

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

November 6, 2009

Message from County Executive Walker

Last year, supporters of the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) passed tax increases with the promise of stable funding for transit for years to come. Then reality hit in 2009. The CTA now faces a major crisis.

CTA officials are now calling for a fare increase to \$2.50 for bus (they already have a \$.25 transfer fee) and \$3.00 for train, hours of operations on 41 routes will be reduced and 9 express routes are eliminated. At the same time, the CTA officials are calling for more than 1,100 layoffs of CTA employees.

*The modifications to the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) in the proposed 2010 county budget look pretty modest in comparison to the moves in Chicago. The proposed 2010 budget for MCTS does **not** eliminate entire routes, it sets fares at \$2.25 (25 cents less than Chicago), has a \$.25 transfer fee and establishes the new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line. All of this is done **without** raising the property tax levy and **without** counting on the state to pass a sales tax increase.*

To avoid a CTA "Doomsday," we must push to get spending under control at the MCTS - particularly with employee wages and benefits. That is the way to have a stable transit system for years to come.

Scott



Walker Welcomes Southwest Airlines



County Executive Walker is joined by Supv. Michael Mayo, Sr. (l) and General Mitchell International Airport Director Barry Bateman (r) at the "Milwaukee Touchdown" event hosted by Southwest Airlines Chairman, Pres. & CEO Gary Kelly. Southwest began service to GMIA last Sunday. Below, Kelly kicks a paper mache football held by Walker and Mayo, which released paper streamers, to "kick off" the event.



Walker to be in Vets Parade

County Executive Scott Walker invites everyone to watch the Veteran's Day Parade on Saturday, Nov. 7 from 10:45 am until noon, in downtown Milwaukee, to honor our service men and women, past and present.

County Executive Honors Gwen Jackson and Staff at Cathedral Center Gala



County Executive Scott Walker attended the 4th Annual Cathedral Center's Fall Gala this past week and presented a proclamation to long-time community activist and volunteer Gwen Jackson, who was named the Center's 2009 Woman of the Word for her many years of service to the community. Walker also presented a certificate of appreciation to the staff and volunteers at the center, located on North Van Buren Street.



Pictured above, left to right: Sandy Golden, Cathedral Center board member; Donna Rongholt-Migan, director; Mary Jo Layden, board president.

Walker at Forensic Science Seminar

Medical examiners and investigators from around the state were welcomed by the County Executive to their annual seminar in Milwaukee this week.

Tiger Cubs Get Names, Naming Contest Winner Gets Walker Congrats and Prizes



County Executive Walker introduced Ashley L. Goffin, a graduate student at UW-M and a native of Wausau, as the winner (from among 1,800 entries) of the contest to name the two, new, female Siberian tiger cubs at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Goffin said she chose one name "Tula," an African Zulu word which means "quiet," from her own time in South Africa, where she worked with orphan children. The second name she chose was "Nuri," which is Hebrew for "my flame," because she always liked it. Goffin received several prizes including a one-year membership to the Zoological Society and plush, toy tigers. The cubs were born on July 8 and are out exploring, most days, in the Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Country exhibit area. Below, Walker and some young Zoo visitors get a close-up look at one of the cubs.

