

2020

WWW.WALKER.CITY

WALKER CITY NEWS

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS



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"A PLACE TO
LIVE, WORK
& GROW"

A letter from the Mayor



It is with the greatest of honor that I share this annual newsletter update with you. It seems like my first year serving went by faster than I could have imagined. As I speak with our previous mayors, we will all acknowledge that the one constant in our city is how well our city staff support and serve our community.

In 2019, we saw the acceleration of growth in our community. Growth comes with change and often challenges that may seem intolerable at that time. I have learned, Walker finds a way to work through challenges and turn them into opportunities. It is understandable that one might wonder what's going to happen with an incoming housing development or business and may express concern. I want to assure you that our growth is managed with a strategic focus to ensure our city is sustainable. Our city began its humble roots as a rural township with dirt roads and little infrastructure to support it. The change to present day did not happen overnight. At times (including over the last few months), city leaders will sometimes decide to slow the growth to ensure it is controlled. I believe that is one of the times that leadership in our city is at its best.

Recently, our City Commission and Department Leaders came together in our Annual Strategic Planning Session. We review and refine the city's strategic priorities as needed. Here are the findings:

1. Top Priority: **Road funding/transportation master plan/mobility/sidewalks/new development/connectivity of roads:** As we develop our 2020-21 Fiscal Year Budget, the investments we plan to make here are aligned with those priorities.
2. The following three priorities were tied for second:
 - a. **Paying down our long-term liabilities:** we have a philosophy of borrowing as little as possible and maximizing payments on what we owe. I am incredibly proud of our city managers and staff who make being fiscally responsible a top priority.
 - b. **Creating/clarifying our city's identity:** The city identity is one that is unique to Walker. Challenges include the fact that Walker has three school districts, two very distinct retail/shopping districts in Alpine and Standale and many different neighborhood communities within city limits. Creating a strong sense of identity will ultimately strengthen the feeling of community within Walker.
 - c. **Intersection safety:** We continue to work with our partners at MDOT, and State Representative Huizenga, for funding, design, and implementation of improved intersections where they are needed. The first intersection to be tackled is the intersection of 3 Mile and Remembrance. This is a geometrically challenging area that has had high speed crashes with unfortunate fatalities as a result. I can proudly say that city staff and MDOT are finalizing the design plans for this project to put in front of the City Commission for approval in 2020.
3. Rounding out the top three areas are two more priorities:
 - a. **Diversifying the funding sources for the city:** we are very reliant on the City Income Tax that was instituted in the late 1970's. Over the last two years the City Income Tax represents about 66-67% of our funding. Relying on such a large percentage for our revenue can be a problem. What we have done to mitigate that risk is accelerate our long-term debt payments, as well as setting aside funds for our larger capital purchases or improvements. This has worked well for us, and the city's financial position has strengthened the last few years to what I believe is a sustainable level for the near future.
 - b. **New community center/library:** A long overdue need of our community, I am confident that with the number of surveys and community open houses we held gauging public interest and support, we are in a go-forward position. We are finalizing the details and we will have more specifics out in coming months.

In closing, my outlook for the City of Walker is strong with confidence. Because we review and refine the priorities outlined above, we remain in excellent financial shape. We will continue to proactively invest in public safety and our roads/infrastructure to stay ahead of our projected growth. In my first newsletter as Mayor last January, I committed to you that "we will strive to make 2019 a year that we find ways to improve the service and experiences you have with the City departments." Based on the feedback and interactions I have received; I believe we have delivered on that commitment. We will continue to try to raise that bar in 2020. I am reminded each day of what a 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

Department of Public Works

DPW OFFICE HOURS: 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.
CONTACT US WITH QUESTIONS: 616-791-6854



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

DATES AND TIMES: May 7-9, 2020

Thursday, May 7 | 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Friday, May 8 | 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 9 | 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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

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:

October 19 - November 16, 2020

(closed Wednesday, November 11, 2020 in observance of
Veteran's Day)

MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY HOURS:

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

WEDNESDAY HOURS:

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

SATURDAY HOURS:

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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 responsible to repair and replace.

