

**November 12, 2021**



**Dear friend,**

**Yesterday – Thursday, November 11 – was recognized as Veterans Day. Veterans Day is a time for us to pay our respects to those who have served. The holiday started as a day to reflect upon the heroism of those who died in service of our country and was originally called Armistice Day. It fell on November 11 because that is the anniversary of the signing of the armistice that ended World War I. In 1954, the holiday was changed to “Veterans Day” in order to account for all veterans in all wars; Veterans Day is a federal holiday. There are currently about 19 million veterans currently living in the United States; we thank them all for their service and sacrifice. Stay safe and healthy.**

**Sincerely,**

*Bob*

## In Case You Missed It



### ***Kenosha Winter HarborMarket Now Open***



Kenosha HarborMarket was recently honored, once again, as “Best Event” in the 2021 Best of Kenosha Awards. Following their successful summer 2021 season, the Winter HarborMarket is now open. The Winter HarborMarket will be home to 30+ vendor booths every Saturday (except Dec. 18 and 25 and January 1) through April 30. Offerings include produce, seafood, meats, poultry, eggs, cheese, dog treats, spices and seasonings, breads and pastries, soaps and body care products, arts and crafts and much more. Market hours are 9 am to 1 pm, and the Winter HarborMarket is located within the Kenosha Union Club, 3030 39<sup>th</sup> Ave. More than a dozen vendors accept SNAP/EBT benefits for produce, meat, cheese, poultry, eggs and baked goods. Like the summer season, the 2021-22 Kenosha Winter HarborMarket is dedicated to the memories of Ray Forgianni and Alan Goldsmith.



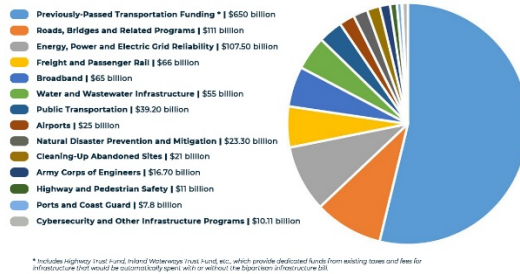
## ***Republicans Pass Gerrymandered Maps; Court-Drawn Maps Get Closer to Reality***

This week, Republicans in both the State Senate and State Assembly approved the Republican-drawn, gerrymandered legislative and congressional district maps, over the objection of Democrats in both chambers. In the Senate, my Democratic colleagues and I offered two maps of our own as amendments, both of which were more fair and unbiased than the GOP version, but both were shot down. Similarly, the maps drawn by the nonpartisan People's Maps Commission were also voted down. Governor Evers has indicated he will veto the gerrymandered maps, which would bake in a distinct Republican advantage for at least another 10 years. This takes us one step closer to court-drawn maps.



## ***Evers Administration Awards Tourism Grants to Local Organizations***

This week, Governor Tony Evers awarded \$15 million in grants for Destination Marketing Organizations (DMO) throughout the state, as part of his larger \$140 million commitment of ARPA funds to Wisconsin's tourism and entertainment industries. Locally, Downtown Kenosha, Inc. received \$13,040, and the Kenosha Area Tourism Corporation was the recipient of \$322,589. The Destination Marketing Organization Grant Program was designed to assist tourism, convention and event organizations that were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. In total, 120 organizations received grants of varying amounts. You can find a full list of grant recipients [here](#).



## ***Infrastructure Bill Pushed by President Biden Passes with Bipartisan Support; Will Bring Billions in Job-Creating Improvements and Upgrades to Wisconsin***

President Joe Biden’s infrastructure bill, which will improve physical infrastructure like roads, airports, bridges and broadband across the country and will sustain 2 million jobs a year over the next decade, has cleared the House with bipartisan support. An identical version passed the Senate in August with 19 Republicans joining all Senate Democrats in support of the bill. Not a single Republican from Wisconsin’s Congressional delegation voted for the bill, which Biden plans to sign into law Monday.

The soon-to-be-law has been called a once-in-a-generation investment in the nation’s infrastructure. It is expected to provide around \$5.5 billion to Wisconsin projects. State DOT Secretary Craig Thompson said, “Along with accelerating the improvements of roads and bridges all over the state, the bill will enable us to make greater investments in our transit systems, support for electric vehicles, and improvements in highway safety.” In Wisconsin, there are 979 bridges and over 1,949 miles of highway in poor condition; the bill’s funding will address those. The state will receive \$592 million to improve public transportation options across the state, including high-speed rail. Funding from the legislation will also be used to eliminate lead service lines and pipes; build a network of charging stations for electric vehicles; expand broadband access into rural and other underserved areas; and prepare our infrastructure for the effects of climate change, other extreme weather events and cyber-attacks. Read more about the great things this legislation will do for Wisconsin [here](#).



