

**KQYB, SPRING GROVE, MN  
2022 ISSUES PROGRAMMING Q3  
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS Q3**

| <b>Issue Category</b>         | <b>Broadcast Dates</b>  | <b>Time</b>    | <b>Length</b> | <b>Amount</b> | <b>Description - PSA</b>   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Public Health/Wellness</b> | <b>7/28/2022</b>        | <b>8:05am</b>  | <b>3 min</b>  | <b>1</b>      | <b>CMN</b>                 |
|                               | <b>8/19/2022</b>        | <b>7:30am</b>  | <b>4 min</b>  | <b>1</b>      | <b>Alzheimer Walk</b>      |
|                               | <b>8/26/2022</b>        | <b>9:05am</b>  | <b>3 min</b>  | <b>1</b>      | <b>Autism Event</b>        |
|                               | <b>8/30/2022</b>        | <b>8:05am</b>  | <b>5 min</b>  | <b>1</b>      | <b>Steppin out in Pink</b> |
|                               | <b>7/1- 9/5/2022</b>    | <b>12A-12P</b> | <b>:30</b>    | <b>165</b>    | <b>Steppin out in Pink</b> |
|                               | <b>8/15-9/17/2022</b>   | <b>12A-12P</b> | <b>:30</b>    | <b>110</b>    | <b>Alzheimer's Walk</b>    |
|                               | <b>8/20 – 9/30/2022</b> | <b>12A-12P</b> | <b>:30</b>    | <b>100</b>    | <b>CMN Radiothon</b>       |

| <b>Issue Category</b>                | <b>Broadcast Dates</b> | <b>Time</b>    | <b>Length</b> | <b>Amount</b> | <b>Description - PSA</b>   |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Community Organizations/Needs</b> | <b>7/7/2022</b>        | <b>7:45am</b>  | <b>4 min</b>  | <b>1</b>      | <b>Anthony's Day</b>       |
|                                      | <b>7/15/2022</b>       | <b>8:15am</b>  | <b>3 min</b>  | <b>1</b>      | <b>United Way</b>          |
|                                      | <b>8/24/2022</b>       | <b>8:30am</b>  | <b>4 min</b>  | <b>1</b>      | <b>Rockin' the Prairie</b> |
|                                      | <b>8/25/2022</b>       | <b>7:45am</b>  | <b>2 min</b>  | <b>1</b>      | <b>Holmen Boosters</b>     |
|                                      | <b>8/31/2022</b>       | <b>8:15am</b>  | <b>3 min</b>  | <b>1</b>      | <b>Rounds for Rescues</b>  |
|                                      | <b>9/1 – 9/15/2022</b> | <b>12A-12P</b> | <b>:30</b>    | <b>50</b>     | <b>United We Rock</b>      |
|                                      | <b>7/1 – 8/4/2022</b>  | <b>12A-12P</b> | <b>:30</b>    | <b>138</b>    | <b>Catholic Charities</b>  |
|                                      | <b>7/6 – 7/23/2022</b> | <b>12A-12P</b> | <b>:30</b>    | <b>60</b>     | <b>Raise Your Glass</b>    |

| <b>Issue Category</b>         | <b>Broadcast Dates</b> | <b>Time</b>   | <b>Length</b> | <b>Amount</b> | <b>Description - PSA</b>    |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Business/Local Economy</b> | <b>8/4/2022</b>        | <b>7:15am</b> | <b>4 min</b>  | <b>1</b>      | <b>Library Expansion</b>    |
|                               | <b>8/25/2022</b>       | <b>8:45am</b> | <b>3 min</b>  | <b>1</b>      | <b>La Crosse Jaycees</b>    |
|                               | <b>9/14/2022</b>       | <b>8:45am</b> | <b>5 min</b>  | <b>1</b>      | <b>Midwest Music Fest</b>   |
|                               | <b>9/16/2022</b>       | <b>7:30am</b> | <b>4 min</b>  | <b>1</b>      | <b>Oktoberfest Luncheon</b> |
|                               | <b>9/29/2022</b>       | <b>8:45am</b> | <b>4 min</b>  | <b>1</b>      | <b>Fest Royalty</b>         |

|  |                         |                |            |            |                           |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|
|  | <b>8/1 – 9/25/2022</b>  | <b>12A-12P</b> | <b>:30</b> | <b>195</b> | <b>Riverside Park</b>     |
|  | <b>7/1 – 9/5/2022</b>   | <b>12A-12P</b> | <b>:30</b> | <b>221</b> | <b>Great River Sound</b>  |
|  | <b>7/15 – 8/15/2022</b> | <b>12A-12P</b> | <b>:30</b> | <b>82</b>  | <b>Community Theater</b>  |
|  | <b>8/15 – 9/12/2022</b> | <b>12A-12P</b> | <b>:30</b> | <b>69</b>  | <b>Midwest Music Fest</b> |
|  | <b>7/1 – 9/5/2022</b>   | <b>12A-12P</b> | <b>:30</b> | <b>179</b> | <b>Moon Tunes</b>         |
|  |                         |                |            |            |                           |

2022 NEWS ISSUES Q3 – KQYB

News stories are approximately thirty seconds long and air on WQYB between the hours of 6:00-9:00am

1) **Health:**

7/13 The La Crosse city council gets a second chance to vote on conversion therapy, during its July meeting tonight. Last month, the council narrowly voted to ban the practice of using therapy to change a person's sexual orientation, which led to a protest outside City Hall by citizens who don't want local government telling them how to raise their kids. A request to take another vote on the matter is listed early on the council agenda for tonight, and supporters of conversion therapy say it's a chance for city leaders to 'correct' their action from last month. They say the ban took away the basic rights of La Crosse residents on how to counsel children.

7/14 City leaders in La Crosse may spend a few more weeks debating the issue of conversion therapy. After a closed-door discussion on Thursday night, the city council will suspend a ban on the therapy for 60 days. The ban was approved in June, and that move was followed by protests from citizens who don't want the city to tell them how to raise their children. Mayor Mitch Reynolds says he had expected the ban to be upheld, instead of referred: The council defeated an amendment to the conversion therapy measure, relating to fees connected with the therapy.

7/24 Now that the governor and attorney general of Wisconsin have announced they will sue makers of PFAS chemicals, residents of French Island want to see further action to make their local water safe. Governor Tony Evers and A-G Josh Kaul went to the island last week to talk about PFAS pollution there and around the state. Town of Campbell board member Lee Donahue says having to use bottled water for more than a year has affected most families on French Island: Donahue wants to see the city of La Crosse reach an official agreement with Campbell on public water systems, which would not require the town to annex to La Crosse.

8/3 The state of Wisconsin may have decided to sue companies that make PFAS chemicals, but court cases can move slowly. Governor Tony Evers announced the lawsuit two weeks ago during a visit to French Island, where hundreds of families have wells tainted by PFAS. Evers says a judge still has to be assigned to the case, and he's frustrated by the wait: During a stop in La Crosse this week, the governor says the state DNR board should be setting standards for the chemicals. But Evers points out that the board's majority was not appointed by him.

8/7 Health professionals in La Crosse are being recognized for their work in fighting dental pain and preventing drug addiction at the same time. The state department of health took part in an event last week, thanking local

dentists and health care workers for getting away from prescribing opioids for tooth and gum pain. Madison dentist David Gundersen represents a statewide group on Dental Pain Protocol: Gundersen says thousands of people in Wisconsin go to emergency rooms for relief from dental pain, and often are prescribed medicine that can get them hooked on opioids.

8/10 A proposed referendum on abortion is making its way through La Crosse County board committees. The advisory ballot question would ask voters whether the existing state rules on abortion, passed in 1849, ought to be repealed. At a meeting of the executive committee, Kevin Hoyer cast the only vote against having a referendum. Hoyer says that as a white man, he's been told by society that he doesn't have a right to comment on abortion: The referendum would go on the November ballot, if the full county board approves it.

8/16 What counties in Wisconsin have become more obese over the past decade? A new study by a fitness website called BarBend-dot-com says residents of Vilas County in northern Wisconsin are on average 11 per cent fatter than they were 10 years ago. Menominee and Wood Counties were close behind. Only Door and Kewaunee Counties showed an average weight loss during the decade. La Crosse County is about in the middle of the 72-county list, with its population seeing a 6 per cent increase in personal weight over 10 years. Vernon County narrowly missed the top 10, with a 7 per cent rise in obesity. Trempealeau County is tied for 9th lowest on the list.

8/28 City leaders in La Crosse could take another crack at a statement on climate change during the September cycle of meetings beginning this week. A proposed declaration of a 'climate emergency' was defeated by the city council's judiciary committee this month, so it could be rewritten. The previous version was considered too 'divisive,' in endorsing cutbacks in fossil fuel use and exploration. An edited version of the resolution replaces references to fossil fuel with calls to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

9/8 City leaders in La Crosse have voted to ban conversion therapy, in the face of an almost certain lawsuit. By an 8-to-4 vote on Thursday, the city council approved a variation on the ban that was first passed in June. The new version would specifically prohibit professional paid therapy to change a person's sexual orientation. Council member Mark Neumann says he has studied the issue thoroughly, and had hoped that supporters and opponents would agree on some issues: Backers of the therapy claim the ordinance would violate religious rights and freedom of speech.

## 2) **Business/Economy:**

7/1 Plans to redevelop the old K-Mart site off Losey Boulevard are expected to move ahead at La Crosse city meetings this month. The I-S-G company is submitting more information to City Hall about its Copper Rocks project. The former K-Mart, which closed five years ago, would be torn down and replaced with six buildings which would contain just over 200 residential units, intended mainly as 'workforce' housing. The proposal will be reviewed by the council judiciary committee at its meeting on Tuesday night. Earlier this year, architects had declared that they wanted to get something built on the K-Mart lot before this October, or else construction might have to wait until next year.

7/7 A yearly survey of La Crosse area businesses will be conducted in the next few weeks. The 7 Rivers Alliance wants to get a picture of how companies are doing this year. That's something they skipped doing a year ago, because of the pandemic. The C-E-O of the alliance, Chris Hardie, says answers to the survey can help develop programs to assist businesses: The business retention survey will be available for taking on-line through the end of August. Hardie says anyone in a company can take the survey, as long as only one person does it for a given company.

7/7 Gas prices in the La Crosse area have gone down to \$4.25 a gallon at some stations, as the national average price has fallen almost 20 cents in two weeks. Two gas stations in Onalaska have posted regular at \$4.25, while La Crosse stations are selling gas at \$4.35. The lowest price now in Wisconsin is just under 4 dollars at several stations near Madison.

7/18 The drop in passenger numbers at the La Crosse Airport continues, for the third straight month. In June, five thousand and 12 people took scheduled flights in and out of La Crosse, down about 700 from the passenger volume in May. It was also a 34-hundred person decline from June of last year, a 40 per cent decrease. Shortages in airline workers and cancellations of flights have led to passenger reductions all over the U.S. in recent months. The busiest month this year at L-S-E has been March, when 62-hundred passengers took commercial flights. The peak month last year was August, with 87-hundred flyers.

7/19 It's being compared to the Taj Mahal, but at the real Taj Mahal, you're not likely to hear polkas...La Crosse's biggest Kwik Trip has been officially dedicated on Ward Avenue. The large new convenience store opened for business last week, but Tuesday's ribbon-cutting brought together workers from several local Kwik Trip stores, along with community leaders and Kwik Trip CEO Don Zietlow (ZIT-lo), who started the company in the 1960's. The ceremony also featured cash donations from Kwik Trip to the La Crosse fire department and the police K-9 program.

7/27 The price of gas around the U.S. has fallen every day for the last month, ever since hitting a record price just above 5 dollars. The Triple-A says Wisconsin's average price is down to 4.04 per gallon. That was about the average in La Crosse a week ago, but stations around the city are now selling gas at 3.90. That's down 60 cents from just a month ago. Most big cities in Wisconsin have average prices under 4 dollars, except for Milwaukee.

8/1 The new Hy-Vee supermarket being built at Valley View Mall is scheduled to open in October. Hy-Vee is asking the city of La Crosse for a Class B liquor license for the main store, in the old Sears storefront at the mall, and a Class A license for the nearby 'Fast and Fresh' convenience store being built in the mall parking lot. The license requests go before council committees this week.

8/2 Gundersen and an eastern Wisconsin health care firm have now signed a merger agreement and are proceeding with joint services for their hospitals and clinics. The La Crosse hospital system announced the planned merger with Bellin of Green Bay in June. Gundersen C-E-O Dr. Scott Rathgaber says the Bellin agreement followed an attempt to merge with Marshfield Clinic: Both companies say the partnership allows them to expand their health care services to nearly a dozen hospitals and over 100 local clinics.

8/8 A steep drop for gas prices in the La Crosse area this week. The Wisconsin Triple-A says the local average pump price of 3.59 a gallon is down 20 cents from a week ago, and 80 cents lower than around the 4th of July. However, gas was just 3.07 a gallon in early August last year. Triple-A says the falling prices have not lured many drivers back on the road, as they feel the prices are still too high.

8/15 Chick Fil-A (Filet) has finally announced a Grand Opening for its restaurant in Onalaska. After nearly 2.5 years in the making, the fast-food joint will officially open on September 8th. Chick-Fil-A will be located across from Blain's Farm and Fleet in Onalaska ... but the next intersection down ... where one would take to get to Gundersen or Stoney Creek. It's been nearly 2.5 years since Chick-Fil-A got approval from the Onalaska city council for the build site.

8/24 One of the area's Shopkos could be sold and getting a makeover. The Onalaska Planning Commission approved Tuesday some zoning changes to the East Towne Plaza Shopko, which has been closed since June 6, 2019. A Florida-based company, intending to buy the property, wants to convert it into five new retail businesses, redeveloping the store with two additions on the east and west sides. The rezoning by the commission goes from "mixed use" to "regional business" but the full city council will have to approve the move at its September meeting. The northside La Crosse Shopko in the Bridgeview Plaza closed the same time the Onalaska store did. The southside La Crosse Shopko closed April 7, 2019.

9/2 (CHICK-FIL-A) Less than a week away from Chick-Fil-A grand opening in Onalaska just off Highway 16 near the Valley View Mall. In terms of traffic, that area can already be a bit of a hassle at times. With Chick-Fil-A opening Thursday, Onalaska Police Chief Charles Ashbeck told WIZM they will be doing some re-routing of traffic. While drivers won't have an issue getting out of Chick-Fil-A, those coming out of the Kwik Trip across the road will surely be waiting to make a left onto South Kinney and toward Highway 16. Ashbeck noted, in that case, drivers coming out of the Kwik Trip lot should turn right and go toward Dick's Sporting Goods and get on Highway 16 that way. The chief added that they will be monitoring traffic but won't have someone directing it. Chick-Fil-A, however, is in talks to possibly hire an off-duty officer to do just that.

### 3) **Education:**

7/7 The Sparta school superintendent has resigned, after being investigated on charges of harassment. Dr. Amy Van Deuren had been the superintendent at Sparta for five years. She had been accused of harassment and bullying, but the district says that no unlawful harassment occurred. The Sparta school board will officially act on Van Deuren's resignation at a meeting this month.

