

The following is a summary of issues filed for the radio station WZDM for the period between July first and September 30th, 2012. The issues were covered in full newscasts every half-hour between five and nine a-m, as well as at 12 noon, 4 p-m, and five p-m, and in updates airing each evening and overnight. Further, the issues were covered in a series of Community News updates, rotated around the clock seven days a week, as well as with the Around the Town program.

(Siewers dies) (Tuesday 7/10/12 ... ah/tlz 6a)

Former Vincennes City Fire Chief Mike Siewers (Seavers) has passed away. Siewers died at Bridgepointe Health Campus at the age of 61; he was a victim of cancer.

The funeral will be held Thursday at ten a-m at Vincennes' Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Visitation will be from four to eight tomorrow evening at Fredrick and Son McClure-Utt Funeral Home. All Vincennes City flags will fly at half-staff through Thursday's funeral. The half-staff order came from a resolution approved last night by Vincennes City Council.

(Grove-- smooth transition) (Monday 7/16/12 ... tlz 6a)

New South Knox Schools Superintendent Tim Grove is starting his third week heading the South Knox School Corporation today. Grove's first day as head of the South Knox School Corporation was July second; he was named Superintendent following the retirement of former Superintendent Brad Case. He had earlier served as principal of North Knox High School, prior to taking the South Knox job.

Grove says the South Knox community has welcomed him with open arms. Grove also praised the help of former Superintendent Case and other administrative workers in the transition.

(NK-- Roofing second phase) (Monday 7/16/12 ... tlz 4p)
(updated 7/17)

The North Knox School Board has approved the second phase of a contract to replace another section of roofing on the Corporation's junior and senior high school building. The Board accepted the bid of Royalty Roofing for 226-thousand, 648 dollars. Royalty also won Phase One of the building's roofing project.

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The project's Phase Two will cover the building's east side classrooms and its commons area. The second roofing phase will begin in the next couple of days. The overall roofing plan has a third phase; however, North Knox Superintendent Darrell Bobe says Phase Three's completion may be delayed. Work on Phase Three will depend on both available time, and available finances.

(Citco-- Redistricting) (Tuesday 7/17/12 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes City Council's Redistricting Committee recommends a complete re-shaping of the City's election precincts. The Committee consists of new members T-J Brink, Tim Salters, and Duane Chattin.

The Committee is also considering either keeping a five-district set-up with two at-large members, or switching to a four-district, three at-large member configuration. This would be the first re-drawing of City precinct maps since the early 1980's.

Yesterday's meeting was the first in a proposed set of sessions to discuss the issue. Brink says the Vincennes City Council needs the public's suggestions in setting the new precinct maps.

(USB-- Adequate water supply) (Thursday 8/19/12 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes Water Utilities officials report despite the drought, water supplies in Vincennes remain plentiful. Vincennes Water Utilities superintendent Kirk Bouchie told the Vincennes Utility Services Board yesterday City water supplies have operated with few problems. The smooth operation has taken place despite a 66 percent increase in water use from July of last year. The 66 percent increase comes on the heels of a 68 percent water use increase in June.

Bouchie reports despite increased water use, the City is using just over half its pumping capacity.

(Filtration ceremony) (Thursday 7/19/12 ... tlz 4p)
(updated 7/20)

Federal, state, and local dignitaries gathered in Lawrenceville yesterday for the grand opening of the new Lawrenceville Water Treatment plant.

The new facility's job is to remove impurities from Lawrenceville's

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water. City officials speaking at the grand opening praised Illinois and U-S-D-A officials for providing the funds to construct the new plant. The City funded the plant with a seven-million dollar low-interest loan provided by the U-S-D-A through its Illinois State offices.

VCSC to Advertise 2013 Budget - for 7/24/12

The Vincennes Community School Board approved the advertisement of an over \$28 Million Dollar budget for next year. The proposed budget is similar to this year's and estimates a slightly smaller enrollment in the Vincennes schools. Of the \$28 Million dollars, about \$15 Million is paid by the state and the rest is paid with property taxes. According to Superintendent Greg Parsley the advertised tax rate will be artificially high at \$1.74 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation, but he expects the final rate to be about \$1.25 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation - an increase of about ten cents. Following advertisement, a public hearing, and passage on the local level, the budget will be studied and possibly adjusted by the state department of local government finance.

(BPW-- Step 1) (Tuesday 8/24/12 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes Board of Works has approved the first step toward possible construction of a new pool in the City of Vincennes. The pool is being proposed as a replacement for the current over-40 year-old design of Rainbow Beach.

