

# Executive Update



Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

January 16, 2009

## Message from County Executive Walker

*The Chairman of the County Board put out a press release yesterday announcing his request for \$92 million from the federal government to build a new mental health facility on the County Grounds. He believes that a new building would be a great project for the proposed economic "stimulus" package.*

*Interestingly, the project does not appear to even be eligible for federal funding under the proposed package (we will not really know until a piece of legislation is introduced and ultimately passed the by the Congress). The incoming President and his team have called for "shovel-ready" projects.*

*Back to the idea of building a new mental health facility, there has been no work on site selection, zoning review or architectural plans for the new building. County staff believes it will take 12 to 18 months to even break ground on the project. This hardly sounds like "shovel-ready" to me.*

*On the other hand, we worked with the Wheaton Franciscans over the past two years to find a way to approve a long-term lease to move the mental health complex into the former St. Michael Hospital site. Our plans would create a state-of-the-art facility with lower operating costs.*

*Most importantly, work on the project can start now (if the County Board would give it approval). That is "shovel-ready."*

*If people are looking to stimulate the economy, we can do it now with our proposal to lease the former St. Michael Hospital site.*

*Scott*

## Walker at IBA event



County Executive Walker attended the Independent Business Association of Wisconsin (IBAW) member meeting to speak on transit and options of the Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee (KRM) commuter rail proposed project. (Above: with board members Tim Peterson and Richard Blomquist). Kenneth Yunker of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) also participated in the KRM discussion.

Thomas A. Rubin, author of the KRM Corridor Transit Service Options Study for the Reason Foundation, was the keynote speaker. For details on his investigation and analysis, click here: <http://www.reason.org/ps372/>.

## Background on stimulus

Links to background on federal "stimulus" plan:

<http://www.county.milwaukee.gov/router.asp?docid=7711>

## Music Under Glass



County Executive Walker announced a new concert series at the Domes – Music Under Glass. The first concert was held last week and was a huge success. The concert schedule will continue on Thursday evenings through March 26, from 6:30pm – 8:30pm. High-tech light shows will be featured at 5:30pm and 8:30pm. Food and beverages available for purchase, no carry-ins are allowed. Regular admission applies.

January 15 – AhVantSoul (R&B)

January 22 – Perry Weber & the Devilles (Blues)

January 29 – KT's Universal Band (World & Global)

Call the Domes at (414) 649-9830 or visit [www.countyparks.com](http://www.countyparks.com) for more information.

## Toboggan Slide Open

The toboggan slide at Whitnall Park, 6700 S. 92<sup>nd</sup> Street between College and Rawson avenues, will open for the season this Saturday (weather permitting) from noon until 8pm. The toboggan run features a groomed, iced track with both 6 ft. and 8 ft. long metal-runner toboggans available for rent for \$7 per hour. The track is 1020 feet long, with a total run of about 1500 feet. Hours: Fridays 4-8pm, Saturdays noon – 8pm, and Sundays noon – 6pm. Call (414) 425-7303 for group reservations.

## Walker welcomes board for summer conference



County Executive Walker welcomed the state and national Board of Directors for APSE: The Network on Employment to Milwaukee (Association for Persons in Supported Employment) this week. APSE focuses on integrated employment for people with disabilities. The 2009 National APSE Conference on Community Employment will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Milwaukee this summer.

## Community Events

County Executive Walker will address the attendees at the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts this weekend. He will also participate in several other events honoring Dr. King, and will deliver the keynote speech at the King Day Celebration at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, 1531 W. Vliet Street, on Monday at 6pm.

## Samson Stomp & Romp

Balmy temperatures of 32 degrees *above* zero should attract many participants to the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Samson Stomp & Romp on Sunday, January 18. This race supports all of the animals in the zoo's collection. Pick 'n Save and Gatorade help sponsor the event.

For registration information, visit:

<http://www.milwaukeezoo.org/events/samson.php>.