

June 11, 2021



Dear friend,

In addition to June being known as Dairy Month, it is also recognized nationally as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Awareness Month. While awareness of and sensitivity toward PTSD has definitely increased, it is still often misunderstood, and it often goes unreported and untreated. PTSD is often associated with the military, and military action can certainly cause the disorder, but you don't have to have gone through war to have suffered trauma. Many aspects of the last year, for example, have been traumatic – so much death, illness, upheaval, uncertainty. PTSD is certainly treatable, but it has to be acknowledged in order to be dealt with. That's why this month is so important. If you are suffering, don't be afraid or ashamed to ask for help. If you think a friend or loved one needs help, reach out. Help is out there.

Sincerely,

Bob

In Case You Missed It



Racine's Blue Bear Serves Up Locally-Sourced Breakfast, Brunch, Lunch and Dinner



All-natural, organic and locally-sourced ingredients are the stars of the show at the Blue Bear, 2920 Taylor Avenue in Racine. Everything on their breakfast/brunch/lunch/dinner menus is made from scratch and free from hormones, antibiotics and genetically-modified organisms (GMOs); they also have gluten-free options. While the food is good for you, this is not your basic boring, bland “health food”. The portions are large, and the items are flavorful and delicious. Find their menu and hours on their [website](#) or [Facebook](#).



Republican-Controlled Joint Finance Committee Cuts \$10 Million Funding for Kenosha Innovation Project

In a surprising move, just hours after receiving news that the state is projected to take in \$4.4 billion more than expected over the next biennium, the Republican-controlled Joint Finance Committee voted along party lines on a motion that eliminates \$10 million in state funding, proposed by Governor Tony Evers, for the Kenosha Innovation project. No reason was given for axing the project funding. It is possible, though not likely, that the project will be funded later in the budget process. You can read more about it, including my comments and those of other local leaders, [here](#).



Republican Refusal to Fully Fund K-12 Education Puts \$2.3 Billion in Federal Money at Risk, Nearly a Billion More Than Originally Believed

On May 27, after Republicans on the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) voted to virtually gut Governor Evers' K-12 budget proposal, there was concern that their underfunding of education would cost state school districts \$1.5 billion in federal Covid relief funding. That's because a condition of receiving the funds, allocated as part of federal Covid relief legislation in 2020 and 2021, requires states to fund K-12 education at the same levels relative to overall spending as they had on average the previous three fiscal years. Well, the news just got even worse. A new memo released this week by the non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau reported that, in fact, \$2.3 billion available to school districts in various federal programs could be lost if the Republicans' spending plan is enacted. You can read more [here](#).



Wirsch Speaks Out Against Rising Anti-Semitic, Anti-Asian Hate

In light of increasing Anti-Semitic and Anti-Asian hate speech and violence, including harmful anti-Semitic language being used by a couple of Republican members of the State Assembly, this week I issued a statement denouncing hate and calling for all Americans, especially those with a large platform, to stand up and denounce the growing bigotry in our country. The statement read:

“It’s the year 2021, and we are still experiencing and having to denounce this type of hate. Unfortunately, it’s shocking but not surprising when we have elected leaders, from Republicans in the State Assembly all the way up to the previous inhabitant of the White House, using inflammatory language or giving a wink and a nod to white supremacists. Our country is divided enough without throwing gasoline on the fire. Every American, particularly those with the loudest megaphones, need to stand up and say ‘Enough is enough’.”

You can see the statement posted on my [website](#).



Kenosha, Racine Schedule Juneteenth Celebrations

With Covid cases dwindling and restrictions lifting, both organizers in both Kenosha and Racine have announced their plans for Juneteenth events. Both will be held in person on Saturday, June 19, from 12 to 8 pm. Kenosha's celebration will take place at 1345 52nd St.; it is free to the public and will feature performances, games and vendors. More information is available [here](#). Racine's Juneteenth event will be held at the Dr. John Bryant Community Center; this event is also free and will feature musical performance, comedy and a free Covid-19 vaccination clinic. Find out more [here](#).



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