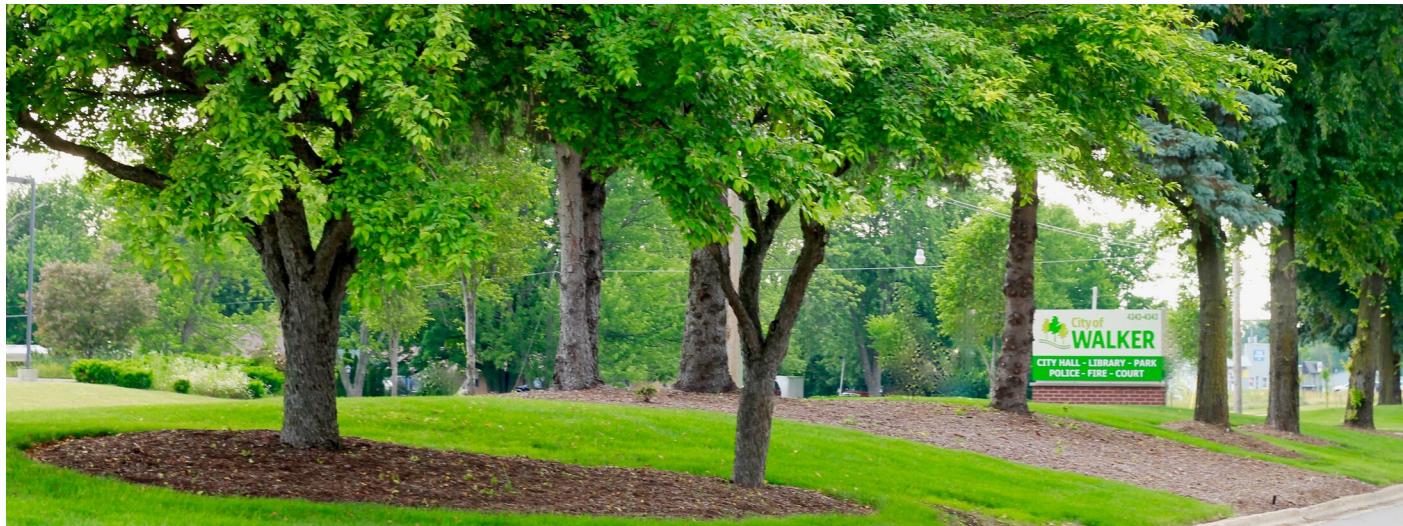




WALKER CITY NEWS

Annual Newsletter & Calendar of Events



A letter from the Mayor

MAYOR GARY CAREY, JR.

It is my pleasure to share an update from the Mayor's office. Because we do not currently have a State of the City presentation, I will leverage this newsletter to provide a brief overview of a few of our major departments looking into 2019.

On March 4, the City Commission and the City leadership staff will hold our annual strategic planning retreat. In this session we will start with a lookback through the last two fiscal years. During that review we will measure our accomplishments to the goals set, and maybe some that are still in progress. There have been several visible public projects that typically get the publicity and headlines. As equally as important are the behind the scenes actions like succession planning, organizational alignment, transparency and communication, and an aggressive approach to paying down our long-term debt. These will all remain in place this coming year as well as implementing new items identified at the retreat. Look for more to come in this area.

Public safety continues to not only be a focus of our city commission and staff, it is also my top priority as Mayor. *continued on page 2*

IN THIS ISSUE

3 Clean Up Days & Leaf Recycling

4 Car Seat Installations

6 Walker Calendar of Events

8 Income Tax Dept. Updates

11 Walker Tax Comparisons

14 Walker Ice & Fitness News

"A Place to Live, Work & Grow"



continued from front cover

That strong sense of security and comfort that we enjoy living and working in Walker is something we can sometimes take for granted. As city leaders we need to always remain vigilant to the current and projected needs of our Police and Fire Departments. As a result, I can now share that our Police Department staffing is finally back to 2005 levels. As a growing city, the need to add officers and vehicles on the street will continue to increase. We have also taken a proactive approach of hiring new officers before our veterans retire. This ensures the knowledge base and training are all done in a timely and most effective manner. With the increased public awareness surrounding mental health issues today, we are also investing in additional training to specifically address the challenges our officers could encounter. Overall, our annual calls for Fire Department service are somewhat flat in most areas, and trending down in others. Knowing the preventative approach taken in stricter fire codes, fireproof building materials, and installation of protective devices like smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, the trend here will probably continue in a favorable manner.

