

The following is a summary of issues filed for the radio station WZDM for the period between January first and March 31st, 2013. The issues were covered in newscasts every half-hour from six a-m to nine a-m, and at 12 noon, 4 p-m, and five p-m. They are also covered in one-minute newscasts each evening and overnight. This list is by no means comprehensive.

(VFD-- Sandy assistance) (Friday 1/4/13 ... tlz 6a)

Some Vincennes City firemen will take a trip to New York City starting this weekend to help firemen affected by Hurricane Sandy. The firemen will leave this Sunday, and return on Thursday, January tenth. The Department representatives in part will help repair a fire station, and some firemen's residences, that were affected by the hurricane. The affected residences are located in the Bronx.

City firemen coordinated the date with their counterparts in New York City. Vincennes City Fire Chief Gordon Becher says they wanted a time where they were of the most use.

(CoCo- ADA) (Wed. 1-9-13...JT 6a.)

New Commissioner Larry Holscher came before the Knox County Council last night to discuss the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Holscher's first act as commissioner was to work with the council to make the entrance at the Knox County Courthouse handicapped-accessible. He and Judy Thomann of Bernardin Lochmueller and Associates told the council that the entrance was the number one priority, and that the county should discuss the matter with architects.

(UEA-- Humane donation) (Wednesday 1/9/13 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes Urban Enterprise Association Board has agreed to reimburse the Knox County Humane Society for work at its Main Street headquarters. The Board approved a two-thousand dollar appropriation to help cover the reonvation.

Humane Society officials reported efforts to upgrade the front of the building-- including installation of a new door, and an upgrade of its awning. The total renovation cost was just over 47-hundred 50 dollars.

(Petersburg mayor moving on) (Friday 1/11/13 ... tlz 6a)

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Petersburg Mayor Jon Craig is resigning his post to take a position with the State of Indiana. The Evansville Courier and Press reports Craig will resign the Mayor's position January 25th to become the new deputy director for the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. The OCRA office will be run by Lieutenant Governor-elect Sue Ellsperman.

(City Council - Pool Resolution) (Tues. 1-15-13...JT 6a.)

After Months of meetings and planning, the Vincennes City Council and Vincennes Parks Board each approved a resolution to build a new Rainbow Beach. The approval came as part of a joint meeting of both boards last night.

After both boards held public hearings on the matter, they both voted to approve the resolution. Pending results of a May pool referendum, the city will issue a maximum bond issue of three-point-eight million dollars for the project. The pool itself will cost a maximum of three-point-four million dollars. Vincennes voters will decide on the pool in the referendum vote planned for May seventh. If voters approve the pool in May, the pool bonds would be sold in June.

(Bicknell Citco - Financial Woes) (Tues. 1-15-13...JT 6a.)

Financial woes continue for the City of Bicknell.

The City of Bicknell received their tax draw for December. Clerk-Treasurer Becky McGlone reported the city received just under 91,000 dollars; however, this was less than expected after raising taxes to their maximum allowable level.

Though Indianapolis-based Umbaugh and Associates helped the city avert financial crisis last year, their plan was to get them to break even at the end of 2012. For 2013, the city will have to come up now with roughly 300,000 dollars to operate until June, when the city will receive it's circuit breaker tax dollars.

(BPW-- Executive bids) (Tuesday 1/15/13 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes Board of Works opened seven bids yesterday for pending demolition of the Vincennes Executive Inn. The Board opened the bids despite a pending court order delaying the actual demolition. The action was

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delayed, due to the Circuit Court filing of a motion to correct errors by defense attorney Robert Rock. Rock represents Exective Inn owner Mark Valdes.

(NK-- gym period begins) (Wednesday 1/16/13 ... tlz 6a)

The process to determine North Knox area residents' feelings about approving a new auxiliary gym is about to start. The North Knox School Board last night gave their official approval to the over four-million dollar gym project.

The Board's approval means the project now goes to a petition-remonstrance process. A group over over 100 North Knox School Corporation-area property owners signed a document to force the process into a signature campaign for or against the building. One hundred signatures are all that is needed under state law to force the petition-remonstrance process.

(LC Board - Prison Wastewater Screen) (Thursday 1-17-13...JT 6a)

The Lawrence County Board voted to go ahead with a project to install a screen at the Department of Corrections facility.

