

**WHQR Public Media**  
**Wilmington, North Carolina**  
**Issues and Programs Report, Q4, 2023**  
**WHQR 91-3FM**

**Category**  
**Government/politics**

<b>Headline</b>	<b>Link</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Air date</b>	<b>Length</b>
Campaign finance: Over \$200,000 raised in the Wilmington City Council race	<a href="https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-10-17/campaign-finance-over-200-000-raised-in-the-wilmington-city-council-race">https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-10-17/campaign-finance-over-200-000-raised-in-the-wilmington-city-council-race</a>	Campaign finance records for the Wilmington City Council race show candidates have a range of fundraising results: nearly \$100,000 on the high end and zero dollars on the low end.	Morning Edition	6:45 a.m. October 18	4:28
Newsroom conversations: Election 2023 candidate forums, important voter info	<a href="https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-10-10/newsroom-conversations-election-2023-candidate-forums-important-voter-info">https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-10-10/newsroom-conversations-election-2023-candidate-forums-important-voter-info</a>	WHQR, along with our media partners Port City Daily and WECT, are hosting two upcoming candidate forums. WHQR News Director Ben Schachtman and reporter Rachel Keith discuss the details and what you need to know for the 2023 municipal elections.	All Things Considered	4:44 p.m. October 10	4:11
How Facebook is changing Southport's 2023 mayoral race	<a href="https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-10-12/how-facebook-is-changing-southports-mayoral-race">https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-10-12/how-facebook-is-changing-southports-mayoral-race</a>	Southport has long stayed offline. But this year, the Internet might make a big difference in its municipal elections	Morning Edition	6:45 a.m. October 13	3:52

**Non-profits / Community organizations**

The New Hanover Community Endowment reviews applications with an eye for bigger, bolder strategic grants	<a href="https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-10-13/the-new-hanover-community-endowment-reviews-applications-with-an-eye-for-bigger-bolder-strategic-grants">https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-10-13/the-new-hanover-community-endowment-reviews-applications-with-an-eye-for-bigger-bolder-strategic-grants</a>	The New Hanover Community Endowment, funded by a billion-plus dollars from the sale of New Hanover Regional Medical Center, is currently reviewing applications in its second round of grants.	Morning Edition	7:07 a.m. October 13	1:34
As the Covid pandemic subsides, WARM NC finds itself short on volunteers	<a href="https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-11-03/as-the-covid-pandemic-subsides-warm-nc-finds-itself-short-on-volunteers">https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-11-03/as-the-covid-pandemic-subsides-warm-nc-finds-itself-short-on-volunteers</a>	Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry, or WARM, is a nonprofit that helps with home repair in the Cape Fear region. But the organization is struggling with a lack of volunteers. WHQR's Kelly Kenoyer interviewed WARM Director of Development Suzanne Jalot about it.	All Things Considered	4:44 p.m. November 11	4:23
New Hanover Community Endowment announces \$22-million healthcare worker pipeline grant, \$33 million in additional grants	<a href="https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-12-18/new-hanover-community-endowment-announces-22-million-healthcare-worker-pipeline-grant-31-million-in-additional-grants">https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-12-18/new-hanover-community-endowment-announces-22-million-healthcare-worker-pipeline-grant-31-million-in-additional-grants</a>	The Endowment's second cycle marks a dramatic shift to larger, multi-year grants, including one designed to "revolutionize" the healthcare landscape in New Hanover County. While the Endowment did not fund any major projects focusing on housing — a key issue for this year's grant cycle — officials say they're convening housing-focused organizations to develop a suitable proposal.	Morning Edition	8:04 a.m. December 18	1:05

## Culture

CoastLine: Who are the OGs of standup comedy? It's complicated. <https://www.whqr.org/show/coastline/2023-10-24/coastline-who-are-the-ogs-of-standup-comedy-its-complicated> The history of standup comedy is so difficult to separate according to culture, that it becomes surprisingly transcendent of race, ethnicity, and cultural background. But does that equate to being a model of diversity, equity, and inclusion? That's a work in progress and one of the questions we explore. Coastline 12:00 p.m. October 25 50:00:00

"Last Straw" director Alan Neal talks Cucalorus, working with Neon Indian <https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-11-17/last-straw-director-alan-neal-talks-cucalorus-working-with-neon-indian> Every November, the Cucalorus Film Festival brings hundreds of independent filmmakers and fans to Wilmington. This year, UNCW alumnus Alan Neal will be screening his first feature film: "Last Straw." All Things Considered 5:44 p.m. November 17 4:10

