

June 23, 2023



Dear friends,

Summer has officially begun; both the calendar and the weather tell us so. June 21 of each year is known as the summer solstice and marks astronomical start of summer in the northern hemisphere. It's also the day of the year with the longest period of sunlight. We've been experiencing summer-like weather this week, that's for sure. Summer is a bit of an odd time of year; it doesn't officially start until the end of June, but we also consider July 4 the halfway point of the summer. No matter when it starts and ends, it always seems to go too fast. Enjoy your summers with friends and family, and make memories that will last a lifetime.

Sincerely,

Bob

small business **SPOTLIGHT**



Pepi's, Home of the Original Bambino

Pepi's Deli opened its doors more than 30 years ago at its original location on 16th Street near Johnson Wax. It became known locally as the home of the Bambino – a sandwich made with steak or chicken; grilled onions; bacon; cheese; and its “Bambino sauce”, in either hot or mild.

It has since grown, evolving into Pepi's Pub & Grill (now at 618 6th Street). The Bambino is still a featured part of the menu, but they also serve delicious burgers, salads, sandwiches and sides; vegetarian options; AND for dessert, Ma's Doughnuts. Pepi's is LGBT+ friendly, and for Pride Month, they've created the LGBTQ sandwich – Lettuce, Guacamole, Bacon, Tomato and Queso. Check out their full menu at <https://www.facebook.com/pepispubandgrill/>.

In Case You Missed It



On Last Day of Committee Budget Work, Republican Show True Priorities with Massive Tax Cut for the Rich, Deep Cuts to UW System over Diversity Programs

After months of work, the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee wrapped up its work on the 2023 state budget on Thursday with some of their worst, most controversial actions yet. Republicans have said all along they were planning to use part of the state's historic surplus on tax cuts. Well, they finally unveiled their plan, and it's a doozy. Tax filers with incomes above \$500,000 would on average have their tax liability reduced by 16.7%; those between \$100,000 and \$500,000 would see a cut of 16.8%. Filers with incomes above \$75 million – Wisconsin

actually has 11 of those - would get a \$1.8 million tax cut. Earners between \$1 million and \$1.5 million per year would get an average cut of \$11,504. Those between \$60,000 and \$70,000 per year – the mean household income in the state – would receive a \$249 cut, and those making between \$25,000 and \$30,000 per year would see their state taxes cut by just \$15 per year on average. This plan would cost about \$3.5 billion, more than half of our surplus.

As they were once again cutting taxes for their wealthy friends and donors, JFC Republicans cut UW System funding by \$32 million – and eliminated 188 positions, meaning 188 people are losing their jobs – in an attempt to quash programs aimed at diversity and acceptance, known as DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion). My Democratic colleagues who serve on JFC spoke passionately and eloquently about both of these issues. Regarding the UW cuts and broader Republican attacks on diversity efforts, Sen. LaTonya Johnson (D-Milwaukee) said, “Who would not want to make someone feel accepted, regardless of their race, regardless of their age, regardless of their disability, regardless of their religion, regardless of their culture? These are just some of the basic things that not only should we be proud of our universities for teaching.

These are some of the basic things that we should be teaching in our homes, to our own children. These are some of the basic things that help us become better individuals.”

Jay Rothman, President of the University of Wisconsin System, warned prior to the hearing that the cut could lead to campus closures and higher tuition rates because schools are already operating under financial strain.

It's believed that the full Senate and Assembly will be in session to debate the state budget next week.



Office Hours This Saturday

Saturday, June 24, from 12 to 1 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.

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Email: Sen.Wirch@legis.state.wi.us • Website: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen22/news> • Fax: (608) 267-0984
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Republicans Cut Key Child Care Program from State Budget, Putting Access to Child Care at Risk for Many

From the start of the current budget process, funding for the Child Care Counts program had been one of the most anticipated issues. It is wildly successful program that plays a key role in the day to day lives of millions of Wisconsin families. The program was created during the pandemic, using federal Covid money to help child care centers keep the lights on and pay staff; however, the program is currently set to end after December 31, 2023. Governor Evers had included funding to continue the program in his 2023 state budget proposal. Child care advocates have been very active, trying to encourage legislators to keep the funding in the budget, and there was some speculation that Republicans might agree. After all, parents in red districts need quality child care just as much as those in blue districts.