7/19 The 194.7 million Dollar Question. It'll be on the ballot for La Crosse School District voters in November. The money ... used to consolidate La Crosse to one high school, building that on the old Trane Plant headquarters site on the southside. The 194.7 million amounts to an \$8 increase per \$100,000 of property value on resident's property tax bill. Laurie Cooper Stoll and seven other board members voted to put the referendum question on the ballot. One member voted against it. The decision is a culmination of two years of study and community engagement, including a survey that went to ever resident in the school district. Results of that survey were close, but came to the conclusion that 53% would vote to approve the referendum.

7/25 La Crosse isn't the only area city preparing for a large school referendum this fall. The Onalaska School Board has authorized a \$75 million ballot question for the fall election. A task force recommended that the district ask for funding to physically improve the middle and high schools, with the middle school being the top priority. It's expected that the middle school renovations would cost around \$50 million, with the high school work estimated at \$25 million. La Crosse already has a November referendum scheduled, calling for \$194 million to help convert the old Trane Company headquarters into a single new high school to combine Central and Logan.

8/1 We know what will happen if voters in the La Crosse school district approve a \$194 million referendum. Central and Logan high schools would share a building at the site of the former Trane company headquarters. But what if the referendum doesn't pass? Superintendent Aaron Engel says if the November referendum fails, La Crosse's high school students would all move into Central high school. Engel shared that news in an email to parents of students in the La Crosse district. The district has scheduled a number of information sessions to answer questions about the possible change. The next one is scheduled for August 10.

8/2 La Crosse School Board member no more. With 20 months remaining on his term ... and just a little over a year into his first stint on the board, Rob Abrham has resigned. Abrham did so in retaliation to what amounts to an ultimatum from La Crosse School Superintendent Aaron Engel on the recent plan for consolidation. Engel wrote a letter late last week to district families that if the \$194.7 million referendum to build a new high school

at the old Trane headquarters doesn't pass ... the district would still consolidate to one high school ... that school being Central ... eliminating Logan as a high school.

8/4 Why did a member of the La Crosse School Board suddenly resign this week? Rob Abraham explained on Monday that he was protesting consolidation plans for the district high schools, which apparently will move ahead whether a fall referendum passes or not. Abraham tells WIZM's La Crosse Talk that he felt stepping down halfway through a 3-year term would bring public attention to how much control the superintendent has over the school system: Abraham says he considered a message to district voters from Superintendent Aaron Engel 'almost blackmail.' Engel has said that if voters reject a \$195 million plan to build one new high school to replace Central and Logan, the district will send all the high school students to Central as an alternative.

8/10 Taxpayers in the La Crosse school district have two more chances this week to find out about the planned high school referendum for this fall. Information sessions are scheduled tonight (Wednesday) at Lincoln Middle School, and tomorrow night at Logan Middle School. Both meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. The November referendum will ask voters whether to spend \$194 million to build a new high school at the site of the Trane Company headquarters. Superintendent Aaron Engel says that Central and Logan might be consolidated into one school within 5 or 10 years, but no final decision on consolidation has been made yet.

8/10 Residents of the La Crosse school district are becoming more upset about future high school plans. At an informational meeting last night at Lincoln Middle School, people were more vocal and frustrated than at a similar hearing earlier in the year. A recent message from the district suggested the two high schools might be merged into one, whether a referendum passes or not. Superintendent Aaron Engel said, that's not definite: Engel says the \$194 million price tag of a November referendum would include work on other schools in addition to a proposed new high school.

8/15 The president of the University of Wisconsin System is expected in La Crosse today (Tuesday) to announce a new plan to help students and families afford college. President Jay Rothman will speak at a U-W-L news conference, along with La Crosse Chancellor Joe Gow and the chancellor of the Platteville campus. The Wisconsin Tuition Promise would allow students from families making less than \$62,000 a year to waive most of their tuition and fees. Undergrads could qualify for the program for up to eight semesters, working out to an average discount of \$4500 per student in a four-year period. Students at the 12 regional U-W campuses could begin receiving the waiver in the fall of 2023.