Our Fire Department dedicates a lot of their time within our community educating and assisting with this proactive approach. As far as our staffing, Walker primarily uses a paid-on call model. While this continues to address our current needs, finding candidates has become more difficult. This is a challenge faced by every municipality that uses the paid-on call model. People have more going on in their personal and professional lives than ever before, and the time commitment that comes with the paid-on call role can be challenging. We will continue to develop and refine new ideas of hiring them, while maintaining a focus to our future needs.

This time of year, we are especially reminded that our Department of Public Works continues to set themselves apart with the outstanding jobs they do keeping our roadways plowed and salted for our safe travels. As we enter in to 2019, we are losing two long term employees of almost 67 years of combined service to our city. Their respective roles and leadership have been critical to the day to day operations of helping our city run efficiently. While neither can be measured for their endless dedication serving others, they had the foresight to apply that succession planning concept and have left the City in great shape. In addition to the personnel changes there, it should be noted that in 2018 we invested nearly one million dollars into local roads. This is the highest amount ever and shows our commitment to maintaining a sound infrastructure.

The Ice and Fitness Center celebrated our last bond payment in 2018. This removed our major debt obligation from the original construction of the facility a little over twenty years ago. On the fitness side, we continue to upgrade equipment and invest in new programming. We believe that the amazing experience and service levels that our members have each time they visit will ensure we are positioned to retain our membership and grow. Our hockey operations continue to be one of the best run in the state. The superior quality of coaching and player development is something that I regularly hear within the hockey community. This heavy usage and activity means that equipment related to the operations does require repair and replacement, especially after 20 straight years of usage. Our facility leaders and city managers are already getting ahead of this with responsible budgeting and planning.

In summary, I am very excited about the future of 2019 for City staff, and our residents and businesses. We are in excellent financial shape and continue to invest in many areas, most notably in public safety and roads/infrastructure. This is done with a deliberate intent to address current needs, as well as strategically plan for our future. We will also strive to make 2019 a year that we find ways to make even better the service and experiences you have with the City departments. With all our initiatives and projects, each day is a humbling reminder of what a privilege it is to serve as Mayor of Walker.

Whether a resident or business, thank you for making the choice to call Walker home.

Gary Carey, Jr.
Mayor

Mayor Gary Carey, Jr.
E: gcarey@walker.city
P: 616-292-1715

Department of Public Works

CLEAN UP DAYS | MAY 2-4



LOCATION: Behind City Hall, 4243 Remembrance Rd NW

DATES:

May 2, 3 and 4, 2019

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 pickup truck with trailer

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



LEAF RECYCLING PROGRAM | OCT. 21 - NOV. 16



LOCATION: Behind City Hall, 4243 Remembrance Rd NW

DATES:

October 21 - November 16, 2019

(closed Monday, November 11, 2019 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)

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

CHIPPER:

We will also be accepting brush at this location and running them through the chipper.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE HOURS:

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

Call the DPW at 616-791-6854 with any questions.

Walker Fire Department

FREE INFANT AND CHILD CAR SEAT INSTALLATIONS



Car seat installations will take place at Walker Fire Station #2 located at 4101 Lake Michigan Drive, N.W. from 11:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on the dates listed below. Appointments are required and can be made by calling 616-391-7233. Please remember to bring your car seat. All car seat inspections are free. A limited number of low cost replacement car seats are available for those who qualify. Children who need a replacement seat MUST be present with a parent or legal guardian. If you need an appointment sooner, please call 616-391-7233 to schedule a car seat installation at another location in the area.

Installation Dates: Thursdays; April 11, August 15, and October 10

DISPOSE DRUGS SAFELY

SAVE A LIFE

DISPOSE DRUGS SAFELY

Disposing of expired, unused or unwanted drugs the right way can protect people and the environment. Here is why drug disposal is important:

Drug overdose is the leading cause of accidental death in the U.S. More people die from drug overdoses than car accidents.¹

70,000 children go to the hospital each year for medication errors.² Unused drugs contribute to this.³

69% of people who misused pain medication got them from a friend or relative.⁴

80% of new heroin users began by misusing pain drugs ordered by their doctor.⁵

Meijer Pharmacies will now take your expired or unused medications in a new drug take-back program. Medications can be dropped off in-store during pharmacy hours only.

