

February 24, 2023



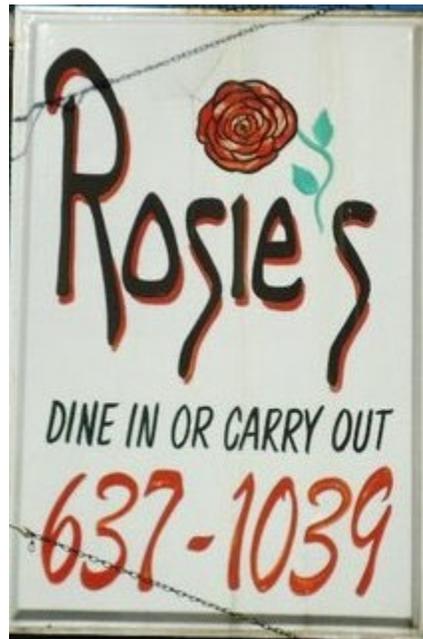
Dear friends,

Next week is National Public Schools Week. This is an annual observance to recognize the wonderful things happening in our neighborhood schools and to honor the educators who work so tirelessly to cultivate a love of learning in our children. I want to send a big “Thank you” to everyone out there who keeps our schools running and help our children grow.

Until next time, stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Bob



Rosie's in Racine to Make Long-Awaited Reopening

Rosie's, a popular Racine diner that was destroyed by a fire on New Year's Day 2018, will be holding its much-anticipated reopening on March 6. Located at 1804 Taylor Ave. in Racine, Rosie's had been owned and operated by the Trevino family, who named the diner after their daughter, for sixteen years prior to the fire. After dealing with numerous obstacles, Rosie's is back, as of March 6. Congratulations to the Trevino family; the community is happy to have you back. Find more at <https://www.facebook.com/Rosiesontaylor>.

In Case You Missed It



Wirsch Co-Authors Bipartisan Bill Restoring Bargaining Rights on Health Care for Public Safety Employees

This week, I announced that I am co-authoring legislation with Sen. Van Wanggaard (R-Racine), Rep. Tip McGuire (D-Kenosha) and Rep. Bob Donovan (R-Greenfield) that would restore the right of public safety employees to bargain over the terms of their health care plans. Many of us remember the fight over Act 10, the legislation pushed by former Governor Scott

Walker just days into his first term that eliminated collective bargaining rights for public employees. Public safety employees were exempted from some of these limitations, but a recent ruling by the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission (WERC) declared that they are not legally allowed to bargain over the details of their health care plans or even IF they have a health care plan. These men and women put their lives on the line each time they report for duty; we owe it to them to at least give them a say in the health care coverage provided to them and their families. The bill is currently being circulated for co-sponsors in the Legislature.



Evers Budget Includes Largest State Investment in Homelessness Initiatives in Wisconsin History

As part of his 2023-2025 state budget, Governor Tony Evers has proposed \$16.5 million per year on initiatives to support the homeless. This would represent the largest non-pandemic investment in homelessness programs in state history and includes funding for homelessness prevention, veteran rental assistance, and support to landlords to make quality housing available. Evers has repeatedly attempted to fund the recommendations of the bipartisan Wisconsin Interagency Council on Homelessness but has faced obstruction from legislative Republicans. The Governor's proposal would fully fund the Council's most recent set of recommendations, released in March 2022.

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Find Spring Primary Elections Results

Tuesday was the spring primary election. In addition to a statewide State Supreme Court race, there were a number of county and municipal races held. You'll find election results from Kenosha County [here](#) and Racine County [here](#).



Remembering Former Governor Tony Earl

This week, Wisconsin lost a true champion when former Governor Tony Earl passed away following a stroke. Earl was Wisconsin Governor from 1983 to 1987. He was a true public servant who was known as a champion for the environment and women's and LGBTQ+ rights issues.



State to Receive \$79 Million to Support Small Businesses

Wisconsin is set to receive up to \$79.1 million through the federal State Small Business Credit Initiative, part of the American Rescue Plan. Senator Tammy Baldwin and Governor Tony Evers announced the funding award earlier this week.



American Legion Post 21 to Host Chili Cook-Off

American Legion Post 21 in Kenosha will hold its annual chili cook-off this Saturday, February 25, from noon until 4 pm at the American Legion Hall, 504 58th St. Tickets are available at the door, with a suggested donation of \$5. A portion of the proceeds will go to support Badger Boys & Girls, a non-profit organization that educates young people on the operation of government.



Wisconsin Families Can Now Get Ten (10) Free Covid Tests Each Month

Wisconsin residents can now get up to 10 free Covid-19 testing kits sent straight to their doors each month as part of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' Say Yes! Covid Test Program. Since starting in September 2022, the [Say Yes! Covid Test](#) program has delivered more than 1.6 million free test kits throughout Wisconsin. Households were previously limited to one free test kit (5 tests) per month but can now receive two, containing 10 tests. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has extended the shelf life for several Covid tests, including iHealth, which are delivered through the Say Yes! Covid Test program; tests are now good for up to one year. To order the test kits online, visit sayyescovidhometest.org.

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Those without reliable internet access or who have questions about ordering can dial 211 or 877-947-2211 for assistance.



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>.