

September 8, 2023



Dear friends,

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Although mental health and suicide prevention are important topics year-round, Suicide Prevention Awareness Month provides a dedicated time for people, organizations and communities to join their voices and share that there is help out there and no one is alone in this. If you know someone who you feel may be at risk, reach out and let them know you care and are available. Connectedness is a critical tool in preventing suicide. This is also a good time to highlight the new Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, available by calling or texting 988. For more information, visit <https://988lifeline.org/>.

Sincerely,

Bob

small business **SPOTLIGHT**



A Summer's Garden Florist

According to their website, A Summer's Garden Florist "has been hand-delivering premium floral arrangements to help strengthen relationships, give love and support, and celebrate life's special moments." Husband and wife team Kevin and Lyna each have 30+ years' experience in the floral industry. They are committed to offering the finest arrangements, as well as a line of gourmet gifts like chocolates, treats and Kusmi Russian Blend teas. Check them out at

<https://asummarsgardenflorist.com/>.

In Case You Missed It



New RSV Vaccine Now Available, Strongly Recommended for Seniors and Newborns

Respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, is a virus that infects the lungs and respiratory tract. In most people, it causes mild, cold-like symptoms. However, it can be much more severe, particularly in infants and seniors. The CDC estimates that between 6,000 and 10,000 at-risk adults die of RSV each year, and 58,000 to 80,000 children are hospitalized annually because of the virus.

Earlier this year, the FDA authorized two RSV vaccines for use in adults 60 and up. The CDC also recommends that infants less than 8 months old receive the vaccine. Those who are pregnant are also eligible for vaccination. RSV vaccinations are available now at CVS,

Walgreens and many other pharmacies. The RSV vaccine is known to have minimal side effects. This is also a good time to remind you to get your annual flu shot and Covid-19 booster.

Some health professionals are referring to RSV, Covid and the flu as the “tripledemic”. Thankfully, we have these vaccinations which can prevent disease or minimize the severity, if you do fall ill.



As Judicial Commission Clears Protasiewicz, Vos and Republicans Continue Impeachment Talk

This week, the Wisconsin Judicial Commission dismissed without action complaints filed by Republicans against new State Supreme Court Justice Janet Protasiewicz. The complaints were made in an attempt to force Protasiewicz to recuse herself from the upcoming trial over the state's redistricting of legislative district maps. The dismissal of the complaints hasn't slowed down Republicans, though, as Assembly Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester) continues to discuss impeachment of Protasiewicz before she has even heard a single case as a Supreme Court Justice.

Protasiewicz was elected to a 10 year term in April with an 11 point victory over opponent Dan Kelly; an 11 point win in a statewide race here in Wisconsin is virtually unheard of in recent years. She was sworn in in August. Despite that fact that she just took office and has yet to hear a case, Vos and other Republicans, including Sen. Dan Knodl (R-Germantown), who chairs the Senate Committee on Elections, have increasingly mentioned impeachment if Protasiewicz doesn't recuse herself from the redistricting case. They had hoped that a Judicial Commission ruling in their favor would serve as justification for impeachment, but that is now off the table. The Commission's dismissal of the complaints doesn't seem to have slowed GOP plans, however, as impeachment talk continues. Republicans would need 50 votes in the Assembly to approve an impeachment inquiry; a trial in the Senate would require 2/3 for removal from office. The last time the Legislature impeached a sitting judge was in 1853. The state Constitution stipulates that impeachment is intended only for "corrupt conduct in office or for the commission of a crime or misdemeanor".



Work on Green Bay Road to Result in Lane Closures

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) is continuing work on Green Bay Road (WIS 31), from 75th St. (WIS 50) to 38th St. (38th St.), which began in early April. Completion is scheduled for late fall.

Beginning on Monday, September 11, and continuing through October, there will be alternating northbound and southbound overnight double lane closures, while crews work to perform joint and cracking filling and pavement marking. Access to businesses and residences will be maintained throughout the project.