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, 2019.

SAFELY STORE DRUGS BEFORE DISPOSAL⁶

STEP 1



Keep drugs in the container you received them in.

STEP 2



Lock the container in a cool, dry place out of reach of children and pets.

SAFELY DISPOSE OF DRUGS⁶



OPTION 1: DRUG TAKE BACK

Find a Michigan household drug take back site near you. For a list of sites, visit michigan.gov/deqdrugdisposal.



OPTION 2: DISPOSAL RECIPE

If you can't get to a drug take back site, use the recipe below as a last resort to dispose of expired, unused or unwanted drugs.⁵

Disposal Recipe^{5,7}

(Do not dispose chemotherapy drugs this way, talk to your prescribing doctor instead.)



Step 1: Mix drugs (do not crush) with dirt, kitty litter or used coffee grounds and add a small amount of water to dissolve any solid medications.

Step 2: Seal drugs in plastic bag.

Step 3: Place plastic bag in trash.

Step 4: Take prescription container and scratch out personal information, then recycle or throw away.

Created by the DEQ, MHA Keystone Center and the MPA (c) 2016
Find the full PDF and footnotes at www.michigan.gov



@CityofWalkerFireDepartment

Walker Police Department

COMMUNITY RESOURCES & HIGHLIGHTS



Walker Police Department responded to just under 13,000 calls for service in 2018, which is average for our city. The department saw Sgt. Rob Shoemaker and Officer Scott Malkewitz retire, as well as Officer Cheryl Leatherman, all who had several years of service and dedication to the City of Walker. The department hired three new officers in 2018, with a fourth set to join the ranks in late January. Officer Matthew Welch was moved into the role of Court Security Officer for 59th District Court, after the retirement of the previous officer.

Walker went through a major cold spell in late January. The cold weather leads many to go outside and start their car in the early morning hours, to warm it up. This serves as a good reminder to keep cars locked when doing so. During this time of year, almost 90% of stolen vehicles are reported to have been left running, with keys in the ignition while warming up. Don't fall into this statistic, and consider the use of automatic starters, or using a spare set of keys to turn on the car, while still being able to lock/unlock the car with the primary set.

Walker Police Department looks forward to continuing our community outreach in 2019. Stay tuned to our Facebook page, "City of Walker Police Department," for updates. We will again be participating in Coffee with a Cop, Pizza with the Police, and Pop with a Cop events throughout the city. If your business is interested in hosting an event, contact our Community Resource Officer at mharkema@walker.city.

Sometime in Mid-March, Walker Police Department, along with Kent County Sheriff's Office, will be conducting a training session for staff at Zinser Elementary. The training will be after school hours, with no students present. It will consist of simulated gunfire, to give the staff a more realistic feel for these types of events. If you live in the area surrounding the school, you may hear or see something that is out of the ordinary. We will alert the nearby residents prior to the training via mail, and the finalized information will also be posted on our Facebook page.

As a reminder, if you need NON-EMERGENCY police assistance, we ask that you call 616-453-5441. If you need general police department information, or need to speak to our records department, you can call 616-791-6812. Please do not depend on messaging our Facebook page for immediate assistance, as it is not monitored 24/7, and your message may not be returned right away. Anonymous crime tips related to Walker Police Department cases can be relayed via Silent Observer.

As always, we appreciate the overwhelming community support for our officers, and look forward to serving you in 2019!



@WalkerPoliceDept

Calendar of Events

JANUARY

JANUARY 1 & 2

New Year's Day

City Offices Closed

FEBRUARY

MON. FEBRUARY 18

President's Day

City Offices Closed

FEBRUARY 1 - 28

Spring Soccer Online

Registration Open

walkericeandfitness.com

MARCH

FRI. MARCH 1

Coffee with a Cop

Biggby Coffee (2200 Alpine Ave) @ 9:30 am

MARCH 25 - APRIL 6

Walker Adult Softball

Registration Open

walkericeandfitness.com

MARCH 11, 12 & 13

March Board of Review

Assessor's Office



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)

APRIL

SAT. APRIL 13

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Walker Ice and Fitness Center @ 11:00 am