The layout was preceded by public information sessions. Vincennes Mayor Joe Yochum says the first meetings were for information-- but last night started the real process of putting the pool into play. The real test for the pool will be a referendum vote scheduled for May of next year. Yochum says the referendum will be the real chance for Vincennes residents to voice their feelings on a new Rainbow Beach.

(Tarrants takes over Gimbel) (Monday 7/30/12 ... tlz 12n)
(updated 7/31)

Travis Tarrants has become the new owner of the Gimbel-Bond property at Second and Main Streets. Former owner Darrell Lommel (DARR-ull LUH-mull) sold the property to Tarrants, instead of selling to the City of Vincennes.

The City of Vincennes wanted to buy the property to qualify for a grant to clean it up. Vincennes Mayor Joe Yochum is disappointed by the sale.

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Yochum says now that Tarrant's has the property, the City's job is to make sure cleanup happens on the property.

(Citco-- budget hearings) (Wednesday 8/1/12 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes City Council is preparing to review its budgets for the 2013 calendar year. The first step will be a review and finalizing of department head budgets. The City's budget will then be advertised later this month.

Vincennes Mayor Joe Yochum says the first budget review steps have begun. Yochum also knows a state error in COIT and EDIT tax reporting has benefited the City.

(VU-Contract extension)(Wednesday 8/1/12 ... tlz 4p)

(updated 8./2)

Vincennes University president Richard Helton celebrated his ninth anniversary as V-U president with another three year contract extension. The extension is valid through July 31st of 2015. In comments made just after yesterday's vote, Helton says the extension is a great way to celebrate his nine-year anniversary as V-U's president. Helton also credits V-U's faculty and staff for putting changes in place he feels will move the University forward.

The Board agreed to the extension following an executive session; a review during the closed session found Dr. Helton had met and exceeded the position's criteria. The Board unanimously approved Dr. Helton's three-year contract.

(Tarrant's-- Gimbel-bond plans) (Monday 8/6/12 ... tlz 6a)

Further movement to clean up the Gimbel-Bond property may take place in the next couple of days. New property owner Travis Tarrant's says the first priority is to clean up the site as soon as possible. Tarrant's also says he will talk with a contractor about another ownership transfer-- possibly within the next couple of days.

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(Pantheon Theater updates) (Monday 8/7/12 ... tlz 6a)

Work on downtown Vincennes' Pantheon Theater continues-- but slower than expected. Pantheon Theater property owner Travis Tarrants is continuing his work to restore the theater to its former glory.

Tarrants says work on the former theater is steady-- but slow. Tarrants also claims the Vincennes Lowe's has plans to help restore the Pantheon Theater.

Tarrants further hopes the structure's listing as one of Indiana's Ten Most Endangered Landmarks will bring further restoration grants. Currently, the Pantheon is open for tours, but the structure has not yet been cleared to host performances.

(NK-budget presentation)(Thursday 8/9/12 ... tlz 6a)]

North Knox School Superintendent Darrell Bobe laid out the proposed 2013 budget to the North Knox School Board yesterday afternoon. The nearly 20-million dollar budget will be advertised on August 29th and September fifth. A public budget hearing is set for September tenth, with the final adoption set for October 16th.

The budget calls for a nearly dollar-12 cent levy per 100 dollars in assessed valuation. However, Superintendent Bobe claims the amount is being advertised artificially high, and expects the final tax levy to be near the current 47-cent levy per hundred.

The budget has built in a small increase over last year. The small increase is a reversal of a 17 percent decrease in the North Knox budget since 2008. Bobe says despite the budget's planned increase, another slight budget reduction may eventually be needed for 2013.

(Gimbel-Bond hearing set) (Thursday 8/9/12 ... tlz 6a)

Knox Circuit Court judge Sherri Gilmore has set an October 16th hearing on a City request to mandate cleanup of the Gimbel-Bond property. Last week, the City updated a standing petition, asking the Court to force new property owner Pantheon Theater Company to remove the debris. The Pantheon Theater group purchased the property outright last week from former Gimbel owner Darrell Lommel.

The Pantheon company also became the bearer of back taxes owed on the

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property, as well as a City bill for expenses in demolishing the structure. Together, the two outstanding expenses total around 57-thousand dollars.

Pantheon Theater Company owner Travis Tarrants says he has plans to remove the debris in the near future. Tarrants also says the debris can be removed without much added difficulty. Tarrants also claims his name should not have been added to the lawsuit last week. He believes that despite being Lommel's power of attorney, he had no authority over its cleanup before purchasing the property last week.

