

February 18, 2022



Dear friends,

With an aging population, more and more seniors and other vulnerable citizens are becoming more and more dependent on family caregivers. Others require more care and reside in some type of assisted living facility, where professional caregivers provide assistance. Caregivers put their blood, sweat and tears into improving the lives of their clients or family members, and it too often goes unnoticed. Today is recognized as National Caregivers Day. If someone you know is a family or professional caregiver, take a few seconds out of your day to let them know how much they are appreciated.

Stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Bob

small business **SPOTLIGHT**



Support Local Racine Businesses at the Downtown Chili Ice Walk

On Saturday, February 26, from 12-4 pm the Downtown Racine Corporation will hold its Chili Ice Walk. This community event is free and will feature ice-sculpting, samples of different chilis, and a scavenger hunt.

Professional ice carvers will begin at noon and display their sculptures on the sidewalks throughout Main St. and 6th St. Observers can vote for best sculpture.

A number of downtown restaurants will have chili samples for tasting, with score cards available to vote for “best chili”.

Finally, a chili and ice themed scavenger hunt will take place in the windows of more than 20 businesses. Those who complete the scavenger hunt will receive a \$5 downtown gift card.

Find more information [here](#).



Try Something New at a Discounted Price during Kenosha Restaurant Week

Every February, Kenosha Restaurant Week is a nine-day event celebrating the amazing Kenosha culinary scene. It provides diners a change to try a new restaurant, to order a new dish at an old favorite, or just to show your support for locally-owned establishments.

This year, more than 50 restaurants and food shops will participate in Kenosha Restaurant Week. Each participating restaurant establishes its own discounts, offers or special menus. All

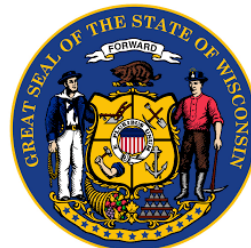
you have to do is visit a participating restaurant and ask for the Restaurant Week menu. For more information, including a listing of participating businesses and their offers, go to <https://www.visitkenosha.com/restaurantweek/>.

In Case You Missed It



Wirsch Office Hours This Saturday

This Saturday, February 19, from 1 to 2 pm, I'll be holding an "Office Hours" listening session in Activity Room A of Kenosha's Northside Library, 1500 27th Ave. Stop in to share your thoughts on the happenings in our state.



Governor Evers Delivers State of the State Address, Calls Special Session on Surplus Plan

On Tuesday, Governor Tony Evers delivered his annual State of the State address to a joint session of the State Legislature. The Governor laid out a number of new plans and ideas in his speech, including calling a special session of the Legislature to take up his plan for the state's projected \$3.8 billion surplus. The plan, which Evers says would still leave approximately \$2 billion of the surplus untouched, would send \$150 to each citizen of Wisconsin to help offset the rising costs of food, gas, and other essentials. It would also provide greater funding for K-12 and higher education and continued property tax relief. Republican leaders immediately shot

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down the plan, preferring instead for the state to sit on the surplus until the next budget cycle in spring 2023. You can watch the address in its entirety at <https://wiseeye.org/>.



State Supreme Court Prohibits Use of Absentee Ballot Drop Boxes for April Election

While the Wisconsin State Supreme Court previously allowed the use of absentee ballot drop boxes for the February spring primaries, a new ruling will prohibit their use going forward, beginning with the April 5 election. This is not a final ruling, however; the justices still must decide on the merits of allowing drop boxes in the future.



Better Business Bureau Gives Tips on Buying Used Vehicles

It's a rough time to be in the market for a vehicle. Parts shortages have left new cars in short supply, driving up the costs of both new and used vehicles. To help consumers, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) has provided some tips to buyers looking for a new car. Susan Bach of the BBB says, "If a price seems too good to be true, it should be a red flag that it may be a scam." Here are some more expert tips:

- Never buy a car sight unseen, and make sure you take it for a test drive.
- If possible, take the car to a local, trusted mechanic to make sure it's in good shape.
- Check the odometer. In a scam, people might roll back the odometer so there appears to be less mileage than there actually is. If you are concerned, you can ask a mechanic if it has been tampered with.

- You can also pull a vehicle history report to get a better picture of a vehicle's condition.
- You want to see the title if purchasing from a private seller. Make sure it doesn't have something like "salvage" or "total loss" on it. Also make sure that it's really under the name of the person selling the car.
- Finally, know the vehicle you want to buy. Know a fair price for the vehicle and a fair price if you're turning in your used vehicle.

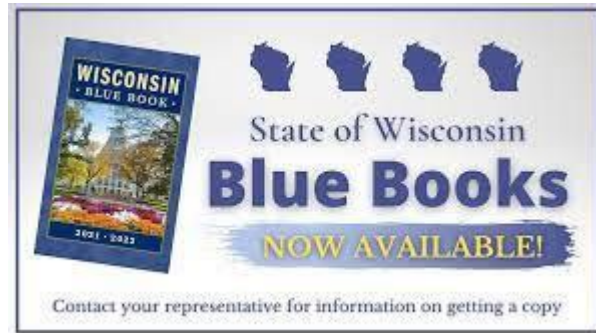
Read more tips from the BBB at <https://www.bbb.org/local-bbb/bbb-serving-wisconsin>.



Free Covid Tests and Masks Available

You can now sign up to receive four free Covid-19 tests per household, thanks to an order from the Biden administration. With just your name and address, you can order the tests for your household at <https://www.covidtests.gov/>; you can also use this site to find nearby testing locations. Additionally, as a result of actions taken by both President Biden and Governor Evers, your insurance may be required to cover up to eight at-home rapid tests per month. Additionally, the Biden and Evers administrations have made hundreds of millions of N95 masks available to Americans for free. The masks are distributed through a number of pharmacies, libraries and community health centers. [This site](#) has a full listing of mask distribution sites in southeast Wisconsin. Those picking up masks will be limited to three per person.

If someone you know either doesn't have or doesn't use a computer, please call my office at (608)267-8979 for assistance ordering your household's tests.



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. These books are free and contain interesting and valuable information about our state's culture, history and government.