SUN. APRIL 21

Easter Sunday

KDL Walker Branch Closed



MAY

MAY 2-4

Walker Clean Up Days

*More information:
www.walker.city*

MON. MAY 27

Memorial Day

City Offices Closed

KDL Walker Branch Closed

MON. MAY 27

Memorial Day Parade

Lake Michigan Drive in Standale @ 12:00 pm



JUNE

MON. JUNE 10

KDL Summer Fun Kick-off

Carnival

City Hall @ 4:30 pm

TUES. JUNE 11

Bi-Annual Neighborhood

Watch & Community Mtg

Fire Station #3, Community Room

THURS. JUNE 13

Standale Summer Concert

Series

Community Park @ 6:30 pm



J U L Y

THURS. JULY 4
Independence Day
City Offices Closed
KDL Walker Branch Closed

TUES. JULY 16
July Board of Review
Assessor's Office

THURS. JULY 11
Standale Summer Concert Series
Community Park @ 6:30 pm

JULY 1-31
Walker Fall Youth Soccer Registration Open
walkericeandfitness.com



A U G U S T

TUES. AUGUST 6
National Night Out
Follow the Walker PD Facebook page for event updates

THURS. AUGUST 9
Standale Summer Concert Series
Community Park @ 6:30 pm



S E P T E M B E R

MON. SEPTEMBER 2
Labor Day
City Offices Closed
KDL Walker Branch Closed

O C T O B E R

SAT. OCTOBER 5
Pumpkin Bash
Walker City Hall Complex @ 1:30 pm

OCT. 21-NOV. 16
Walker Leaf Recycling Program
More information: www.walker.city

THURS. OCTOBER 31
Halloween Open House
Fire Stations #2 and #3 @ 6:30 pm

SAT. OCTOBER 19
Officer Trevor Slot Memorial Service

FRI. OCTOBER 25
Annual Scary Skate
Walker Ice & Fitness Center @ 7:00 pm



N O V E M B E R

MON. NOVEMBER 11
Observance of Veteran's Day
City Offices Closed

FRI. NOVEMBER 29
Thanksgiving Holiday
City Offices Closed

D E C E M B E R

THURS. DECEMBER 5
Walker WinterFest
Walker Ice and Fitness Center @ 5:30 pm

TUES. DECEMBER 10
December Board of Review
Assessor's Office

DEC. 31 & JAN. 1
New Year's Eve & New Year's Day
City Offices Closed
KDL Walker Branch opened until 5:00 pm on Dec. 31; closed on Jan. 1

TUES. DECEMBER 10
Bi-Annual Neighboorhood Watch & Community Mtg
Fire Station #3, Community Room

DECEMBER 24 & 25
Christmas Eve & Christmas Day
City Offices Closed
KDL Walker Branch Closed



Walker Income Tax Department

2018 WALKER INCOME TAX RETURNS ARE DUE APRIL 30, 2019

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:

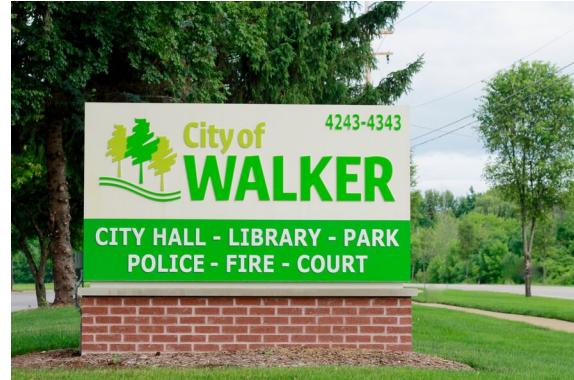
Walker Income Tax Department
PO Box 153
Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0153

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 2018 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 2019 Walker Income Tax is also due April 30, 2019.

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 2019 return, you must make quarterly estimated payments. The 2019 Quarterly Estimated payment vouchers with instructions can be found:

- In the 2019 Resident Forms and Instructions booklet
- On our web site 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 2019 quarterly estimates with the fourth quarter voucher due January 31, 2019 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, 2019 - 4th Quarter 2018 withholding due (Form 941)
February 28, 2019 - 2018 WW-3 forms due (Form WW-3)
February 28, 2019 - January withholding due (Form 501)
April 1, 2019 - February withholding due (Form 501)
April 30, 2019 - 1st Quarter 2019 withholding due (Form 941)
May 31, 2019 - April withholding due (Form 501)
July 2, 2019 - May withholding due (Form 501)
July 31, 2019 - 2nd Quarter 2019 withholding due (Form 941)
September 3, 2019 - July withholding due (Form 501)
September 31, 2019 - August withholding due (Form 501)
October 31, 2019 - 3rd Quarter 2019 withholding due (Form 941)
December 2, 2019 - October withholding due (Form 501)
December 31, 2019 - November withholding due 501)
January 31, 2020 - 4th Quarter 2019 withholding due (Form 941)

