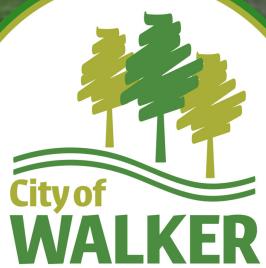


2021

WWW.WALKER.CITY

WALKER CITY NEWS

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



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"A PLACE TO
LIVE, WORK
& GROW"



A letter from the Mayor



As I begin to put my thoughts together on what 2020 gave us, I believe we could all agree this has been a roller coaster ride we have been on for way too long. It is understandable to question if what has taken place in the world this past year really happened. Unfortunately, it did. Yet, our resiliency, our community support for one another, and our faith have seen us through what we can now reflect on was the worst part of the pandemic. The optimism around vaccine distribution in our community, along with statistical data showing improvements in key areas, is growing and helps support the confidence I have that 2021 will be a much different and better year. However, we will still have challenges throughout. Some we already know about and some we have yet to see. But if we remember we have already survived the worst of it, then we can handle the last part of this roller coaster ride knowing it will soon come to an end.

From the start of the pandemic last March, I saw first-hand how dynamic and incredible a team we have here with our City staff and department leaders. It seems like yesterday when we started our first morning meetings around crisis, managing a myriad of occurrences we had never been through before. Procuring supplies for our first responders and City staff, which had become almost impossible to come by, was a priority so that we could continue services to our residents and businesses.

It seems like just yesterday we were having a discussion about keeping - of all things - toilet paper locked up. Then, we forced closures within our City facilities to mitigate the risk to staff and residents with some, like our building rentals, still not available to the public as of today. I can assure you that none of these decisions were - or are - made lightly. They are also not made without input from our key stakeholders at every level. These decisions affected us in many ways, causing a financial burden that will likely linger for years to come. Yet, it pales in comparison to the burden that has been placed on our businesses and residents as we know they were all affected in one way or another.

While the physical impact is still there in several measurements, I have shared before that the mental health and well-being of our community is what concerns me. If you were to take nothing else from this newsletter, my ask of you is to reach out to family, friends, neighbors, and anyone else you might come across. Have the meaningful conversation that asks, "How are you doing?" Let's not just take the first answer given as enough, but ask "No. How are you *really* doing?" Dig deeper to make sure we all understand that, while we have been tested, we will be OK and there is a lot of help and support if they need it. In this newsletter you will see some resources listed to reach out for help. Given all that we have been through it is ok to raise one's hand and say "I need to talk."

One of the toughest challenges we are wrestling as a city leadership team in 2021 is our City events. They have become such an essential fabric of what makes up Walker. Recently, we had to make the tough, yet safe, decision to hold off on our annual Winterfest. Adapting like they always do, our City staff came together with a great idea, introducing our first ever Jingle Bell Lane event. It was socially-distant and safe for all. I must confess that our staff and City Commission, Santa, and even myself needed that just as much as our visiting families did. We know the essential needs of our human interactions has been negatively impacted this last year and seeing all those smiling faces light up was, quite frankly, the best gift we could have received. Building on that, this community knows where there is a will there is a way and we will hold our events.

Currently, it is an extremely difficult time to decide whether we can safely hold our annual Memorial Day Parade, our Summer Concert Series, and other events. We know our annual Easter Egg Hunt is one event that we will not be able to do in the traditional sense, but we are evaluating options of what could we possibly do in its place. We make these decisions with a lot of support from the tremendous team at the Kent County Health Department. Please continue to follow the City's website and our social media pages for frequent updates.

A letter from the Mayor Continued



The last two years I have written about the opportunities and even challenges with the business growth we are experiencing. One of the bright spots through the pandemic is the enthusiasm and desire from business developers to bring new companies into our City. What has been good to see is the diverse types of new businesses that are looking to call Walker home. While many fall in the category of manufacturing and 'making things', we also have companies that provide services and even new types of retail breaking ground.

As I have shared before, growth does bring change and sometimes challenges that may seem intolerable at that time. I continue to have my beliefs reinforced that Walker finds a way to work through challenges and, quite often, turns them into opportunities.

