

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

August 15, 2008

Message from County Executive Walker

On Tuesday, a group of us travelled to the Windy City to visit with the Chief Financial Officer of the City of Chicago. He filled us in on how the city bid out operations of the Skyway toll bridge and various parking lots and garages. For Skyway alone, the city received \$1.8 billion.

Within the next month or so, Chicago will get back bids on the operation of Midway Airport. Last June, I met with officials from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to see about the possibility of doing the same for our own Mitchell Airport. They are very interested as we have a very successful airport.

*Estimates suggest that a long-term lease could generate \$20-25 million annually in Milwaukee. My meetings with the FAA indicate that the funds from a long-term lease could be used to provide a stable funding source for the Milwaukee County Transit System and to aid in the evolution of a metropolitan transit system (combining Milwaukee County's system with Racine, Kenosha and Waukesha). This is a viable option for a long-term funding source for transit that needs serious exploration and one that would **not** require additional taxation on our businesses and citizens. A strong transit system spurs economic development and jobs creation; increasing taxes on the other hand damages our business climate and I believe will result in the loss of jobs.*

There is still much more work to be done to prepare a plan for a long-term lease of Mitchell, but I hope that the public will see the potential and keep an open mind as we explore this exciting option.

Scott



Milwaukee Bears Historical Marker



The Milwaukee Brewers, Milwaukee County Historical Society, Parks Department and Yesterday's Negro League Baseball Players Foundation held a ceremony to unveil a historical marker commemorating the Milwaukee Bears of the Negro National League and Borchert Field at the Bernice & Clinton Rose center this week. Pictured above: State Rep. Annette Polly Williams, Milw. Brewers Exec. VP Rick Schlesinger, Dennis Biddle – President of Yesterday's Negro League, Johnny Logan, Congresswoman Gwen Moore, County Executive Walker and Bob Teske.



Former Milwaukee Braves player Johnny Logan, Walker and Bob Teske – Executive Director of the Milwaukee County Historical Society

Summer Jobs a Success



Terance Bolden (top photo) addressed the student participants of the Summer Youth Employment Program about his experiences working for the Information Management System Department (IMSD) at the county courthouse. Department heads and staff of Parks, IMSD, Behavioral Health and Child Support Enforcement attended to congratulate the students on a job well done. Positions covered a spectrum of duties including clerical, maintenance, computer technology and office support functions.

Milwaukee Public Schools provided grant funding for the program and the county parks department coordinated hiring, orientation, training and placement for approximately 280 students. Awards were given for outstanding work ethic and team leadership. A wrap-up awards ceremony and picnic was held at Washington Park.

Parks Happenings

Free concerts in the parks:

Tuesday, August 19 – 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Orquestra Veneno at Jackson Park,
3500 W. Forest Home

The Urbanites at Humboldt Park,
3000 S. Howell

Wednesday, August 20 – 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Eddie Butts at Dineen Park – 6901 W. Vienna

Above the Town hosted by River Rhythms at Pere Marquette Park (until 9pm) 900 N. Plankinton Ave.

News to Note:

The **Mitchell Park Domes** are closed this summer for improvements and renovations. They are scheduled to reopen in mid-September.

Sunday Brunch is served at **Boerner Botanical Gardens** from 10:30am – 2pm by Bartolottas Restaurant Group. For reservations - (414) 525-5635.

The **Westown Farmer's Market** is open every Wednesday through October 29 from 10am – 3pm at Zeidler Union Square, 301 W. Michigan Street. More than 40 vendors feature Wisconsin-grown produce, prepared food items and handmade artwork.

Community Events

County Executive Walker addressed the National Health Policy Forum conference attendees hosted by the Helen Bader Foundation. Stephanie Sue Stein and Maria Ledger of the Department on Aging and Geri Lyday with the Disability Services Division were featured speakers on Family Care and Long-term Care Management. Walker also attended the Wisconsin County Executives Association meeting in Stevens Point, and the opening ceremonies for this weekend's Irish Fest taking place through Sunday, August 17.