For Individuals:

January 31, 2019 - 4th Quarter 2018 estimate due (Form 1040-ES)
April 30, 2019 - 2018 individual return W-1040R/NR due (Form W-1040R/NR)
April 30, 2019 - 1st Quarter 2019 estimate due (Form 1040-ES)
July 1, 2019 - 2nd Quarter 2019 estimate due (Form 1040-ES)
September 30, 2019 - 3rd Quarter 2019 estimate due (Form 1040-ES)
January 31, 2020 - 4th Quarter 2019 estimate due (Form 1040-ES)

For Corporations:

January 31, 2019 - 4th Quarter 2018 estimate due (Form 1120-ES)
April 30, 2019 - 2018 corporate return W-1120 due (Form W-1120)
April 30, 2019 - 1st Quarter 2019 estimate due (Form 1120-ES)
July 1, 2019 - 2nd Quarter 2019 estimate due (Form 1120-ES)
September 30, 2019 - 3rd Quarter 2019 estimate due (Form 1120-ES)
January 31, 2020 - 4th Quarter 2019 estimate due (Form 1120-ES)

NEW for 2018 - E-file your Walker Income Tax Return

We are excited to announce that we will be accepting 2018 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 this year. 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 this year. 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.

Clerk's Office

DID YOU KNOW?



The Clerk's Office is a resourceful place to go when you need to do the following:

- Renew or apply for a Passport (no appointment is required; please visit our website or call for passport office hours)
- Renew or apply for a Walker Business License
- Request a list of licensed waste haulers and snow plowers in Walker
- Register to vote or request to be added to the Absentee Voter list
- Request information on the City in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
- Have a document notarized (no charge)



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
Secretary of State: Jocelyn Benson
28th District State Senator: Peter MacGregor
74th District State Representative: Mark Huizenga

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

6th District: Stan Stek

Engineering Department

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



Residents and business owners will see another busy year with improvements and enhancements to the City's road network. 2019 will include adding another left turn lane for eastbound Three Mile Road traffic at Walker Avenue. This enhancement will require extensive widening around the intersection as well as a new traffic signal. Eventually it should help to reduce the length of back ups in front of the Meijer campus as vehicles from the busy Three Mile corridor head towards I-96. The work will take place in the spring and summer. Complete closures should be limited but lane closures are likely to cause back ups during the morning and evening rush hours.

Another big improvement will be the extension of North Ridge Drive between Fruit Ridge Avenue and Walker Avenue. This connection will include a section of road proposed for private development in tandem with the last section being orchestrated by the City of Walker. Travelers should not see much impact on normal routes because this is largely off the road network. When completed, however, this will be a great improvement for the many employees that currently have only one exit from the North Ridge Drive corridor. This work is anticipated in the summer or fall of 2019.

One more enhancement on the horizon is the removal of the Walker Avenue bridge over the Coopersville/Marne Railroad. We recently received an economic development grant as part of a cooperative effort with Bissel to remove this bridge. The bridge is currently 2 lanes wide but it will be replaced with a 4 lane road with functioning turn lanes along Walker Avenue and at Waldorf Street. Utility relocation and preparation work is likely to begin this summer but the bridge removal will require extensive coordination and probably won't begin until 2020.

Public watermain is also being added along the west side of Maynard Avenue from O'Brien Road south to Millennium Park. Most of the work should be off the roadway but we are likely to see a short stretch of one lane road immediately adjacent to the construction activity. If you frequent this area be prepared for some minor delays with flag control or a temporary signal to protect the crews installing the watermain.

You may also see minor road and utility work occurring adjacent to numerous private developments. Delays may be necessary on Cummings Avenue, Lake Michigan Drive, Kenowa Avenue, Richmond Street, and many other locations around the city as we juggle the need to connect private sites with public roadways and utilities.

Thank you in advance for your patience as we continue to expand and maintain our public road system as well as promoting good development around the city. If you would like to see an interactive map showing these projects you can check out the "construction" tab at the bottom of the home screen on the City of Walker website.



DID YOU KNOW? The City of Walker continues to enjoy the lowest tax rate per capita of all the cities in Kent County. It's great to reflect on these statistics during tax season as one of the many perks of living in Walker!



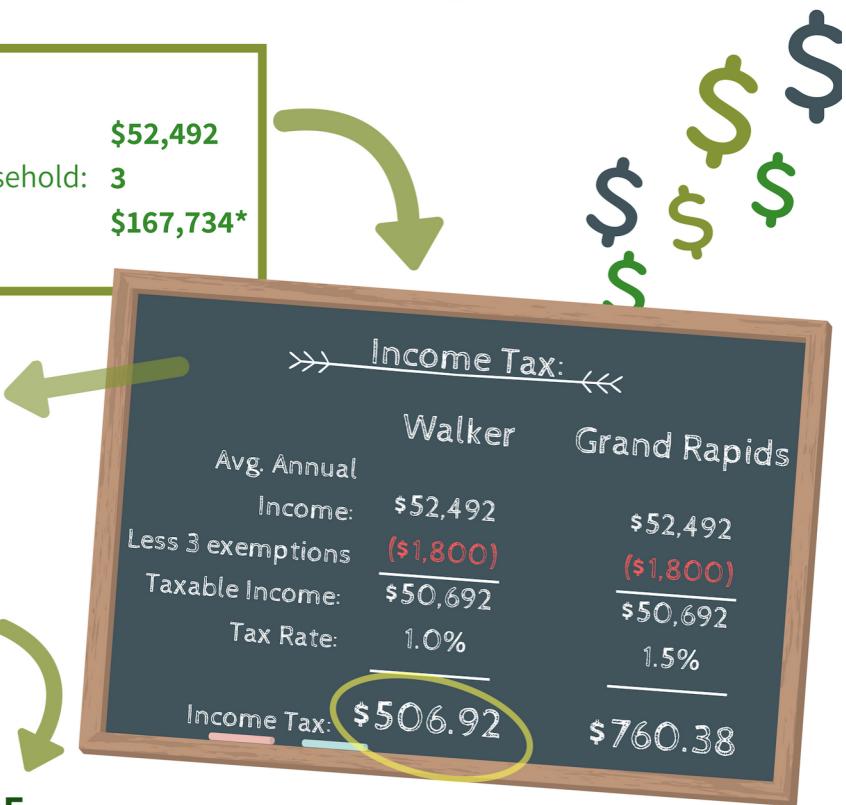
Walker Tax Comparisons

ASSUMPTIONS BY AVERAGES:

Annual Household Income: **\$52,492**
 Number of Exemptions per Household: **3**
 Residential Value: **\$167,734***
 *SEV is \$83,867

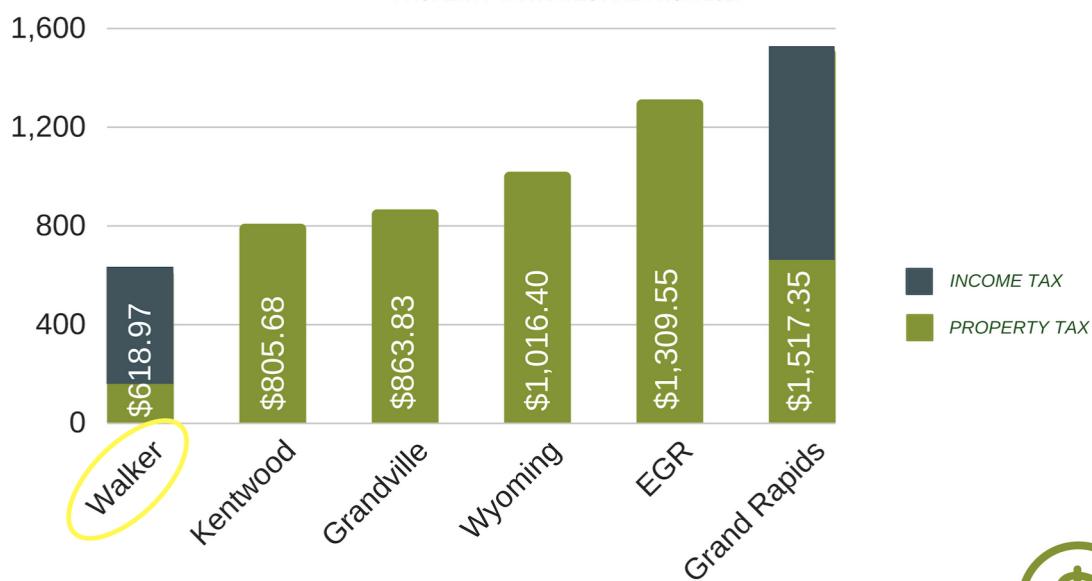
Property Tax Millage Rates:

Walker:	1.3360
Grand Rapids:	9.0258
Kentwood:	9.6066
Grandville:	10.300
Wyoming:	12.1192
EGR:	15.6146



TOTAL CITY TAX BURDEN OF CITIES IN KENT COUNTY :

*NUMBERS BASED ON THE AVG. TAXABLE INCOME OF \$83,867 FROM 2016 STATISTICS (MOST RECENT YEAR AVAILABLE)
 PROPERTY TAX RATES ARE FROM 2017



FOR AN EXCEL VERSION OF THESE STATISTICS,
 PLEASE EMAIL JONATHAN MARIN AT JMARIN@WALKER.CITY



KDL Library: Walker Branch

VISIT KDL.ORG FOR PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS



- An out-of-this-world reading program for K-3rd graders with prizes.
- Help children learn to love reading and meet new Read by Grade Three requirements.
- Every completer wins a book and a new tablet reader!
- Visit any KDL Branch to sign up and prepare for blast off!

Here's how it works

Mission: Read helps beginning readers in kindergarten through third grade read at grade level and advance to fourth grade.

We're inviting young, beginning readers (kindergarten through third grade) to come with us on a trip that's out of this world! The mission is to read for 1,000 days before 6th grade. 1,000 days sounds like a lot—and it is—but Mission: Read makes it fun!

Readers will never be told what books to read and never have to set a timer. At the end of every day, they simply ask themselves, "Hey, did I read today?" If the answer is yes, they fill in a circle in their journal. Just like that, they'll be one day closer to the 1,000 day goal! They'll learn how easy it is to read every day and how it makes them a better reader. When reading becomes a daily habit, so many things become easier and more fun!

Follow these easy steps:

- Sign up at the public library.
- Receive a reading log and a solar system poster. For each day of reading, color in a circle on the reading log. Any reading during the day counts.
- After reading for 100 days, come to the library for a planet sticker. Make sure to come back every 100 days of reading to get another sticker—collect the entire solar system of planets.
- After 500 days, pick out a free book to keep.
- And finally, after 1,000 days, receive a tablet reader!

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS AT THE WALKER BRANCH

Let It Snow

Your favorite winter reading program for adults is back for 2019! Adults who participate and read a minimum of six books between Jan. 2 and March 31, will receive a ceramic prize mug. Read or listen to four more titles by March 31 and be entered into a drawing to win an iPad or one-year Costco membership. The drawing will be done April 9.

Summer Reading

Summer reading will start June 11 and we will have some really great programs. Stay tuned on our Facebook Page for more information.

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 am & 10:45 am

Family Storytime

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

Mondays at 6:30 pm

Thursdays at 10:30 am

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 am

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 am



@KDLWalker

Save the Dates

KDL Summer Fun Kick-off Carnival

Monday, June 10 at 4:30 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



Walker Standale Summer Concert Series

June 13, July 11 and August 8

Join the community for an open air concert in the park. Featuring local bands, this FREE family event is from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs.

Location: Walker Community Park



Walker Pumpkin Bash

Saturday, October 5 at 1:30 pm

Bring the kids down to Walker City Hall for pumpkins, fall treats, traveling farm animals, trick or treating and more!

Location: Walker City Hall Complex



Walker Winter Fest

Thursday, December 5 at 5:30 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?

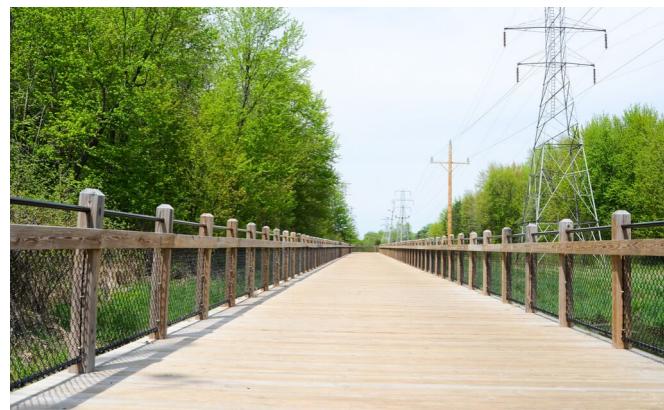
Our events are made possible by the generous donations of our sponsors. Community events are the perfect opportunity for your business to gain exposure within the Walker/Standale neighborhoods and become involved with your local community! Email Kendra Belk at kbelk@walker.city for a sponsorship packet.

Fred Meijer Standale Trail Update

BY 2ND WARD COMMISSIONER CAROL GLANVILLE

Thanks to our many followers on Facebook who help advocate for the trail and share information with the community. In response to some questions we've received about winter trail availability: The City of Walker only maintains a short stretch during the winter from Lake Michigan Drive south to Sunset primarily for city access needs. While this may leave some runners 'out in the cold', it makes for fantastic snowshoeing or cross-country skiing without the hassle of packing up your gear or paying access fees at local golf courses.

As we look ahead to spring, we have a lot of exciting ideas for trail season, and our next meeting will be our main planning session for the coming year. We're always looking for community members to share thoughts, help organize, and promote the trail. Join our Facebook group to stay informed about upcoming trail meetings.



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



Walker Ice & Fitness Center

WWW.WALKERICEANDFITNESS.COM



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! Come in today!



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!



Tanning Special:

Our Tanning Punch Cards are now \$10 off. That's just \$33 for 10 visits! Just in time for Spring Break! Remember to always tan responsibly. Offer expires 4/30/2019.



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. HAWK has received funding from SpartanNash, Kraft Hockeyville and the Standale family fare – it was one of only three associations in the US to be awarded this money. The majority is being used towards scholarship programs, with the reminder going towards on-ice equipment for the kids.

Tryouts for the 2019-20 season are in April-May. For more information, please visit hawhockey.net

Between HAWK, our Learn to Skate/Play Hockey programs, Cross Ice, games, practices and tournaments, the WIFC Ice Arena will have thousands of people come through its doors on a weekly basis to enjoy the great sport of hockey!

Learn to Skate/Play Hockey session 4 begins on March 9. Learn more at www.walkericeandfitness.com



@WalkerIceFitness



@WalkerIceandFitness

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, Pickleball Court, Newly Updated Playground



City Central

Bathroom Facility, Playground, Volleyball Courts, Tennis Court, Fishing Pond, Basketball Courts, Pickleball Court, Ball Fields, Incline 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.



Spring Coed Youth Soccer

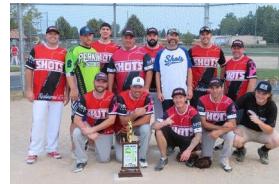
Registrations: February 1 – 28, 2019

5-6 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



2019 Adult Softball Leagues

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 will begin March 25, 2019.

Register online at www.walkericeandfitness.com or in person at the Walker Ice & Fitness Center.



April 13, 2019

Save the Date: Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Make sure to mark your calendar and save the date for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt. It will take place at Walker Ice & Fitness Center outside on April 13, 2019. Be sure to arrive on time as the hunt begins promptly at 11:00 a.m.



May 27, 2019

Save the Date: Memorial Day Parade

Save the date for the City of Walker's Memorial Day Parade on May 27, 2019. Parade starts at noon. More details to be posted on our Facebook event page.

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 DESCHAIN

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

CAROL GLANVILLE

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

THIRD WARD COMMISSIONER:

ELAINA 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 C. 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

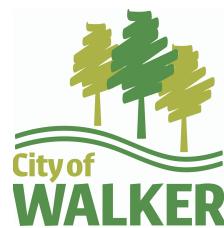
P: 791-6852 E: DDEVRIES@WALKER.CITY

HR DIRECTOR: SHANNON BALES

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

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER: KENDRA BELK

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



L to R: City Clerk Sarah Bydalek, Commissioners Steven Gilbert, Carol Glanville, and Melanie Grooters, Mayor Gary Carey, Commissioners Sandra Howland, Roxanne Deschaine and Dan Kent, Assistant City Manager Frank Wash and City Manager Darrel Schmalzel



Like us on Facebook @ CityofWalkerMI



Follow us on Twitter @ CityofWalkerMI



Connect on LinkedIn @ City of Walker, MI



Scan me