

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

April 10, 2009

Message from County Executive Walker

This week, we asked each of our department heads to give us plans to reduce their budgets by 3% through the end of 2009. The reasons are largely because of three big issues: declining revenues from sales tax collections; declining revenues from investment earnings; and, major cuts in state aid from Governor Doyle's budget plans.

While the state budget goes up 7.7%, state aid to Milwaukee County is cut by 5.6%. And the economy is driving down retail sales and investment earnings.

We're being proactive in light of anticipated revenue shortfalls. In the past, this approach has worked well as we were able to pursue creative ideas to keep the budget in balance. Despite challenges in 2007 and 2008, we were still able to finish with a surplus each year.

Over the next few weeks, we will discuss our specific options for 2009 and for the future. I hope that you will stay involved and help us continue to make this a great county and a county in which we can afford to live, work, play and retire.

Scott
p.s. Have a happy Easter and a joyous Passover!



Walker helps pack Easter baskets at Hunger Task Force



County Executive Walker joins staff from Palermo's Villa Inc. and the Hunger Task Force (l-r) Sherrie Tussler, Executive Director of the Hunger Task Force; Angelo Fallucca, Laurie Fallucca and Giacomo Fallucca – from Palermo's.



At the Hunger Task Force warehouse, volunteers assembled 500 Easter baskets of donated food for families in the Greater Milwaukee area who could not otherwise have a traditional holiday meal. This is the second year of the Easter Baskets for the Hungry program.

County Exec joins welcome for million-mile Harley rider Dave Zien



Walker is pictured with former state senator Dave Zien, the million-mile rider, and Waukesha County Executive Dan Vrakas at the welcome home event at Hal's Harley-Davidson.



County Executive Walker gave a proclamation to Dave Zien, who rode his Harley-Davidson 1991 FXRT in the parade last Saturday as the odometer rolled over one-million miles on the bike. He's believed to be the first to accomplish this feat. Hundreds of family and friends welcomed him at Hal's Harley Davidson in New Berlin. Zien, of Eau Claire and a former Marine, is a champion of veterans' issues and motorcyclists' rights. He served in the Wisconsin Senate for 18 years. After the welcome event, the group went to the Harley-Davidson museum in downtown Milwaukee.

Community Events



County Exec Scott Walker gave the keynote address to the Wisconsin Society of Plastic Surgeons annual meeting. Walker spoke about the current climate for small businesses.

News

Beginning Monday, April 13, 2009, bus transfer fees have been eliminated for riders commuting back and forth between Milwaukee and Waukesha counties. For more, click on:

[Milwaukee and Waukesha counties, City of Waukesha bus systems announce end of transfer fees](#)

**An Earth Day/Arbor Day Event
Sat., April 25 & Sun., April 26, 2009
10 a.m.-4 p.m. Rain or Shine**

Visit Whitnall Park to celebrate and learn about trees. Hikes and a variety of hands-on activities – along with presentations on tree-related topics for adults – make this a family-friendly event. Programs will be held at Boerner Botanical Gardens and Wehr Nature Center. This year, the Wisconsin Elementary & Middle-level Science Teachers, WEST, joins In Celebration of Trees with Family Science Day on Saturday. They will offer programs at both locations as well as a free bus ride to and tour of the Jones Island Water Reclamation Facility. 2009 Admission: \$1 per person.

Think globally, act locally! April 18, take part in the **Great American Cleanup in Whitnall Park.** Call 425-8550 for details.

For more information, visit the [Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful website](#)