Last night, the L-C Board heard from Shannon Woodard of Connor and Connor Engineering in Robinson about a filtration screen for the wastewater system at the Department of Corrections Facility west of Lawrenceville.

(GSH-- Donation)(Wednesday 1/23/12 ... tlz 6a)

Officials at Good Samaritan Hospital accepted a one-thousand dollar donation during last night's Hospital Board session. The donation from Travis and Andrea Piper, representing the business "Dimensions," was donated in behalf of breast cancer awareness. The donation represents funds raised by the business during October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Andrea Piper told the Board the awareness was raised by some of her customers who suffer from breast cancer.

(VPD-- sex offender arrest) (Thursday 1/24/13 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes City Police arrested a Vincennes man yesterday afternoon

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following investigation of a juvenile sex offense.

City Police started investigating the alleged incident between an adult male and a juvenile female. 32 year-old Mark Sawyer was arrested after police claim Sawyer had a relationship with a 15 year-old girl. Sawyer is charged with sexual misconduct with a minor; he was booked into Knox County Jail on 25-thousand dollars bond.

(Bicknell - Financial Crisis) (Tues. 1-29-13...JT 6a)

The City of Bicknell has averted a financial crisis -- for at least another couple of weeks.

In a special session Monday night, the Bicknell City Council voted to borrow 25,000 dollars from their industry and clinic fund to help reduce a nearly 300,000 dollar deficit. Those funds will take care of the next payroll issue, and help pay some bills for the city.

(Storm damage-- area) (Wednesday 1/30/13 ... tlz 6a)

Some area locations were damaged overnight from a strong set of storms that struck the area.

Knox County Emergency Management officials report a tree damaged a house in Vincennes at 1532 North 17th Street around twelve-30 this morning. Also around twelve-30 a-m, E-M-A officials report the storm damaged a window in a building at the corner of Second and Main Streets in Bicknell. Further, a 70 mile per hour wind gust was reported in Odon in northern Daviess County, with a 55 mile an hour gust reported at Carlisle in southern Sullivan County.

I-69 Settling in Pike & Gibson Counties  
Jds 1-31-13

State highway officials confirm small portions of the new stretch of I-69 are settling in Pike and Gibson Counties.

Reports say part of the approach to the Patoka Bridge has settled by six inches.

State highway officials say the settling was expected due to extensive underground mining in the two counties.

However, the highway will remain open.

INDOT officials report that contractors will repair the damage once the weather warms up and asphalt plants are fired up again.

Highway officials say they've seen the problem before and that it's something that can be fixed.

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(Yochum-- Executive stay) (Tuesday 2/5/13 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes Mayor Joe Yochum is learning the value of patience in awaiting a final resolution in the Executive Inn case. The case is in the hands of Executive Inn owner Mark Valdes, following Knox Circuit Court judge Sherri Gilmore's rejection of his call for a new hearing in the case.

The City is waiting to see if Valdes' counsel will file an appeal of Judge Gilmore's ruling in Knox Circuit Court. Depending on delays caused by further court action, the City of Vincennes has seven demolition bids under advisement. Mayor Yochum says if the process drags on too long, the demolition will have to be re-bid.

(INDOT-- Woodruff's issue) (Tuesday 2/5/13 ... tlz 12n)  
(updated 2/6)

Indiana Department of Transportation chief of staff, and Vincennes resident, Troy Woodruff is being investigated over a land sale along the I-69 corridor. Governor Mike Pence has asked his top ethics officer to investigate a land purchase to ensure it didn't violate state law.

An Indianapolis Star report claims Woodruff failed to to inform the state of all the details of a land sale to INDOT. The article further claims that six related land deals netted just under two million dollars for Woodruff's uncle and cousins. In a written statement, Woodruff denied any wrongdoing. He also claims he was cleared of any wrongdoing in an August 19, 2010 report by then-Indiana Inspector General Todd Shumaker.

(Shakeout - After) (Thurs. 2-7-13...JT 4p.)

Students throughout the Vincennes Community School Corporation got under their desks and covered themselves yesterday as part of the Great Midwest Shakeout. After a simulated earthquake tremor, the students vacated the building and organized by class.

