

Blanchard River Broadcasting Company
WKXA-FM
Findlay, OH

Issues/Program Report for Q2 2022

WKXA makes an ongoing effort to serve the community of Findlay and the surrounding area. As part of this effort, WKXA has identified the most significant needs, problems and interests for our coverage area. This quarterly report documents the programming provided by WKXA in response to these identified community issues. Key areas and the issues addressed during this period are verified in the attached documentation. This list is not inclusive, but does represent primary focal areas.

WKXA News Director Matt Demczyk has noted the following as significant issues during the April 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022 time period:

- An important flood mitigation project became fully funded
- A man was found guilty of shooting a state trooper in Findlay
- Suspects involved in a police officer's death were arraigned
- Whirlpool held the groundbreaking on a big expansion project
- A school district announced it would be leaving its current conference
- The Miracle Park of Findlay held its grand reopening
- Commissioners approved exclusion zones to prohibit wind and solar projects


This letter with the attached documentation was placed in the WKXA Public Inspection File on July 8, 2022.



Matt Demczyk
WKXA News Director



Rex Howard
WKXA Brand Manager



J. Michael Holman
WKXA General Manager

WKXA COMMUNITY ISSUES/PROGRAM LIST

SUBJECT: Breaking News

Stories run an average of 30 seconds.

Programming as Follows:

Subject: Officer Death Suspects

News Broadcasts: 4/1

The Ohio State Highway Patrol has released the names of the three suspects arrested in connection with the death of a Bluffton police officer on Thursday. Emin Johnson, 20 and Zachary Love, 21, are being held at the Hancock County Jail. (pictured) Dante Tate, 19, is incarcerated at the Medina County Jail. Investigators say the three were in a car that was fleeing from police on Interstate 75 southbound around 2:30 Thursday morning that struck and killed Bluffton police officer Dominic Francis. The officer was placing stop sticks on the interstate in an effort to end the pursuit.

Subject: Hathorn Guilty

News Broadcasts: 6/13

Robert Hathorn has been found guilty of each of the charges he was facing in connection with an altercation with a Findlay trooper along Interstate 75 last fall that left that trooper with a gunshot wound. The jury returned its guilty verdicts on Monday afternoon in Hancock County Common Pleas Court. The 43-year-old from Muskegon, Michigan was previously indicted by a Hancock County Grand Jury on six felony charges, including felonious assault on a peace officer, in connection with the October 6th incident.

Subject: Basin Fully Funded

News Broadcasts: 6/21

Ohio lawmakers have now approved the bulk of funding for the Eagle Creek Floodwater Storage Basin project just south of Findlay. Steve Wilson is project manager for the Maumee Watershed Conservancy District. He says the basin will reduce the 100-year flood elevation on the Blanchard River at Main Street in Findlay by around a foot and a half, which is on top of the benefits being seen from other flood

mitigation projects. Wilson says they're still working on some property acquisition and final design of the basin, and hope to break ground in the second half of 2023.

Subject: Officer Death Suspects Arraigned

News Broadcasts: 4/14

The man authorities say was driving the car that hit and killed Bluffton Police Officer Dominic Francis on March 31st appeared in Hancock County Common Pleas Court on Thursday for his arraignment. Emin Johnson, 20, of Euclid, pleaded not guilty to aggravated vehicular homicide, involuntary manslaughter and other charges at his arraignment. His bond of \$500,000 that was set in Findlay Municipal Court earlier was carried over. A backseat passenger, 21-year-old Zachary Love, was also arraigned. He pleaded not guilty to charges including the improper handling of a firearm in a vehicle and receiving stolen property. A video arraignment was being set up for a third suspect, Dante Tate, 19, who's still in Medina County where he was apprehended.

Subject: Carey Schools Threat

News Broadcasts: 5/11

Two middle school students in Carey responsible for an inappropriate post on the messaging app Snapchat are in trouble with the school district and law enforcement. The school district says a parent contacted school officials on Tuesday night after their child showed them the post, which featured pictures of guns and weapons, along with a caption referencing school. Superintendent Michael Wank says they contacted law enforcement and the students were identified and their parents contacted. He says they held a remote learning day on Wednesday just to be safe as they take student safety very seriously.

Subject: Findlay Fire

News Broadcasts: 5/1

Findlay fire crews battled a house fire just down the street from the Central Fire Station on Sunday night. The fire was at 824 South Main Street and started at around 9:30 p.m. Fire could be seen coming from the top of the house when crews arrived on the scene. Firefighters started putting water on the fire from atop a ladder truck and from the ground. Neighbors said the house had been vacant for some time. The house is just south of the parking lot for St. Marks United Methodist Church. South Main Street was closed to traffic as fire crews fought the blaze.

