

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

February 12, 2010

Message from County Executive Walker

After talking about tourism in front of the Greater Milwaukee Hotel Association on Thursday, I was asked about the \$800 million awarded to Wisconsin for high-speed rail. I raised these questions:

Will the funds cover the true cost of building the line?

How will the state pay for operating the line? (I don't think there is support for a new tax or fee).

How much will the new train line tap into the existing state Transportation Fund?

That last question is really important, as the Governor has already raided \$1.3 billion from the fund. If the state takes more, how will we fix problems like the Zoo Interchange?

Getting \$800 million from the feds may be a big deal. If we can not afford to operate the system, however, it is kind of like winning a sports car but not being able to afford the insurance needed to drive it.

Scott



Boy Scouts' 100th



County Executive Walker, along with some of his department and division heads, attended the 2010 Boy Scout Leadership Breakfast held at the Pfister Hotel for the Milwaukee County Council of Boy Scouts of America. The breakfast is part of the annual Friends of Scouting campaign that solicits companies and individuals and showcases what Scouting is doing in the Milwaukee area. Coach Buzz Williams, head coach of men's basketball at Marquette University, was the keynote speaker for this year's event that celebrated the 100th Anniversary of scouting.

Walker earned the rank of Eagle Scout in high school and remains involved with Scouts.

If you would like to support Scouting's character development programs, contribution information can be found at their website at:

<http://tinyurl.com/yao3xlu>.

L-R in photo above: Boy Scout Color Guard members: Christian Linske, Devin Mieritz, Sean McCook, Walker, David Kalchbrenner, Jonathan Niezgod, and Sam Pike.



Salute to Hospitalized Vets



County Executive Walker joined VA Medical Center Director Robert Beller to honor local veterans at the annual National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Day event. Walker visited patients in the hospital and joined a group for lunch. Jim Duff, acting director of the Milwaukee County Veterans Services Office, also participated.

Keynote speaker



County Executive Walker was the keynote speaker for members of the Greater Milwaukee Hotel & Lodging Association, a chapter of the Wisconsin Innkeepers Association, during their luncheon presentation at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center. (Photo with association President Jim Mikolajczak).



Visitors to the Milwaukee Public Museum (MPM) have the rare opportunity to see 2000-year-old documents in an exhibit that includes artifacts from more than a dozen institutions worldwide. Those who have viewed the *Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible – Ancient Artifacts, Timeless Treasures* exhibit have called it awe-inspiring and not to be missed. More information:

<http://www.mpm.edu/dead-sea-scrolls/>

Winter activities

The latest snowfall brings the **Door County Sled Dogs** back for authentic dog sled rides at a new location. The rides will be available weekends from 11am-1pm **at Whitnall Park**, 6751 S. 92nd Street. Call the dog sled hotline for confirmation – (414) 967-9677.

Visits www.countyparks.com for a listing of all the **sledding hills** – day and nighttime. Whitnall Park also features concessions and a warming fireplace on Saturday 11am-8pm and Sunday noon-6pm. The iced toboggan slide is closed for the season.



The **Mitchell Park Domes** is planning an evening for **Valentines** on Sunday, February 14 from 6:30-9:30pm with a live music performance by “AhVantsoul,” heartfelt soul and rhythm and blues selections. Enjoy a chocolate fountain and wine at the cash bar. Admission is \$10 for adults, and \$5 for children ages 6-17 and includes the Domes light show.