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

Walker Fire Department

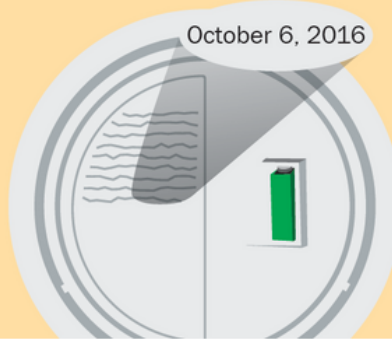
DON'T WAIT - CHECK THE DATE! REPLACE SMOKE ALARMS EVERY 10 YEARS!

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



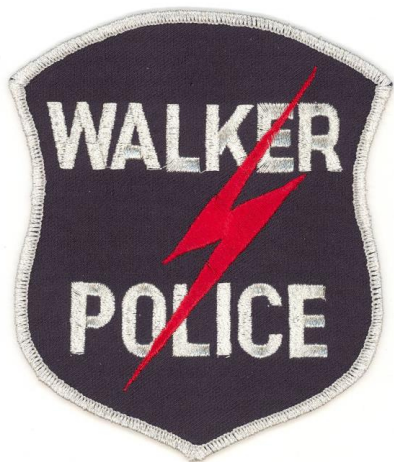
By order of the City of Walker Fire Department, an annual burning permit is required for residential burning of branches and small twigs. No other residential or commercial burning is allowed in the City of Walker. Burning season is April 15 to May 15 and October 15 to November 15 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays only. Burn permits will be available online at www.walker.city after April 1, 2020.



@CityofWalkerFireDepartment

Walker Police Department

COMMUNITY RESOURCES & HIGHLIGHTS



2020 brings another year of opportunity for residents to be proactive in their communities when it comes to crime prevention. We look forward to offering several seminars or events through out the year for residents to learn about various topics, prevention methods, or to simply interact with Walker officers.

You will likely see some transition within the department as well, as retirements and new assignments have the staff here moving into new spots. Jason Frank & Andrew Jeltama have been promoted to Sergeant & Corporal, respectively, and Brandyn Heugel will slide into the role of Administrative Sergeant, leaving her current role as a road patrol supervisor. We are continuing to hire great new officers, as more retirements loom later in the year and 2021. Our current Community Resource/School Liaison Officer, Mitch Harkema, will be reassigned as well, as we begin looking to create more of a team approach to the position.

As the city continues to grow and change, one thing remains the same. If you observe something potentially criminal, suspicious, or need emergency assistance, please dial 911. This is the fastest way for officers to get dispatched somewhere to assist & investigate. In today's increasingly social media driven world, we often see incidents reported in a public Facebook post, a tweet, or other similar posting, in hopes that it gets shared enough to find its way to the appropriate law enforcement agency. Even with things that "go viral," the events are usually long since passed and cannot be investigated properly. So please, CALL 911 when it is needed! You can message our Facebook page with general questions, but please be advised it is not monitored 24/7, and responses can be delayed.

We wish you a safe and happy new year and look forward to serving and protecting you in 2020!






Be EXTRAordinary.

Fire Fighter Military

City of Walker Fire Department is seeking

Paid-on Call Firefighters

Contact us:
www.walker.city
(616) 791-6840
@cityofwalkerfiredepartment



SCAN ME

Calendar of Events

F E B R U A R Y

MON. FEBRUARY 17

President's Day
City Offices Closed

FEBRUARY 1 - 29

**Spring Soccer Online
Registration Open**
walkericeandfitness.com

M A R C H

MARCH 9, 10, 11

March Board of Review
Assessor's Office

MARCH 30 - APRIL 11

**Walker Adult Softball
Registration Open**
walkericeandfitness.com

A P R I L

SAT. APRIL 4

Annual Easter Egg Hunt
Walker Ice and Fitness
Center @ 11:00 am

SUN. APRIL 12

Easter Sunday



MONTHLY CITY MEETINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

City Commission: 6:30 pm / 2nd, 3rd and 4th Monday
Location: Commission Chambers

Planning Commission: 7 pm / 1st and 3rd Wednesday
Location: Commission Chambers

Zoning Board of Appeals: 7 pm / 2nd and 4th Wednesday
Location: Commission Chambers