In closing, my outlook for the City of Walker is as strong as it was before the pandemic. We remain fiscally responsible and continue to invest in the areas that you tell us are most important, like public safety and roads. Just a week or so before the pandemic shut down our world, I shared in my State of the City address that the economic boom Walker was experiencing was continuing its multi-year run at a healthy level. As I type my notes here, that has not changed and has actually accelerated in our industrial corridor.

The secret is out that Walker is a great place to live, work, and grow. Another area of growth is my appreciation for the humbling privilege it is to serve you as Mayor of Walker. Whether a resident or business, 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

Community Mental Health Resources



Network 180
Open 24 hours
Phone: (616) 336-3909
Toll Free: (800) 749-7720
www.network180.org



Hope Network
Phone: (616) 301-8000
www.hopenetwork.org



Pine Rest
Phone: (800) 678-5500
www.pinerest.org



Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan
Phone: (616) 389-8601
www.benice.org

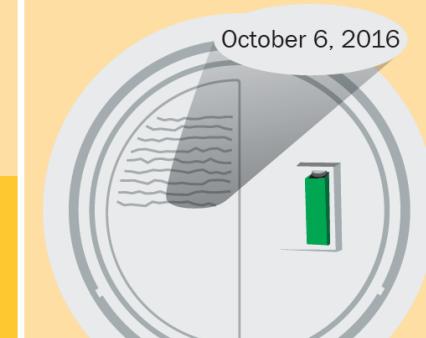
Walker Fire Department

DON'T WAIT - CHECK THE DATE! REPLACE SMOKE ALARMS EVERY 10 YEARS!

1 Remove the smoke alarm from the wall or ceiling.



October 6, 2016



2 Look at the back of the alarm for the date of manufacture.

3 Smoke alarms should be replaced 10 years from the date of manufacture.



4 Put the alarm back on the ceiling or wall if it is less than 10 years old.



A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.



Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.



If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.



Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may need more alarms. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound.



Call the fire department from a cellphone or a neighbor's phone. Stay outside until the fire department says it's safe to go back inside.

For more information about smoke alarms, visit usfa.fema.gov and www.nfpa.org

BURNING PERMIT



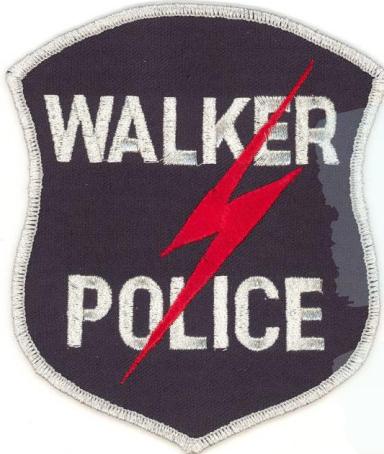
By order of the City of Walker Fire Department, an annual burning permit is required for residential burning of branches and small twigs. No other residential or commercial burning is allowed in the City of Walker. Burning season is April 15 to May 15 and October 15 to November 15 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays only. You can apply for a permit at www.walker.city. Backyard fire pits or commercial portable fire pits do not require a burn permit for recreational use.



@CityofWalkerFireDepartment

Walker Police Department

COMMUNITY RESOURCES & HIGHLIGHTS



@WalkerPoliceDept

As we enter this new year, we do so with a sense of hope and excitement as to what 2021 has to offer as we all negotiate through the pandemic circumstances of 2020. While the department had high expectations of connecting with the community last year through numerous community engagement opportunities, the reality of COVID-19 hit us all and put a pause on these plans. The department was required to rethink and modify many of the strategies traditionally utilized to enhance these community engagement activities. Whoever heard of zoom meetings prior to last March?!

Through our robust and popular Facebook platform, we continued to communicate and share the happenings of the department, albeit missing that personal touch. While we embark into the new year we are very hopeful and confident we will slowly begin to assimilate into the mode of what has been described as "normal." We will, once again, have the opportunities to build upon the positive relationships with our citizens that we believe is vital.

