

**January 7, 2022**



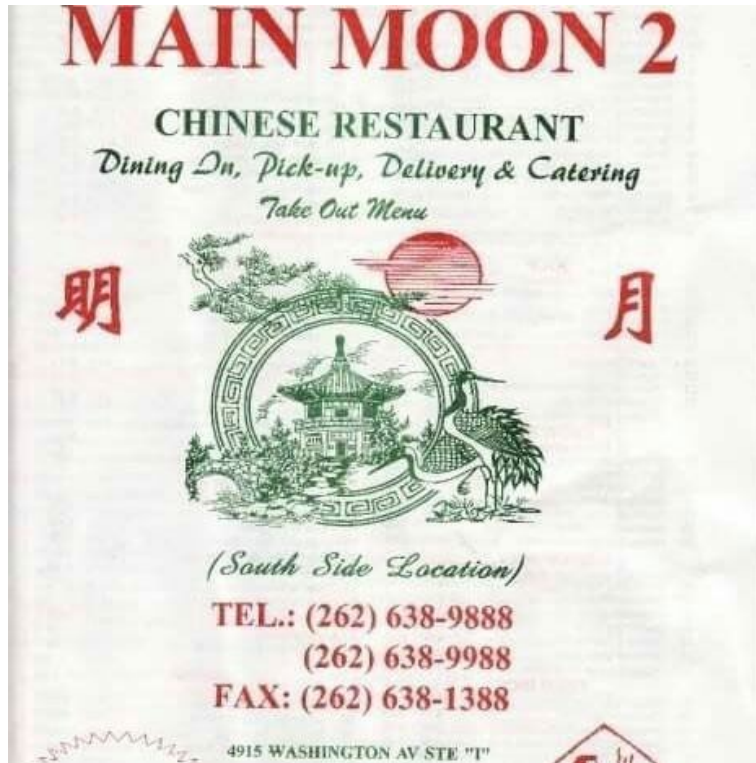
**Dear friends,**

**Yes, it's true, we are now in 2022. I'm sure it's as hard to believe for you as it is for me. I know all of us were hoping that we'd be able to put the fear, uncertainty, frustration, isolation, and disruption of the past couple of years behind us, but unfortunately, it looks like we are stuck with it for a little longer. All we can do is make the best of the situation and take every precaution to avoid illness, including vaccinations and boosters. While it is cold and snowy now, on the bright side, the days are getting longer, and warmer weather and brighter days are on the way. Until then, stay safe and healthy, and look out for each other.**

**Sincerely,**

*Bob*

# small business **SPOTLIGHT**



## *Main Moon 2 is a Frequent “Best of Racine” Winner for Its Chinese Fare*

An emphasis on customer service and consistently good food have made Racine’s Main Moon 2 a “Best of Racine Asian Food” winner year after year. With fresh ingredients and sauces made from scratch, Main Moon 2 serves up flavorful dishes and generous portions, whether it’s one of their tried-and-true favorites or a new recipe. Owner Jin Chen studied as a chef in New York before making a home in Racine, where he raised his three sons. Chen says that General Tso’s chicken and crispy sesame chicken are the most popular menu items, but they are frequently trying new things. Check out their full menu at <https://www.facebook.com/MAIN-MOON-2-163930058438/>.

**In Case You Missed It**



### THE TRUTH ABOUT WHO MAKES MINIMUM WAGE:

- 35 YEARS OLD** The average age of minimum wage workers  
 88% are at least 20 years old and 35.5% are at least 40
- 56%** of minimum wage workers are women
- 55%** of minimum wage workers work full-time
- 44%** have at least some college experience

A woman working full time at minimum wage will earn **\$15,080 annually.**  
 Nearly **\$4,000** below the poverty line for a mother with 2 kids.

**3 OUT OF 5 WORKERS** earning minimum wage are employed in service occupations (mostly food preparation)

MomsRising.org  
 #RaisetheWage  
 Tell Congress to #RaisetheWage: <http://action.momsrising.org/sign/minimumwage>

## ***2022 Brings a Higher Minimum Wage to Twenty-Five States; Wisconsin Isn't One of Them***

For workers in 20 states, flipping the calendar to 2022 meant a boost in their paychecks; workers in five other states, plus the District of Columbia will get a raise at some other point during the year. Wisconsin workers are once again left out, however, as Republicans in the State Legislature continue to block a minimum wage increase. While red and blue states throughout the country have increased their minimum wages through either legislation or ballot measure, Wisconsin's wage floor remains at \$7.25 per hour, where it has been stuck since 2009. Session after session, I have authored or co-authored legislation to raise the minimum wage, sometimes modestly (to \$7.60) and some larger, (\$10.10, \$15.00). Governor Tony Evers has proposed minimum wage increases in both of his state budget proposals. Each and every time, the Republican majority has thrown up roadblocks. We know that now only is a minimum wage increase popular with the general public, data shows that it makes financial sense. Increasing the wages of low wage workers generally means that workers higher up the pay scale get raises, too, meaning more money spent at locally-owned stores and in the community AND more income tax revenue to pay for critical programs. Yet Republicans, insulated by gerrymandered districts and big business donors, continue to stand in the way. Wisconsin's working families deserve better. You can read more about the minimum wage increases in 2022 [here](#).