One of the locations involved in the Shakeout was Vincennes' Clark Middle School. Clark principal Ryan Clark said from his view, the drill went well. Clark also believes he can trust his students and staff in the event of a real emergency.

Other residents and students from across several states participated in

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the Great Midwest Shakeout Earthquake Drill yesterday.

(BPD Ticket Controversy) (Wed. 2-13-13...JT 6a.)

Since the Bicknell City Council found out they were again facing a large budget deficit, it's been brought up that the Bicknell Police Department should be writing more tickets. The City gets 24 dollars per ticket issued.

The Clerk Treasurers office reported Monday, that from the beginning of the year to January 15th, The Edwardsport Town Marshall wrote 34 tickets compared to 4 by the BPD.

(Citco-- Babb Lumber's local purchase) (Tuesday 2/12/13 ... tlz 6a)

The Vincennes City Council passed a resolution allowing a local incorporation of the current Babb Lumber facility in Vincennes. Babb Lumber's parent company announced the closing of the Vincennes facility in March, but Roger Babb has exercised an option to purchase the Vincennes location. He also requested and received a two-million dollar City bond for the new Vincennes-based location.

As part of a bonding resolution, Vincennes City Attorney Dave Roellegen gives some of the benefits caused by the local purchase.

(Fr. Schiff-- Benedict resignation) (Tuesday 2/12/13 ... tlz 6a)

Area Catholics have reacted with shock over the surprise resignation of Pope Benedict the Sixteenth. Benedict announced his resignation yesterday in Rome; it becomes official at the end of the month.

Father John Schipp heads the Old Cathedral Catholic Church in Vincennes. He is among those who thought it a shock at first, but understood the reasoning on further consideration.

(State of City) (Tuesday 2/12/13 ... tlz 6a)

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Vincennes Mayor Joe Yochum painted a positive state of the City in his annual State of the City address last night. In his address before Council, Mayor Yochum praised City individuals and groups, and City employees, for their contributions through his first year in office.

Mayor Yochum reminds everyone the Levee project is still a major project. But the Mayor says the state's Office of Community and Rural Affairs' help may help pay for repairs.

(County Council Catch all 2) (Thurs. 2-14-13...JT 6a.)

The Knox County Council heard an ADA update from Commissioner Larry Holscher at Tuesday's meeting.

Holscher told the council the project to create a ramp and refurbish the elevator at the Knox County Courthouse was moving forward at a good pace. He and the commissioners are hoping to be able to come before the council next month with bids for the work. Holscher also said he would like to have taken the matter before the Vincennes Historical Review Board before next meeting.

The Council also heard from County Highway Superintendent Ron Cardinal about the security measures he's putting in place at the county highway garage. Cardinal said they are still working on getting numbers together for fencing and cameras for the perimeter. The goal is to have a proposal with concrete numbers by next month's council meeting.

(E-911 Addresses Clean Up) (Wed. 2-13-13... JT 6a.)

Knox County Surveyor Dick Vermillion, County Assessor Cathy Lane and Knox County E-911 Director Debbie Schmidt came before the county council Tuesday night to ask for approval for a project.

The project allows those three offices to work together and coordinate citizens' addresses with the ones that show up for them on the county's mapping infrastructure.

(Sure Clean fire)(Thursday 2/21/13 ... tlz 6a)

A business known for cleaning up after fires was itself victim of a fire last night. The blaze started just after

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ten p-m at the Sure Clean location at 2805 Fulton Glass Road.. The fire originated in the north end of the structure, and spread through the rest of the building. The building is being considered a total loss. The cause is undetermined at this time; the Indiana State Fire Marshal's office has been called to assist in the investigation.

(NK signature campaign)(Thursday 2/21/13 ... tlz 6a)

Tomorrow is the first day of a 30-day signature period for North Knox landholders to sign for or against construction of a new middle school gym on the North Knox Junior-Senior High School campus. The process to construct the new gym was sidetracked with a document with enough support to call for the petition-remonstrance signature campaign.

North Knox Schools superintendent Darrell Bobe informs everyone petitions may be gathered starting today for signature gathering starting tomorrow.

(Fire cause update)(Friday 2/22/13 ... tlz 6a)

The Indiana State Fire Marshal has determined the fire at Sure Clean was accidental. The Fire Marshal is currently narrowing down actual causes, and working with insurance agents to determine an exact reason for the fire in the next couple of days.

