

# Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

August 28, 2009

## Message from County Executive Walker

*A good chunk of my time this week (as it has been for weeks) was spent with department heads and constitutional officers as we work to put together the 2010 county budget. We started out with a \$90 million gap because of pension and health care costs; decreases in real estate transfer fees, sales tax collections and earnings on investments; and cuts in state aid.*

*In addition, I am working on a new way to promote economic development in the county - along with maintaining our public safety programs and finding ways to protect core safety net programs.*

*Clearly, we need to hold the line on property taxes - as too many people and companies are headed into bankruptcy and foreclosure (higher taxes will drive even more into those areas). Also, we need to insure that we are not using one-time fixes to balance the budget (as this will make for an even tougher budget in 2011).*

*We will keep you posted as we continue our focus on building a strong budget for 2010!*

Scott



## Humane Society partners with Parks



County Executive Walker was joined by Scott Diehl, Wildlife Manager at the Wisconsin Humane Society, to announce a partnership with the parks with Gus Gnorski of Fox 6 News. The society began a new campaign to prevent birds from being injured or killed from crashing into windows at park buildings. They are supplying the parks with free WindowAlert clings, courtesy of the Jeff Rusinow Family Foundation. The WindowAlerts are barely visible to the human eye – two are affixed to the window in photo above – and serve as visual markers for the birds to steer clear.

The WindowAlert clings are also available for sale at the society's website: [www.wihumane.org/wildlife](http://www.wihumane.org/wildlife).



Also featured on the news feature were the vegetable gardens at the Urban Ecology Center (photo above). Visit their website to find out about the wide variety of program offerings: [www.urbanecologycenter.org](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org)

## Youngtimers BSA



County Executive Walker, pictured above with Skip Mudlaff – Scoutmaster of Troop 328, addressed the Youngtimers Boy Scouts of America meeting about his Eagle Scout experiences. Walker is a board member of the Milwaukee County Council of Boy Scouts of America.

## Bat Festival at Zoo



The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Lakes Bat Festival takes place August 28 & 29 at the Milwaukee County Zoo. The Organization for Bat Conservation (OBC), together with the zoo and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, kick off this special event with a Bat Encounter presentation tonight by author and bat expert Rob Mies, Director of the OBC. Rob has made numerous television appearances promoting bats including *Late Night with Conan O'Brien* and *The Today Show*. Event details:

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

## Walmart donation



County Executive Walker participated in a news conference with Lisa Nelson, senior manager of public affairs from the Walmart Foundation, at the Joseph J. Zilber Boys & Girls Club. Walmart presented checks totaling \$105,000 to three programs to support services for youth. The Boys & Girls Club received a \$50,000 grant to continue and expand the evening meal program at 11 of its locations.

"I appreciate the Walmart Foundation's generous investment in the futures of so many young people who are able to participate in these worthwhile meal programs and educational experiences," said Walker.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Milwaukee received a \$25,000 grant to support mentoring programs and a \$30,000 grant was awarded to Junior Achievement of Wisconsin for the High School Workforce Readiness Outreach program.