

July 21, 2023



Dear friends,

In every issue, I highlight a locally-owned, independent business in the 22nd Senate District. For many years, I have advocated for patronizing these types of businesses whenever possible. Well, the entire month of July is dedicated to awareness and recognition of the importance of independent businesses to our communities. It's estimated that for every \$100 spent locally, at least \$68 of that stays in the local economy; additionally, a dollar spent at an independent retailer is usually spent six to fifteen times in the community. We are blessed to have so many terrific small, locally-owned independent businesses – stores, restaurants, etc. Please take the time this month to check out someplace new or revisit an old favorite. You'll find some great deals and help the community in the process.

Sincerely,

Bob

small business **SPOTLIGHT**



Local Musician Opens Guitar Studio in Downtown Kenosha

Have you always wanted to learn to play an instrument but continue to put it off? Well, now might be the time. Kenosha musician Matt Mifflin is using his musical talents to help others develop theirs. Mifflin, who has a BA in Music from Parkside and a Master's in Classical Guitar from Northwestern, has opened a guitar studio in Downtown Kenosha, 611 56th St., Suite LL2, to be exact. Mifflin has taught guitar at different levels for a number of years. His lessons are available for beginners to more experienced musicians, at all ages and skill levels. Visit his website, www.mattmifflinmusic.com, for more.

In Case You Missed It



Office Hours THIS Saturday

Saturday, July 22, from 1 to 2 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.



Governor Evers Visits Kenosha to Celebrate Completion of Hwy 50 Reconstruction

On Monday afternoon, Governor Tony Evers was joined by local elected officials; state Department of Transportation Secretary Craig Thompson; and DOT staff to celebrate completion of reconstruction of Highway 50 in Kenosha County. In his speech, Evers thanked DOT engineers and construction workers and emphasized the importance of Highway 50 to Kenosha, southeastern Wisconsin, and the entire state. Tens of thousands of residents and commuters use the highway each day, including thousands of truck drivers. Work on the reconstruction began in early 2021 and concluded earlier this month.



Evers's Partial Budget Vetoes Leave More Than \$1 Billion in Tax Cuts

Wisconsin taxpayers will see more than \$1 billion in state and local tax cuts over the next two years as a result of partial vetoes to the budget bill by Governor Tony Evers. This estimate was included in a report by the nonpartisan Wisconsin Policy Forum. According to researchers who compiled the report, "State officials used an unprecedented nearly \$7 billion surplus to do in the 2023-25 budget what once would have seemed impossible: combine the largest increase in funding for public services in three decades with a relatively substantial package of tax cuts."

The bulk of the tax cuts will go to earners in the two lowest tax brackets, as Evers vetoed Republican cuts for the wealthiest Wisconsin residents. Those vetoes leave a \$5.9 billion surplus.

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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Evers says he is open to a new tax cut bill for middle class families on the condition that Republicans don't again try to give tax cuts to the wealthy.



WI AG Kaul Joins Law Enforcement Leaders Nationwide to Crack Down on Illegal Telemarketers

Earlier this week, state Attorney General Josh Kaul joined with the state Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), and other law enforcement partners from around the country to announce a new crackdown on illegal telemarketing, targeting operations responsible for billions of calls to U.S. consumers.

The joint state and federal "Operation Stop Scam Calls" initiative builds on the efforts of Wisconsin and other state and federal partners to combat these nuisance, illegal telemarketing and robocalls. The project targets telemarketers and the companies that hire them, as well as lead generators who deceptively collect and provide consumers' phone numbers to robocallers and others, falsely representing that these consumers have consented to receive calls. As part of Operation Stop Scam Calls, Kaul announced a lawsuit against Michael D. Lansky, LLC, which does business under the name Avid Telecom; the suit alleges that the company initiated and facilitated billions of illegal robocalls to millions of people and violated that Telephone Consumer Protection Act, the Telemarketing Sales Rule, and other federal and state laws.



Extreme Heat is on the Way; Local Cooling Stations Activated

The weather forecast for the near future, particularly starting mid-week next week, is calling for some very hot, humid days. This is not just an issue of convenience or annoyance; it can be very dangerous, particularly if you don't have air conditioning or have to be outdoors. Both the Kenosha and Racine areas have set up cooling stations, where people can go to escape the heat. In Kenosha, these include: the Kenosha County Job Center, 8600 Sheridan Rd.; Northside

Library, 1500 27th Ave.; Southwest Library, 7979 38th Ave.; Simmons Library, 711 59th Pl.; Kenosha Public Museum, 5500 First Ave.; and the Dinosaur Discovery Museum, 5608 10th Ave. Find a full list, including hours of operation, for Kenosha County at <https://www.kenoshacounty.org/2126/Designated-Summer-Cooling-Centers>.

Racine cooling locations include: Cesar Chavez Community Center, 2221 Douglas Ave.; Racine Family YMCA – Sealed Air Branch, 8501 Campus Dr., Mount Pleasant; Dr. John Bryant Community Center, 601 21st St.; Ascension All Saints Hospital, 3801 Spring St.; Dr. MLK Jr. Community Center, 1134 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive; Tyler-Domer Community Center, 2301 12th St.; and the Salvation Army, 1901 Washington Ave. Find the full list, including hours of operation, at <https://www.racinecounty.com/departments/ready-racine-county/racine-county-cooling-centers>.



Harbor Park's "Party in the Park" to Feature Pop-Up Biergarten, Food Trucks, Live Music

This weekend, now through Saturday, Kenosha's Harbor Park will be alive with music, food and beverages, as "Party in the Park" takes over. The event will include a traditional German-style Biergarten pop-up; food trucks; daily live music; and a vendor and crafter marketplace. Parking and admission are free. The event will be held at Harbor Park's Celebration Place, 5501 Ring Road. You'll find the full schedule at <https://www.visitkenosha.com/event/pop-up-biergarten-and-food-truck-rally/2179/>.



Suicide and Crisis Hotline Marks Busy and Successful First Year

July 16 marked one year since the national transition from the 10 digit National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. During that time, the Wisconsin Lifeline received 981,834 contacts for mental health and substance use support; 72,487 of those were phone calls, and the remainder were either texts or online chats. That averages out to 5,900 calls per month. More than 98% of the contacts were resolved through the conversation, reducing pressures on the state's system of emergency services for mental health and substance use concerns. Staff of the Lifeline are trained to help people reduce stress, provide emotional support, and connect people with local resources.