

June 2, 2023



Dear friends,

“D-Day”, the name given to Allied invasion of the beaches at Normandy in northwest France during World War II, took place on June 6, 1944. It was a massive operation, involving more than 160,000 troops from about a dozen countries. At the time, France was occupied by Nazi Germany, and if the operation hadn’t been successful, it was entirely possible that Germany and its allies could control most or all of Europe. By the end of that summer, almost a million Allied troops had arrived on the war’s western front, and a renewed Soviet push from the east put further pressure on the Axis powers. Less than a year later, on May 8, 1945, Germany surrendered, and four months later, Japan did, as well, bringing the war to an end. Approximately 4,000 Allied troops were killed, and another 5,000 injured, in the D-Day operation. Their sacrifice, however, saved countless lives that would have been lost had the war dragged on. It’s not hyperbole to say that D-Day is one of the most consequential days in human history. Stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Bob

small business **SPOTLIGHT**



Kenosha's Trolley Dogs Celebrates 20 Years in Business

Kenosha landmark Trolley Dogs recently celebrated two decades in business in Downtown Kenosha, a tremendous achievement for any small business but particular in the food service industry. In addition to being a local favorite for fast casual dining, Trolley Dogs has been a great friend of the community, participating in and contributing to multiple school events and charity organizations. Congratulations to owners James Shehadeh and Devin Mosely and best wishes for another 20 years.

In Case You Missed It

Wisconsin State
Budget **101**

State Budget Update

Progress on the 2023-2025 state budget has been slow-going, as the Joint Finance Committee met just once this week, on Thursday, taking up just a handful of non-controversial items. All of the “big ticket” budget items have yet to be addressed, including K-12 education; health care; higher ed; the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program; corrections; and housing. Additionally, the issue of shared revenue hasn't been addressed. The Republican majority prefers to deal with shared revenue in separate legislation, outside the budget, and the proposal put forth by Assembly Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester) was passed by the Assembly but hasn't been taken up yet by the Senate. The outcome of the shared revenue negotiations will clearly play a role in the state budget, so it needs to be addressed soon, as well. Stay tuned for further updates.



State of Wisconsin Turns 175

On May 29, 1848, what had been known as the Wisconsin Territory was admitted to the Union, becoming the 30th state. Wisconsin statehood had actually been delayed by two wars with Native American tribes; boundaries issues also slowed statehood. Finally, Wisconsin agreed to set the Mississippi River as its western border and became the last state east of the Mississippi to enter the Union. Wisconsin had just more than 150,000 residents when it became a state, but the population doubled before the 1850 census. Agriculture, particularly the dairy industry, quickly took off, eventually resulting in Wisconsin's nickname, the Dairy State. Happy 175th birthday to the Great State of Wisconsin.



Outta Sight Kite Flight Comes to Kenosha Lakefront

The skies over the Kenosha lakefront will be filled with color this Saturday and Sunday, June 3 and 4, as the Outta Sight Kite Flight comes to town. It's a free outdoor event that generally draws hundreds of kites. For the first time, IKEA will host the IKEA Lounge – a large tent where participants and spectators can get out of the sun, relax and even try out some IKEA furniture; it will also feature cardboard kites and coloring sheets for kids, cookies and other treats. “The Grand Launch” kicks off the festivities at noon both days.

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Kenosha Student Recognized as AAA Wisconsin's Student Safety Patroller of the Year

Bennet Clinkingbeard, a 5th grade student at Roosevelt Elementary School in Kenosha, has been named AAA Wisconsin's Student Safety Patroller of the Year. The Student Safety Patroller of the Year Award recognizes Patrollers who best exemplify leadership qualities and perform their duties effectively and responsibly, without incident. Bennet was chosen in part based on an essay he wrote on the qualities of a good leader. Congratulations to Bennet, and thanks for keeping your fellow students safe.



Governor Evers Raises Pride Flag over the Capitol to Kick off Pride Month

Continuing a tradition he started in 2019, his first year in office, Governor Tony Evers held a ceremony on Thursday, June 1, to oversee the raising of the Pride flag over the State Capitol. June is recognized as Pride Month, a time to recognize and honor the contributions and culture of the LGBT+ community. It's also an important recognition that while progress has been made in terms of equal rights, there is still work to be done.



State Consumer Protection Officials Give Tips for Stopping Junk Mail

It's an annoyance that most of us deal with at one time or another – too much junk mail in our mailboxes. Recently, the state Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) offered tips on cutting back or stopping your home from receiving junk mail.

There are many mailing lists out there. Some companies work with firms like the Direct Marketing Association, a national group that collects publicly available information; others use listings of just addresses and leave mail addressed to the generic “resident” or something similar. Besides just collecting data, some companies also sell it, which is how getting added to one mailing list can cause your junk mail to multiply. According to DATCP, the Direct Marketing Association allows people to remove their names from the association’s mailing list, which means they will no longer sell your information; that doesn’t stop the companies that already have it, however. You have to go to these companies individually and ask to be removed from their mailing lists. When it comes to pre-approved credit cards, DATCP advises people to contact their banks directly to see if the bank is sharing information with vendors. Removing your name from direct marketing lists can be only temporary, too, as groups like the Direct Marketing Association, may remove names and addresses for only a limited number of years. That means it’s something that people will need to stay on top of. If you are given the option when signing up for services, check the box that excludes your personal information from being part of any list the company may share with other vendors. To protect sensitive information, it’s important to shred forms with account numbers, such as pre-approved credit cards or catalogs. For more information on opting out of direct marketing lists, call the state’s Consumer Protection Hotline at 800-422-7128 or visit the website,

<https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Homepage.aspx>.



Kenosha's 65th Annual Blessing of the Fleet

One of my favorite Kenosha traditions is coming up this Sunday, as the Kenosha Yacht Club holds its 65th annual Blessing of the Fleet. It begins at 10:30 am at the KYC, 5130 4th Avenue, on Simmons Island. The Blessing of the Fleet symbolizes the start of the boating season and is a tradition that's been passed down through generations. The ceremony includes a remembrance of those who have passed, the lighting of the Southport Lighthouse and the placing of a traditional wreath at the flagpole. The public is welcome to attend.



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, if you haven't already done so. You can find an online version of the survey at <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/22/wirch/surveys-and-petitions/2022-legislative-survey>.