



## ROBERT W. WIRCH

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT

April 23, 2021



Dear friend,

While our society has come a long way in terms of acceptance of and rights for the LGBTQ community, we still have a long way to go. While younger generations tend to be far more open-minded, LGBTQ students are still frequent victims of bullying, whether physical or verbal. Any type of bullying is capable of inflicting long-term damage, and that's one reason that members of the LGBTQ community report mental health issues at much higher rates than the general public, including self harm and suicide. In the mid-90s, two college students started the Day of Silence, which has expanded and become an annual event. Each April, students go through the school day without speaking, ending the day with Breaking the Silence rallies and events to share their experiences and bring attention to ways their schools and communities can become more inclusive. This year's Day of Silence is today, April 23. Let's all do what we can to honor and support any young people taking part. As always, stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

*Bob*

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](mailto: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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## In Case You Missed It

# small business **SPOTLIGHT**



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### *Pivoting to “To-Go” Help Olde Madrid Survive Covid Pandemic*



For nearly 15 years, Manny and Natalie Salinas have served up Spanish-style tapas to enthusiastic crowds at their Racine fine-dining restaurant, Olde Madrid. When Covid-19 hit, like many business owners, they didn't know what to do or what the future held. A quick pivot, adapting their business model to support more to-go food turned out to be just the ticket. Before long, demand soared for their seafood gumbo and beef stew, among other favorites. The couple even offered delivery for a time; delivery is still available through apps GrubHub and DoorDash. With in-person dining beginning to come back, the owners of the multiple-Best Restaurant in Racine Award winner are hoping to see some familiar faces return to their dining room but are more than ready to serve up take-home tapas.

<http://oldemadrid.com/>

418 6th St.  
Racine WI 53403  
(262)619-0940



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### *In Wake of Derek Chauvin Verdict, Governor Evers, Legislative Task Force Again Call for Police Reform*

On Tuesday, a jury in Minneapolis found former police officer Derek Chauvin guilty of all charges in the death of George Floyd. The case has been a tipping point, convincing many of the need for some type of police reform. Following the verdict, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers ordered the Wisconsin State Patrol, State Capitol Police and other state law enforcement agencies under his authority to update their “use of force” policies to prohibit chokeholds and other deadly force, unless as a last resort; the executive order also requires that de-escalation tactics be used and that officers intervene to prevent or stop excessive force by another officer. Finally, the order provides “whistleblower protections” for officers who witness an inappropriate use of force and report it or attempt to intervene.

Evers and Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes had previously called a special session of the Legislature to address police reform, which was ignored by Republican leadership. He has also included several policing reform measures in his state budget proposal. Meanwhile, the Legislature’s Task Force on Racial Disparities released a report containing 18 recommendations to address policing practices statewide, which are expected to be introduced as legislation in the coming weeks. These include: establishing a statewide standard for excessive use of force; making law enforcement agencies’ use of force policies available online; standardizing the reporting of use of force incidents to the state; and requiring an officer to intervene in instances where another officer uses force and report it to superiors.

You can read more at <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/wisconsin/articles/2021-04-21/wisconsin-racial-justice-task-force-issues-recommendations>.



## ***Experts Fear a Wall is Near; Encourage Your Friends and Loved Ones to Get Vaccinated***

Wisconsin's daily number of new Covid cases remains far too high, and the number of hospitalizations has been on an upswing. This is particularly puzzling as many of the new infections are coming in children and younger people. Health experts worry that we will hit a wall in the next week or two, where all of those who were eager to get vaccinated have done so, and supply begins to outpace demand. We are not anywhere near herd immunity, and this will be the hard part, as we have to seek out those who are on the fence and convince them to be vaccinated. That's the only way we will be this.

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.

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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## ***City of Kenosha to Hold Informational Session on Innovation Neighborhood Project***

The City of Kenosha is seeking public input on the proposed Kenosha Innovation Neighborhood. An informational hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 4, from 5 to 8 pm at the former Brown Bank building, 2222 63rd St.; a brief presentation will begin at 6 pm. The City is developing a master plan for the project, which encompasses the 107-acre former Chrysler site.

People who can't make the in-person meeting can offer their input online at

**<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6287550/Kenosha-Innovation-Neighborhood-Visioning>** by May 21.



## ***Announcing the CLEAR Act on Earth Day 2021***

Thursday, April 22 marked the 51st annual Earth Day, recognized around the world to pledge support for environmental protections. The theme for this year's Earth Day was "Restore Our Earth". The first Earth Day, in 1970, was triggered by the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill and other issues like smog and polluted rivers. It sprang out of an idea by Wisconsin's own Senator (and former Governor) Gaylord Nelson; on that day, 20 million people took to the streets to protest environmental degradation. It's very fitting that on this year's Earth Day, Governor Evers joined with several of my Democratic colleagues in the Legislature and me in announcing reintroduction of the CLEAR Act, a bill to address PFAS (also known as "forever chemicals") contamination across the state. PFAS are human-made chemicals used for decades in multiple products like non-stick cookware, fast-food wrappers and some

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(262) 694-7379

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fire-fighting foams. The chemicals don't break down easily and have been detected in humans, wildlife and fish, and in the groundwater, surface water, soil and air. The CLEAR Act includes funding for new DNR positions to implement a PFAS action plan; creation of a PFAS municipal grant program for testing and remediation; collection and disposition of PFAS-contaminated fire fighting foam; statewide monitoring and testing initiatives; and more. You can read about the CLEAR Act at <https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/politics/2021/04/21/pfas-wisconsin-lawmakers-announce-bill-combat-forever-chemicals/7319229002/>.



## ***RUSD Announces High School Graduation Dates, Locations and Times***

The Racine Unified School District has announced details for its upcoming high school graduations. Each graduate will be allowed two guests. Graduations for Horlick, Case and Park will be held outdoors at Hammes Field on June 3, 4 and 5, respectively. You can find more information at <https://racinecountyeve.com/rusd-announces-high-school-graduation-sites-dates/>.



## ***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 [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 has completed all of his virtual listening sessions, and the Joint Finance Committee has wrapped up their three in-person hearings. JFC will be holding a virtual budget hearing on April 28. You can find the time and registration information [here](#).



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### *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.

**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.

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>