

**November 11, 2022**



**Dear friends,**

**November 11 is recognized as Veterans Day here in the United States. The national holiday has a unique and interesting history. World War I officially ended at 11 am on November 11, 1918 (the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month). As a result, November 11 became known as Armistice Day. World War I was thought to be “the war to end all wars”; however, this changed with the outbreak of WWII. In 1947, a WWII vet from Birmingham, Alabama, named Raymond Weeks organized “National Veterans Day”, which included a parade and other festivities, to honor all veterans; the event was held on November 11. In 1954, Congress passed and President Eisenhower signed a bill formally proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day; in November 1982, Raymond Weeks was awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal. There are currently more than 16.5 million veterans living in the United States. Take the time today to thank the veterans in your life.**

**Until next time, stay safe and healthy.**

**Sincerely,**

*Bob*

# small business **SPOTLIGHT**



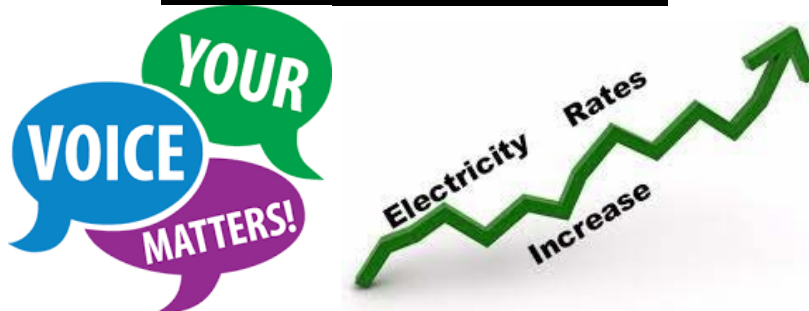
## ***Saturday, November 26 is Small Business Saturday in Downtown Racine and Kenosha***

Each year, Small Business Saturday is recognized on the Saturday following Thanksgiving. This year, on Saturday, November 26, both Downtown Racine and Downtown Kenosha will feature promotions and specials at a number of their small, locally-owned businesses.

Downtown Racine is home to more than 60 small businesses, with a great mix of restaurants and shops. Many of these plan to offer different sales or promotions exclusive to Small Business Saturday. You will find a directory of Downtown Racine businesses at <https://racinedowntown.com/>.

Downtown Kenosha likewise features an eclectic mix of shops, restaurants and galleries offering clothing and jewelry, home décor, flowers and plants, games and toys, health products, books and much more. Many Downtown Kenosha businesses will be offering Small Business Saturday specials. You'll find a directory of Downtown Kenosha's small businesses at <https://www.visitkenosha.com/shopping/shop-small/>.

## **In Case You Missed It**



## ***Public Service Commission Extends Comment Period on WE Energies Rate Hike***

Late last week, my colleague Sen. Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) and I sent a joint letter to the state Public Service Commission (PSC) expressing our concern with both the residential electric customer rate increases proposed by WE Energies and the end to the public comment period, which was scheduled to close at 5 pm on Monday, November 7. Until now, most consumers weren't aware of the rate increases WE Energies was seeking. With the issue getting more

news coverage recently, we were concerned that the November 7 date didn't provide consumers enough time to register their opinions. Well, this week, we got some good news, as the PSC agreed to extend the public comment period by one week, through Monday, November 14.

This gives consumers more time to read up on the proposal and share their concerns.

Earlier this year, WE Energies had requested a 5-6% electric rate increase on residential customers, then increased that number to 8.4% before finally settling on 13%. Meanwhile the company had originally planned to increase the electric rate for big business customers by 11-14% before slashing that in half, to 6.4%. This represents a shift of the financial burden from big businesses to families and small businesses. The proposed rate increase would mean the average family pays about \$175 a year more for electric service.

The PSC has final say over the rate hike. Public comments can be left at <https://apps.psc.wi.gov/ERF/ERF/comment/filecomment.aspx?util=5&case=UR&num=110>.



