



# City of Walker

2024 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



A true community is not just about being geographically close to someone or part of the same social web network. It's about feeling connected and responsible for what happens. Humanity is our ultimate community, and everyone plays a crucial role."

*Yehuda Berg*

In this newsletter:

New Library, Infrastructure Improvements, Election Info, Event Calendar

# A Letter from the Mayor



This year is looking to be one of our most exciting years since I have been in office as a mayor or city commissioner. The reputation of our City continues to be one of a welcoming and safe community that prioritizes a high quality of life and civility with one another. Managing to do this in our current times is no easy task. So, I wanted to open my annual message with just that: our priorities are in the right place because we are deliberate about them. These priorities and deliberate efforts are directly aligned with our City brand and image of being “a great place to live, work, and grow.”

One of the most important investments we have decided to prioritize is that of a new Walker Library. Walker currently has the smallest physical library building in the Kent District Library (KDL) system, and our ability to provide our community with what they want and need in 2024 is currently not being met. So, around this same time last year, we made a conscientious decision to move our ship full steam ahead. For several years now, we have gathered valuable community and partner feedback to help provide us with the needed insight and guide us to where we need to go. I can proudly share that we have made tremendous progress since this time last year! We have recently completed an extensive process to select an architect and engineering firm, as well as a general construction manager to lead the project. These are not easy decisions as there are so many outstanding choices here in West Michigan alone. However, we are confident that we have assembled the right people and partners to further accelerate our efforts. While the final architectural and design plans are still being finalized, I can share that we have a good idea of what the project is going to look like. In keeping with the practical approach our community takes to many things, we will keep our existing library building. That building will be repurposed into a building that houses meeting rooms and administrative services for the library and city. That current single-story building is just over 8,000 square feet in size. We are then going to build a new two-story, approximately 20,000 square foot building in front of that. This will be the actual new library and will be closer to Remembrance Road with a connected and enclosed walkway between the two. The outside shape and structure will be contemporary yet blend in with our City campus and buildings. We currently have a layout that has served us well for a few decades. Being deliberate about aligning this new structure with the City hall campus has been critical at every step along the way. As we get close to spring and summer, look for some drawings and more details to be shared. I would be remiss if I did not also put out there that with growth and construction comes pains.

I will close with a Call to Action for our community. We are always looking for residents to serve on our various committees and boards. The need to serve our community is greater than it has ever been, yet we continue to be faced with less and less not willing to serve. There was an ancient philosopher that once said: “the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.” That saying is still relevant today and provides us with a definition of community - the Walker community that I lead and serve. So, please join me in serving our community and be a part of the solution that makes Walker as strong as it is.

As always, whether you are a resident or business here, thank you for making the choice to call Walker home.

**MAYOR GARY L. CAREY, JR.**

## CONTACT THE MAYOR:

E: [gcarey@walker.city](mailto:gcarey@walker.city)  
P: 616-292-1715

# Clerk's Office

CITY CLERK, DEBORAH GOUDY

The Clerk's Office is here to serve the city. On our department webpage you can find resources and information regarding elections, passports, Licenses, City charter, FOIA, elected officials and more! Visit us at: [Walker.city/Clerk](http://Walker.city/Clerk).

## ELECTIONS

Visit our website at [Walker.city/Elections](http://Walker.city/Elections)

### 2024 ELECTIONS

Tuesday, February 27 - Presidential Primary Election

Tuesday, May 7 - Possible Special Election

Tuesday, August 6 - Primary Election

Tuesday, November 5 - General Election

### WALKER'S EARLY VOTING LOCATION IS:

Walker Commission Chambers

4243 Remembrance Rd NW

Walker, MI 49534

Open from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM



### PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT LIST

Recent changes to the Michigan Election Law permit a one-time application to receive your Absentee Ballot for all elections going forward.

### MICHIGAN VOTER INFORMATION CENTER

View/update voter registration, request an absentee ballot, view your sample ballot and more at: [michigan.gov/vote](http://michigan.gov/vote).

### WALKER ABSENTEE VOTER DROP BOX LOCATIONS:

Only absentee ballots and applications for the City of Walker can be accepted at these locations. Absentee ballots MUST be delivered to the Clerk or any of these two drop boxes listed below by 8PM on Election Day. The drop boxes are available 24/7:

- Walker City Hall  
4243 Remembrance Road NW
- Fire Station # 3  
1470 3 Mile Road NW



## THREE WAYS TO VOTE!

- **Early Voting** – Vote In-person at your Early Voting Center for 9 consecutive days before a state or federal election. Early voting begins the second Saturday before the election and ends the Sunday prior to the election.
- **Election Day** – Vote In-person at your polling location. Polls are open from 7AM – 8PM.
- **Mail In Ballot** – Vote by mail in ballot. Ballots are available at the Clerk's Office up to 40 days prior to an Election. They will automatically be mailed to voters who have requested to be on the Permanent Ballot List. If you rely on the mail, allow ample time for your application or ballot to arrive at our office.

