

November 25, 2022



Dear friends,

We all know that the day after Thanksgiving is a monster shopping day known as “Black Friday”. The big chain stores traditionally offer big discounts to get people in the doors to do their holiday shopping. In recent years, the Saturday after Thanksgiving has been adopted as “Small Business Saturday”, an opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of small, locally-owned businesses. If you have holiday shopping to do this weekend, please remember locally-owned shops and restaurants. They are run by friends and neighbors from our community, employ many local residents, and help support our communities in a number of ways.

Until next time, stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Bob

small business **SPOTLIGHT**



Divino Gelato Offers Homemade, Authentic Artisan Gelato and Other Tasty Treats

Looking for a lower calorie, lower fat alternative to the traditional ice cream or custard? Head to Divino Gelato in Downtown Racine. For nearly twenty years, they have been serving their homemade gelato in at the original Waukesha location. Now, you can get the sweet treat, which has been featured in *USA Today* and the *New York Times* closer to home. Divino Gelato, 245 Main St. in Racine, offers 36 flavors of authentic gelato each day, as well as bubble tea, French macarons, and Colectivo Coffee drinks. Find more information on Divino Gelato at <https://divinogelatocafe.com/>.

In Case You Missed It



State's Projected Budget Surplus Reaches a Record High \$6.6 Billion

This week, the state Department of Administration announced that the projected budget surplus for 2022-23 has climbed to a record-high \$6.6 billion. The new projection comes about a month after the Evers administration announced it expected the state to close the current budget cycle with a \$4.3 billion surplus. Over the first few months of the new year, Governor Evers and the Republican-controlled Legislature will be working on the next state budget, for the 2023-2025 budget cycle. Earlier this fall, Evers announced a plan that would cut \$600 million

in taxes for working families; he has also said he plans to increase shared revenue to counties and municipalities and increase K-12 and special education funding in his budget proposal.



Kenosha County Public Health Asking Residents to Take Health Survey

The Kenosha County Public Health Department is asking county residents to participate in an online health assessment that will be used to identify and address the county’s most common and pressing healthcare needs. The Community Health Improvement Plan is a joint effort by Kenosha County, Aurora Health Care and Froedert South. The survey takes about 15 to 20 minutes to complete and can be found at <https://www.kenoshacounty.org/thrive>. The county Public Health Department will raffle off 10 \$100 Visa gift cards for people who have completed the entire assessment; those reaching the end of the survey will be directed to an unlinked site where they can enter the drawing. Responses to survey questions will remain anonymous.



Student Homelessness is a Real Issue; Racine County Eye Shines a Light on It

When people think of the homeless population, school-age children are generally not in the picture. The reality is, however, that children experience homelessness just as adults do. In fact, during the 2021-2022 school year, 855 students in the Racine Unified School District experienced homelessness. Racine County Eye and journalist Denise Lockwood have taken an eye-opening deep dive into the problem of student homelessness. I recommend everyone take a look at the article, which can be found [here](#).

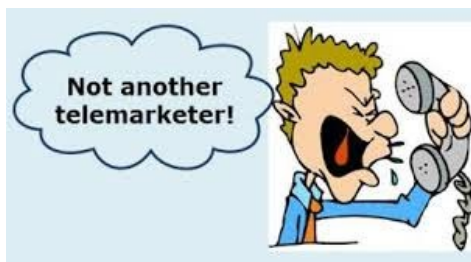


Consumer Protection Officials Provide Important Holiday Shopping Tips

With the holiday season upon us, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) encourages consumers to shop wisely. When doing their holiday shopping, consumers should remember these tips to protect their private information and their wallets:

- **Review a vendor’s policies** for returns, exchanges, and shipping and handling before buying. If it is not readily available, ask customer service.
 - **Take note of safety information**, especially for toys and other gifts for children.
- **Remember sellers must honor the lowest posted price for an item.** Double check that items are priced correctly during checkout.
- **Know if sales prices apply** only to limited hours, models, colors, etc., before shopping. Sales may be subject to certain limitations. Read the fine print.
- **Check for tampering before purchasing a gift card.** Make sure protective stickers are intact and the PINs are not exposed. Check for expiration dates and/or inactivity fees.
- **Make sure a QR code is legitimate** and has not been altered or tampered with and is not a phishing attempt before scanning.
- **Avoid using public wi-fi to make transactions.** Scammers could be monitoring it for personal payment information.
- **When shopping online, do not allow untrusted “cookies”.** Cookies are data saved to your device used by legitimate companies for advertising and by scammers to track your online activity.
- **Always ensure a website is legitimate** before providing any private or personal data. Do not trust a site solely on its appearance; check that its web address is accurate and not merely being mimicked.

For more information or to file a complaint, visit DATCP’s Consumer Protection webpage at ConsumerProtection.wi.gov. If you have questions or believe you are the victim of a scam, report it by contacting DATCP’s Consumer Protection Hotline at (800)422-7128 or DATCPHotline@wi.gov.



AG Kaul, State Consumer Protection Bureau Announce Settlement with Extended Vehicle Warranty Telemarketers

The Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ), partnering with the state Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), has entered into a settlement with NCWC, Inc., for the company's violations of Wisconsin telemarketing laws in marketing extended vehicle service plans to automobile owners in the state. As alleged in the complaint, NCWC markets extended vehicle service plans to automobile owners throughout the country. In 2017-2018, NCWC made thousands of telemarketing calls to Wisconsin numbers without being registered as a telephone solicitor as required by state law. In addition, several thousand of the calls NCWC made to Wisconsin consumers were to numbers listed on the Do Not Call registry, which also violated Wisconsin law. As part of the settlement, NCWC must immediately cease all unregistered telemarketing activities in Wisconsin. The settlement also includes a civil forfeiture of \$350,000.



Wisconsin Families Can Get 5 Free Covid Tests Each Month

Wisconsin residents can now get Covid-19 tests sent to them free of charge from the state. 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 **each month**.

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>.