

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

October 10, 2008

Message from County Executive Walker



Supporters of the referendum to raise the sales tax by \$130 million want to use our tax dollars to send an "informational" mailing out to the voters in Milwaukee County just weeks before the November 4th election.

Anyone can see that the "informational" letter being sent out to voters contains more than just the facts. It is clearly designed to sway voters to their position on the referendum question.

Worst of all, the very same taxpayers who will get stuck paying the bill on a \$130 million tax increase (if the sales tax goes through) are the same people getting the bill for the mailing and printing costs of the "informational" letter. All of this comes just weeks after I asked all county departments to freeze travel and other non-essential spending.

The Supervisors who are pushing this letter are the same ones who expect voters to believe that raising the sales tax will somehow lower our property taxes. It did not happen the last time the sales tax went up. In 1991, the County Board passed a sales tax with the promise of property tax relief. From 1992 to 2002, the tax levy went up 55%.

These are the facts but we are not going to use taxpayer funds to print them out and put them in a letter to voters.

Scott

P.S. Kudos to Supervisors Borkowski, Cesarz, Rice and Sanfelippo. They all rejected Chairman Holloway's request to send the mailing into their districts.

Walker questions sales tax referendum mailing



County Executive Walker held a news conference on the Milwaukee/Waukesha County line to question the use of about \$30,000 in taxpayers' dollars for a planned mass mailing to voters prepared by Chairman Lee Holloway and other supporters of the \$130 million tax increase referendum. Walker pointed to Waukesha County businesses as the beneficiary of a sales tax increase in Milwaukee County. A new sales tax that is a full 1.5% higher than several of our neighbors – and the highest in the state – would create a tax island. At a time when the 2008 budget is tight, Walker asks why members of the County Board are spending funds on a campaign mailing to voters just before the November election.

Milwaukee Mention

The New York Times published an article this week on notable highlights in Milwaukee for visitors, with our county parks, art museum, horticultural domes and airport getting favorable mention. To read the full article, click on the link:

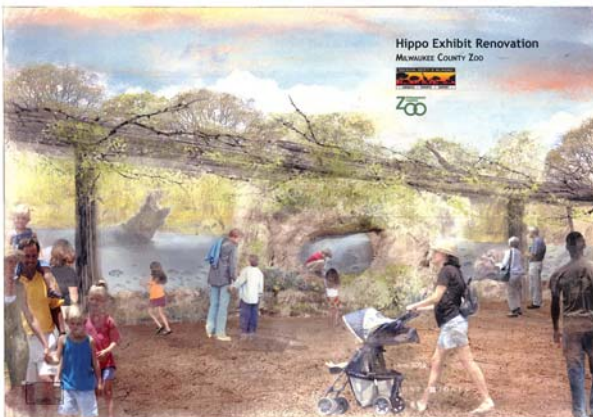
<http://travel.nytimes.com/2008/10/05/travel/05hours.html?8dpc=&pagewanted=print>

Plans unveiled for hippo underwater viewing exhibit



County Executive Walker joined (L-R top photo) Zoological Society (ZSM) President and CEO Dr. Bert Davis, Zoo Director Chuck Wikenhauser, Shannon Buending and Robert Dohmen – President of the Dohmen Family Foundation, ZSM Board Chair Karen Peck Katz, Deputy Zoo Director Dr. Bruce Beehler, along with hippos Patty and Puddles, for a \$1.75 million check presentation for the design and maintenance of a new underwater viewing hippo exhibit.

The new design features a large, glassed-in aquarium that will allow zoo goers to see the hippos swim from just inches away.



Fallen firefighters honored

County Executive Walker attended the 12th annual memorial service hosted by the Milwaukee Fire Department to honor fallen firefighters. The event paid tribute to the 106 department employees who have died in the line of duty. The service is held during Fire Prevention Week. (Link to list of fallen firefighters: <http://www.ci.mil.wi.us/Public1/WelcometoMilwaukeeFireDepartment/MEMORIALHONOR.htm>)

Parks Happenings

There's a perfect forecast for **fall golfers** this weekend! Sunset rates are now being offered at 5pm Whitnall, Oakwood, Dretzka, Currie, Grant, Greenfield and Lincoln courses. Senior Specials are back by popular demand. Visit www.countyparks.com for details.

The Patrick Cudahy Park Friends host their 2nd annual Fall Festival on Saturday, October 11 from 2pm – 8pm at Cudahy Park – 3000 E. Ramsey Avenue.

In the Community

County Executive Walker toured some of the participating United Way agencies with the co-chairs of the Combined Giving Campaign, Mary Ellen Stanek and Jim Ziemer, gave the keynote speech at the Small Business Midwest Fall Business Expo, and will attend the upcoming Inauguration of Cardinal Stritch University President Dr. Helen C. Sobehart.

In Memoriam, Jeannetta Robinson, community leader and founder of Career Youth Development (CYD), statement from County Executive: Jeannetta Robinson left us far too soon. She knew how to put love into action. Jeannetta often called me for help with a project or program and she was always looking out for someone else. She was a friend to me and a friend to my family. We will miss her and the work she did for this community. Our prayers go out to her family and her larger family at CYD.