

# Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

January 26, 2007

## Message From County Executive Walker

*Milwaukee County's care of its residents suffering from mental illness took two major steps forward this week with two positive actions by the board's Committee on Economic and Community Development. First, the committee approved appropriations to the United Christian Church/Cardinal Capital Management and the Guest House/Heartland Housing for the development of housing for persons with mental illness.*

*Second, the committee approved expenditures to move forward on investigating the feasibility of the county acquiring the St. Michael's Hospital facility as a new home for the Behavioral Health Division's inpatient and nursing home operations.*

*These preliminary actions are a result of work done by a joint task force I appointed together with Mayor Tom Barrett, and will provide effective and long-range solutions to caring for our residents suffering from mental illness.*

**Scott**



## Walker Responds To E-mail Sent To GI

County Executive Scott Walker was outraged at the treatment of Army Sergeant Jason Hess by a Wisconsin-based internet company. Sgt. Hess e-mailed the company, Discount-mats.com, to ask if the company would ship mats to an APO box in Iraq. The company sent an e-mail back stating, "We do not ship to APO addresses, and even if we did, we would NEVER ship to Iraq. If you were sensible, you and your troops would pull out of Iraq."

"This response to a soldier serving in Iraq is unconscionable," said Walker. "It is a personal embarrassment to me that this company is based in Milwaukee County."

Walker suggests that residents should show their support for the military and help counter the negative perception this behavior has caused by donating to the Military Order of the Purple Heart, so that they may purchase items that soldiers need. "This is a great way for Milwaukee County residents to show that we do not subscribe to the inappropriate and disrespectful behavior demonstrated by whomever sent that e-mail," said Walker.

Donations should be made out to the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Donations can be sent to the Office of the County Executive, 901 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 306, Milwaukee, WI 53233.

## Parks Toboggan Run Opens

The cold weather hasn't diminished activities in Milwaukee County's Parks. The freezing temperatures have meant that the "iced toboggan slide" at Whitnall Park located at 6700 S. 92 St., between College and Rawson Avenues, is open for the season. The toboggan run features an exhilarating iced track that is carefully groomed with metal-runner toboggans 6 or 8 ft. long that can be rented. Top speeds on the run can reach 40 miles per hour. The iced track is 1020 ft. long with a total run of about 1500 ft.

Toboggans may be rented for unlimited rides at \$6 per hour. The toboggan slide is scheduled to be open Saturdays from 10:00am to 8:00pm, Sundays from 10:00am to 5:00pm, as well as Thursdays and Fridays from 4pm to 8pm. For more information go to [countyparks.com](http://countyparks.com) or for group reservations call (414) 425-7303.



## Revitalizing 30th Street Industrial Corridor

County Executive Walker joined Chairman Lee Holloway and Supervisor Michael Mayo at a news conference to announce plans to revitalize the 30<sup>th</sup> Street Industrial Corridor. Officials from the City of Milwaukee and the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission also participated.

## LCS-1 Freedom Commissioning Event Moves Forward



County Executive Walker met with the commanders of the LCS-1 Freedom blue and gold crews, Cdr. Don Gabrielson and Cdr. Mike Doran, and the Commissioning Committee this week to begin the formal planning for commissioning events to be held at Milwaukee County's Veteran's Park. Dignitaries from the military and government are expected to participate in the lakefront ceremony. The Navy will announce dates for the event, likely to take place in early fall.

## Zoo's Resident Groundhog Set To Make Weather Prediction

Walnut, the Milwaukee County Zoo's resident Groundhog, makes her annual weather prediction in the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm next Friday, February 2. Activities take place at 11 a.m., and the Milwaukee County Groundhog Club's Keeper of the Burrow will lead the festivities. County Executive Walker will also be on hand to witness this important event!