

# LOWER WISCONSIN RIVER VALLEY SENTINEL

-EST. 2020-

Spring Green, Wisconsin

WE CARE MORE.

Wednesday, September 8, 2021 | Vol. 2, No. 36

FREE, Single-Copy

## People (and dogs) enjoy the mild weather as Labor Day marks the unofficial end to summer



Photo by Taylor Scott, *Managing Editor*

Mochi, a german shepherd/yellow labrador mix, was one of many residents, visitors and dogs out enjoying the mild weather, with temperatures in the high 70's over the Labor Day holiday weekend.

Pictured: Mochi enjoying the beach and water at Peck's Landing in Spring Green on Sept. 5, with the Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center in the background.

With the unofficial start of flannel and spooky season here, check inside to see details about our upcoming special fall edition.

See Page 3 for details.

## A looming crisis: How to get rental assistance in Wisconsin

*A guide to navigating assistance programs for those at risk of eviction during the pandemic.*

On Aug. 26 the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a temporary ban on evictions enacted by the Biden administration because of the coronavirus pandemic. According to Census Bureau data from last month, this leaves almost 3.5 million people in the U.S. potentially facing eviction.

### If I haven't applied yet, am I still eligible and what help can I get?

Yes. Eligible applicants may receive up to 15 months of aid in a combination of rental payments and/or security deposits. These payments will be paid directly to the landlord on behalf of the tenant. To apply, applicants must:

—Be an adult Wisconsin resident; assistance does not require that a recipient be a legal resident of the United States.

—Have a household income at or below 80% of the county median income in the month of or prior to the application date and experienced financial hardship or significant costs due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

—Be at risk of becoming homeless or experiencing unstable housing.

### How do I apply?

The Wisconsin Community Action Program Association (WISCAP) coordinates the program through its member agencies. Most agencies offer online applications, but some instruct applicants to send an email requesting a WERA application. Apply at the agency that serves your county, as outlined below:

—Central Wisconsin Community Action Council, serving Adams, Columbia, Dodge, Juneau and Sauk counties ([cwcac.org](http://cwcac.org) or email [wendys@cwcac.org](mailto:wendys@cwcac.org)).

—Southwestern Community Action Program, serving Grant, Green, Iowa,

Lafayette and Richland counties ([swcap.org](http://swcap.org)).

If you live in Dane county, go to:

—Tenant Resource Center serves Madison and surrounding Dane County. It can be reached at [tenantresourcecenter.org](http://tenantresourcecenter.org) or at 608-257-0006.

To apply you must provide the following information and documentation:

—Driver's license or state ID.

—Documentation of income you receive.

—Proof of financial hardship (including loss of employment, reduced hours of employment and an applicant or other adult in household not working in order to supervise virtual learning).

—Eviction notice or arrears statement.

### Am I eligible if I am undocumented, a non-citizen or have no SSN?

Rental assistance funds come from the federal government, and Congress left eligibility open to non-citizens — including those who lack Social Security numbers or are undocumented. Neither states nor

local governments may impose their own immigration restrictions in lieu of the federal government, according to a National Housing Law Project fact sheet.

Wisconsin residents can apply for rental assistance as long as they meet income-related requirements.

Applicants will not be asked about their immigration status at any point during the process.

Accepting rental assistance should not harm an immigrant's application for legal status under the concept of the "public charge," legal experts say.

### What do I do if my application is still pending and my landlord still hasn't received payment?

Try asking the organization you applied to for an update.

### Who else can I contact for help?

Legal Action of Wisconsin: 855-947-2529

—Adapted locally from *Wisconsin Watch*

## Iowa County Fair held over Labor Day weekend, Richland County Fair held this week

Photo by Taylor Scott, *Managing Editor*

A view overlooking the Iowa County Fair in Mineral Point during the evening of Sept. 5. The fair was held Labor Day weekend, Sept. 2-6, providing agricultural, educational and entertainment events to people from every town, village, and township in Iowa County (and beyond).

According to the fair website, the vision of the Iowa County Fair is to promote agricultural and industrial education to our community. The fair has been held in Mineral Point annually since 1856, previously being held in Dodgeville the five years prior to that.

The Sauk County Fair was held the week of July 12. The Richland County Fair, 23630 Co Hwy AA, Richland Center, is being held this week. More information can be found at: [fair.co.richland.wi.us](http://fair.co.richland.wi.us)

