

March 31, 2023



Dear friends,

Cesar Chavez is a hero of the labor and civil rights movements. Born into poverty and raised by migrant workers, Chavez dedicated his life to improving conditions for workers around the country. In co-founding the United Farm Workers of America with Dolores Huerta, he brought national attention to the plight of agricultural workers, particularly Latinos, their inhumane working conditions and poverty-level wages. While he is no longer with us, the fight continues to this day. March 31, 2023, would have been the 96th birthday of Cesar Chavez, and we recognize him today with the “Cesar Chavez Day of Service”.

Sincerely,

Bob



Anna's on the Lake

Anna's on the Lake is relatively new to the Kenosha scene, but the site is steeped in more than 100 years of history. Located at the former Common Grounds, it's got a can't-miss view of the Lake Michigan harbor. Anna's was started in 2022 by Kenosha native Anna Pitts. Anna and her twin sister Natalie previously took a month-long road trip across the country, stopping at local coffee shops along the way. They have applied that experience to Anna's on the Lake. Stop in for a quick cup of coffee or to try one of their breakfast or lunch specialties. You can see the full menu and business hours at <https://www.annasonthelakekenosha.com/>.

In Case You Missed It



Bipartisan Bill on Health Care for Public Safety Workers Receives Support in Public Hearing

A bipartisan bill that I co-authored with Sen. Van Wanggaard (R-Racine) to ensure that public safety employees such as police officers and fire fighters maintain their health care coverage was given a public hearing this week before the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety. Two police officers from Racine, Todd Hoover and Don Nuttall, were among those speaking in favor of the bill. Not a single person showed up to testify against it, a good sign as the bill moves through the legislative process. The bill is Senate Bill 120/Assembly Bill 120, and you can follow its progress at <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2023>.



Microsoft Planning \$1 Billion Development at Foxconn Site

This week, Microsoft announced that it plans to purchase 315 acres on the Foxconn site in Mount Pleasant to build a \$1 billion data center. The Mount Pleasant Village Board has approved several necessary agreements related to the development; the agreements are still pending approval from Racine County. If all goes as planned, Microsoft will buy the land for \$50 million by July 31 of this year.



Don't Forget – Tuesday, April 4 is Election Day

If you haven't already cast a ballot early in person or by absentee ballot, don't forget to vote on Tuesday, April 4. The polls will be open from 7 am to 8 pm. You can find your polling place, as well as learn what is on your ballot, by visiting <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/>.



Veterans Outreach of WI Launches Veteran Support Program

Racine-based Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin (VOW) has started what it's calling the "9-Line Veteran Support Program", a partnership with the Captain John D. Mason Peer Outreach

Program and NAMI of Racine County. VOW says the program will allow them to help veterans who are struggling mentally and emotionally connect to the services they need, including:

- Safe storage of medication and/or firearms
 - Mental health providers
 - Food insecurity
 - Housing resources
 - Employment opportunities
 - Employment training
 - Health care
 - Group support

If you are a veteran or the family member of a veteran who is struggling, call (262)456-7059 to get in touch with a case worker. If you are a veteran in an immediate crisis and need to talk to someone, call the Veterans Crisis Line by dialing 988 and then pressing 1 or text 838255.



Dr. Jonathan Shailor, Parkside Professor, Wins Teaching Excellence Award

Dr. Jonathan Shailor, a Professor in the Communications Department at UW-Parkside, has been named one of three recipients of this year's University of Wisconsin System Teaching Excellence Awards. The awards are given annually by the UW System Board of Regents to recognize outstanding teachers within the UW System. Dr. Shailor has taught at Parkside for nearly 30 years and is also the founder of the Shakespeare Prison Project, a joint effort between Parkside and the Racine Correctional Institution. Congratulations to Dr. Shailor on this wonderful achievement.



Talking Budget at this Week's Listening Sessions

This week, I held budget listening sessions in both Racine and Kenosha, along with my Assembly colleagues, Reps. Greta Neubauer, Tip McGuire and Tod Ohnstad. Nice crowds turned out in both locations to talk about budget priorities. I appreciate everyone who came out to share their thoughts or to ask a question about the budget.



Coffee House for Vets Reopening Next Week

The Bunker's Coffeehouse for Vets will reopen on Monday, April 3, after taking a bit of a winter break. The shop, located at 2211 50th St. in Kenosha, will be open Monday through Friday, from 9 am to 1 pm and offers free coffee, breakfast and lunch and provides access to veterans' services. Jo Wynn, CEO of Walkin' in My Shoes, founded The Bunker's Coffeehouse for Vets; she has partnered with Victoria's Catering to provide home-cooked meals to homebound veterans and older adults in Kenosha, as well.



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.

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

State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7882 • (608) 267-8979

Toll-Free Office Hotline: 1-888-769-4724

Email: Sen.Wirch@legis.state.wi.us • Website: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen22/news> • Fax: (608) 267-0984
(262) 694-7379

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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>.