

This is a list of issues covered by radio station WZDM from January first, 2012 to March 31st, 2012. The issues were covered in newscasts broadcast every half-hour from five to nine a-m. Full newscasts also aired at twelve noon, four p-m, and five p-m daily.

In addition, issues were covered in various community events announcements aired on WZDM throughout the day. The following list of issues is by no means comprehensive.

(Sheriff-- Walls suit) (Monday 1/16/12 ... tlz 6a)

Knox County Sheriff Mike Morris is not saying much about a lawsuit filed in the death of Jordan Walls. The four year-old Walls died as a passenger in a vehicle that collided with a Knox County Sheriff's deputy's car. The Sheriff's deputy was involved in a pursuit at the time of the fatal crash on September 17th, 2011. The civil suit was filed in Knox Superior Court One by Jordan Walls' father, and named the Knox County Sheriff's Department and Knox County Commissioners as defendants.

Sheriff Morris claims the Sheriff's department has offered its assistance to Walls' family. Morris also states the deputy involved in the crash is also holding up well.

(B'nell Citco-- annexation) (Tuesday 1/17/12 ... tlz 6a)

The Bicknell City Council has approved an annexation and first-reading rezoning for a potential strip mall on the edge of Bicknell.

Developer Kurt Rafferty and designer Jason Copperwaite requested the approval during last night's Bicknell City Council session. The move annexed nine and a half acres of land belonging to Mike Carnahan. The land sits along State Road 67 on the north side of Bicknell. The potential strip mall would be anchored by a new, expanded Dollar General, with other stores moving in as they desire.

VCSC educational consultant - for 1/17/12 - mrl

Educational Consultant Dr. Steven Benjamin and system administrators reported to the Vincennes Community School Board the efforts to change the way subjects are taught and learned. Benjamin was brought in to help Vincennes educators get better results in state testing. If a student can read well and is actively engaged in learning and personally tracking progress toward academic standards, then that student is more likely to succeed according to Benjamin.

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(Overpass-- work stoppage) (Tuesday 1/17/12 ... tlz 6a)

The City of Vincennes still faces around 100-thousand dollars of new bills for the City overpass project. A lack of funds has forced the City to stop work on the project. However, the new bills show a continuation of work on the Sixth Street Overpass.

Vincennes Mayor Joe Yochum says he has sent an official note to project engineers Beam, Longest, and Neff to stop work on the project. Yochum says the bills caught him by surprise, since he thought the project had stopped in the late spring of last year.

(Comm-roof repairs)(Wednesday 1/18/12 ...tlz 6a)

The Knox County Commissioners have agreed to proceed with a planned re-roofing of the Knox County Courthouse. The plan to re-roof the structure was originally formed last year, but was held over to this year due to plan's complicated nature.

The design firm of Myszak and Palmer is helping the Commissioners set the bid specifics. Project designer Josh Palmer says any contractor who gets the bid can't let the re-roofing interfere with Courthouse business.

The bid specs will be sent out immediately. A bid opening is set for February 19th, with a company selection possible by the end of March.

(Battles-- Demo holdout) (Wednesday 1/19/12 ... tlz 12n)  
(updated 1/19)

Vincennes State Representative Kreg Battles is calling for more time to change a proposed referendum amendment on the right to work bill. A right-to-work amendment putting the bill to a statewide referendum was found to be unconstitutional. House Democrats are seeking more time to re-craft the amendment to meet Indiana's constitution.

House Democrats started another holdout Tuesday, to seek more time to adjust the amendment. This is the latest in a long line of moves to protest the bill's procedural problems. The bill was also a major reason many Democrats boycotted the General Assembly for five weeks last year.

Battles says this Democrat action is not similar to the five-week trip they took to Illinois a year ago. Battles believes the offer to re-craft the amendment to meet constitutional standards is a reasonable one.

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(USB-- Yearly review) (Thursday 1/19/12 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes Water Utilities general manager Kirk Bouchie expects Farbest Foods to become its largest water and sewer user in the future. At yesterday's Utility Services Board meeting, Bouchie estimated Farbest Foods' total water and sewer fees will total around one and a half million dollars annually, after its construction. The Farbest plant is targeted for a 2014 completion.

Bouchie says Farbest's estimated bill could replace a future water and sewer rate increase.

Farbest Foods decided to locate at the Knox County Industrial Park last month, with Vincennes Utilities providing the water and sewer service for the location.

(Sex offense arrest) (Thursday 1/19/12 ... tlz 6a)

A Terre Haute man was arrested yesterday following a report of sexual misconduct with a minor in Oaktown.