Downtown Development Authority: 7:30 am / 3rd Tuesday
Location: Fire Station #2 (4101 Lake Michigan Dr)



M A Y

MAY 7-9

Walker Clean Up Days
More information:
www.walker.city

MON. MAY 25

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

MON. MAY 25

Memorial Day Parade
*Lake Michigan Drive in
Standale @ 12:00 pm*



J U N E

MON. JUNE 8

**KDL Summer Fun Kick-off
Carnival**
City Hall @ 4:00 pm

THURS. JUNE 11

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



J U L Y

THURS. JULY 4

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

THURS. JULY 16

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

TUES. JULY 21

July Board of Review
Assessor's Office

JULY 1-31

**Walker Fall Youth Soccer
Registration Open**
walkericeandfitness.com

AUGUST

TUES. AUGUST 4

National Night Out

Follow the Walker PD
Facebook page for event
updates

FRI. AUGUST 28

Library Carpet Cleaning

KDL Walker Branch Closing
at 2:00 pm

THURS. AUGUST 13

Walker Standale Summer Concert Series

Community Park @ 6:30 pm



SEPTEMBER

MON. SEPTEMBER 7

Labor Day

City Offices Closed
Walker Ice & Fitness Closed
KDL Walker Branch Closed

OCTOBER

SAT. OCTOBER 3

Pumpkin Bash

Walker City Hall Complex
@ 1:30 pm

OCT. 19-NOV. 16

Walker Leaf Recycling Program

More information:
www.walker.city

SAT. OCTOBER 31

Halloween Open House

Fire Stations #2 and #3
@ 6:30 pm

OCTOBER; DATE TBA

Officer Trevor Slot

Memorial Service

FRI. OCTOBER 30

Annual Scary Skate

Walker Ice & Fitness Center
@ 7:00 pm



NOVEMBER

WED. NOVEMBER 6

KDL Staff Training

KDL Walker Branch Closed

THUR. NOVEMBER 26

Thanksgiving Holiday

City Offices Closed
Walker Ice & Fitness Closed
KDL Walker Branch Closed

WED. NOVEMBER 11

Observance of

Veteran's Day

City Offices Closed

FRI. NOVEMBER 27

Thanksgiving Holiday

City Offices Closed

DECEMBER

TUES. DECEMBER 1

Kent District Library

All-Staff Training

All KDL Branches Closed

TUES. DECEMBER 15

December Board of Review

Assessor's Office

DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day

City Offices Closed
Walker Ice & Fitness Closed
KDL Walker Branch Closed

THURS. DECEMBER 3

Walker WinterFest

Walker Ice and Fitness
Center @ 5:30 pm

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve

City Offices Closed
KDL Walker Branch Closed

THURS. DECEMBER 31

New Year's Eve

City Offices Closed
KDL Walker Branch Opened
until 5:00 pm

JANUARY

FRI. JANUARY 1, 2021

New Year's Day

City Offices Closed
KDL Walker Branch Closed

JANUARY 2021; DATE TBA

Walker Mayor's Cup

Walker Ice & Fitness Center
@ 6:00 pm

JANUARY 21 & 22, 2021

Senior Bowling

Lincoln Lanes Country Club



FREE Family Events

4
APRIL

Annual Easter Egg Hunt /

Hunt begins promptly at 11:00 am

Free outdoor Easter Egg Hunt organized by Walker Recreation. Hunt for candy and prizes, take a photo with the Easter Bunny and more!

Location: Walker Ice & Fitness Center

25
MAY

Memorial Day Parade / 12:00 Noon

Family-friendly parade to honor our veterans and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom! Parade begins with a plane flyover.