Vincennes Township Fire Chief Tim Smith says the cost of damage could exceed one million dollars. The exact dollar damage will also be determined in the days to come.

(BEACON project timeline)(Wednesday 2/27/13 ... tlz 6a)

Good Samaritan Hospital officials have announced the schedule for the latest part of the BEACON project. The latest project bid package will be sent out in early March. The new package bids are due back by April eleventh.

Good Samaritan Hospital chief executive officer Rob McLin says the new Gibault Memorial tower is scheduled for occupation in just over two years.

(Farm Bill-- IFB thanks)(Friday 3/1/13 ... tlz 6a)

The Indiana Farm Bureau is thanking lawmakers for the enactment of a farm-tax related bill. The bill adjusts a farm tax formula using soil

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increases as part of a calculation of farm taxes. One of the co-authors of the bill in the Indiana Senate was Shelburn State Senator John Waterman.

I-F-B officials noted the work for both Legislative leaders, and Governor Pence's Administration, for making the adjustment to farm taxes. The bill passed both houses of the General Assembly, before Governor Pence signed the bill into law this week.

(Levee update) (Monday 3/4/13 ... tlz 6a)

The City of Vincennes is still playing the waiting game on a final list of needed repairs to keep the Vincennes City Levee certified. The Army Corps of Engineers is still forming a final list of mandated repairs for the Levee. Once the list is complete, the City will be on a two-year clock to finish the repairs.

Officials at Vincennes Water Utilities is helping the City with the project.

County Council - Salt Building) (Wed. 3-13-13...JT 6a.)

The County is looking at building a new salt storage facility.

Commissioner's attorney Dale Webster pitched the idea to the Knox County Council Tuesday night. Webster said the current set up has the county highway department employees working in multiple buildings with the ability to fill only one truck at a time with the salt brine treatment the county makes. Webster also said the current salt shed is "falling down."

The goal is to move all steps of the operation into one facility - streamlining the brine making process - and to add more salt loading apparatuses.

(Red's Run For The Roses) (Friday 3-15-13...JT 6a.)

When you start seeing Funny hats, you know it's Kentucky Derby time. And when it's Kentucky Derby time, Knox County Plays host to the Red's Run for the Roses Event.

This years's event will be at the Vincennes University Green Activities center on April 20th. The evening is a fund raiser for the Red Skelton Museum with dinner and a silent auction, but museum Director Ann Pratt says it's also a lot of fun.

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(VU Opens its Heart) (Friday 3-15-13...JT 6a.)

In the wake of Superstorm Sandy, Helping His Hands ministries in Vincennes sent a lot of aid to victims in the form of disaster kits and physical man power.

Partnering with Vincennes University, Helping His Hands is looking for donations to recoup their supplies through an event called VU Opens it's Heart on April 17th.

Triple H Director Scott Shipman described the event as a packing party because their relief supplies have been completely depleted.

(VanGo ribbon cutting) (Sunday 3-17-13 ... tlz 6a)

A new set of offices and garage space for Vincennes Van Go will have its official ribbon cutting at noon on Thursday, March 21st. The 35-hundred foot structure had its groundbreaking last June at the Van Go facility on Prospect Avenue.

The new office will house Van Go's transportation coordinator, dispatchers, and maintenance workers. It will also provide garage space for four of Van Go's largest vehicles. The new project was designed and built with both federal and state grants.

The March 21st ceremony will feature INDOT officials, Van Go representatives, Knox County Chamber of Commerce members, and officials from the City of Vincennes.

(NK-- 1782 review) (Friday 3/15/13 ... tlz 6a)

The North Knox School Board learned last night they will receive a a 30-thousand dollar boost in its Capital Projects Fund. The Corporation filed a motion to correct an error in a funding calculation regarding Duke Energy. The state Department of Local Government Finance found in favor of the school, and added the 30-thousand dollar windfall to the Corporation' C-P-F fund.

In other business, the Board agreed to re-finance the interest rate on a bond issue concerning an employee longevity buyout. The rate change led to a 175-thousand dollar savings over the life of the bond. The savings will be returned to North Knox property taxpayers through lowered tax rates.