Sheriff's Department detectives started investigating the incident on Monday. The investigation led to the arrest yesterday of 39 year-old James Poe of Terre Haute. Poe was arrested by Knox County Sheriff Mike Morris at his Terre Haute residence. Poe is charged with the sex offense; he was booked into Knox County jail on 50-thousand dollars cash bond.

Vigo County Child Protective Services officials are also investigating the incident. Additional charges are possible in the case.

(Battles-- Right-to-work bill) (Monday 1/23/12 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes State Representative Kreg Battles is taking a current battle over right to work in stride as part of the overall Legislative session. The contentious battle over the bill has led many House Democrats-- including Battles-- to stay off the floor for days at a time in protest.

Battles says he expected the bad blood between Democrats and House Republicans over the controversial bill.

In addition, a group unveiled political ads berating Battles for joining other House Democrats in the off-the-floor protest of the bill. Battles has fired back by asking the commercial's financial sponsors to identify themselves.

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(Right-to-work-- Senate vote) (Tuesday 1/24/12 ... tlz 6a)

The Indiana State Senate has passed its own version of a right-to-work bill-- but not without some Republican opposition. The vote was 28-22 for right-to-work in that chamber, with nine Republicans joining the 13 Democrats in voting against the measure.

One of the Senate Republicans voting against the measure was Shelburn Republican John Waterman. Waterman is currently the State Senator representing the City of Vincennes, and all or part of Knox, Sullivan, Daviess, Clay, and Vigo counties. The other State Senator representing area residents is Princeton's Lindel Hume; he was one of the 13 Democrats voting against the measure.

(Citco-- Fire revenue) (Tuesday 1/24/12 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes City Council heard an address from the Vincennes City Firefighters' Union over a lack of fire department funding. The union is concerned about declining fire district property tax revenue, caused by House Bill 10-01.

Vincennes Firefighters' Union president David Bohmeier called for a local option income tax to recover part of the lost revenue. Bohmeier is also calling on better communication between the City and the Fire Department to solve the problem.

(Washington man's federal sentence) (Wednesday 1/25/12 ... tlz 6a)

A Washington man will spend the next ten years behind bars following his sentencing for trafficking methamphetamine. 39 year-old John Gootee received the sentence yesterday in federal court in Indianapolis.

Gootee served as a drug courier and distributor for a Washington-area meth and marijuana trafficking operation. The group operated from August of 2009 to early December of 2010. The group was responsible for distributing around 15 pounds of meth and marijuana through both Knox and Daviess counties.

**Right-to-Work Bill Approved by Indiana House 1**

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Jds 1-26-12

The Indiana house voted mostly along party lines Wednesday to approve a controversial Right-to-Work bill.

The vote was 54-to-44 with no democrats voting for the bill.

Five Republicans crossed party lines and voted against the measure.

Republican State Representative Mark Messmer of Jasper did not vote.

While union protesters listened to the debate in the hallway, Vincennes State Representative Kreg Battles claimed neither side's statistics are persuasive, and that the most objective studies indicate right-to-work won't create a single job.

House Democrats ended an off & on boycott Wednesday clearing the way for the final vote.

(Trash discussion) (Monday 1/30/12 ... ah 6a)

The Vincennes City Council's City Services Committee will meet for the first time tomorrow evening to discuss the ongoing problem with people circumventing the city's trash sticker system. Street Superintendent Bryce Anderson informed the council last week that the city could lose as much as \$150,000 a year if steps are not taken to enforce the sticker program. One idea that's being floated around is going to a monthly billing system. Tomorrow's meeting will take place at six p-m at City Hall.

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(City robbery) (Wednesday 2/1/12 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes City Police are investigating an armed robbery reported last night at a North Sixth Street location.

Officers responded to 713 North Sixth Street shortly after nine-15 p-m. Authorities are targeting specific suspects in the case; they say the suspects are from Vincennes.

No other information has been released, pending further investigation.

Trash Committee Meeting - for 2 1 12 - mrl

The three member City Services Committee of the Vincennes City Council discussed ways to pickup trash and keep the city's sanitation budget under control. City officials estimate that trash sticker cheaters are costing the rest of the community about \$150 Thousand dollars a year by hiding unstickered trash in the new trash totes. The committee laid out five possible changes to the system including a new larger sticker that would pay for the whole tote and be visible from the outside of the tote allowing the automated trash operator to see if a tote is paid for. Another proposal would be to sell specially colored trash bags. The other three proposals all would change the system from a per use fee to some sort of across the board fee either paid on property taxes or as an increase in water or sewer bills. Committee Chair Tim Salters says his committee needs to get a recommendation to the full council quickly.