Location: Lake MI Drive in downtown Standale

8
JUNE

KDL Summer Fun Kick-off Carnival /

4:00 - 6:30 pm

Inflatables, carnival games, food, crafts and more! Join the KDL Walker Branch and the City of Walker to kick-off the summer with a FREE family outdoor carnival. *Location: Walker City Hall Complex*

11
JUNE

Walker Standale Summer Concert Series /

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Join the community for an open air concert in the park. Featuring local bands, this is a FREE family event. Food for sale on-site. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs. *Location: Walker Community Park*

16
JULY

13
AUGUST

3
OCTOBER

Walker Pumpkin Bash / 1:30 - 3:00 pm

Family event with free pumpkins, cider and donuts, farm animals, trick or treating, face painting and more! *Location: Walker City Hall Complex*

3
DECEMBER

Walker Winter Fest / 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Free ice-skating, holiday crafts, reindeer, hot cocoa and cookies, live music and a picture with Santa! Don't miss out on the Tree Lighting Ceremony at 7:00 pm. *Location: Walker Ice and Fitness Center*



INTERESTED IN BECOMING AN EVENT SPONSOR?

Our events are made possible by the generous donations of our sponsors. Community events are the perfect opportunity for your business to gain exposure within the Walker/Standale neighborhoods and become involved with your local community! Email Kendra Belk at kbelk@walker.city for a sponsorship packet.

Stay Informed!

SUBSCRIBE TO WALKER'S MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

The City of Walker sends out a monthly e-Newsletter with department reports, construction updates, community events and more.

Be in the know and sign up today through our website at www.walker.city or by emailing newsletter.article@walker.city



 Sign Up

Clerk's Office

CITY CLERK, SARAH BYDALEK



DID YOU KNOW?

Anyone can vote via an absentee ballot since 2018.

If you have not contacted us to be put on our automatic permanent absentee application mailing list please email us at elections@walker.city.

2020 ELECTION DATES:

Tuesday, March 10, 2020 *Presidential Primary*

Tuesday, May 5, 2020 *Kenowa Hills and Comstock Park Proposals*

Tuesday, August 4, 2020 *State/Federal Primary*

Tuesday, November 3, 2020 *General Election*

Election ballots cannot be forwarded, please contact us if you need your ballot application and ballot mailed to a temporary address.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE TO VOTE?

There are 3 Wards and 9 Precincts in Walker. Visit our website to find out where your polling location is: www.walker.city

Under the 'Resident' drop down menu, select 'Elections'.

MICHIGAN REAL ID

The Secretary of State's office is rolling out the new REAL ID driver's license, which will be required after October 2020, to fly domestically. You will need to visit a branch office to convert your current driver's license to a REAL ID driver's license.

You will be required to take your original birth certificate and any certified name change documents, such as your marriage license or court order with you to apply. You will want to make an appointment before going to a branch office to limit your wait time.



Visit michigan.gov/REALID for more information.

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: Peter MacGregor

E: senpmacgregor@senate.michigan.gov

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.

Visit our website for details on passport requirements. Passports are currently taking longer than usual to process, please allow at least 6 weeks for your passport to be processed and mailed to you.

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 any 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

2019 WALKER INCOME TAX RETURNS ARE DUE APRIL 30, 2020

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 2019 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 the Walker 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 2020 Walker Income Tax is also due April 30, 2020.

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 2020 return, you must make quarterly estimated payments. The 2020 Quarterly Estimated payment vouchers with instructions can be found:

- In the 2019 Resident Forms and Instructions booklet 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 2020 quarterly estimates with the fourth quarter voucher due January 31, 2021 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:

January 31, 2020 - 4th Quarter 2019 withholding due (Form 941)
February 28, 2020 - 2019 WW-3 forms due (Form WW-3)
February 28, 2020 - January withholding due (Form 501)
March 31, 2020 - February withholding due (Form 501)
April 30, 2020 - 1st Quarter 2020 withholding due (Form 941)
June 1, 2020 - April withholding due (Form 501)
June 30, 2020 - May withholding due (Form 501)
July 31, 2020 - 2nd Quarter 2020 withholding due (Form 941)
August 31, 2020 - July withholding due (Form 501)
September 30, 2020 - August withholding due (Form 501)
November 2, 2020 - 3rd Quarter 2020 withholding due (Form 941)
November 30, 2020 - October withholding due (Form 501)
December 31, 2020 - November withholding due (Form 501)
February 1, 2021 - 4th Quarter 2020 withholding due (Form 941)

