

# WFRV QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

## October 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013

WFRV's programs, news reports and public services announcements provided significant treatment of the following issues that were important to the community in the fourth quarter of 2013:

Consumer Issues  
Crime/Law Enforcement  
Education  
Employment  
Government (Local)  
Government (National)  
Health/Healthcare  
Safety  
Transportation

Programs: Programs providing the most significant treatment of the above-identified community issues:

Local:

Program	Day	Time
Local 5 News at 4:00	Monday-Friday	4:00-5:00 pm
Local 5 News at 5:00	Monday-Friday	5:00-5:30 pm
Local 5 News at 6:00	Monday-Friday	6:00-7:00 pm
Local 5 News at 10:00	Monday-Sunday	10:00-10:35 pm

All of the above programming is locally produced news programming presenting a mix of news, weather, and sports, programming focusing on current issues and events.

**Consumer Issues** – topics covered under this issue include: Preparing your furnace for winter usage. Local food pantries see an increase in need due to food stamp benefit decrease; and online purchasing guidance.

**LOCAL 5 NEWS AT 10 10/21/13**

2:15 Experts say now is the time to flip the switch on your furnace even if you are trying to hold out for colder weather because now is the time to make sure that it is in working order. Carbon monoxide is the most important reason to have a professional inspect your furnace. CO is lighter than air, it's most important that you get your CO monitor high. If you are only going to have one CO monitor in your house, it's not near your furnace that you need it, it's on the 2nd floor or the top floor and you want it about eye level. Keep in mind, this isn't just about safety; it's also about preventive maintenance. By catching a problem before it happens you won't be stuck paying emergency rates when your heat goes out on a Sunday night. Changing the filter can also put more change in your pocket; dirty filters restrict flow and increase energy use. Open the curtains during the day to let sunlight warm your house; close them after sunset to help insulate. Also try setting your thermostat just a degree or two lower, it can save 15% on energy costs.

**LOCAL 5 NEWS AT 10 11/6/13**

1:52 Food stamp benefits were slashed this month due to the expiration of extra funding from the 2009 stimulus package. Some 47 million people were affected and to replace that loss in income some have turned to local food pantries. Green Bay's Paul's Pantry offers food and basic household items for those down on their luck, but with families turning to the pantry more frequently the pantry is worried about being able to fill the growing need.

**LOCAL 5 NEWS AT 10 12/1/13**

2:12 Black Friday may have come and gone, but with Cyber Monday around the corner, it's not too late to find a great deal on that present you've been eyeing. Last year's Cyber Monday was the biggest online shopping day in history with over 1.5 billion dollars in consumer sales. This year is expected to be even larger, and that has the Wisconsin Department of Trade and Consumer Protection on edge. Officials want consumers to be especially cautious for online scams. Here are some tips, before you click buy,

make sure there's an 'S' following the http in your internet address bar. The 'S' stands for secure, and it is the only way to know your information is being kept private. Avoid using public wi-fi for internet purchases; it's easier for crooks to access your personal information. Also use a credit card instead of a debit cards, because the fraud protection tends to be better. And Wisconsin companies do not legally have to offer refunds or returns, so check with the retailer before you buy.

**Crime/Law Enforcement** – topics covered under this issue include: Both sides gather about gun rights on shooting anniversary. The growing problem and cost of accidental calls to 9-1-1 in the area. Law enforcement prepare for holiday drinking and driving.

LOCAL 5 NEWS AT 6 10/21/13

2:16 Today marks 1 year since a gunman opened fire inside a Brookfield spa killing his estranged wife and 2 others. A fox valley group is using this somber anniversary as a reminder of our country's growing problem with gun violence. Organizing For Action-Fox Cities is advocating for change and group leaders say it starts with a piece of legislation that's already been introduced in Washington. The group is calling on Congress to pass legislation expanding the existing background check system to cover all commercial firearm sales including those at gun shows, over the internet, or in classified ads. The background checks would be conducted through a federally licensed dealer. The bill was introduced shortly after the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting last December, but it has been stalled in committee since April. Group members say they're not anti-gun they're just calling for tougher legislation for background checks. Gun rights activists say that the laws that already exist need to be better enforced but as far as making a national gun registry that would be against the constitution. Currently no timeline for action has been scheduled on this bi-partisan bill.