Well, now we have our answer. On a party line vote, JFC Republicans eliminated Child Care Counts funding without explanation. Child Care Counts is credited with helping 3,300 childcare providers stay open, recruit and retain quality employees, and provide care to more than 113,000 children during the pandemic. Providers say that without continuation of Child Care Counts, they will have to increase their rates or go out of business. Either scenario would leave families with children struggling to find quality, affordable care. It's also a blow to our labor market. Parents who can't find or afford child care aren't able to fully participate in the workforce. We hear all the time that businesses across industries are having trouble finding enough employees; this certainly isn't going to help.



RACINE PUBLIC LIBRARY
Bookmobile



SUMMER SCHEDULE
LIBRARY GO

Bookmobile: (262) 939-2264
racinelibrary.info/library-go

Library Services: (262) 636-9217
racinelibrary.info

MONDAY

- 11:00-12:00 Knart Parking Lot
2222 S. Greenbay Rd
- 1:00-2:00 Wadewitz School
2700 Yout St
- 2:30-4:30 Green Tree Center
4 Mile Rd & Douglas Ave
- 5:30-7:45 Elmwood Plaza
3721 Durand Ave

TUESDAY

- 11:00-12:00 Red Apple School
Lasalle St & High St
- 1:00-2:00 Kohl's Parking Lot
Hwy 33 & Hwy 20
- 2:30-4:30 South Park Sturtevant
Mt. Pleasant Ave
- 5:30-7:45 Roma Lodge
7130 Spring St

WEDNESDAY

- 10:30-11:30 Starbuck Middle School
Wright & Ohio
- 12:30-1:30 Humble Park
21st & Blaine Ave
- 2:00-3:00 Regency Point
2408 S. Green Bay Rd
- 3:30-4:30 Chicago & Dombrowski
- 5:30-6:30 Virginia & Kinzie
- 6:45-7:45 Western Village
Hwy 20 & Emmertsen

THURSDAY

- 1:00-7:00 Shorecrest
3 Mile & Erie

FRIDAY

- 11:00-5:00 Pick N Save
Hwy 31 & Spring St

SATURDAY

- 9:00-11:00 Washington & Ohio
- 12:00-1:30 Northwestern & Kraut
Frankville, WI

Racine Bookmobile Sets Summer Schedule

The Racine Public Library's Bookmobile has released its summer schedule. The Bookmobile will be operational Monday-Saturday and make stops throughout the city. You'll see the schedule above or by visiting www.racinelibrary.info/library-go.

You are invited

"Our Community... Our Future"

TO THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF KENOSHA TIME CAPSULE BURIAL

FRIDAY, JUNE 30TH, 2023
11AM
AT THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF KENOSHA TROHA CENTER
1330 52ND ST, KENOSHA

Kenosha Boys & Girls Club to Hold 30th Anniversary Time Capsule Burial

To celebrate its 30th anniversary, the Boys & Girls Club of Kenosha has invited the entire community to the burial of three time capsules, which will be unearthed and opened in 2033. The event will take place on Friday, June 30, at 11 pm in the Club's front parking lot. The time

capsules will contain items from the Club's Youth Center, Teen Center and Scamps members, as well as pictures of various staff and members and a flash drive of the Club's 30th anniversary video. An RSVP is not necessary.



Celebrating Juneteenth



I was proud to present a proclamation recognizing Juneteenth in Kenosha, along with State Reps. Tip McGuire and Tod Ohnstad.



Public Asked to Take Survey on the Future of the Kemper Center

A study is being conducted on various options for the future of the Kenosha County-owned Kemper Center/Anderson Arts Center. Part of that study involves a public survey, which you will find [here](#). According to the County, the study will help with long-range planning goals, including: including multi-purpose usage beyond the current use; increased awareness of events, special activities and utilization of the campus; identifying policies that include prioritization, funding estimates and implementation targets; identifying potential public-private partnerships to enhance utilization of the space; and evaluating adaptive reuse of areas to support greater use of the facilities within the campus. The study should wrap up and release its findings in early 2024.