

June 17, 2022



Dear friends,

June 19, or Juneteenth, is an important day of remembrance and celebration in the history of civil rights. It marks the day – June 19, 1865 – that the last slaves in the South (Galveston, Texas, to be specific) learned that the Civil War had ended and that they were free. This year marks the second Juneteenth celebration since it was made a federal holiday. Early in his presidency, President Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, recognizing June 19th as a federal public holiday. As the 19th falls on a Sunday this year, the holiday will be recognized on Monday, June 20. Locally, both Kenosha and Racine will hold various Juneteenth Day celebrations. You can find more information on these events [here](#) and [here](#).

Stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Bob

small business **SPOTLIGHT**



Shel's Bridal & Talent, LLC in Kenosha

Weddings are beautiful occasions that make for life long memories and commitments, but they can also be overwhelming in the work they take to make them truly special. It is a great help then, to have businesses and people that can lessen that burden and allow you to enjoy your special day. Shel's Bridal and Talent LLC at 625 57th Street, 4th Floor in Kenosha, does just that with an array of beautiful dresses and services to assist with any number of occasions, from weddings to quinceañeras.

Find all the information you need at <https://shelsbridal.com/home>.

In Case You Missed It



Consumer Protection Experts Say to Use Caution in Contracting for Storm Repairs

Southeast Wisconsin, and much of the rest of the state, dealt with severe thunderstorms and tornados earlier this week. We're still in mid-June, so there are likely to be more severe storms to come this year. That's why officials with the state Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) are warning consumers to be cautious when interacting with unfamiliar or traveling crews that show up in the aftermath of a storm.

DATCP recommends consumers use trusted resources such as friends, neighbors and insurance agents for contractor referrals. Consumers can also contact DATCP's Wisconsin Consumer Protection Hotline at (800)422-7128 to check for complaints against a business before signing a contract.

To avoid fraud, homeowners seeking damage repair should:

- Request a copy of the contractor's certificate of liability insurance
- Check with a local building inspector to see if the necessary work requires a permit

- Get written contracts with exactly what work will be done, what materials will be used, a start and completion date, and warranty information
 - Obtain lien waivers from any contractors paid for home repairs
- Schedule a local building inspector visit before providing final payment to the contractor to ensure the work was completed appropriately
- Keep records of all documents and receipts related to the cost of repairs and replacement of damaged items.

Wisconsin’s “storm chaser” law aims to protect consumers and businesses and prevent insurance fraud. Contractors: cannot promise to pay all or some of a property insurance deductible; cannot negotiate with a homeowner’s insurer on behalf of the customer – contractors can only discuss damages and costs with the insurer with the customer’s permission; must inquire if the work requested is related to an insurance claim prior to entering into a contract with a consumer; are required to notify consumers of their right to cancel the contract within three business days if the consumer is notified that their insurer has denied all or any part of the claim for work.

For more information or to file a complaint, visit the DATCP Consumer Protection Bureau at datcp.wi.gov, send an email to DATCPHotline@wisconsin.gov, or call the Wisconsin Consumer Protection Hotline toll-free at 1-800-422-7128.



Gableman Fined \$2,000 a Day for Refusing to Answer Judge’s Questions, Called Out by Judge for Inappropriate and Misogynistic Comments

I’ll be honest – I’m getting tired of writing about the numerous scandals involving Michael Gableman and the Vos/GOP-approved and taxpayer-funded fishing expedition involving the 2020 Presidential election. The whole fiasco is a colossal waste of money and an embarrassment to our state. However, it’s important news, so I’ll keep talking about it. This week, a judge issued a \$2,000 per day fine against Gableman until Gableman fully complies with open records requests regarding the election review. The judge, Frank Remington, also ordered a transcript of remarks Gableman made in the courtroom to another attorney that were caught on a live microphone be sent to the Wisconsin Office of Lawyer

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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
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Regulation, which could discipline Gableman for the comments. Gableman's statements, made to an attorney representing Assembly Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester) in the open records case, were insults to both Judge Remington and the attorney for the plaintiff, Christa Westerberg. Remington called the remarks "sophomoric innuendo" and "misogynistic". Gableman has a history of making offensive comments about women in power, including criticism of how the director of the Wisconsin Elections Commission, Meagan Wolfe, dresses.



The History of Flag Day

On June 14th 1777, 245 years ago, the Second Continental Congress decided on the flag that would represent the fledgling nation of America. "Resolved, that the Flag of the thirteen United States shall be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the Union be thirteen stars, white on a blue field, representing a new constellation."

These words marked the creation of one of the longest standing symbols of America.

This symbol of our great nation has evolved and changed over the many years alongside the nation, but its meaning remains. Each year on June 14th, we remember that occasion so long ago and commemorate our history and the birth of this long lasting symbol of unity and freedom.



State Treasurer, Take Root Wisconsin to Host Virtual Summit on Homeownership

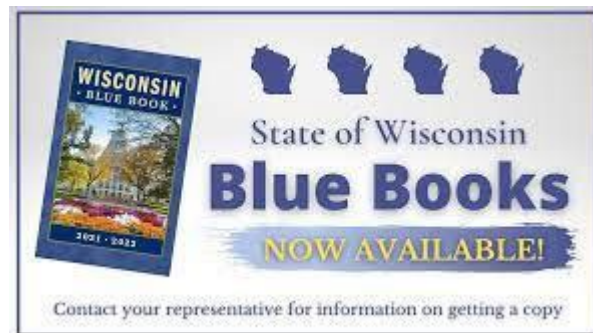
The idea of buying and owning a home can be daunting for first-time homebuyers or those even thinking about the possibility. That's why Take Root Wisconsin (TRW) was formed. TRW is a new statewide homeownership network that brings together a private-public stakeholders to increase homeownership and help people fix and stay in their homes. On Tuesday, June 21, at 10 am, Take Root Wisconsin will host a virtual summit on the homeownership landscape in Wisconsin. Speakers at the summit will include Wisconsin State

Treasurer Sarah Godlewski, as well as experts from real estate, financial institutions, nonprofits, and government; and discussions will focus in things like home retention, home repair resources and the rural perspective. The online event is free, and registration is now open at bit.ly/TRWSUMMIT.



EIGHT MORE Free Covid Tests Available

With Covid cases again on the rise, the Biden administration has is offering households eight additional at-home Covid tests, free of charge. You can order the eight tests at <https://www.covidtests.gov/>; you can also use this site to find nearby testing locations. The administration had previously made four at-home Covid tests available per household; you can still claim those using the same link if you haven't already done so. Additionally, because of actions by President Biden and Governor Evers, your health insurance provider may be required to cover up to eight at-home rapid tests per month.



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.