

CITY OF WALKER

2025 Annual Newsletter

New Library Updates

Free Family Events

Helpful Resources



A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, AND GROW

A Letter from the Mayor



As I was putting my thoughts together for this year's annual newsletter, I looked back at 2023 and 2024 to measure how we met the expectations for the year. What went well for us? What did not? What can we do to get better this year? I continue to be pleased with our progress as a community and how we never seem to lose that character and spirit that makes Walker a special place to live, work, and grow.

What went well for us this past year was managing one of the busiest road and infrastructure seasons in the City's history! We had numerous impactful projects in Walker, as did some of our neighboring communities. Collectively, at times, this made our travels more challenging. When I put these in the context of 'what went well,' we did manage to get through it. I would also like to thank our staff who kept our community well-

informed. As we look at what this coming year will bring, there are fewer projects, but the ones we have are significant. Two at the top of the list are the Fruitridge Bridge Project and year 1 of the new Walker Library project, which will take two years. Both are items that we needed to "do better" for our community, so we checked that box.

We have also begun the transition of providing solutions to challenges in staffing our public safety teams, which for both police and fire is a nationwide trend. Yet, as taxpayers and residents, we never want to hear that. We need to deliver the service levels that our community expects. Our progress in addressing these has jumped steps towards the end of 2024 and has given us a running start into 2025. I am excited that we are finally providing full-time firefighters covering our City, seven days a week, from 6 am to 6 pm. During that period, most of our critical calls require fire department service. We continue to leverage our paid-on-call model for nights for now and provide additional support during our daytime shifts as needed. So, if we look at how we 'get better,' our actions back up that statement.

What also went well was improving communications and engagement within our community. Social media continues to advance in a maturity phase in its life cycle, and while still important, it has diminished a bit in its effectiveness for us. So, we are asking how we 'get better' here. We have recently introduced a new podcast series called "Made in Walker." Our community will hear a wide range of speakers and topics that connect to something or someone "Made in Walker." I am incredibly excited about this additional support to engage with our community.

Lastly, I shared a call to action with our community at the same time last year. That was a call for our community, where and when able, to step up and serve our City in an official role. Whether you are raising your hand for a committee or you would like to discuss what elected office means, we, as a strong community, need your help. To 'get better' from my role, we started the Mayor's Youth Academy and the Mayor's NextGen Academy. The Youth Academy is for our high school students, and NextGen is for adults. Both foundations are to engage, educate, and develop our pipeline for future leaders and committee members. When you have a strong understanding of what good governance and policymaking look like, the threads that make up the fabric of our community will be stronger than ever. However, we need residents willing to get involved.

As I look at 2025 and what we must have this year, that call to action is fast becoming a plea that we need your help. 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
P: 616-292-1715

Helpful Resources

Get Connected with your Community in Several Ways!

NEW PODCAST SERIES!

This year, we debuted our first-ever podcast series, *Made in Walker*. This new platform is part of the City's ongoing effort to engage with residents and business owners. Episodes last 15 -20 minutes and feature interviews with decision-makers, provide updates on ongoing projects and tell the stories of people in our community. Available on Apple Podcasts and most major podcast providers. Visit walker.city/podcast for more info!



E-UPDATES

Be the first in our community to review what elected officials say by subscribing to meetings through E-Updates. Visit walker.city/updates or scan the QR code to the right. Once there, check the box next to the meeting name (or names) you would like to subscribe to, enter your email address, and complete the verification code. The next time an update is made, you will receive a notification directly to your inbox!



MONTHLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTERS

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.



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
walker.city/citycommission

Planning Commission:
6:30 pm / 1st and 3rd Wednesday
walker.city/planningcommission

Zoning Board of Appeals:
6:30 pm / 2nd and 4th Wednesday

Downtown Development Authority:
7:30 am / 3rd Tuesday

WALKER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Join the Walker Chamber of Commerce to connect with local entrepreneurs, enhance your business knowledge, and increase your visibility in the community.

walkermichamber.org

@WalkerMIChamber

Walker Chamber of Commerce



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.

ELECTIONS

There are no elections currently scheduled for 2025. However, if a special election is called, we will post it on our website at walker.city/elections where you can also find more election information.

PASSPORTS:

The City Clerk's office is a passport acceptance facility for U.S. Passports. You can call (616) 791-6865 to schedule an appointment. You do not have to be a resident of Walker to take advantage of our passport services.