8/16 The president of the U-W System comes to La Crosse, to help kick off a statewide effort to reduce tuition costs for many students. Jay Rothman says the Wisconsin Tuition Promise will be an investment in the 'war for talent,' in trying to keep students in the Badger State to build their careers: The Promise Program is based on one already in effect at the Madison campus. It would allow students from lower-income families to waive most of their tuition for up to four years at a U-W System campus.

8/18 Another school district in the Coulee Region is asking voters for funding. The Bangor School Board approved a \$24 million capital referendum to go on the November ballot. Recently, the La Crosse School District approved a \$194.7 million referendum, while Onalaska gave the go ahead to ask voters to approve a \$75 million referendum. The request from those schools comes as Wisconsin's state Legislature is halfway through a 10-month hiatus, while sitting on a \$3.8 billion budget surplus. Bangor's school board made the decision Wednesday night for a capital (facilities) referendum to address significant needs in the district, which cannot be addressed within its annual budget, a release stated.

8/24 The La Crosse School District is continuing its meetings to discuss plans for a nearly \$200 million referendum for a new high school. Last night, Superintendent Aaron Engel took questions on-line about the plan to move high schoolers into the old Trane headquarters near Ward Avenue. Engel says the 40-acre site should work for the district, even though it's smaller than many new schools require: Central and Logan High Schools would become middle schools under the current proposal. Another in-person meeting is set tonight at 6:30 at

Longfellow Middle School. 8/25 Over 10,000 students at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse are preparing to return to classes in a couple of weeks, and that number is continuing to grow. This year's incoming freshman class is the largest in UW-L history, Chancellor Joe Gow said Tuesday on La Crosse Talk PM. This fall, 2,240 freshman students will be attending UW-L for the first time...maybe 23 hundred, according to Gow: The previous record was set just last fall, with 2,207 incoming students. The school's total enrollment fell in 2021, mostly due to the pandemic.

8/25 Whenever a referendum is scheduled in La Crosse, it usually doesn't take long for opponents to organize a campaign against that ballot question. A 'no new school' campaign has been launched in the La Crosse school district, to fight a \$194 million referendum in November. Logan High School parent Meg Konczakowski (CON-juh-COW-ski) is part of the effort to defeat plans for merging Logan and Central at the former Trane Company headquarters. Meg says La Crosse's geography is a major obstacle to the one-school plan: Meg tells WIZM's La Crosse Talk that the project might get more public support if the price tag was much lower.

8/29 The campaign to defeat a school-merger referendum this fall in La Crosse now has support from a north-side business group. Members of the North La Crosse Business Association want voters to turn down the \$194 million bond issue on the November ballot, citing high costs and inconvenience to families whose children now attend Logan High School. Under the plan, students from Logan and Central would move into one single school, to be built at the Trane Company's old headquarters. North-side city council member Andrea Richmond described the school board's decision to have a referendum as "totally wrong" and a "huge mistake." Richmond says a smaller referendum aimed at renovating the current high schools would be more appropriate. The school district wants the \$194 million to convert the former Trane Company headquarters on the south side of La Crosse into a combined school for Central and Logan students. The high schools would then be used as middle schools.

9/1 Parents in La Crosse are taking kids back to school after summer break: The students were brought by cars and buses to Southern Bluffs school around 8 o'clock this morning, where they were greeted by teachers, the school superintendent, and Principal Maggie Maine: This is Maine's first year as principal at Southern Bluff. She comes to La Crosse from the Winona schools.

9/12 A former Logan High School teacher has been chosen to fill an empty seat on the La Crosse School Board until the spring election. The other eight board members needed just one ballot to select Emily Mootz from a field of four candidates. The seat became vacant this summer after the sudden resignation of Rob Abraham. Mootz believes the school administrators should listen more to the teachers: Mootz is expected to join the board next week. Her seat will be one of four that's on the La Crosse school board ballot in April.