For Individuals:

January 31, 2020 - 4th Quarter 2019 estimate due (Form 1040-ES)
April 30, 2020 - 2019 individual return W-1040R/NR due (Form W-1040R/NR)
April 30, 2020 - 1st Quarter 2020 estimate due (Form 1040-ES)
July 31, 2020 - 2nd Quarter 2020 estimate due (Form 1040-ES)
November 2, 2020 - 3rd Quarter 2020 estimate due (Form 1040-ES)
February 1, 2021 - 4th Quarter 2020 estimate due (Form 1040-ES)

For Corporations:

January 31, 2020 - 4th Quarter 2019 estimate due (Form 1120-ES)
April 30, 2020 - 2019 corporate return W-1120 due (Form W-1120)
April 30, 2020 - 1st Quarter 2020 estimate due (Form 1120-ES)
July 31, 2020 - 2nd Quarter 2020 estimate due (Form 1120-ES)
November 2, 2020 - 3rd Quarter 2020 estimate due (Form 1120-ES)
February 1, 2021 - 4th Quarter 2020 estimate due (Form 1120-ES)

E-FILE YOUR WALKER INCOME TAX RETURN

We will be accepting 2019 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 2019 will be accepted beginning February 1, 2020. 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.

WALKER AVENUE BRIDGE OVER COOPERSVILLE/MARNE RAILROAD

This summer the City of Walker is partnering with Bissel to remove the existing bridge over the Coopersville/Marne Railroad, just south of Waldorf Avenue. The Michigan Economic Development Corporation was able to give us a grant based on the pledge of a Bissel expansion and new jobs at their location on Walker Avenue. The grant will allow us to remove the aging structure and fix the poor sight distance associated with the bridge over the railroad. We will also be widening the at railroad crossing to match the 4 lane sections both north and south.

As part of the project we will be both removing the bridge and raising the railroad to create an “at grade” crossing. After applying for grants unsuccessfully to widen and rebuild the bridge, we accepted MDOT’s challenge to find a way to reduce our bridge inventory. The railroad at this location is a low speed and low volume track. Both the railroad and the city are comfortable that rail traffic will not have a detrimental impact on the Walker Avenue traffic. This collaboration with the Coopersville/Marne Railroad has resulted in an agreement that makes them an active partner in the project.

What does this mean for residents and businesses this summer? We hope to kick off the project in late March. The first step will be in relocating existing utilities along the bridge. This includes gas main, phone lines and public watermain. Once these vital utilities are out of the way the bridge can be removed and the earthwork can begin to lower the roadway and raise the railroad. During this time Walker Avenue will be completely closed. We will work to restore emergency access as quickly as possible. We hope to have the roadway “open to traffic” in early August. The project will continue for another few weeks as we finish sidewalk replacement and restore the vegetation around the project perimeter. Project completion should be in late August.

This will be a significant inconvenience for drivers with destinations along this corridor. We will provide vital updates via social media and our web site during construction. Please remember that major construction like this takes time and we will all need to show some patience throughout the spring and early summer. The official detour will be to go east and use Alpine Avenue. Please plan ahead and allocate some extra time as you redirect via the detour or along other local roads like Bristol Avenue, Elmridge Drive and Kinney Avenue.



KDL Library: Walker Branch

VISIT KDL.ORG FOR PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

Last January, we joined forces with Grand Rapids Public Library, Cedar Spring Public Library, Sparta Township Library, Kent Intermediate School District and Literacy Center of West Michigan to launch Mission: Read, a county-wide reading program designed to help young and beginning readers pass new Michigan reading proficiency requirements. The mission is to read for 1,000 days before 6th grade. So far, more than 2,600 children have accepted the mission, and numbers continue to climb. Our dedication to early literacy is not slowing down now. If you, like us, have a passion for getting kids excited about reading, please consider making a donation at www.kdl.org/donate and directing your gift to Mission: Read.

