

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

May 29, 2009

Message from County Executive Walker

35-hour workweeks. Pay freezes. What does this all mean?

Like so many others in our area, the economy is taking a real hit on our budget. On top of that, the state government continues to increase costs for the county.

Bottom-line: we have to reduce our budget. We put together a creative plan that calls for a 35-hour workweek (one hour less per day) and freezing all wages at the current level for 2009 and 2010. These ideas will allow the county to avoid layoffs (which would put more people on the street without jobs) and to avoid major service reductions.

These are common sense concepts, but we are likely to attract heavy opposition from some in the county. It is my hope that reason will prevail and we can protect jobs and vital services.

Scott



Memorial Day Events



County Executive Walker attended Memorial Day events around the county. Pictured above with attendees of Shorewood's 10th Annual program, below at ceremony at VA grounds, wreath laying in Reflecting Pool at the War Memorial, and with military color guard after the Milwaukee Memorial Day parade downtown.



Mercy Housing



Walker with groundbreaking participants (above), and with county Housing Director Jim Hill (right).

Mercy Housing Lakefront celebrated turning a Milwaukee facility into permanent housing for homeless people at the groundbreaking of the Johnston Center that will be home to 91 people with special needs. The building at South 13th St. and West Windlake Ave. will be rehabilitated and have a new addition. The cooperative effort also involves federal, state and City of Milwaukee sources, Hope House, Harris Bank and the Milwaukee County Dept. of Health and Human Services' Behavioral Health Division.

Civic Dinner Dance



The 29th Annual Civic Dinner Dance was held at the 128th Air Refueling Wing. Photo above: Gary Wetzal – Medal of Honor Recipient, Cpt. and Mrs. Christopher Liepski, Walker, and Col. Edward “Ted” Metzgar – 128th ARW Commander.

Summer Youth Employment Program



County Executive Walker signed the resolution approving \$465,000 in funds from the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board to allow for 350 summer jobs in the Parks system. He signed the resolution at the Urban Ecology Center in Washington Park, one of the locations for placing the youth workers. Pictured above, left to right, Joey Zocker and Beth Fetterly of the Urban Ecology Center, Milwaukee County Human Resource Director Karen Jackson, Walker, Park Department manager Chuck Ward, Don Sykes – president and CEO of MAWIB, and Chytania Brown of MAWIB. All positions have been filled for the program.

Annual Support the Troops Ride



County Executive Walker addresses the participants in the 6th Annual Support our Troops motorcycle ride and program at the Veterans Association Center. Walker rode in the ride as part of the Milwaukee Armed Forces Week events.