

Problems, Needs and Issues Quarterly Report Second Quarter. 2015

The following is a list of issues of community interest the news department covered during the months of April, May, and June of 2015. Included is a description of each issue and the news stories that were written and aired to inform local residents about their impact on the community.....

1.) -- **WAPS Facilities**...Throughout the spring of 2015, the Winona Area Public School district continued discussions on a multi-million dollar solution to its aging facilities and school buildings. An initial plan had an estimated cost of 75-million dollars. The school board narrowed a list of options to 13 and held public meetings to gauge feedback. See attached news stories....

2.) -- **Tuition Freeze**...State lawmakers from the Winona area pushed for a tuition freeze at area colleges and universities for the 2015-2017 biennium during the 2015 legislative session. In the end a compromise ended setting a freeze for two-year institutions in the first year and a 3-point-4 percent increase at 4-year colleges. Just the opposite for the second year. See attached news stories.....

3.) -- **Special Session**...The 2015 legislative session in St. Paul ended without an agreement on many major budget bills for the state. It also resulted in three vetoes by Governor Mark Dayton of three budget bills. That forced Dayton to call a special session of the legislature in mid-June, where the vetoed bills could be worked on and passed setting the next 2-year state budget. See attached news stories.....

4.) -- **Bridge Demolition**...During the quarter work began on the demolition of buildings in the right-of-way for the 162-million dollar Highway 43 bridge project in Winona. The demolition completed real work began on constructing piers for the new bridge that will span the Mississippi River next to a rehabbed original bridge. This created a great change to downtown Winona and impacted many people. See attached news stories.....

5.) -- **Steamboat Days**...The annual Winona Steamboat Days festival in Winona was held in the middle of June featuring fun and activities for the whole family.

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A new Miss Winona was crowned and a grande parade and kiddie parade were held. The festival ended with the annual fireworks display over the Mississippi River in Levee Park. see attached news stories....

Submitted by,

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