

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

April 23, 2010

Message from County Executive Walker

This afternoon, I spoke to the graduates of our Senior Statesman program.

It was nice talking to them about all of the good things going on in our county. They loved the fact that our parks won the GOLD medal for the best parks system in the country. They loved hearing about the \$30 million worth of investments in our zoo through our partnership with the Zoological Society of Milwaukee.

They were thrilled to hear about the 34% increase in passengers at Mitchell International Airport at a time when most airports were down 2.9%. And most did not know that average airfares in Milwaukee are \$81 less than O'Hare.

When they heard about the fact that the county once had a list of some 3,000 older adults waiting for long-term care services, they were pleased to find that the waiting list is gone because we enacted Family Care. And they enjoyed hearing that the number of young people we send to the state juvenile justice system is down dramatically over the past eight years.

It was nice to be around people who were pleased to hear about the GOOD NEWS at the county.

Scott



Another Park Award



County Executive Walker is pleased to announce that the North Lion Bridge in Lake Park has been awarded the **2009 Top Project Award** by The Daily Reporter and Wisconsin Builder Magazine.

The restoration project of the 100-foot historic bridge began in February 2009 and was completed nine months later by Mead and Hunt, a structural engineering firm. Work on the South Lion Bridge will begin this year.

"These bridges are focal points in Lake Park," said Walker, "and we have taken care to preserve these significant landmarks that were part of Frederick Law Olmsted's design for Lake Park."

Two of the parks most recognizable features are its Lion Bridges that span two ravines near a lighthouse overlooking Lake Michigan. The bridges and their artistically chiseled lion sculptures at each end have been enduring symbols of Lake Park since 1894. In addition to monies provided by Milwaukee County, grant funding was received from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.



Senior Statesman Program



County Executive Walker attended the Milwaukee County Senior Statesman program graduation at the Marcus Center today. The 25 graduates were joined by a reunion of previous Senior Statesman participants. Stephanie Sue Stein, Director of the Department on Aging, and Walker presented certificates to the graduates.

“These older adults get a broad overview of county government during the three-day program,” said Walker. “We benefit from their years of experience to keep us informed about issues important to our older adult residents, and they, in turn, can provide information they have learned to their peers.”

The purpose of the Senior Statesman program, begun in 1998, is to give older citizens the opportunity to learn more about the policy-making process regarding senior citizen issues at the county level. Participants acquire an overview of the legislative process, meet with county officials, and attend a meeting of the full County Board. Tours of county facilities are provided.

The program is sponsored by the Milwaukee County Executive’s Office, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, Milwaukee County Department on Aging, the Wisconsin Geriatric Education Center at Marquette University, and the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups (CWAG). For information on other county resources for seniors, visit:

<http://county.milwaukee.gov/Aging7705.htm>.

Orangutan lecture at zoo



On Sunday, April 25 at 4:30 p.m., the Milwaukee County Zoo will host an important lecture on the current issues facing orangutans in Indonesia, presented by Dr. Willie Smits, founder of the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation. This free lecture (a \$10 donation is suggested to support Orangutan Outreach) is open to the public. The lecture will be presented in the Peck Welcome Center. To register, and access the zoo free of admission and parking fees, please call the zoo at (414) 771-3040 and provide the names of individuals planning to attend. When arriving at the zoo entrance gates, please give attendee names to the attendant. Learn more about Orangutan Outreach at www.redapes.org.

Czech student visit



County Executive Walker met with the Czech students visiting Marquette University to take a week-long business class. The students mixed tours, business visits and classes during their stay.