Some of these opportunities include the National Night Out annual event which traditionally occurs the first Tuesday of August. This event is extremely popular with citizens and officers alike, as it presents the chance to display our messaging of a unified force against the criminal element through a coordinated and collaborative spirit! We also look forward to starting up the *Pocket Community Events*, whether it be a "Coffee with a Cop" or "Pizza with the Police", where we once again have the opportunity to engage with our citizens in a social setting allowing for dialogue and information sharing that benefits all. We are also tentatively planning the semi-annual Neighborhood Watch/Community Engagement meeting, traditionally consisting of an ice cream social! This event is usually held in July at the community room on Three Mile Road. As with other planned events, a specific date will be determined once it is deemed safe to do so. We will continue to place a high emphasis on building on the positive relationships with our community members, which is the mantra of our agency. Your Walker Police Department is built upon the pillars of public trust, transparency, and accountability for all members. These pillars are even more significant and important to embrace with the many challenges the law enforcement profession is currently encountering. The men and women of the Walker Police Department understand the importance as well, as we continue to focus on earning your trust and support while we progress forward. Thank you for your commitment of working in partnership with your police department to ensure the Walker community continues to be the great place to live, work and play.

Here's to a healthy and safe 2021!



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.
(616) 791-6854



SPRING CLEAN UP

*Dates are tentative. Please check with the City of Walker's Facebook page and City of Walker website for updates.

DATES AND TIMES:

*May 7, 8 and 9, 2021

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

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:

- TV's
- Computer Monitors
- Hazardous waste (contact Kent County Recycling program at 616-632-7920 or visit www.RecycleKent.org)

PROOF OF RESIDENCY REQUIRED

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



FALL LEAF RECYCLING

LOCATION: Behind City Hall, 4243 Remembrance Rd NW

DATES AND TIMES: *October and November

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. Resident will have to empty the leaves out of the bags

We will also be accepting brush at this location.



MAILBOX REPLACEMENT POLICY:

It is the Department of Public Works policy that any mailbox damaged by snow as a result of plowing or scraping the roadway, is the responsibility of the property owner.

Please check your mailbox post by shaking it back and forth. It should not move. If the post does move you may want to replace it. When the mailbox is damaged by direct contact with our equipment, the Department of Public Works will:

- Repair, if possible or
- Replace with a standard mailbox and post, or
- Compensate owner for damage (\$15.00 for box, \$5.00 for post). Owner is responsible for repair/replace.

Repair and/or replacement of mailbox by Department of Public Works may take several days depending on storm conditions and workload.



@CityofWalkerMI



www.walker.city

Clerk's Office

CITY CLERK, SARAH BYDALEK

ELECTION NEWS

A Special Primary and Special Election have been called by the Governor for the 28th District of the Michigan Senate. This election call is issued for the purpose of filling a vacancy that exists in the Senate caused by the election of Senator Peter MacGregor as the Kent County Treasurer.

August 3, 2021 Special Primary Election Date

November 2, 2021 Special Election Date

Before we know it, we will be rolling into the 2022 Elections, which will include the Michigan House, Senate, all Congressional seats, Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State and Walker City Elections of Mayor and a Commissioner from each Ward.

REDISTRICTING

Every 10 years, following the census, states must redraw their political lines based on population in a process known as reapportionment. The party actively in charge of state government is responsible for redrawing the lines according to the governing acts. By November 1, 2021, the final maps must be adopted by the Commission and will become law on December 31, 2021. These new district lines will affect several members of the House, Senate, and Congress. Candidates will learn of their new districts in late 2021 and will need to quickly move to campaigning for the 2022 Election.



ELECTED OFFICIALS

FEDERAL OFFICIALS:

U.S. Senators: Gary C. Peters and Debbie Stabenow

2nd District Congressman: Representative Bill Huizenga

STATE OFFICIALS:

Governor: Gretchen Whitmer

Attorney General: Dana Nessel

E: miag@michigan.gov

28th District State Senator: currently vacant

74th District State Representative: Mark Huizenga

E: markhuizenga@house.mi.gov

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

6th District: Stan Stek

E: stan.stek@kentcountymi.gov

SECRETARY OF STATE INFORMATION

Secretary of State: Jocelyn Benson

E: bensonj4@michigan.gov

Go online: michigan.gov/voterregistration

- Register to Vote On-Line
- If you have moved or need to change your driver's license address

PASSPORTS

You can apply for a passport in the Clerk's Office. No appointments are necessary during Passport Office Hours which are Monday – Thursday from 7:30 am – 4:00 pm and Friday from 7:30 am – 11:00 am.