## PASSPORTS

The City of Walker is an acceptance facility for U.S. Passports. Passports are processed by appointment only! You do not need to be a resident of



Walker to take advantage of our passport services.

For additional passport information we advise you to go to [www.Travel.State.Gov](http://www.Travel.State.Gov)

## LICENSING

All businesses and home occupations are required by city ordinance to be licensed annually as well as snowplow companies and waste haulers doing business within the City's limits. To find a list of licensed snowplow companies and waste haulers, visit the "Community" section on the City's main website.



# Walker Income Tax Department

## **2023 WALKER INCOME TAX RETURNS ARE DUE APRIL 30, 2024**

We will be happy to prepare your Walker return free of charge. Please call (616) 791-6880 for an appointment and a list of information you will need to bring. We are no longer able to prepare Walker returns using information submitted by email.

## **WORK FROM HOME IN 2023**

If you are a Walker resident who usually works in another city with an income tax (for example, Grand Rapids), you must reduce the credit for tax paid to the other city for days worked from home. You will also reduce the amount of tax you pay to the non-resident city by allocating your wages for days worked from home. If you need help calculating non-resident taxable wages or the credit for tax paid to another city, you can call us at (616) 791-6880.

## **E-FILE YOUR WALKER INCOME TAX RETURN**

We will be accepting 2023 Walker resident and non-resident returns by e-file. If you use a paid tax preparer that e-files your federal and state returns, they should be able to e-file your Walker return also. If you use TaxAct software/online tax program to prepare your own federal and state returns, you will be able to e-file your Walker return. Visit the TaxAct site at [www.taxact.com](http://www.taxact.com) for more information. Please note that other software/online tax programs used for self-prepared returns (TurboTax, H&R Block, TaxCut) do not participate with Michigan local e-filing as of 1/1/2024. We are working with these popular software programs to encourage them to participate with Michigan local e-filing. Check the instructions when you print your 2023 Walker return to see if you need to mail a paper copy to us.

We began accepting e-filed returns for tax year 2023 on January 31. Processing of e-filed returns with refunds will not begin until mid-March. All W-2 forms due from employers by February 29 must be processed first.

## **ESTIMATED PAYMENTS**

The first quarter estimated payment for 2024 Walker Income Tax is also due April 30, 2024. If your employer does not withhold Walker Income Tax or you have non-wage income (rental income, capital gains, premature pension distributions, etc.) that is subject to tax and you think you may owe more than \$100 with your 2024 return, you must make quarterly estimated payments. The 2024 Quarterly Estimated payment vouchers with instructions can be found:

- On our website at [walker.city/taxforms](http://walker.city/taxforms)
- By mail. Call us at (616) 791-6880

You must pay at least 70% of your current or prior year liability (whichever is lower) through timely estimates, credits or withholding to avoid receiving a bill for penalty and interest for underpayment of estimated tax. If you need help calculating safe estimates, please call us for assistance at (616) 791-6880.

Please note that paying all four 2024 quarterly estimates with the fourth quarter voucher due January 31, 2025, may result in a bill for penalty and interest for failure to pay timely estimates.

Please be aware that information we receive, such as W-2s and returns, needs to have the complete social security number on it for proper processing. Redacted information on returns and correspondence may result in a lengthy delay in processing or be disallowed.



## WHO MUST FILE

Every resident or part-year resident of Walker (this includes renters) who had taxable income in 2023 of \$600 or more must file a return. More information on taxable income can be found here: [walker.city/incometaxfaqs](https://walker.city/incometaxfaqs)

All Walker addresses have Grand Rapids mailing addresses so please do not assume you are not a Walker resident based on your mailing address. Visit the following link on the Walker website to check whether your address is within the city limits of Walker: [walker.city/streetdirectory](https://walker.city/streetdirectory)

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. 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 you receive an assessment from this compliance program.