REAL ID

On May 7, 2025, U.S. travelers must be REAL ID compliant to board domestic flights and access certain federal facilities. A U.S. Passport Book or passport card are acceptable forms of REAL ID. TSA does not require children under the age of 18 to provide identification when traveling within the United States. Contact the airline for questions regarding specific ID requirements for travelers under 18. For more information go to Michigan.gov/RealID

HOW TO AVOID PASSPORT SCAMS:

ONLY VISIT ".GOV" WEBSITES!

Vacation planning can turn into a nightmare if scammers get involved. Travelers are losing money to scammers offering "personalized passport instructions." These websites charge money for resources that are free on travel.state.gov.

WHAT TO DO AFTER BEING SCAMMED

Contact the company to make a complaint requesting a refund or contact your credit card provider if you feel that you have been scammed. You can also contact the Federal Trade Commission at reportfraud.ftc.gov and IdentityTheft.gov.

SOLICITORS

Any solicitor licensed through the City to go door to door will be issued a "non-City employee" badge, as well as a solicitor license that they must have with them when soliciting. You can report someone soliciting in your area without credentials to the non-emergency line (616) 453-5441.

LICENSING

Businesses are a vital part of our community, and the City is committed to providing the best police, fire, and administrative services possible to keep their community safe. Therefore, 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 City limits.

To find a list of licensed snowplow companies and waste haulers, visit the "Community" section on the City's main website. The licensing program assures that City departments have the most up to date business and contact information. Find more information about licensing through the City Clerk's office at walker.city/licenses.

FREE Family Events

12

APRIL

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Hunt begins promptly at 11:00 am.

Free outdoor Easter Egg Hunt for kids!

Location: Walker City Central Park



26

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



5

JUNE

10

JULY

7

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.

June 5 - Brena

July 10 - Los Parientes de Durango

August 7 - The 6 Pak



Location: Walker Community Park



4

OCTOBER

Walker Pumpkin Bash

Family event with free pumpkins, cider and donuts, farm animals, trick-or-treating, face painting and more! *Location: TBD*

EVENT SPONSORSHIPS

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.



4

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

Walker Police Department

DECades of Service

After 33 years of dedicated service, Detective Bailey has retired from the Walker Police Department. In his final years, he proudly served as the self-proclaimed Corporal of Walker's Detective Unit, investigating numerous crimes and providing closure to many victims. Throughout his career, Detective Bailey also participated in the Special Response Team, worked as a Field Training Officer, and served as an in-house training instructor. He has received numerous awards and commendations, including being named Officer of the Year twice. Thank you for your service to our community, and we wish you all the best in your next chapter!



New Training Techniques

Our officers have been excited to try new virtual reality training! Previously, we had to travel elsewhere for this training, but now we can enjoy it in our own department. This is the first time our officers are using this innovative approach, with skilled instructors guiding them through a variety of scenarios that challenge their skills and decision-making in fun and engaging ways.



Community Resources

"Community Partnerships for a Quality Future" is a phrase we have displayed in various locations throughout our department. During a recent meeting, we discussed how some individuals may not know where to find outreach services or community resources. Below are a few resources that may be helpful for you or someone you care about.



Heart of Neighboring - Bethany Christian Services provides counseling at a convenient location in Walker, located inside Standale Reformed Church. Their services focus on:

- Learning how to recognize & support the mental health needs of ourselves & others
- Overcoming the stigma related to mental health challenges
- Providing access to other support or resources

Contact them at (616) 940-5111 | info@heartofneighboring.org | heartofneighboring.org

Network180 Behavioral Health Crisis Center - Offers 24/7 crisis services to adults (18+) experiencing mental health or substance abuse crisis, regardless of type of insurance or no insurance. Contact them at (616) 336-3909 or visit them at network180.org/bhcc.

Network180 Mobile Crisis Response Team - The team meets you where you are: home, school, work, or other locations. Contact them (616) 333-1000 or visit them at network180.org/mobile-crisis.



@WalkerPoliceDept

Walker Fire Department



DID YOU KNOW...

The Walker Fire Department participates in a statewide fire prevention program, MI Prevention. We can install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors in owner-occupied homes in the City of Walker. Please note that the detectors we can provide through the program are battery powered. If your home is equipped with hardwired detectors, we would recommend replacing existing detectors with the same level of fire protection. For questions on the program or if you would like to schedule a detector install, please contact the Walker Fire office at (616) 791-6840.