(CoCo-- Clerk's remodeling) (Wednesday 8/15/12 ... tlz 6a)

The Knox County Council has agreed in principle to a remodeling project for the main Knox County Clerk's office. The office is located on the second floor of the Knox County Courthouse.

County Clerk Lisa Clark-Benock requested 15-thousand dollars to start the work in October. The remodeling would happen at the same time a new court-based computer system would be installed in her office. The additional appropriation could be approved during Council's September budget hearings-- in time for the work to begin in October. The Clerk's Election Room could also be remodeled following the November general election.

(Farbest groundbreak-- Seger) (Tuesday 8/14/12 ... tlz 5p)
(updated 8/15)

Dignitaries from across the area and state of Indiana gathered in the Vincennes Industrial Park for the groundbreaking of the new Farbest Foods plant. The 225-thousand square-foot plant will locate on 60 acres in the south end of the facility. Farbest officials project the plant will cost them 75 million dollars to construct.

Farbest Foods president Ted Seger says the plant will bring many jobs to the area. Seger also says state of the art technology in the new factory will help them maintain competitiveness in a global economy.

(Comm-no more burn ban)(Thursday 8/17/12 ... tlz 6a)

Knox County has become the latest Indiana county to lift its burn ban, due to recent rains easing this summer's drought conditions. Commissioners' president Kevin Meyer announced the lifting last night; he said the decision came after consultation with Knox County Emergency Management Agency director John Streeter. The decision was approved unanimously. Knox joins Daviess and Greene Counties as the latest to lift the prohibition against

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outside burning.

In other business, the Commissioners have ordered County Attorney Dale Webster to write a letter to C-S-X Railroad concerning recent railroad repairs. The letter will ask for a conference with railroad officials concerning approaches to the elevated railroads. The Commissioners want asphalt ramps to approach the elevated tracks, rather than bumps approaching them. Several famers have approached the Commissioners, complaining that the approaches have caused damage to their grain-carrying semi-trailers. The Commissioners also officially closed the Springtown Road bridge, and ordered its repair. The bridge repair will cost an estimated 116-thousand dollars.

(Conference--coal war)(Monday 8/20/12 ... tlz 4p)

(updated 8/21)

Two area Congressmen--Eighth District Indiana Congressman Larry Bucshon (boo-SHAWN) and 19th District Congressman John Shimkus--held an energy roundtable yesterday at Vincennes University. The two Congressmen called for an energy policy fairer to coal producers across southwest Indiana and southeast Illinois.

Both Congressmen also blasted President Obama for energy policies praising "green" energy at the expense of coal. Congressman Bucshon says the President's action is fulfilling a campaign promise he made to a San Francisco newspaper in 2008..

VCSC School Board Meeting - for 8/21/12 - mrl

Enrollment remains up at the Vincennes Community Schools and the School Board approved the hiring of a number of teachers to address the needs of students. The schools are still in need of a part-time Math Teacher at Lincoln High School, a part-time Special Education Teacher at Tecumseh-Harrison, and a Part-time Kindergarten Teacher at Franklin Elementary. The Board approved a one year Master Contract with the Teachers' Association that includes a 1% wage increase and 1% in additional money that will be allocated as one year stipends for teachers who participate in committee assignments and other school activities.

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(Porn bust)

Vincennes City Police have busted a large meth making operation, arrested two on drug charges and charged one of those arrested with an additional charge of possession of child pornography. Police Chief Dusty Luking says the raid was 621 North Sixth Street.

Arrested for meth making was 32 year old Jennifer Abel of 903 North 13th Street and 25 year old Anthony Childers 621 North 6th Street. Abel was also charged with visiting a common nuisance. Childers is also charged with maintaining a common nuisance and possession of child pornography.

The Indiana State Police Cyber Crime Unit and Knox County Sheriff's department assisted in the operation. Both Jennifer Abel and Anthony Childers were taken to the Knox County Jail.

(Comm-- Health program suspended) (Wednesday 9/5/12 ... tlz 12n)
(updated 9/6)

A Knox County employee wellness program has stopped operating-- at least for the time being. The program-- as run through Vincennes Insurance-- expired on August 31st.

(Peabody mine closing) (Wednesday 9/5/12 ... tlz 12n)
(updated 9/6)

Peabody Energy has announced it will close its Air Quality Mine near Monroe City by the end of the year. The Saint Louis-based mining company says around 230 employees will be affected by the move. The workers have received an official 60-day notice of the mine's closing.

