

# Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

July 11, 2008

## Message from County Executive Walker

*The newspaper ran an interesting story about the parks this past week. The story was based on a report prepared by the Trust for Public Land. It raised questions about the level of support on a per capita basis in Milwaukee County. While the park staff oversees many fine events throughout the county, the nineteen municipalities and their school districts organize the majority of recreational programs in the county.*

*The report does not take into account the complexity of the Milwaukee County Parks System. For example, the City of Milwaukee spends nearly \$400,000 annually on the construction and maintenance of neighborhood tot lot facilities, not the county. And Milwaukee Public Schools spends \$18.9 million on recreational programs, which increases the overall spending in the County to \$69 per person, yet this information was not in the report.*

*In other words, the report does not measure the support this community provided for parks and recreation through other local governments and does not fully measure the partnership of private businesses and donors to support the system. We have one of the largest and best park systems in the country and we should be proud of it.*

*It also points to the fact that we need to do more to protect it in the future. In the budget request from the parks department, Sue Black and her team ask for the for the flexibility to move more entry level positions into seasonal slots that will generate 20,000 to 25,000 MORE hours of labor in the parks. These are wise decisions to provide more care for the parks we love.*

Scott



## Operation Freedom



Operation Freedom attendees enjoyed a free picnic at the zoo, patriotic program with performance by the US Army Drill Team, veterans information booths, military displays and zoo exhibits on Sunday, July 6.



## Summer youth jobs



County Executive Walker signed a resolution approving the \$400,000 funding from Milwaukee Public Schools to Milwaukee County for a summer youth job program in the park system. Walker was joined (photo above) by Parks Director Sue Black, Supervisor Toni Clark, Supervisor Elizabeth Coggs, Milwaukee Public School Superintendent William Andrekopoulos, and Milwaukee School Board member Michael Bonds.

## Sendik's grand opening



County Executive Walker addressed the crowd at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the grand opening of the Sendik's Fine Foods store in Franklin at Hwy. 100 and Drexel Ave.

## Walker congratulates Treasurer's Office



County Executive Walker congratulated Treasurer Dan Diliberti, Susan Muchka, Patricia Carravetta, Susan Best, Joan LaBarr, Rex B. Queen at the Milwaukee County Treasurer's Office for receiving the 2008 award for Effective Use of Technology for their Treasury, Banking and Investment Functions.

## Walker speaks out for seniors



County Executive Walker spoke at a news conference at the Washington Park Senior Center hosted by The Wisconsin Women's Network and Wider Opportunities for Women to announce the WI Elder Economic Security Initiative to address economic needs of our older adults.

## Community Events

County Executive Walker attended the Milwaukee Public Museum Recovery Celebration and was the keynote speaker at the Kiwanis Club of Milwaukee meeting. Walker will speak at the opening of the Harley-Davidson museum Saturday, July 12.