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 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. Visit walker.city/communityconnect or 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.

HOW TO USE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER - USING THE PASS METHOD

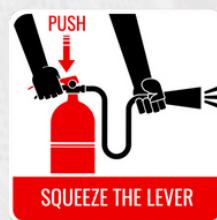
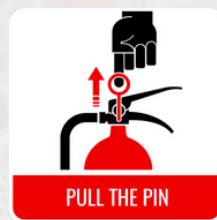
P - Pull: Start by pulling the safety pin on the handle of the extinguisher. This pin prevents accidental discharge.

A - Aim: Aim the nozzle or hose at the base of the fire, not at the flames. The base is where the fuel is, and that's what you want to extinguish.

S - Squeeze: Squeeze the handle or lever to release the extinguishing agent while applying a steady pressure.

S - Sweep: Move the nozzle in a side-to-side motion while continuing to aim at the base of the fire. Make sure to cover the entire area of the fire to ensure it's fully put out.

Remember to stay a safe distance from the fire, and if it's too large or uncontrollable, get out and call for help.



Walker Income Tax Department

2024 WALKER INCOME TAX RETURNS ARE DUE APRIL 30, 2025

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 2024

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 may also be able to 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 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 2024 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 for more information. Please note that other software/online tax programs used for self-prepared returns do not.

NEW THIS YEAR

If you prepare your return via TurboTax or H&R Block software, you may be able to upload the local return for processing. Please check the instructions as you complete your 2024 return to see if you need to mail a paper copy to us.

We began accepting e-filed returns for tax year 2024 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 28 must be processed first.

ESTIMATED PAYMENTS

The first quarter estimated payment for 2025 Walker Income Tax is also due April 30, 2025. 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 2025 return, you must make quarterly estimated payments. The 2025 Quarterly Estimated payment vouchers with instructions can be found:

- On our website at 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 2025 quarterly estimates with the fourth quarter voucher due February 2, 2026, 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.

Income Tax Due Dates

WHO SHOULD FILE:

Every resident or part-year resident of Walker (this includes renters) who had taxable income in 2024 of \$600 or more must file a return. More information on taxable income can be found here: walker.city/incometaxfaqs

All Walker addresses may 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

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.

FOR EMPLOYERS:

January 31, 2025 – 4th quarter 2024 withholding due (Form 941)
February 28, 2025 – 2024 W-3 forms due (Form W-3)
February 28, 2025 – January withholding due (Form 501)
March 31, 2025 – February withholding due (Form 501)
April 30, 2025 – 1st Quarter 2025 withholding due (Form 941)
June 2, 2025 – April withholding due (Form 501)
June 30, 2025 – May withholding due (Form 501)
July 31, 2025 – 2nd Quarter 2025 withholding due (Form 941)
September 1, 2025 – July withholding due (Form 501)
September 30, 2025 – August withholding due (Form 501)
October 31, 2025 – 3rd Quarter 2025 withholding due (Form 941)
December 1, 2025 – October withholding due (Form 501)
December 31, 2025 – November withholding due (Form 501)
February 2, 2026 – 4th Quarter 2025 withholding due (Form 941)

FOR INDIVIDUALS:

January 31, 2025 – 4th Quarter 2024 estimate due (Form 1040-ES)
April 30, 2025 – 2024 individual return W-1040R/NR due (Form W-1040R/NR)
April 30, 2025 – 1st Quarter 2025 estimate due (Form 1040-ES)
July 31, 2025 – 2nd Quarter 2025 estimate due (Form 1040-ES)
September 30, 2025 – 3rd Quarter 2025 estimate due (Form 1040-ES)
February 2, 2026 – 4th Quarter 2025 estimate due (Form 1040-ES)

FOR CORPORATIONS:

January 31, 2025 – 4th Quarter 2024 estimate due (Form 1120-ES)
April 30, 2025 – 2024 Corporate return W-1120 due (Form W-1120)
April 30, 2025 – 1st Quarter 2025 estimate due (Form 1120-ES)
July 31, 2025 – 2nd Quarter 2025 estimate due (Form 1120-ES)
September 30, 2025 – 3rd Quarter 2025 estimate due (Form 1120-ES)
February 2, 2026 – 4th Quarter 2025 estimate due (Form 1120-ES)

Department of Public Works

Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. O: (616) 791-6854 E: publicworks@walker.city



SPRING CLEAN UP

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

DATES AND TIMES:

May 1, 2, and 3
Thursday - 8:00 am to 6:00 pm
Friday - 8:00 am to 7:00 pm
Saturday - 7:00 am to 12:00 pm

PROOF OF RESIDENCY REQUIRED

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)

FEES 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

The State of Michigan recently added a section to Michigan Vehicle Code Act 300 of 1949 to help prevent crashes with snowplows.