## ***November 15-19 is Winter Awareness Week***

As much as we might try to pretend it’s not, winter weather could hit any day. Wisconsin winters can be a time for fun outdoors activities, but the snow, ice and cold can be dangerous,

especially if you aren't prepared. Winter Awareness Week is a time to brush up on your winter driving skills, get your furnace serviced, and make sure home emergency kits are fully stocked.

Winter emergency kits should include items like food, water, a flashlight and batteries, and blankets. In your vehicle, include a snow shovel, extra gloves and hats, cell phone charger, and kitty litter or sand to help give your wheels traction on icy roads in case you get stuck. Check entry points and windows for signs they are allowing cold air into your home. Ensure carbon monoxide detectors are working properly and have fresh batteries. Keep any free-standing heating devices away from curtains or other objects that could catch fire.

For more tips on getting ready for winter weather, visit the [ReadyWisconsin](#) website.



## ***Healthcare.gov Open Enrollment Now Open***

Beginning on Monday, November 1, and running through January 15, 2022, Wisconsin residents will have the opportunity to sign up for high-quality, affordable health care coverage during the Healthcare.gov open enrollment period. Those who already have insurance through the marketplace can also renew, change or update their plans during this period. In 2020, Governor Tony Evers launched [WisCovered.com](#) as an accessible resource for Wisconsinites.

By visiting [WisCovered.com](#) or calling 2-1-1, those looking for coverage can get connected with free, expert help. These experts can help Wisconsinites understand their coverage options and determine if they qualify for subsidized health insurance premiums through the marketplace or free coverage through BadgerCare Plus. The marketplace is expected to include lower rates and more options than in previous years.



## ***Insurance Commissioner Warns of Scams During Open Enrollment Period***

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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Wisconsin's Insurance Commissioner Mark Afable is urging consumers to be cautious about solicitation calls or emails related to health insurance during the open enrollment period.

Wisconsinites should be cautious if they receive robocalls or unsolicited sales calls from individuals offering to sell health insurance over the phone. Consumers should verify the legitimacy of the individual they are speaking with by asking: Are you a Wisconsin-licensed health insurance agent or broker? If so, what is your national producer number (NPN)? Are you a Wisconsin-licensed navigator or certified application counselor? Are you offering ACA-compliant qualified health plans? Am I eligible for a discount or reduced premium based upon my income on the Exchange? Am I eligible for Medicaid or BadgerCare? Are you showing me all the insurance options available? Are you charging me a fee? Signing up for health insurance should be free. Wisconsin consumers can search companies, agents and navigators with the Insurance Commissioner's [lookup portal](#) to confirm the company or agent offering insurance is legitimate and licensed to sell insurance in Wisconsin. If you have trouble locating your agent or navigator you can call the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI) at (800)236-8517.

Consumers who have been the victim of a scam can also file a complaint with the state Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection online at [datcp.wi.gov](http://datcp.wi.gov), by calling the Consumer Protection Hotline at (800)422-7128 or by emailing [DATCPHotline@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DATCPHotline@wisconsin.gov).



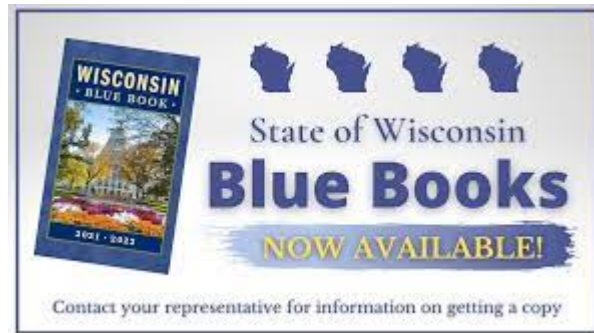
## ***Public Asked to Provide Ornaments for Tree Honoring Troops***

Governor Tony Evers and First Lady Kathy Evers are inviting members of the military family community to contribute ornaments to this year's "Tribute to our Troops" holiday tree at the Executive Residence. The "Tribute to our Troops" tree began under Gov. Jim Doyle to recognize service members from Wisconsin; the tradition continued under Scott Walker. Ornaments can be plain, fancy or personalized to honor fallen service members, those who are deployed during the holiday season, or any other current or former armed forces members. To be included as part of this year's "Tribute to our Troops" tree, ornaments must be received by no later than Nov. 26 at:

Wisconsin National Guard Service Member Support Division  
ATTN: Mr. Liam Walsh

2400 Wright St.  
Madison WI 53704

Ornaments submitted will not be returned.



## ***Reserve Your Copy of the 2021-2023 State of Wisconsin Blue Book***

The latest edition of the State of Wisconsin Blue Book has arrived. If you would like to have a copy sent to you, contact my office at (608)267-8979 or [sen.wirch@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:sen.wirch@legis.wisconsin.gov). These books are free and contain interesting and valuable information about our state's culture, history and government.