# Income Tax Due Dates

## WALKER CITY INCOME TAX

### For Employers:

January 31, 2024 – 4th quarter 2023 withholding due (Form 941)  
February 29, 2024 – 2023 WW-3 forms due (Form WW-3)  
February 29, 2024 – January withholding due (Form 501)  
April 1, 2024 – February withholding due (Form 501)  
April 30, 2024 – 1st Quarter 2024 withholding due (Form 941)  
May 31, 2024 – April withholding due (Form 501)  
July 1, 2024 – May withholding due (Form 501)  
July 31, 2024 – 2nd Quarter 2024 withholding due (Form 941)  
September 3, 2024 – July withholding due (Form 501)  
September 30, 2024 – August withholding due (Form 501)  
October 31, 2024 – 3rd Quarter 2024 withholding due (Form 941)  
December 2, 2024 – October withholding due (Form 501)  
December 31, 2024 – November withholding due (Form 501)  
January 31, 2025 – 4th Quarter 2024 withholding due (Form 941)



### For Individuals:

January 31, 2024 – 4th Quarter 2023 estimate due (Form 1040-ES)  
April 30, 2024 – 2023 individual return W-1040R/NR due (Form W-1040R/NR)  
April 30, 2024 – 1st Quarter 2024 estimate due (Form 1040-ES)  
July 31, 2024 – 2nd Quarter 2024 estimate due (Form 1040-ES)  
September 30, 2024 – 3rd Quarter 2024 estimate due (Form 1040-ES)  
January 31, 2025 – 4th Quarter 2024 estimate due (Form 1040-ES)

### For Corporations:

January 31, 2024 – 4th Quarter 2023 estimate due (Form 1120-ES)  
April 30, 2024 – 2023 Corporate return W-1120 due (Form W-1120)  
April 30, 2024 – 1st Quarter 2024 estimate due (Form 1120-ES)  
July 31, 2024 – 2nd Quarter 2024 estimate due (Form 1120-ES)  
September 30, 2024 – 3rd Quarter 2024 estimate due (Form 1120-ES)  
January 31, 2025 – 4th Quarter 2024 estimate due (Form 1120-ES)

# Walker Fire Department



## Community Connect

We are always looking for ways to better serve the citizens in City of Walker. Community Connect is a free, secure, and easy to use platform that allows you to share critical information about your household which will aid first responders and emergency response personnel when heading to your residence. By providing information about your household that you feel is important for us to know about at the time of an emergency, we can ensure you and everything you care about is protected to the best of our ability.

**Website:** [walker.city/communityconnect](http://walker.city/communityconnect). You can also scan the QR code.



## How Does It Work?

1

### Create an Account:

Sign in for free and get started doing your part. It just takes your email, phone number and address.

2

### Enter Info That Matters

**Most:** Enter information that can help us assist more effectively during an emergency.

3

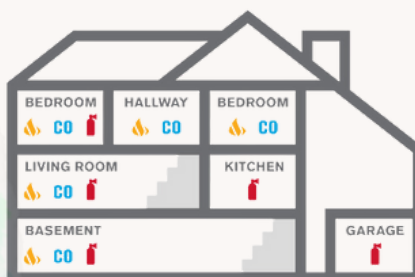
### Help your Fire Department

**When Seconds Count:** That's it. Just keep us updated when things change so we can be prepared.

## Smoke Alarm Information

Smoke alarm activation with no fire can be a nuisance. Some ways you can avoid this situation are to make sure your alarms are clean. Your vacuum cleaner with a soft brush attachment can accomplish this by removing any dust accumulation. Make sure alarms are not

too close to the kitchen. If an alarm activates and there is no apparent reason for the alarm, that is one indicator that the alarm has reached its shelf life. If the alarm activates and there is no apparent problem, you should still call 911 to ensure that you don't have any hidden fire that you cannot detect. If you have any questions about your smoke alarms, feel free to call the Walker Fire Department at (616) 791-6840. If you are in need of smoke alarms, the Walker Fire Department has an installation program. Simply call us to set up an appointment.



**Smoke Alarm**  
One on every level and in every bedroom



**Carbon Monoxide Alarm**  
One on every level and in every bedroom



**Fire Extinguisher**  
One on every level, plus kitchen and garage



@CityofWalkerFireDepartment

# Walker Police Department

Walker Police Department began 2024 with a retirement. Officer Scott Johnson retired after over 30 years working for the department. In that time, he worked in many positions, most recently filling the role of Court Security Officer for the 59th District Court.

The department also began a Cadet Program. The Cadet Program is for college students with an interest in law enforcement. We currently have three cadets in the program, two of which are also currently enrolled in a local police academy at GRCC. When they graduate, they will join our department as officers and begin field training. Our third cadet will follow a similar route once the GVSU Police Academy begins in April. Cadets help with various tasks around the department such as fingerprinting, prisoner transport, record keeping, and attending community events.

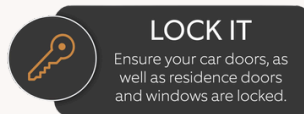
Speaking of community events, Walker PD plans to be part of many again in 2024. Look for more details to come as events get closer. One you may want to pencil in is Safety Day on May 18, which will be a public safety themed event, complete with a Sobie Meats Community Picnic & Fundraiser!

