

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

April 3, 2009

Message from County Executive Walker

My administration has identified more than \$130 million worth of projects that Milwaukee County is eligible for and that meet my criteria of protecting local taxpayers. We released the list earlier this week.

On Tuesday, the members of the County Board voted to override my veto of a resolution calling for the county to apply for any stimulus funds – regardless of the impact on our budget. As professionals, we will comply with the policy set by the vote and apply for any stimulus funds.

Once funds are awarded to the county, we will examine the projects and seek to note those that would add costs to the local taxpayer. The County Board will have to pass a resolution to enable the county to actually accept the funds, so we will have another chance to raise our concerns.

In reality, the new policy will have little or no impact as the vast majority of items that the county can apply for are within areas that meet my criteria (which I established early in January and which were listed in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on January 11, 2009). Some might suggest that the vote on Tuesday was more about political theater than policy, but time will tell.

Scott



Walker praises outgoing Archbishop Dolan



County Executive Walker offered personal thoughts and a proclamation at a City Hall farewell ceremony this week for Archbishop Timothy Dolan, who will assume his new position as Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York after Easter services in Milwaukee on April 12.

Prairie Apartments Grand Opening



Walker is pictured with (L-R) Jim Hill, Housing Division Director in the County Department of Health and Human Services; Andy Geer, Vice President and Executive Director of Heartland Housing Inc.; and Cindy Krabenbuhl, Executive Director of the Guest House. See following story for details.

Prairie Apartments now open on Near West Side

County Executive Walker joined local and state leaders at the grand opening event at 1218 W. Highland Blvd. Prairie Apartments features 24 apartments for people experiencing homelessness, mental illness and other disabling conditions. Co-developers are the Guest House and Heartland Housing of Chicago. This is only the second supportive housing development in county history and received \$157, 544 in County Housing trust fund financing. County Executive Walker was instrumental in creating the Trust Fund. Through a contract with Milwaukee County, the Guest House will offer on-site supportive services.

Walker veto on Lazarus Group contract sustained

In a special meeting this week, on a 9 – 9 vote, the County Board sustained County Executive Walker's veto of a no-bid consultant contract for the Lazarus Group. The proposal would have paid the consultant more than \$120,000 a year.

Walker: Working together so county can thrive

Despite County Executive Walker's call for restrictions on county applications for federal stimulus dollars, the County Board voted 16 – 2 to override Walker's veto of a board plan to pursue all stimulus. The County Executive called for cooperation in a Perspectives column in Friday's *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*:

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/opinion/42353922.html>

Fun with eggs & bunnies



Boerner Botanical Gardens – Sunday, April 12, an afternoon with Peter Rabbit featuring crafts and a petting zoo, for info call (414) 525-5659 or visit (www.BoernerBotanicalGardens.org).

Kosciuszko Community Center – 11 am, Saturday, April 11, egg hunt, photo with the Easter bunny, TICKET REQUIRED, call (414) 645-4624 or visit (www.countyparks.com).

“Spring in Yorkshire: An English Garden” opens Saturday, April 4 – May 25 at the Mitchell Park Domes, call (414) 649-9800 or visit (www.countyparks.com).

Community Events

County Executive Walker gave a welcome address to about 250 retailers at the International Council of Shopping Centers, Wisconsin Alliance at the Midwest Express Center on Wednesday, taped a segment for a documentary on Bus Rapid Transit and gave the keynote address at the Wisconsin Society of Plastic Surgeons annual meeting.

Another free day at the zoo is coming up on Saturday, April 4, 2009 from 9:30am – 4:30pm sponsored by North Shore Bank and Fox 6. Visitors receive free admission, but the parking fee remains in effect. Visit www.milwaukeezoo.org for more information.

