

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

February 26, 2010

Message from County Executive Walker

The Milwaukee County Board passed a resolution on Thursday that supports adding up to 10 furlough days for represented employees. I want to thank the Supervisors who supported the resolution.

Currently, all of our non-represented employees are already participating in the wage and benefit reforms included in the 2010 county budget. The reforms are modest. They include a wage freeze, no step increases, \$30 per month health care premium increase (\$1 a day) and a change in the pension multiplier to 1.6% (same level as state employees). These are reasonable reforms.

Since the 2010 budget is based on all of the employees receiving the same wage and benefit reforms and since the only ones fully participating today are the non-represented employees, it only makes sense to find other ways for the remaining employees to help balance the budget. The additional furlough days are one way to create that balance.

Also, we exempt positions that relate to public safety (i.e. Sheriff deputies, correctional officers, District Attorney staff, fire fighters at the airport, etc.) and direct patient care (i.e. nurses and other medical professionals).

We will have a balanced budget at the end of 2010 and these actions show how serious the county is about ending the year in the black.

Scott



African American Chamber of Commerce

County Executive Walker sat down with the African American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Milwaukee board members at their meeting this week. The topic centered on programs and opportunities for small business growth and development in the African American community.

Student council conference



County Executive Walker welcomed the students and gave remarks on student council leadership at the start of the North Shore Student Council Leadership Conference hosted by Wauwatosa East High School this week.

Scouts visit courthouse



Webelos scouts visited with County Executive Walker to complete their citizenship badge requirements this week.

Judicial Investiture



County Executive Walker joined Waukesha County Executive Dan Vrakas to address courthouse staff and guests at the judicial investiture ceremony for Bill Domina, former Milwaukee County Corporation Counsel. Domina accepted an appointment to serve as Circuit Court judge in Waukesha County.

Our Gold Medal Parks

There are plenty of activities to choose from in our Gold Medal award-winning parks this winter. Hit the cross-country ski trails, open from dawn until 10pm, on the groomed trails at Brown Deer and Whitnall parks. Ski rental and concessions are available at the Whitnall Park Clubhouse on Saturdays from 11am – 8pm and Sundays from noon – 6pm.

Siberian Husky sled dog rides continue on weekends from 11am – 1pm at Whitnall Park. Door County Sled Dogs provide authentic dog sled rides with a team of 4-6 huskies (\$15/adult, \$10/child). Call their hotline for up-to-date information: (414) 967-9677.

If you prefer an indoor activity, the Mitchell Park Domes now feature the popular annual Train Show in the Show Dome. This year's theme is "Westward Ho" and has more than 500 feet of track. Or catch one of the Tuesday or Thursday live band performances from 6:30pm – 8:30pm, with light shows during the break and following the concerts.

Visit www.countyparks.com for details!

Zoo: Behind the Scenes



Witness the "secret" workings of the Milwaukee County Zoo during **Behind the Scenes Weekend** sponsored by **Tri City National Bank** on March 13 and 14 from 10am to 2:45pm. This special weekend offers visitors the opportunity to visit areas not normally open to the general public. All of the locations are designed to give visitors a new perspective and appreciation of the work that takes place behind closed doors.

Aquatic & Reptile Center – in the Marine Lab, you'll learn how thousands of gallons of water are delicately maintained for our underwater exhibits.

From "A" to "Zoo" – learn interesting and fun facts about our animals! You'll learn that all of the new zoo animals undergo a 30-day quarantine process to make sure they are healthy prior being introduced to other resident animals, and other "zoo expert" facts.

Winter Quarters – from the upstairs Big Cats, venture underground to the area where the warm-weather animals reside during the winter. Peek into stalls where you'll see hoof-stock in their heated habitats, and the Camel Barn/outdoor exhibit to learn how the Bactrian camels adjust to handle the cold winter.

Small Mammals – you'll see the different foods in the kitchen for the animals' diets

Zoo Library – established in 1998, it's the central location of information on animal nutrition and management to zoological science and zoo administration, plus the history of our zoo.

All tours are included in regular zoo admission. For more information call (414) 256-5466 or visit www.milwaukeezoo.org.