

Executive Update



Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

January 9, 2009

Message from County Executive Walker

How many people would take a gift of a \$1,000 and go out and buy a \$60,000 sports car if they could not afford the monthly payments? Yet that is exactly what many state and local leaders seem to be asking us to do with the federal "stimulus" package.

Federal money nearly always comes with strings attached. In fact, most federal transportation grants require a 20% (or greater) local match. "Free money" sounds nice, but what happens when state and local governments cannot afford the match?

If Milwaukee County receives \$50 million for infrastructure under this formula, taxpayers in the county would have to come up with an extra \$10 million. Does anyone think we have an extra \$10 million in this budget climate?

It is even worse if these federal funds are used for operating expenses as that will create even larger holes in future budgets. Bailing out failed government budgets is not the same as stimulating the economy.

A real economic stimulus would put money in the hands of consumers – and not the government. Tax cuts work.

Tax cuts worked for Ronald Reagan in the 1980s and they are what John F. Kennedy called for in the 1960s. In each case, our nation climbed out of a recession by putting more money back into the hands of the taxpayers.

The choice is simple: do we bail out failed governmental budget deficits or do we stimulate the economy and put more people to work with real tax cuts at the federal, state and local levels? I choose to put people back to work!

Scott

Swearing-in Ceremony for County Clerk



County Executive Walker congratulated new County Clerk Joe Czarnecki at his swearing-in ceremony this week. Czarnecki was elected in November and replaces former County Clerk Mark Ryan who retired last year.

Volunteers needed

County Executive Walker encourages residents to help the Interfaith Good Neighbor Project by volunteering to assist our older adults with the task of snow removal.

Call (414) 220-8650 for volunteer information.

RDI Stages Grand Opening



Actor Tony Shalhoub, a Green Bay, Wisconsin native and star of the hit television series “Monk,” greeted the packed crowd before cutting the ribbon at the grand opening for the new \$6 million RDI Stages in Milwaukee. The full-service film production facility is housed in space converted from World War II era factories. The event was presented by Film Wisconsin and hosted by a number of local companies, including VISIT Milwaukee.

Walker at Eagles event



County Executive Walker addressed area Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Eagle Scouts at an “Evening with the Eagles” program on the responsibilities of leadership through attaining the Eagle Scout rank. The county executive drew on his own experience of being awarded the rank of Eagle Scout in his remarks to the scouts.

Walker announces rededication of Lake Park Community Room

County Executive Walker announced the reopening of the Lake Park Community Room, 3133 E. Newberry Blvd. A rededication, in honor of past Lake Park Friends President Marcia Coles was held this week.

The scope of the project included updating rest rooms, renovating the meeting area, and adding a kitchenette re-using the original marble wainscot material.

The Community Room is used by the Lake Park Friends for meetings, and other community-based organizations for educational programming in support of Lake Park. For more information call Milwaukee County Parks at (414) 257-4503.

Winter fun in parks

The latest snowfall is just what the sled dogs needed! Door County Sled Dogs, made up of a team of 4 to 6 Siberian Huskies, offers dog sled rides at Veterans Park, 1010 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive in front of the open air pavilion on Saturdays and Sundays from 11am – 1pm. The cost for a sled ride is \$10/child and \$15/adult. The public is invited to learn about the sport of mushing and view the dogs training on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7pm at the park. Sled rides and training sessions are dependent on a 4” base of snow. Call (414) 967-9677 for up-to-date information.

