

# Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

September 18, 2009

## Message from County Executive Walker

*We started the budget process back in June with a \$90 million gap to overcome. Next Thursday, I will introduce our 2010 county budget.*

*Making it affordable to live and to work in Milwaukee County is a key priority, along with retaining and creating jobs.*

*Our budget will also focus on core services like public safety, quality of life (i.e. parks, zoo), safety net and transportation.*

*And since so much of the budget is driven by wage and benefit costs, our budget will address reforms in that area that will translate into financial stability.*

*We will share more next week.*

*Scott*



## Transit budget preview



County Executive Scott Walker, speaking at the Transit Center, outlined his 2010 budget plans to avoid entire-route eliminations, to maintain current fares for Paratransit riders and to purchase 125 new diesel buses.

Walker also intends to use federal funding and \$6.5 million from the sale of County land to UW-Milwaukee to construct a 10-mile long bus rapid transit (BRT) line from the County grounds through downtown to the main UW-M campus on the east side.

## Supportive Housing



County Executive Walker announces that his 2010 budget will include \$660,000 for supportive housing programs. Walker was joined at the Prairie Apartments on the near west side by county staff and community housing advocates.

## Walker announces more than \$6 million in grant awards for substance abuse, mental health treatment programs

Three grants totaling \$3.85 are funded through the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services to expand substance abuse treatment capacity for adult drug treatment courts, expand substance abuse treatment and related recovery and re-entry services for adult offenders returning to the community from incarceration, and development of comprehensive drug/alcohol and mental health treatment for homeless persons. In addition, Walker announced that the county's Behavioral Health Division-Wraparound Milwaukee program is one of only seven to receive a \$2.4 M, 5-year healthy transitions grant. "These grants are an important addition to the programs we have in place," said Walker. "We appreciate the funding that will help people in recovery and, ultimately, our entire community."

## Walker says competition drops airfares at Mitchell International

County Executive Walker cited an article by a nationally recognized travel writer that recently ranked Milwaukee as the least expensive destination for fall 2009 travel as evidence that competition among Mitchell International Airport's airlines will result in great bargains for Wisconsin and Illinois travelers.

## Community Events:

Walker at Mexican Independence Day Parade on the South Side,



opening Indian Summer last weekend, (right)



at annual Tosa Fest,



waiting to welcome crowd



... with Wauwatosa Mayor Jill Didier.

and, at the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Frank Mots International Kite Festival at Veterans Park on the lakefront.

