

# Executive Update



Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

January 2, 2009



## **Message from County Executive Walker**

*Happy New Year! We rang in the new year at Red Arrow Park on the ice skating rink with fireworks. Now, we are ready to get to work in 2009. Our clear focus this year is on things that will improve the economy. Some of our agenda items for 2009 are: Lower the tax burden on residents and employers; maintain public safety through our partnership with the Sheriff and a new witness protection program with the DA; update transportation options through a growing airport, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and partnerships with surrounding transit systems; improve quality of life through new attractions in the parks and zoo; provide core safety net programs via community partnerships; improve services for older adults, people with disabilities and veterans; add regional economic assets like a new School of Engineering for UWM. Watch for details on these and other agenda items throughout 2009.*

*Scott*

## **New Year's Eve Events**

County Executive Walker and Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett welcomed skaters to the Red Arrow Park "Slice of Ice" rink downtown for the annual countdown to midnight fireworks. The CFA Society of Milwaukee sponsored the county portion of the fireworks display. The changing illuminated exterior at the Marcus Center provided a colorful backdrop for skaters who bundled up to enjoy the skating and fireworks by Bartolotta's.



## New Year's Eve at Domes



Thousands of visitors spent their New Year's Eve at the Mitchell Park Domes to enjoy the special light shows, poinsettias and Scandinavian-theme decorations (giant mobile - top photo) in the Show Dome, and performances by magicians, musicians, and Comedy Sportz. The annual party, sponsored by Friends of the Domes, featured a prize drawing of a girl's and a boy's bike donated by Emery's.

## Music Under Glass

The Jazz in the Parks concept will go indoors at the Domes Thursdays, January 8 through March 26, with different jazz groups performing each week. Stop by to enjoy the music, new lighting and exotic plants. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. The performances are sponsored by the Shepherd Express, 88NINE Radio and Sprecher Brewing. Visit [countyparks.com](http://countyparks.com) or call (414) 649-9830 for information.

## Community Events



County Executive Walker joined Rabbi Israel Shmotkin and Rabbi Mendel Shmotkin of Lubavitch of Wisconsin to light a menorah in the rotunda of the courthouse. The Hillel Academy choir sang Chanukah songs for the occasion.

County Executive Walker rang the Salvation Army bell at Mayfair Mall last week, and together with his family, served Christmas dinner at the Midwest Airline Center. The Christmas Family Feast is sponsored by the Salvation Army and Radio 1290AM WMCS and served about 5,000 people at the 19<sup>th</sup> annual event.

## Ice Fishing Safety

Keep safety first if you plan on ice fishing at Milwaukee County park lagoons. Ice on lagoons must be six inches thick to be open for ice fishing. For current conditions, call (414) 257-PARK (7275).