PASSPORT

Visit our website for details on passport requirements. Passports are currently taking longer than usual to process. Please allow at least 8-12 weeks for your passport to be processed and mailed to you. ates of America

WHAT WE DO

The Clerk's Office serves as the information hub of the City. On our department web page you can find information and resources on elections, city records, passports, licenses, permits, elected officials and more!

CONTACT THE CLERK

If you have questions pertaining to any of this information, don't hesitate to contact:

City Clerk, Sarah Bydalek, at 616-791-6865 or sbydalek@walker.city

Walker Income Tax Department

2020 WALKER INCOME TAX RETURNS ARE DUE APRIL 30, 2021

We will be happy to prepare your Walker return free of charge at the counter. Please call 616-791-6880 for an appointment.

Mailing address for returns:

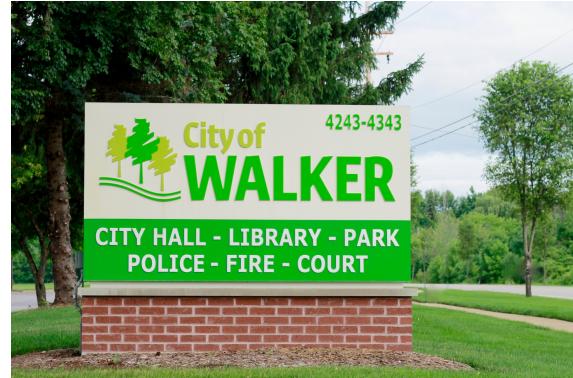
Walker Income Tax Department
PO Box 153
Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0153

Office location—drop returns in the gray drop box outside or at the

Income Tax counter:

4243 Remembrance Rd. NW
Walker, MI 49534

Please put your phone number on your return.



Who must file:

Every resident or part-year resident of Walker (this includes renters) who had taxable income in 2020 of \$600 or more must file a return. More information on taxable income can be found here: www.walker.city/government/departments/income_tax/income_tax_faqs.php. 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 our City website to check whether your address is within the city limits of Walker and click on the Street Directory link on the right side of the page: www.walker.city/government/departments/assessing/index.php. 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.

Estimated Payments

The first quarter estimated payment for 2021 Walker Income Tax is also due April 30, 2021. 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 2021 return, you must make quarterly estimated payments. The 2021 Quarterly Estimated payment vouchers with instructions can be found:

- On our website at: www.walker.city/income_tax_forms.php#
- By mail--call us at 616-791-6880

You must pay in 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 2021 quarterly estimates with the fourth quarter voucher due January 31, 2022 may result in a bill for penalty and interest for failure to pay timely estimates.

Income Tax Due Dates

WALKER CITY INCOME TAX

For Employers:

February 1, 2021- 4th Quarter 2020 withholding due (Form 941)
March 1, 2021 - 2020 WW-3 forms due (Form WW-3)
March 1, 2021 - January withholding due (Form 501)
March 31, 2021 - February withholding due (Form 501)
April 30, 2021 -1st Quarter 2021 withholding due (Form 941)
May 31, 2021 - April withholding due (Form 501)
June 30, 2021 - May withholding due (Form 501)
August 2, 2021 - 2nd Quarter 2021 withholding due (Form 941)
August 31, 2021 - July withholding due (Form 501)
September 30, 2021 - August withholding due (Form 501)
November 1, 2021 - 3rd Quarter 2021 withholding due (Form 941)
November 30, 2021 - October withholding due (Form 501)
December 31, 2021 - November withholding due (Form 501)
January 31, 2022 - 4th Quarter 2021 withholding due (Form 941)

For Individuals:

February 1, 2021 - 4th Quarter 2020 estimate due (Form 1040-ES)
April 30, 2021 - 2020 individual return W-1040R/NR due (Form W-1040R/NR)
April 30, 2021 - 1st Quarter 2021 estimate due (Form 1040-ES)
August 2, 2021 - 2nd Quarter 2021 estimate due (Form 1040-ES)
September 30, 2021 - 3rd Quarter 2021 estimate due (Form 1040-ES)
January 31, 2022 - 4th Quarter 2021 estimate due (Form 1040-ES)

