago, that average was 47. Statewide, Wisconsin added 2,446 cases, 80 hospitalizations and five deaths Sunday. The state is averaging about 2,300 cases a day the past week ... down about 1,000 from a month ago. Deaths per day are down about 20 from a month ago ... to 26 per. In Minnesota, another 2,714 cases, 111 hospitalizations and 53 deaths yesterday. The state was averaging over 6,300 cases a day a month ago. Now, it's at 1,300. Deaths per day are at 32 in the state ... but were 58 a day a month ago.

01/04 - Here's a sign that the spread of COVID is going down in the La Crosse area...Gundersen is allowing some patients to have visitors again. The hospital says because of a recent decrease in community spread of the virus, one person 16 or over will be allowed to accompany Gundersen patients at hospitals and clinics throughout the system. The rule change takes effect today. Patients being treated for COVID, or who have symptoms of the virus, still will not be allowed to bring a visitor at this time.

01/04 - Two more COVID-19 deaths of La Crosse County residents reported today. The total now, 59 -- 21 in the past month. The county also added 78 cases and is now averaging 62.9 cases a day the past week with a 33% positivity rate over that time. There were four more county residents hospitalized over the holiday weekend, bringing that total to 323 -- 60 in the past month.

1/6 - About 85-thousand doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been given to people in Wisconsin. But that's just one-third of the doses which have been shipped to the state. Governor Evers is urging state residents to be patient, while his critics say the vaccination program could be a 'disaster.' In La Crosse, Jason Fratzke from Mayo Health Systems says Mayo employees are getting the shots they need: Fratzke says Mayo is relying on federal and state guidelines to see who will get the vaccine next.

1/6 - At least one, possibly two, COVID-19 death yesterday, and 96 more cases out of La Crosse County. La Crosse has jumped to 69.7 cases per day the past week. A week ago, that average was 44 a day. DHS lists the county at 61 deaths, but throughout the pandemic, the La Crosse County Health Department has always added one more death to that number, which would bring that total to 62. Regardless, it's the third consecutive day reporting at least one death of a county resident. There was also one more resident hospitalized, bringing that total to 334 — 35 of those so far in January. In surrounding counties, no deaths were reported.

For a daily look at surrounding county numbers, as well as Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa check WIZM News dot com.

1/8 – La Crosse County is up to 63 COVID-19 deaths. A death has been reported each of the past four days, and there have been four deaths this month, so far. December had the most county residents die from the virus at 21. October had the second most at 19, and there were 15 deaths in November. Of the 60 deaths, 45 are people aged 80 and over. One more county resident was also hospitalized for the virus, bringing that total this month to

16. There were 63 new cases, as well. La Crosse County is now averaging 60 a day the past week. A week ago, that average was 56.

1/13 – A trend downward appears to be continuing with COVID-19. No deaths reported yesterday in La Crosse or any surrounding counties. There were also no, La Crosse residents hospitalized from the virus yesterday. Hospitalizations in Vernon, Trempealeau, Monroe and Jackson are all down to five or lower in each county. Less than a month ago those numbers were in double digits.

1/13 – Health care workers in La Crosse County are making their way through the first group of local people designated to get a COVID-19 vaccination. Jason Fratzke of Mayo Health Systems in La Crosse says the Mayo workers who were the top priority to get the vaccine have received it: Fratzke says police and fire workers also will be vaccinated in the early phase. High-risk patients and people 75 or older are included in the next phase of vaccinations.

1/19 Another 53 cases of COVID-19 in La Crosse County yesterday. La Crosse is averaging 43.3 cases a day the past week. A week ago, that average was 67. No update Monday from the Coulee COVID-19 Collaborative for La Crosse County, so there's no hospitalization data, but area Wisconsin counties did update their numbers. Trempealeau reported its 33rd death from the virus. That's the third death in the past five days and ninth in the past three weeks. For more details on daily COVID updates from surrounding counties, as well as stats out of Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa, check WIZM News dot com.