(Another deployment?) (Thursday 2/2/12 ... tlz 6a)

Area National Guard troops may be preparing to mobilize again for another deployment-- this time to Afghanistan. Members of the First Battalion-- 151st Combat Team are expected to leave for pre-mobilization training at Camp Atterbury in late July, and could depart for Afghanistan in October.

If mobilization occurs, it would involve around 550 Guardsmen. In this area, the affected Guard locations include Vincennes, Washington, Linton, Jasper, Martinsville and Evansville. The other affected location would be the eastern Indiana city of Winchester.

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(B'nell Citco-- Shopping Center rezoning) (Tuesday 2/14/12 ... tlz 6a)

The Bicknell City Council has approved on first reading a rezoning and annexation of land just north of Bicknell on State Road 67. The land would be re-zoned from agricultural land to C-3 Commercial; the rezoning would allow for placement of a shopping center on the property. The vote was on first reading only; Bicknell City Council officials would consider the measure on second reading in March. If approved on second reading, Council officials expect the re-zoning to be considered on third and final reading in April.

The Center would be anchored by a Dollar General Market location. It would also have room for other stores that would be willing to locate in the proposed shopping center. The land would be developed by Kirk Rafferty on land formerly owned by Michael Carnahan.

(BPW-- appointment move) (Tuesday 2/14/12 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes Board of Works has approved a movement of City Police Merit Commission appointments to July, starting this year. The move allows the City Police to name its appointment in July of this year, with the City Council's appointment up in July of next year, and the Mayor's appointment set for July of 2014.

The appointments had been set for February. However, Vincennes City Police Chief Dusty Luking found evidence the appointments had originally been made in the summertime.

(Knox County load limit) (Thursday 2/16/12 ... tlz 6a)

The Knox County Commissioners have established a ten-ton load limit on all Knox County-maintained roads, starting today. The Commissionrs set the limit due to recent rains saturating the ground, and softening county roads.

The Commissioners' decree was released by the Knox County Emergency Management Agency.

(LC Board-Levee update)(Thursday 2/16/12 ... tlz 6a)

The Lawrence County Board has agreed to publish a re-written version of its levee ordinance for public review.

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Board members approved the ordinance re-write and publishing to inform the public about the dangers and fines of being on Lawrence County levees-especially with vehicles. Residents protected by the levees are concerned about a weakened levee's failing, and allowing flood waters to spread onto their property. Eastern Lawrence County residents experienced two major levee failures in 2008; another levee breach last year also affected both eastern and southern Lawrence County residents.

(Budget-Finance deficit-- Brown) (Friday 2/17/12 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes City Council Budget and Finance Committee has recommended passage of a plan to reduce almost 400-thousand dollars from the City budget. The reduction was mandated by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance.

During yesterday's Committee session, Vincennes Mayor Joe Yochum suggested using reserve City Fire Department funds to meet the shortfall. Yochum believes the money can be replenished through grants or other methods if needed later in the year. The plan was approved by Yochum, Vincennes City Fire chief Gordon Becher, and the City firefighters' union.

Budget and Finance Committee chair Scott Brown says as bad as the deficit is, he thought it would be worse. Brown also knows the City departments are ready to weather another budget cutting storm.

Nonte Retires - for 2/21/12 - mrl

Another Knox County School System will be looking for a new Superintendent. Vincennes Community School Superintendent Tom Nonte will leave his post on June 29th after serving the local system for 41 years as a teacher, principal, and administrator. In his remaining months, Nonte says there are some important projects to work on including a system wide curriculum improvement. Nonte says that the curriculum program will help the local schools become more effective.

VCSC Sells Buildings - for 2/21/12 - mrl

The Vincennes Community School Board has approved the sale of the Washington elementary building and the downtown buildings that most recently held the middle school and administration center. The First Christian

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Church's bid of \$25 Thousand dollars for the Washington building was approved by a vote of 4 to 1 with board member Bryan Thais voting to keep the property for now. The deal is not done since it is so much below the appraised value.

Myszak and Palmer firm of Vincennes was approved as the buyer of the downtown buildings, but that project is also not a done deal. Andy Myszak says that grants, tax credits, an equity partner, and private financing still must be finally obtained to turn the property into 60 apartments, green space, four private home sites, and a refurbished Adams Coliseum.

Myszak estimates the project could be completed by 2015.

