

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

November 14, 2008

Message from County Executive Walker

While I appreciate the hard work done by members of the County Board on the 2009 budget, I regret that their final product will raise the property tax levy by almost \$7.8 million. Our budget does not raise the tax levy while it protects and improves core county services.

Our budget attacked the structural deficit by enacting reforms and moving to contract for more services from outside county government. Now, more than ever, leaders must decide whether county government is an employment service or a provider of core services. I choose the latter.

The people of Milwaukee County cannot afford the current cost of county government. High costs for heating fuel, gas, groceries and mortgages are making it tough for working families, older adults and small business owners. We need to keep taxes low to protect people like them. We will review all of the amendments to the 2009 budget and I am prepared to use my veto pen to get back to a budget that does not raise our taxes.

Scott



Historic Commissioning



County Executive Walker attended the historic commissioning of the USS Freedom, a first-of-its-kind littoral combat ship, at Milwaukee County Veterans Park on Saturday, November 8. Scenes from the event (above) depict the Honorable Donald Winter - Secretary of the Navy, flag raising, ship CDRs Don Gabrielson and Mike Doran next to ship sponsor Birgit Smith, acceptance of the traditional eyeglass, and crew running to ship after the sponsor's command, "man our ship and bring her to life!"

Walker speaks with CDR Don Gabrielson at a post-commissioning event (lower left photo). Thousands of people toured the ship after the commissioning ceremony. The ship left for Norfolk, VA on Monday, and San Diego, CA will be the ship's home port.

Walking Challenge at Senior Centers



County Executive Walker kicked off the first **“STEP UP to the Challenge: One Step at a Time”** walking competition through the Interfaith Older Adult Program on Monday, November 10. Older adults are invited to register to gain the benefits of a healthy activity and compete against other walkers and senior centers for prizes provided by SecureHorizons. A Wii game will be awarded to the senior center that logs the most steps during the **five-week competition**, and a \$100 prize will go to the participant at each center who logs the most steps. Participants receive a free pedometer and step log to track their progress. The **program runs November 17 through December 19**. Visit www.interfaithmilw.org for more information.

Collaborating partners with the “STEP UP to the Challenge: One Step at a Time” competition include the Milwaukee County Department on Aging, Interfaith Older Adult Programs, AARP, MedicareComplete from SecureHorizons, Healthways Silver Sneakers Fitness Program, and Aurora Freedom 55+.

The five senior centers are Clinton & Bernice Rose, McGovern Park, Washington Park, Wilson and Kelly Senior Centers.

Veterans Day Program



County Executive Walker joined Milwaukee Police Post 415 Commander Kendel D. Feilen at the American Legion Post 415 & Firefighters Post 426 Veterans Day Program in MacArthur Square. (Photo above: Asst. City Atty. Bruce Schrimpf, Fire Chief Douglas Holton, Mayor Tom Barrett, Feilen, Walker, Sheriff David Clarke, Jr., Police Chief Edward Flynn, Post 415 Acting Chaplain Donald Brockman, and Sgt. Matthew Slade – USMC).



Post 415 & 426 Combined Honor Guard and Rifle Salute, Bagpipe solo by Thomas McKale of the Greater Milwaukee Fire & Police Pipes and Drums, keynote speaker Sgt. Matthew L. Slade – USMC, and Milwaukee Police Bugler Bobby Lindsey (not pictured) played taps for the morning program. Supervisor Mark Borkowski was also in attendance.

Community Events

County Executive Walker walked in the Veterans Day Parade downtown Milwaukee on Saturday and presented a proclamation to Veteran of the Year Ron Laux at the annual Veterans Day Banquet at the War Memorial Center on Tuesday, November 11.