1/21 – The search for PFAS chemicals in well water continues on French Island. Geologist John Storlie has the latest numbers from this week on how many homes have the hazardous substance in their groundwater: A total of 125 wells have been tested as of Wednesday. La Crosse Mayor Tim Kabat says the pollution came from firefighting foam that the government mandated at the airport: The mayor says if town of Campbell residents wanted to hook up to city water, it might take a couple of years to accomplish.

1/22 – The surge testing site for COVID-19 at U-W-L is NOT closing for good today. The site at Cartwright Center has been open since November and has performed thousands of tests. The program was scheduled to end today, January 22nd, but it will take a week off and reopen on February 1st.

1/27 – No COVID-19 hospitalizations, no deaths reported today out of La Crosse County. There were 41 more cases. The county is now averaging 42 cases a day over the past week. Last week, it was averaging 37.

2/1 – Three COVID-19 deaths of La Crosse County residents reported over the weekend. That brings the total in La Crosse to 72 ... 13 of those in January. December had the most deaths at 21. La Crosse also added another 41 cases yesterday. The county is has now jumped from 39 cases a day last week to, now, 61 a day over the past week. For most of January, the current average had been lower than the week prior, but that has not been the case the past five days. Statewide, Iowa set a daily record with 250 deaths yesterday. The state gave no specific reason for such a large number. That jumped Iowa's daily average from 23 last week to 59.

In Wisconsin and Minnesota, the average cases a day are about 250-to-300 lower than last week. Wisconsin at 1365 a day. Minnesota's at 1,019.

2/2 – Down to 21 cases of COVID-19 in La Crosse County on Tuesday. There were 25 cases Monday. Back-to-back days with cases in the 20s haven't happened in the county since Oct. 13-14. La Crosse is averaging 51.0 a day over the past week. Mainly because of the 144 cases reported Friday. A week ago, the daily average was 45.

2/2 – A reconciliation of COVID-19 deaths of La Crosse County residents between the state and the health department. Five deaths were reported over the weekend, but four of them from La Crosse County were updated from out of the area. One of those deaths, which happened Sept. 15, was a female in their 40s. That

ends up being the youngest person from La Crosse County to have died. Previously, that was someone in their 50s. Just one of the five deaths happened recently. Two were from December and the other one was from late November. Regardless, there have been 74 deaths of county residents in total — 50 of those people 80 or older. Vaccination totals of La Crosse residents is at 15,127. There were 31 vaccinations on Sunday — the latest update but when totals are generally low. The highest total in one day was 1,182 last Thursday. The county also added another 25 cases Monday. La Crosse is now averaging 53 cases a day the past week. Last week, that average was 43. Check WIZM News dot com for more data each day on La Crosse and surrounding counties, as well as state numbers in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa.

2/4 – Down to 21 cases of COVID-19 in La Crosse County on Tuesday. There were 25 cases Monday. Back-to-back days with cases in the 20s haven't happened in the county since Oct. 13-14. La Crosse is averaging 51.0 a day over the past week. Mainly because of the 144 cases reported Friday. A week ago, the daily average was 45.

2/4 – Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers has issued a new statewide mask order an hour after the Republican-controlled Legislature voted to repeal his previous mandate. The Democrat Evers said in a video message Thursday that his priority is keeping people safe and that wearing a mask is the most basic way to do that. Republicans who voted to repeal the order say Evers has exceeded his authority by issuing new public health emergencies rather than having the Legislature approve extensions. The repeal hadn't even taken effect before Evers issued a new one. The Wisconsin Supreme Court is weighing a case that could settle the issue.

2/4 – Plenty of Americans want to know when they can get a COVID-19 vaccine. Hospitals and government leaders have been criticized for rolling out the vaccines too slowly, but a Mayo Clinic doctor says they're doing what they can. Infectious disease specialist Abinash Virk tells reporters that shots can increase, once vaccine is available: Virk says Mayo is prioritizing vaccines in this region to the oldest patients first, with regular Mayo patients at the top of the list.

