



## ROBERT W. WIRCH

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT

November 6, 2020



Dear friend,

The weather might not feel like it right now, but we are firmly entrenched in fall. Halloween and Daylight Saving Time are over; some votes are still being counted, but the elections are behind us; and the leaves are showing us their colors. Veterans Day approaches, and it's a time to reflect on and be thankful for the sacrifices of veterans and their families. We've had another sad and frustrating week on the Covid-19 front; I bring attention to a couple of programs meant to help families save on energy bills this winter; and Governor Evers is offering assistance to nonprofit organizations providing pandemic services. Have a great week. Stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

*Bob*

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## In Case You Missed It



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### *Racine's Plush Clothing Offers Trendy Clothes at Reasonable Prices*

*Plush Clothing*

With its new storefront location at 409 Main Street in Racine, Plush Clothing offers something for women of all shapes and sizes looking for fashionable items at a fair price. Owner Yolanda West has also made creative use of social media, hosting “Plush Shopping Hours” on the store’s Facebook page, allowing potential customers to view, and potentially buy, some of the store’s inventory from the comfort of home. With the holiday season coming up, they also have a number of great gift options.

Check out Plush Clothing online, <https://plushclothingstore.com/>, or on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/plushclothingstore/>.



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### Wisconsin's Weatherization Program



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF  
ADMINISTRATION



homeenergy+

## *Programs Available to Help Homeowners Winter-Proof Their Homes, Save on Energy Costs*

We are currently experiencing mild, comfortable temperatures, but cold weather will be here soon enough. That means more energy to heat your homes and higher energy bills. Well, there are a couple of programs to help families make home improvements that will better keep in heat, keep out cold and lower energy use and heating bills. The Wisconsin Division of Energy, Housing and Community Resources contracts with various agencies throughout the state, including the Racine Kenosha Community Action Agency (RKCAA) in our area, to administer the Weatherization Assistance Program. Eligible households will have an “energy auditor” look at their homes to see what can be done to make it more energy efficient. Weatherization services differ from home to home; some common weatherization services include: insulate attics, walls and floors; insulate or replace water heater; install energy efficient lighting; reduce air leakage; repair or replace furnaces; test and/or replace refrigerators; perform general health and safety inspections; and provide information about maintenance and energy conservation. In order to qualify, you must meet certain requirements: 1) You have either received benefits from Wisconsin’s Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) or your gross income for the last month is equal to or less than 60% of Wisconsin’s state median income for your family size (\$4,788.67 per month for a family of four); 2) Your dwelling/apartment has not been weatherized before; 3) Your household meets certain priorities that may include a high energy burden or use, elderly or disabled member, or a child under six. Find out more about the Weatherization

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Assistance Program at <http://homeenergyplus.wi.gov/> or <https://www.rkcaa.org/housing/weatherization> or call the RKCAA at (262)898-8039.

Additionally, WE Energies offers a FREE Energy Saving Kit to customers. They will send plastic that will cover 5 to 6 windows, caulking and a few other items free of charge. If you are interested, or know anyone who can use help with their heating bills, the number to call is 1-800-242-9137, option 0 to speak to a representative and request a free kit.



### ***Increased Covid Testing Options***

While the state Department of Health Services cites “Very High Covid Activity” in **all 72 counties**, there are currently an increased number of options locally for anyone looking to get tested. Your primary health care provider is always an option, but there are many community testing sites available, as well.

**National Guard Drive-through testing in Kenosha:** The Wisconsin National Guard will be conducting free, drive-through testing from 10 am to 6 pm each Monday from October 12 - Dec. 7 at both the Kenosha County Job Center, 8600 Sheridan Rd, Kenosha, and the Kenosha County Center at Highways 45 and 50 in Bristol (no testing at Bristol site on Nov. 27). No appointments are necessary, and symptoms are not required in order to get tested. Testing is open to any person who lives or works in Wisconsin and is age 5 or above. Online pre-registration is recommended at <https://register.covidconnect.wi.gov>.

**National Guard Drive-through testing in Racine:** Each Tuesday and Wednesday from now until December 9 (excluding November 11), from 10 am - 6 pm at the Central Racine County Health Department, 10005 Northwestern Ave., Franksville, and on Thursdays from November 4 through Dec. 10 (excluding Nov. 26), at the Cesar Chavez Community Center, 2221 Douglas Ave., Racine. No appointments necessary, and symptoms are not required. Testing is open to any person who lives or works in Wisconsin and is age 5 or above. Online pre-registration is recommended at <https://register.covidconnect.wi.gov>.

**Modern Apothecary:** Each Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday through at least Nov. 15, the locally-owned independent pharmacy will host drive-through testing in the parking lot south of the Simmons Island Beach House, 5001 Fourth Ave., in Kenosha. Hours are from 2-6 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays and 9 am - 1 pm on Saturdays. Testing is free of charge; [pre-registration](#) and an [appointment](#) are strongly encouraged.

**Advocate Aurora:** Drive-thru testing at both the Kenosha and Burlington locations for community members exhibiting at least one symptom of Covid-19; advance registration is required at [aah.org/testing](http://aah.org/testing) or by phone at 877-819-5034



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**CVS Pharmacy:** Drive-through testing available at CVS in Kenosha (3710 57th Ave.) and Racine (3915 Durand Ave.); advance registration required at <https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing>

**Froedert South:** Drive-through testing is available to those who qualify after completing an initial phone evaluation at (262)671-7777 between 8 am and 4:30 pm Monday-Friday

**Kenosha Community Medical Center/Gateway Kenosha Campus:** A drive-through testing site is open to those who complete a quick registration process at (262)925-1325

**Ascension:** Offering testing by appointment, (833)981-0711 or [choose.ascension.org/onlinecare](https://choose.ascension.org/onlinecare)

To find other testing sites in the state, visit

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/community-testing.htm>.



### ***In Radio Address, Governor Evers Urges Wisconsinites to Stay Home, Take Precautions to Protect their Families and Neighbors***

It's been overshadowed by election news, but this week our state continued to break grim records, as we are recording nearly 6,000 new Covid-19 cases a day and hospitalization, and deaths, continue to accumulate. Governor Evers and Health Secretary Andrea Palm could not be more firm or clear: people need to stay home as much as possible, and wear a mask when you must go out. Sadly, many people haven't taken Covid seriously. Some even thought it was a "hoax" intended to hurt Donald Trump that would go away on November 4. Here we are, November 6, and Covid is more real than ever.

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## ***Governor Evers Announces CARES Act Funds for Nonprofits Offering Services During Pandemic***

With the Covid-19 pandemic causing an increased demand for services from many nonprofit organizations, while also making it harder to raise money, Governor Evers is allocating \$10 million in CARES Act funds to state nonprofits offering critical services related to the pandemic.

The Covid-19 Pandemic Response Nonprofit Grant Program will provide grant funding for services in the areas of health care, housing and shelter, adult education, or other services connected to the pandemic. The program will be administered by the state Department of Administration, and applications are being accepted now through November 9 at 2 pm. Find out more and apply at <https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/COVIDNonprofitGrant.aspx>.