

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

October 17, 2008

Message from County Executive Walker

The Chairman of the County Board finally did mail out the letters to voters to encourage them to vote on the referendum question calling for support of a \$130 million sales tax increase. The mailing cost will be picked up by the taxpayers (over my objections) via the County Board budget.

It is important to remember some key facts when reviewing this letter.

First, history shows that when the County Board enacted a .5% sales tax in 1991, the resolution stated that it was for "property tax relief," but the property tax levy went up 55% from 1992 to 2002.

Second, nothing in the referendum question in would prevent a future county board from spending ALL \$130 million in sales taxes on other pet projects.

Third, Supervisors can protect transit, parks and EMS by passing the 2009 budget. In it, we maintain all transit routes and expand services for ParaTransit eligible riders. In it, we add 26,000 hours of labor in the parks, build a new aquatic center, replace worn out bathrooms and playgrounds. And in it, we maintain funding for EMS. All without a property tax (or sales tax) increase.

Scott



Grand opening of dealership in Franklin



County Executive Walker attended the grand opening of the Ewald Chrysler Jeep Dodge in Franklin on Wednesday. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held to celebrate the opening of the new dealership.

Combined Giving Campaign



On Thursday a luncheon was held in the County Executive's Conference Room to raise money for the Combined Giving Campaign. Palermo's Pizza sponsored the luncheon. The County Executive helped serve the pizza lunch (photo above).

Airport launches real-time parking status monitor



County General Mitchell International Airport is making it even easier to park at the airport as it introduces its **real-time Parking Status Monitor and Smart Pass system**.

The airport's new Web-based real-time **Parking Status Monitor** gives travelers the chance to view parking capacities and trends for each of Mitchell's parking lots before heading to the airport. The program is available on the airport's Website www.mitchellairport.com/parking and is updated every five minutes.

Optimized for busy business travelers, the Parking Status Monitor has also been specially formatted for BlackBerry and smart phone users. Customers can now evaluate parking options from these devices before arriving at the airport.

Mitchell Airport has also premiered the all-new **Smart Pass** system. Linked directly to a driver's credit card, the Smart Pass system allows users to enter and exit airport parking areas with a simple wave of the pass. No longer will drivers need to pull parking tickets or remember to carry cash. Smart Pass can be used in any airport parking area. The Smart Pass can be "read" at all cashier lanes, and a Smart Pass Express Lane is also available for added convenience.

Customers can get more information and register for the new Smart Pass at the Mitchell Airport Website www.mitchellairport.com/parking, by calling airport parking services at 414-747-4561, or by stopping at the parking office located next to the parking structure cashier booths.

Park & Zoo Happenings

"**Boo at the Zoo**" will take place on Friday, October 17 and Saturday, October 18 at the Milwaukee County Zoo. The event will include the new Pumpkin Patch featuring glowing, hand-carved pumpkins with a music and light show. For more information on the event go to www.milwaukeezoo.org

The Milwaukee County Zoo will be hosting "**Halloween Trick or Treat Spooktacular**" on Friday, October 24 and Saturday, October 25, 2008. Events include a costume parade, an outdoor Halloween haystack maze and musical performances by the Radio Disney Road Crew. The event will be sponsored by Sentry Foods.

Halloween "Nite Glow- Golf" will take place on Friday, October 31, 2008 at the Hansen and Warnimont golf courses. The games will include the use of glow-in-the-dark golf balls, tees, flagsticks and holes that are illuminated. Participants are encouraged to wear their spookiest Halloween costumes. The event will begin at 6:30pm and continue until midnight. For more information go to www.countyparks.com

Community Events



County Executive Walker attended the Boy Scouts of America Board Meeting on Wednesday, October 15. Walker thanked Scout Executive Sharon Moulds for her work with the Milwaukee Boy Scouts.