

## Save the Date

### *Pumpkin Bash - Saturday, October 7, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.*



Join us for an afternoon of fall family fun, petting zoo, and food! We will be giving away mini pumpkins to the first 1,000 kids (12 years old and under)! Crafting supplies available to personalize your pumpkin.

Event is free and open to the public. New this year, kids come dressed in costume for our vendor trick-or-treating. Event will be held at the Walker City Complex, outdoors (4243 Remembrance Rd. NW)! More details will be available soon.

After Pumpkin Bash, don't miss the first Walker Community Relay for Life from 3:00 - 9:00 p.m. on city grounds. For more Relay for Life details visit [www.facebook.com/relayforlifewalker/](http://www.facebook.com/relayforlifewalker/)

### *WinterFest - Thursday, November 30, 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.*

Enjoy an evening of free ice skating, reindeer, hot chocolate, kids crafts, holiday music, and our 7:00 p.m. tree lighting. Santa will also be visiting from the North Pole! Event will be held at the Walker Ice & Fitness Center (4151 Remembrance Rd. NW.).

We encourage you to bring your own ice skates. Rental skates will be available for free on a first come basis.

Please help us spread some holiday cheer by bringing a canned good item to donate to our local food bank. Our Youth Commission will be collecting donations at the entrance.

For more information or to sponsor these events, please contact [akneibel@walker.city](mailto:akneibel@walker.city)



## Walker Ice & Fitness Center

### *Events & Programs*

#### **September Membership Special**

\$0 joining fee for all new and returning members! No contract required.  
New strength equipment and incline trainers  
All fitness classes are included  
Back to School—Back to Fitness!

#### **Open Skate**

What a great way to stay cool this summer. Check out our Open Skate times on our website.

Learn to Skate and Learn to Play Hockey Lessons will start in September.

#### **Party Room Rental**

Need a place to host a party or bridal/baby shower? We have newly updated rooms to rent! Seating for up to 100 with tables/chairs—rental starts at just \$20/hr

For complete information on all of our programs, special events and schedules, please contact the Walker Ice & Fitness center at (616) 735-6286, visit our facebook page or our website at [www.walkericeandfitness.com](http://www.walkericeandfitness.com).



[www.facebook.com/WalkerIceFitness](http://www.facebook.com/WalkerIceFitness)

# Message from the Mayor



Greetings,  
The summertime provides a great opportunity to get out and meet your neighbors. Here are a few events that are perfect for socializing!

**Concerts at the park** – The concerts continue to have great attendance. There's something for everyone at the concerts! Great music, food, and face painting. This year we also added a movie to the line-up. Hopefully you

can stop by with your family, bring a lawn chair, enjoy the music, the park, pizza and fun with friends.

We are also preparing for some fall fun! The Pumpkin Bash will be held again this year on October 7. After the Pumpkin Bash, we will be hosting our first Walker Community Relay for Life from 3:00 - 9:00 p.m. immediately following the Pumpkin Bash. We will be using the walking paths behind City Hall. You can also participate in games and support the fight against cancer. Cancer affects all of us, we all seem to know a relative, a co-worker or friend who has had cancer. Research now makes it possible to survive some cancers. The American Cancer Society funds research in our own community at places like the Van Andel Institute and Spectrum Health.

Through diligent work by management and the Commission, the city has completed our budget process. We continue to maintain adequate reserves, reducing long-term liabilities while improving our infrastructure. We also work very hard to maintain a low tax rate in Walker.

We have a number of construction projects occurring in the city this summer, please be careful in these construction zones for your safety and for the protection and safety of the workers on those jobs. Many of the projects are road related including repaving of various streets. The city is also working with MDOT to improve the intersection of Walker Avenue and the East bound I-96 ramp. This fall, look for a realigned ramp, dedicated north, south and straight lanes (connecting to Holton Ct) as well as adding traffic signals.

I hope you will enjoy your Summer, be safe and spend some time getting to know your neighbors.

Mayor Mark E. Huizenga



**Mayor:** Mark Huizenga  
Ph: 735-2950 E: mhuizenga@walker.city

**First Ward Commissioners:**  
Al Parent  
Ph: 262-1204 E: aparent@walker.city  
Dan Kent  
Ph: 745-9164 E: dkent@walker.city

**Second Ward Commissioners:**  
Chuck Deschaine, Mayor Pro Tem  
Ph: 885-3496 E: cdeschaine@walker.city  
Gary Carey  
Ph: 292-1715 E: gcarey@walker.city

**Third Ward Commissioners:**  
Cynthia Stek  
Ph: 791-9381 E: cstek@walker.city  
Sandra Howland  
Ph: 634-0046 E: showland@walker.city

## City Staff

**Assessor:** Kelly Smith  
Ph: 791-6862 E: ksmith@walker.city

**City Manager:** Darrel Schmalzel  
Ph: 791-6787 E: dschmalzel@walker.city

**City Clerk:** Sarah Bydalek  
Ph: 791-6865 E: sbydalek@walker.city

**Community Development:** Frank Wash  
Assistant City Manager, Community Development  
Director Ph: 791-6850 E: fwash@walker.city

