

February 11, 2022



Dear friends,

One of the first things people think of when they hear “February” is Valentine’s Day, celebrated every year on February 14. If the American Heart Association has its way, February will also make you think about heart health. That’s why February is designated as American Heart Month. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, killing more than 650,000 Americans each year. It’s particularly devastating for women; one in three American women is diagnosed with heart disease annually. In most cases, heart disease is preventable by adopting a healthy lifestyle, which includes not smoking, maintaining a healthy weight, controlling blood sugar and cholesterol, treating high blood pressure, getting at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity a week and getting regular checkups. Don’t let yourself or someone you love become a statistic. Find out more about cardiovascular health at heart.org.

Stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Bob

small business **SPOTLIGHT**



The Lettering Machine Has Embroidery and Screenprinting Down to a “T”

The Lettering Machine, 725 50th St. in Kenosha, is a family-owned and –operated embroidery and screenprinting business. For more than three decades, they have been helping business, schools, nonprofits, and others share their message on t-shirts, hoodies, blankets, masks, hats, pants and more. No order is too big or too small, and their pricing is designed to fit your budget. Contact Dave and Tina Chatman for a quote today. You can find out more and see some of their work [here](#) and [here](#).

In Case You Missed It



Spring Primary Coming Up on February 15

The primary election for spring 2022’s nonpartisan local elections will be held on Tuesday, February 15. The deadline for requesting an absentee ballot for Tuesday’s election has passed, so if you haven’t already requested one, you will have to vote in person. You can find information on your polling place, what will be on your ballot, what you’ll need to vote, and your voter registration by visiting myvote.wi.gov; you can also use this site to register, if you aren’t already. Registration on Election Day is also allowed. While the use of absentee ballot drop boxes in future elections is still up in the air, they will be allowed for Tuesday’s election.



How to Obtain an ID for Voting Purposes

Wisconsin has a Voter ID law on the books. That means that in order to cast a ballot, a voter must present a specific type of government-issued identification. Acceptable IDs include a nonexpired driver's license; a Wisconsin ID card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles; a military ID card issued by a U.S. uniformed service; a U.S. passport; a valid tribal ID; a Wisconsin driver's license or ID card receipt issued by DMV within 45 days of the election; a certificate of naturalization that was issued not earlier than two years before the date of the election; or a Wisconsin college or university-issued ID card that contains date of issuance and signature of the student. If you do not already have one of these forms of ID, you can obtain a Wisconsin state ID card for voting purposes free of charge from the Department of Motor Vehicles. Visit wisconsin.dmv.gov/idcards for a list of documents needed to obtain your voting ID.



Ron Johnson Refuses to Fight for 1,000 Jobs in Hometown Oshkosh, Says Wisconsin Has “Enough Jobs”

Oshkosh Corp. recently announced plans to build postal trucks at a new plant in South Carolina, creating up to 1,000 jobs there instead of here in the company's home state. Typically, such a decision would cause elected officials to try to persuade the company to bring those jobs closer to home, and in fact, Governor Tony Evers, Sen. Tammy Baldwin, Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes, State Rep. Gordon Hintz, State Treasurer Sarah Godlewski, Outagamie County Executive Thomas Nelson, and others have issued statements or written letters urging Oshkosh

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 • Website: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen22/news> • Fax: (608) 267-0984
(262) 694-7379

Printed on Recycled Paper

Corp. to change its mind. Additionally, the federal EPA and the White House Council on Environmental Quality have raised red flags regarding the environmental impact of the South Carolina plant. Noticeably absent is U.S. Senator Ron Johnson, who calls Oshkosh home. When asked about the decision to award the jobs to South Carolina, Johnson responded, “It’s not like we don’t have enough jobs here in Wisconsin.” In 2018, WEDC awarded \$8 million in tax credits to expand Oshkosh Corp. to build a new headquarters in Oshkosh.



Department of Revenue Encourages Tax Filers to Take Advantage of New Wisconsin Identity Protection Program

The 2022 income tax filing season opened on January 24, and the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) now offers an extra layer of identity protection for taxpayers. DOR’s new Wisconsin Identity Protection PIN program is another way it is securing taxpayers’ personal information. Once a taxpayer requests and receives their Wisconsin Identity Protection PIN, they will use it to securely file their Wisconsin individual income tax return and homestead credit claims. More information on the Identity Protection PIN program may be found by searching “Identity Protection” on the [DOR website](#).



WI Consumer Protection Agency Names Top Ten Consumer Complaints from 2021

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has released its list of the Top Ten Consumer Complaints of 2021. Not surprisingly, telemarketing/scam/nuisance phone calls remain the most common complaint, followed by landlord-tenant issues; identity theft; home improvement issues; disputes with telecommunications companies; medical service disputes; motor vehicle repairs; motor vehicle

sales; motor vehicle accessories and parts; and entertainment and recreation. You can find the full list and more details [here](#).

As the state's largest consumer protection agency, the Wisconsin DATCP receives tens of thousands of requests for assistance, information and resources each year. In 2021, DATCP's Bureau of Consumer Protection (BCP) worked to resolve more than 11,750 consumer complaints, successfully reached settlements in several ongoing investigations, and returned more than \$11.15 million to Wisconsin consumers.

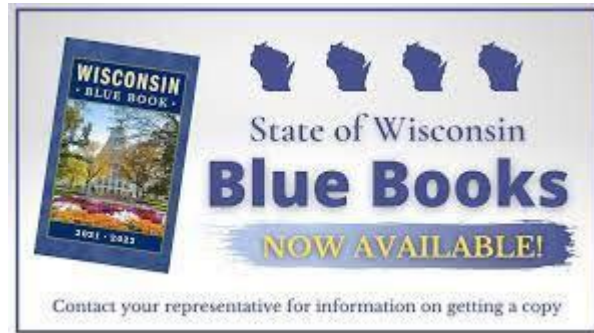
If you need assistance, to file a complaint, or to find additional resources and information visit DATCP's Bureau of Consumer Protection at www.datcp.wi.gov, call the Consumer Protection Hotline at (800)422-7128, or send an email to datcp hotline@wi.gov.



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.