2/8 – Gundersen Health System says it's not getting the COVID-19 vaccine supply it needs from the state. Gundersen received 20 percent of the requested vaccine supply. The health system said it is vaccinating more than 4,000 people each week --- but staff are now canceling first-dose appointments. The canceled appointments were scheduled from Thursday to Tuesday in the La Crosse and Onalaska locations. Those patients will be contacted to reschedule.

2/9 – La Crosse County's health director says she wants to vaccinate as many people against COVID-19, as quickly as possible. Jen Rombalski says getting enough doses is the biggest hurdle, but she was informed late Tuesday about 100 doses which will be offered to local people on a vaccine waiting list. As for vaccinations already given, Rombalski says the first doses to La Crosse County health workers were distributed last week: The patients on the waiting list will be called in the next couple of days.

2/11 – The threat of coronavirus has gone down in La Crosse County. After several weeks of listing disease activity in the county at the highest level of red, the Coulee COVID-19 Collaborative has lowered the activity level to orange, or the medium strategy level. The activity has dropped to less than 25 new cases per day for every 100,000 people in the county, and new hospitalizations for COVID have fallen to just two a day. The lower levels may allow businesses to admit more people into their buildings.

2/12 – Another 17 cases yesterday of COVID-19 in La Crosse County. La Crosse has been under 20 cases three times this month, all in the past five days. The county was never under 20 in January. La Crosse is averaging 21.9 cases a day the past week. Last week, that average was 52. In surrounding counties, only Monroe had double-digit cases, and it was at 10. Aside from La Crosse, Monroe is averaging the most cases a day at 8.3 in the area ... Houston County is next at 7.1.

2/12 – For the first time since the end of August, La Crosse County is averaging under 20 cases a day. With another 12 cases Friday, the county's average cases a day is now 19.9 over the past week. That hasn't happened since Aug. 25-31 when the average was 19.3 a day. Cases are continuing to drop. La Crosse's average cases a day last week was 35. The county hasn't reported a death since Jan. 28, either.

2/16 – The streak of days with COVID-19 cases under 20 is over in La Crosse County. Another 25 cases reported Tuesday. La Crosse is averaging 16.3 cases a day the past week. Last week, that average was 24. New groups could become eligible for the vaccine in a couple weeks. Now frontline healthcare workers, police/fire and individuals who are 65 and older are being vaccinated in Wisconsin. While that will continue for months, a new group will become eligible, including retail food workers, homeless shelter staff, educators and those in childcare. A complete list can be found at WIZM news dot com.

2/19 – Seven cases of COVID-19 Thursday in La Crosse County. It's the third time in the past six days the county has had single-digit cases. La Crosse is averaging 13.9 cases a day the past week. Last week, that average was 22. According to state vaccination data, 16.7% of La Crosse County has gotten the first vaccine shot and 7.9% has been fully inoculated.

2/22 – Six new cases of COVID-19 in La Crosse on Monday. That's below the average of 14 cases a day during the past week. Other surrounding counties have even lower weekly averages. Eight cases per day for the week in Monroe County. Two per day in Vernon and Trempealeau Counties. In Crawford and Jackson Counties, the daily average is 1 case or less.

2/23 – The La Crosse County Health Department says there will be a community-based COVID-19 vaccination clinic for the region. The health department received the update from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. In a partnership with community partners, AMI Expeditionary Healthcare, LLC, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and the Wisconsin National Guard, the site is meant to fill gaps for vaccine access and is another option for the region to receive a vaccine once residents become available. WIZM news will share more information once it becomes available.

2/25 – La Crosse County reports 8 new cases of COVID-19 on Thursday, and 1 new death. The rate of new cases is 11 a day over the past week. Monroe County is reporting 8 cases per day, while Vernon and Trempealeau Counties are averaging 2 a day. Jackson County is averaging under 1 case per day. Wisconsin had 52 new deaths today, with 840 new cases reported in the state.

