

The following is a list of some of the more significant community issues addressed by WAAC/WGOV/WGUN for the quarter specified. This listing is by no means complete, nor is the order in which these issues appear, intended to imply any degree of priority or significance of the issues.

QUARTERLY ISSUES REPORT: WAAC FM

1st  2nd  3rd  4th 2023

1. Issue: GUNS & OUR CHILDREN AND TEENS

Date/Time: 01/10 2pm

Duration: 1 HR

Our children and teens are now more likely to die by guns than anything else. Just this month alone, VPD has responded to two incidents of shootings involving minors and teens. In both cases the teen subjects were recklessly shooting off a firearm in an area where children were outside playing. Their actions put many people in danger. The increase of gun violence is predominantly among teen males. Where are they getting access to the guns?

2. Issue: 90 WORKS HELPING LOCAL VETERANS IN NEED

Date/Time: 01/24 2pm

Duration: 1 HR

Accuna Bryant: "Homelessness shows no mercy for people who've served our country. Helping people move from being in crisis and vulnerable to safe, stable, and thriving, is what 90 Works is working on in South Georgia. 90 Works says the resources they are able to provide to the veterans in this community are a very big deal. For some, it's life-changing. For any veterans in need of any housing stability, please reach out to 90 Works.

3. Issue: GAS PRICES NOW UP 30 CENTS PER GALLON

Date/Time: 02/07 2pm

Duration: 1 HR

The suspension of gas taxes in Georgia ended on January 11th. The suspended gas tax had saved Georgia consumers at least 29 cents per gallon on gasoline and 32 cents on diesel. The Georgia Department of Revenue announced the increase in the tax for 2023 to 31 cents for gasoline and 35 cents for diesel. The gas tax funds transportation projects in the state and will help recoup the estimated \$1.7 billion in revenue losses due to the suspension.

4. Issue: DEADLY SNAKES BEING TRAFFICKED IN GEORGIA

Date/Time: 02/14 2pm

Duration: 1 HR

Deadly snakes being trafficked across Georgia could breed into native species. Wildlife officials have uncovered a black market trafficking ring specializing in highly venomous snakes. A year-long undercover operation found nearly 200 snakes, many of which are listed among the ten deadliest species in the world. The issue with these snakes is they present a substantial public safety risk to anyone who handles them or is exposed to them. Contact the DNR.

5. Issue: GEORGIA SNAP BENEFIT PHISHING SCAM

Date/Time: 02/21 2pm

Duration: 1 HR

The Department of Human Services is warning about criminals using phony text messages to obtain EBT card numbers and steal Georgia's SNAP benefits. Officials said that if cardholders get a text asking them to call an 877 number to unlock their card, they should not reply at all and should just delete the message. Cardholders should also not share their EBT card number or PIN with anyone by phone or text.

6. Issue:  Date/Time:  Duration:

Some big changes have taken effect this year for Medicare, thanks to historic legislation. More than 1.8 Georgians who are Medicare enrollees will be able to take advantage of lower premiums and deductibles, and insulin costs will now be limited to \$35 a month for those in Medicare prescription drug plans. Comments from Leigh Purvis, senior director of Health Care Costs and Access, AARP Public Policy Institute.

7. Issue:  Date/Time:  Duration:

The issue of young kids using guns is top of mind once again after an 11-year-old was one of three teens arrested for aggravated assault. While the life of crime continues to lure young people into its deadly trap, some community members are speaking out on the continuous trend of gun violence and assaults committed by young people. The most recent arrest of three young boys 11, 15 and 16 have raised concerns in the Valdosta area. To be continued..

8. Issue:  Date/Time:  Duration:

Aaron Winton, owner of Reach T.W.O. Outreach Ministry: "The things that is going on in the city and community is sad. We need to get more involved back into our own community. Get the church back involved in our communities, get the police back in patrol of the community." Others in the community stress the importance of getting kids involved in after-school activities. Plenty is offered, but they can't make kids participate and parents force them.

9. Issue:  Date/Time:  Duration:

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division wants the public to weigh in on whether a titanium mine will be allowed to operate near the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. Conservation groups are urging citizens to block permits for the Twin Pines Minerals mine near the Okefenokee's intact freshwater wetland system to protect the swamp's critical ecosystem and the headwaters to two of our major rivers.

10. Issue:  Date/Time:  Duration:

Broadband service could be key to helping our area's farmers grow their businesses, boost productivity and stay competitive in today's global market. More than 1 million Georgians lack high-speed internet access, prompting groups to urge lawmakers to do more to boost service. Georgia is ranked 21st among states for affordable high-speed internet access, but wide swaths of the state are still without broadband service. Please raise your voice!