As we reflect on some of the highlights of this previous year, we know that our success as an organization is due, in large part, to the dedication, loyalty and total awesomeness of you, our patrons. You show up and speak up. You take risks and try something new. You ask questions and give valuable feedback. You trust us to help educate your children, and maybe even yourself. You read, and read, and then read some more! We provide opportunities and you utilize them.

As we plan for an exciting 2020, we have you in mind... whoever you are. We do our very best to offer something for everyone, to be a safe and welcoming place for everyone and to make everyone who walks through our doors feel value and accepted. Whatever happens in the coming year at KDL, we want you to be a part of it.

Let's partner together to make 2020 the best year ever at KDL.

Keep coming, keep learning,
keep growing!

Lance Werner
Executive Director, KDL



Lance Werner, Executive Director of Kent District Library, has been appointed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer to the State Historical Records Advisory Board. Werner is appointed for a term commencing January 1, 2020 and expiring December 31, 2023. He succeeds James Cameron whose term expires December 31, 2019.

SUMMER READING

Coming for 2020 Summer Reading will become Summer of Wonder. **Summer of Wonder will start June 1** this year, with a few changes to the program. Kent District Library is responding to the needs of our patrons by updating Summer Reading to include STEAM and outreach while retaining the importance of reading. New focuses will include STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) to help fight the summer slide in more than just reading, and reaching members of our community who are not able to partake in many of our library programs. We will continue to offer some really great performer programs like in years past.

Toddler Time

Nurture your toddler's love of books through music, movement and stories while helping to develop their language, motor and social skills. For children ages 3 and younger with an adult.

Mondays at 9:45 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Family Storytime

Read and sing together as a family. Enjoy stories, music, movement and rhymes that develop early literacy skills.

Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.

Rhyme Time Music and Movement

Move and groove together with action rhymes, songs, games and hands-on musical activities that will help children develop motor, listening and literacy skills.

Fridays at 10:30 a.m.

Baby Playgroup

Get to know other families and help your baby develop listening and language skills while you gather and play. We provide the space and a variety of sensory and play activities. Each playgroup also includes 15 minutes of stories, rhymes and songs. For babies from birth to 18 months with a caregiver. Older siblings welcome!

Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.



@KDLWalker



"Where Active Families Play"

WWW.WALKERICEANDFITNESS.COM



@WalkerIceFitness

@WalkerIceandFitness

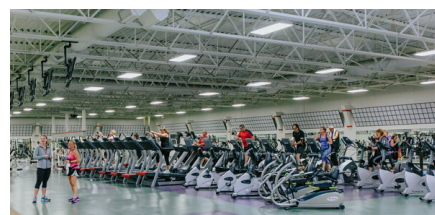
HOW TO GET STARTED AT THE GYM...

One of the things we hear a lot when new members join the Walker Ice and Fitness Center is that people worry about not knowing what to do once they are here! WIFC is a great place to meet fitness goals and we want to make sure we help you reach those goals with the following tips:

Learn the Equipment WIFC offers free gym orientations to all gym members (these are by appointment – sign up at the Front Desk). During orientations, one of our knowledgeable fitness staff members will take you through the facility to give you a tutorial on our equipment. Use the time to ask lots of questions and you'll be able to try machines to ensure you're using them correctly.

Have a Plan before you Arrive Don't walk into the gym planning to "wing-it". If you do, chances are you'll spend most of your time walking around aimlessly, rather than working out. Plan a workout schedule for the week determining how many days to workout each week, which areas to focus on, types of training, etc. For complete newcomers, this probably seems overwhelming. But remember, everyone starts somewhere! There is a learning curve, it's a fun one and you'll see so many health benefits.

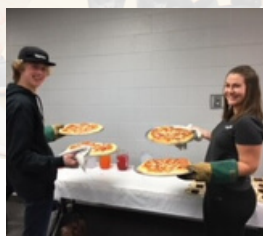
Consider a Personal Trainer A personal trainer can be invaluable. One of our certified personal trainers will work with you to help you learn proper techniques and form. They will introduce you to exercises and equipment you might not have used on your own. Personal training can help you succeed in your overall health and fitness goals.