(NK-- discussion) (Wednesday 2/22/12 ... tlz 6a)

The North Knox School Board is planning future information sessions on possible construction projects. The sessions will be held in the next few months, and deal with two potential projects.

The first potential project is construction of a new Junior High School gym on the Corporation's main location on State Road 159. Currently, the Corporation is using the gym at the former North Knox East in Edwardsport. If possible, School Board officials want to construct the new gym in the next couple of years.

The other future discussion topic is potential consolidation of North Knox's Primary and Intermediate schools. The Board is considering a possible move of the two schools to the main North Knox campus. Currently, North Knox Primary School is located in Bicknell, with North Knox Intermediate School located just west of Bruceville. Even if the elementary consolidation is approved, school officials believe it would still be years in the future.

(BZA-- Farbest approval) (Wednesday 2/22/12 ... tlz 6a)

The Knox County Board of Zoning Appeals has approved a conditional use for a slaughterhouse for Farbest Foods. The slaughterhouse will be part of the Farbest plant to be located in the Industrial Park south of Vincennes on U-S 41.

Farbest general manager Mark Maynard says the approval is part of the architectural process. Maynard also states the conditional use exception is another step toward a springtime ground-breaking. Maynard also knows Farbest can't set a groundbreaking date until the development's engineering piece is complete.

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(GSH-- VHA's cleaning model) (Thursday 2/23/12 ... tlz 6a)

The Veterans Health Administration is taking Good Samaritan Hospital's cleanliness guidelines as a model for its other hospitals. A recent release based on patient surveys calls Good Samaritan one of the cleanest V-H-A member hospitals in Indiana. The recognition makes Good Samaritan's model available to over 14-hundred other member V-H-A hospitals across the nation.

(USB-- Levee analysis) (Thursday 2/23/12 ... tlz 6a)

A report about repairs required on the Vincennes Levee to be released in about six months. The City Levee survey was completed earlier this month by the U-S Army Corps of Engineers. The preliminary survey by Corps engineers took four days to complete.

Water utilities manager Kirk Bouchie says the four-day survey was a good, in-depth scratch of the surface toward repairing the levee. However, Bouchie knows the survey was vital in confirming critical repairs that City Utilities officials know the levee needs.

(Citco-- Farbest water/sewer extensions) (Tuesday 2/27/12 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes City Council has approved a resolution to back a grant application for an extension of water and sewer lines. The extension would provide water and sewer lines for the coming Farbest plant, and any other future industry in the U-S 41 Industrial Park. The Southern Indiana Development Commission will submit the grant in the City's name before the March ninth deadline. The application will be for a grant provided by the federal Economic Development Administration.

(Pool hearing-options) (Wednesday, 2/29 ... tlz 6a)

Officials from Hafer and Associates laid out various options for both renovation and re-construction of Rainbow Beach in the months to come. Five options were laid out last night-including renovation of the current structure, all the way to building a new 50-meter pool facility. The cost ranged from 257-thousand dollars just to add a

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few amenities and phase the pool out in favor of a splash park, all the way to just under five million dollars for a facility including all the options requested by Vincennes community members.

Four of the options included either extensive renovation, or complete pool reconstruction. Hafer and Associates' spokesman Jeff Justice confirms the renovation option is more financially feasible than a re-building option. Justice also says using a 25-meter pool option, rather than the 50-meter current Rainbow Beach pool configuration, is the wave of the present in pool design.

### Washington Man Found Guilty of Murder

Jd 3-9-12

A Daviess Superior Court Jury has found a rural Washington man guilty of murder.

The verdict was returned against 48-year-old Derek Williams on Thursday.

Williams was found guilty of the shooting death of his 42-year-old wife Kim in February of 2011.

The shooting took place at their home on County Road 250 South, south of Washington.

The Williams' two young children were in the house at the time.

One of them called police.

Police said Williams shot his wife during an argument.

He then shot himself in the head, but survived.

Williams will be sentenced April 9th.

### City Council and Overpass Bills

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The Vincennes City Council did not approve the payment of more than \$100 Thousand dollars for bills related to the stopped overpass project. The Council's Budget and Finance Committee discussed the bills prior to the full council meeting, but kept the payments in committee and asked that City Attorney Dave Roellgen get involved in trying to get the bills reduced or maybe not having to pay the bills at all. Work on the overpass project has been completely stopped.

New Superintendent for VCSC - for 3/13/12 - mrl

In a succession in the works for a couple of years, the Vincennes Community School Board has named assistant superintendent Greg Parsley to replace the retiring Tom Nonte. Parsley, who will step into the number one job in the county's largest school system on July 1st, says the challenges of public education are managable.

