

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

February 19, 2010

Message from County Executive Walker

The public learned this week that a Spanish manufacturing company will be coming to Milwaukee. This is good news because it brings more jobs to our area.

A closer look should impact our future decisions when it comes to taxes. The big incentive for them to come here was tax credits - from the federal and state governments.

This is particularly true when one considers the high tax and fee burden in the City of Milwaukee. The credits help to offset that burden.

For years, I have made the point that if we reduce the cost of doing business in our region (in particular, the cost of taxes), it will lead to more jobs. An overall lower tax burden would be good for all of our residents and small businesses - and not just for a large Spanish manufacturing company.

Scott



Golden Idol auditions



2008 Golden Idol Danny Crivello (above), 2009 Golden Idol dance team – the Jazzy Jewels (at right)



In 2008, County Executive Walker initiated what has become an increasingly popular annual event – the Milwaukee County Golden Idol talent contest. The program showcases the singing, instrumental and dancing talents of our older adults and highlights the benefits that our county senior centers provide. Past winners have performed at Summerfest, State Fair and other local venues as a result of their Golden Idol title.

Applications for the 2010 3rd Annual Golden Idol competition will be available February 23 from any senior center in Milwaukee County and are due back by March 19. (For a list of center locations visit <http://www.milwaukee.gov/SeniorCenters12747.htm> and for a list of rules and other details, visit www.milwaukee.gov/county/aging.)

Auditions will take place April 20, 22, and 26 to determine the Top Ten Finalists who will compete on Tuesday, June 8 at American Serb Hall.

MAC keynote speaker



County Executive Walker gave the keynote speech to the Milwaukee Athletic Club's Business Roundtable this week on the topic of the Public Policy Forum's recent report on the fiscal status of county government.

Band together for Haiti



Local Bands are coming together Sunday, February 28 from 5:00 to 8:00 at the Bradley Center to benefit UNICEF in Haiti. The concert will feature local favorites such as The Love Monkeys and Eddie Butts. Tickets are \$15 and because the Bradley Center is donating the venue and the bands are donating their time and talents, 100% of the ticket price goes to UNICEF.

More bands will be added prior to the benefit so stay in touch with the Bradley Center website for updates or information on donating directly to UNICEF:

<http://tinyurl.com/vclfwq4>

Turkish festival at Domes

The Mitchell Park Domes have become a hotbed of activity for a number of local ethnic groups. In addition to the annual Chinese New Year and St. Patrick's Day celebrations, the Domes will feature what the organizers are calling "Turkey Under Glass." The Turkish festival, **Saturday, February 20, 9am – 5pm**, will feature cultural exhibits including costumes and items for sale at a bazaar stand (haggling encouraged), authentic ethnic food, and booths to try the language or your belly dancing skills. The event is coordinated by the Tulip Restaurant, the Turam Turkish Folk Dance Group, Denai's Dancers, the Hamilton High School Horon Turkish Folk Dance Group and oriental dancer Denise Lukaski-Sedmak.

Community Events



County Executive Walker was joined by county staff and a number of department and division heads for a Boy Scouts of America 100th Anniversary fund raising event. Photo above, seated L-R: Geri Lyday – Disabilities Services, Jack Takerian – interim director of Dept. of Transportation and Public Works, Sue Black – Parks Director; standing: Walker, Barry Bateman – airport director, Don Natzke – Office for Persons with Disabilities, John Schapekahn and Roy Williams of the Corporation Counsel office. Not pictured: Lisa Marks – interim director of Dept. of Health and Human Services, Maria Ledger with the Dept. on Aging.