

November 4, 2022



Dear friends,

November is National Adoption Month. It provides a chance for all – individuals, families, businesses, organizations, communities, states and the government – to celebrate adoption. Adoptive families come in all forms and configurations; each is unique and special. Every year, there are more and more children in need of finding secure and safe families and a place to call “home”. National Adoption Month helps to shed light on the process and the positive impacts of adoption.

Until next time, stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Bob

small business **SPOTLIGHT**



**DIA DE LOS
MUERTOS**
CELEBRATION
SAT 11.05.2022
2:00-11:00 PM



The Dia de los Muertos celebration is presented by
Lomeli Butcher Shop and Kenosha Creative Space



Lomeli Butcher Shop, Kenosha Creative Space Hosting Dia de los Muertos Celebration in Downtown Kenosha

Kenosha Creative Space will host its fifth annual Dia de los Muertos, or “Day of the Dead”, block party on Saturday, November 5, from 2 to 11 pm in the 600 block of 57th St. in Downtown Kenosha. The event will feature authentic Mexican food, live music, dance performances and more. You’ll find a full schedule of events [here](#). Admission is \$7 for a single, or two for \$10; admission is free under age 21. Proceeds will go to the Orgullo Hispano Scholarship Fund and to support Kenosha Creative Space. Lomeli Butcher Shop in Kenosha is co-sponsoring the event.

In Case You Missed It



In-Person Absentee Voting Comes to an End; Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 8

In-person absentee voting, sometimes known as “early voting”, ends today for voters in the cities of Kenosha and Racine, as well as the villages of Somers, Mount Pleasant and Elmwood Park. The window to request an absentee ballot has also now closed. If you have not yet requested an absentee ballot or voted by absentee in person, the only way to vote is on Election

Day – Tuesday, November 8, 2022. Polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm. If you aren't sure about your polling location, find it at <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/>.



Don't Forget to Turn Your Clocks Back

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 am on Sunday, November 6. This means that we turn back our clocks one hour. While this gives us one more hour of sleep Saturday night/Sunday morning, it also means less sunlight and shorter days. Daylight Savings Time for the U.S. and Canada always begins on the second Sunday in March and ends on the first Sunday in November.



WE Energies Proposes Residential Electric Customer Rate Hikes; PSC Seeking Public Comment

We Energies has requested that the state Public Service Commission (PSC) allow them to increase rates for residential electric customers by 13%, almost double the increase the company had originally proposed. The PSC is currently accepting public comments on the request before it makes a determination. Public comments can be submitted at <https://apps.psc.wi.gov/ERF/ERF/comment/filecomment.aspx?util=5&case=UR&num=110>, and the comment period ends on Monday, November 7. You can see a statement I issued questioning the need for the rate hikes [here](#).

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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
(262) 694-7379

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Kenosha County Veterans Celebration Returns after 3 Year Absence

After a 3-year hiatus, the annual Kenosha County Veterans Celebration will return this Saturday, November 5. The event is free and open to the public and will take place from 9 am to noon in the common area of the Kenosha County Job Center at 8600 Sheridan Rd. Breakfast will be provided, sponsored by Piasecki Funeral Home and VFW Post 7308; local WWII veterans will be honored; and vendors, free haircuts and music will also be part of the celebration.



City of Racine Offering Free Bus Rides to Veterans

The City of Racine Transit Commission has proposed, and the City Council has approved, a new policy to waive fares for US Armed Forces veterans on fixed-route services. According to the Racine County Veterans Services Office, the RYDE Racine urbanized service area is home to approximately 8,000 veterans.

To qualify, upon boarding, veterans must present a veteran's photo ID card or valid Wisconsin driver's license with a veteran's designation. Kenosha Transit currently offers this benefit to veterans, as well.



In addition to National Adoption Month, November is also recognized as National Family Caregiver Month. Wisconsin has an estimated 580,000 caregivers who volunteer roughly 490 hours of unpaid care each year. Family caregivers provide a variety of sensitive, complex and essential tasks and help fill in the gaps that paid caregivers can't cover, often sacrificing in their own lives and doing so without complaint. Wisconsin's family caregivers go above and beyond, and we all owe them a big "Thank you".



Susan B. Anthony Women of Influence Awards Committee Seeking Nominations for 2023

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2023 Susan B. Anthony Award, which will be presented at the annual awards dinner on Friday March 10, 2023, at the UW-Parkside's Ballroom.

The Susan B. Anthony Award is given to a woman who: believes in equity and exemplifies this philosophy; gives of herself that others might learn, grow, advance and succeed; provides inspiration through leadership; and serves the Kenosha County community. Past winners include: the Honorable Barbara Kluka; Katherine Marks; Kay Wikel; Joan Wilk, PhD; Adalene Greene; Mary Lou Mahone; the Honorable Mary Wagner; and Guida Brown.

The award is named for Susan B. Anthony, a staunch supporter of equal rights for women. She was a well-known labor leader, publisher and suffragist who worked diligently for women's equality.

In addition to the Susan B. Anthony Lifetime Achievement Award, nominations will also be accepted for Women of Influence in the following categories: Women to Watch (Under 40); Business/Government/Nonprofit; and Arts/Education.

All nominations will be considered for all categories, including the Lifetime Achievement Award, unless otherwise indicated by the nominator. Posthumous nominations in all categories are also welcome.

Nominations must be received by the end of business on Friday, December 16, 2022. You will find more information at <https://www.facebook.com/SusanBAnthonyKenosha/>.



Healthcare.gov Open Enrollment Has Begun

The open enrollment period on the individual health insurance marketplace known as healthcare.gov has now begun. The period started on November 1, 2022, and lasts until January 15, 2023.

During this limited time, all Wisconsinites are eligible to get enrolled in one of the health plans available on the federal marketplace. Those who already have insurance through the marketplace can also renew, update or upgrade their health plans during this period. In 2020, Governor Tony Evers directed the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and the Department of Health Services to create WisCovered.com, an accessible resource to connect consumers with free, expert help. These experts assist Wisconsinites in understanding their coverage options and determining if they qualify for subsidized health insurance premiums through the marketplace or low-cost coverage through BadgerCare Plus.



Madison Couple Scammed out of Thousands of Dollars by “Kids in Jail” Claim

An elderly Madison couple was scammed out of thousands of dollars earlier this week by scammers using an old tactic known as “kids in jail”. The scam combined phone calls and in-person visit by the scammers, who claimed that the couple’s daughter was in jail and needed money for bail.

After the scammers came to their home to collect the money, the couple realized just a little too late that it was a scam.

Anyone who receives this type of phone call should contact their local police department.



Wisconsin Launches Program to Send Out Free Covid Tests

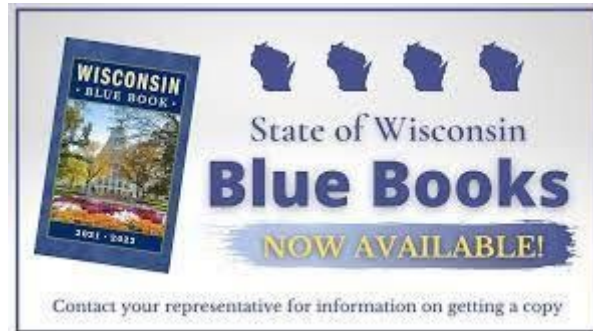
Wisconsin residents can now get Covid-19 tests sent to them free of charge from the state. The federal government had been offering free Covid tests, but the funding for that program has run out.

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.