Having a vigilant community helped some of our property crime statistics trend DOWN in 2023. Let's keep that up this year! Simple things like removing valuables from vehicles, keeping windows up and doors locked, and not leaving keys inside unattended vehicles all help. Also, if you see something suspicious, please call 911 at that time. Do not wait to call hours or days later. Calling in the moment gives officers the best chance to catch criminals in the act!

To keep up on department news, safety tips, and police related humor, follow us on Facebook by liking "City of Walker Police Department-Michigan."

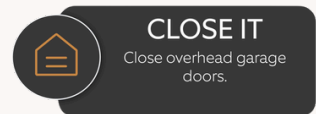


## #9PMRoutine



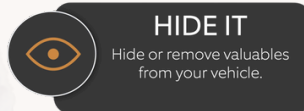
### LOCK IT

Ensure your car doors, as well as residence doors and windows are locked.



### CLOSE IT

Close overhead garage doors.



### HIDE IT

Hide or remove valuables from your vehicle.



### LIGHT IT

Keep exterior residence lights on or use motion detecting lights.



@WalkerPoliceDept



# Department of Public Works

Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

O: (616) 791-6854 E: [publicworks@walker.city](mailto:publicworks@walker.city)



## DATES AND TIMES:

May 2, 3, and 4

Thursday - 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

Friday - 8:00 am to 7:00 pm

Saturday - 7:00 am to 12:00 pm

**LOCATION:** Behind City Hall, 4243 Remembrance Rd NW,  
look for directional signs

## ITEMS ACCEPTED:

- Appliances (refrigerators coolant to be removed with certificate)
- Wood, brush, leaves, and grass clippings
- Metal
- Mattresses, old doors, small household appliances, old windows, and furniture

## ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:

- TV's
- Computer Monitors
- Hazardous waste (contact Kent County Recycling program at (616) 632-7920 or visit [www.ReimagineTrash.org](http://www.ReimagineTrash.org))

## PROOF OF RESIDENCY REQUIRED

## FEE SCHEDULE

\$5.00 (per visit) - single car or minivan

\$5.00 - per tire

\$10.00 per tire with rim

\$10.00 (per visit) - single car with trailer

\$10.00 (per visit) - single pickup truck

\$20.00 (per visit) - single pick-up truck with trailer



**LOCATION:** Behind City Hall, 4243 Remembrance Rd NW

**DATES AND TIMES:** October 14 through November 15. It will be closed Monday, November 11, in observance of Veteran's Day.

M, T, TH, F - 7:00 am to 3:30 pm

Friday - 8:00 am to 7:00 pm

Saturday - 7:00 am to 12:00 pm

## PROOF OF RESIDENCY REQUIRED

## PURCHASE LEAF BAGS:

Biodegradable bags can be purchased at the Department of Public Works (DPW) located at 4243 Remembrance RD NW (entrance across from the library) during office hours.

*Price: \$.50 per bag or 5 pack for \$2.50*

## TYPE OF BAGS ACCEPTED:

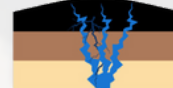
- Biodegradable
- Plastic bags not accepted. Residents will have to empty the leaves out of the bags.

If you see a pothole, please contact the Department of Public Works to report it at (616) 791-6854.

## What causes a pothole?



Water enters the cracks in the street.



Water freezes and expands, forcing the cracks to expand in the street.



Water thaws, leaving voids under the pavement.



The weight of vehicles breaks the pavement, which then collapses to form a pothole.

Find us on 

@WalkerPublicWorks

# Engineering Department

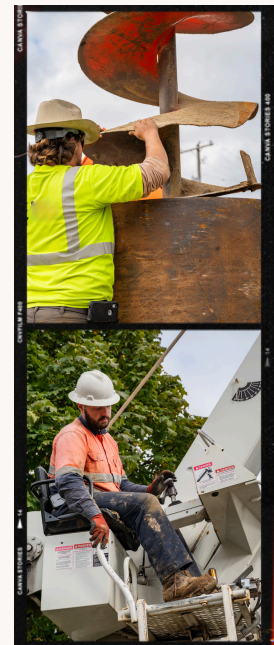
We have a long list of improvement projects for 2024! Below is a summary of some of those efforts. Look for updates and renderings as they become available at [walker.city](http://walker.city) and social media!

## BRISTOL RAILROAD BRIDGE

The 117-year-old single-lane underpass near the intersection of Bristol Avenue and Pannell Street will get a full makeover this summer. The improvement will include a new bridge with both northbound and southbound movements. That's right - 2-way traffic! The new design also includes a sidewalk on the east side of the road. The bridge will consist of two arch structures that are intended to help preserve some of the historic nature of this location and maintain the aesthetic look of a gateway to the Alpine Estates neighborhood to the north. The bridge's 10' height will also be increased to 14.5' in accordance with state design guidelines. This will provide better access to the small industrial area just north of the bridge and should limit the trucks that need to stray from our truck route using Bristol Avenue, south of Three Mile Road, to get to these businesses. The sidewalk system will be expanded north in 2026 helping to make this area fully connected between the Fred Meijer Pioneer Trail and West Catholic High School.

