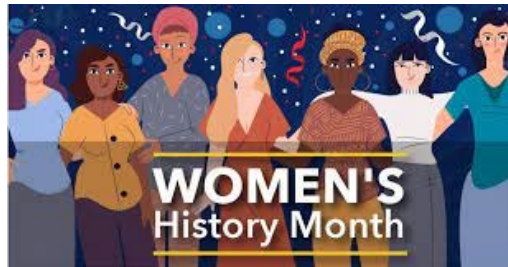


March 3, 2023



Dear friends,

March 1 was the start of Women's History Month. This observance is meant to celebrate the contributions women have made to the United States and to recognize the specific achievements women have made over the course of American history in countless fields. From Susan B. Anthony to Kamala Harris, women have been powerful figures in the story of our country. Take the time this month to discover more about a woman in history that usually goes a little unnoticed. There are a lot of great stories and accomplishments to learn about and honor.

Until next time, stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Bob

small business **SPOTLIGHT**



Lifelong Kenosha Residents Bringing New Children's Boutique to their Hometown

New Downtown children's boutique Millie Bo Peep, 5720 6th Avenue, will hold its Grand Opening on Saturday, March 11, from 10 am to 5 pm. The store is owned by lifelong Kenoshans James and Tina Warner, who recognized a need in the community following the birth of their daughter, Millie. The store will offer a large selection of children's clothes, books, accessories and toys that are high quality and ecofriendly. It will also include clothing options for moms who want to match their little one. Regular store hours will be Wednesday-Friday, 11 am to 6 pm; Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm; and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm. You can currently make purchases through their website, www.milliebopeep.com.

In Case You Missed It



Office Hours Next Saturday

Saturday, March 11, from 2 to 3 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, including the state budget.



US Supreme Court Hears Arguments for, against Biden's Student Debt Forgiveness

This week, the United States Supreme Court heard oral arguments from both sides in two lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of President Joe Biden's student debt forgiveness program. The first lawsuit was brought by six Republican-led states – Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and South Carolina; the other was brought by a conservative advocacy organization. A decision on the cases is expected by July.



Kenosha News, Others Hosting Spring Job Fair

The Kenosha News is teaming up with the Southeastern Wisconsin Workforce Development Board, Equus Workforce Solutions and Froedert South to host a Spring Job Fair on Tuesday, March 7, from 1 to 4 pm at the Stella Hotel and Ballroom, 5706 8th Ave. in Kenosha. The event is free to attend. You'll have the opportunity to meet with representatives from businesses in Southeastern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois who are looking to hire for full-time, part-time, work-from-home, hybrid and seasonal positions. The industries represented will include healthcare, manufacturing, administrative work and more. You can pre-register and find a list of participating employers at <https://go.kenoshanews.com/kenoshajobseeker>.

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“Citizen Lobbyists” Hit the Capitol as the Legislative Session Heats Up

With the budget process underway, the 2023 legislative session is picking up steam. The Capitol is buzzing with activity as what I call “citizen lobbyists” flood the Capitol to talk with their legislators about a variety of important topics. In the last few weeks, visitors to my office have included Gateway Technical College students; Kenosha and Racine bar and tavern owners; NAACP members for Black Advocacy Day to close out Black History Month; care workers from Society’s Assets; Kenosha County Executive Samantha Kerkman; Kenosha County Clerk of Courts Rebecca Matoska-Mentink; local library staff; and more. Meeting with community members and hearing about the issues that are most important to them is one of the best and most fulfilling parts of my job. The picture above shows a member of my staff meeting with members of the Tavern League from Kenosha.



Free Tax Prep Help Available in Kenosha, Racine Areas

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, through the United Way of Kenosha County and the United Way of Racine County, provides free, quality tax preparation from IRS-certified preparers to individuals and families earning up to \$58,000 annually. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, visit www.kenoshaunitedway.org/VITA (for Kenosha residents) or www.unitedwayracine.org/VITA.



America Saves Week Highlights Importance of Planning for the Future

Today marks the final day of America Saves Week 2023. The annual event, this year held from February 27 through March 3, is a national campaign that encourages individuals and families to consider their financial stability. The state Department of Financial Institutions is taking the opportunity to encourage Wisconsinites to evaluate their personal finances and savings habits by taking the America Saves Pledge. Through the pledge, individuals complete a financial check-in that allows them to get a clear view of their finances; set savings goals; and create a plan to achieve them. After completing the pledge, America Saves provides tips, resources and tools through short emails and text reminders to keep individuals on track toward their savings goals. Visit AmericaSaves.org for more information.



“Empty Bowls” Fundraiser to Fight Food Insecurity

Since 1997, the Empty Bowls fundraiser in Racine has raised more than \$375,000 to fight food insecurity in the community. The annual event will take place this year on Monday, March 6, from 11 am to 2 pm and again from 4 pm to 7 pm at Festival Hall, 5 Fifth St. Carryout is available, as well. Entry is \$15, which gets you a bowl made by local students, churchgoers and community members, which you get to keep. You also get to choose from 12 different soups – or try a little of all of them – with bread and other baked goods. Children get a disposable bowl for \$5, and carryouts are \$10. A number of businesses and community organizations have chipped in to donate soups and baked goods; you’ll find a comprehensive list at emptybowlsracine.org.



Taxpayer Bill for Vos/Gableman/Trump Election “Investigation” Continues to Grow

The farce that was the “investigation” into the 2020 Presidential Election, conducted by former state Supreme Court Justice Michael Gableman and authorized by Assembly Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester), may be over, but the cost to taxpayers continues to grow. This week, a judge ordered Vos (i.e., taxpayers) to pay \$135,574 in legal fees to watchdog group American Oversight. The group had been successful in a suit to obtain records from the Gableman “review”. This latest order brings the cost to taxpayers to \$2.5 million.

The Gableman probe was a joke from the start, as former President Donald Trump pressured and shamed Vos into authorizing it. Gableman’s “work” revealed no evidence of voter fraud.



Good News Time: Budget Motors of Wisconsin Comes Through after Woman’s Bad Experience at Another Dealership

Many of you have likely seen social media posts about a disgusting incident that took place recently at a look used car dealership. A woman who had gone to the dealership looking to buy a car was treated badly, and her driver’s license was disgustingly defiled by an employee of the shop. Social media posts about the incident quickly went viral, and the community responded to defend and assist the woman. Budget Motors of Wisconsin, located in Racine, have gifted the woman a car free of charge. Additionally, local businesses M&K Detailing, Viper Lighting, Abi & Sons Automotive, and BLAK Coffee Kenosha have reached out to provide services to the woman. This is just another example of the greatness of our community and the people who live here.



Carthage College Will Host Special Olympics Basketball Game

Sunday, March 5, Carthage College will welcome four teams of Special Olympic athletes – about 40 in total – as it plays host to fun and unique basketball game. The teams from the Special Olympics will play against a team of Carthage College students; each team from the Special Olympics will play one quarter against the Carthage students.

This type of game has been played in the past, but Covid restrictions have paused it since 2019. The Carthage College Special Olympics Club will be selling t-shirts and holding raffles and other events, like a free throw contest at halftime. Admission is free; concessions will be available for purchase. Game time is 2 pm.



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>.