

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

May 14, 2010

Message from County Executive Walker

I sent a letter to Mayor Barrett this week urging him to block the massive water rate hike. I sent a similar letter to the Public Service Commission in September.

Our local businesses will be put at a competitive disadvantage if this hike is enacted. MillerCoors pointed out in written testimony that the high rates increase will "make the Milwaukee brewery less competitive... production and the associated jobs could be transitioned to other breweries" outside of Wisconsin.

It is also troubling that the Milwaukee utility would push such a steep rate increase on residential users. This seems like the city is pushing the increase just to balance its budget.

Action needs to be taken to block this rate increase in order to protect jobs and residents in southeastern Wisconsin.

Scott



Budget sessions and survey



County Executive Walker held three public listening sessions for input on the 2011 budget this month (photo above at Wilson Senior Center). In response to a constituent's inquiry about sending suggestions via the county website, Walker added an online budget planning survey to the county's main page.

"The technology on our website allows us to incorporate this feature to provide residents with another outlet to express their concerns and provide suggestions," said Walker. "I am glad a constituent requested this service, and we were able to comply."

Visitors to the website can enter their suggestions on what they consider to be the priority areas for the 2011 budget, along with any ideas on cost-saving measures the county could undertake. Members of the county executive's staff and budget office will review the comments and suggestions while preparing the 2011 Recommended Budget.

Visit <http://county.milwaukee.gov> to access the form and review the PowerPoint presentation Walker discussed at the budget listening sessions.

MCTS celebrates 150 years of public transit



County Executive Walker declared it Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) Day in honor of 100 years of public transportation at a celebration at the Downtown Transit Center. MCTS hosted the event attended by Chairman Holloway, Supervisor Michael Mayo - Chairman of the Transportation Committee and members of his committee, local elected officials, employees, sponsors and partners.

Photographs showing the progression of transit vehicles were on display, along with a slide show presented to reveal the new clean diesel bus design.

An interactive, full-wrap bus design project was unveiled (photo above). Members of the public will be able to sign the hearts at various events this summer that will become part of the permanent bus design that is sponsored by **Clear Channel Outdoor**.

Thanks to the generosity of **Miller Lite**, **Northwestern Mutual**, and **Milwaukee Career College**, MCTS will be offering specials to riders throughout the year. Visit www.RideMCTS.com.

Community Events

County Executive Walker presented a proclamation to Executive Director of the Wisconsin Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) - Col. Mike Smith, USAFR-Ret., at the ESGR awards breakfast this week. Col. Smith was honored at the event prior to his retirement this month. The event recognizes employers for granting leave and providing support for military duty by their employees.

The Office of the Sheriff received the *Pro Patria* award, for exceptional support of our national defense through leadership practices and personnel policies that support their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

Brown Deer Citizen of the Year



County Executive Walker proclaimed May 5 to be Mary Paul Day in recognition of her being named the 2009 Brown Deer Citizen of the Year. Mary was honored for being a standout volunteer in the community.

"Fowl Play" at the Zoo

American Transmission Company is sponsoring a "Party for the Planet" at the Milwaukee County Zoo Saturday, May 15 and Sunday, May 16 from 9am to 3pm. Visitors are encouraged to drop off old cell phones at the US Bank Gathering Place for recycling.

<http://www.milwaukeezoo.org/events/partyfortheplanet.php>