LOCAL 5 NEWS AT 6 11/14/13

3:35 It's a growing problem in the United States and here in Wisconsin, emergency dispatch centers are being swamped with accidental calls to 9-1-1. These false 9-1-1 calls cost law enforcement thousands of dollars a year and it's a bill paid for by taxpayers. Officers in Brown County are on pace to respond to over 14,000 accidental calls this year and the story is the same in Outagamie and Winnebago Counties. Officers say when they arrive on the scene; callers are often completely unaware that they've dialed 9-1-1 because if you look in your call history, it logs it as emergency mode. So a lot of times when emergency dispatch centers call people back they're really flabbergasted. Even if dispatchers can call back and reach someone, it's protocol to send an officer to the scene. Officials say there are no plans to implement punishments or fines for these accidental calls because they don't want people to be afraid to call 9-1-1, if they really need it.

LOCAL 5 NEWS AT 10 12/23/13

1:44 There's no shortage of celebratory drinking going on during the holiday season. Local law enforcement officers are asking you to also prepare for a way to get home safely. Like save a little extra money for a cab or maybe a designated driver; just know your limits. According to the Wisconsin DOT there are 2 more planned OWI tasks force deployments scheduled between now and January 1st. Last year there were 3 deaths in the Fox Valley over the holidays due to someone operating a vehicle while intoxicated which left 3 families that obviously grieved over what should be a very joyous period.

**Education** – topics covered under this issue include: Increases and decreases of state aid to local schools for the year and peer education used to teach high school students about save driving.

LOCAL 5 NEWS AT 6 10/15/13

1:38 More than half of Wisconsin schools will likely receive less money in state aid for the upcoming school year. That's according to figures released today by the State Department of Public Instruction. The numbers are calculated by a district's enrollment numbers, property tax values and the amount a district has spent in previous years compared to the state average. The biggest losses locally are in Ashwaubenon, which will see a 1.1 million dollar decrease and De Pere, which is looking at a drop of about 270,000 dollars. Some districts will see an increase; the Green Bay district is slated to receive nearly 4 and a half million dollars more than last year, however these numbers are preliminary. The DPI expects them to change slightly if the Governor's property tax relief bill passes. We have a link to a complete list by district on our website we are green bay dot com.

LOCAL 5 NEWS AT 4 11/6/13

1:58 For 2 days, high school students are partying at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center and this party has a message geared toward new drivers. The annual party attracted students from 34 schools around the state and features sketches about the importance of not drinking and driving as well as texting while driving. Theda Clark Medical Center, who is hosting the party, is hoping to touch these students through peer education. Theda Clark began offering the party program in 1998, since then more than 30,000 teens have taken part.

**Employment** – topics covered under this issue include: People with disabilities job training initiative program. A new state grant program for hiring and training workers is launched. A rally to increase the minimum wage is held.

LOCAL 5 NEWS AT 6 10/11/13

1:34 Walgreens stores across the state are pushing to hire people with disabilities as part of a nationwide effort to train workers with disabilities. Today, several workers involved in the "Retail Employees with Disabilities Initiative" were honored at the state office building in downtown Green Bay. The Department of Workforce Development has been working on this program since May of last year. They say it's a great way to train these potential employees, help them find jobs and feel self-dependent. Sixty five people so far have graduated from the program and many of them have found jobs. Because the program has been such a success, other companies like Walmart are interested in participating as well.

LOCAL 5 NEWS AT 6 11/8/13

2:05 A new state grant program is aiming to make it a bit easier for companies to hire and train skilled workers. "Wisconsin Fast Forward" is a new program created by the state Department of Workforce Development. The program is available to manufacturing, construction, and customer service companies in need of support for training and hiring workers. There's 15 million dollars available over the next 2 years; the grant money will go towards short to medium term training programs for current and new employees. In turn, the companies must provide raises and promotions to successful trainees. Grant applications for the first wave of awards are due in mid-December. Interested businesses can contact the Bay Area Workforce Development board or their local Chamber of Commerce for help with the application process.

LOCAL 5 NEWS AT 5 12/10/13

2:03 Across the nation today protestors marched in hundreds of cities looking to win better pay. Fast food workers who say they'll never have a better life without an increase in the minimum wage. In Wisconsin, the protests were held statewide, but many in the restaurant industry argue more pay will mean fewer jobs. Rally's focused on fast food chains like McDonalds. Outside a Green Bay location, the event organizer says the state's minimum wage of 7.25, based off of the federal rate, needs to go up at least 15 dollars. Industry analysts say most minimum wage workers are part-time employees working a first job, gaining valuable skills and extra cash. A wage increase to 15 dollars would force businesses to take extreme measures, like cutting hours, and replacing workers with touch screen ordering. Still, these workers have support from the White House and the senate could vote on a federal minimum wage hike before the end of the year. The federal minimum wage hasn't gone up since 2009.