3/2 – Two cases of COVID-19 reported yesterday out of La Crosse County. That brings the average to 14.1 a day the past week. Last week, that average was also 14.1. Vaccines in the county are up to 19.3 percent for the first dose (22,818 people) and 11.0 percent (12,944) are fully inoculated. The county with the highest percentage in the area is Houston with 25 percent having gotten the first shot. Fillmore County, at 13.1 percent, has the highest percentage of people having gotten both shots. Monroe County is the lowest for both first and second shots — 14.4 percent have gotten the first and 6.4 percent have both.

01/04 – Exactly 20 percent of La Crosse County's population has gotten the first shot of the COVID-19 vaccine, while 11.7 percent of the population is fully inoculated. Statewide, Wisconsin and Minnesota are right around 16.5 percent getting the first shot, while Iowa's at 11.1 percent. La Crosse did add 22 cases of COVID-19 yesterday. The average over the past week is 15.1 cases per day. Last week, that average was 11.0 a day. Every other county in the area added a combined 19 cases — seven of those in Jackson County. For a daily look at where each county in the area stands with vaccines, as well as case data, check WIZM news dot com.

03/04 – La Crosse will be hosting a COVID-19 vaccination clinic, beginning Tuesday. The Community Vaccination Clinic will be open 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday each week at the UW-La Crosse Clearly Alumni Center. Those aged 65 and older will be prioritized next week. Those who have completed the vaccine screening and interest form without access to the internet should get a phone call from county staff to schedule appointments. Those who submitted a form with their email should check for one from "No Reply VRAS" to set up an appointment online. Those phone calls and emails should come beginning today through Saturday. For county residents over 65 who have not heard from the health department by March 9 call 608-785-6240 or visit vaccinate.wi.gov to register online. Any questions, email COVID19@LaCrosseCounty.org.

3/8 La Crosse County is continuing to use some local hotels to temporarily shelter the homeless and some people infected with COVID. Last month, the county board approved a program to house people at the EconoLodge on a short-term basis. Kevin Burch with Catholic Charities says other hotels have been involved in the process as well: As winter is winding down, Burch tells the county board that the downtown warming center has been closed for normal shelter purposes. The number of people sheltered at the EconoLodge averages around 35 a night.

3/11 – Tuesday was a first in a long while, with zero COVID-19 cases in La Crosse County. Yesterday was literally a first ... negative-44 cases of the virus. That's what the state numbers showed for the county. No word yet as to why, but it may be something similar to why La Crosse had negative four cases last Saturday, where some positive end up being people from out of the county. Regardless, La Crosse is now down to 12,262 total cases. Meanwhile, the county has 13.8 percent of the population fully vaccinated ... and 22.3 percent have gotten the first shot. In Wisconsin, 10.8 percent of the state is inoculated, while 19.1 percent has gotten the first vaccine shot.

3/11 – You may be reminded all day today that March 11th of 2020 was the day much of America started shutting down because of COVID-19. La Crosse County had not recorded any cases of the virus yet on March 11th of last year. That week, state health secretary Andrea Palm came to La Crosse, with advice on how to handle the growing epidemic: But by the 11th, U-W-La Crosse Chancellor Joe Gow announced a brief break in the class schedule for the rest of the spring semester. The Aquinas girls got to play one game at the state basketball tournament before school sports were shut down. La Crosse Community Theatre ended the run of the play 'Proof' with two performances to go. This year, students are back in classes at levels from kindergarten through college. The La Crosse Center hosted games of the boys' and girls' tournaments, with limited public attendance. Many live performances are still off, but theaters are posting performances on-line for audiences to enjoy.

3/15 - Exactly 25 percent of the La Crosse County population has at least the first COVID-19 vaccination shot. And 14.9 percent of county residents are fully inoculated, according to the state. Area Minnesota counties, as well as Trempealeau, are all percentage points ahead of La Crosse for the first shot. Of all the area counties, only Monroe has under 10 percent of its population fully inoculated. Statewide, Iowa is over 10 percent higher than Wisconsin and Minnesota for the first shot at 34 percent. All three states are close at between 12-13 percent fully inoculated.

