

**June 9, 2023**



**Dear friends,**

**The American and world music scenes have been shaped and influenced by Black artists like Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie, Prince, Marvin Gaye, Tina Turner, Jimi Hendrix, BB King, Beyoncé and far too many more to count. Because of this impact, in 1979 President Jimmy Carter declared June to be Black Music Appreciation Month, and the tradition has carried on since. Music and dancing have been integral parts of Black culture in America from the very start. Enslaved people created ways to communicate through drumming and singing. Following a 1739 rebellion in South Carolina, the enslaved Black population were prohibited from drumming because of their use of coded communication. They found a way around this, however, using their voices and their bodies in song and dance. Music has been a powerful force throughout history, and to this day, it remains a powerful influence in social and political structures of American society.**

**Sincerely,**

*Bob*

*Plush Clothing*

## ***Owner of Racine's Plush Clothing Receives Small Business Award***

Yolanda Coleman, owner of Racine's Plush Clothing, was given the 2023 U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Wisconsin Women in Business Champion Award in a ceremony held on May 25. Heather Lux, the southeast regional project director for the Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corp., nominated Coleman for the award, based on her success with Plush as well as her advocacy for women entrepreneurs and cancer survivors. Plush Clothing, 300 Main St. in Racine, offers trendy fashions in plus sizes at reasonable prices. Congratulations to Yolanda. Visit Plush's website, <https://plushclothingstore.com/>.

## **In Case You Missed It**



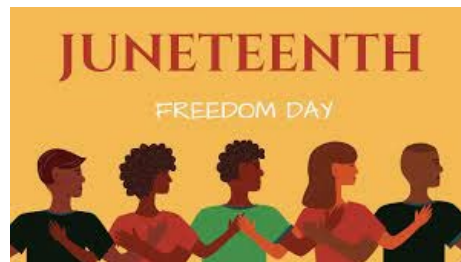
## ***Governor, Republican Leaders Reach Deal on Local Government Funding Bill and Other Budget Issues***

A stalemate lasting a couple of weeks seems to be over, as Governor Tony Evers and Republican leaders in the Legislature announced that they had reached an agreement on a major priority, a bill to increase state aid to local governments. The major sticking point had been the provisions related to the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County. Both entities are facing impending financial crises stemming from decades-old pension obligations. That has now been resolved, in a package that also includes agreement on education funding. Details of the deal that have been released include:

- The requirement that the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County could institute sales tax increases if approved by voters through referendum was removed; that had been a major sticking point for Senate Republicans and Governor Evers. Instead, the new sales taxes can be enacted if 2/3 of the Milwaukee City Council and Milwaukee County Board approve.

- Every municipality and county in the state will receive at least a 20% increase in shared revenue. This is an increase from 10% in the original bill and 15% in the bill passed a couple of weeks back by the State Assembly.
  - More than \$1 billion in new money for K-12 education
    - \$50 million for reading and literacy programs
    - \$97 million more for special education
    - \$30 million more for school mental health
- A per-pupil increase in state funding for voucher schools and students in the special needs scholarship program.

As with any compromise, no one is going to be happy with every part of the deal. In divided government, compromise is necessary in order to get something done. Details are still coming out, so we don't have the full picture yet. We will see if this deal has the support it needs to pass once more detailed information is made available.



## *Schedule of Local Juneteenth Celebrations*

Each year, June 19 is recognized as Juneteenth, also known as “Freedom Day”. It is the oldest-known celebration marking the end of slavery in the United States and was recently made a federal holiday. In next week’s edition, I’ll talk more about the history of Juneteenth. For now, though, I wanted to share details of events being held in Racine and Kenosha to celebrate Juneteenth.

### Racine

Friday, June 16, 2023

Sneaker Ball 2.0

Racine Civic Center – Festival Hall

5 pm – Social Hour; 6 pm – Banquet

Saturday, June 17, 2023

8 am - Juneteenth Parade

12 – 8 pm – Juneteenth Celebration @ Dr. John Bryant Community Center

More details at <https://www.cityofracine.org/ParksRec/Events/Juneteenth/>.

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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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## **Kenosha**

Saturday, June 17, 2023

11:30 am – 6 pm – On the Lawn @ 52<sup>nd</sup> St. and 13<sup>th</sup> Ct.

Activities include service awards, community resources, food, games for kids, vendors, music, a farmer's market, and more

More details at <https://juneteenthkenosha.my.canva.site/#page-4>.



### ***Health Officials Put Out a Call for Blood Donations***

Versiti, also known as the Blood Center of Wisconsin, has put out an urgent call for blood donations, particularly in southeast Wisconsin. They say that heading into summer, they have seen a drastic drop in scheduled appointments. They are seeing fewer first-time donors and walk-ins, and a large chunk of their blood collections come from high school and college blood drives, which are not happening during the summer months. All blood types are needed, but type O negative, known as the universal donor, is the most needed. Anyone age 17 or older in good health is encouraged to donate. You can schedule an appointment at

<https://www.versiti.org/>.



### ***“Saving Lives is Beautiful” Blood Drive July 5***

I've just told you about the urgent need for blood donors. You'll have an opportunity to donate locally on Wednesday, July 5, at VFW Auxiliary Post 1865, located at 6618 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Kenosha. The Red Cross and local pageant queens Brandy Pearson and her daughter Evangeline will co-host the blood drive, which will run from 1 pm to 6 pm. You can read more about the event by visiting its [Facebook page](#) or schedule an appointment [here](#).



## ***Racine, Kenosha Receive State Violence Prevention Grants***

Racine and Kenosha were among the communities awarded violence prevention grants through the Wisconsin Community Safety Fund (WCSF). The grants can be used for a wide range of programs and initiatives intended to address increased levels of gun violence, suicide and domestic violence since the start of the Covid pandemic.

The City of Kenosha will use the grant to establish the Key Emerging Leaders Academy to engage youth at highest risk for experiencing and engaging in community violence. The City of Racine's plans for the grant include an Office of Violence Prevention and a gun violence intervention plan.



### ***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>.