

**March 24, 2023**



**Dear friends,**

**Spring has sprung, and we've had the weather to prove it. A mix of warmer temperatures and rain these last few days (although we might be in for some wintry weather this weekend). That means that green grass, brightly colored flowers, and leafy trees are just around the corner. We're fortunate here in southeastern Wisconsin to have a treasure trove of outdoor recreational options to allow us to enjoy the beautiful scenery. As weather allows, get out and take advantage of our beautiful community.**

**Sincerely,**

*Bob*

# small business **SPOTLIGHT**



## *Mrs. Betty's Kitchen Serves up Homestyle Cooking with a Southern Flair*

Since opening in 2018, breakfast-lunch restaurant Mrs. Betty's Kitchen has served as a tribute to Betty Bonner, grandmother of owner and head chef Kimyron Bonner. Bonner credits his grandmother with teaching him to cook, so it was a no-brainer to name his restaurant in her honor. According to Bonner, the food at Mrs. Betty's Kitchen is "a little southern, a little New Orleans". Mrs. Betty's, 327 Main St., is open Tuesday through Sunday, 8 am to 2 pm. Find out more at <https://www.facebook.com/mrsbettyskitchen/>.

## In Case You Missed It

**RACINE BUDGET LISTENING SESSION**

WITH REP. GRETA NEUBAUER, REP. TIP MCGUIRE, AND SEN. BOB WIRCH

TUESDAY, MARCH 28TH

6:00 - 7:30 PM

GATEWAY TECH COLLEGE, RACINE CAMPUS QUAD LAKES ROOM

**Budget Listening Session**

WEDNESDAY MARCH 29TH

at the Kenosha Northside Neighborhood Library in Community Room A from 6pm - 7pm

We want to hear from you about your thoughts on Governor Evers' 2023-25 budget proposal.

You are invited to a budget listening session with Rep. Tip McGuire, Rep. Tod Ohnstad, and Sen. Bob Wirth

## *Area Legislators Hosting Local Budget Listening Sessions*

I'll be holding budget listening sessions in both Racine and Kenosha in the following weeks. On March 28 in the Quad Lakes Room of Gateway's Racine campus from 6 to 7:30 pm, I'll be joined by my Assembly colleagues Minority Leader Greta Neubauer (D-Racine) and Rep. Tip McGuire (D-Kenosha), who sits on the powerful Joint Finance Committee (JFC).

Reps. McGuire and Tod Ohnstad (D-Kenosha) will join me for a budget listening session in Kenosha the following day, March 29, from 6 to 7 pm at the Northside Library. Both are open to the public.



## *Defending Social Security and Medicare*

Social Security and Medicare are two of our most critical safety net programs. They are both successful and incredibly popular. Currently, an aging population is putting a strain on both programs. Several leading Republican politicians – US Senator Rick Scott from Florida; Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis; Presidential candidate Nikki Haley and others - have recently used this problem to rationalize proposals to gut the programs, through privatization, increased retirement age, cuts to benefits, etc. The State Legislature does not have a say in the administration of either Social Security or Medicare, but I feel strongly that we need to go on the record as strong defenders of both programs. That’s why I have authored a Senate Joint Resolution which reaffirms the support of the Wisconsin State Legislature for both Social Security and Medicare and calls on our state’s Congressional delegation to oppose any measures that will harm the stability or viability of the programs. The resolution is currently circulating amongst my colleagues for co-sponsors; so far, no Republicans. I’ll keep you updated in a future issue.



## *Standing with Employees Fighting for a Living Wage*

Employees at the Starbucks location on the Capital Square in Madison were on strike this Wednesday ahead of the company’s annual shareholders meeting. I was in Madison for a Senate floor session, so my colleague Sen. Chris Larson (D-Milwaukee) and I joined them on the picket line. According to the striking employees, the strike was part of a “national day of

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action” among Starbucks workers at more than 100 stores throughout the United States; it was timed to coincide with Starbucks’ annual shareholder meeting, which took place on Thursday. The employees are fighting for union recognition. About a year ago, employees at the Capital Square location announced that they intended to unionize and actually won union recognition from the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) last June. However, employees at this and more than 100 other stores have had a difficult time getting Starbucks to recognize the union.



### ***Early In-Person Voting Begins for April 4 Election***

You can now vote “early in person” for the spring general election, held on April 4. Hours and availability vary by municipality, so be sure to check with your municipal clerk. You will find the contact information, your registration status, and instructions for requesting an absentee ballot at [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov).



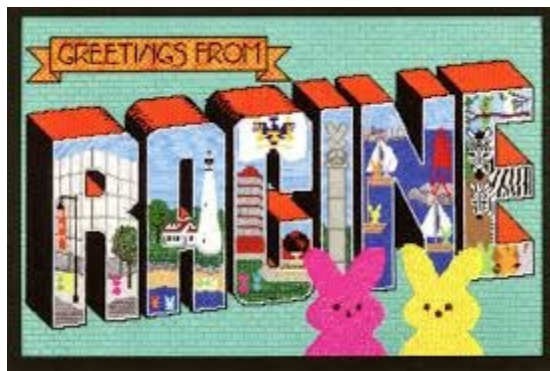
### ***Kenosha Car Club Meeting to Plan Annual Car Show***

The Kenosha Car Club will be holding a meeting on Tuesday, March 28, at 6:30 pm at The Fireside Restaurant to discuss plans for its annual car show. Pizza will be provided.

Membership in the car club is \$20 per year and includes a club T-shirt.

The club has selected Sunday, June 25 for this year’s car show. Stay tuned for more information on the car show as the date gets closer.





## ***Racine Art Museum Hosting 14<sup>th</sup> Annual International PEEPS Art Exhibit***

Beginning next week, the Racine Art Museum will once again be home to an unusual, popular spring time event, the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual International PEEPS Art Exhibit. Submissions in recent years have increased from more than 135 in 2020 to 207 last year, as interest continues to grow. This year's exhibit will open on March 30 and run through April 15. The entries will be judged by a panel of experts, but museumgoers are invited to nominate their favorite for what is called the "PEEPles Choice Award".



## ***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](https://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>.