**Government (Local)** – topics covered under this issue include: Rifle restrictions for deer hunting are rescinded. Wisconsin's historic tax credit increase bill passes, and what it would mean to the Green Bay area. The state explores eliminating the state income tax.

LOCAL 5 NEWS AT 5 10/24/13

2:15 Starting November 1<sup>st</sup>, the Department of Natural Resources will no longer restrict rifle use for hunting deer. Until now, 19 counties were off limits to use that style gun, however, local governments can still say no. The DNR relaxed the rules statewide in response to community demand. About 76% of Wisconsin hunters use a rifle and 24% use a shot gun to hunt deer. Rifles are potentially more accurate, but at the same time the ammunition may travel further. Hunters need to check the rules in the community where they plan to hunt.

LOCAL 5 NEWS AT 10 11/12/13

1:40 Tuesday's State Senate vote to increase Wisconsin's historic tax credit from 10 to 20 percent mean's big things for downtown Green Bay and its redevelopment of facilities like the Northland Hotel, downtown's YMCA and even the old Larsen Green building. The tax credit incentivizes companies like

Titletown Brewing Company to expand all the while maintaining the integrity of Green Bay's historic downtown. There are natural challenges that come with existing buildings vs. building ground up facilities and this potential tax credit assistance will help narrow that gap and hopefully keep more of the historic buildings viable for redevelopment. The bill still needs to be signed by Governor Walker.

LOCAL 5 NEWS AT 10 12/18/13

1:53 Wisconsin could join a handful of states that don't collect any income tax. Governor Walker is considering eliminating the state income tax. The Governor has asked Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch and the state Secretary of Revenue to start holding listening sessions. They started about a week ago and they'll go for the first 5 to 6 months of 2014. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, last year, Wisconsin generated \$16 billion in total revenue tax. \$6.8 billion came from individual income taxes and \$4.3 billion from general sales tax. So if Wisconsin did eliminate income taxes, how would the state make up the difference? States cannot run a budget deficit so if they eliminate 1 revenue source and keep the same level of spending then they would have to raise taxes elsewhere. One option would be to raise the state sales tax. Right now, it's at 5.5% that would mean consumers could pay more for items like clothing, alcohol, or gasoline. Governor Walker says he hopes to have a better idea of the impact by the next state-of-the-state address.

**Government National** – topics covered under this issue include: Reports on the affects of a national government shut down on local veteran services and financial institutions. Government shutdown ends and how Wisconsin lawmakers voted and a budget committee formed which includes Wisconsin Representatives.

LOCAL 5 NEWS AT 6 10/8/13

1:50 The shutdown and a government default could hit some military veterans pocketbooks hard. That's because claims processing and benefit payments would be put on hold after November first. State County Veteran's Service officers have been notified that the Veteran's Administration only has enough money to operate non-medical services through this month. Advanced appropriations legislation is keeping Veterans Administration clinics and hospitals operating despite the government shutdown but groups like the Disabled American Veterans find themselves helping veterans with non-medical claims. These veterans need to pay their rent or mortgage or electric bill. VA hospitals and clinics will not be affected; they're funded through 2014.

LOCAL 5 NEWS AT 10 10/15/13

1:53 The U.S. is a little more than a day away from running out of money to pay some of its bills; so how would that affect your ability to pay your bills? Our country spends more than it collects in taxes; to make up the shortfall it sells treasury bonds to investors like the Chinese government and pension funds. The big worry is that the U.S. government may have to stop paying back those debts, which is known as a default. If the U.S. defaults for the first time in history markets around the world would feel an impact and global interest rates would likely rise. However, your money in the bank will be safe. The FDIC is an insurance agency that is funded by the banking industry so you don't need to worry about the safety of your deposits in financial institutions. There's a general expectation that interest rates need to rise; current rates in effect are punishing savers and subsidizing borrowers and the largest borrower is the U.S. government. Raising the debt limit isn't rare, since March 1962, congress has enacted 77 separate measures that have altered the limit on federal debt.

LOCAL 5 NEWS AT 5 10/17/13

2:16 The U.S. government is back in business after President Obama and lawmakers reached a compromise to end a 16 day budget fight and avoid a possible default. The stalemate ended late last night when first the senate and then the house passed legislation to fund the government until January 15th and raise the debt ceiling until February 7th. A compromise calls for the leaders of the house and senate budget committees to work together on a plan to reduce deficit. Wisconsin is getting plenty of representation on that committee with Senators Paul Ryan, Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin. Taking a look at how key Wisconsin lawmakers voted on last night's budget deal; Republican Senator Ron Johnson and Republican Congressman Tom Petri both voted no; meanwhile, Democratic Senator Tammy Baldwin and Republican Representative Reid Ribble both voted yes. Congressman Ribble told Local Five News that he hopes lawmakers will work together to solve the nation's problems.