## KINNEY AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS

Kinney Avenue between Lake Michigan Drive and Leonard Street will be getting a makeover. This rural 2 lane section of roadway is not so rural anymore. This section of Kinney is almost entirely developed. It serves a very important role in our transportation system as one of the primary north/south connectors. We will be widening the roadway to provide a center turn lane. This corridor has lots of residential driveways and side streets. The center turn lane should help drivers making left turns and allow through traffic to continue. The enhancement will also remove the ditches in favor of storm sewer. The new roadway section will look just like the portion of Kinney Avenue from Three Mile Road to Remembrance Road. Access will be tough to the homeowners that rely on this section of Kinney Avenue. We will be maintaining local traffic but there may be some delays as we work to install and upgrade underground utilities. If you frequent this corridor we ask that you look for an alternate route. If you live along Kinney or on one of the side streets that is only accessible from Kinney, you are considered "local traffic" and allowed within the project limits. Just remember to go slow and allow for extra time. By the end of the year you will have a new road with storm sewer and sidewalks on both sides of the street!



*Photos courtesy of Prein&Newhof*

## STANDALE BUSINESS DISTRICT STREET LIGHTS

The Standale Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is embarking on an ambitious plan to upgrade all the street lighting in the Standale Business District. This plan will include removing 30 year old lights along Lake Michigan Drive (M-45) and replacing them with a more modern lighting system that is focused on lighting the sidewalk system. The new lights will be set up to allow for flower baskets and banners to facilitate different themes throughout the year. They will also be set up to allow for special holiday lighting. New lighting will also be placed along Wilson Avenue (M-11) in front of the Meijer and Westtown Apartments. We are excited to be assisting the DDA in this effort and looking forward to seeing how the new lighting looks in the fall of 2024.

# Calendar of Events

## F E B R U A R Y

FEBRUARY 1 - 18

**Spring Soccer Online  
Registration Open**

[walkericeandfitness.com](http://walkericeandfitness.com)

MON. FEBRUARY 19

**Presidents' Day**  
City Offices Closed

## M A R C H

MARCH 11-14

**March Board of Review**

NOW - APRIL 29

**Walker Adult Softball  
Registration Open**  
[walkericeandfitness.com](http://walkericeandfitness.com)

SAT. March 23

**Annual Easter Egg Hunt**  
*City Central Park*

SUN. March 31

**Easter Sunday**  
Walker Ice and Fitness Closed

## A P R I L

APRIL 1 - MAY 12

**Memorial Day Parade  
Registration**

[walkericeandfitness.com](http://walkericeandfitness.com)

SAT. APRIL 20

**Spring Soccer Begins**

## M A Y

MAY 2-4

**Walker Clean Up Days**  
[walker.city/cleanupdays](http://walker.city/cleanupdays)

MON. MAY 27

**Memorial Day Parade**  
*Remembrance Road*

MON. MAY 29

**Memorial Day**  
City Offices Closed  
Walker Ice & Fitness Closed  
KDL Walker Branch Closed



## MONTHLY CITY MEETINGS

*All meetings will be held in the City Commission  
Chambers, unless otherwise noted.*