Subject: House Explosion

News Broadcasts: 6/9

Authorities say two bodies were found in the rubble after a house exploded a little east of Bluffton. The Bluffton Fire Department responded to the report of a house explosion at 2275 State Route 103, between State Route 235 and Interstate 75, around 6 p.m. Wednesday. The house was completely leveled in the explosion, which happened around 6 o'clock Wednesday night. The explosion could be heard and felt miles away. The cause of the explosion is under investigation.

Subject: Rumpke Death
News Broadcasts: 4/13

A man was killed in a workplace accident at Rumpke Waste & Recycling in Findlay. The accident happened on Monday at the Rumpke facility on Prospect Avenue. 56-year-old Michael Wortman, a maintenance technician, was killed when the arm of a trash truck hit him in the head as he was attempting repairs. Wortman was taken to Blanchard Valley Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Subject: Tornado Confirmed
News Broadcasts: 5/4

The National Weather Service says a tornado touched down a little southwest of Findlay as severe storms blew through Hancock County on Tuesday. The NWS survey team has confirmed that an EF-0 tornado with winds of 80 miles per hour touched down about a half mile south of Rawson. The tornado traveled in a northeast direction between County Road 313 and Interstate-75. It was on the ground for about seven miles before lifting just west of the Findlay Airport.

WKXA COMMUNITY ISSUES/PROGRAM LIST

SUBJECT: Business

Stories run an average of 30 seconds.

Programming as Follows:

Subject: Marathon Q1 Results
News Broadcasts: 5/3

Marathon Petroleum reported its first quarter numbers on Tuesday. The company says its net income for Q1 was \$845 million, which compares with a net loss of \$242 million for the first quarter of 2021. The company's adjusted earnings for the first quarter was \$2.6 billion, compared with \$1.6 billion for the first quarter of 2021. President and CEO Michael Hennigan says the company's first quarter results reflect their ability to execute on their strategic pillars in the current market conditions.

Subject: 50 North Job Fair
News Broadcasts: 5/14

50 North is again partnering with OhioMeansJobs to hold a Senior Job Fair. The Senior Job Fair will be held at 50 North, 339 East Melrose Avenue in Findlay, on Tuesday, May 17th from 2 to 4. More than 30 businesses will be in attendance. There will be full-time, part-time and seasonal opportunities. Also, career counselors will be on-site to help with resumes and applications. People can call 419-423-8496 for more information or visit the 50 North website by clicking here.

Subject: Marathon Ecuador Oil
News Broadcasts: 4/21

Marathon Petroleum is turning to Ecuadorian crude after sanctions cut off its supplies from Russia. Bloomberg is reporting that Marathon outbid two other companies for around 8 million barrels. Bloomberg reports that Marathon was previously the largest buyer in the United States of Russian oil, and that U.S. gasoline and diesel makers are looking to replace Russian oil products after Russia started its war with Ukraine and the U.S. banned oil imports from Russia.

Subject: Marathon Gas Stations New Look
News Broadcasts: 6/22

Marathon Petroleum is unveiling a new look for Marathon branded gas stations. Marathon says customers will still be welcomed with the familiar, red, white and blue colors which will be reconfigured into a more contemporary design. Marathon says the retooled logo, channel letters and illumination will capture people's attention during the day and night. The new imaging also includes 'Endurance Fuels' being added to the gas pumps, underscoring the company's commitment to providing customers with high-quality fuel.

Subject: Marathon Equality Index
News Broadcasts: 5/11

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) has ranked Marathon Petroleum a "Best Place to Work" for LGBTQ+ equality for the third straight year.

Marathon this year scored 100 percent on the HRC's Corporate Equality Index survey, which is the highest possible score. Companies earning the top score are recognized for their efforts to create inclusive workplaces for LGBTQ+ individuals.

Subject: New Residential Development

News Broadcasts: 5/12

The Findlay City Planning Commission has approved the site plan for a residential development west of Interstate 75 and south of County Road 99 on the north end of Findlay.

The residential development will contain 10 townhome buildings totaling 60 units, 10 garden apartment buildings totaling 160 units, and 19 attached single family buildings totaling 76 units.

Tim Mayle, Director of Findlay - Hancock County Economic Development says the development is a major step toward their "Gateway" vision for the north end.

Subject: Manufacturing Apprentices Graduate

News Broadcasts: 5/31

Seven apprentices in Raise the Bar's Manufacturing Apprenticeship (formerly known as the Ohio Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education [OH FAME]) were honored during a graduation ceremony at the University of Findlay's Winebrenner TLB Auditorium.