**District Court 59th:** Judge Peter P. Versluis  
Ph: 453-5765

**City Engineer:** Scott C. Conners, P.E.  
Ph: 791-6792 E: sconners@walker.city

**Finance Manager:** Cindy Lewis  
Ph: 791-6799 E: clewis@walker.city

**Fire Chief:** Robert Walker  
Ph: 791-6840 E: rwalker@walker.city

**Police Chief:** Greg Long  
Ph: 791-6825 E: glong@ci.walker.mi.us

**Income Tax Director:** Julie Blok  
Ph: 791-6866 E: jblok@walker.city

**DPW Director:** Mark Koning  
Ph: 791-6854 E: mkoning@walker.city

**Treasurer:** Dan DeVries  
Ph: 791-6852 E: ddevries@walker.city

**Communications Manager:** Amber Kneibel  
Ph: 791.6856 E: akneibel@walker.city

# Income Tax Department

## Income Tax Updates

### Who Must File

Every resident or part-year resident of Walker (this includes renters) who had taxable income in 2016 of \$600 or more should have filed a Walker income tax return by May 1, 2017. Please do not assume that if your mailing address is Grand Rapids, you are not a Walker resident. All Walker addresses have Grand Rapids mailing addresses. Visit the following link on the Walker website to check whether your address is within the city limits of Walker and click on the Street Directory link on the left side of the page. <http://www.walker.city/government/departments/assessing/index.php>

### State Matching Program

We are continuing the process of electronically matching State of Michigan returns filed from a Walker resident address with Walker returns filed. If you have forgotten to file Walker returns from prior years, now is the time to get that cleared up before the letters go out from this matching program. If you have past years of Walker returns that you have forgotten to file, contact the tax department immediately at (616) 791-6880. If you file prior year returns and pay the tax and interest due, you may request a waiver of penalty. If the tax department contacts you first regarding unfiled returns, you will not be eligible for a waiver of penalty.

### Due Dates

Please see the enclosed calendar for income tax filing due dates for quarterly estimated payments, withholding tax payments, etc.

If you have any questions, please contact the Income Tax Department at (616) 791-6880.

# Fire Department

## Ash Disposal

Many residents are spending time outdoors, enjoying the summer weather, and having barbecues. It's important that you take the time to allow the ashes from your grills, fireplaces or fire pits to cool completely before properly disposing.

Hot ashes that are not correctly cooled and disposed are a significant fire hazard. Improper disposal of ashes or hot coals from fireplaces, grills or mobile fireplaces designed for decks or patios has become a common cause of many recent fires.

Embers often concealed in what appears to be cold ashes, can remain hot enough to rekindle a fire for several days. We want residents to enjoy their fireplaces and grills but always dispose of the ashes wisely.

Fire Department officials remind residents to:

- Allow ashes and coals to cool in place for several days.
- When it's time to dispose of the ashes, transfer them to a metal container and wet them down. Only use an approved metal ash bucket that has a tight fitting metal lid.
- Store the metal container outside, away from structures, decks, fences, wood piles or other combustibles
- Never use a vacuum cleaner to pick up ashes.
- Never dump ashes into a plastic container, cardboard box, bag, or anything or in any place where combustible fluids or fumes are present.
- Don't dump ashes outside on a windy day.
- Always have working smoke alarms on every level of your home and test them monthly.

This article was edited from an article written by a staff writer with the MYMC Media in Montgomery County, Maryland.



# OCTOBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 August withholding due, Form 3rd quarter 2017 estimate due. Forms 1040-ES and 1120-ES	3	4	5	6	7 Pumpkin Bash 1:30-3:00 p.m., City Hall Relay for Life 3:00 - 9:00 p.m., City Hall
8	9 Columbus Day	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Skary Skate 8:00 -10:00 p.m. Walker Ice & Fitness Center	28
29	30	31 Halloween 5:00 - 8:00 p.m., City Wide 3rd Quarter 2017 withholding due				

# NOVEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Election Day	8	9	10 Veterans Day City Offices Closed	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving City Offices Closed	24 City Offices Closed	25
26	27	28	29	30 WinterFest 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. Walker Ice & Fitness Center	October withholding due 11/30, Form 501	

## *Senior Neighbors Dates - Walker Firehouse Cafe, 4101 Lake Michigan Drive*

08/23: Music by Thornapple Valley Springs, Orville Harrington, 11:00 a.m.

08/25: Shopping at World Mission Thrift Stores, 9:30 a.m.

08/29: Bingo, 9:30 a.m.

08/30: Music by Marv Luttrell – Vocals, 11:00 a.m.