**Healthcare** – topics covered under this issue include: Reports on the Affordable Health Care online sign up begins, advice from local counselors as problems arise and deadlines extended. State delays changes to Badgercare due to ACA ongoing problems.

LOCAL 5 NEWS AT 6 10/1/13

1:53 Millions of Americans can now sign up for health insurance through the federal marketplace. Four hundred and fifty thousand people are uninsured in Wisconsin but that group will be required to purchase health insurance or face a penalty. Partnership Community Health Center in Menasha sees about 8 thousand patients a year, many of whom are uninsured. Individuals looking to purchase health insurance can now log onto health care dot gov to browse the various insurance plans. Five certified application counselors at the health center who can guide people through the process. Anyone with questions can meet with them to talk about their options. There were problems with accessing health care dot gov, with so many people trying to log on, it impacted the site. We're told those glitches are being worked out.

LOCAL 5 NEWS AT 6 10/21/13

1:54 The latest updates to the Affordable Health Care Act include more agents working the 1-800 help line and a feature that allows you to download a hard copy. At Partnership Community Health Center in Menasha they were told hard copy applications would be processed last but that appears to no longer be the case. You have to give out the basic information that you would for any type of application. It would be like sending your taxes in by mail; you're going to need to give out your basic demographic information. Another new feature is localhelp.healthcare.gov which allows you to look up the various organizations in your area with applications to help you sign up. So if you're worried about sending personal information through the mail you can print out a copy and meet with a certified application counselor. But in order to download a hardcopy you still need to create a username and password on health care dot gov. Whether you mail in your application or submit it online, Partnership Community Health Center will e-mail you with updates on the status of your application which is why you must create a username and password on health care dot gov.

LOCAL 5 NEWS AT 6 12/19/13

1:41 State Senators passed a bill this afternoon that delays changes to the state's Badgercare plus program. This was state democrats last chance to convince republicans to accept federal aid to expand Medicaid so there was a lot tension on the debate floor. In November, more than 77,000 people received letters informing them they were losing their coverage and another 20,000 in the high risk pool would be without insurance as well come January 1st. But by extending their coverage, 80,000 Wisconsinites would not be eligible to sign up for Medicaid until April 1st. That's something democratic senators don't want to see happen, they said if the state accepts the federal aid than this wouldn't be an issue. But republicans worry accepting that money comes with a stipulation and a high risk. The state Assembly passed this bill earlier this month and now it heads to Governor Walker's desk for his signature. Governor Walker says he's pleased the senate and assembly passed this legislation quote "in 2014, everyone living in poverty will be covered for the first time under Medicaid in Wisconsin. No more waiting lists, and no more enrollment caps."

LOCAL 5 NEWS AT 5 12/23/13

1:54 Those enrolling in the federal health exchange are getting an extra day to sign up. The Obama administration extended today's deadline through midnight Tuesday because of expected high demand. It's the first major deadline for those who need to sign up for healthcare. Americans without coverage who miss this deadline will still have until March to pick a plan before they face a penalty according to Wisconsin's Deputy Commissioner of Insurance. It's unknown how many Wisconsinites have already signed up for coverage, but in the fox valley, leaders with Partnership Community Health Center say they've helped hundreds. If you sign up by the deadline, premium payments are due by December 31st. The same thing if you sign up in January, February, or March; payments will be due by the end of that month.

**Safety** – topics covered under this issue include: Reports on one local county's upgrade to its emergency alert system; local firefighters train for bridge accident emergencies; and basic skills that are needed for cold weather survival.

LOCAL 5 NEWS AT 4 10/9/13

1:47 Outagamie Emergency Management is upgrading their system making sure residents are warned when severe weather strikes. All public safety radio systems are undergoing a transformation required by the FCC. The new radio system will improve the signal strength coming from the Emergency Management dispatch center. The current system uses a wide band which is weaker than the new narrow band system especially in severe weather. The upgraded will help increase the coverage area. All 47 weather sirens in Outagamie County are all down until Friday; Emergency Management officials ask that people pay close attention to their weather radios and well as the news.

