

Executive Update



Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

January 23, 2009

Message from County Executive Walker

A new report from the independent Congressional Budget Office (CBO) suggests that it will take years before the items included in the House version of the federal stimulus package actually have an impact on the economy. (See the story in the Washington Post at <http://tinyurl.com/99333t>)

The House version spends \$825 billion – that is enough to give every man, woman and child in the US \$2,700. It will cost each household in America \$6,700 in additional debt.

Even though it is being sold as a transportation and infrastructure investment, only 3% is for road and highway spending.

Overall, the House bill is really a big spending and budget bailout bill. Included in the proposal is \$6 billion for colleges and universities (many of which have endowments worth millions), \$50 million for the National Endowment of the Arts, \$200 million for repairs to the National Mall and \$400 million for “national treasurers.”

While some of these projects might be nice, they are hardly what I would call “economic stimulus” material.

Less than half of the \$30 billion in highway construction funds will be released into the economy over the next four years. Less than \$4 billion in highway construction money would reach the economy by September 2010. Only 7% of the planned infrastructure spending would be put into the economy by September of this year.

Tax cuts, however, could be put into the economy right now. This is why I will continue our campaign to push for real tax cuts that can actually get the economy working again - and not bloated spending and budget bailouts.

- Scott

Martin Luther King, Jr. events



County Executive Walker attended a number of events honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Walker offered remarks at the 25th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts (top) and the YMCA 12th Annual Breakfast. Walker also delivered the keynote speech at the King Day Celebration at the Milwaukee County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center.

Presidential Inauguration event at Marcus Center

County Executive Walker attended the presidential inaugural event at the Marcus Center for Performing Arts and said, “President Obama’s words today were outstanding. Now, we need to work with him to brave those ‘icy currents’ and ‘endure what storms might come.’ This is an historic and inspirational day. Let us go forth and act on that inspiration.”

Train Show, LEGOLAND at Domes



County Executive Walker promoted the opening of the annual train show at the Mitchell Park Domes last weekend on several television stations (shown above with Kidd O'Shea from WISN TV12).



This year's Train Show – LEGOLAND – includes G-scale trains running over 500 feet of track through a landscape of Legos in the Show Dome. The show runs through March 22. The Wisconsin Garden Railway Society, the Glacier Train club provide volunteer support to answer questions. Local Lego model builders contributed the imaginative buildings and themed settings throughout the azaleas and miniature plantings.

A Lego replica of City Hall is on display, along with a replica of Miller Park Stadium created by MSOE students that features a working retractable roof.

Visit www.countyparks.com, or call the Domes at (414) 649-9830 for more information.

Mobile-enhanced website at airport

County Executive Walker introduced a new mobile-friendly enhancement to General Mitchell International Airport's (GMIA) website. The new mobile site, www.mitchellairport.com/mobile, gives travelers a streamlined version of the airport's website, providing quick and easy information on the move. Travelers can check on their flights, get real-time parking information, directions to the airport and an airport guide formatted to fit on the smaller screens of mobile devices and smart phones. The site also lists airlines that serve GMIA, complete with web links and contact phone numbers.

Stair climb for charity



Sheriff David Clark, Jr., Ryan Bailey –WI Athletic Club, Walker, Matthew Blades – WLWK 94.5, and Sue Swan – Exec.Dir. of the American Lung Association, promote the upcoming Climb Wisconsin fundraiser on-air at TMJ4 studios. Participants will climb to the top of the US Bank downtown on Feb. 14. Call 262-703-4842 for information.



The second annual Chinese New Year celebration will take place at the Mitchell Park Domes on Saturday, January 24 from 9am – 7pm. The Milwaukee Chinese Community Center has music, dancing, activities, displays and food to highlight the Year of the Ox. Regular Domes admission rates apply. For information visit www.countyparks.com.