



## **ROBERT W. WIRCH**

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT

**January 22, 2021**



Dear friend,

**This week we witnessed one of the great traditions in our country, the peaceful transition of power from one Presidential administration to another. With the deep division and heated rhetoric we are currently experiencing, it was heartening to see leaders from both parties, including Republican Congressional leadership and former Republican President George W. Bush, gather to observe and celebrate the swearing-in of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris. No matter your political ideology, it was a day we should all be proud of as Americans. In other news, big things are happening on the vaccination front. While we still have a very limited supply of Covid-19 vaccinations available, and everyone will need to be patient as the process continues to unfold, the next tier of eligible groups was announced, and many counties, including Kenosha and Racine, are allowing people in certain groups to register for updates on vaccination availability. It is still likely to be several months until the vaccine is available to the general public, but there is reason to be optimistic. Until then, continue to mask up and stay home when you can. Stay safe and healthy.**

Sincerely,

*Bob*

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## In Case You Missed It

# small business **SPOTLIGHT**



### ***Kenosha Icon Oliver's Bakery, Hit by Pandemic, Still Serving Up Unbeatable Cakes, Breads***



3526 Roosevelt Rd, Kenosha, WI 53142 (262) 652-3984

Like many small businesses, Oliver's Bakery has seen a drop in revenue during the Covid-19 pandemic. Unlike many small businesses, Oliver's has decades in business, a legendary reputation and a loyal following, so that when the call went out for help, customers flocked to the bakery and cleaned out their cases. You only earn that type of devotion with a top-notch product and can't-beat customer service, and that's what you get at Oliver's. For seventy years, Oliver's has lived up to its motto, "Being sweet to you is our business!", in every sense. From their day-to-day fare to their custom cakes, Oliver's has a sweet treat for every occasion, served with a smile. Give Oliver's a call (262-652-3984) or visit (3526 Roosevelt Rd. in Kenosha) for the next birthday or anniversary or just to satisfy your sweet tooth.

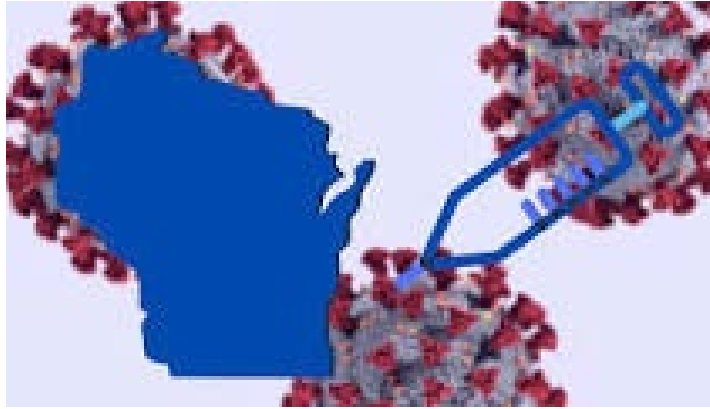
<https://oliversbakery.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Olivers-Bakery-508051982562143/>



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### *All the Latest Covid Vaccine News*

When it comes to distribution of the Covid-19 vaccine, a mix of thoughts and emotions - hope, confusion, relief and frustration - are being felt. Here I will try to provide the clearest, most honest and up-to-date information on vaccine distribution. Up until now, Wisconsin has been on Phase 1a of its distribution plan. This means that frontline healthcare workers and residents and staff of skilled nursing facilities have been rolling up their sleeves to get their first (and in some cases second) doses, as well as some law enforcement and fire personnel. Earlier this week, the state announced that those ages 65 and up will now be eligible. Vaccinations are being conducted regionally, and some regions have completed their 1a populations, allowing seniors to get the vaccine as early as this week. The state panel that determines priority has recommended that Phase 1b include seniors, teachers, grocery store workers, prisoners, public transit workers. While this is good news, it's important to keep in mind that currently the state of Wisconsin is receiving just 70,000 doses of vaccine per week from the federal government, and that isn't expected to change for at least a few more weeks. Projects for general public availability are still in the late-spring to early-summer range. The state's Department of Health Services has established a weekly newsletter for those wanting to find out the latest news; you can sign up at [https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIDHS/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=WIDHS\\_578](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIDHS/subscriber/new?topic_id=WIDHS_578). A number of counties have set up registration systems, providing members of certain groups a sort-of "pre-registration" for vaccination. In Kenosha County, registration is open to any individual or group in tier 1a or 1b and can be found at <https://www.kenoshacounty.org/FormCenter/Health-10/COVID19-Registration-for-Organizations-t-72>. Currently, Racine County's system is only available to tier 1a and those 65 and older; it can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VaccineContactList>. President Biden has set a goal of 100 million nationwide vaccinations over his first 100 days in office; this would mean a slight increase in Wisconsin's allocation, but that is still at least several weeks away. For anyone looking for information on when they will be eligible to schedule an appointment, contact your physician and keep an eye out for messages through MyChart.

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## ***Biden, Harris Sworn in, Hit the Ground Running***

President Biden and Vice President Harris, after being sworn into their respective offices on Wednesday, wasted no time putting policies in place to help the nation's working families hurt by Covid-19. Among the actions that were taken on Day One, President Biden signed Executive Orders extending the current pause on federal student loan payments and interest accrual through the end of September and keeping in place a federal moratorium on evictions through the end of March. Experts had warned about a coming landslide of evictions if the moratorium was allowed to expire at the end of January as planned. Biden has also stated that his top legislative priority is a more comprehensive Covid relief package, including \$1,400 in direct cash payments to individuals, a \$15 per hour minimum wage, and an increase and extension of supplemental federal unemployment benefits. Vice President Harris also went straight to work on her first day in office, presiding over the Senate and administering the oath of office to three new United States Senators.



## ***Local Covid Testing Options***

There are a 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.

**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:** A drive-through testing site at the former Chase Bank, 5506 Seventh Ave., is open to patients who complete a quick registration process at



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<https://www.kenoshachc.org/covid-19-resource-center/>. Testing is conducted Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 am to 4 pm.

**Old Kenosha Fire Station No. 3:** Free, drive-through testing will be offered during the following hours at the former No. 3 Fire Station, 2121 Roosevelt Rd., Kenosha: Tuesdays, 2-6 pm; Thursdays, 2-6 pm; Saturdays, 9 am - 1 pm. This testing is being offered in a partnership between locally-owned Modern Apothecary, the Wisconsin DHS, and the Kenosha Fire Department. An appointment and preregistration is strongly encouraged, with appointment times available at <https://modernapothecary.10to8.com> and registration available at <https://register.covidconnect.wi.gov>. Anyone who lives or works in Wisconsin, ages 5 and over, can be tested.

**Festival Hall in Racine:** Each Thursday, January 7 - March 4, from 9 am to 5 pm, at Festival Hall, 5 Fifth St., Racine. Pre-registration at <https://register.covidconnect.wi.gov> is encouraged.

To find other testing sites in the state, visit

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

UW System schools statewide, including Parkside, have been provided with a limited number of rapid-result Covid-19 tests. These tests provide results in 15-30 minutes. The tests are free of charge and available to the public, and you don't have to have symptoms to get a test. A positive rapid test will need to be confirmed with the regular Covid-19 test but will provide you some guidance on whether or not you need to quarantine during that period. Registration at <https://www.doineedacovid19test.com> is required. The tests are administered in De Simone Gym in the SAC on the Parkside campus Monday-Thursday, 9 am - 5 pm, and Friday, 9 am - 1 pm. Testing is expected to last at least several weeks.

<https://www.uwp.edu/explore/news/surge-testing.cfm>



## *City of Racine Launches Mortgage Assistance Program for Those Impacted by Pandemic*

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Using remaining federal CARES Act funds, the City of Racine has started a new program to help those behind on mortgage or utility payments as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Called the Racine Covid-19 Mortgage Assistance Program (RACMAP), the program has \$520,000 available to eligible homeowners. To qualify, a property must be occupied by its owner, have between one and four separate units, be secured by a mortgage and located in the City of Racine. The homeowner must be able to prove that he/she experienced a loss of income due to the pandemic after March 1, 2020. The homeowner can not have an income exceeding 80% of the area median income, which is currently \$43,050 for a household of one; \$49,200 for a family of two; \$55,350 for a family of three; \$61,500 for a family of four; or \$66,450 for a family of five. Mortgage payments must be at least 30 days late at the time of application. Housing Resources, Inc. and Legal Action of Wisconsin will assist with processing applications and disbursing funds. The application period runs through June 18, 2021, but funds will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications and more information can be found at [hri-wi.org/mortgage-assistance](http://hri-wi.org/mortgage-assistance). You can also call the Mortgage Help Line at (262)222-6688.



## ***State Revenue Secretary Barca Announces Expanded Customer Service Hours During Busiest Days of Tax Season***

With April 15 not far off, State Department of Revenue Secretary (and Kenosha's own) Peter Barca has announced that the Department's customer service hours will be expanded by one hour and fifteen minutes per day on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the last two weeks of January and the first two weeks of April. On those days, the customer service staff will be available between 7:45 am and 5:45 pm at (608)266-2486 for individuals and (608)266-2776 for businesses. Normal business hours, Monday through Friday, are 7:45 am to 4:30 pm. Find more information, including a tax FAQ, at <https://www.revenue.wi.gov/Pages/home.aspx>.





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### ***The People's Maps Commission Seeking Public Comment***

On Thursday, January 28, the People's Maps Commission will hold the next in its series of listening sessions, this one held in and focusing on Wisconsin's 7th Congressional District. However, the session is open to the public statewide, and Wisconsin residents from any Congressional District are encouraged to watch and submit comments. The event will begin at 5:30 pm. The deadline for registering to comment is Tuesday, January 26, at 5 pm; registration can be completed [here](#). If you are unable to participate in this hearing but still wish to submit comments, you can do so [here](#). These comments will be reviewed by Commission members.

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