

September 10, 2021



Dear friend,

For all of the recent effort put into destigmatizing and even normalizing discussions of mental health, the topic of suicide still carries a taboo. That's why observances like World Suicide Prevention Day are so important. Every 40 seconds, someone loses their life to suicide; one in every 100 deaths worldwide is a result of suicide. In addition, for every suicide, there are 20 attempts. It can affect any one of us; no one is immune. By raising awareness, reducing the stigma and encouraging well-informed action, we can reduce the instances of suicide around the world. Find out more about how you can reduce the shame associated with suicide and the best ways to help a loved one at risk by visiting <https://www.iasp.info/wspd2021/>. Stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Bob

In Case You Missed It

small business **SPOTLIGHT**

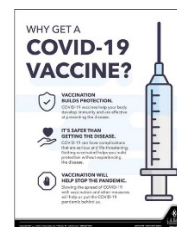


Historic and Modern Come Together at Beautiful “The Vault” Venue Space



Looking for a place to host your next large family gathering, baby or wedding shower, group banquet or even wedding? Look no further than Kenosha’s The Vault at Historic 625. The Vault offers a unique mix of classic and modern. The space was originally built in 1928 and features a beautiful skylight, a magnificent ceiling and an incredible chandelier, with a marble staircase that leads down to the lower level, perfect for smaller events, photo taking and more.

Think of The Vault for your next event. Find more on [their website](#) and [Facebook](#).



State, Local Covid-19 Vaccination Incentives Continue

Governor Tony Evers has announced that the \$100 incentive for getting a Covid-19 vaccination, which originally would have ended on Labor Day, will be extended through September 19. Read more [here](#) to find out how to get the bonus. Locally, there are two incentive programs in place. In Kenosha, the Welcome Center at Grace Lutheran Church, 2006 60th St., continues to offer a \$20 incentive for vaccination at one of their pop-up clinics; for more information about upcoming clinics, email LPeterson.GraceWelcomeCenter@gmail.com. The City of Racine continues to offer its incentive programs, as well, as statistics show that it has so far been a success. Daily vaccinations administered by the city have increased 18.75% since the incentive program began. Under the program, city residents who get vaccinated at certain locations run by the city receive a \$50 gift card for the first dose and a \$50 gift card for the second dose, or \$100 at once for a Johnson & Johnson vaccination. The city's program also includes a so-called "Good Neighbor" incentive, which provides an additional \$50 gift card to a fully vaccinated city resident who brings in another city resident to get vaccinated. You'll find upcoming city vaccination dates and sites [here](#).



September 11, Twenty Years Later

It's hard to believe that twenty years have gone by since that day. None of us who were old enough to know what was happening will ever forget where we were and what we were feeling as events unfolded. So much was unknown, and there was so much fear and uncertainty. It seemed at the time like things would never be the same, and in some ways, they haven't. On that day and the days that followed, our country was united in a way that we had rarely been before and haven't been since. Let's honor those that we lost that day by remembering that we are all Americans and doing our best to find some common ground.



With Hospitalizations Once Again Peaking, State Republicans Want to Sue the UW System for their Covid Prevention Measures

Statewide Covid-19 hospitalizations this week topped 1,000 for the first time since January, as case numbers, the percentage of positive tests and Covid deaths all continue to hit high levels here and across the country. ICU beds in regions across the state are dangerously low, and wait times at health care facilities for non-Covid injuries and illnesses are increasingly high as resources become more and more strained. Meanwhile, Sen. Steve Nass (R-Whitewater) is attempting to convince his colleagues and Republican leadership to sue the UW System, led by former Republican Governor Tommy Thompson, over System schools' efforts at Covid prevention. With the UW System being an official branch of state government, a lawsuit by the Republican-controlled Legislature would require the expenditure of taxpayer resources both for the plaintiff and defendant.



Racine Resident Makes a Big Impact as Governor Announces Changes to Pardon Policy

Racine's own Corey Prince had a big influence this week as Governor Evers announced updates to his pardon application policy. The new policy creates a streamlined and expedited application process, as well as opening up the pardon application to new individuals. As a result of the Executive Order signed by Governor Evers, the pardon board chair may send an application directly to the Governor without a hearing if the person committed a non-violent crime and sufficient time has passed since the conviction. Additionally, pardons can now be sought for multiple convictions; previously, pardons would only be considered for the most recent felony, and earlier incidents were not eligible. This was brought to the attention of the administration by Corey Prince of Racine and will help countless people who have turned their lives around but need a pardon to get a job, volunteer for their kids schools or extracurricular activities, run for elected office, or other activities that most of us take for granted. Congratulations, and thank you, to Corey Prince II for your activism and service to our community and state.



Support for Ending Partisan Gerrymandering in Wisconsin Reaches All-Time High

A new poll conducted by YouGov this summer shows that support for eliminating partisan gerrymandering in Wisconsin has reached an overwhelming 87%, with voters of all political stripes – Democrats (91%), Independents (88%) and Republicans (84%) – opposing the practice and supporting fair redistricting. Additionally, a vast majority supports an open, honest redistricting process, with 82% saying they think the maps should be drawn “in public and in a fully transparent way”. You can find more details on the poll [here](#).



Group of Reasonable, Respected Republicans Throws Cold Water on Wisconsin GOP’s Election “Review”

With Assembly Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester) and Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu (R-Oostburg) moving full speed ahead with their sham election “review” to appease Donald Trump and his supporters, this week a number of more reasonable, respected Republicans from in-state and nationwide spoke out against the GOP’s election falsehoods and testified as to the integrity of the state’s election system. During a virtual news conference hosted by the States United Democracy Center, Republicans Christine Todd Whitman, former New Jersey Governor and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) head under George W.

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Bush, and Trey Grayson, Kentucky's former Secretary of State, ripped into the state GOP's efforts to "review" Wisconsin's presidential election, calling it a waste of time and money that would needlessly damage the public's views of a properly-run election. Meanwhile, Republican State Sen. Kathy Bernier (R-Lake Hallie), a former municipal clerk and current chair of the Senate Election Committee, held an informational hearing on the state's election system. She invited Republican and Democratic clerks from different parts of the state, who all testified as to the validity and integrity of our election system. Much of the testimony also shot down the numerous conspiracy theories that have been floated regarding the 2020 presidential election. In an interview this week, Republican Fond du Lac County Clerk Lisa Freiberg said that she has gotten numerous questions from constituents about Dominion Voting Systems machines, which the county has used since 2015; she said that she remains confident in the machines and often finds those raising criticisms don't understand how the machines work.

Read more about these events [here](#) and [here](#).