Education:

1/3 – Students at U-W-La Crosse will have the entire month of January off before they begin a new semester. The campus announced in the fall that the start of spring classes would be delayed one week until February 1st, to help reduce the spread of the flu and COVID-19. La Crosse Chancellor Joe Gow says the pandemic and years of tuition freezes have led to some cost-cutting moves:

1/19 – Gow says enrollment at U-W-L is down about 100 students from a year ago, in large part because many entering students decided to put off starting college during the fall. The first of four phases to bring students back into the classrooms for the first time this school year begins tomorrow for the La Crosse School District. Superintendent, Dr. Aaron Engel says the biggest question from parents are the safety protocols.

By Monday, every student below middle school will be in the classroom every day. February 1st, the middle schoolers come back, followed by the high school the next week. The older students will continue to use a hybrid model -- half in class, half virtual.

1/20 – It was back to a real classroom yesterday for very young students in the La Crosse school district. The pandemic kept them out of school buildings during the first semester, but now kids in the lower grades are back in class. The older students will be brought in gradually over the next few weeks. Visiting North Woods Elementary on Wednesday, state superintendent candidate Troy Gunderson said the kids are handling the COVID restrictions well: Gunderson says students need to be back in classrooms, to be able to socialize with each other. He's hoping that the virus can be controlled enough by fall to return to more normal schooling.

1/25 – More classrooms in the La Crosse school district are filling up today, for the first time in months. This is the second week of the phased-in return to class for La Crosse public school students. Today is the first day back for grades 3 through 5, and pre-kindergarten. They'll be in school 5 days a week. Middle school students return next week, and high schoolers go back to class on February 8th.

1/25 – The first week of having students back in classrooms in the La Crosse School District has been 'awesome,' according to Superintendent Aaron Engel. He tells the school board about visiting different buildings in the district, to see kids in school again after several months of remote learning: The phased-in return began last Wednesday with lower grades and continues this week up through 5th grade. Middle school students come back next Monday, with high school students back in class on February 8th.

1/29 U-W-La Crosse had to shut down its campus buildings last March, when COVID-19 began spreading seriously throughout the country. But the campus plans to reopen for spring classes on Monday, ending a long holiday break. And frequent testing for COVID will be required for everyone at UWL. Students living in the dorms will be tested every week, with other students and staffers testing every other week. And Vice Chancellor Bob Hetzel says if all goes well, vaccines will be on the way to campus in about a month. Talks are underway: Surge testing resumes at Cartwright Center on Monday and is scheduled to continue into April.

2/1 – The third phase of La Crosse's public-school re-opening happens today. Middle school students return to classrooms this week, but only for two days out of five. They'll continue virtual classes on those other days. High school students also will have a hybrid class arrangement, when they go back to Central and Logan next Monday. Children in the lower grades have returned to schools within the last two weeks.

2/8 – Everybody back to school this week in La Crosse. High school students at Central and Logan are the last of the La Crosse students to return to the classroom after the long pandemic shutdown. Students at the high school and middle school levels in La Crosse are in the buildings only a couple of days a week and learn at home the other days. Younger kids are in school five days a week. One classroom at the early childhood level has been closed down for two weeks, because it's almost impossible to keep a 6-foot distance between children in that program.

2/15 – Logan has the Rangers, Aquinas has the Blugolds, and Central High School now will have teams called...the River Hawks. The new nickname to replace 'Red Raiders' was announced to the La Crosse school board last night by Central principal Troy McDonald. The old name used to describe an Indian mascot which was discontinued by Central in 1989. The River Hawks name and bird logo will be introduced gradually over the next few months, on sports uniforms and in other places.