9/14 La Crosse residents opposed to plans for consolidating Central and Logan High Schools would like to see more ideas discussed for saving money. The 'no new school' campaign has been putting up yard signs, urging a 'no' vote on a \$194 million referendum this fall. Logan High parent Meg Konczakowski (CON-juh-COW-ski) is part of that campaign. She believes La Crosse superintendent Aaron Engel is moving too fast to make budget-cutting changes: Engel has said a proposed new school at the old Trane Company headquarters wouldn't be ready for students for several years yet. Meg says the Trane site should be used for private homes, and kept on the tax rolls.

9/16 Plans are being made at a Holmen school to celebrate a national award. The school district says a school-wide event is planned later this month at Prairie View Elementary, in honor of being named a National Blue Ribbon School. The Department of Education has chosen 297 schools around the U.S. for the award this year, recognizing them for good academic performance. Prairie View is one of eight Wisconsin schools on the list.

#### 4) Community Needs:

7/12 group that's biking across the country, helping build houses at each stop, will be in La Crosse on Thursday. The Bike and Build Team will help Habitat for Humanity La Crosse Area staff and other volunteers renovate a home on 6th Street South. That stop will be about the halfway point of the 4,167-mile trek for the group of 28, that started in Vermont and will end in Washington state. The cycling trips are meant to raise awareness for affordable housing. They stop about every five days to take part in an affordable housing project.

7/22 The La Crosse park board is considering plans to improve Copeland Park, following a community survey. The survey indicated that people using the north-side park want to see outdated facilities removed and would like increased programming that includes the Black River, which is located next to the park. Renovation plans could include the removal of the existing picnic shelter, which is used during Oktoberfest, possibly replacing it with a beer garden.

8/2 While homeownership seems to be getting harder, Habitat For Humanity - La Crosse Area is trying to make it easier. The group is now accepting applications for the Habitat Homeownership Program to provide affordable housing options for local residents. Habitat Executive Director Kahya Fox says these five homes span across the region, including two in La Crosse, another in West Salem ... while the fourth will be a veteran's home in Tomah and a fifth over in Eitzen Minnestoa.

8/9 Today is the last day you can register for a unique fundraiser at the La Crosse Public Library. Later this month, the library will host what it calls a No Run Fun Run: Heather Miller is an adult programming coordinator at the library. She says there will be crafts, activities, food, and music at the main library on Saturday, August 20th. Even if you don't register for the event, it's still free to attend.

8/16 The Hunger Task Force's annual Taste of the Garden fundraiser returns this Wednesday at the Kane Street Community Garden. Shelly Fortner, the executive director of The Hunger Task Force, told WIZM that there will be garden themed appetizers, as well as beer and wine from local breweries and vineyards. The fundraiser will help raise funds for those facing food insecurity, a problem that is expected to rise in the community once Covid-19 emergency funding and food stamp supplements end.

8/22 The towering wooden playground known as Kids Coulee has been a fixture at Myrick Park in La Crosse for almost 30 years, and it needs a little improvement. The city park department and UWL have gotten together with area contractors for the groundbreaking of a Kids Coulee renovation that could take several months to complete. Park department staffer Dan Trussoni says members of the public say they want the playground's condition improved, but also hope that the appearance of Kids Coulee won't change.

9/7 (ROUNDS FOR RESCUES) What's better than golfing instead of working on a Friday? Seeing furry friends, winning prizes, and raising money for a fantastic cause! Mid-West Family's Rounds For Rescues golf tourney returns to Fox Hollow Golf Course next week to raise funds for the Coulee Region Humane Society.

The \$280 registration for a 4-person team includes 18 holes, carts, lunch, and the chance to win great prizes and raffles ... not to mention some pet therapy, as Coulee Region's Heather Dreivold tells the Z93 morning crew. There are still a few slots left for teams to join in. Sign up at Radio Stuff Store dot com.