For Corporations:

February 1, 2021 - 4th Quarter 2020 estimate due (Form 1120-ES)
April 30, 2021 - 2020 corporate return W-1120 due (Form W-1120)
April 30, 2021 - 1st Quarter 2021 estimate due (Form 1120-ES)
August 2, 2021 - 2nd Quarter 2021 estimate due (Form 1120-ES)
September 30, 2021 - 3rd Quarter 2021 estimate due (Form 1120-ES)
January 31, 2022 - 4th Quarter 2021 estimate due (Form 1120-ES)

E-FILE YOUR WALKER INCOME TAX RETURN

We will be accepting 2020 Walker resident and non-resident returns by e-file. If you use a paid tax preparer that e-files your federal and state return, they will 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 taxact.com for more information.

Please note that other software/online tax programs used for self-prepared returns (TurboTax, H&R Block, TaxSlayer) do not participate with Michigan local e-filing.

E-filed returns for tax year 2020 will be accepted beginning February 12, 2021. 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.

Grandville Walker Foundation



Hi, my name is GW and I represent The Grandville Walker Foundation. The Foundation is working to establish an endowment to invest in the communities to enhance the great places we live, work, learn, and play. A key role as a foundation is to address community needs, for both today and the future, and provide financial and non-financial support in the form of civic leadership and volunteer aid to the communities we serve.

We believe investing today lays the foundation to build our communities up for a stronger & brighter tomorrow. Investing in the community is done in a variety of ways. It can be something as small as a movie in the park or a new slide for a playground and as large as a community center. We are dedicated to supporting community programs, connecting people with one another, and investing in the Grandville and Walker communities to ensure they can thrive for many years to come. It starts with YOU, and your passion for our community. Help us build a stronger and sustainable community by sharing your time, talent, or treasure. For more information visit GrandvilleWalkerFoundation.org.



Engineering Department

UPDATE FROM CITY ENGINEER, SCOTT CONNERS, P.E.

KINNEY AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS

During the summer of 2021 we will be working on a long overdue enhancement to Kinney Avenue from Waldorf Street north to Three Mile Road. We will be widening this section to three lanes and adding sidewalk. In addition to these improvements we were able to obtain a state grant to extend the trail system from within City Central Park up to Three Mile Road. The trail will start at Randall Avenue and go east approximately 600 feet to Kinney Avenue. It will then connect north to Three Mile Road.

The Kinney corridor is a critical part of our transportation system. We will be detouring traffic west to Wilson Avenue during the construction. It is our hope to start construction in early June, or immediately after the Kenowa Hills School system shuts down for the summer. The area will be closed to through traffic for the entire summer and into the fall. Local traffic (residents who live within the construction zone) will have access to their homes but it will be slow and, at times, messy. The reward will be new roadway with a center turn lane along with sidewalk on the west side and a 10 foot paved trail on the east side. Look for project updates on the City of Walker's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages, as well as our City website.

We continue to work with MDOT and the United States Department of Transportation on ways to connect this trail system with the Pioneer Trail just north of I-96 on Fruit Ridge Avenue. We hope to collaborate with our MDOT partners to find grant funding to rebuild this highway interchange and improve all the access points while allowing for pedestrian movements across the highway.



Infrastructure Highlights

WALKER AVENUE BRIDGE

The Walker Avenue bridge over the Coopersville-Marne Railroad has been at the top of Walker's infrastructure priority list for several years. The bridge was nearing the end of its useful life cycle. In addition to the degrading condition of the two-lane bridge, the City needed to widen the structure to help facilitate industrial growth at Bissell Homecare and further south on the old Triick Sand Mine. The cost for a new structure was estimated at over \$6 Million. State funding remained tight as the number of bridges around Michigan needed repairs. The best thing to do was remove the bridge to create an at-grade crossing. This removes a future liability from the bridge inventory and reduces Walker's long term maintenance cost for the bridge. The cost for this new project totaled just over \$3 million, reducing the City's cost by half of the original estimate. In addition, Walker was successful in obtaining \$1.7 million in grant dollars to assist with the project. The grant was the result of a partnership with Bissell Homecare and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. The project was a huge financial success for the City of Walker by removing the biggest bridge liability and widening the roadway. For the local project stakeholders, the widening allowed for safer turning movements and dramatically increased visibility from intersections and driveways. The project was even featured in the Transportation Economic Development Fund's Annual Report.