New Hanover County planning Michael Jordan museum as part of Project Grace <https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-12-14/new-hanover-county-planning-michael-jordan-museum-as-part-of-project-grace> The county announced Thursday that it had signed a memorandum of understanding with the family of Michael Jordan to begin planning a museum in the basketball great's honor, located at the corner of Chestnut and North Third streets. All Things Considered 4:04 p.m. November 14

## Environment/PFAS

Chemours is importing GenX waste from Europe. Local government officials and advocates oppose it. <https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-11-01/chemours-is-importing-genx-waste-from-europe-local-government-officials-and-advocates-oppose-it> Brunswick County Chairman Randy Thompson sent a letter on behalf of the Board of Commissioners to EPA Administrator Michael Regan this week. The letter outlined concerns about Chemours' plans to import GenX from its plant in the Netherlands to the plant in Fayetteville. Morning Edition 7:04 a.m. November 2 0:55

Rarely seen whale species died on Emerald Isle after swallowing mylar balloon <https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-11-14/rarely-seen-whale-species-died-on-emerald-isle-after-swallowing-mylar-balloon> At the end of October, a Gervais' Beaked Whale washed up on Emerald Isle. She was about a year old and weighed just over 670 pounds. Over a dozen scientists gathered together to figure out her cause of death. All Things Considered 4:44 p.m. November 14 4:17

CoastLine: Justin Catanoso on Enviva crisis, wood pellet industry, why environmental reporting doesn't always have two equal sides <https://www.whqr.org/show/coastline/2023-12-05/coastline-justin-catanoso-on-enviva-crisis-wood-pellet-industry-why-environmental-reporting-doesnt-always-have-two-equal-sides> Enviva company officials assured critics that wood pellets are mostly made of waste: treetops, limbs, even sawdust. Not true, according to reporting from environmental journalist and WFU Professor Justin Catanoso, who also says the science shows wood pellet burning contributes more to the climate crisis than burning coal. CoastLine 12:00 p.m. December 6 50:00:00

## Housing/Transportation

WHQR's Community Agenda: Homelessness <https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-10-04/whqrs-community-agenda-homelessness> WHQR's Community Agenda project has reached more than 900 community members, asking them one question: what should Wilmington city council candidates be talking about? Homelessness is in the top five, as the unhoused population has increased significantly since last year. Morning Edition 7:45 a.m. October 4 4:03

## Education

The Dive: Wilmington's Gateway Project falls apart due to affordable housing costs	<a href="https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-10-06/the-dive-wilmingtons-gateway-project-falls-apart-due-to-affordable-housing-costs">https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-10-06/the-dive-wilmingtons-gateway-project-falls-apart-due-to-affordable-housing-costs</a>	The city's memorandum of understanding with the developer, East West Partners, expired Wednesday. And despite spending four years and six figures preparing for the massive project, the firm won't seek to renew it. When the city council declined to apply for millions in grant funding to subsidize the inclusion of workforce housing in the mixed-use proposal last month, members didn't appear to realize that doing so would effectively kill the deal.	All Things Considered	5:44 p.m. October 6	4:27
Community Agenda top 5: Traffic and Infrastructure	<a href="https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-10-07/community-agenda-top-5-traffic-and-infrastructure">https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-10-07/community-agenda-top-5-traffic-and-infrastructure</a>	WHQR's Community Agenda project has reached more than 1,000 community members, asking them one question: what should Wilmington city council candidates be talking about? Infrastructure and traffic both make the top 5.	All Things Considered	4:44 p.m.. October 7	3:57
NHC Commissioners approve \$3 million in affordable housing support, with a few notes	<a href="https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-10-16/nhc-commissioners-approve-3-million-in-affordable-housing-support-with-a-few-notes">https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-10-16/nhc-commissioners-approve-3-million-in-affordable-housing-support-with-a-few-notes</a>	New Hanover County commissioners unanimously approved roughly \$3 million in support for affordable housing. Two commissioners also offered support for one project, scored favorably by staff, that didn't quite make the cut — while another commissioner was irked by a project that had opted for voluntary annexation in the City of Wilmington.	Morning Edition	6:07 a.m. October 17	1:38
Documents and interviews with former employees suggest CFCC is violating state code on contract buyouts, again	<a href="https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-10-03/documents-and-interviews-with-former-employees-suggest-cfcc-is-violating-state-code-on-contract-buyouts-again">https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-10-03/documents-and-interviews-with-former-employees-suggest-cfcc-is-violating-state-code-on-contract-buyouts-again</a>	Cape Fear Community College appears, for the second year, to have violated the state's regulations on employee contract buyouts. Based on documents provided by the state, and the testimony of former employees, the college appears to have spent over \$100,000 in state money — not local funds — to pay out salaries and benefits for employees who were escorted off campus before they could finish their contract terms.	All Things Considered	4:44 p.m. October 3	4:33
What do teachers really need to turn NHCS' struggling schools around?	<a href="https://www.whqr.org/show/the-newsroom/2023-10-20/what-do-teachers-really-need-to-turn-nhcs-struggling-schools-around">https://www.whqr.org/show/the-newsroom/2023-10-20/what-do-teachers-really-need-to-turn-nhcs-struggling-schools-around</a>	On this episode of The Newsroom, WHQR's Rachel Keith shares what she heard at a recent roundtable event, held by New Hanover County Schools' Turn Around Task Force, charged with getting to the bottom of what ails the district's lowest-performing schools. At the most recent meeting, task force members heard from teachers — who spoke unsparingly about what they really need to help students succeed.	The Newsroom	12:00 p.m. October 20	50:00:00