The southern Knox County mine has produced roughly 630-thousand tons of coal through the first six months of 2012. The mine opened its Monroe City operation in 1993.

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(V-U art dedication)(Thursday 9/6/12 ... tlz 4p)
(updated 9/7)

Vincennes University leaders and others joined together yesterday to break ground on a new University Art Center. The nearly four-million dollar facility will be located near the corner of Third Street and College Avenue in Vincennes.

The 15-thousand, 525 square foot facility will replace the current Art Annex on Third Street. The Art Center will provide a gallery for student and faculty art work, along with instructional facilities for metalworking, woodworking, ceramics, and sculpture classes.

(Vincennes Utilities-Levee repairs)(Monday 9/10/12 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes Water Utilities officials continue reviews of expected repairs on the levee along the Wabash River. The repairs are needed to meet federal requirements to keep the Vincennes levee system as a certified levee. Some repairs are happening now, or will happen in the near future, while the river continues at a very low level.

Vincennes Water Utilities general manager Kirk Bouchie says the trick is finding long-range funding to fix problems on the levee repair list.

(NK-New teachers' contract)(Tuesday 9/11/12 ... tlz 6a)

The North Knox School Board has ratified a contract with the North Knox Classroom Teachers' Association. The teachers had earlier approved the contract, and passed it to the Board for their approval last night.

The new contract does not give raises to the teachers. However, it does give any teacher or non-certified staff who was employed by the Corporation in the 2011-12 school year a one-percent separate stipend check. Newly hired teachers and non-certified staff brought on for the 2012-13 school year will not receive the stipend.

(Citco-- remembering 9/11 victims)(Tuesday 9/11/12 ... tlz 6a)

The City of Vincennes and other groups will pay respect to the victims of 9/11 today by lowering the City's flags to half-staff. Vincennes Mayor Joe Yochum announced the remembrance during last night's Vincennes City Council session. The Mayor also urges all City residents to lower their

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flags as well, in honor of those killed in the terrorist attacks of September eleventh, 2001.

One local group will also honor the 9/11 victims today. Willow Manor will hold its annual Heroes' event today as a remembrance to those killed in the 2001 attacks. The Willow Manor ceremony continues an annual tradition the nursing center started each year in remembrance of 9/11.

(Citco-redistricting discussion)(Tuesday 9/11/12 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes City Council agreed to forward a recommendation for its Redistricting Committee to consider a 12-precinct election map for the City of Vincennes. Committee member TJ Brink brought the idea to Council as a way to consolidate the population and improve efficiency.

Currently the City of Vincennes has 16 precincts. Brink says shrinking the number to 12 will save City taxpayers money.

(VU and GSH Gimbel Bond) (EB) (9/12/12) (12pm)

Vincennes' two largest employers will partner with the city of Vincennes to clean up the Gimbel-Bond Property on Main Street.

Vincennes Mayor Joe Yochum announced that Vincennes University and Good Samaritan Hospital will join the City's efforts to get the property cleaned up as soon as possible. The Gimbel-Bond property was destroyed last year in a fire in mid-December.

(Redistrict Cmte.-- 12-precinct agreement)(Friday 9/14/12 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes City Council Redistricting Committee unanimously agreed to back a 12-precinct redistricting plan for City and County consideration. In a four and a half hour meeting last night at the Knox County Courthouse, the Committee-- and other City Council members-- reviewed maps for both a 12 and a 16-precinct model, before deciding on the 12-precinct idea.

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(KCS-- Pursuit and arrest) (Monday 9/17/12 ... tlz 6a)

Knox County Sheriff's deputies arrested a Vincennes man yesterday following a report of an alleged theft on Main Street Road near Vincennes.

Deputies responded to a caller reporting a possible theft of anhydrous ammonia from Mouzin Farms. An anonymous caller tracked the suspect's moped until Sheriff's officials stopped it on Ford Road in Vincennes.

When Sheriff's deputies tried to execute the stop, the moped fled from them onto Kimmel Road, and then onto Wabash Avenue. Sheriff's officials say the suspect threw a jug containing anhydrous ammonia and ephedrine pills over the Wabash Avenue overpass, and onto U-S 41. The jug barely missed some oncoming vehicles. Police pursued the moped to 913 North 14th Street, where the suspect surrendered to Sheriff's deputies without further incident.

