



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**DAVID CROWLEY**

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**DATE: September 19, 2025**

**TO: Chairwoman Janice Wilberg and Commission on Aging**

**FROM: Kyle Ashley**

**SUBJECT: County Executive Office Report**

## **1. Community Resilience – Building Bridges Small Business Grants**

**Date:** August 26, 2025

- Awarded \$10,000 grants to ten small businesses under the Building Bridges program.
- Program Goals:
  - Support small business development in historically under-resourced neighborhoods.
  - Stimulate local economic growth and reduce commercial vacancy.
- Potential ADRC Impact:
  - Neighborhood improvements can enhance walkable access to services, goods, and community gathering spaces for older adults and individuals with disabilities.

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## **2. Suicide Prevention Awareness Month – Mental Health Initiatives**

**Dates:** September 9, 15–16, 24, 2025

- Observing Suicide Prevention Awareness Month with events led by the Department of Health and Human Services – Behavioral Health Services Division.
- Focus Areas: Firearm safety outreach, grief support, and public education on suicide prevention with an equity lens.
- Key Events:
  - **Sept. 9:** Firearm Suicide Prevention Day “Secure Together” – distribution of free gun locks and educational materials.

- **Sept. 15–16:** 414 Hope & Heal Conference at ThriveOn King.
  - **Sept. 24:** Equity in Suicide Prevention Panel focusing on racial equity and inclusion.
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### 3. September 11 Remembrance

**Date:** September 11, 2025

- Public memorial event to honor lives lost on September 11, 2001.
  - Event Highlights: Moment of silence, participation by veterans, first responders, and local leaders.
  - Emphasis on unity, resilience, and community service.
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### 4. Milwaukee County 2026 Budget Timeline

- **August 15:** Department of Administrative Services submitted budget summaries.
  - **August:** Public listening sessions held at Kosciuszko Community Center and Washington Park Senior Center.
  - **October 1 (Deadline):** County Executive to present the Recommended Budget to the County Board.
  - **Early November:** County Board public hearing.
  - **Mid-November:** Final budget adoption expected.
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### 5. MKE Airport Concourse E Redevelopment

**Date:** September 18, 2025 (Project Launch)

- \$95 million project to modernize and expand international and domestic capacity at Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport (MKE).
- Fully funded through airport revenue, bonds, and federal funding (including \$13.5 million secured with County Executive Crowley's support).
- Passenger Impact:
  - New Concourse E with two jet bridges, capacity increased to 400 international passengers per hour (from 140).
  - Airlines will manage international and domestic flights at the same gates, improving efficiency.
- Environmental & Accessibility Features:
  - Environmentally friendly design, modern U.S. Customs facilities, enhanced passenger experience.
- Timeline: Demolition began September 2025; project completion expected in 2027.

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## **6. Hispanic Heritage Month & “¡Te Amo MKE!” Bus Unveiling**

**Date:** September 15, 2025

- County Executive Crowley unveiled Milwaukee County’s first Hispanic Heritage bus at Walker Square Park.
  - Bus Design:
    - Created by Latino Arts, Inc. and sponsored by Lamar Transit Advertising.
    - Celebrates Milwaukee’s Hispanic and Latino cultural contributions through vibrant art and tradition.
    - The bus will operate on MCTS routes for one year.
  - Leadership Remarks: County Executive Crowley emphasized the bus as a symbol of equity and cultural celebration.
  - Proclamation: September officially proclaimed Hispanic Heritage Month in Milwaukee County.
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## **7. Emergency Response Update – Federal Disaster Declaration Approved for Milwaukee County**

**Date:** September 11, 2025 (Approval Announced)

- Trump Administration approved Wisconsin’s request for a major federal disaster declaration related to August flooding.
  - Nearly \$30 million in FEMA Individual Assistance now available for families and businesses.
  - Key Milestones:
    - August 9–10: Extreme flooding in Milwaukee County.
    - August 22: FEMA Preliminary Damage Assessments.
    - August 27: Formal presidential disaster declaration request submitted by Governor Evers.
    - September 11: FEMA Individual Assistance program approved.
  - Damage Overview:
    - 4% homes destroyed; 50% major damage; 18% minor damage; 19% affected.
  - Assistance:
    - FEMA Individual Assistance for housing, home repairs, and disaster expenses.
    - Business loans available through SBA.
  - Application Info: [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://DisasterAssistance.gov) or FEMA Helpline 1-800-621-3362.
  - County Executive Crowley continues advocating for Public Assistance funding for infrastructure repair.
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## **8. Senior Services – Proposal to Relocate Kelly Senior Center to South Milwaukee**

**Date:** Proposal announced August 2025, site tours and planning April 2025

- Proposal to relocate Kelly Senior Center to the Heritage Building on the former Bucyrus-Erie campus.
- New center to be approximately 22,000 sq. ft., double the current size, with enhanced programming and amenities.
- Located on a historic campus with ample parking and green spaces.
- Older Adult Transportation Service (OATS) will provide door-through-door service for non-drivers.
- Rationale: Closure of nearby centers increased demand; current Kelly Senior Center requires \$2.5 million in capital repairs but would still be insufficient.
- Project cost estimate: \$1.1 million with approximately nine months of construction after lease execution.
- Strong support from County Executive Crowley, South Milwaukee Mayor Shelenske, and COA Chair Wilberg.

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This investment positions Milwaukee as a growing international destination and supports broader regional economic development, tourism, and connectivity—benefiting all county residents.

As we continue our work to build a Milwaukee County where every resident—regardless of age, race, or ability—can thrive, I want to thank the ADRC Governing Committee for your commitment to serving our older adults and individuals with disabilities. Your role is critical in ensuring that our policies, programs, and investments reflect the needs and dignity of the people we serve.

Together, we are creating safer, healthier, and more connected communities. I encourage you to stay engaged in the upcoming budget process, help amplify community voices and continue advocating for equity in all areas of service delivery.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication.