

# WFTX-TV 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024 FCC Issues/Programs Report (January 1 – March 31, 2024)

WFTX-TV broadcasts a number of programs that address community issues, including:

- Fox 4 Morning News (Monday-Friday; 6AM – 10AM)
- Fox 4 News at 5PM (Monday-Friday; 5PM – 6PM)
- Fox 4 News at 6PM (Monday-Friday; 6PM – 7PM)
- Fox 4 News at 10PM (Monday-Friday 10-11PM; Sat/Sun 10PM – 10:30PM)
- Fox 4 News at 11PM (Monday-Friday; 11PM – 11:30PM)

WFTX-TV's most significant issue-responsive programming during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2024 included:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Newscast</u>	<u>Length</u>
<b>Consumer Awareness</b>	<b>1/1/24</b>	<b>FOX 4 News at 6PM</b>	<b>1:07</b>
Florida Sales Tax Holiday Begins: Florida will have a Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday from Jan 1-14. Florida shoppers can take advantage of tax savings during the beginning of 2024 in addition to the many discounts and sales retailers offer at the start of the New Year.			
<b>Community Awareness</b>	<b>1/2/24</b>	<b>FOX 4 News at 5PM</b>	<b>1:53</b>
Naples Protect Our Loved Ones Act: New Florida law went into effect this week, designed to help law enforcement navigate interactions with people who have dementia, down syndrome, autism, and other disabilities. Adults can place their own names into the databases, and parents or guardians can also enroll individuals they are caring for into that system. The registry will track individuals with autism, Alzheimer's disease, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, and other disabilities. Mahmoud will speak with an organization that works with people with autism.			
<b>Water Safety</b>	<b>1/10/24</b>	<b>FOX 4 News at 5PM</b>	<b>1:23</b>
Naples Rip Currents High: When you imagine a vacation on Florida beaches like here on Vanderbilt in Naples, you picture sunny skies and warm weather like this. I'm FOX 4's Austin Schargorodski, and well, the forecasts have been off to a rough start this year, with thunderstorms creating dangerous rip currents in these waters. So, I'm talking to some people on vacation to see how they're feeling about all this.			
<b>Education</b>	<b>1/11/24</b>	<b>FOX 4 News at 6PM</b>	<b>1:21</b>
Lee Schools Open Enrollment: The School Board of Lee County has approved the Plan for Student Enrollment and set the annual Student Open Enrollment period for the 2024-2025 school year.			
<b>Consumer Awareness</b>	<b>1/16/24</b>	<b>FOX 4 News at 10PM</b>	<b>1:34</b>
Lee Housing Recovery Program: Lee County just announced a "Lee Cares Plan" -- to help people with Ian-related home repairs, home ownership and also moving outside of flood zones. The three programs are part of a US Department of Housing and Urban Development grant for Lee County back. About a quarter of the money is also in place and people who live in Lee County could be eligible for the federal help -- if they meet income guidelines.			

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<b>Health</b>	<b>1/17/24</b>	<b>FOX 4 News at 5PM</b>	<b>1:46</b>
Lee Health Capacity: Due to the influx of visitors and seasonal residents in Southwest Florida, Lee Health is seeing a significant impact on its emergency departments and overall capacity in its hospitals. Lee Health wants to make sure the public knows where to go for the care they need, whether it be directly to a hospital for emergencies or to another convenient option.			
<b>Consumer Awareness</b>	<b>1/22/24</b>	<b>FOX 4 News at 10PM</b>	<b>1:50</b>
New FEMA Rules: Anyone who has lived through a natural disaster and then applied to the federal government for assistance knows that it can be a lengthy, frustrating, and bureaucratic process. New rules announced Friday by the federal agency in charge of emergency management would expand eligibility and provide extra help when insurance won't.			
<b>Government</b>	<b>1/24/24</b>	<b>FOX 4 News at 6PM</b>	<b>1:10</b>
Citrus Workforce Housing Bill: There are currently two bills working their way through Tallahassee to help streamline the process for agricultural landowners to build and install safe housing for their workforce. Matt Joyer, the Vice President and CEO of citrus mutual says the current process is based on the local and county regulations. This legislation would make it a uniform process. Joyer adds without these workers, we would not be able to bring many of Florida's commodities to market. He also adds that there is hope that a form of these bills will move forward and will be signed by Governor DeSantis this legislative session.			
<b>Community Connection</b>	<b>1/30/24</b>	<b>FOX 4 News at 10PM</b>	<b>1:40</b>
Naples Habitat Fundraiser: As housing prices continue to climb, so does the need for affordable housing... I'm North Naples community correspondent Bella Line standing here at one of Collier County's Habitat For Humanity sites, where over the next week they are raising funds in hopes of building more condominiums like this in some of the counties' more expensive areas to live...through its 13th annual 'give to the max' fundraiser -- habitat will match up to 2 million dollars in donations to try and build more of these homes to ease the burden.			
<b>Community Connection</b>	<b>1/31/24</b>	<b>FOX 4 News at 10PM</b>	<b>2:37</b>
Black History Month - Gym Owner: February marks black history month. An opportunity that we use to tell the stories of so many people in our community. We've spoken with entrepreneurs...business owners...nurses...educators. And today, we're talking about your health. Cherinne Louissant describes her Fort Myers studio – Increase the Peach – and how it offers fitness services ranging from hit training to boxing for the past 5 years.			
<b>Community Event</b>	<b>2/5/24</b>	<b>FOX 4 News at 6PM</b>	<b>1:40</b>
Fort Myers – Give a Child a Book: Each year FOX 4 and the Scripps Howard Fund partner with Scholastic and local schools to give two free books to students. While reading is important throughout school, Kindergarten through Third Grade is critical because children are still learning to read. Here at Villas Elementary it's a special day for the students as they get to pick out two books to take home and add to their personal library.			
<b>Community Awareness</b>	<b>2/7/24</b>	<b>FOX 4 News at 5PM</b>	<b>1:49</b>
Naples NCB Heart Hospital: Naples City Council will vote on rezoning land for a new heart hospital. For over two years, NCH has been waiting for the green light to begin constructing the health facility, which they say will provide advanced care and technology for heart-related ailments. The project has gained widespread support among residents, many of whom believe it should have received approval long ago.			

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<b>Environmental</b>	<b>2/14/24</b>	<b>FOX 4 News at 6PM</b>	<b>2:50</b>
Lake O Releases this Weekend: FROM SCCF (Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation): Lake Okeechobee releases are coming this weekend, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced this morning. 4,000 cubic-feet-per-second (cfs) of freshwater from the lake are headed to the Caloosahatchee Estuary, while 1,800 cfs are headed to the St. Lucie Estuary on the east coast. Discharge levels will be damaging to the Caloosahatchee and will likely be combined with runoff from rainfall, increasing their impact to the estuary.			
<b>Community Awareness</b>	<b>2/15/24</b>	<b>FOX 4 News at 6PM</b>	<b>1:19</b>
Punta Gorda Airport Expanding: The Punta Gorda Airport is planning to expand its Bailey Terminal, adding an updated "in-line" baggage system, Dunkin Donuts, and rental car center by 2025.			
<b>Crime</b>	<b>2/20/24</b>	<b>FOX 4 News at 6PM</b>	<b>1:38</b>
CCPD – Fentanyl Trafficking/Stolen Car Bust: We are less than a mile from Cape Coral Police headquarters and I'm told officers just after midnight were called here– to SE 6th Avenue where police say they found two people in a stolen car and the charges didn't stop there...inside the car– investigators say officers found several different forms of fentanyl along with crack cocaine and other illegal substances.			
<b>Consumer Awareness</b>	<b>2/21/24</b>	<b>FOX 4 News at 10PM</b>	<b>2:10</b>
Cape Leeway Tolls: For months I have been working to get answers for you and the nearly half a million individual bridge tolls that Lee County tells me are being re-billed to people **they claim didn't pay them. I have heard your frustrations–and as your cape coral community correspondent Colton Chavez. When Lee County chose not to answer my questions– I'm now taking your concerns to the state level–for you.			
<b>Crime</b>	<b>2/26/24</b>	<b>FOX 4 News at 10PM</b>	<b>2:48</b>
SW Florida Cold Case Cards: About 7 years ago, SWFL Crime Stoppers handed out "cold case cards" to jails with the hope an inmate could help solve cold cases. Last time they did this, they were able to solve the case. They have a grant to do it this year, and I will be talking to Trish Route about why they think putting them in jails will help.			
<b>Community Awareness</b>	<b>2/29/24</b>	<b>FOX 4 News at 6PM</b>	<b>1:17</b>
Cape High School Lockdown: We start in Cape Coral where the person, suspected of a bomb threat that put several schools into lockdown on Wednesday, has not yet been charged with any crime connected to it. FOX 4 is not naming the person right now, because he hasn't been charged with making a threat...and investigators are not naming him either. So, I went to Cape Coral Police – to ask why – a day after the threat – the person is not charged.			
<b>Consumer Awareness</b>	<b>3/5/24</b>	<b>FOX 4 News at 5PM</b>	<b>2:00</b>
Naples Craigslist Condo Scam: I'm FOX 4's Mahmoud Bennett reporting in Naples where a man from Boston says he was scammed out of over \$1,700 for a condo falsely advertised on Craigslist... when Thomas Freeman arrived at this complex in Naples, hoping to move in, the owner had no clue who he was.			

