



● **ROBERT W. WIRCH**

STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT

**May 7, 2021**



Dear friend,

May is recognized as Mental Health Awareness Month, and the theme this year is, “You are Not Alone”. The theme is more appropriate and important after the events of the last year than ever before. We’ve all felt lonely and isolated at times, and that can create new mental health problems and exacerbate those that already exist. One of the most important messages to convey to someone dealing with a major mental health crisis or just trying to cope with the stresses of everyday life is “It’s okay to not be okay”. Life can be hard. Acknowledging our struggles is an important part of healing. This month, make it a goal to check in on a friend who might be struggling and let them know that they are not alone. Stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

*Bob*

## In Case You Missed It



### *State, Federal Resources Aim to Get Small Businesses, Particularly Restaurants, Back on Track*



Two new resources have become available in recent weeks to help small business and restaurant owners struggling to rebound from the effects of the Covid pandemic. Governor Tony Evers has made \$420 million of the state's federal Covid fund appropriations for grants to small businesses impacted by Covid through the new Wisconsin Tomorrow Small Business Recovery Grant program. The plan could potentially help 84,000 Wisconsin small businesses with an annual gross revenue between \$10,000 and \$7 million. Eligible businesses can receive grants in the amount of \$5,000. The state is currently collaborating with the federal government on details of the plan, but more information is available [here](#).

Meanwhile, the federal Restaurant Revitalization Fund, a new \$28.6 billion federal aid program, has begun taking applications. The Small Business Administration is running the program; the application period opened on May 3, and for the first 21 days, the SBA will approve claims exclusively from businesses that are majority-owned by people who fall into one of the priority groups designated by Congress: women, veterans and individuals who qualify as both socially and economically disadvantaged. This last group includes those who meet certain income and asset limits and are Black, Hispanic, Native American, Asian-Pacific American or South Asian American, according to the SBA. The fund offers grants of up to \$10 million. While the funds are expected to be exhausted quickly, it is possible that Congress will appropriate additional money for the program. Find more information [here](#).



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***Legislative GOP Begins Budget Action by Cutting  
Hundreds of Items from Badger Bounceback Budget,  
Creating \$3.4 Billion Budget Hole***

The Republican-controlled Joint Finance Committee's work on the 2021-2023 state budget got off to a rocky start on Thursday, as the committee approved by party-line vote the removal of more than 380 items from Governor Tony Evers' Badger Bounceback Budget. Many of these items, such as Medicaid expansion, a fair redistricting process, legalization of medical marijuana, automatic voter registration, elimination of the "dark store" loophole, and increasing the state's minimum wage, have tremendous public support and have been attempted through standalone legislation multiple times, only to be blocked by Republicans. Elimination of these items from the budget created a \$3.4 billion hole that will need to be filled somehow before a final version of the budget can be passed. You can view a full list of the removed items [here](#) and read more about the budget action [here](#).

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## ***State COVID Cases Plateau at High Level, Hospitalizations and Deaths Still Too High; State DHS Offering Help with Workplace Vaccination Clinics***

Supply of the Covid-19 vaccine is outnumbering demand. The goal of an 80% vaccination rate is still far off, but it looks like teenagers will be added to the vaccine pool very soon. To make vaccination as convenient as possible, the state Department of Health Services has announced a vaccinator matching program to help employers and community groups set up vaccine clinics on-site.

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/KCCOVIDHub>, 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.

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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## ***Federal Judges Strikes Down Nationwide Eviction Moratorium***

On Wednesday, a federal judge ruled that the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention does not have the authority to issue an eviction moratorium order, thereby vacating the nationwide moratorium that had been put in place by the Trump administration and extended under the Biden administration. The Justice Department has filed an appeal and asked for a stay on the ruling, pending the appeal. Meanwhile, anyone behind on their rent due to Covid should seek out rental assistance through the [Racine Kenosha Community Action Agency](#).



## ***Kenosha HarborMarket Opens Summer Season Saturday***

The Kenosha HarborMarket opens on Saturday after a Covid-influenced 2020. This year marks the 19th year of the HarborMarket. Last year, the late, great Ray Forgianni, then the HarborMarket President, called it “HarborMarket Lite”, as the offerings were limited and the season was shortened by Covid. Sadly, we lost Ray to Covid in September. His daughter, Andrea, has taken up the mantle, and has announced the return of live music, benches and tables for outdoor dining, visits by the BookMobile, and booths for non-profit organizations, which were deemed “non-essential” last year.

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# BADGER BOUNCEBACK

## LIVE SESSIONS

### *Budget News and Details*

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) and follow Joint Finance Committee action on the budget at <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2021/committees/joint/2293>.



### *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 <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



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<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>