The ceremony marked the cohort's completion of the two-year "learn while-you-earn" program.

Subject: Manufacturing Week

News Broadcasts: 5/12

Hancock County manufacturers will host around 1,000 8th graders during Raise The Bar's week-long Manufacturing Week. The students will come from 11 Findlay and Hancock County middle schools.

Each school participates in one of the four scheduled days, allowing students and teachers to tour two manufacturing facilities as well as interact with four additional companies and two educational pathways at Owens Community College Findlay Campus.

Subject: Landfill Expansion Opposition

News Broadcasts: 6/28

The Seneca County Board of Commissioners has passed a resolution opposing a proposed expansion of the Sunny Farms landfill. Also opposing the expansion are the Seneca County General Health District and

City of Fostoria. WTOL-11 reports that WIN Waste, the operator of the landfill, wants to bring in more garbage from outside the state, going from the current 7,500 tons a day up to 12,000 tons.

Subject: Tiffin Drive In Opening Night
News Broadcasts: 4/14

The Tiffin Drive-In Theater has reopened after an extensive and lengthy renovation. Owner Mike Cole says he can't wait to have everyone out to check out the renovated facility. Just about everything was replaced, from the screens to the box office to the concession building. Cole thanks everyone for the kind words of encouragement throughout the renovation process as he said it was difficult at times.

Subject: Whirlpool Ottawa Groundbreaking
News Broadcasts: 4/13

Whirlpool Corporation held a groundbreaking for the \$65 million dollar expansion and renovation of its Ottawa operations. The company says the investment will position the plant as one of the company's refrigeration hubs and will include an expansion to accommodate production of premium refrigeration products, including high-end built-in refrigerators (BIR). The expansion of Whirlpool's Ottawa operations will create 109 local jobs.

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Subject: Camp 911
News Broadcasts: 6/21

Camp 911 is an interactive safety camp is for kids entering kindergarten and helps them learn basic safety. The free camp presents important safety lessons such as stranger danger, drug safety and pedestrian safety through a combination of demonstrations, videos, and activities.

Camp 911 is a joint effort led by local emergency response agencies, including Hanco, Findlay Fire and Police Departments, the Hancock County Sheriff's Office and Hancock Public Health.

Subject: Findlay High Graduation

News Broadcasts: 5/25

The Findlay High School Class of 2022 will be receiving their diplomas this weekend.

This year's graduation will look different than last year's, which was held outside at Donnell Stadium on a cool and windy morning. This year, graduation will be held at the Koehler Center at the University of Findlay beginning at 10 o'clock Saturday morning, May 28th.

This will be Findlay High School's 150th graduating class.

Subject: High School NIL

News Broadcasts: 5/17

Ohio's high school student-athletes will not be able to make money off their name, image and likeness without losing their amateur status, after an amendment was voted down by member schools.

The Ohio High School Athletic Association says the Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) proposal failed by a margin of 538 to 254. The proposal mirrored recent changes made at the collegiate level and would have allowed student-athletes to sign endorsement agreements so long as their teams, schools and/or the OHSAA logo were not used.

Subject: LB Leaving BVC

News Broadcasts: 5/8

Liberty-Benton Local Schools will be leaving the Blanchard Valley Conference.

Superintendent Mark Kowalski says Liberty-Benton will definitely be leaving the BVC after the 25-26 school year, and that it could happen sooner at the approval of member schools.

Mark says at one point in time enrollment in the district was 600 to 700 students and now they're pushing 1,600 students and they're considerably bigger than a lot of the other districts in the BVC.

Subject: Mazza Museum Busy Summer

News Broadcasts: 6/2

The University of Findlay's Mazza Museum will be having a busy summer.

Among the activities at the museum this summer will be, a new exhibit honoring Juneteenth, the reopening of the Mazza Gallery at The Toledo Zoo, Young Artist Workshop, and Summer Conference.

Subject: Flag City Night Out Date Set
News Broadcasts: 6/6

The date has been set for the popular community event Flag City Night Out. This year Flag City Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 2nd beginning at 6 p.m. The free, family friendly event is designed to bring community members and public safety professionals together in the same place. Findlay Police Officer Brian White says the interactions they have with kids at events like Night Out go a long way.

Subject: Paint the Plow
News Broadcasts: 5/27

A high school in Hancock County won the Ohio Department of Transportation's Paint the Plow contest. Cory-Rawson's plow they painted in honor of fallen Bluffton Police Officer Dominic Francis won in a landslide victory. Cory-Rawson won both the ODOT choice award and the people's choice award. "We are especially proud that the plow honoring the life and service of Officer Francis was voted the winner of this competition," said Chris Hughes, the deputy director of ODOT District 1.

