

June 18, 2021



Dear friend,

June 14-20, 2021, is recognized as International Men's Health Week, and today is Wear Blue for Men's Health Day. In the U.S., Men's Health Week is celebrated as "a special awareness period recognized by Congress and the President"; it was initially created through the work of Republican Senator Bob Dole and Democratic Congressman Bill Richardson and signed by President Bill Clinton in 1994. Father's Day was chosen as the anchor to make use of the extra attention paid to male family members during this time of year. Men's Health Week provides an opportunity to educate the public about what can be done to improve the state of men's health while providing free and convenient health services to boys and men who wouldn't otherwise receive such care. Every year, thousands of awareness activities are held in the U.S. and around the globe. The theme of this year's Men's Health Week is CAN DO – Connect, (Be) Active, Notice the environment around you, Discover something new, and Offer to do something for someone else. This is a great time to evaluate our health and lifestyles and make better choices. Stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob".

In Case You Missed It

small business **SPOTLIGHT**

Sweet Corner Ice Cream is a Great Place for a Summer Treat



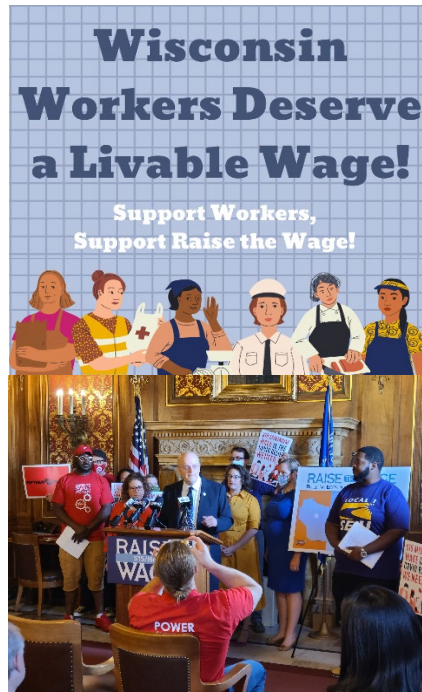
Kenosha native Dan Pavlica, owner and operator of Sweet Corner Ice Cream, had a vision for his new ice cream parlor: he wanted it to be a fun place for families to stop by for lunch or a cold treat when they were visiting the Kenosha Dream Park. Sweet Corner has become that and more. With the help of his wife, Felicia, Dan runs Sweet Corner as a family business and aims to make everyone who visits feel welcome. Now with two locations, Sweet Corner offers dozens of flavors, both traditional and unique. You can even order online ahead of time. Check out their offerings at <https://sweetcornericecream.com/>.



Joint Finance Committee Finishes Budget Work

The Legislature's Joint Finance Committee (JFC), known as the budget committee, has completed its work on the 2021-2023 state budget, meaning the budget bill now heads to the full Senate and Assembly before a final version is sent to Governor Tony Evers. The version approved by JFC is

vastly different than the budget proposed by Governor Evers back in February. Some of the major differences include: **WILL FILL IN FOLLOWING THURSDAY'S JFC**



Time to Give Wisconsin Workers a Raise

Wisconsin's minimum wage has been stuck at \$7.25 for more than a decade, while state after state has passed us by. Currently, 29 states have wage floors higher than Wisconsin's, including our neighbors in Michigan, Illinois and Minnesota. On Thursday, June 17, I was proud to stand with some of my Democratic colleagues from the Senate and Assembly to renew our push for a \$15 per hour minimum wage. An honest day's work deserves an honest day's pay. American billionaires gained a trillion dollars in wealth during the course of the Covid-19 pandemic; our workers deserve a fair share of the profits they help create. Not only does increasing the minimum wage put money into the pockets of hardworking Wisconsin families, it is spent in our local stores and restaurants, stimulating the economy. No person working full-time should live in poverty; let's give Wisconsin workers the raise they deserve.

State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7882 • (608) 267-8979

Toll-Free Office Hotline: 1-888-769-4724

Email: Sen.Wirch@legis.state.wi.us • Website: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen22/news> • Fax: (608) 267-0984
(262) 694-7379

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THE PEOPLE'S MAPS COMMISSION

Let's move our state forward with fair, impartial maps and let's do it together.

The People's Maps Commission Launches Portal to Gather Public Input

The nonpartisan People's Maps Commission (PMC), created by Governor Tony Evers to work on fair redistricting, has set up a new website, portal.wisconsin-mapping.org, that will allow Wisconsinites to submit maps of their communities, redistricting plans of their own, and written comments to guide their work and recommendations. This follows a number of virtual public hearings, taking testimony from people in all corners of the state over the last several months. The People's Maps Commission was formed in January 2020 by Governor Evers through Executive Order. PMC members are residents of Wisconsin and were selected to ensure representation from across all of Wisconsin's eight congressional districts.

Every 10 years, following the U.S. Census, district maps dictating the lines for congressional and state legislative seats are redrawn based on the population distribution or apportionment of the Census. The apportionment of people throughout the state also determines how to prioritize resources for roads and bridges, schools and healthcare systems. At least 55 of Wisconsin's 72 counties encompassing approximately 80% of Wisconsin's population have passed resolutions or referenda supporting nonpartisan redistricting. According to a Marquette Law School Poll, more than 70% of Wisconsinites prefer to have redistricting conducted by a nonpartisan commission. For more about the PMC and its work, visit wisconsin.gov/peoplesmaps.



State Department of Health Services Monitoring Covid-19 Delta Strain as a "Variant of Concern"

The Delta strain of Covid-19, which is currently fueling a Covid surge in the UK, is being tracked by the state's Department of Health Services as a "variant of concern". The Delta

variant, which was first identified in India in October 2020, is more contagious than other strains, and antibody treatments are potentially less effective. The variant may also be somewhat more resistant to vaccines, though experts still say getting vaccinated is the best way to prevent infection and slow the spread. If Delta continues to spread among unvaccinated people, it could potentially mutate into something even more vaccine-resistant, contagious and deadly.



City of Kenosha Planning Public Stakeholder Meeting on Kenosha Innovation Neighborhood

On Tuesday, June 22, from 5 to 7 pm, the City of Kenosha will hold a public meeting on the Kenosha Innovation Neighborhood project. The event will take place at the Brown Bank Building, 2222 63rd St. in Kenosha; a presentation on the plan will be made at 5:30 pm. This is the project's second public input meeting; participants will have the opportunity to learn more about the project and provide feedback on the goals and priorities that will shape the master plan. In addition, those that wish can provide feedback online; meeting boards and an online survey will be available through the city's website, <https://www.kenosha.org/>.



Racine Public Library Resumes In-Person Story Times

In-person story times are back at Racine Public Library, and they are taking them outside for the summer. Outdoor Storytime with Miss Ali will take place on the lawn, with stories, songs and lots of fun. Join them on June 23 and 30 and 5 pm. Towels will be provided. Find more details [here](#).