## Criminal Justice

How are NHCS students doing at UNCW, CFCC, and how much do those courses cost?	<a href="https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-12-11/how-are-nhcs-students-doing-at-uncw-cfcc-and-how-much-do-those-courses-cost">https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-12-11/how-are-nhcs-students-doing-at-uncw-cfcc-and-how-much-do-those-courses-cost</a>	In August, New Hanover County Schools district Superintendent Dr. Charles Foust said some of the district's students aren't necessarily being successful in dual enrollment courses — where high school students take classes at Cape Fear Community College and UNC-Wilmington. That called into question whether it's worth the cost the state and district bear for them to take these higher-level classes.	All Things Considered	4:44 p.m. December 11	4:51
It's overwhelming: CFCC and LINC program helps people rebuild their lives after incarceration	<a href="https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-10-02/its-overwhelming-cfcc-and-linc-program-helps-people-rebuild-their-lives-after-incarceration">https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-10-02/its-overwhelming-cfcc-and-linc-program-helps-people-rebuild-their-lives-after-incarceration</a>	Making a new life after being locked up presents a dizzying labyrinth of challenges. The Pathway Home program is a \$3.9 million federal grant from the U.S. Department of Labor that fully funds work by Cape Fear Community College and LINC to help people who are reentering society after being incarcerated.	All Things Considered	4:51 p.m. October 2	7:35
Brunswick County secures \$400k grant for drug treatment court	<a href="https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-10-03/brunswick-county-secures-400k-grant-for-drug-treatment-court">https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-10-03/brunswick-county-secures-400k-grant-for-drug-treatment-court</a>	The grant is from SAMHSA, a federal agency targeting behavioral health, including substance abuse, across the United States. Over the next five years, the agency will provide \$2 million to Brunswick County to help individuals participating in local drug treatment courts.	Morning Edition	7:04 a.m. October 3	1:23
The Dive: Martial arts at WPD, and 'the sunshine tax'	<a href="https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-10-13/the-dive-martial-arts-at-wpd-and-the-sunshine-tax">https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-10-13/the-dive-martial-arts-at-wpd-and-the-sunshine-tax</a>	It's a counterintuitive conceit: the more confident you are in your ability to win a fight, the less likely you are to get into one. But that's what Wilmington police officer Christian Marshall says he has seen in the field since the department started requiring new officers to train in Gracie Survival Tactics, a specialized version of Brazilian jiu-jitsu (BJJ) tailored for law enforcement.	All Things Considered	5:44 p.m. October 13	4:09
Columbus Corruption: The Assembly and Border Belt Independent co-report on a sprawling federal investigation	<a href="https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-11-28/columbus-corruption-the-assembly-and-border-belt-independent-co-report-on-a-sprawling-federal-investigation">https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-11-28/columbus-corruption-the-assembly-and-border-belt-independent-co-report-on-a-sprawling-federal-investigation</a>	Last week, Border Belt Independent editor Sarah Nagem and The Assembly's Carli Brosseau published an update on the current federal investigation into former Columbus County Sheriff Jody Greene and possibly beyond — which echoes an infamous FBI sting from forty years ago. WHQR's Ben Schachtman spoke with them about their reporting.	Morning Edition	7:45 a.m. November 28	4:30
Novant lays off 160 employees as part of 'difficult' organizational redesign, 'local roles impacted'	<a href="https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-10-04/novant-lays-off-160-employees-as-part-of-difficult-organizational-redesign-local-roles-impacted">https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-10-04/novant-lays-off-160-employees-as-part-of-difficult-organizational-redesign-local-roles-impacted</a>	Novant Health said the workforce reductions would mainly impact administrators and managers, but noted it impacted a small portion of its 36,000-strong workforce. The healthcare company confirmed there were local layoffs.	All Things Considered	5:32 p.m. October 4	0:55

