

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

November 21, 2008

Message from County Executive Walker

The county board sustained several important vetoes this week. Difficult decisions had to be made. I vetoed some measures in an effort to improve services while saving taxpayer dollars.

The board sustained my veto to contract outside of county government for call center services which will improve response times and performance, along with eliminating future legacy costs. The board also removed the \$750,000 general obligation bonds for building a new mental health facility, keeping the door open for more cost-effective and viable options.

Other opportunities to be fiscally responsible were missed. The board raised the tax levy by \$7.7 million despite the economic crisis. Tough times require tight budgets and we will continue to work to make it affordable to live, work, play and retire in Milwaukee County.

Scott



Holiday lights



County Executive Walker hosted the city/county tree lighting ceremony at Milwaukee County's Red Arrow Park and together with Mayor Tom Barrett flipped the switch for the seasonal display. After the lighting, attendees followed the officials and the Milwaukee Children's Choir to Pere Marquette Park for the Milwaukee Downtown Holiday Lights kick-off. The crowd enjoyed fireworks and an entertaining program. Visit the festive parks at Red Arrow, Pere Marquette, Zeidler Union Square, and Cathedral Square.

Parks staff began making the ice for the Red Arrow Slice of Ice skating rink immediately after the lighting. (Photo below). The cold snap will allow the rink to open early this year, maybe in time for Thanksgiving. Visit www.countyparks.com for skating hours.



CCC 75th Anniversary



County Executive Walker presented a proclamation at the 75th Anniversary celebration of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) held at the Boerner Botanical Gardens. Joe Horbienski (photo above) relayed memories of his work with the CCC at Whitnall Park, and current Milwaukee Community Service Corps workers attended the ceremonial “passing of the shovels” from the former CCC workers.

Congress created the Civil Works Administration during the Great Depression that resulted in work relief programs such as the CCC. The impact of the CCC on our present day parks system was significant. Locally, laborers worked in Estabrook and Whitnall parks, the Honey Creek Parkway in Wauwatosa, and many other locations on projects - building stone bridges, landscaping trails and hand-crafting improvements to buildings.

More information can be found at

www.milwaukeecommunityservicecorps.org.



Cricket grand opening



County Executive Scott Walker welcomed the new Cricket wireless communications store to Milwaukee with other city officials at the company’s celebratory “cord cutting.”

Cricket is bringing four corporate stores, along with more than 100 authorized dealers to the area, accounting for about 200 new jobs.

Community Events

County Executive Walker participated in a number of seasonal celebrations in addition to the city/county tree lighting and downtown holiday lights kick-off, including serving as a celebrity guest host on WRIT-95.7 and the Salvation Army tree lighting at State Fair Park.

Several charity auction winners had lunch with the county executive – the Paws & Claws auction benefiting the Wisconsin Humane Society, and the high bidder for the Channel 10/36 annual appeal.

NOTE: There will not be an Executive Update newsletter over the Thanksgiving holiday. The next Executive Update will be issued on Friday, December 5, 2008. Enjoy your Thanksgiving!