

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

February 27, 2009

Message from County Executive Walker

Last week, I introduced our Blueprint for Economic Prosperity. Now, I am asking the members of the County Board to take quick action on the elements of our plan.

Specifically, I ask that they take up the following:

- *Move the mental health complex to the former St. Michael Hospital site and sell the existing site for development at the regional medical complex. This is a "shovel ready" project that does not require federal funding.*
- *Approve the sale of county land for the new UWM School of Engineering on the County Grounds.*
- *Agree to open negotiations with the City of Milwaukee for the development of the county-owned land in the Park East corridor.*
- *Implement our regional transit agreement with the City of Waukesha and Waukesha County for the removal of the additional transfer fee between counties and set a policy to pursue uniform fare boxes to make our transit systems more efficient and interconnected to each other.*

Each of these proposals can help boost our economy and so we need to act now to protect and create jobs.

Scott



Walker, Sheriff Clarke oppose early release



County Executive Walker and Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. held a joint news conference opposing Gov. Doyle's provision in his state budget to provide early release for convicted criminals. Joining the county executive and sheriff were (above L-R) Milwaukee Police Association Vice President Tom Fischer and President John Balcerzak, Franklin Police Chief Richard Oliva, and Supervisors Cesarz, Borkowski and Sanfelippo.

Walker noted that with the recent downward trend in violent crime, now is not the time to counter those productive results with early release.

Sheriff Clarke cited examples of inmates whose habitual criminal pasts require them to remain incarcerated for their full terms for the security and safety of our citizenry.

The county executive and sheriff received strong support from the Milwaukee Police Association and Police Chief Oliva on behalf of local law enforcement.

Walker authored the original Truth-in-Sentencing plan that ended parole and early release during his tenure as a state representative.

Archbishop Dolan



County Executive Walker and Archbishop Timothy Dolan (below) visit before a St. Patrick's Day parade downtown.

"The news that the Most Reverend Archbishop Timothy Dolan has been named archbishop of New York is certainly bittersweet," said Walker. "We have all come to love his larger-than-life personality and heartfelt connection to our community. My family and I are proud to consider him a friend, and I wish him many blessings in his service to the New York diocese."

Music Under Glass



The popular Music Under Glass performances at the Domes continue Thursday evenings, 6:30 – 8:30 pm through March 26. Upcoming schedule: March 5 – Frogwater – acoustic celtic folk, March 12 – Johnny Rawls – blues, March 19 – Scarring Party – blend, March 26 – Bikini Beachcombers – beach music. Visit www.countyparks.com for more details.

Hiring Lifeguards



Milwaukee County Parks are hiring 250 lifeguards for the summer season. Though experience is preferred, the Aquatics Department will train individuals ages 16 and over. Candidates who already have their certification should call the aquatics office at 414-257-8098. Lifeguard training classes for those without certification are scheduled to begin in March, with physical performance exams taking place on March 21.

Lifeguards will be needed at Bradford Beach, Cool Waters Aquatic Park, Pelican Cove Aquatic Park, the new David F. Schulz Aquatic Center in Lincoln Park, and pools in parks at Holler, Hales Corners, Jackson, McCarty, Grobschmidt, Sheridan, Washington, Wilson, and the indoor pools at Noyes and Pulaski.

Training sessions will take place at Noyes and Pulaski pools Monday and Wednesday evenings 7pm - 9pm March 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18 and at Noyes Pool on Saturday, March 14 from 8am – 4pm, Monday, March 18 and Wednesday March 18 from 7pm – 9pm. The March 21 physical performance exams will take place at Pulaski Pool. Part of the physical performance exam requires the ability to swim 100 meters in 1:45 minutes or less.

Lifeguards must be Milwaukee County residents, and will be required to attend first aid training.

Visit www.milwaukeeountylifeguards.org for the complete training schedule and more information on the Lifeguard Corps, or call the Milwaukee County Parks Pool & Beach hotline at (414) 257-7230.