Subject: Findlay High Scholarships
News Broadcasts: 6/8

Findlay High School says \$5.2 million in scholarships has been awarded to the 2022 graduating class so far. The scholarships come from colleges, universities, the Community Foundation, local donors and others. Findlay High School head principal Ryan Imke says they had 124 different students that received awards this year, and 22 of those students graduated with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Subject: School Garden
News Broadcasts: 5/16

Findlay's Bigelow Hill Elementary School has unveiled its new Ecology Garden.

The garden provides a hands-on outdoor learning experience to make science learning more exciting for the students. Beth Ann Nissen, project based learning coach for Findlay City Schools, says students were very engaged in the project from the very beginning.

Subject: Teacher Week
News Broadcasts: 5/5

This is Teacher Appreciation Week, and Findlay Mayor Christina Muryn issued a proclamation saluting our local teachers. The mayor's proclamation states that our country's future depends on providing a quality education to all students and that teachers spend countless hours preparing lessons and counseling students. And the mayor is asking all members of the community to join her in personally expressing their appreciation for our teachers, for their dedication and devotion to their work.

Subject: UF Biggest Gift Ever
News Broadcasts: 4/7

A University of Findlay alumnus and his wife are giving the university \$6 million for a new building to help students become well-rounded and ethical leaders. The generous gift from Billy and Brenda Watterson will support building the new Watterson Center for Ethical Leadership on campus. That is the largest single gift the university has ever received.

Subject: UF Pharmacy Program
News Broadcasts: 6/30

The University of Findlay says its College of Pharmacy was recently ranked as number one in the state and in the country for residency placement. The ranking is from the American Society of Health System Pharmacists (ASHP) and the National Matching Services (NMS).

WKXA COMMUNITY ISSUES/PROGRAM LIST

SUBJECT: Flood Mitigation

Programming as Follows:

Subject: Basin Fully Funded

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Subject: Bulk Of Basin Funded

News Broadcasts: 6/2

The bulk of funding for the Eagle Creek Floodwater Storage Basin project is now in place. Steve Wilson is project manager for the Maumee Watershed Conservancy District. Wilson says they're hoping to begin construction of the basin in the second half of 2023. The 600 to 800-acre storage basin will be west of U.S. 68 and just north of Township Road 49, just south of Findlay.

WKXA COMMUNITY ISSUES/PROGRAM LIST

SUBJECT: Government

Stories run an average of 30 seconds.

Programming as Follows:

Subject: City Council Opening
News Broadcasts: 6/27

A resignation is bringing about an opening on Findlay City Council. Republican Brad Wisener, who represents the First Ward, says he has accepted a job in Florida and must relocate there. His resignation will be effective July 1st. Republicans who live in the First Ward, who are 18 or older, and want to be considered for the vacated seat should mail a letter of interest, resume, and up to three letters of recommendation from to the Hancock County Republican Party.

Subject: Findlay Planning Input
News Broadcasts: 5/20

The City of Findlay says its strategic planning consultant is accepting planning documents from community organizations as part of the city's strategic planning process. The city says if a community organization in Findlay or Hancock County has an official/adopted planning document, it can be submitted for review by the City's Strategic Planning Consultant Team as part of the Findlay Forward Strategic Planning process.

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Subject: Hero Banners
News Broadcasts: 5/13

Findlay's Hometown Hero banners are back up along Main Street in Findlay in honor of local members of the military. The city says this batch of banners included 19 new banners, which can be seen on the west side of Main Street from Front Street to Center Street.

One of the new banners honors Eldon Beegle, who was in the Army, and his banner is above.

Subject: John Kovach Dies

News Broadcasts: 6/7

A man who was instrumental in the economic development efforts of Findlay, and other communities in Ohio, has passed away. John Kovach died on June 5th at the age of 78. Former Findlay Mayor Tony Iriti says John really created the blueprint for being successful in economic development. "He was responsible for most of the development that occurred from the early 80s until the mid to late 90s."

Subject: Miracle Park Reopening

News Broadcasts: 4/24

The Miracle Park of Findlay held its grand reopening on Saturday.

We spoke with Jared Rinker, who's on the board of the Miracle League, near the new zipline after he and his daughter had a friendly race. Rinker says the community has been very supportive of the Miracle League. "There's a lot of good people, a lot of big hearts, and I know personally myself and my family are very thankful to this community."

