

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

March 6, 2009

Message from County Executive Walker

The Wall Street Journal printed my editorial column last weekend:

**Why I'm Not Lining Up for Stimulus Handouts
We've been down the spending road, and the result is a state budget in terrible shape**

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123578396175298389.html>

With the recent signing of the "stimulus bill" by the President, and as details of how these funds may be made available through the State and Federal governments, I want to highlight the criteria that I have previously laid out for evaluating these opportunities.

- No matching funds required by Milwaukee County.
- No long-term federally mandated financial commitments required by Milwaukee County
- Expenditure of requested funds will not obligate Milwaukee County to new operating or maintenance expenses.

Applying for funds that do not meet these criteria should not be advanced unless they are already included as part of the 2009 budget. We will work with the County Board to identify stimulus funds that would be beneficial to Milwaukee County without unnecessarily burdening the taxpayers.

Scott



Milwaukee 7



County Executive Walker addressed several hundred business leaders at the Milwaukee 7 economic development group meeting this week. The seven counties –Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha – work together to be globally competitive and attract world-class businesses and talent to the region.

Governor Doyle attempted to defend his budget at the meeting, drawing criticism for his provision that effectively raises business taxes by \$215 million over the next two-year budget cycle. County Executive Walker issued the following statement following the event:

"The business leaders I spoke with today and over the past few weeks strongly believe that the Governor's budget is still a net loser. Raising taxes on those who create jobs is not a good idea in this economy.

Governor Doyle's policies will hurt jobs in Milwaukee County, throughout the M7 region, and across Wisconsin."

NOTE: Free Day March 6 at Milwaukee County Zoo. Visit www.milwaukeezoo.org for details.

Children's Hospital receives Kiwanis of Milwaukee Award



(L-R) Dave Drent – Exec.Dir. of the Milw.Cnty. War Memorial, Cinthia Christensen, Walker, and Sup.“Luigi” Schmitt

County Executive Walker presented a proclamation to Cinthia Christensen, RN, JD – executive vice president and chief operating officer of Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, for receiving the Kiwanis Hall of Fame Award. Children's Hospital was chosen as the 5th inductee into the Kiwanis Hall of Fame, in part for their devotion to ensuring the health and well being of children and dedication to finding cures for children's illnesses, which led to their top-three national ranking by *Parent* magazine.

Domes Draws Crowds



Children get up close and dance to the Frogwater celtic-flavored music.

An appreciative audience enjoys the light show between music sets.



The Music Under Glass series continues to draw enthusiastic crowds to the Domes for the performances and light shows. Visit www.countyparks.com for a schedule of remaining concerts and public hours.

Milwaukee Iron



County Executive Walker extended a friendly challenge to Ed Burkhardt, the Honorary Consul to the New Zealand Consulate for the Great Lakes Region, for the upcoming **Milwaukee Iron Arena Football** game against the New Zealand Overstayers on March 12. If the Iron loses, Walker will send a package of Milwaukee County products to Burkhardt – Harley-Davidson merchandise, Sprecher Root Beer, Rehorst Premium Milwaukee Vodka and Gin, and Usinger's sausage. Burkhardt proffered a case of their popular New Zealand wine.

Community Events

County Executive Walker addressed the NAIOP – Wisconsin Chapter, a commercial real estate development association, at the MAC this week on his Blueprint for Economic Prosperity. Projects of interest included the Park East land and eliminating community benefits, St. Michael Hospital renovation to accommodate the Behavioral Health Division and sale of current site to Medical College of Wisconsin, UW-Milwaukee School of Engineering proposal for county land near the Research Park, and applying for a pilot program for a potential airport lease that would provide long-term funding for local mass transit.

The county executive also appeared at the County Board Transportation committee to garner support on a regional transit initiative with Waukesha County and the City of Waukesha to eliminate transfer fees and coordinate future purchase of uniform fare boxes.