### City Commission:

6:30 pm / 2nd and 4th Monday

### Planning Commission:

6:30 pm / 1st and 3rd Wednesday

### Zoning Board of Appeals:

6:30 pm / 2nd and 4th Wednesday

### Downtown Development Authority:

7:30 am / 3rd Tuesday

## J U N E

THUR. JUNE 6

**Walker Standale Summer Concert Series**  
*Community Park @ 6:30 pm*



## J U L Y

THUR. JULY 4

**Independence Day**  
City Offices Closed  
Walker Ice & Fitness Closed  
KDL Walker Branch Closed

THUR. JULY 11

**Walker Standale Summer  
Concert Series**  
*Community Park @ 6:30 pm*

TUES. JULY 16

**July Board of Review**  
9:30 am

JULY 1 - 21

**Walker Fall Youth Soccer  
Registration Open**  
[walkericeandfitness.com](http://walkericeandfitness.com)



## AUGUST

TUES. AUGUST 6

### National Night Out

Follow the Walker PD

Facebook page for updates

THUR. AUGUST 8

### Walker Standale Summer Concert Series

Community Park @ 6:30 pm



## SEPTEMBER

MON. SEPTEMBER 2

### Labor Day

City Offices Closed

Walker Ice & Fitness Closed

KDL Walker Branch Closed

SAT. SEPTEMBER 14

### Fall Soccer Games Begin

## OCTOBER

SAT. OCTOBER 5

### Pumpkin Bash

Walker City Hall Complex

OCTOBER, DATE TBD

### Annual Scary Skate

Walker Ice & Fitness Center

OCT. 14 - NOV. 15

### Walker Leaf Recycling Program

walker.city/fall-leaf-recycling

OCTOBER; DATE TBA

### Officer Trevor Slot Memorial Service

## NOVEMBER

MON. NOVEMBER 11

### Veteran's Day

City Offices Closed

KDL Walker Branch Closed

THUR. NOVEMBER 28

### Thanksgiving

City Offices Closed

Walker Ice & Fitness Closed

KDL Walker Branch Closed

FRI. NOVEMBER 29

### Day After Thanksgiving

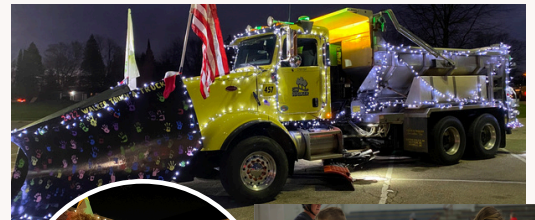
City Offices Closed

NOV 30 - DEC 22

### Let it Glow Holiday Light Contest

## BECOME AN EVENT SPONSOR!

Community events are the perfect opportunity for your business to gain exposure within the Walker/Standale neighborhoods and become involved with your local community! Scan the QR code to learn more, or email Nicole DiDonato at [ndidonato@walker.city](mailto:ndidonato@walker.city).



## DECEMBER

THUR. DECEMBER 5

### Winterfest

Walker Ice and Fitness Center

TUES. DECEMBER 10

### December Board of Review

9:30 am

DECEMBER 25 & 26

### Christmas Day/

### Day After

City Offices Closed

TUES. DECEMBER 31

### New Year's Eve

Walker City Offices

Closed



Join the Walker Chamber for **Walker After Work** networking events. Held the **first Tuesday** of every month from 4:30 - 6pm



(616) 482-7101



@WalkerMIChamber



Walker Chamber of Commerce



"Where Active Families Play"

WWW.WALKERICEANDFITNESS.COM



@WalkerIceFitness



@WalkerIceandFitness

4151 Remembrance Road NW | Walker MI, 49534 | (616) 735-6286

Located in the center of the City of Walker, the WIFC is where Active Families Play! Visitors from all over West Michigan and beyond join us for workouts, fitness classes, games, ice skating, recreation programs, and more! We provide a State-of-the-Art Fitness Center with the latest in equipment and classes. Memberships start at just \$39 per month and we offer special rates for our Corporate partners, students, law enforcement and military. Call (616) 735-6286 for more information or visit us online at [walkericeandfitness.com](http://walkericeandfitness.com).

#### FALL HOURS (OCT 1 - APR 30)

Mon-Fri: 5am-9pm

Sat-Sun: 7am-7pm

#### SUMMER HOURS (MAY 1 - SEPT 30)

Mon-Fri: 5am-9pm

Sat-Sun: 7am-5pm

#### BLOOD DRIVES

Throughout the year, we partner with Versiti to offer community blood drives. Please consider participating to help save lives!

- March 5 - 6 Kenowa Hills High School Blood Drive  
– 11am - 6pm both days
- April 17 – 1 - 6pm
- June 19 – 1 - 6pm
- August 21 - 1 - 6pm
- December 18 - 1 - 6pm



#### ICE ARENA

The Walker Ice and Fitness Center's ice arena provides opportunities for area residents of all ages to enjoy on-ice recreation. From Learn to Skate/Play hockey programs, Cross Ice, games, practices and tournaments, there are many opportunities to get your skates on, have fun and enjoy the great sports of hockey and ice skating! As soon as we are able, open skate, drop-in-hockey, and stick and puck will be back on the schedule. Be sure to check our Facebook pages and our website for the latest updates.

#### TRY US FREE!

Are you interested in a gym membership? You can try out our facility FREE for 7 days. Anyone 18 years and older, area resident and first-time visitor to our facility is welcome to do this! You will have access to all our amenities during this week - that means the indoor track, cardio equipment, extensive free weights, and more are yours to try FREE! Visit [walkericeandfitness.com](http://walkericeandfitness.com) for more information or call (616) 735-6286.

#### SENIOR PROGRAMS

We participate with Silver Sneakers, AARP and Silver and Fit supplemental insurance programs. Call Mary Kay Sherman at (616) 735-6286 for more information.

#### UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

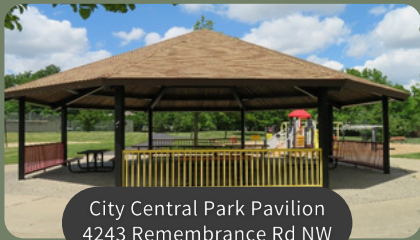
- March 2 - April 20: Learn to Skate & Play Hockey Session 4
- Feb 24: Try Hockey for FREE at 12 noon
- Week of March 18: Spring House Hockey Evals
- Week of March 18: Spring Travel Hockey Tryouts
- May 2024: HAWK Hockey Fall Travel Tryouts
- April 27 - June 15: Learn to Skate and Play Hockey Session 5
- June 26 - Aug 14: Learn to Skate and Play Hockey Session 6
- Week of Aug 12: HAWK Evaluations
- Sept 3: HAWK Season Begins
- Mid Sept 2024: Learn to Skate and Play Hockey Session 1
- Oct 2024: Cross Ice Begins
- Oct 2024: Skary Skate
- Dec 5: Winterfest Open Skate
- Dec 31: Neon NYE from 5-7 pm



## Pavilion Rentals

Rent a park pavilion ONLINE for  
your next gathering

[www.walkericeandfitness.com](http://www.walkericeandfitness.com)



City Central Park Pavilion  
4243 Remembrance Rd NW



Community Park Pavilion  
700 Cummings Ave NW



Alpine Estates Park Pavilion  
1364 3 Mile Rd NW

Contact the Walker Parks &  
Recreation Department for more info  
(616) 735-6286

**Michelle May, Recreation Supervisor**  
[mmay@walkericeandfitness.com](mailto:mmay@walkericeandfitness.com)

**Gillian Hendershot, Assistant**  
[ghendershot@walkericeandfitness.com](mailto:ghendershot@walkericeandfitness.com)

**Andrea Ingraham, Assistant**  
[aningraham@walkericeandfitness.com](mailto:aningraham@walkericeandfitness.com)

## Dates to Remember

- Now - April 29: Adult Softball Registration
- March 23: Easter Egg Hunt
- April 1 - May 12: Memorial Day Parade Registration
- April 20: Spring Soccer Games Begin
- May 27: Memorial Day Parade
- June 3: Adult Softball Games Begin
- July 1 - 21: Fall Soccer Registration
- August 24: Kickball for a Cause
- September 14: Fall Soccer Games Begin
- October 2 - November 11: Veterans Drive
- Nov 30 - Dec 22: Let it Glow Holiday Lights Competition



## Adult Softball Umpires & Soccer Officials Needed

Umpires must be 18 years old, soccer officials must be  
13 years old. Both must have knowledge of the game.  
Apply online at [www.walkericeandfitness.com](http://www.walkericeandfitness.com)



## FREE Drop-In Sports

- **Drop-In Basketball** - City Central Park  
Begins in April, every Monday from 6-8pm
- **Volleyball** - City Central Park  
Begins in April, every Tuesday from 6-8pm
- **Inline Roller Hockey** - City Central Park  
Begins in April, every Wednesday from 6-8pm



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AT  
[@CityofWalkerParksandRecreation](https://www.facebook.com/CityofWalkerParksandRecreation)



# KDL Library: Walker Branch



Monday - Thursday: 9:30 a.m. – 8 p.m. | Friday & Saturday: 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Sunday: Closed

## KDL Announces Community Reading Initiative, On The Same Page

KDL is introducing a new initiative to bring people together around one book: *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett.

*On the Same Page* will include numerous events around Kent County including book discussions, programs that feature themes in the book, and a Meet the Author event at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, April 24 at the Covenant Fine Arts Center at Calvin University. The author event will not only feature internationally bestselling author Ann Patchett, but also special guest Kevin Wilson, author of *Now is Not the Time to Panic*. Free registration for the Author Event will be required and will open on March 15. To sign up for updates and reminders, visit [kdl.org/samepage](http://kdl.org/samepage). *Tom Lake* has been described as both “quiet and reassuring” (New York Times) and “poignant and reflective” (Kirkus Reviews). It is a beautiful and moving novel about family, love and growing up that takes place on a cherry farm in Traverse City, Michigan, during 2020. KDL has 670 regular print copies, 50 large print, 76 eBooks and 61 audiobooks (read by Meryl Streep) in its collection. *Tom Lake* and *Now is Not the Time to Panic* are also available through KDL’s Talking Book and Braille Center in both audio and Braille formats.

## Programs for All Ages, All-Year-Round!

Check out [kdl.org/events](http://kdl.org/events) for more information, in addition to the selection highlighted below:

### Babytime

Tuesdays | 9:30 a.m.

Delight and engage your baby with songs, a story and playtime. Get to know other families and help your baby develop listening and language skills. For babies from birth to 18 months with a caregiver.

### Storytime

Mondays | 6:30 p.m.

Thursdays | 10:00 a.m.