For more details about Senior Neighbors in Walker, visit [seniorneighbors.org/centers/walker/](http://seniorneighbors.org/centers/walker/)

## *The following meetings are always open to the public:*

**City Commission:** 6:30 p.m. on the second, third, and fourth Monday of the month.

**Planning Commission:** 7:00 p.m. on first and third Wednesday of the month.

**Zoning Board of Appeals:** 7:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month.

\*Meetings above are all held at Commission Chambers (City Hall, 4243 Remembrance Rd., NW)

**Downtown Development Authority:** 7:30 a.m. on the third Tuesday of the month.

Fire Station #2 (4101 Lake Michigan Drive)

### **2017 Board of Review Dates:**

Tuesday, December 12, 9:30 a.m. (Board only meets to review letter appeals. Held in the Assessor's office)

# DECEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day City Offices Closed	26 City Offices Closed	27	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve						

# JANUARY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day City Offices Closed	2 City Offices Closed	3 November withholding due, Form 501	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King Day	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 4th Quarter 2017 withholdings due, Form 941 4th quarter 2017 estimate due, Forms 1040-ES and 1120-ES			

*Connect with the City for even more updates:*



[www.facebook.com/CityofWalkerMI](http://www.facebook.com/CityofWalkerMI)



[@CityofWalkerMI](https://twitter.com/CityofWalkerMI)

# Department of Public Works

## 2017 Leaf Recycling Program

### Location:

City of Walker, 4243 Remembrance Rd. N.W. (behind City Hall)

### Dates and Hours:

October 26, 2017 - November 25, 2017

(Closed Friday, November 10, 2017 for Veteran's Day)

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday

8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Five Saturdays, from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.:

October 28, 2017

November 4, 2017

November 11, 2017

November 18, 2017

November 25, 2017



Biodegradable bags will be made available for purchase at the Public Works office (call for current pricing) 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday - Thursday. We will sell the bags at the site Wednesday nights and Saturdays. To speed up the leaf drop off, we encourage the use of the biodegradable bags. Plastic bags are not accepted. If plastic bags are used, the resident will be required to dump their leaves out of the plastic bags. Also, residents may bring leaves in a tarped trailer.

We will also be accepting brush at this location and running them through a chipper. No minimum length required. Proof of Walker residency will be required. Our offices are located at 4243 Remembrance Rd. N.W. directly across from the Library entrance. Office hours are Monday -Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. If you have questions, please call (616) 791-6854.

## Commissioner's Corner

Dear Residents,

As my term as Walker City Commissioner concludes, I want to thank you for the incredible honor and privilege it has been to serve you! When I reflect over the last four terms, I am reminded of the many opportunities to make a difference such as taking the concerns of Walker residents to Washington D. C. and serving as a liaison on Congressman Vern Ehlers Alliance Committee. Other committees to which I have served include, The Rapid, Ordinance, Historical, Mineral Mining, Personnel, Finance, Building, Emergency Planning, Elections, and partnering with Senior Neighbors and Meals on Wheels. A Commissioner has many responsibilities, and I have thoroughly enjoyed serving you on each of these.

I have gained greater knowledge of our Coast Guard and other military branches that protect our City, State and Country. My deepest gratitude to those who serve in the Armed Forces, as well as our Fire, Police, DPW, and City staff! We have a great team working for our City. There is much to do to keep a community strong and healthy. I encourage each of you to become involved in your community and give your time and talents. I can assure your efforts will make a difference! Our sense of community and shared commitment is what makes Walker a desirable place to live, work and play. Thank you again for the honor to serve!

Yours truly,  
Cyndy Stek

# Clerk's Office

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
GRAND RAPIDS, MI  
PERMIT NO. 793

## Updates

### Alert:

All solicitors must be licensed by the City Clerk to canvas within the City of Walker. If someone comes to your door soliciting, please ask to see their City of Walker Solicitor License and proof of employment with the company. If they refuse to show you their license or they state that they are not licensed, get their vehicle license plate number, name of the individual and the company name. Please report this to the Police Department at (616) 453-5441.

### Election News:

November General Election is Tuesday, November 7, 2017 (Last day to register to vote for this election is Tuesday, October 10, 2017)

Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Visit the Election Information page under Clerk's Department on the City website for more information, sample ballots and to find out if you are registered at the correct address. If you have any questions, contact the Clerk's Office at (616) 791-6865.

### Absentee Ballots:

Prior to each election, voters may choose to receive their ballot early and vote prior to Election Day. Michigan law allows you to receive an absentee ballot if:

- You are 60 years of age or older
- You are physically unable to attend the polls without assistance of another
- You have been appointed an election precinct inspector in a precinct other than the precinct where you reside
- You expect to be absent from the community in which you are registered for the entire time the polls are open on election day
- You cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of your religion
- You cannot attend the polls because you are confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial

You must fill out an application prior to each election before we can send out your ballot.

### Passports:

You can apply for a passport in the Clerk's Office. Passport hours are Monday - Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Friday 7:30 - 11:30 a.m. No appointments are necessary during passport office hours. Visit our website for details on the requirements.

### City Hall Drop Box:

Documents that need to be turned into the Clerk's office may be dropped off in the City Hall grey drop box outside City Hall. (i.e. Absentee ballot applications, signed and sealed absentee ballots and license applications and payments)