## Healthcare

## Diversity

Mental health in the Cape Fear: Part one, when help hurts	<a href="https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-11-13/part-one">https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-11-13/part-one</a>	This week, WHQR explores an incident at New Hanover Regional Medical Center that left a young man having a mental health crisis allegedly strapped to a bed for 48 hours. As WHQR's Camille Mojica reports in part one, it's a window into the challenges facing the behavioral health system.	Morning Edition	6:45 p.m. November 13	4:01
Students revive the 'The Williston Sun' newspaper	<a href="https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-10-30/students-revive-the-the-williston-sun-newspaper">https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-10-30/students-revive-the-the-williston-sun-newspaper</a>	Students at Williston Middle School are restarting their school newspaper, The Williston Sun. Their first online issue dropped in October and had close to 300 people read it.	Morning Edition	6:45 a.m. October 30	3:46
Schools in NC's Border Belt refer Black students to police more often, report says	<a href="https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-11-06/schools-in-ncs-border-belt-refer-black-students-to-police-more-often-report-says">https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-11-06/schools-in-ncs-border-belt-refer-black-students-to-police-more-often-report-says</a>	A recent report by the ACLU found that Black students are referred to police far more often than White students in North Carolina, largely as a result of a 2016 law that criminalized disruptive classroom behavior. WHQR's Kelly Kenoyer interviewed Ben Rappaport of the Border Belt Independent about what that looks like in his region.	Morning Edition	6:45 p.m. November 6	3:56
The Dive: The Wilmington Journal's legacy, challenges, and future	<a href="https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-11-10/the-dive-the-wilmington-journals-legacy-challenges-and-future">https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-11-10/the-dive-the-wilmington-journals-legacy-challenges-and-future</a>	WHQR's Ben Schachtman sat down with The Assembly's Johanna Still to talk about the latest edition of The Dive, our joint newsletter. This week, they spoke about the Wilmington Journal, which for nearly a century has been Wilmington's Black newspaper — but is now facing some serious challenges.	All Things Considered	5:44 p.m. November 10	4:09
NHCS Superintendent pushes back hard on professional conduct policy in committee	<a href="https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-11-21/nhcs-superintendent-pushes-back-hard-on-professional-conduct-policy-in-committee">https://www.whqr.org/local/2023-11-21/nhcs-superintendent-pushes-back-hard-on-professional-conduct-policy-in-committee</a>	At Tuesday's New Hanover County Board of Education Policy Committee, sparks flew when members discussed the professional conduct policy. Superintendent Dr. Charles Foust also entered into the fray. At times, those on different sides of the debate were talking past each other in terms of what the policy says on paper versus how it could be interpreted. The debate became personal and veered into the topic of how the ugly history of racial prejudice in the United States can be taught.	Morning Edition	6:04 a.m. November 22	1:57
CoastLine: Female military veterans on standing up for their own rights while serving	<a href="https://www.whqr.org/show/coastline/2023-11-24/coastline-female-military-veterans-on-standing-up-for-their-own-rights-while-serving">https://www.whqr.org/show/coastline/2023-11-24/coastline-female-military-veterans-on-standing-up-for-their-own-rights-while-serving</a>	Cooking food, working as nurses, working in maintenance and repair units, dressing as men: for millennia, women have worked near and actually on the battlefield. But they still make up less than a quarter of the active U.S. military force, and they still face career barriers. Despite fear of retaliation in the face of misogyny, three local female veterans, Deborah Dicks Maxwell, Marcia Morgan, and Veronica Carter, say they're proud of the times they spoke up for their rights and dignity.	CoastLine	12:00 p.m. November 29	50:00:00