NORTH RIDGE CONNECTION

The City of Walker's vision to extend North Ridge Drive from Walker Avenue to Fruit Ridge Avenue had been 25 years in the making. In late 2020, the City cut the ribbon on the finished connection. Prior to North Ridge West, North Ridge Drive served 7,300 feet of roadway without a secondary exit. This Visser Brothers development extended that cul-de-sac another 2,400 feet along with three more proposed cul-de-sacs totaling 3,200 feet. The City of Walker's North Ridge East project helped to close the gap by adding another 1,550 feet of public roadway across the Schwallier Orchard. This project was initiated to provide vital emergency response access for Police and Fire along with transportation redundancy for employees and visitors to this industrial corridor. One final phase is included in the Master Plan and will allow for connectivity and redundancy all the way to the intersection of Four Mile Road and Cordes Avenue. The overall connection from Fruit Ridge Avenue to Cordes Avenue will relieve congestion on Alpine Avenue, Four Mile Road, Three Mile Road, and allow enhanced access to I-96 at three potential interchanges.

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2020



TRANSPORTATION
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
FUND
Providing Access to
Michigan Employers



KDL Library: Walker Branch

VISIT KDL.ORG FOR PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

Last year, 2020 certainly threw us all some curveballs, didn't it? Through all the change and uncertainty, we did our best to continue providing you high-quality programs, a variety of useful resources and excellent customer service, while keeping you and our staff safe and healthy. Thank you for your support and understanding through this wild ride. With falling temperatures and limited daylight, this is a great season to cuddle up on the couch in front of your fireplace and enjoy a good book. We have plenty of books and also a fun opportunity to earn prizes for reading. Sign up for our Let It Snow Reading Club for adults and teens. Learn more on the back cover. Wishing you a happy and healthy 2021. We are here for you.

Keep coming, keep learning,
keep growing!

Lance Werner
Executive Director, KDL



I am looking for...



KDL Book Bundles

Let KDL do your browsing for you! Use the KDL Book Bundles form to request a staff-picked selection of available items. Please give us 72 hours to get your titles ready. You will be notified when your Book Bundles are ready for pick-up. If you are looking for specific books on a subject or genre, please use the KDL's Personalized Picks service or call (616) 784-2007.

Ready to get started?

1. Fill out the Book Bundle form at kdl.org/book-bundles. Limit three bundles per person.
2. KDL staff will select an assortment of books or movies in the format of your choice.
3. After you receive notification that you have holds ready for pick-up, it's time to visit your branch during normal open hours. Holds will remain available for one week.



LIBRARY JOURNAL NAMES KDL A STAR LIBRARY

For the third year in a row, Kent District Library has been recognized as one of America's Star Libraries, as rated by the Library Journal Index of Public Library Service. KDL was one of only two libraries in Michigan to receive this honor. The Ann Arbor District Library was also named a Star Library. Library Journal scored 5,608 public libraries and identified 262 star performers in 2020. Library scores are based on physical circulation, circulation of electronic materials, library visits, program attendance, public internet computer use, Wi-Fi sessions and e-retrievals. Libraries are ranked by category, based on operating expenditures, and the top libraries in each peer-group category are recognized as a Star Library. Libraries can earn up to five stars. This year, KDL earned a four-star ranking, up from a three-star ranking last year, reflecting increased value for people who are served by the library. Library Journal is the oldest and most respected publication covering the library field. The Star Library designation began in 2008.

KDL Library: Walker Branch New Features



KENT DISTRICT LIBRARY HAS A NEW WEBSITE

Visit our new website to:

1. Setup your account when it's convenient. It only takes a couple of minutes and then you will be ready when the old catalog goes away. You'll be able to search, browse, place holds, checkout ebooks and more!

- Login to kdl.bibliocommons.com with your KDL library card number and PIN.
- Confirm your name and email address.
- Choose a username.
- Optional: Enable your borrowing history.

