

Executive Update



Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

May 22, 2009

Message from County Executive Walker



On Tuesday, I signed the resolution passed by all of the members of the County Board to accept \$45 million in a settlement from the actuarial firm that worked on the pension enhancements in 2000 and 2001. As we understand it, this settlement represents the largest settlement with an actuarial firm in the country.

When we started working on this law suit several years ago, it was not about determining the motives of those individuals involved with the plan; it was always about recovering damages for the taxpayers of Milwaukee County. Even after adjusting for the legal fees, the money paid to the county represents one of the largest payments in the country.

All of the net proceeds will go into the pension fund to pay for unfunded liabilities (which would otherwise be paid for by the taxpayers). We made certain the award could not be spent on new government spending.

Some might contend that the county could have received a higher amount from a jury, but legal experts warn that leaving an award up to chance is dangerous, as the county could have received nothing from a jury.

Once I got the firm up to \$45 million, it was our fiduciary responsibility to consider a settlement on behalf of the taxpayers.

Scott

Airport Expansion

Southwest Airlines service



Walker welcomed the news that **Southwest Airlines** will begin service out of General Mitchell Int'l Airport: "More jobs and more flights: this is great news, and another sign that Mitchell Int'l is one of the best-run airports in the country."

Southwest Airlines announced their intention to begin service from Milwaukee at their annual meeting in Dallas. The airline expects to attract passengers from the northern Chicago area. The airport currently has gate space available on two concourses that could accommodate Southwest. Service will begin on November 1. Details on gate locations and cities served have not yet been announced.

AirTran adds routes/gates



County Executive Walker joined Airport Director Barry Bateman, Donald Driver, Jeanette McClinton – new homeowner, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity Sara Kierzek, and VP of Marketing and Sales for AirTran Airways Tad Hutcherson. AirTran donated \$10,000 to Habitat for Humanity at the event.

UPS, Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful partner with Parks



County Executive Walker is surrounded by parks partners: Joe Wilson of Keeper Greater Milwaukee Beautiful (KGMB); UPS representatives – including Community Relations Mgr. Andres DeLeon and Terry Daniels; along with Gus Gnorski of Fox6 WITI-TV; Todd Gawronski – of G1, Bradford Beach leaseholder; and Scott Fisher – Gift of Wings, promoting the Veterans Park Kite Festival. UPS and KGMB engaged hundreds of UPS employee volunteers who have logged over 1000 clean-up hours, resulting in a grant by the UPS Foundation to purchase an all-terrain vehicle to help sustain green efforts at Bradford Beach.

Free Kite Festival



Visit Milwaukee County Veterans Park for the 22nd Annual Family Kite Festival Saturday, May 23 and Sunday, May 24 from 10am to 5pm. The Grand Launch of 500 kites will take place at noon and free kites to the first 100 kids who participate in the Kids Mad Dash! Watch expert performers and more – visit www.countyparks.com for information

Wings from Down Under



**Opens Saturday,
May 23 at Zoo!**

Visit the exciting new special exhibit, "Wings from Down Under," sponsored by Lowe's at the Milwaukee County Zoo. It features three striking parrot species found in the wilds of Australia: Cockatiels, Grass Parakeets and Eastern Rosellas. Visitors are able to feed and touch these seed-eating birds in two mesh-enclosed aviaries in the Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building. More than 1000 free-flying birds are in the exhibit. Visitors receive a millet seed stick with the admission cost of \$2.50 to the exhibit. Additional food sticks can be purchased for \$1. Normal zoo admission rates apply.

UWM land sale

County Executive Walker and the County Board supervisors approved the land sale at the county grounds in Wauwatosa to UW-Milwaukee for their new school of engineering, calling it a key component of his Blueprint for Economic Prosperity.

"After years of working on this project with leaders from UWM, the City of Wauwatosa, supervisors and the business community, I am pleased that we were able to get this passed," said Walker.