

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

March 12, 2010

Message from County Executive Walker

The number of passengers at General Mitchell International Airport went up by 43.14% in January. Over the past eight years, we have invested some \$200 million into our airport (none of which was tax money). These investments have helped improve access and convenience - as well as the look of our airport.

In turn, we were able to attract Southwest Airlines and were able to see other airlines like AirTran, Republic, Delta and American expand at our airport. This means more passengers, and for many of the airlines - more jobs.

Mitchell has been a very convenient airport for years, but today it is also the most cost effective in the region. Average fares are now \$81 less than O'Hare and \$60 less than the national average.

Congratulations to Airport Director Barry Bateman and our team at the airport for a super job!

Scott



Veterans Job Fair



County Executive Walker greeted veterans at the Veterans Job Fair sponsored by the Milwaukee County Veterans Service Office, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development and the Zablocki VA Hospital. Between 25 and 30 local employers were available to talk with veterans about job opportunities.



County Executive Walker joined the Westtown Association to kick off the 44th Annual Shamrock Club of WI St. Patrick's Day Parade events. The parade takes place on Saturday, March 13. Visit: <http://saintpatricksparade.org/>.

Irish Family Day at Domes



Gather your clan and head to the Mitchell Park Domes, 524 S. Layton Blvd. on Sunday, March 14 from noon to 5pm for an afternoon of Irish family fun. Kick up your heels to the sounds of Irish music by Blarney and harpists, watch the Glencastle Irish dancers, and learn about the culture and crafts of Ireland. Lace-making and wool spinning demonstrations, storytellers and visits from St. Patrick and Irish Fest mascot Paddy McFest add to the fun. It's also the last chance to see the annual Train Show, which closes Sunday.

The event is sponsored by Milwaukee Irish Fest (www.irishfest.com), Friends of the Domes, and Milwaukee County Parks.

Regular Domes admission fees apply and are listed at: <http://tinyurl.com/74e34g>.

Community events

Make plans to visit the Milwaukee Public Museum to see the **Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible** exhibit – the largest temporary exhibit ever produced at the museum: <http://www.mpm.edu/dead-sea-scrolls/>

The popular annual **Behind the Scenes Weekend** at the zoo is sponsored by Tri City National Bank this weekend, March 13 – 14. This special event allows visitors access to areas not normally open to the public. You'll see what vampire bats like to dine on, and where the warm-weather animals reside during our Wisconsin winters. All tours are free with regular zoo admission.

<http://www.milwaukeezoo.org/events/bts.php>.

Airport sets record



County Executive Walker announced this week that the January passenger count soared 43.14% at General Mitchell International Airport (GMIA), making it the busiest January on record. The total of 697,495 passengers was 210,216 more than last January's 487,279 passengers.

"The growth reflects the new service added over the past six months by Southwest, AirTran, Midwest, Frontier, American and Delta," said Walker. "The airport is enjoying a great start to what promises to be a very robust 2010."

GMIA is one of the fastest-growing airports in the nation. Nationwide, passenger traffic declined in this time period according to the Air Transport Association. Mitchell offers a great option for Wisconsin and Illinois travelers looking for low fares and reasonable parking fees. For passengers traveling to and from northern Illinois and the northern Chicago suburbs, Mitchell is just a 45-minute drive from the Lake Forest Oasis and a convenient alternative to O'Hare.

With 48 markets, GMIA moved up to 28th among airports in number of markets served nonstop, up from 34th in a study done in 2004.

The average airfare out of Milwaukee was lower than the average at 89 other US airports, according to the latest US Dept. of Transportation statistics. Mitchell's average fare was about \$81 less than O'Hare's and \$60 less than the nation's average fare.

GMIA is owned by Milwaukee County and entirely funded by user fees; no property tax dollars are used for the airport's capital improvements or for its day-to-day operation. For more information on GMIA, visit www.mitchellairport.com.