

September 30, 2022



Dear friends,

Each year, millions of Americans face the reality of living with a mental health condition. However, mental illness affects everyone directly or indirectly through family, friends and coworkers. That is why each year, during the first week of October, participants across the country raise awareness of mental illness, fight discrimination and provide support through Mental Illness Awareness Week (MIAW). Mental health conditions are important to discuss year-round, but highlighting them during MIAW provides a dedicated time for mental health advocates across the country to come together as one unified voice. Since 1990, when Congress officially established the first full week of October as MIAW, advocates have worked together to sponsor activities, large or small, to educate the public about mental illness. This year's MIAW is centered on the theme "What I Wish I Had Known", focusing on the power of lived experience, with each day focused on a different topic. Find more [here](#).

Until next time, stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Bob

small business
SPOTLIGHT



Tickets on Sale October 1 for Racine Beer & Bacon Walk 2022

On Saturday, November 5, from 1-6 pm, the Downtown Racine Corporation will hold its 3rd annual Beer & Bacon Walk in Downtown Racine. Tickets go on sale Saturday, October 1, and are expected to sell out quickly. The Beer & Bacon Walk is a chance to sample various beers paired with bacon-infused, bite-sized snacks at more than twenty downtown locations. Tickets are \$40 and include admission to the event; twenty 3 oz. samples of beer; twenty bacon-infused food samples; a 16 oz. pint glass; and one 16 oz. full pour of your choice. Some of the different bacon-centered snacks will be: chicken and bacon street tacos; bacon hash brown fritters; dark chocolate-covered bacon with candied pecans; and bacon-wrapped corndogs. Find more, including ticket information, [here](#) or email events@racinedowntown.com.

In Case You Missed It



Vos Subpeonaed by Congressional Committee Investigating January 6 Insurrection, Files Suit to Block Testimony

The House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol has subpoenaed Wisconsin Assembly Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester) for his testimony regarding a July 2022 call from Trump urging Vos “to take measures to change the result of the 2020 Presidential election in Wisconsin”. Vos has filed a lawsuit in federal court seeking to block the subpoena. In his lawsuit, Vos cited the “short notice” he was given and said his July

conversation with Trump was outside the scope of the committee's charge to investigate the January 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol.



State Veterans Secretary, Sen. Wirch Visit Lou Perrine's, Announce Partnership with Convenience Stores to Help At-Risk Veterans

I was on hand earlier this week as Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Secretary Mary Kolar stopped in Kenosha, visiting the original Lou Perrine's store, where she announced a partnership with convenience stores statewide to promote the Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program (VORP). VORP, which covers all 72 counties and the 12 tribal nations in Wisconsin, focuses on connecting veterans to mental health, substance use recovery and rehabilitation programming, and overall veteran wellness support. Signs and QR codes will be placed at convenience stores around the state, encouraging troubled veterans to call 1-800-WISVETS or visit WisVets.com. Anthony Perrine helped forge the partnership between the Wisconsin Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association (WPMCA) and DVA.



Law Enforcement Seeing Increase in Reports of Rental Scams

Police in various localities say they are currently being “inundated” with fraud complaints about rental scams. They say the scam a person claiming to be the property manager or landlord for a rental property. Victims are tricked into sending money as a deposit on a property they are interested in renting, only to find out the person isn’t actually affiliated with the property or the property doesn’t exist at all.

Experts say that to protect yourself, you should set up in-person meetings to see apartments and review possible leases with the property manager before committing any money. They also recommend using online reviews to look into the history and background of property managers and check the phone number of the person claiming to be the property manager. It’s also a good idea to compare the proposed price of the apartment or home with others in the area; if it seems unusually low, it could be a sign that the posting is not legitimate.

The people running these scams will often target social media apps and websites and spend time messaging with possible victims to build a rapport before convincing them to send money.

They also try to create a sense of urgency to convince people to send the money right away.

If you think you are being targeted by someone posing as a landlord or have been a victim of a rental property scam, police say you should report the incident to the [Federal Trade Commission](#), since those fraud schemes frequently cross state lines.



Kenosha County Durable Medical Equipment Loan & Supply Closet Seeks Donations

The Kenosha County Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Durable Medical Equipment Loan & Supply Closet provides durable medical equipment as well as nutritional supplements and incontinence products for older adults and adults with disabilities who are in need. Individuals needing durable medical equipment for either short-term or long-term use, who are not enrolled in one of Wisconsin’s long term care programs like Family Care or IRIS, can contact the ADRC to request an item. The Loan & Supply Closet is supported by donations from the community. Stock is currently very low on the most requested items: nutritional supplements; incontinence products, pull up only, all sizes; manual and transport wheelchairs; bath benches; shower chairs; bed rails; knee scooters; rollators and walkers; and commodes.

Anyone with new or gently used items they wish to donate, or anyone in need of medical equipment or supplies, is encouraged to call Steve at the ADRC (262-605-6667).



Now's the Time to Make Sure You Have Necessary ID for Voting

With the fall elections just over a month away, you should make sure you have the proper form of photo ID you'll need to cast your ballot. The following are acceptable forms of photo IDs for voting: a Wisconsin drivers license that is either current or expired after 11/03/2020; a Wisconsin DOT-issued photo ID card that is either current or expired after 11/03/2020; a U.S. passport that is either current or expired after 11/03/2020; a military ID card that is either current or expired after 11/03/2020; a Certificate of Naturalization issued within the last two years; an unexpired Wisconsin drivers license or state ID receipt; an ID card issued by a Native American Tribe, regardless of expiration; an ID issued by a Wisconsin accredited university or college – this must contain issuance date, student signature, and expiration date within 2 years of issuance; an unexpired Veterans Affairs ID card.

Voters who have previously provided their acceptable photo ID for an absentee ballot do not need to do so again unless they have updated their registration due to a move or name change.

Find out more at myvote.wi.gov.



Biden Administration Begins Student Loan Forgiveness Process, Applications to Start Next Month

This week, the Biden administration kicked off its plan to forgive certain student loan debt by sending updates on the process via email. The window to apply is set to open next month. The email says that additional updates will be sent “over the coming days” but did not provide a specific date in October for when the application window will open; it will extend through December 2023.

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Toll-Free Office Hotline: 1-888-769-4724

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Wisconsin Launches Program to Send Out Free Covid Tests

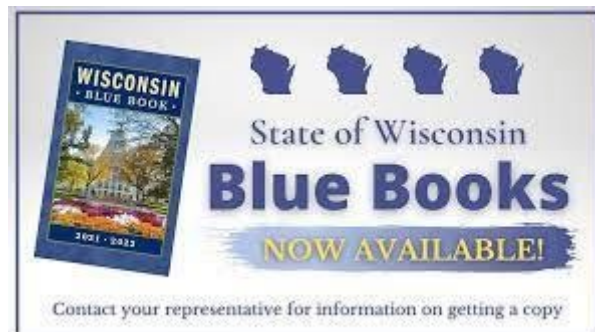
Wisconsin residents can now get Covid-19 tests sent to them free of charge from the state. The federal government had been offering free Covid tests, but the funding for that program has run out.

The Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services (DHS) says that the [Say Yes! Covid Test website](#) is now live and operational. The site allows households to order five rapid tests for free. Households can still get up to eight rapid Covid tests per month through their insurance providers, as well.



Take My 2022 Legislative Survey

It's very important to me as a legislator to hear what you think about the important issues of the day. I've put together a survey on a variety of topics that I am hoping you will take the time to complete. You can find an online version of the survey at <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/22/wirch/surveys-and-petitions/2022-legislative-survey>.



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.