

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: LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Date/Time: 04/04 2pm

Duration: 1 HR

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Cooling Program from the Georgia DHS is available today through July 31. The program assists low-income, elderly, and disabled Georgians with cooling bills through direct payments to home energy suppliers. Georgia residents aged 65 years of age and older or those who are medically homebound may apply. Applications will be taken for all other eligible residents beginning May 1, 2023. Contact the CAA.

2. Issue: GAS PRICES ARE RISING IN OUR AREA

Date/Time: 04/18 2pm

Duration: 1 HR

Petroleum exporting countries have cut back oil production. This will impact or cost per gallons as we fill up our vehicles. Andrew Gross explained that the cost of oil accounts for more than 50% of what we pay at the pump, so drivers will not catch a break at the pump any time soon. Valdosta ranks number 3 as to the metros with the highest prices at the pumps.

3. Issue: DEADLY FUNGUS SPREADING IN GEORGIA

Date/Time: 04/25 2pm

Duration: 1 HR

A deadly fungal infection is spreading at an alarming rate according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Twelve cases of the Candida auris have been detected. The fungus is mostly in hospitals and nursing homes, but it is very difficult to treat. Healthy people usually don't have that, it is really a disease of the sick or immunocompromised patients so if you are healthy there is no need to panic

4. Issue: SALAD KITS RECALLED FOR LISTERIA

Date/Time: 05/09 2pm

Duration: 1 HR

Fresh Express salad kits were found to have listeria during a random sample test by the Georgia Department of Agriculture. The now expired kits were sent to retail stores across Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. No illnesses have been reported. Listeria can cause symptoms like high fever, severe headache, stiffness, nausea, abdominal pain, and diarrhea among healthy individuals. Symptoms are worse for kids and elderly.

5. Issue: BUGS TO BE WARY OF THIS SUMMER

Date/Time: 05/16 2pm

Duration: 1 HR

The biggest pests in Georgia this summer will be carpenter bees, termites and the ever-dreaded mosquitoes. Georgia has already seen swarms of termites due to the very wet winter we had. To protect yourself and your home get rid of any standing water around your house. That can be a breeding ground for pests. Bed bugs are also on the list of insects expected to cause big problems this year.

6. Issue: UP TO \$500 IN 2023 TAX REFUNDS FOR GEORGIA Date/Time: 05/23 2PM Duration: 1 HR

The state of Georgia is expected to issue 2023 Tax Refunds to eligible taxpayers beginning this month. These tax refunds are a one-time payment worth up to \$500. These payments will be made possible because of the House Bill 162. The bill allowed a redistribution of the state's surplus in the budget that was worth \$1 billion in the form of 2023 Tax Refunds. Eligible individuals must be resident of Georgia with an income tax liability.

7. Issue: FOOD BANKS PREP FOR INCREASED NEED Date/Time: 06/06 2PM Duration: 1 HR

Georgia's food banks are taking action to address the growing demand for their services during the summer season, providing meals to kids in need. SNAP has ended leaving families in need of assistance one year after the pandemic food benefits have ended. The Feeding America network reports that approximately 1 in 8 Georgian children faces food insecurity. Volunteer assistance to meet the demand is very much needed.

8. Issue: AVOID ONLINE SCAMS THAT ARE ON THE RISE Date/Time: 06/13 2PM Duration: 1 HR

There have been reported discount scams and payment scams offering a significant discount on your monthly rate if you pay an upfront deposit. Beware of anyone offering you discounts and or making payments to a 3rd party claiming to be authorized to accept payments. If you receive a call or text message like this, do not respond, and hang up and block the call or text. Malware and hijacking tools may provide you with false phone numbers to call.

9. Issue: STRANGE EVENTS IN THOMASVILLE Date/Time: 06/20 2PM Duration: 1 HR

A series of strange events in Thomasville caught the attention of law enforcement and citizens. First someone tried to set a gas pump on fire at the Circle K at U.S. Route 319 and just across the street at the Senior Life Insurance Company a window was shattered then a block away at the House of Joy Church then someone cut the telephone wires triggering the building alarms. If you have information please call the Thomas County Sheriff's Department.

10. Issue: VALDOSTA JOBLESS RATE RISES Date/Time: 06/27 2PM Duration: 1 HR

The unemployment rate in Valdosta rose again in May. Valdosta finished May with 60,669 employed residents down 307 from April and down by 557 when compared to the same time a year ago. The city's initial unemployment claims increased by 28%. In comparing May 2023 claims to May 2022, claims were up by about 77 percent. The state labor commissioner said he is keeping a eye on the labor market. We sure hope so.