

**Quarterly Issues Programs List for
WHLS, Port Huron
January 1st – March 31st, 2021**

Section I Issues

The station has identified the following issues as significant issues facing our community in the first quarter of 2021:

- A. COVID-19 vaccine distribution
- B. Changes to Port Huron city government
- C. Education during a pandemic
- D. Road construction projects
- E. Flooding along the St. Clair River
- F. COVID-19 cases and variants
- G. Parks and recreation leadership changes
- H. Reopening of the border with Canada

Section II Responsive Programs

A. COVID-19 vaccine distribution

Name: Blue Water Beat

Run Time: 1 minute

Date: Jan. 9-10, 2021

Air Time: 8 times daily 12am-12pm ROS

Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced January 6th that the state will soon be allowing more people to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Michiganders over the age of 65, first responders, and preK-12 teachers will be among the next group to be offered the vaccine. Currently, only those who work in healthcare and at congregate long term care facilities were eligible for the injection. The St. Clair County Health department offered the first appointments for those in groups 1B and 1C starting Monday. It only took a few hours for all of the available time slots to be filled up. As vaccine supply increases, the health department expects to expand the number of vaccine appointments available.

Name: Blue Water Beat

Run Time: 1 minute

Date: Jan 23-24, 2021

Air Time: 4 times daily 12am-12pm ROS

Supply and staffing shortages are part of the reason more people in St. Clair County haven't yet received the COVID-19 vaccine. Dr. Annette Mercatante, the county's medical health officer, says currently the only way to sign up for a clinic is online which is problematic for those in the 65 or older

age group. There is currently no waiting list for the vaccine but that the health department is exploring possible ways to create one.

Name: Vaccination Registration **Run Time: Varies**
Date: Feb. 1 -Mar. 31, 2021 **Air Time: 160 total, varies**

Station personalities promoted the St. Clair County Health Department's COVID-19 vaccine preregistration system. Listeners were directed to visit our website where a prominent link was placed on the homepage linking to the health department's website. Listeners were encouraged by airstaff to sign up for the vaccine and they will be notified when they are eligible. In addition to the live mentions from airstaff, a series of 30 second PSAs also ran during this time frame to direct listeners to sign up.

B. Changes to Port Huron city government

Name: Blue Water Beat **Run Time: 1 minute**
Date: Jan 16-17, 2021 **Air Time: 4 times daily 12am-12pm ROS**

Port Huron Mayor Pauline Repp says there will soon be a new member of Port Huron City Council. City Council Members will need to fill a vacancy left by Lisa Beedon, who resigned at the end of 2020 after being elected to the county commission. Repp says applicants will be asked to give a four minute introduction during the special session meeting February 1st and that they plan to vote that night.

C. Education during a pandemic

Name: Blue Water Beat **Run Time: 1 minute**
Date: Jan. 23-24, 2021 **Air Time: 4 times daily 12am-12pm ROS**

St. Clair County Regional Education Service Agency is now providing free high speed internet service to those who need it at several area school buildings across the county. The equipment to provide the free Wi-Fi service was purchased recently through a \$9400 Mi Connect grant from the state of Michigan. Kevin Miller, superintendent of St. Clair County RESA says more work is still needed to get internet access to undreserved parts of the county. Connected buildings include those in the Capac, Marysville, Memphis, and Port Huron area school districts.

D. Road construction projects

Name: Blue Water Beat **Run Time: 1 minute**
Date: Feb. 6-7, 2021 **Air Time: 8 times daily 12am-12pm ROS**

There will be orange barrels in nearly every corner of St. Clair County once the 2021 construction season gets underway. St. Clair County Road Commission managing director Kirk Weston says among the projects includes a total rebuild of Wadhams Road, North River Road, Capac Road, and Marine City Highway. Weston also hopes to start work on replacing the Gratiot Road bridge over the Belle River either later this year or early next, pending state environmental approval.

Name: Blue Water Beat **Run Time: 1 minute**

Date: Feb. 20-21, 2021

Air Time: 8 times daily 12am-12pm ROS

It's a \$19.5 million windfall for the City of Port Huron following passage of the latest Federal COVID-19 relief package. Port Huron City Manager James Freed says city council will have to make some decisions on how to spend that money, saying he would like to see the dollars spent on deferred capital projects such as roads and buildings. He says if maintenance continues to be deferred, it will just cost taxpayers more in the long term.

E. Flooding along the St. Clair River

Name: Blue Water Beat

Run Time: 1 minute

Date: Feb. 13-14, 2021

Air Time: 8 times daily 12am-12pm ROS

Efforts continue to alleviate flooding along the St. Clair River. Mark White is St. Clair County's deputy director of Emergency Management and says with the help of the US and Canadian Coast Guard they've been able to clear an ice blockage downriver. The St. Clair County office of emergency management is encouraging those affected by the floods to submit damage reports and photos online at bereadystclaircounty.org.

