

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

October 26, 2007

Message from County Executive Walker

The State of Wisconsin finally has a budget this week. A review of the document suggests the good, the bad and the ugly.

The good is that there is additional help for the transit system. Historically, the state provided nearly 70% of the funding for the system, but since 2000, that level has dropped off. The budget also includes language about the expansion of FamilyCare. Last year, Milwaukee County helped 7,100 older adults and their families with long-term care needs and achieved a surplus. Now, we can move forward with including people under 60 with developmental and physical disabilities in FamilyCare. Most of the major tax increases did not make the final version.

The bad is that funding for the courts fell \$2 million short of projections. Even though it is the state court system, counties still have to pick up 55% of the costs. In addition, Youth Aids are \$1.1 million less than projected.

And the ugly is that the budget includes another major increase in the rate the county is charged to keep juvenile offenders in the state system. By next year, the annual cost to the county for each offender will rise to \$97,820. That is enough to send more than 19 kids to UWM. In the future, I will work to get the state to reduce their costs and ease our burden at the county level.

Scott



Walker applauds Legion of Honor recipients



County Executive Walker joined the Consul General of France at the War Memorial for the presentation of the French Legion of Honor to WWII veterans James Hickey, Stephen Kellman, James Pelletier and Lyle Solchenberger. The Legion of Honor is the highest honor that France can bestow.

A legend remembered



Wisconsin lost a good friend with the passing of Max McGee this week. Milwaukee County benefited from his largess, particularly with his involvement at Children's Hospital. Our thoughts are with his family.

General McCaffrey visit



General Barry McCaffrey met with County Executive Walker this week while in Milwaukee for meetings.

Kosciuszko's 25th



County Executive Walker is joined by Kosciuszko Center Manager Sherry Ellis, Supervisors Dimitrijevic and West, Parks Director Sue Black and community members at the 25th Anniversary celebration of the center. The ribbon cutting kicked off a week-long series of special activities.

Harley raffle winner



Debbie Kolber, raffle winner of the 2007 Harley Davidson Softail Classic motorcycle, was excited to receive a call from County Executive Walker informing her she bought the winning ticket and thanking her for her support of the parks. The raffle raised more than \$41,000 for park improvements.

Aquatics facility naming



County Executive Walker appeared before the Parks, Energy & Environment committee to present his proposal to name the new aquatics center at Lincoln Park in honor of former County Executive David F. Schulz. The committee, chaired by Sup. Lynne De Bruin, approved the resolution.

Community Events



County Executive Walker signed a resolution allocating funds to Mitchell Street development (above R), congratulated the zoo for receiving the Governor's Award for Archival Innovation, attended the grand opening of the MSOE Grohmann Museum, addressed the audience for the Navy Band Great Lakes, Army Soldiers' Chorus and Master Singers of Milwaukee performance at the Pabst which featured solos by Dir. of MC Veterans Service Office Domingo Leguizamon, judged the CG Schmidt Chili Contest, stopped in at the United Cerebral Palsy Open House, and presented proclamations at the Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative 20th Anniversary celebration, America's Second Harvest Wisconsin's 25th Anniversary and St. Charles' 87th Anniversary (above L).