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(Comm-- Bridge repair)(Tuesday 3/18/13 ... tlz 6a)

A ten year-old process to repair the bridge spanning the White River in Knox and Daviess Counties may be a step closer to completion. The Knox County Commissioners agreed to a contract to pay for their half of fixing the one-lane bridge. The County is obligated to pay ten percent of the cost-- or 20-thousand, 350 dollars. Daviess County will match the total, with the Indiana Department of Transportation paying the rest. The payment is subject to Knox County Council approval; the issue could come up at Council's April session.

(Guilty plea)

A Vincennes man pled guilty yesterday in Knox Circuit Court to five separate charges.

41 year-old John W. Hill admitted to meth-making, resisting law enforcement, maintaining a common nuisance, possession of precursors, and illegal transportation of anhydrous ammonia. Hill was arrested following a November 25, 2012 pursuit that ended with Hill crashing his vehicle in a field off Red Road just east of Bruceville.

The guilty plea halted a trial that was scheduled to start today. Circuit Court judge Sherri Gilmore took Hill's plea under advisement; Hill's plea acceptance hearing is now set for the afternoon of April 15th.

(Comm-- ADA ramp)(Tuesday 3/19/13 ... tlz 6a)

The Knox County Commissioners will meet again Wednesday afternoon to award a bid for construction of a new handicapped-accessible ramp for the Knox County Courthouse. The ramp would be placed on the Seventh Street side of the Courthouse, and be built with a just over one-percent grade.

The Commissioners opened the bids at their meeting last night at the Courthouse. The Commissioners' opened four bids, with Ellerman Construction submitting the low bid of 149-thousand, 700 dollars. Knox County Commissioners' president Rowe Sargent says that bid-- and the others-- came in about where he expected.

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(VCSC - Ride Your Bike to School) (Tues 3-19-13... JT 6a.)

A newly formed organization is promoting healthy lifestyles through bicycle riding.

At last night's meeting of the Vincennes Community School Board, Alan Stewart came before the board promoting an event he is putting together through the newly formed "Keep Vincennes Rolling" bicycling organization.

Stuart said on the group is sponsoring a Ride your Bike to School Day on May eighth. That day, students will meet at a pre-determined location and ride their bikes to school. The event will be held the week after ISTEP testing.

(VPD-- Aggravated battery) (Friday 3/29/13 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes City Police arrested a Vincennes man on an aggravated battery charge following an incident late Wednesday night.

Officers were called a report of an unresponsive child at a Vincennes residence. The report came in just before eleven Wednesday night. The child was transported to Good Samaritan Hospital, and airlifted to Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis, for treatment of a severe head trauma. Vincennes City and Indiana State Police started a joint investigation of the case, and arrested 26 year-old Travis Haynes of Vincennes. Haynes is charged with Aggravated Battery, after investigators claim the child had been the victim of abuse.

(Four drug arrests) (Monday 4/1/13 ... tlz 6a)

Vincennes City Police arrested four people following a drug discovery last night at the Vincennes Hucks at Sixth and Old Wheatland Roads.

City Police arrived at the scene just before eight-30 p-m. Authorities were there to pursue a vehicle reported stolen from Sullivan County. The reportedly stolen Ford Explorer was operated by Thomas Earl, of Vincennes.

While police were investigating the stolen vehicle, they found a meth lab inside the vehicle. A further check found further meth, marijuana, and paraphernalia at the scene.

Four people were arrested for meth-making-- including the 38 year-old Earl, 50 year-old Teresa Hlodan (hull-OH-dan), and 33 year-old Jennifer Able all of Vincennes-- and 19 year-old Jasmine Yoder of Jasper. Earl is also charged with possession of stolen property, Hlodan with meth possession, and

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Able with possession of meth and possession of precursors. All four were booked into Knox County Jail on 25-thousand dollars bond.

(Sequester hits home) (Monday 4/1/13 ... tlz 6a)

The federal sequester budget cuts are being felt in a program directly helping some Vincennes residents.

Officials with the Vincennes Housing Authority say the number of Section 8 housing vouchers are being reduced, as a result of the federal budget reductions. The Authority has also cancelled 18-thousand dollars in flood insurance, to place the money in other areas where it is needed. The Vincennes Housing Authority receives a lot of its funding through grants by the federal Housing and Urban Development department.

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