257.643b Leaving space between snowplows; passing exception; violation as civil infraction.

Those who violate the above law face a civil infraction and a fine of \$100.00.

For more information, visit legislature.mi.gov



FALL LEAF RECYCLING

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

DATES AND TIMES:

Mid-October through mid-November. It will be closed on Veteran's Day.
M, T, TH, F - 7:00 am to 3:30 pm
Wednesday - 7:00 am to 7:00 pm
Saturday - 7:00 am to 12:00 pm

PROOF OF RESIDENCY REQUIRED

TYPE OF BAGS ACCEPTED:

- Biodegradable

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

NOTICE: Plastic bags not accepted. Residents will have to empty the leaves out of the bags.

If you have questions regarding MISS DIG flags in your area, please contact the Department of Public Works.



RED
Electric



YELLOW
Gas, Oil, Steam or Petroleum



ORANGE
Communications Systems



BLUE
Potable Water



PURPLE
Reclaimed Water Irrigation



GREEN
Sewer and Drain Lines



WHITE
Proposed Excavation



PINK
Temporary Surveying

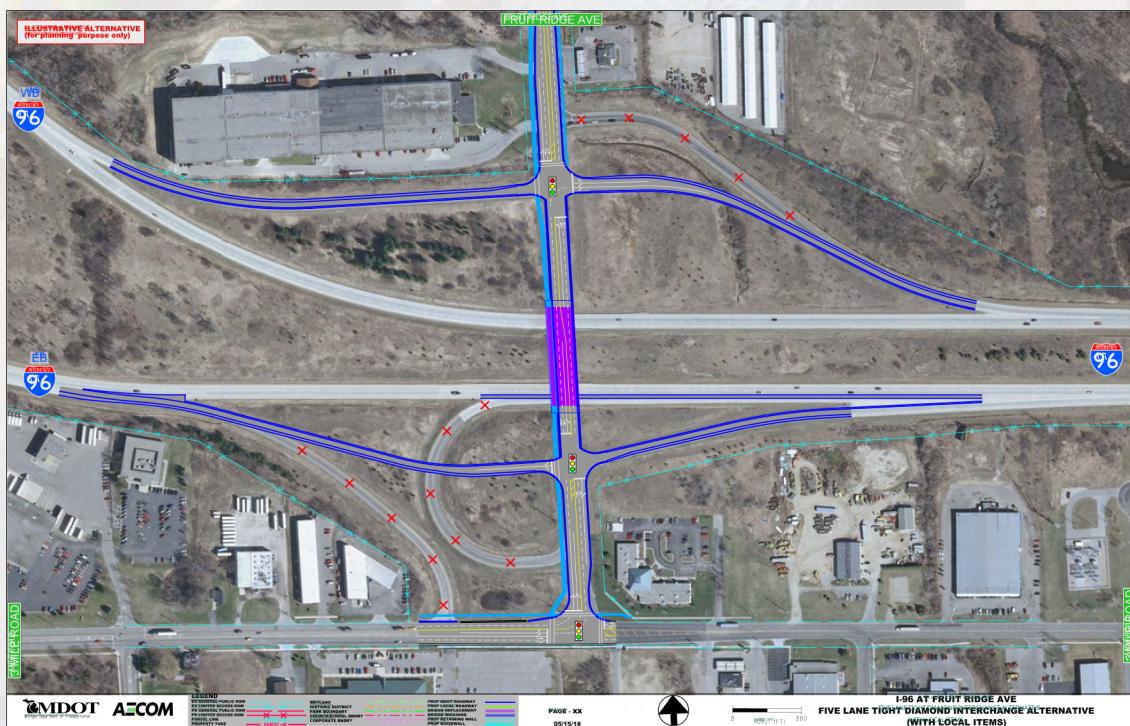
For more information, please visit missdig811.org

