

# Executive Update



Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

July 24, 2009

## Message from County Executive Walker

*Milwaukee County is the only county in the state that is made up entirely of incorporated land. Every part of our county is a city or village.*

*When many employers are examining the structure of their businesses, the time seems right to ask, "Do we need another layer of government?" Last year, local business and civic leader Shel Lubar raised the idea at the downtown Rotary Club.*

*At the time, we had an outline of a similar plan and shared it with Shel and numerous other business and civic leaders. Since then, the Greater Milwaukee Committee commissioned a series of studies to examine the details of such an idea. That report should be released later this year.*

*When the County Board chair brought up a small reform idea last Friday, we welcomed the interest but suggested that instead of just sticking a toe in the pool of reform – we should jump right in. Consolidating county government into other levels of government is an idea whose time has come.*

*As we move ahead, be certain that any plan must still insure that taxpayers have a vote on the final proposal and that the levels of government that would run any of the current functions of county government (i.e. park, zoo, transit, courts, etc.) would be overseen by elected bodies (and not appointed commissions).*

*While I may be the only elected official in the state advocating for a plan that would eliminate my job, I think we must think seriously about ways to better serve the people - and not ways for the people to serve the government.*

Scott

## Air & Water Show, Beach Jam at Bradford Beach



County Executive Walker invites the public to stop by Bradford Beach this weekend for several popular events. The 2009 Milwaukee Air & Water Show will take place Saturday, July 25 and Sunday, July 26 between Bradford and McKinley beaches with the water show beginning at 10am and air show at 11am. The US Air Force Thunderbirds are scheduled to perform at approximately 3:30 each day. Reserved seating is available: [www.milwaukeeairshow.com](http://www.milwaukeeairshow.com).

The Bradford Beach Jam will also take place July 24 – July 26. The 5<sup>th</sup> annual beach sports and reggae music festival includes competitions in volleyball, soccer, rugby, dodgeball, and baggo.

The live music lineup will feature: DJ Trini, King Solomon, Hoi Polloi, Freezone, and KOJO. Visit [www.bradfordbeachjam.com](http://www.bradfordbeachjam.com) for complete schedule.

NOTE: The combined attendance for the Beach Jam and Airshow will consume all public parking near Bradford Beach. In addition, Lincoln Memorial Drive from Water Tower Place Road to Ravine Drive will be closed Saturday and Sunday during the event. There will be public access parking at both Veterans Park, McKinley Marina and north of Bradford Beach at Lincoln Memorial Drive and Ravine Road.

## Veterans benefits



County Executive Walker joined Jim Duff, Acting Director of the Veterans Service Office, at the Veterans Career Fair held at the VA Hospital this week. More than 400 veterans attended the event that was sponsored by Milwaukee County Veterans Service Office, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development and the Zablocki VA Hospital. Approximately 20 local employers met with the veterans and took job applications from more than half of the attendees. The VSO will also begin hosting the **Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic** next month to provide legal information and referrals on civil legal matters to veterans and their families. The clinic will be open the first and third Monday of the month beginning on August 3 from 4pm – 6pm at 5000 W. National Ave., Bldg. 4.

## WI American Legion



County Executive Walker welcomed the Wisconsin American Legion's 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Department Convention to Milwaukee County (photo above).

## Ribbon cutting at A-B Credit Union



County Executive Walker participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony at A-B Credit Union celebrating their building renovations and expansion. With Walker in the photo above: (L-R) Alderman James Witkowiak, Frank Pierson – president of A-B Credit Union, and Mary Lou and Ralph La Macchia of the La Macchia Group.

## Events around town

County Executive Walker recently welcomed the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual National Tribal Child Support Association's training conference and membership meeting, joined the MSOE Alumni Motorcycle Club for their tour of the Manitowoc Company, and had a luncheon with the Alzheimer Gala auction winners. He will attend the Wheaton Franciscan Cancer Care - St. Joseph, David M. Sherman Center benefit this weekend.

## MCTS shuttles to fests

Consider taking the Milwaukee County Transit System's "Straight to the Gate" service if you plan to attend this summer's ethnic festivals at Henry Maier Festival Park. Shuttle service is provided along Wisconsin Ave. and Freeway Flyers from five park-ride lots. Fares and locations: [www.RideMCTS.com](http://www.RideMCTS.com).