Parsley received a five year contract. He and the board will now have to find an assistant superintendent and business manager - the positions Parsley has held since Nonte was named superintendent. Parsley says the process will get underway shortly.

(CoCo-- KCDC review) (Wednesday 3/14/12 ... tlz 6a)

Knox County Development Corporation director Gary Gentry presented success last night as part of an annual report to the Knox County Council. Gentry told Council the County has been an employment success story, in part since it was Indiana's fourth most-employed county in 2011.

Gentry also notes another success is County per-capita earnings. Between 2001 and 2009, the County has moved from 55th to 14th in Indiana's list of county per-capita earnings. The major reason for Knox County's move has been expansion in the mining and utilities industries.

(Mayor-- Gimbel Bond movement) (Wednesday 3/14/12 ... tlz 6a)

A new buyer has come on the scene for the former Gimbel-Bond property,

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with downtown developer Travis Tarrants purchasing the property from former owner Darrell Lomell. The former Gimbel-Bond building at Second and Main was destroyed by fire in December.

Yochum states there are developments in the Gimbel-Bond case. Yochum also knows the site must be cleaned up and developed quickly, due to its strategic location.

(B'nell Citco-Center rezoning)(Tuesday 3/20/12 ... tlz 6a)

The Bicknell City Council gave its final approval yesterday to a shopping center rezoning on the north edge on Bicknell near State Road 67. The new center will be anchored by a Dollar General Market location, and potentially other smaller locations.

Bicknell Mayor Jon Flickinger believes the Shopping Center will bring new jobs to Bicknell.

The idea met some opposition when the idea first came before Council. However, Flickinger-a supporter of the shopping center from the beginning-reminds everyone the Center had a lot of supporters as well.

(Parks Board-possible pool referendum)(Thursday 3/23/12 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes Parks Department director Steve Beamon says some type of referendum is possible concerning a re-shaped Rainbow Beach pool. Consultants are currently considering various ways to reshape the pool at Vincennes' Gregg Park.

Beamon says either a election referendum or a petition-remonstrance method is possible to gauge the public's feelings about a potential pool renovation. Fund-raising efforts are also underway to help fund the potential multi-million dollar renovation. Beamon admits one possible money-maker is using various methods of pool naming rights.

One Killed, Two Injured in Washington Fire

Jds 3-22-12

The Indiana State Fire Marshall's Office is investigating the cause of a Wednesday afternoon apartment house fire in Washington in which one person died and two others were injured.

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The victim, 38-year-old April Mandabach, was found upstairs in the two story wood framed home at 110 Northeast 7th Street.

18-year-old Lacy Wadsworth and 40-year-old Steve Potts were able to escape by jumping from a second floor window.

Wadsworth was severely burned and was air lifted to Wishard Hospital in Indianapolis in critical condition.

Potts suffered severe smoke inhalation and was air lifted to Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee.

(Illinois death investigation) (3/30/12)

Illinois authorities are seeking public information into a homicide at a Lawrenceville senior housing location.

The body of 78 year-old Robert Westall was discovered Sunday at the Southern Meadows Retirement Community. The cause of death, and other details surrounding the death, have not been released.

Anyone with information on Westall's death should contact Lawrenceville City Police, Lawrence County Illinois police, or the Illinois State Police.

(NK-future plans)(Wednesday 3/28/12 ... tlz 6a)

North Knox Schools Superintendent Darrell Bobe has tightened up the timeline for two proposed projects for the future of the North Knox School Corporation. Bobe is asking the North Knox School Board to consider a design option for a new North Knox P-E complex by May first. The selection would start the process toward constructing the structure for possible completion as soon as the start of the 2013-14 school year. After the complex is completed, Bobe encourages the Board to start then toward constructing a consolidated elementary school on the State Road 159 campus.

(Five killed at Oaktown-- short copy) (Thursday 3/29/12 ... tlz 4p)  
(updated 3/30)

The five victims of a fatal car-semi accident Wednesday night near Oaktown have been identified.

Knox County Sheriff Mike Morris identified the driver as 21 year-old

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Emma Lockard of Carlisle. Lockard and all four of her passengers died in the crash. Two of the passengers were identified as Lockard's children-- two year-old Anna Leigh Hunt and one year-old Noah J. Hunt. The other two victims were Lockard's cousin-- 17 year-old Laura Hall of Mount Carmel, and a friend of Hall's--17 year-old Ronnie Mendoza of Carlisle. Lockard was also three months pregnant at the time of the crash.