2/18 – The School District of Holmen invited families, the Board of Education, and committee members to an unveiling of the new Holmen High School Memorial Wall last night that recognized students who passed away. The ceremony came nearly eight months after there was controversy in the community because the school district initially decided to remove the entire wall during a renovation project. Families spoke out after being asked to pick up pictures or plaques honoring their loved ones. After community protests and a petition, the school board created a committee to review the future of the Memorial Wall. The board approved the committee's policy recommendation which included relocating the memorial wall at the school. Existing memorials will remain intact, but no future memorials will be added to the wall. Future individuals who pass away while a student in the School District of Holmen will be recognized in yearbooks, at graduation, and will be included in the graduate class collage.

3/2 – Students and teachers have been put through a lot over the past year. An assessment of some testing scores presented to the La Crosse School Board last night shows it. The School District's youngest students show some rather large drops in math and English-Literature-Arts (or ELA) scores the past two seasons, versus the previous four years. ELA scores in the fall the past four years for kindergarteners the past four years averaged about 77. Last fall and winter, the average was 54.5. Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Dr. Michael (La-Heck-ee) said the tests, how they were given virtually and students, themselves, virtual learning, all play a factor. (La-Heck-ee) added that he's anxious to see the upcoming spring scores, since students are back in the classroom.

3/15 – La Crosse's public schools should all be back to normal in-person classes by the first week of April. At last night's school board meeting, superintendent Aaron Engel announced that middle and high schools are planning to have students in class five days a week as of April 6th. Those students have been back in classrooms only a couple of days a week since February, while the lower grades returned to school in January. Engel says the district will continue to monitor the number of COVID cases in the community, in case changes must be made in the schedule. The La Crosse school board itself is back to in-person meetings, after a year of meeting by Zoom. The board still meets at the Hogan Administration Center, but meetings are in the gym instead of the auditorium, to allow for more social distancing.

Economy:

1/7 – The vacant Kmart in La Crosse has a new owner. U-Haul confirmed it purchased the building along State Road in La Crosse. A spokeswoman says the company plans to open a temporary retail showroom with some moving supplies Monday --- but they are still talking with the city zoning commission. U-Haul hope to create a modern, full-service U-Haul retail and self-storage facility.

1/12 – What started as a promising year for airline travel in La Crosse turned into a fight for survival in 2020. The La Crosse Airport says almost 39-hundred passengers took flights in and out of the city in December, which was half of the level from the same month of 2019. The unofficial year-end total was close to 44-thousand passengers...only 46 per cent of the previous year's number. January had the highest total of passengers, with 76-hundred people taking La Crosse flights. After the COVID outbreak began in March, there were only 372 passengers in April.

1/22 – No time to waste in helping those in need. The La Crosse County board approved allocating \$100,000 to the Coulee Collaborative to End Homelessness last night. The unanimous decision is to let the collaborative use the funds for homeless prevention. Some on the board did question why prevention is needed now, during an eviction moratorium. Isaac Hoffman with the collaborative explained. Kim Cable, who works in the field with Coulee Cap, added it's better to get ahead of the problem, because the money will go further.

1/28 – An area near La Crosse's southside festgrounds could become a year-round destination for shoppers. City leaders plan to negotiate with Xcel Energy, to acquire the land along the La Crosse River for a public market site. The market idea has been studied for several years, and the La Crosse Redevelopment Authority heard a presentation last night about how an open market area might bring more shoppers to downtown. Consultant Aaron Zaretsky knows that existing stores might be worried about the new competition, because it's happened in other cities: Zaretsky told authority members that 'after COVID is over,' they might want to visit cities like Milwaukee that already have public markets, to see how the concept works.

2/1 – The future of the old K-Mart on Losey Boulevard may be in dispute for a while. U-Haul just opened a retail shop in the former box store, but it has plans to turn much of the store space into self-storage units. La Crosse city leaders are not happy with that, including Tim Acklin in the planning department: Acklin says the self-storage plan would require a zoning change, which the city is resisting. But he says it may be tough legally to deny a conditional use permit to U-Haul for its future.