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<b>Government</b> Unite Lehigh Update: Leaders of the group got a final number on what they need to raise for the feasibility study that would show, whether or not it's worth tax dollars for Lehigh Acres to incorporate. Their goal is to have this on the ballot as a referendum ASAP.	<b>3/6/24</b>	<b>FOX 4 News at 10PM</b>	<b>1:47</b>
<b>Community Awareness</b> Charlotte District Babcock Expansion: Today Charlotte County Commissioners will vote to buy land in Babcock Ranch for a new fire station and a sheriff's department office	<b>3/12/24</b>	<b>FOX 4 News at 6PM</b>	<b>2:02</b>
<b>Community Awareness</b> Arcadia Affordable Housing: The city is working on five new affordable housing developments, and more than a 100 people are on the waiting list.	<b>3/15/24</b>	<b>FOX 4 News at 10PM</b>	<b>1:46</b>
<b>Community Awareness</b> Lehigh Extra Money for Pavement: Commissioners will vote on whether to spend an extra \$7.5 million out of the reserves on paving roads in Lehigh Acres. The price per ton of asphalt has increased from \$80/ton to \$125/ton due to increased labor and fuel costs which has drastically reduced the number of miles paved per year. This extra money will not make up deficit, but will ensure more Lehigh roads are paved.	<b>3/19/24</b>	<b>FOX 4 Morning News at 7AM</b>	<b>2:11</b>
<b>Government</b> Women's History Month - Collier Supervisor of Elections: The Collier County Supervisor of Elections has been a woman ever since the position was created in the 1950's. Bella will speak with the current supervisor.	<b>3/21/24</b>	<b>FOX 4 Morning News at 7AM</b>	<b>2:40</b>
<b>Community Events</b> Fort Myers Beach - Past vs Future of Island: Two events are happening tonight in Fort Myers Beach that show the ongoing discussion about what the island will look like after Hurricane Ian. A local historian will give a lecture about the history of the buildings that didn't survive the storm. And there will be a meeting about how to rebuild the historic library.	<b>3/26/24</b>	<b>FOX 4 News at 10PM</b>	<b>1:48</b>
<b>Environmental</b> North Port Fertilizer Restriction: The City of North Port is reminding residents that fertilizer application on turf grass is prohibited starting April 1 through Sept. 30 each year.	<b>3/31/24</b>	<b>FOX 4 News at 6PM</b>	<b>:52</b>