

**December 3, 2021**



Dear friends,

Each year on December 7, we honor and remember the 2,403 U.S. service members and civilians who were killed and the 1,178 injured during the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. On August 23, 1994, Congress designated December 7 as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Each year, events are held at the Pearl Harbor National Memorial, as well as in cities and towns across the country. The theme for this year's Remembrance Day Commemoration is *Valor, Sacrifice and Peace*, and it marks 80 years since that fateful day and the U.S.'s subsequent entry into World War II. The goal of the commemoration and supplemental events is to ensure that future generations will understand the sacrifice and legacy of those who lost their lives and those who fought throughout the war. The main December 7 ceremony featuring the USS *Nevada* and the USS *Utah* will be live streamed and captioned; the streams will be available at [www.nps.gov/perl](http://www.nps.gov/perl), [www.facebook.com/PearlHarborNPS](https://www.facebook.com/PearlHarborNPS), [www.facebook.com/NavyRegionHawaii](https://www.facebook.com/NavyRegionHawaii) and [www.pearlharborevents.com](http://www.pearlharborevents.com). There will also be a number of events in the Kenosha and Racine areas. Until next time, stay safe, healthy and warm.

Sincerely,

*Bob*

## In Case You Missed It

# small business **SPOTLIGHT**



### *Marci's on Main Brings Nashville Style to Racine*

Marci's on Main calls itself "a Nashville style tavern with our own Racine personal touch." Opened as a country-western themed bar in April 2019 by mother and son Marci Bruley and Austin Krieger, it is much more than that. Rustic décor, autographed memorabilia, and eleven televisions occupy wall space; live music, a variety of drinks and tap beers, games such as Jenga and Yahtzee, karaoke, and daily food specials are big draws. Check out their menu and hours at <https://www.facebook.com/MarcisOnMain/>.



## ***WI Supreme Court's Conservative Majority Sides with Republicans, Will Make Minor Changes to Current Gerrymandered Maps***

The push for fair maps was dealt a blow this week, when the Wisconsin Supreme Court, in a 4-3 ruling, decided that they would take up the case involving legislative and congressional redistricting AND that they agreed with Republicans that minimal changes should be made to the current, highly-gerrymandered district maps. While a federal lawsuit is also pending, judges in that case had previously signaled that they would only move forward if the state Supreme Court refused to act. With this latest ruling, federal intervention seems less likely.



### ***KAFASI Offering New Home Repair Program***

Kenosha Area Family and Aging Services, Inc. (KAFASI) is now managing the new Community Care Corps Home Repair Program. This program will provide lawn care, snow removal, and minor home repair for free to eligible seniors and people with disabilities living in their homes. The goal is to help them remain safely in their homes as long as possible. KAFASI is also seeking volunteers to help provide these services. Interested parties can contact Mary Lundqvist of KAFASI at [mlindqvist@kafasi.org](mailto:mlindqvist@kafasi.org) or (262)658-3508.



**WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE – Kenosha Delegation**

## ***Kenosha Legislative Delegation Announces Bill to Clarify Law on Long Gun Possession by Minors***

This week, I joined my Kenosha delegation colleagues Reps. Tod Ohnstad (D-Kenosha) and Tip McGuire (D-Kenosha), as well as Sen. Melissa Agard (D-Madison) and Rep. Deb Andraca (D-Whitefish Bay), in announcing legislation to close a loophole in state law that allows minors over the age of 16 to possess long guns, including semi-automatic rifles like the AR-15. Current state statutes say, “Any person under 18 years of age who possesses or goes armed with a dangerous weapon is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.” However, a loophole in that law allows minors over age 16 to possess long guns as long as the barrel is at least one foot long; this was meant to be applied for hunting purposes but is poorly-worded and unclear. The bill would state explicitly that the exception only applies to a minor who is legally hunting and in compliance with hunting laws. Wisconsin has a long, rich hunting tradition. This bill will honor and maintain that while clarifying the statute and prioritizing public safety. It is a common-sense idea; if you ask any random person on the street, I bet they’d say they thought this was already illegal. An editorial published by the [Racine Journal Times](#) on November 26 called on the Legislature to take action. It is my hope that both Democrats and Republicans will see that this is needed and sign on to our bill.



## ***Governor Evers Announces \$75 Million in Grant Programs to Support Diverse Businesses***

The application period is now open for two programs, totaling \$75 million, targeted toward supporting diverse businesses and communities disproportionately affected by the pandemic. A previous \$75 million allocation toward the programs was announced in October. The **Diverse Business Investment Grant Program** provides funding to small and micro-businesses that are owned by members of communities that were historically denied access to capital and those that were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. The **Diverse Business Assistance Grant Program** supports ethnic and diverse chambers of commerce and other collaboratives that provide technical assistance and services to businesses that have historically been denied access to capital and are owned by members of communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. Both programs will be administered by the Wisconsin Department of Administration with funding from the Biden Administration’s America Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The competitive grant applications will remain open through January 14, 2022. Grant program criteria, upcoming information webinars, and Q&A submissions are available on the program websites: Diverse Business Assistance Grant Program, <https://doa.wi.gov/pages/DiverseBusinessAssistance.aspx>; Diverse Business Investment Grant Program, <https://doa.wi.gov/pages/DiverseBusinessInvestment.aspx>. Applicants are encouraged to submit questions and check the program websites for additional information, as well as sign up for specific program updates through the websites.



## ***Covid Cases Surging, Hospitals Near Capacity; Omicron Variant Causing Concern; Boosters Now Recommended for All Adults***

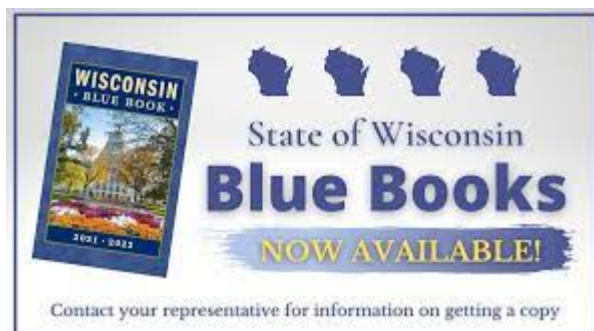
This week, the number of new Covid cases in a single day and the number of deaths from Covid reported in a single day reached highs not seen since 2020, and hospitals around the state have reported that they are near capacity, including crowded ICUs, with a surge in Covid cases.

Adding new fears, a new variant, omicron, was recently identified and named as a variant of concern. As a result, health officials are now recommending that all adults get a Covid booster.



## ***City of Kenosha Opens Ice Skating Rink***

It's that time of year – the City of Kenosha has opened its ice skating rink for the season. Free skating is open from 9 am to 10 pm daily, weather permitting. The rink is located outside City Hall, in Veterans Memorial Park, 625 52<sup>nd</sup> St. Free skates can be checked out at the Skate Hut between 4 and 9 pm Monday-Friday, 10 am to 9 pm Saturdays and noon to 8 pm Sundays.



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## ***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.