

**October 8, 2021**



**Dear friend,**

**By now we've all heard about various telephone scams that have bilked unsuspecting Americans out of millions of dollars, from the "Grandparent Scam" to various Medicare and Social Security scams, it seems like we are hearing about a new victim every other day. Well, scams and frauds committed online are an equally damaging and growing problem. October is recognized as Cyber Security Awareness Month, highlighting threats you should be aware of and actions you can take to protect yourself from becoming a target. In 2020, the FBI's Internet Crime Complaints Center logged a record number of complaints from Americans reporting losses in excess of \$4.1 billion and a 69% increase in total complaints from 2019. This month, consider having a conversation with your family about ways to be cyber smart. When something seems too good to be true, get a second opinion because it usually is. Learn more about cyber security at <https://www.cisa.gov/cybersecurity-awareness-month>. Stay safe and healthy.**

**Sincerely,**

*Bob*

## In Case You Missed It



### *International Trip Inspired “Echelon Gallery”*



Mike Gosa took a four-country, twelve state, six month trip from August 2018 to February 2019, where he found inspiration and education from each clothing store and boutique that he visited. The result is The Echelon Gallery, which the Racine Journal Times called “a candy shop for fashion enthusiasts”. From comfy, cozy looks to high-end styles, Echelon has something for every person and every occasion, carrying clothing for men, women and children. Another aspect that sets Echelon apart from other clothing stores is the in-house salons, where you can get your hair, makeup and nails done, providing true convenience for your big event. Gosa previously served as an engineer in the military; the name “Echelon” comes from military rankings and represents “the uniqueness in all of his customers”. Give Echelon a look on [Facebook](#) for details on hours of operation and upcoming events.



## ***Kenosha, Racine Counties Providing Covid Boosters for Those Eligible***

People in Kenosha and Racine Counties who are eligible for a Pfizer Covid-19 booster dose can get them through county-run clinics over the next few days. Kenosha County Public Health is hosting a booster clinic this Friday, October 8, from 9 am to 12 pm at the Kenosha County Job Center, 8600 Sheridan Rd. The clinic will be held near Entrance B. Appointments will not be accepted for the clinic; it is on a first-come, first-served basis. The clinic is specifically for the Pfizer booster dose, but first and second doses of all three vaccines will also be offered.

Meanwhile, in Racine County, public health clinics offering boosters will be held on Tuesdays (11 am to 7 pm) and Thursdays (11 am to 5 pm) at Regency Mall, 5538 Durand Ave.; Thursdays (10 am to 2 pm) by appointment only at Racine City Hall, 730 Washington Ave.; and daily by appointment at the Central Racine County Health Department, 10005 Northwestern Ave.

People in either county can go to [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) or call 800-232-0233 to find other times and locations.



## ***Pfizer Seeks FDA Approval of Covid Vaccinations for Children 5 and Up***

With the Delta variant proving to be much more contagious amongst and damaging to children, Pfizer has announced its Covid-19 vaccination has proven safe for children as young as 5 and is seeking FDA approval. If the FDA gives the okay, reduced-dose kids' shots could begin within a matter of weeks for the roughly 28 million U.S. children in the 5 to 11 age group. At least 520 American children have died of Covid-19, and the number of cases in young people has skyrocketed as the Delta variant has become the country's dominant strain.

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homelessness prevention and mental health services. You can read a full, signed copy of the letter [here](#).



## ***Honoring Those Who Step Up to Serve During WI School Board Week***

Our democracy depends on good people with a willingness to serve stepping up to the plate at all levels of government. This includes our local school boards. Elected school board members take a lot of flack, especially recently, but they don't get much appreciation. These hardworking citizens have jobs, families, and other commitments outside of their roles on the board, but they sacrifice time and effort for the betterment of our children and their education. It is an often thankless task, and while you may not agree with every decision that your local board or a specific member makes, it's important that we honor and recognize their service and treat them with respect. Thank you to the members of the Kenosha Unified and Racine Unified School Boards for their dedication to our childrens' futures.



## ***Even Local Calls Will Soon Require Area Codes***

Beginning on October 24, callers throughout much of the country will have to dial area codes for all calls, even local ones. This includes callers in the "262" area code. This is the result of a new National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, reachable by dialing "9-8-8". There are currently 82 area codes in 35 states and one U.S. territory that currently use "988" as their local exchange and allow seven-digit dialing; a local exchange, or central office code, is the first three numbers of a seven-digit telephone number. To prepare for implementation of the new Lifeline number, these area codes must transition to ten-digit dialing for all calls. On and after October 24, calls in these area codes dialed with only seven digits will not connect, and a recording will inform you that your call cannot be completed as dialed. It is important, before then, to check any speed-dial settings you may have and update them with the 10 digit telephone number if necessary. It will also be important that anything that uses or displays a phone number is updated to include

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the area code; this could include business cards and stationary; other marketing materials; home security systems; contact lists; voicemail services; and life safety systems.



## ***Governor Evers, WI Dept. of Veterans Affairs Announce Grants for Nonprofits that Assist, Train Veteran Entrepreneurs***

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs and Governor Tony Evers have announced an open application period for the Department's Entrepreneurship Grant Program. Applications will be accepted through Friday, November 1, 2021, at 4 pm.

The grants are awarded to registered 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(6) nonprofit organizations that provide entrepreneurship training or technical, business, or other assistance to veteran entrepreneurs in Wisconsin. The Entrepreneurship Grants provides up to \$100,000 to each recipient, with a total grant allocation of \$300,000. WDVA especially encourages organizations that assist underserved veteran populations to apply.

According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau released in January 2021, veterans operate almost 6% of all U.S. businesses and employ nearly 4 million people.

For additional information about the WDVA Entrepreneurship Grant, including evaluation criteria, application materials, and tips for applying, please see the WDVA Entrepreneurship Grant Program website [here](#). Questions about the grant application process should be directed to the WDVA Grants Unit at 1-800-WIS-VETS or via email at [vetsbenefitsgrants@dva.wisconsin.gov](mailto:vetsbenefitsgrants@dva.wisconsin.gov).