Name: Blue Water Beat

Run Time: 1 minute

Date: Feb. 20-21, 2021

Air Time: 8 times daily 12am-12pm ROS

Bitter cold temperatures and a water level still above the flood stage means residents along the St. Clair County should be prepared for more flooding. Forecasters and emergency managers are keeping a close eye on the river, including Justin Westmiller, St. Clair County's Emergency Manager. He says St. Clair River property owners are encouraged to place sand bags around their homes to prevent further flooding. Those who have experienced damage due to the high water levels can report it online at bereadystclaircounty.org

F. COVID-19 cases and variants

Name: Blue Water Beat

Run Time: 1 minute

Date: Feb. 27-28, 2021

Air Time: 8 times daily 12am-12pm ROS

Both Sanilac and now St. Clair County are reporting cases of the UK coronavirus variant known as B.1.1.7. A case of the variant was first confirmed in the Blue Water area by State Health Officials February 9th in a Sanilac County patient. The following week, the St. Clair County health department also reported a case of the variant. St. Clair County Health officer Dr. Annette Mercatante says current COVID-19 treatments and the vaccine have been proven effective against the new strain.

Name: Blue Water Beat

Run Time: 1 minute

Date: March 13-14, 2021

Air Time: 8 times daily 12am-12pm ROS

St. Clair County's Medical Health officer says new coronavirus cases have been holding steady if not slightly rising over the past few weeks. Dr. Annette Mercatante says with the increase in cases also

comes an increase in positivity. Mercatante says the spread is do in part to less COIVD-19 related restrictions, less mask wearing, as well as a new UK variant of the virus which is more transmissible.

G. Parks and recreation leadership changes

Name: Blue Water Beat **Run Time: 1 minute**
Date: March 6-7, 2021 **Air Time: 8 times daily 12am-12pm ROS**

St. Clair County officials continue to discuss the idea of sharing parks and recreation directors with the City of Port Huron. Commissioners this past week had a first reading of an agreement which would result in the county paying the City of Port Huron for the services of Nancy Winzer. Duke Dunn, chairman of the County's Environmental and Public Works Committee, says the end result would be for Nancy Winzer to replace the outgoing Mark Brochu. The split cost of Winzer's salary would equate to approximately \$88,000 a year for both entities. The agreement will be revisited at the county's march 18th meeting.

H. Reopening of the border with Canada

Name: Blue Water Beat **Run Time: 1 minute**
Date: March 27-28, 2021 **Air Time: 8 times daily 12am-12pm ROS**

Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley says it will take widespread use of the vaccine on both sides of the border before cross-border travel is allowed to resume. Bradley speculated that could mean the border remains closed to non-essential traffic through much of the summer. The number of COVID-19 cases in Lambton County have recently ticked upwards by 30% since the first of the month. That has resulted in the provincial government moving Sarnia and Lambton back into the "grey-lockdown" phase which only allows for essential services to be open.

Section III Public Service Announcements

Name: Community Events **Run Time: 30 seconds**
Date: Jan 1-Mar 31,2021 **Air Time: 12 times per day 12am-12pm ROS**

The Following Public Service Announcements aired on WHLS:

- St. Clair County Health Department's COIVD-19 vaccine pre-registration system.
- Drive up and take out fish fry for the Knights of Columbus in Port Huron January 16th.
- Port Huron Parks and Recreation Department's Weekly Photo Contest Jan 15th – March 5th.
- Parking lot bingo in Port Huron Tuesday Jan 19th – February 9th.
- McLaren Port Huron Foundation Betty Kearns Little Black Dress fundraiser event to be held Friday March 5th virtually .
- Port Huron's Winter Wonderland January 22nd - 23rd featuring a scavenger hunt and snowman display.
- Drive up and take out fish fry for the Knights of Columbus in Port Huron during lent every Friday from February 19th through March 26th.

- McLaren Port Huron Foundation Fish Fry Friday March 12th at the Elks Lodge.
- St. Clair County Animal Control seeking donations of bleach, dish soap, cat litter, and towels following an influx of animals at the shelter.
- A corned beef and cabbage Irish dinner at VFW post 796 in Port Huron on St. Patrick's Day Wednesday March 17th.
- Burger night at American Legion post 8 in Port Huron Tuesday March 30th to benefit the fallen heroes banner project.
- Blue Water Area Churches and Operation Transformation present a community Good Friday service at Colonial Woods church Friday April 2nd.
- Port Huron Area Schools free rapid antibody testing for all in the community on Sunday April 4th at Memorial Stadium.