



## ROBERT W. WIRCH

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT

April 16, 2021



Dear friend,

**You don't have to be a baseball fan to recognize the huge impact that Jackie Robinson had on our country; his legacy transcends sports. He broke down racial barriers by becoming the first Black Major League Baseball player, enduring racist taunts, physical and verbal harassment and death threats while holding his head high and becoming one of the best players of his generation. It's not hyperbole to say that without Jackie Robinson stepping up to the plate on that April day in 1947, there may not have been a Civil Rights Act of 1964, a Voting Rights Act of 1965, a President Barack Obama or a Vice President Kamala Harris. On the anniversary of this groundbreaking day, we honor the progress that's been made and acknowledge how far we have yet to go. Stay safe, and stay healthy.**

Sincerely,

*Bob*

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## In Case You Missed It

# small business **SPOTLIGHT**



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*To & From Has a Gift for Every Occasion*



Going to a birthday party, baby shower, graduation or other event and looking for a gift that's a little "outside the box"? To & From Gift Shop has got you covered. Since 2019, owner Samantha Unrath has prided herself on her store's unique, eclectic merchandise, like gifts, greeting cards, household items, apparel and more. Quickly becoming a local favorite, To & From is a "Best of Kenosha County" Award winner. They are currently open for in-person and online shopping. Find out more on their Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/toandfromgiftshop/>, and their website, <https://toandfromgiftshop.com/>.



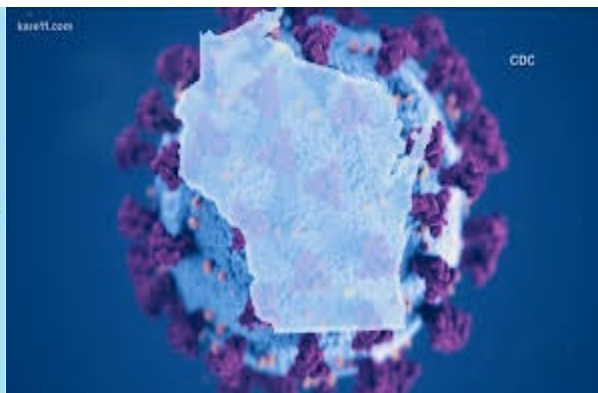
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### ***In Spite of Republican Obstruction, Governor Evers is Able to Rescue State Access to Federal Food Aid***

In a big win for the people of Wisconsin, the Evers administration this week announced a deal with the federal government that allows the state to continue receiving between \$50 and \$70 million per month in federal food aid for low-income families. The aid money was put at risk, first by Republican attempts to strip Governor Evers of his powers to address the Covid-19 pandemic and then by the state Supreme Court striking down the Governor's emergency order and mask requirement. The additional federal aid was made available to states that have an existing emergency order regarding Covid-19. Republican leaders in the Legislature could have passed legislation authorizing a new emergency order by the Governor, thereby securing the enhanced federal funds, but they refused to do so. Governor Evers and DHS Secretary Karen Timberlake put the petty partisanship aside and, acting for the good of our state, convinced the federal government to accept a pared-back emergency declaration issued by Sec. Timberlake. This means that 400,000 Wisconsin families won't see their food aid drastically cut as a result of GOP game-playing. Thank you to Governor Evers and Secretary Timberlake for being the "adults in the room" and getting things done.



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## ***Covid Cases and Hospitalizations Continue Upward Trend, Fueled by New Variants***

Wisconsin's average daily number of new Covid infections, as well as hospitalizations, continues to trend upward this week, following recent surges by our neighboring states. It's an ongoing reminder that, even for those who are fully vaccinated, now is not the time to let up on precautionary measures. In other news, the CDC and FDA announced a "pause" on the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine after 6 women, out of the 6.8 million doses given, reported a rare blood clotting disorder. Officials stress that this is just a "pause" and are hopeful that it will be short-lived. Unfortunately, that means that some people who had appointments scheduled may be pushed back a little further. It's important to note that in many parts of the state, supply has begun to exceed demand, so appointments are easy to come by. We are nearing a critical point where all of those eager to get the vaccination have done so, but that isn't enough for us to reach herd immunity. If you haven't been vaccinated yet, roll up your sleeve. If you have, share your success story with those around you who might be a little hesitant. We can get there; it's so close.

Kenosha County operates a Covid-19 Vaccine Call Center. The call center is open to people who don't have access to schedule a vaccination appointment online. These people can call (262)605-6799 to speak with someone who will walk them through the appointment process, if they are eligible. The online list of Kenosha County Covid vaccine providers is still available, at <http://bit.ly/KCCCOVIDHub>, as well. The new Kenosha County Covid Vaccination Clinic site, located inside the former Shopko at 5300 52nd St., is now operational. You can use the above link to find appointment times.