Subject: Tree City USA

News Broadcasts: 5/18

The City of Findlay was again recognized as a Tree City USA at an awards ceremony in Findlay.

This is the 40th time Findlay has been honored with the nationally recognized award.

Findlay earned the title of Tree City USA for its ongoing efforts to maintain and improve quality of life through a comprehensive tree management program. The program is guided by the Tree Commission and City Administration.

Subject: Landfill Expansion Opposition

News Broadcasts: 6/28

The Seneca County Board of Commissioners has passed a resolution opposing a proposed expansion of the Sunny Farms landfill. Also opposing the expansion are the Seneca County General Health District and City of Fostoria. WTOL-11 reports that WIN Waste, the operator of the landfill, wants to bring in more garbage from outside the state, going from the current 7,500 tons a day up to 12,000 tons.

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SUBJECT: Health & Safety

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WKXA COMMUNITY ISSUES/PROGRAM LIST

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Subject: Fatal DUI Crash Putnam County
News Broadcasts: 6/27

The Ohio State Highway Patrol says a man was killed and several people injured in a three-vehicle crash in Putnam County. The crash happened at around 7:47 Sunday night on U.S. 224 near Road 5. Investigators says Thomas Sproles, 36, of Stryker, was driving west on U.S. 224 when his Chevy Silverado was hit by an eastbound Ford Escape that swerved into the left lane to miss an eastbound Jeep that was slowing down to make a left turn. Sproles was pronounced dead at the scene, while five people in the truck were taken to Blanchard Valley Hospital with injuries.

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Subject: Fatal DUI Crash
News Broadcasts: 4/4

The Ohio State Highway Patrol says alcohol is believed to be a factor in a fatal crash on Interstate 75 in Wood County that took the lives of two people, one of them from Findlay. The crash happened a little before 10 p.m. Sunday on Interstate 75 near the Cygnet Road exit. Troopers arrived on the scene to find six vehicles involved in the crash and two engulfed in flames.

Subject: Rape Indictment
News Broadcasts: 5/11

A Hancock County grand jury has indicted a man on some disturbing charges involving a child.

Court records show that Timothy McStraw, 51, of McComb, was indicted on a charge of rape and two charges of gross sexual imposition. Court records indicate that the alleged offenses occurred in April in McComb and involved a child under the age of 10.

Subject: Findlay Police Pursuit

News Broadcasts: 4/30

The Findlay Police Department says a motorcyclist led officers on a high-speed pursuit after refusing to pull over. It started on South Main Street at Sixth Street a little before 7 p.m. Friday.

Police say an officer went to initiate a traffic stop on a Kawasaki motorcycle for operating recklessly in the southbound lanes and the driver refused to stop.

Subject: Assault With Truck

News Broadcasts: 4/10

The Findlay Police Department says a man is facing charges after assaulting someone and stealing their truck. Police were dispatched to the 100 block of George Street at around 12:15 Sunday morning to investigate a report of a stolen vehicle. Police say the suspect, William Taylor, 31, of Findlay, struck the victim in the face and then fled the area in the victim's pickup truck.

WKXA COMMUNITY ISSUES/PROGRAM LIST

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Republicans who live in the First Ward, who are 18 or older, and want to be considered for the vacated seat should mail a letter of interest, resume, and up to three letters of recommendation from to the Hancock County Republican Party.

Subject: Commissioners Approve Exclusion Zones

News Broadcasts: 4/19

The Hancock County Board of Commissioners voted 2-1 to approve a resolution enacting exclusion zones in most unincorporated areas of the county to prohibit wind and solar projects.

The vote came after a public hearing was held on the issue at the commissioner's Tuesday afternoon meeting. At the public hearing, several people spoke out against proposed solar projects, citing concerns about the negative impact on property values and the environment.

Subject: BOE Ready for Primary

News Broadcasts: 5/1

The Hancock County Board of Elections is ready for the upcoming primary election on Tuesday, May 3rd. The BOE's Jody O'Brien says they have received quite a few calls from people asking if the primary will be held amid the redistricting situation. Jody says the callers were reassured that the primary election will be happening on Tuesday, but some things won't be on the ballot.

Subject: Primary Election Day

News Broadcasts: 5/5

Ohio's primary election is being held today.

In the race for U.S. Senator, seven people are vying for the Republican nomination and three for the Democrat nomination. That Senate seat is opening up because Senator Rob Portman is retiring.

The lone countwide issue in Hancock County is the mental health services levy.

And remember, you won't see Ohio House and Senate races on this ballot because of redistricting issues. Polls will be open until 730 tonight.