2/22 – It's not your imagination. Gas prices in the region have been going up quickly in Wisconsin...about 30 cents a gallon in the past month. The La Crosse area has about a 30-cent spread in pump prices, with gas selling for 2.39 a gallon at the Citgo on State Road, to 2.66 in Onalaska. The lowest price in Wisconsin right now is 2.32 in the Milwaukee area, with the statewide average around 2.55. Gas prices in Wisconsin bottomed out at a dollar-21 in late April, as the pandemic led to a drop in traveling.

2/24 – The outdoor cafe concept in La Crosse may last a few more months. During its March meetings, the city council will be asked to extend the program for outdoor dining downtown into November, because of the continuing pandemic. The program for sidewalk dining was approved originally last summer, to attract more restaurant and bar customers while maintaining social distancing rules. The program was originally supposed to expire next month.

2/24 – A north La Crosse development project which has been stalled for years could get moving again. The city's economic development commission meets today to discuss financing for a proposed housing project near Lang Drive. La Crosse planning director Andrea Trane describes what's being suggested now for the site of a former Trane Company plant: The Stizo (STIZZ-oh) developers announced plans for the lot back in 2013, but Trane says the developers became busy with other projects.

3/3 – The Outdoor Cafes are likely to stay for the rest of the year in downtown La Crosse. The city council judiciary committee easily passed an extension of the cafe program last night, sending the plan to the full council next week. City Hall has allowed bars and restaurants to expand their seating onto the sidewalks and curbsides downtown, so the businesses can attract more customers despite COVID restrictions. The cafe plan is supposed to expire this month, but the committee voted to keep it going into November.

Community Needs:

1/7 – 2020 was a difficult year for La Crosse's Habitat for Humanity --- but the nonprofit organization is starting 2021 with new hope. Habitat focuses on creating safe and affordable housing. Executive Director Kahya Fox says they had to close their doors for a couple of months to combat the pandemic --- and limited volunteers to prevent spreading the virus. Their goal in 2020 was to build six homes. They completed four of them --- and are now focused on helping the Klattes (clot-ees). Jacob and Stephanie Klatt represent Habitat's first veteran partner family. Fox says they are open to people who want to help with Habitat for Heroes whether it's through building or a donation. We'll share more information at WIZM news dot com.

1/29 – A heart-warming gift will help cool food for families in need. The Onalaska Hilltopper Rotary Club gave the Food Basket on Onalaska more than \$7,300. That money combined with a grant from Festival Foods will help the

food pantry buy a large --- commercial grade freezer. The freezer was just installed yesterday morning by Benedict Sales and Service --- who donated the cost of delivery and installation. The Food Basket says it now serves a larger area --- and wants those in Onalaska, Holmen, West Salem, Galesville, or Trempealeau know that the pantry has resources to help keep them and their families fed.

2/4 – Polar Plunge organizers are diving into new opportunities to raise money for Special Olympics of Wisconsin in a safe way because of the pandemic. Almost a year ago, 400 local volunteers pre-registered for the 22nd Annual Polar Plunge in La Crosse. Their efforts raised \$60,000 before the event even started. This year, organizers are offering creative new ways to participate while still supporting athletes. People can register to plunge downhill with a tubing event at the White Tail Ridge Ski area. Otherwise, Special Olympics is offering ways to Chill at home with a bathtub full of ice or maybe swimsuit snow angels. Polar Plunge Committee member Kerry Gloede says they are asking people to register to participate. We have all the details at WIZM news dot com.

2/26 – In a typical year, Kerry Gloede would have been organizing an event for hundreds of people to take the Polar Plunge at Black River Beach in La Crosse. Because of COVID-19, the nonprofit shifted gears and offered new options. One of those was to create your own Polar Plunge adventure and submit it to the Chillin' at Home Challenge. As of Thursday --- they raised \$6,000. Just in the La Crosse area, there are more than 300 Special Olympic athletes. That fundraiser ends March 5. We have information about how to donate at WIZM news dot com.