2. Try the great new features, such as:

- Better browsing.
- Works great on any device.



New Scanning Stations

Each KDL branch now has a ScanEZ Station, an easy-to-use touch screen scanning solution that can scan, save, fax and send your documents or photos practically anywhere. Patrons can even restore old, faded photos and documents and translate copy to text or audio in over 100 languages.



FLAG RETIREMENT BOX

The City of Walker is honored to have its first Flag Retirement Box, thanks to the efforts of the American Legion Post 1111. Residents may now drop off unserviceable flags in the box just outside Sobie Meats, located at 3450 Remembrance Road. American Legion Post 1111 chose Veterans Day to unveil the box. It was a special ceremony that included the partnerships of several local businesses: Horvath Design / HDFive, DeWys Manufacturing and Sobie Meats. Residents can also anticipate a second Flag Retirement Box inside City Hall. Look for it to become available in the coming months.





"Where Active Families Play"

WWW.WALKERICEANDFITNESS.COM



@WalkerIceFitness

@WalkerIceandFitness

Whether you know us as a gym member, hockey player, recreation program participant, skater, or parent, you know that the WIFC is the heart of the City of Walker's community. Since Sept 2020, we have been Back At It providing a safe, clean environment while adhering to State of Michigan health requirements and mandates. Please be sure to follow us on social media and our website for info on all our great 2021 programs, events, classes, games, and tournaments to keep you fit, active and entertained because the WIFC is where Active Families Play!

Gym 7-day FREE Trial

Are you interested in a gym membership? You can try out our facility FREE for 7 days. Anyone who is 18 years and older, an 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 for more information or call (616) 735-6286.



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 and have fun! As soon as we are able, open skate, drop-in-hockey, and stick and puck will be back on the schedule. Check our Facebook pages and our website for the latest updates.

The WIFC is also the home ice for HAWK – the Hockey Association of Western Kent. HAWK is dedicated to improving and enhancing the quality of ice hockey in West Michigan and beyond. They do this by developing hockey skills, encouraging sportsmanship between players, and instilling a true enjoyment for the sport of hockey. Mike Fountain, Ice Director for Walker Ice and Fitness Center, also serves as HAWK's Hockey Director and is heavily involved in all aspects and levels of the program, including personally running our Cross-Ice Program for our youngest hockey players. If you're interested in learning more about our hockey programs, looking to buy equipment from the Pro Shop, or want to rent the ice arena, please email Mike at mfountain@walkericeandfitness.com.



HAWK
HOCKEY

Hockey Happenings



HAWK Tryouts for the 2021-22 season are in May. For more information, please visit hawkhockey.net.

Learn to Skate/Play Hockey Session 3 runs March 6 to April 17, 2021. Session 4 runs April 24 to June 5, 2021.

Look for Summer Hockey Schools coming up in June. More info on our website and social media pages!

HAWK Hockey Fall 2021 Season – September 2021

CONTACT THE WALKER ICE & FITNESS CENTER

CALL: 616-735-6286

EMAIL: MKSHERMAN@WALKERICEANDFITNESS.COM

VISIT: 4151 REMEMBRANCE RD NW, WALKER, MI

HOURS: MON-FRI: 5AM-9PM SAT-SUN: 7AM-5PM



ONLINE REGISTRATIONS: SOCCER & SOFTBALL

SPRING COED YOUTH SOCCER

Registrations: February 1 – 28, 2021

Games begin April 24, 2021

- 4-6 yr. old age group is \$30 for Walker residents; \$40 for non-residents.
- 7-8 yr. old, 9-10 yr. old and 11-12-13 yr. old age groups is \$40 for Walker residents and \$50 for non-residents
- There is a \$5.00 discount for each additional family member registered.
- There will be a \$10.00 LATE FEE charged for any registrations received after the February 28 deadline

Volunteer to Coach your child's team and choose your practice day/time and get a full refund!



FALL COED YOUTH SOCCER

Registrations: July 1-31, 2021

Games begin September 18, 2021

ADULT SOFTBALL

Don't forget about our adult softball leagues! Have a local business sponsor a team and get out and have a great time! We have men's, women's and coed leagues. Registration is March 29 - April 11. Games start June 7, 2021 and are played Monday – Thursday evenings.