For more information on the project and its progress, go to
<https://projects.511wi.gov/31kenosha/full-project-overview/>.



U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin Visits Kenosha, Racine to Highlight Investments in Community Health Center, Renewable Energy Projects

On Friday, September 1, U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin made stops in both Kenosha and Racine to highlight federal resources she has secured for local community health centers, public transportation and renewable energy. In Racine, she was joined by Mayor Cory Mason for a discussion centered on \$1.2 million in federal funding for a solar project at RYDE Racine's Transit Garage to help cut energy costs, create renewable energy and improve public transit; and \$2 million in federal funds to support the construction of a new community health center. In Kenosha, Mayor Antaramian and Senator Baldwin discussed the \$3 million in federal funds the city received to install solar panels in the new Kenosha Innovation Neighborhood.

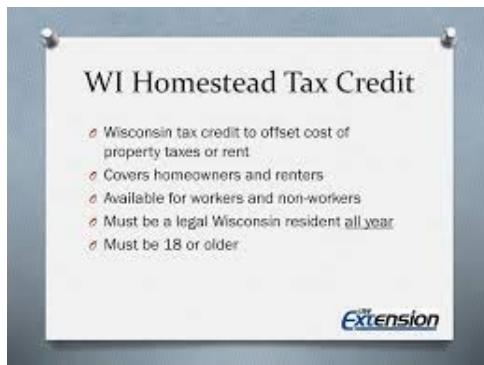


PSC Taking Public Comments on Proposed WE Energies Rate Hike

WE Energies is again seeking permission from the Public Service Commission (PSC) for rate increases to residential customers. The PSC is taking public comments on the proposal now through October 16 at

<https://apps.psc.wi.gov/ERF/ERF/comment/filecomment.aspx?util=5&case=UR&num=110>.

The PSC will also hold a public hearing on the proposal on October 9; interested parties can participate [via Zoom](#) or by phone at (312)626-6799, using Meeting ID 809 513 2930. If approved, the increased utility rate would take effect January 1, 2024.



Wirch Sponsors Legislation to Increase Wisconsin's Homestead Tax Credit

The Homestead Tax Credit is one of our most effective tools in keeping people in their homes; this is particularly true of seniors and others living on fixed incomes. In spite of this, the Republican majority in the Legislature has consistently refused to increase the value of the credit; in fact, prior to 2011, the credit was annually indexed for inflation, but Republicans eliminated that when they came into power. This session, I am sponsoring legislation to change that and provide some financial relief to those who really need it. With a major budget surplus, this is a common sense step to help some of our most vulnerable friends and neighbors stay in their homes. Currently, the Homestead Credit is available to Wisconsin adults with household incomes below \$24,680 per year; the bill would increase that limit to \$35,000 per year, making the credit available to more households. The bill is currently being circulated for co-sponsors.



Racine Diaper Ministry Holding “Stuff the Bus” Event

On Saturday, September 9, Racine-area businesses Sporty Girl Accessories and Sew ‘n Save of Racine are joining forces to host a “Stuff the Bus” diaper drive to benefit Racine Diaper Ministry. Donations of diapers and wipes will be accepted from 10 am to 3 pm in the parking lot of Sporty Girls Accessories, located at 2704 Markridge Dr., Mount Pleasant. The Racine Diaper Ministry has indicated that diapers size 4 and up are urgently needed. For those in need of diapers, the Racine Diaper Ministry is open for diaper distribution Mondays from 11 am to 1 pm at the North Pointe Methodist Church, 3825 Erie St.



Kenosha Book Festival

The next Kenosha Book Festival event is coming up, on Sunday, September 24, from 10 am to pm at Studio Moonfall, 5031 7th Avenue in Kenosha. The Kenosha Book Festival is free to attend and features a host of local authors from different genres. It also includes a number of local food vendors and used books for just \$1.