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FOX 17's Ann Marie LaFlamme leaves Grand Rapids for Detroit's WXYZ



FOX 17 anchor and reporter Ann Marie LaFlamme is leaving West Michigan's FOX-TV affiliate to join WXYZ-TV, the ABC affiliate in Detroit. (Courtesy photo)



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GRAND RAPIDS, MI - FOX 17 anchor and reporter Ann Marie LaFlamme is leaving WXMI-TV in Grand Rapids and joining WXYZ-TV in Detroit.

It's a homecoming for the native of Rochester Hills in the northern Detroit area.

It's also a leap from the No. 40 U.S. market with 724,100 TV viewing households to the No. 12 market with more than 1.8 million households.

"I'm excited to be heading home," said LaFlamme, announcing her departure on Facebook. Her final day at the Tribune Companyowned station is today.

LaFlamme's parting from WXMI-TV comes just five days after the farewell of meteorologist Jon Shaner, who left not only **FOX 17** but also TV news and meteorology.

Related: See FOX 17 meteorologist Jon Shaner's on-air farewell

LaFlamme has been at West Michigan's FOX affiliate for just two years, joining in March 2013 as a reporter.

Last May, LaFlamme was named anchor for the debut of FOX 17's News at Eleven.

LaFlamme worked alongside Mitch Fick for the news broadcast airing after FOX 17 News at Ten, which debuted in January 1999, one hour ahead of the rest West Michigan's TV stations, which aired evening news at 11 p.m.

The May 2014 debut of FOX 17 News at Eleven was accompanied by the slogan, "We changed our mind."

LaFlamme hosted the weekly FOX 17 segment, "West Michigan's Most Wanted," and also produced the weekly "Forever Home" segment featuring foster children searching for families.

FOX 17 News Director Brooks Blanton said he appreciated LaFlamme's hard work and wishes her well in the future.

"Ann Marie is a talented journalist and always worked hard to break big stories during her two years with us," Brook said. "She played a key role in launching our 'West Michigan's Most Wanted' segments, and her work alongside law enforcement agencies has resulted in several fugitives being captured over the past few months."

A 2009 graduate of Central Michigan University, LaFlamme joined WWTV/WWUP 9&10 News and WFQX FOX 32 New in Northern Michigan in August 2011.

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