### ***Sources for Election Results***

You will find results from Tuesday's elections at the following:

Kenosha County <https://www.kenoshacounty.org/1405/Election-Results>

Racine County <https://www.racinecounty.com/departments/county-clerk/election-information/election-results>

Statewide <https://www.tmj4.com/election-results/>

<https://www.npr.org/2022/11/08/1129569343/wisconsin-election-results>



### ***BBB Teams with Amazon on New Scam Tracker Tool***

The Better Business Bureau (BBB) Institute for Marketplace Trust is partnering with Amazon and Capital One to help people learn about, avoid and report scams through an upgraded [BBB](#)

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[Scam Tracker](#) tool. New features make it easier for consumers to identify scams and report them, while arming partners with more robust data on scammers to better protect consumers. BBB Scam Tracker was launched in 2015; the scam tracker tool has saved consumers \$31.4 million in 2021 alone. Partnering with Amazon and Capital One will allow BBB to expand the tool's impact. The new BBB Scam Tracker makes it easier for consumers to report scams via mobile or desktop. It includes a new guided questionnaire that makes it quick and easy to report a scam. Consumers can now review and edit their reports before submission, and then share the report with friends and family via social media or email. They also have the option to receive updates about the constantly evolving tactics that scammers use. An upgraded search function enables consumers to search scams in the tools by email address, phone number, and more.



## ***November 12 Begins Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week***

November 12-20, 2022, you can join together with people from throughout the country for National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week. More than 37 million Americans are at risk of suffering from hunger; worldwide, more than 1 in 9 – 795 million people – do not have enough to eat. It doesn't have to be this way. As a society, we have the resources and knowledge to end hunger and homelessness; we just need the collective will to make these ideas a reality. Learn how you can help at <https://hhweek.org/>.

### **Kenosha County Hunger & Homeless Awareness Week of Events**

Nationwide, Hunger & Homeless Awareness Week highlights the challenges in our county surrounding poverty. Join local agencies, advocates, and partners as we “SHINE a LIGHT” on Hunger and Homelessness and the direct impact it has on Kenosha County.

- Monday, Nov 14th : "What We're Hungry For: How Food Pantries Fed Rural Wisconsin During the Pandemic" Documentary by Jim & Parker Winship // 5:30pm-7pm UW Parkside – Student Cinema; 930 Wood Rd, Kenosha
- Tuesday, Nov 15th: Resource Day // Hunger & Homelessness resources distributed throughout the community
- Wednesday, Nov 16th: Turn the town Orange or Purple in solidarity // Orange represents hunger and Purple represents homelessness
- Thursday, Nov 17th: Community Awareness Walk // 2 pm Kenosha Human Development Services; 3536 52nd St, Kenosha to the Shalom Center; 4314 39th Ave. Wear purple and/or orange.
  - Friday, 18th: Shine a Light on Hunger and Homelessness // Light a candle in your window



## ***Gateway Sponsoring Haircut Event Benefitting Student Veterans***

Gateway Technical College's Barber Technologist and Cosmetology Program will hold its annual veterans "cut-a-thon" on Thursday, November 17. Students and program alumni will participate in the event, which benefits the Gateway Student Veterans Club. The event will include free haircuts between 8 am and 5 pm at three different locations; while the haircuts are free, donations to the club are greatly appreciated. All proceeds will be used by the club to hold events, pay to participate in non-Gateway veteran events and activities, and to serve the needs of the college's veteran community. Event locations are:

- **The Barbering Studio**  
3535 30<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Kenosha (Across the street from Gateway's Kenosha campus)  
(262)564-2210

- **The View on 5 Salon & Spa**  
Room 501

Technical Building on Gateway's Racine Campus  
1001 S. Main St.  
(262)564-2215

- **The Cut: Powered by Andis**  
425 Milwaukee St.  
Burlington WI  
(262)564-2890

Walk-ins and appointments are available at all sites



## ***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.

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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](https://www.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.



## ***Wisconsin Launches Program to Send Out Free Covid Tests***

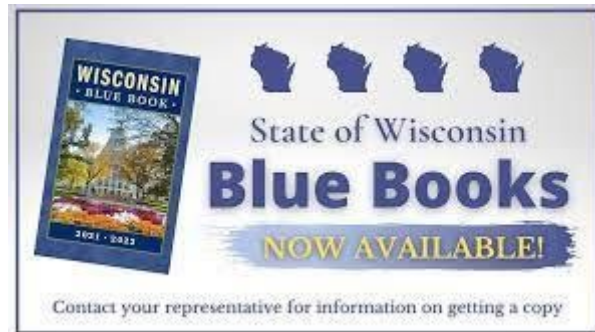
Wisconsin residents can now get Covid-19 tests sent to them free of charge from the state. The federal government had been offering free Covid tests, but the funding for that program has run out.

The Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services (DHS) says that the [Say Yes! Covid Test website](https://www.wisconsin.gov/sayyes) 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](mailto:sen.wirch@legis.wisconsin.gov). These books are free and contain interesting and valuable information about our state's culture, history and government.