No more individual nonresident fees; it's only a \$400 flat fee for registering a team!



ADULT SOFTBALL UMPIRES NEEDED

Please contact the Recreation Dept. for more information at 616-735-6286.



REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.WALKERICEANDFITNESS.COM OR IN PERSON AT THE WALKER ICE & FITNESS CENTER.



Pavilion Rentals

RENT A PARK PAVILION FOR YOUR NEXT GATHERING



Alpine Estates Bathroom Facility, Basketball Court, Playground, Ball Field and Walking Trails



Community Park Bathroom Facility, Tennis Courts, Basketball Court, Ball Field and Soccer Field, Newly Updated Playground



City Central Bathroom Facility, Playground, Volleyball Courts, Tennis Courts, Fishing Pond, Basketball Courts, Pickleball Courts, Ball Fields, Inline Skating Rink and Walking Trails

Reserve any of our park facilities ONLINE!

www.walkericeandfitness.com

Contact Walker Parks & Rec for more information and pricing at 616-735-6286 or sjohnson@walkericeandfitness.com or mmay@walkericeandfitness.com.

JULY IS NATIONAL PARK & RECREATION MONTH

A tradition since 1985, Park and Recreation month has been celebrated across the country. Our Walker Recreation Department would like to encourage you to get outside, explore local parks and enjoy outdoor activities, not just in the summer, but all year round!

Make sure to LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM to find out how we will celebrate Park & Recreation month this year!

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

MARV RAAP

P: 318-0677 E: MRAAP@WALKER.CITY

SECOND WARD COMMISSIONERS:

ROXANNE DESCHAINE

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

CAROL GLANVILLE

P: 443-9313 E: CGLANVILLE@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

ASSESSOR: KELLY SMITH

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

CITY MANAGER: DARREL SCHMALZEL

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

CITY CLERK: SARAH BYDALEK

P: 791-6865 E: SBYDALEK@WALKER.CITY

ASST. CITY MANAGER / COMMUNITY

DEVELOPMENT: FRANK WASH

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

DISTRICT COURT 59TH: P: 453-5765

CITY ENGINEER: SCOTT CONNERS, P.E.

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

FIRE CHIEF : DAVE PELTON

P: 791-6783 E: DPELTON@WALKER.CITY

POLICE CHIEF : GREG LONG

P: 791-6825 E: GLONG@WALKER.CITY

INCOME TAX DIRECTOR: JULIE BLOK

P: 791-6866 E: JBLOK@WALKER.CITY

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR : GARY POSTEMA

P: 791-6867 E: GPOSTEMA@WALKER.CITY

FINANCE DIRECTOR / TREASURER : DAN DEVRIES

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

HR DIRECTOR: SHANNON BALES

P: 791-6797 E: SBALES@WALKER.CITY

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER: NICOLE DIDONATO

P: 791-6893 E: NDIDONATO@WALKER.CITY

WIFC FACILITY DIRECTOR:

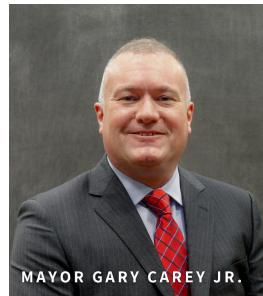
MARY KAY SHERMAN P: 735-6286

E: MKSHERMAN@WALKERICEANDFITNESS.COM



CITY OF WALKER
4243 REMEMBRANCE RD NW
WALKER, MICHIGAN 49534

WALKER CITY COMMISSION:



MAYOR GARY CAREY JR.



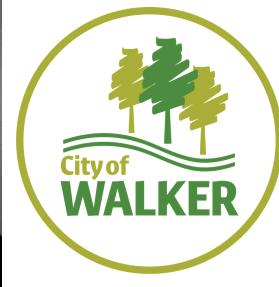
COMMISSIONER GILBERT



COMMISSIONER RAAP



COMMISSIONER DESCHAINE



COMMISSIONER GLANVILLE



COMMISSIONER GROOTERS



COMMISSIONER HUIZENGA-CHASE

CONNECT WITH US:



Cover photo is of the completed Walker Avenue project

