

# Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

August 7, 2009

## Message from County Executive Walker

*On Tuesday, members of the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee voted 11-4 to approve the Governor's plan to issue \$47.5 million in bonds to buy two train sets from the Spanish train company Talgo and purchase liability insurance. What is remarkable is that the plan was developed without a competitive process.*

*Equally as troubling is that two Milwaukee County companies - Super Steel of Milwaukee, and Avalon Rail of West Allis could have bid on the project.*

*And as the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel noted on Wednesday, 'both Republicans and Democrats on the Joint Finance Committee criticized Democratic Gov. Jim Doyle over the deal, saying he had kept the Legislature out of the loop.'*

*We should be looking to companies here in Wisconsin - particularly these two here in Milwaukee County - before spending \$47 million to create just 80 jobs when we could be protecting and creating many more jobs in our area.*

Scott



## Economic Development

County Executive Walker met this week with representatives from county municipalities to discuss potential collaborative efforts to promote economic development. The meeting generated ideas on marketing to promote jobs, and focused on creating and maintaining jobs throughout Milwaukee County.

## State Fair Aug. 6-16



County Executive Walker addressed the attendees of the Wisconsin State Fair opening ceremony.

## Operation Freedom thanks

County Executive Walker invited sponsors of the Operation Freedom event to the zoo to personally thank them for making the event possible through their generous donations. All products for the picnic were supplied or paid for by outside businesses and individuals at no expense to the taxpayers. Close to 17,000 military personnel and their families attended the event that included music, a picnic, admission to zoo exhibits, and a program with a Commemorative Air Force flyover.

## WHERE IS PADDY TODAY?



County Executive Walker received a special visit from Irish Fest mascot Paddy McFest and Irish Fest Board President Joe King as a promotion for the upcoming festival. The Irish Fest website features Paddy at a different location every day, highlighting the largest Irish festival in the world taking place August 13 - 16. Visit their website at: <http://www.irishfest.com/>.

Take the easy way to get to the festival – Milwaukee County Transit System offers attendees Straight To The Gate shuttle service: [www.RideMCTS.com](http://www.RideMCTS.com).

### Park activities

County pools are open through August 15. The Aquatic Centers – Cool Waters and David F. Schulz centers remain open until Labor Day.

Check out the golf specials being offered at Milwaukee County Golf Courses. Weekend foursomes for \$100 have been extended by popular demand, and Fast-paced Fridays and Nite-glow golf add variety to your game. Visit [www.countyparks.com](http://www.countyparks.com) for details.

### Community Events

County Executive Walker delivered the keynote speech at the annual Order of Sons of Italy scholarship dinner where the organization awarded two \$1500 merit scholarships to local high school students of Italian descent. Walker also joined the attendees of the National Night Out in Wauwatosa.

## Doggie Dips Return!



The Milwaukee County Park System and Residents for Off-leash Milwaukee Parks (ROMP) are hosting the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Doggie Dip after the pools are closed to public swimming for the season. A presale of admission passes will be offered during open hours at the pools the day before each Doggie Dip. Admission is \$5.00 per dog.

**Sunday, August 16** – 5:30pm – 7pm

Jackson Park Pool – 3500 W. Forest Home Avenue

Sheridan Park Pool – 4800 S. Lake Drive

Washington Park Pool – 1859 N. 40<sup>th</sup> Street

**Monday, September 7** – 6:30pm – 8pm

Cool Waters – 20208 S. 124<sup>th</sup> Street

For more information about ROMP and the Doggie Dips, visit [www.milwaukeeadogparks.org](http://www.milwaukeeadogparks.org).

### National Wheelchair Softball



The National Wheelchair Softball Tournament was played at the Milwaukee County Zoo. The Wisconsin Warhawks (photo above) were vying for 5<sup>th</sup> place. Visit the organization's website at [www.wheelchairsoftball.org/](http://www.wheelchairsoftball.org/).