Indiana State Police arrested 22 year old Lance Marley from Vincennes yesterday, following two incidents-- one each in Vincennes and Wheatland.

State Police troopers, and Knox County Sheriff's Department deputies were called to an incident at 2424 Hillcrest Road. Authorities found a vehicle collided with a home there, and then fled. Around 15 minutes later, officials found Marley broke into a residence on Bud Road near Wheatland. Police found Marley allegedly physically fighting with the homeowner.

Officers claim, upon further investigation, that Marley allegedly intentionally rammed his car into the Hillcrest Drive residence, before traveling to Wheatland. Further, police claim Marley forcibly entered the Bud Road residence by forcing open a locked door and shattering a window. The location was owned by a relative of Marley's.

(GRC-- McCutchan's farewell) (Wednesday 9/19/12 ... tlz 6a)

Officials at George Rogers Clark National Park are preparing to say farewell to outgoing Superintendent Brian McCutchan. McCutchan is leaving to take the head position at Fort Donelson, Tennessee, on October sixth.

G-R-C chief ranger Frank Doughman says McCutchan's physical legacy was the repairs that took place in the park under his two-year watch. Doughman also credits McCutchan's emphasis on teamwork during McCutchan's time at the helm of the G-R-C.

(USB OVERDUE COLLECTION) (Thursday 9-20-12... JT)

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The Vincennes Utilities Services Board is preparing to take legal action against customers with past due stormwater collection fees. Vincennes Water Utilities General Manager Kirk Bouchie said once the current billing cycle ends, he will look into placing liens on delinquent properties. To date, there are between 20 and 25 property bills that are past due.

(USB INSURANCE CHANGES) (Thursday 9-20-12...JT)

The Vincennes Utilities Services board learned yesterday that insurance will be changing.

Vincennes Water Utilities general manager Kirk Bouchie said every year the company evaluates its insurance benefits, and usually everything stays the same. However this year, a few things changed. The Vincennes Water Utilities will now offer employees an 80/20 payment plan in which co-pays may increase. However, deductibles will stay the same at 500 dollars per individual. The out-of-pocket maximum will be raised 500 dollars, and the drug card co-pays will be 10, 30 and 60 dollars instead of 10, 25 and 40. The company's dental and disability companies changed to Prudential and Unim respectively, but the medical coverage stayed with Anthem.

(Vinc. Parks-- Pool update) (Thursday 9/20/12 ... tlz 6a)

The City of Vincennes is considering a smaller design as part of re-constructing the pool at Rainbow Beach. City officials say a more traditional 25-meter design is being favored, over a requested 50-meter pool.

The Vincennes Parks Board officially learned of the move last night. Parks Board director Steve Beamon says the 25-meter pool would be a better overall fit for the community. Beamon informed a group of 50-meter pool supporters about the decision. Beamon says those in favor of the larger pool understood the reasoning behind the move.

(NK-gym public hearing)(Thursday 9/20/12 ... tlz 6a)

The North Knox community got its first look yesterday at the Corporation's nearly five-million dollar auxiliary gymnasium project. The facility will serve mainly as a junior high gym, but it will also provide services for both high school students, and the North Knox community in general.

A small crowd came out to review the new facility, and a proposed bond issue to pay for it. Board member

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Jim Franklin says paying for a new facility is preferred to a continued use of the former North Knox East facility at Edwardsport. The public reaction to those in attendance was positive. Craig Williams, of Oaktown, spoke for the facility; he says it is an idea whose time has come.

(Citco-- Pool repairs) (Tuesday 9/25/12 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes City Parks Department director Steve Beamon says Rainbow Beach will not open next summer, following a lack of support for a repair to the current pool. Vincennes City Council members spoke against repairing the deep end pool liner for one season, pending potential approval of a new Rainbow Beach referendum next May.

(BPW-- Gimbel cleanup) (Tuesday 9/25/12 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes Board of Works has officially approved the deeding of the Gimbel-bond property to the City of Vincennes. The City now officially owns the property between 200 and 212 Main Street. The Board also approved a motion to close Second Street between Main Street and near the Old National Bank property. The move will accommodate heavy truck traffic at the Gimbel-Bond property; the road closing will also not affect traffic into and out of the Old National Bank lot off Second Street. The closing will be in place for as long as it takes to fill the hole at the Gimbel-Bond property.

Vincennes Mayor Joe Yochum says the Gimbel-Bond site could be filled in within a couple of weeks. Yochum is impressed with the progress contractors are already making to clean and restore the site.