## ***State Sets New Daily Records for Covid Cases; Hospitals Continue to be Overwhelmed***

Earlier this week, the state set a new high in the number of daily confirmed Covid-19 cases with over 8,000. The next day, the record was broken again, topping 10,000 for the first time.

Locally, cases, hospitalizations and, tragically, deaths from Covid-19 are also at an all-time high in Kenosha and Racine Counties. While the Omicron variant can be milder for many, it is still serious and even deadly for many, especially those who are immunocompromised. While so-called breakthrough cases are possible, full vaccination provides incredible protection, especially against severe illness and death. There are a number of local options for both Covid testing and vaccination. Use the links below to find testing and vaccination sites in Kenosha and Racine Counties.

**Kenosha County:** Covid testing sites <https://www.kenoshacounty.org/2058/COVID-19-Testing-Locations>

Covid vaccination sites <https://kenosha-county-covid-19-response-kenoshacounty.hub.arcgis.com/>

**Racine County:** Covid testing sites

<https://crchd.com/sites/default/files/COVID%2019%20Testing%20Centers%2009.15.21.pdf>

Covid vaccination sites

<https://crchd.com/covid-19-vaccine>





## ***U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson Continues to Make Baffling - and False - Claims About Covid Vaccination, is Rebuked by Faith Leaders***

Ron Johnson, one of two U.S. Senators representing Wisconsin, continued his Covid-19 misinformation campaign this week, again attempting to cast doubt on the safety and effectiveness of the approved Covid-19 vaccines. This time, Johnson was on a conservative talk radio show when he asked the rhetorical questions, “Why do we think we can create something better than God in terms of combating disease?” and “Why do we assume that the body’s natural immune system isn’t the marvel that it really is?” Not only does this potentially discourage people from getting vaccinated, it ignores centuries of medical and scientific research and advancements and ignores the numerous other vaccines that Americans, presumably including Sen. Johnson, receive throughout their lives. Sen. Johnson’s comments drew the attention of many faith leaders. Renowned priest Father James Martin weighed in on

Johnson’s claims in a statement released to local media, saying:

*“God created all that exists, which means God created the world and all that is in it, including humanity. But as part of our human existence, God also gave us brains, which we’re meant to use to help ourselves, one another and all creation. In other words, one of the gifts that God has given us is intelligence and ingenuity. Science is an outgrowth of this, and science and medicine have given us these vaccines, which helps to save lives and lessen suffering. Why would we not use them? And if we’re going to ignore science and medicine, then why go to doctors at all? Why even take an aspirin? Senator Johnson’s remarks reveal not simply a misunderstanding of how science works, but how God works through us.”*

Rev. Alice Iaquinta of Mary of Magdala, Apostle of the Apostles Church in Milwaukee, responded to Sen. Johnson by saying, *“From a spiritual standpoint, as priest, I would say that using God as a weapon to make a political point to me makes the situation one that’s close to blasphemy. I, on the other hand, have complete faith in it (the vaccine) because God gave us brains, and God created human beings, God created potential for humans to create, and we’ve done that successfully.”*



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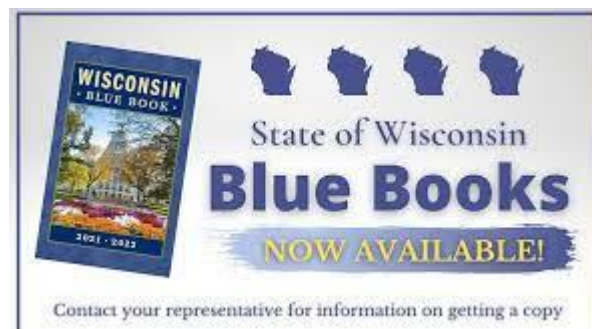
## *Another Conservative Organization Gives Wisconsin High Marks for Election Integrity*

The staunchly-conservative Heritage Foundation has given Wisconsin high marks on its recent Election Integrity Scorecard, ranking it 8th out of the 50 states in terms of election security. The Heritage Foundation study compared states in twelve different categories of election issues, including accuracy of voter registration lists, vote counting practices and absentee ballot management. This news follows another recent study, by the conservative Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty, that concluded the 2020 elections in Wisconsin were secure and accurate.



## *DATCP and DFI Host Student Loan Debt Relief Workshops*

The state Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and Dept. of Financial Institutions will be hosting free online student loan debt relief workshops on January 20 and 21. These workshops will help student loan borrowers prepare for the end of the federal student loan payment pause on May 1. During the workshops, student loan borrowers will learn about current student loan debt relief scams to avoid and how to use the free [Wisconsin Strong Student Loan Repayment Tool](#), created by Savi. Savi experts will answer questions about student loan repayment and explain how their tool can help borrowers navigate the complexities of federal student loan repayment plans, forgiveness programs, and lowering student loan payments. Using Savi's tool may help borrowers reduce their monthly payments and optimize their repayment plans. On average, users of the tool save \$156 each month and have a lifetime savings of \$28,038. Registration for the workshops is required, but there is no cost. The Jan. 20 workshop runs from 6-7:30 pm, and borrowers can register [here](#). The workshop on Jan. 21 goes from 11:30 am to 1 pm, and registration can be done [here](#).



## ***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.