Engineering Department

In 2025, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), in cooperation with the City of Walker, has plans to rebuild and widen Fruit Ridge Avenue from 3 Mile Road to Northridge Drive. The project to replace and redesign the Fruit Ridge Avenue bridge over I-96 in Walker will also include extending the Fruit Ridge Avenue center turn lane north past the railroad tracks, a non-motorized trail along the west side of Fruit Ridge Avenue, and a non-motorized trail along the north side of Three Mile Road to provide a regional link to the City campus and the Fred Meijer Standale Trail. MDOT work will also include a complete realignment of the on and off-ramps for both eastbound and westbound.

The westbound offramp will be moved south, further from the AGO gas station, and realign with a signal where the westbound onramp currently is. Eastbound traffic currently exits before Fruit Ridge and south to Three Mile Road. This configuration has long been challenging for the truck traffic trying to go east on Three Mile Road. The realignment will cause that traffic to exit directly to Fruit Ridge Avenue across from the existing eastbound ramp. That intersection will also have a new traffic signal.

Maintaining traffic throughout the project will be very difficult. The official detour will be east to Walker Avenue. We are asking business owners and travelers in this area to plan extra time. We will all need patience to stay safe and on time in 2025. Funding for the project comes from multiple sources, including the Michigan Legislature, which approved a \$25 million grant (Senate Bill 7) to Walker to help fund this critical West Michigan infrastructure upgrade. MDOT has been the lead agency on this vital bridge widening and ramp realignment project. Walker's local team continues to assist MDOT with the design, communications, and construction administration. We will stay active and hope to answer your questions throughout the life of the project. Work is projected to begin February 2025 and last into November. Thank you, in advance, for your patience as we implement this long-awaited regional enhancement!



Walker Ice & Fitness



@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, 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 at www.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 4-5 Kenowa Hills High School Blood Drive – 11am - 6pm both days
- April 30 – 12 - 6pm
- June 25 – 12 - 6pm
- August 20 – 12 - 6pm
- Dec 30 - 12 - 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! We offer frequent public skating opportunities. Visit our website at www.walkericeandfitness.com for the most up-to-date ice schedule.

TRY US 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! Visit walkericeandfitness.com for more information or call (616) 735-6286.

SENIOR PROGRAMS

We proudly offer insurance-based memberships for seniors aged 65 and older, including Silver Sneakers, Silver & Fit, AARP, and our new addition for 2025: One Pass. Visit us today to check your eligibility!

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

- Learn to Skate & Play Hockey Session 4 March 1 - April 12
- Try Hockey for FREE – Feb 22 at 11 am
- Spring House Hockey Evals – week of March 17, 2025
- Spring Travel Hockey Tryouts – week of March 17, 2025
- HAWK Hockey Fall Travel Tryouts - May 2025
- Learn To Skate and Play Hockey Session 5 – May 21 - June 25
- Learn to Skate and Play Hockey Session 6 – July 9 – Aug 20
- HAWK Evaluations – week of Aug 11, 2025
- HAWK Season Begins – Sept 2, 2025
- Learn to Skate and Play Hockey 2025-26 Session 1 - Mid Sept 2025
- Cross Ice Begins - Oct 2025
- Skary Skate 25 – Oct 25, 2025
- WinterFest – Dec 4, 2025 – Open Skate
- Neon NYE - Dec 31, 5 - 7 pm



HAWK
HOCKEY

Walker Recreation

“Providing beautiful, safe, parks and recreational programs for the community”

Pavilion Rentals

Rent a pavilion **ONLINE** for your next gathering

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

Gillian Hendershot, Assistant
ghendershot@walkericeandfitness.com

Andrea Ingraham, Assistant
atingraham@walkericeandfitness.com

[@CityofWalkerParksandRecreation](#)

DATES TO REMEMBER

- February 2 - 17: Spring Soccer Registration
- February 10 - April 30: Adult Softball Registration
- April 12: Easter Egg Hunt
- April 1 - May 12: Memorial Day Parade Registration
- April 19: Spring Soccer Games Begin
- May 26: Memorial Day Parade
- June 2: Adult Softball Games Begin
- July 7 - 21: Fall Soccer Registration
- September 13: Fall Soccer Games Begin
- October 1 - November 9: Veterans Drive
- Haunted Halloween Contest: TBD
- Let It Glow Holiday Lights Competition: TBD