Enjoy stories, movement, and rhymes that develop early literacy skills and encourage everyone in the family to share their love of reading. For Ages 0-5.

### Solar Eclipse Viewing Party

Monday, April 8 | 2:00 p.m.

Come join us outside for a viewing of the Great North American Eclipse, or head indoors to watch NASA's livestream footage. Weather permitting for outdoor viewing; solar eclipse glasses provided while supplies last. For All Ages.

## Looking to cut subscriptions?

### Instead of:

Netflix  
Hulu  
Audible  
Spotify  
Amazon

### Try:

Kanopy  
Hoopla  
Libby  
Freegal  
The Library

### Website:

[kdl.kanopy.com](http://kdl.kanopy.com)  
[hoopladigital.com](http://hoopladigital.com)  
[kdl.overdrive.com](http://kdl.overdrive.com)  
[kdl.freegalmusic.com](http://kdl.freegalmusic.com)  
[kdl.org](http://kdl.org)



All FREE with your KDL card.

# FREE Family Events

23

MARCH

## Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Hunt begins promptly at 11:00 am.

Free outdoor Easter Egg Hunt for kids!!

Location: Walker City Central Park

18

MAY

## Safety Day

Walker Police & Fire team up for event that focuses on keeping families safe! Features interactive demonstrations. Location: TBD

27

MAY

## Memorial Day Parade

Honor our veterans and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Parade begins with a plane flyover at noon. Location: Remembrance Road

6

JUNE

11

JULY

8

AUGUST

## Walker Standale Summer Concert Series

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Join the community for an open air concert in the park featuring local bands. Food for sale on-site. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs. Location: Walker Community Park

5

OCTOBER

## Walker Pumpkin Bash

Family event with free pumpkins, cider and donuts, farm animals, trick or treating, face painting and more!

Location: Walker City Hall Complex

5

DECEMBER

## Walker Winter Fest

Free ice-skating, holiday crafts, reindeer, hot cocoa and cookies, live music and pictures with Santa! Don't miss out on the Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Location: Walker Ice and Fitness Center



Safety Day



Summer Concert



Easter Egg Hunt



Pumpkin Bash



Memorial Day Parade

## Stay Informed!

### Subscribe to Walker's Monthly eNewsletter

The City of Walker sends out a monthly e-Newsletter with department reports, construction updates, community events and more. Sign up through the QR code or through our website at [walker.city/enewsletter](http://walker.city/enewsletter)



Scan Me!



# City Directory

## CITY COMMISSION

MAYOR: GARY CAREY, JR.

P: 292-1715 E: GCAREY@WALKER.CITY

## FIRST WARD COMMISSIONERS:

STEVEN GILBERT, MAYOR PRO TEM

P: 828-7763 E: SGILBERT@WALKER.CITY

THOM BURKE

P: (619) 379-6036 E: TBURKE@WALKER.CITY

## SECOND WARD COMMISSIONERS:

ROXANNE DESCHAIINE

P: 885-4191 E: RDESCHAIINE@WALKER.CITY

JESSICA BABCOCK

P: 634-6015 E: JBABCOCK@WALKER.CITY

## THIRD WARD COMMISSIONER:

ELAINA A. HUIZENGA-CHASE

P: 334-1900 E: ECHASE@WALKER.CITY

MELANIE GROOTERS

P: 690-1719 E: MGROOTERS@WALKER.CITY

## CITY STAFF

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P: 791-6863 E: KSMITH@WALKER.CITY

**CITY MANAGER:** DARREL SCHMALZEL

P: 791-6787 E: DSCHMALZEL@WALKER.CITY

**CITY CLERK:** DEBORAH GOUDY

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**ASST. CITY MANAGER / COMMUNITY**

**DEVELOPMENT:** FRANK WASH

P: 791-6850 E: FWASH@WALKER.CITY

**59TH DISTRICT COURT:** P: 453-5765

**CITY ENGINEER:** SCOTT CONNERS, P.E.

P: 791-6792 E: SCONNERS@WALKER.CITY

**FIRE CHIEF :** DAVE PELTON

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**POLICE CHIEF :** KEITH MANKEL

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P: 791-6870 E: CROBERTS@WALKER.CITY

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**FINANCE DIRECTOR / TREASURER :** DAN DEVRIES

P: 791-6852 E: DDEVRIES@WALKER.CITY

**HR DIRECTOR:** SHANNON BALES

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**COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER:** NICOLE DIDONATO

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**WIFC FACILITY DIRECTOR:**

MARY KAY SHERMAN P: 735-6286

E: MKSHERMAN@WALKERICEANDFITNESS.COM



CITY OF WALKER  
4243 REMEMBRANCE RD NW  
WALKER, MICHIGAN 49534

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## WALKER CITY COMMISSION:



## WORK WITH US!



## CONNECT WITH US:

