

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

December 5, 2008

Message from County Executive Walker

The budget deficit for the State of Wisconsin has grown to \$5.4 billion. Now, some are calling for the federal government to "bail out" states with significant deficits. Where will this money come from? We pay federal taxes here in Wisconsin and in Milwaukee County.

Instead of using federal tax dollars to bail out failing businesses and deficiating governments, maybe we should keep more of those tax dollars in the marketplace where they actually fuel the economy. Isn't it about time we started living within our means?

Failing to balance state and local budgets without a bailout from the federal government will only make the budget hole larger in future years. Instead, governments at all levels should seek to reduce spending and become more efficient.

Scott



Courthouse Tree Lighting



County Executive Walker hosted a Christmas tree lighting party for county employees. The Salvation Army band played, courthouse food vendors – City.Net and Elliott's Off Broadway – provided cookies and beverages, children made ornaments for the tree and

had photos taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus. The tree was provided by **Jeannine Maher**, a county employee.



Employees have the opportunity to provide a gift for a child at a local social service agency. This year's agencies are Carmelite Home for Boys, La Causa, St. Rose Youth and Family Services, Salvation Army, and Liberty & Truth Social Service. Select a card from the tree in the rotunda, buy a gift for a needy child, and bring to Facilities in Room G-1 of the Courthouse by December 18. No time to wrap? No problem – volunteers will help wrap the gifts. Donors will receive an "Angel in the Courthouse" t-shirt when they turn in the gift in appreciation for making the holidays happier for others in our community.

Annual Business EXPO



County Executive Walker addressed the annual Milwaukee County Community Business Development Partners "Business EXPO," along with Chairman Lee Holloway, and Michael Cudahy – the Business Journal Person of the Last 25 Years. Photo courtesy of County Board.

Slice of Ice Opens Early



County Executive Walker hosted a grand opening of the Red Arrow Slice of Ice skating rink in time for the Thanksgiving holiday thanks to an early cold snap. Local sports team mascots joined the fun, along with the Mighty Mites hockey players and an appearance by members of the Bucks Energy! Dance team. Visit www.countyparks.com for rink hours and rates.



Community Events

County Executive Walker met with other members of the Community Justice Council, attended the MillerCoors Holiday Lighting celebration, and will attend the Marquette/UW-Madison basketball game and Pearl Harbor Day observance at the Milwaukee County War Memorial this weekend.