

# Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

February 20, 2009

## Message from County Executive Walker

*On Monday, we offered a vision of hope and opportunity for our county and our state through our Blueprint for Economic Prosperity (link: <http://tinyurl.com/dzy92y>). Our plan includes a healthy mix of tax cuts to fuel the economy and "shovel ready" projects to get people working again.*

*Imagine the impact on retail sales if we ended the sales tax for the rest of 2009? Minnesota does it for just a few weeks before school each year and shoppers flood into the Gopher State.*

*Imagine the positive impact on retailers; car, truck, boat and motorcycle dealers; home builders and remodelers and all others hurt by the economy.*

*In contrast, Governor Doyle offered a budget filled with doom and gloom. It includes \$2.2 billion in new taxes and the return of early release for convicted felons.*

*Instead, we need ideas that will put people back to work.*

*Scott*



State of the County summary: <http://tinyurl.com/c3os54>

## State of the County



County Executive Walker delivered his annual State of the County Address at Bucyrus International, Inc. in South Milwaukee on Monday. Walker called on the members of the county board to join him in acting on truly shovel ready projects in Milwaukee County.



Tim Sullivan, President and CEO of Bucyrus International, and Walker (above) tour the new museum, admiring models built in the 1800s to state-of-the-art simulators used in training equipment operators today.

State of the County speech: <http://tinyurl.com/dzy92y>

## Walker to appear on UPFRONT with Mike Gousha



County Executive Walker will appear on UPFRONT with Mike Gousha on Sunday, February 22. The program airs at 9am and again at 11pm. Current topics of interest for the discussion include Walker's proposal to suspend the sales tax in Milwaukee County from March 1 to the end of the year, request that the state government do the same statewide, and the impact of the federal stimulus. A video recap of the interview will be posted on the station's website at:

<http://www.wisn.com/upfront/index.html>.

## Park Happenings

There are a variety of activities taking place in our parks. The Sports Complex in Franklin will feature the BrewCity Bruisers Roller Derby Bout on Saturday, Feb. 21 at 7pm; a special addition to the Train Show at the Mitchell Park Domes is being added in the lobby area the weekend of Feb. 28 – March 1 with layouts from the smallest model Z scale trains to those that are big enough to ride on; and Music Under Glass continues on Thursday nights from 5:30 to 8:30pm, followed by a light show. Thursday, Feb. 26 features the Bluegrass group "Stealin' Strings."

Visit [www.countyparks.com](http://www.countyparks.com) for a full schedule of events and admission information.

## Walker Opposes Early Inmate Release

County Executive Walker is speaking out against the provisions to provide early release for convicted criminals included in Governor Jim Doyle's proposed state budget. Walker was the author of the original Truth-in-Sentencing plan that ended parole and early release.

"At a time when violent crime is going down in our state's largest city, why would we want to put more criminals on the street?" said Walker. "Jim Doyle's budget would put more criminals on the street sooner. This is the return of parole."

Data from the police department shows that violent crime in the City of Milwaukee dropped 10% compared with 2007 and down 6% in 2008.

"The people of Wisconsin were told that Truth-in-Sentencing would give them certainty to know that a 10-year sentence really means 10-years spent in prison," said Walker. "Now, the public and – most importantly – victims will be surprised to learn that these convicted criminals could be out on the streets sooner."

As a member of the State Assembly and as chairman of the Assembly Committee on Corrections and the Courts, Walker authored (with then-Representative Tom Sykora) the legislation to end parole and early release. The budget proposed by Governor Doyle on Tuesday would restore early release and put the authority to release in the hands of unelected bureaucrats through the renaming of the Parole Commission.

## Community Events

County Executive Walker addressed the "Retail Advertising Seminar: How to Market in a Down Economy" this week at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center. Walker's proposal to eliminate the sales tax from March 1 through the end of the year was well received by the gathering of retailers. Walker also gave a presentation to the Wisconsin Institute of CPAs on his vision for business growth in Milwaukee County.