LOCAL 5 NEWS AT 10 12/4/13

1:26 Fire fighters respond to emergencies in all types of weather conditions. So today's foggy, wet weather helped Green Bay fire crews prepare to handle massive vehicle pile ups. They trained near the scene of a horrendous pile up that happened 23 years ago. Captain Mark La Frambois is among those undergoing training for a multi-vehicle pileup on the Leo Frigo Bridge, it's training he wishes he had when he responded to the real thing in 1990. The closure of the bridge for reconstruction gave fire fighters a rare opportunity to learn how to get water to the scene from below the bridge, instead of relying on water tender trucks. Everyone on the fire department will go through this training by next week.

LOCAL 5 NEWS AT 6 12/12/13

1:53 With the frigid temperatures that we have been experiencing lately, would you know what to do to stay alive if you were stranded in sub zero temperatures? Everybody worries about frostbite but what kills more people is hypothermia. Survival experts in our area say shielding yourself from the cold is vital and using basic survival skills. Snow is an excellent insulator, it can be 14 below outside, inside that snow it is right around freezing, right around 32 degrees." Learn basic first aid training, if you're stranded outside and you think you broke a bone, try and find a thick branch, it can be used to support your bones, then use clothing to wrap it around your leg as a splint. It's also important to make sure you're wearing enough air tight layers and eating plenty of food and water. Making a fire not only keeps you warm but the smoke will act as a signal to rescue crews.

**Transportation** – topics covered under this issue include: Reports on Leo Frigo bridge repair from federal funds granted to emergency repairs started. And a local airline charter company suddenly closes its doors and what ticket holders can do.

LOCAL 5 NEWS AT 5 10/4/13

2:46 The Federal Highway Administration has granted Governor Walker's request for funds to help fix the Leo Frigo bridge. And this comes at the perfect time as the Department of Transportation detects further sinking at the site of the affected pier. It sank about 2 feet last week and now the DOT says another half inch over the past 2 days. "We thought originally it was a false positive, we went out and re-measured it and it turns out yes it did sink a half inch; why it did that we are not sure. Extensive work has been done below the bridge and around the pier and that could have caused more movement". Now the DOT is planning a temporary solution. Two support towers to hold the stretch of the bridge that is sagging around pier 22. This will stabilize the bridge so that even if it would settle more it will protect the rest of the bridge. It will cost an estimated 50 million dollars to repair the bridge. The emergency funds would cover 100% of emergency repairs in the first 180 days of the bridge's closure, which was on September 25<sup>th</sup>, after those 180 days, the federal share will drop to 90%.

LOCAL 5 NEWS THIS MORNING 10/16/13

1:50 In a little more than a week, De Pere based Met Jet will cease operations. It was this time last year when Met Jet began offering flights to Orlando and Fort Meyers. Overnight the company announced that it is canceling all operations; while they will still honor flights through next Wednesday, the company will shutdown starting with the flights on October 26th. In a statement Met Jet CEO, Michael Heisman said quote "As we look at the months ahead it is clear that we do not have enough demand, or customers, to continue operating." According to the release Met Jet officials say they are working on refunds for passengers who qualify. Staff will be on hand at the company's De Pere office from 9 am until 4 pm Monday through Friday to answer any questions. Now if you have a reservation for resorts, hotels or Disney vacations booked through Met Jet vacations, those will not be affected except for the Met Jet flight. All payments for these hotels or resorts were made directly to the hotel or resort. A Met Jet vacation planner will be available to address questions and assist with those reservations.

LOCAL 5 NEWS AT 6 11/1/13

1:23 Work has officially started on the Leo Frigo Bridge more than a month after the structure started to sag. Today crews were busy hauling in materials and establishing access roads. Zenith Tech out of Waukesha won the bid to work on this project. They've hired a sub contractor out of Illinois to do all the underground work. The DOT says the drilling into the rock around the 5 piers where corrosion has been detected should start next week. They say test drilling and concrete casing will be done first to make sure everything is working properly. The target date for completion is January 17th

**Public Service Announcements:** In addition to the above programming WFRV broadcast public service announcements related to the following issues:

Assistance – WI Dept. of Justice – Heroin, The Fly Effect  
Children – Foster Care, Big Brothers Big Sisters- Mentoring, Bullying  
Community Engagement – United Way  
Health – WI Orthopedic Society - Get Moving  
Military – Wounded Warriors Support Group, National Guard – Serve; Citizen Soldier; Making a Difference  
Pets – The Shelter Project  
Relationships – Catholic Church-Marriage  
Safety – Negligent Driving-Text & Drive; WI DOT – Winter safe driving; and Drive sober; WI DNR-safe snowmobiling

These public service announcements were broadcast at various times throughout the day.