



Executive's Email

A weekly update from County Executive Scott Walker Friday, June 23, 2006

Events

- **Operation Freedom 2006** will take place on Sunday, July 2, 2006 at the Milwaukee County Zoo. It is free – with a wristband - to all military personnel, their families and veterans. We still need volunteers and donors to help make the event a success. For more information, call 414-278-4211.
- **A .25% sales tax referendum** was part of a resolution that I vetoed this week at Bilt Rite Furniture in Greenfield. Several business and retail groups who are concerned about the new tax joined us for the public veto. Besides making the county a “tax island,” the tax would only cover half of the 2007 pension payment (meaning it will all go to pensions and not parks) and would still require state approval next year (very unlikely). Watch for a better solution next week.
- **Milwaukee County and Fox 6 Kick Off Summer Rox** concerts today at Pere Marquette Park. The concerts will be held every Friday morning in the park from 7:30-9:00am. This series is just part of the more than 100 free concerts being held throughout the Milwaukee County Parks System this summer. Last weekend, the MSO played at Washington and Humboldt Park. For more information go to www.countyparks.com
- **Watch Sunday Night With Mike Gousha** this Sunday, June 25. I will be the guest on Mike's show this Sunday. We discussed the fiscal crisis in Milwaukee County and explored some of the possible solutions to this problem.

Issues

- **The actuarial firm for the pension system** indicated that Milwaukee County will need to pay \$59 million into the pension in 2007. This reaffirms our warnings about the size of the budget problems (some \$90 million) for the next budget.
- **Milwaukee County's Paramedic Program** is receiving some media attention this week. In addition to paying for all of the training for paramedics, the county pays for medical oversight and communications. On top of that, the county also provides a \$3 million subsidy to municipal fire departments in the county. With a tight budget (driving by retirement costs and unfunded state mandates), one has to question why the county pays for paramedics who work for the cities and villages in our area. Milwaukee County is the only county in the state that provides this type of subsidy.

Other

Lucy the elephant is doing better after her fall last week. Zoo staff continues to monitor her condition. (Reminder: The Zoo Ball is this weekend. Also, on July 15, the Miller Brewing Co. Giraffe Experience will open to the public).

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