Social Justice/Race Reform:

2/10 – Since the death of George Floyd in May, law enforcement faced increased scrutiny. In La Crosse County, the Criminal Justice Management Council released a survey to determine whether there needs to be a Resident Police Advisory or Oversight Board. That survey just closed last week, and we don't know the results, but La Crosse County Republican Party Chair Bill Feehan says the questions themselves were flawed since they asked about the participant's race and gender. Feehan also argues that the survey should have asked whether we need a citizen oversight committee --- not how it should be paid for. This subject was the latest discussion in Feehan's Fact Check Podcast. You can listen to his full opinion at WIZM news dot com.

2/11 – Is a survey about police activity in La Crosse slanted in any way? That concern has been brought up by La Crosse Republican Party chair Bill Feehan, who has criticized the survey for asking about the race and gender of people responding. A criminal justice committee is reviewing the survey results. Nese Nasif (NESH-uh NAH-zif) from the La Crosse police and fire commission says efforts are being made to weed out any attempts to slant the survey results: The committee received about 14-hundred responses. Feehan has asked whether the group of people surveyed should have been more diverse.

2/16 – The plans to form a police oversight board in La Crosse will be incomplete, if the board doesn't include somebody with law enforcement experience. That opinion comes from Assistant Police Chief Rob Abraham, speaking on WIZM's La Crosse Talk. Abraham is concerned that the committee being formed will have an 'ax-to-grind kind of mentality,' looking to blame police for problems in the community.

2/17 – Arguments over the proposed formation of a police oversight board in La Crosse led to a heated discussion at a county meeting today. La Crosse assistant police chief Rob Abraham spoke on WIZM Tuesday, saying that such a board should have representation from law enforcement. Joella Striebel, who heads a county subcommittee working on the project, called Abraham's comments a 'smear': Abraham joined the panel's on-line meeting, and asked how many people on the study committee have law enforcement experience: Striebel says the tentative oversight board is intended to be 'independent' from law enforcement.

3/11 – Racist comments directed at a student at Viterbo twice this week has led to classes shutting down today for a demonstration. After talking to WIZM last night about the incidents, Viterbo President, Doctor Glenna Temple sent out an email notifying campus that classes will be cancelled from 12:30-1:50 p.m. today for a student demonstration. In the email, Temple said the student demonstration will take place in the Assisi Courtyard “in solidarity with the victim for the hateful acts and support our BIPOC community as a whole.” One of the racist comments was written on the dorm room door of the student that said, “leave our school.” Other hateful remarks directed at this student were screenshot from Snapchat. Temple said the university is actively investigating to ID who's responsible and hold them accountable.

3/12 – Hundreds gathered in the courtyard at Viterbo yesterday to show support and listen to people of color speak out about racism on campus. Two hateful incidents earlier this week, directed at a black woman on campus sparked the student-led demonstration. The victim of those incidents, named Victoria, told the crowd of a conversation she had with her mother about possibly attending school in La Crosse. (Key-awn-tay) Turner is a leader in the Black community in the area. He discussed on La Crosse Talk PM the disconnect between the black and white communities. Viterbo is still investigating who is responsible for the racist messages and social media posts directed at Victoria. The university is also scheduling more listening sessions on racism in the upcoming weeks.

3/19 – The woman who oversaw investigating a citizen oversight or advisory board for law enforcement says she's been harassed and threatened. Joella Striebel says a local police union took private pictures from her Facebook page and shared them --- questioning her ability to serve in her appointed position. Striebel believes she knows what statements made her a target. She stated strong communities prove police obsolete and all cops are bound to a system of violence and oppression. The Police Union Facebook post was removed after being shared and criticized in comments. Striebel says La Crosse Police Chief Shawn Kudron apologized --- but she no longer feels safe serving on the Criminal Justice Management Council. Striebel resigned from her role this week. La Crosse County District Attorney Tim Gruenke says the police union's behavior is intimidating to citizens and not ethical or professional.