Walking into a gym can be intimidating for a first-timer, but the more you go, the more comfortable you'll get. Don't compare yourself to others. Everyone is at different stages in their fitness journey and you've no idea where they started. Your only competition is you. Focus on your progress, your strength and your success. Be patient with yourself and be consistent. **We're glad you're here at the Walker Ice and Fitness Center – where active families play!**

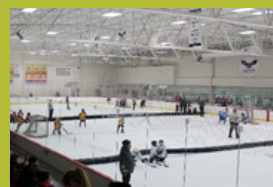
ROOM RENTALS & SKATING PARTIES:

We have meeting rooms to rent starting at just \$20/hr...or schedule a fun Birthday Party with us!! Packages include admission, skate rental, soda pop, ice cream and private room starting at just \$6.99/person! Add 2 slices of pizza (made fresh here) each and its just \$8.99/person. Call 616-735-6286 for details and room availability!



Would you like to try out our facility for 7-days free? Anyone 18 years and older, an area resident and first-time visitor to our facility is welcome! You will have access to all of the Classes, Indoor Track, Cardio Equipment, Extensive Free Weights, Childcare, Sauna and Steam rooms!

Ice Arena News



The Walker Ice and Fitness Center is the home ice for H.A.W. K. – the Hockey Association of Western Kent. HAWK is dedicated to improving and enhancing the quality of ice hockey in West Michigan. They do this by developing hockey skills, encouraging sportsmanship between players, and instilling a true enjoyment in the sport of hockey. Mike Fountain, Ice Director for Walker Ice and Fitness Center, also serves as HAWK's Hockey Director. Learn more at www.walkericeandfitness.com

CONTACT THE WALKER ICE & FITNESS CENTER

CALL: 616-735-6286

EMAIL: MKSHERMAN@WALKERICEANDFITNESS.COM

VISIT: 4151 REMEMBRANCE RD NW, WALKER, MI

ONLINE REGISTRATIONS: SOCCER & SOFTBALL

SPRING COED YOUTH SOCCER

Registrations: February 1 – 29, 2020

- 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 29 deadline

Volunteer to Coach your child's team and choose your practice day/time a get a \$20 refund!



FALL COED YOUTH SOCCER

Registrations: July 1-31, 2020

ADULT SOFTBALL

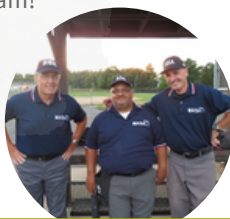


Don't forget about our adult softball leagues! Have a local business sponsor a team and get out and have a great time! We have men's, women's and coed leagues. Registrations due April 11. Games start the week of June 1, 2020 and are played Monday – Thursday evenings.

NEW THIS SEASON: 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

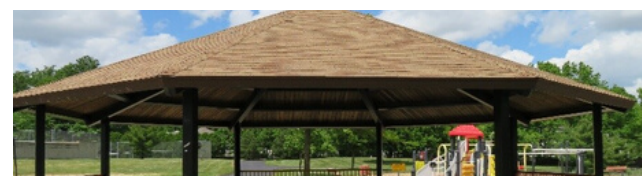
RENT A PARK PAVILION FOR YOUR NEXT GATHERING



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

DAN KENT

P: 745-9164 E: DKENT@WALKER.CITY

SECOND WARD COMMISSIONERS:

ROXANNE DESCHAIINE

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

CAROL GLANVILLE

P: 443-9313 E: CGLANVILLE@WALKER.CITY

THIRD WARD COMMISSIONER:

ELAINA A. HUIZENGA

P: 334-1900 E: EHUIZENGA@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: KENDRA BELK

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

WIFC FACILITY DIRECTOR:

MARY KAY SHERMAN P: 735-6286

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WALKER CITY COMMISSION:



L to R: Commissioners Steven Gilbert, Carol Glanville, Melanie Grooters, and Elaina A. Huzienga, Mayor Gary Carey, Commissioners Roxanne Deschaine and Dan Kent

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