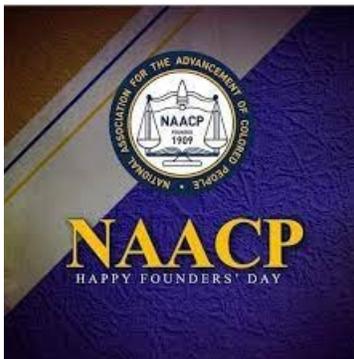


February 10, 2023



Dear friends,

On February 12, 1909 – the 100th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln’s birth – a group that included Black leaders like W.E.B. DuBois and Ida B. Wells announced the formation of a new organization. It was to be called the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and would have a profound effect on the struggle for civil rights and the course of American history. Happy Founders Day to the NAACP.

Until next time, stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Bob



Kenosha Restaurant Week to Showcase Local Cuisine

Kenosha's annual Restaurant Week will take place from February 18 through 26. The nine-day celebration is a showcase of the community's wonderful culinary delights. It provides a great opportunity to try someplace new or revisit an old favorite. Participating restaurants will be offering their regular menus, as well as Restaurant Week specials. You'll find a list of participating restaurants [here](#).

In Case You Missed It



Office Hours TODAY

Today, Friday, February 10, from 11 am to 12 pm, I'll be holding an "Office Hours" listening session in Activity Room A of Kenosha's Northside Library, 1500 27th Ave. Stop in to share your thoughts on the happenings in our state.



Early Voting Begins for Spring Primary

In-person absentee voting for the Feb. 21 spring primary elections began on Tuesday. If you are not currently registered to vote, or aren't sure, you can check your registration and register at myvote.wi.gov. The site will also tell you what is on your ballot and local voting sites. You can

also register in person at polling locations; you will need photo ID and proof of residence. You will also need to bring your photo ID if you plan to vote in person.



Governor Evers to Release Budget Proposal; Increased Aid to Local Governments a Top Priority

On Wednesday, February 15, Governor Tony Evers will give his biennial budget address, where he lays out his priorities for the 2023-2025 state budget. This is an exciting time, as the state is currently projected to have a \$7.1 billion budget surplus, and everyone has opinions on how the surplus should be put to use. Evers has already signaled that one of his top priorities will be increasing “shared revenue” – funds provided by the state to local governments. Shared revenue has been a hot topic lately, as the amount provided to localities has significantly decreased under Republican rule and a number of municipalities have had to go to referendum to fund public safety like police and fire. Evers will propose that 20% of state sales tax revenue be returned to counties and municipalities, an amount that would exceed \$500 million per year. You can watch the Budget Address at 7 pm on Feb. 15 at wiseeye.org. You can find more news on Evers’ proposals at <https://evers.wi.gov/Pages/Home.aspx>.

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Senate Democrats Call for Removal of Far-Right Election Commission Member after Voter Suppression Comments

Recently, Bob Spindell, a Republican appointee to the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC), made comments in his leadership role in the Republican Party celebrating the fact that turnout in Milwaukee was down in 2022 from the previous election. This is unacceptable from someone who is supposed to oversee our state elections. As a result, I have joined with my Democratic colleagues in the State Senate in calling for his removal from the WEC. You will find a copy of the letter to Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu, who appointed Spindell, [here](#).



President Biden Visits Wisconsin to Support Labor, Tout Job Creation

The first stop President Joe Biden made following Tuesday's State of the Union address was at the Laborers' International Union of North America (LiUNA) training facility in DeForest, just outside of Madison. In his speech at the facility, Biden touted improving state and national job creation numbers and the impacts of major federal legislation like the Inflation Reduction Act and the federal infrastructure bill.



BBB Warns Against Valentine Scams

The Better Business Bureau wants consumers to be wary of numerous scams related to Valentine's Day. These scams include:

- **Imposter websites:** From fake jewelry sellers to online dating sites, consumers should always be on the alert for imposter websites. Scammers can easily lift official photos, sales promotions and logos directly from the website of a popular jewelry brand. With professional graphics and unbeatable prices, scammers build an attractive website that looks very similar to the real thing. Similar methods can be used to build fake online dating platforms, which are often used to steal personal data and credit card information.
Red flags include: products available at extreme discounts, unreachable customer services, and a seller requesting customers pay with cash transfer apps or cryptocurrency.
- **Romance scams:** Romance scammers often target vulnerable people who have experienced a recent breakup or other hardship. They take advantage of that heartbreak to establish a connection and gain sympathy. Once they've gotten their victim on the hook with a sad story, they begin pursuing their true goal – money. Falling victim to a romance scam can be particularly devastating. Victims can lose thousands, and they're left feeling heartbroken and betrayed. **Red flags include:** the relationship moves very fast; you never meet the person; they ask for money.
- **Wrong number scam:** Responding to a text message from someone who messaged the wrong number might seem harmless, but in reality it might be bait to lure you into a conversation. If you keep chatting, they eventually try to get your personal information by directing you to sign up for an adult site. **Red flags include:** the messages don't stop; the sender directs you to sign up for a website; they try to get your personal information.
- **Fake florist scam:** Ordering flowers for Valentine's Day? Don't procrastinate or you may end up falling for a scam. BBB has received many reports of shoppers who thought they were ordering flowers from an online florist and either got nothing at all or a disappointing arrangement. **Red flags include:** The business has no reviews or bad reviews; you can't find a return policy or satisfaction guarantee; the deal is "too good to be true".

If you encounter a suspected romance scam, cut off all contact with the perpetrator by blocking their accounts and phone number. Then, report your experience to BBB.org/ScamTracker. Dating site users should also report suspicious activity to the platform, so they can take action

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against the scammers' account. For more information about romance scams, visit BBB.org/romance. For more information or further inquiries, contact the Wisconsin BBB at www.bbb.org/wisconsin, 1-800-273-1002.



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 [Say Yes! Covid Test website](#) is 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 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>.