9/9 Gundersen Health System's Steppin Out in Pink returns for its 17th year tomorrow at its new location at Riverside Park. There will be music, food, and of course, the walk itself, which begins at riverside and loops through the marsh trail. The fundraising walk kicks off at 8:30am and the money raised will go to breast cancer research at Gundersen. Betty Kabara, two-time breast cancer survivor, said in the Around River City podcast that the doctors at Gundersen are some of the best at treating breast cancer. Kabara helped create the Kabara Cancer Research Institute Endowment Fund at Gundersen, which a portion of this year's donations will go to.



9/14 Area service groups will benefit from a concert event in La Crosse on Thursday. Popular local musicians will entertain at Copeland Park, in a fundraiser for the Great Rivers United Way, starting at 5 p.m. Besides the music, there will be raffles, with prizes including La Crosse Loggers baseball season tickets, more tickets to Saturday night's Stone Temple Pilots concert at Logger Field, a VIP Oktoberfest package and more from local sponsors. The Great Rivers United Way works to advance the common good and create opportunities for a better life for everyone in its seven-county service region in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

## 5) **Social Justice:**

7/6 Putting homeless people together in one city park is better than having them all over La Crosse...but not much better. That's one of the observations made by a consultant from Gundersen who makes regular visits to the homeless camp at Houska Park. Snady Brekke tells the city's human rights commission that conditions at Houska are 'inhumane,' but they would be that way no matter where the homeless gather: Brekke says homelessness in the community is a solvable issue, and city leaders need to make it a priority.

7/26 Some members of a La Crosse County committee on policing are not happy about the recent controversy involving the sheriff's department. A county deputy was photographed giving a hand gesture during a group picture, and the signal is linked to white supremacy. Committee member Amanda Goodenough says she's 'disappointed' by the apparent lack of action against the deputy:

8/14 Two or three advisory referendums could be on the November ballot in La Crosse County. This week, the county board could decide whether to ask residents whether they support the funding of local law enforcement agencies. It would be a 'yes' or 'no' question. The proposal has been placed on the board's agenda for this Thursday night. The referendum states that crime in the county increased by 15 per cent between 2019 and 2021, with a 72 per cent increase in murders statewide during that same period. The question is in response to some public calls to 'defund the police' in recent years. The board has also been asked to have advisory ballot questions on the right to abortion and the legalization of marijuana in Wisconsin. Goodenough and others on the study committee were upset that Sheriff Jeff Wolf and other law enforcement officers on the committee did not show up at Tuesday's meeting to discuss the photo incident.

8/22 Supporters of conversion therapy in La Crosse have enlisted a statewide group to help their cause. City council members have received a letter from WILL, the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty. The legal firm calls on city leaders to give up on a proposed ban of the therapy, or else face a lawsuit. The council voted in June to outlaw therapy reportedly aimed at trying to change a person's sexual preference if they identify as gay or transgender. Members later decided to put the ban on hold through early September.

8/31 A name change could be in store for a committee in La Crosse which works to fight discrimination within city government. The Racial Equity Team was formed in 2020, with the aim of encouraging more diverse employment in La Crosse city departments. Members of the team, made up of city workers, have suggested adding the term 'inclusion' to the name, to call attention to groups that might experience disadvantages not connected to race. When the team was established, city officials said 10 per cent of the La Crosse population is non-white, but people of color only made up 6 per cent of city staff.

9/6 As summer turns to fall in La Crosse, city leaders are worried about where homeless people will go this winter. The city's homelessness coordinator says they're still working on plans for getting people to shelter when they must leave Houska Park at the end of October. Brian Sampson spoke to the city council at a meeting on Tuesday: Sampson says 140 unsheltered people were counted in La Crosse one night in July. The city is looking for places where the homeless can go during the day and get funding for winter shelter.