ADULT SOFTBALL UMPIRES & SOCCER OFFICIALS NEEDED

Umpires must be at least 18 years old, soccer officials must be at least 13 years old. Both must have knowledge of the game. Apply at www.walkericeandfitness.com



FREE DROP-IN SPORTS

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



KDL Library Walker Branch

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

We're growing our library! The Walker Branch Library, built in 1991, has served the community well, but the City of Walker and the surrounding area have grown incredibly. The population of Walker has increased 43%, from 17,626 to 25,289 and the rate of growth is rapidly increasing. The new Walker Library will include:

- 24,000 sq. ft. of state-of-the-art library and community space (increased from 8,898 sq. ft.)
- Large multi-purpose room, hosting up to 250 guests
- eSports facility
- Bright, open space throughout
- Expected to open in late 2026



During construction, the library has moved to a temporary location in the Standale Plaza. The hours will remain the same. Address: 455 Standale Plaza NW



In March, programming will resume in the temporary location including:

Storytime

Mondays, March 03 - April 21, 2025 at 10:00 am

Nurture your child's love of books and build early literacy skills through stories, rhymes, music and movement.

Babytme

Thursday, March 06 - May 1, 2025 at 9:30 am

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.

For more programming information please visit kdl.org/events.

For more information about the expansion visit kdl.org/walker-makeover.



@KDLWalker



@KentDistrictLibrary

Senior Neighbors

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays | 9 am - 3:30 pm | 1470 Three Mile Rd | (616) 735-3240

For more than 50 years, Senior Neighbors has been helping older adults across Kent County remain independent, active, and assured they're never alone. The Senior Neighbors – Walker Center (1470 3 Mile Rd NW) is a lively gathering place where neighbors aged 60 or older can find fellowship, practical support, and opportunities to stay engaged in daily life. Each year, they serve over 6,200 older adults countywide, delivering the resources and reassurance they need to maintain a fulfilling lifestyle right where they call home.



PERSONALIZED SUPPORT & SOLUTIONS

Sometimes, navigating life's changes can feel overwhelming. That's why staff offers one-on-one guidance with Medicare counseling, housing options, financial concerns, and more. Whether you're experiencing a crisis or simply need trusted advice, they'll help craft a plan that aligns with your goals and situation. For more information, reach out to the intake team at (616) 233-0281 or email intake@seniorneighbors.org.

SERVICES FOR EVERYDAY INDEPENDENCE

Senior Neighbors recognizes that small measures can make a big difference. Through their home repair program, older adults can stay comfortably and safely at home—whether fixing a leaky faucet or installing handrails. Senior Neighbors also provides transportation services, delivering over 12,000 rides last year alone, so seniors can get to appointments, shop for groceries, and attend social events without worrying about a lack of mobility.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AT THE WALKER CENTER

Staying socially active and connected boosts both health and happiness. At the Walker Center, you'll find a supportive community offering group exercise, tech lessons, cultural outings, and volunteer roles. They also provide regular meals, giving older adults the chance to share lunch with friends, celebrate milestones, and form new relationships. Whether it's a casual card game or a lively fitness session, these gatherings spark laughter, creativity, and a sense of purpose.

GET INVOLVED

Making a positive impact on older adults is truly a community effort. Local businesses, volunteers, and caring residents are all invited to help extend a warm welcome to seniors in Walker and beyond. Whether you'd like to donate, offer sponsorship, or volunteer your time, they'd love to partner with you in ensuring every older adult can remain independent and connected to the community. To learn more, visit SeniorNeighbors.org or call the main office at (616) 459-6019. Together, let's keep older adults in Walker thriving and no longer alone.



info@seniorneighbors.org



Seniorneighbors.org/walker

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 DESCHAINE

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JESSICA BABCOCK

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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

ASSESSOR: KELLY SMITH

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CITY MANAGER: DARREL SCHMALZEL

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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

INTERIM FIRE CHIEF : KEITH MANKEL

POLICE CHIEF : KEITH MANKEL

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WALKER CITY COMMISSION:



MAYOR GARY CAREY JR.



COMMISSIONER GILBERT



COMMISSIONER BURKE



COMMISSIONER DESCHANE



COMMISSIONER BABCOCK



COMMISSIONER GROOTERS

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