Kenosha County Public Health will hold a Covid-19 community vaccination clinic this Saturday, April 17, at Westosha Central High School in Paddock Lake. It is open to people who live, work or study in Kenosha County. Appointments are recommended. More details are available at <http://ow.ly/LVgl50EmqSD>.

The Grace Welcome Center in Kenosha, 2006 60th St., will be hosting a Kenosha County Health Department vaccination clinic on April 13, 20 and 27 and May 4, from 2:00 - 5:30 pm. No appointments are necessary.

People in Racine can sign up for email updates on vaccination progress at <https://crchd.com/covid-19-vaccine>. A list of Racine area vaccination providers is available at <https://crchd.com/covid-19-vaccine#Locations>. Festival Hall has been opened up as a vaccination clinic site. Use the first link to receive information on vaccination appointment availability.







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### ***FEMA Helping with Funeral Costs for Those Lost to Covid***

Families who have lost loved ones to Covid-19 can now get help with funeral expenses from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Qualified applicants can receive up to \$9,000 to help offset funeral costs, including the burial plot, casket, clergy services, cremation, transfer of remains and headstone. To be eligible, the death must have occurred in the United States; the death certificate must indicate death was attributed to Covid-19; and the person applying must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after January 20, 2020. Applicants are encouraged to compile as much documentation as possible; funeral costs that were paid by burial or funeral insurance, financial assistance from voluntary agencies, government agencies or other sources are not eligible under this program. The application opened up on April 12, and the program was flooded with inquiries, so please be patient. Those interested can call **844-684-6333** or go to <https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance> to apply or for more information.



### ***Constituent Lobby Days Continue, a Little Differently, in the Age of Covid***

Clearly, the picture above is from a much different time. This was taken in my Capitol office a couple of years back when a group of local pharmacy students paid me a visit to discuss issues important to

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them as students and as future pharmacists. Back then, it wasn't out of the ordinary to have a large group like this gathered in my office, advocating for a bill or presenting a new idea. Big group meetings like this aren't happening today, but I'm still maintaining a schedule of constituent and group meetings to hear from the people who sent me to Madison to represent them; now, though, we are doing it virtually. The early months of a budget year are always a busy time for what are known as "Lobby Days", and this year is no different. Just in the last few weeks, my staff and I have met (virtually) with social work students; Kenosha's Congregations United to Serve Humanity (CUSH); literacy advocates; local library staff; a college student working on a school project; folks from the Racine County Human Services Department; a group of local realtors; and more. These meetings are a great way to stay in touch with the people I represent and to hear how the legislation being debated in the Capitol impacts people in the real world. I look forward to, one day, resuming in-person meetings, but for now, virtual is the next best thing.



**Educators**  
CREDIT UNION™

## ***Mount Pleasant's Educators Credit Union Receives Governor's Financial Literacy Award***

This week, Governor Tony Evers honored eight individuals and five organizations with 2020 Governor's Financial Literacy Awards in a virtual ceremony. Recipients were honored for their efforts in helping Wisconsinites build their financial literacy and capability skills. Among the honorees, receiving a Legacy Award, was Mount Pleasant's Educators Credit Union. According to a statement announcing the awards, Legacy Awards are given "to an organization, business or individual whose purpose and heritage is ingrained in sustained financial literacy and capability efforts". This lifetime recognition is meant to be conferred only once to a recipient. Congratulations to everyone at Educators Credit Union, and thanks for all you have done and continue to do to improve financial literacy.

**BADGER**

**BOUNCEBACK**

**LIVE SESSIONS**

## ***Budget News and Details, Including Listening Sessions***

To read a detailed and in-depth analysis of Governor Evers' budget proposal, you can visit the Department of Administration's Executive Budget page, <https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/2021-23%20Executive%20Budget.aspx>. You can also find a nonpartisan analysis of the Governor's budget proposal by the Legislative Reference Bureau at



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[https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lrb/010\\_2021\\_budget\\_bill\\_analysis.pdf](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lrb/010_2021_budget_bill_analysis.pdf). **Governor Evers still has one listening session remaining: Climate Change & our Environment on April 21.** You can find instructions for registration [here](#).

The Legislature's Joint Finance Committee will be holding three more public hearings on the budget; two of those will be held in person, in different parts of the state, and one will be virtual, allowing for participation from all parts of Wisconsin. You can find the locations, dates and times, and more [here](#).



## *Questions About Your Federal Stimulus Payments?*

If you have questions about the latest round of federal stimulus or have reason to believe that your check was misdirected or lost in the mail, contact Congressman Bryan Steil. His staff is best positioned to offer assistance. Congressman Steil's Kenosha office can be reached at (262)654-1901, and his Racine office number is (262)637-0510.



## *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.

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

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>