

WALKER City News

FALL 2002

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You can always log-on for more information:



www.ci.walker.mi.us

POLLING LOCATIONS

November 5, 2002

In order to vote in the November 5, 2002 election, you must have registered by October 7, 2002. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the following locations:

WARD	PRECINCT	LOCATION/ADDRESS
01	001	FAIRVIEW SCHOOL; 2396 HILLSIDE NW, WALKER
01	002	FIRE STATION #3 Upstairs; 1470 3 MILE NW, WALKER
01	003	FIRE STATION #3 Downstairs; 1470 3 MILE NW, WALKER
02	001	KENOWA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL; 4252 3 MILE NW, WALKER
02	002	WALKER STATION SCHOOL; 3971 RICHMOND NW, WALKER
02	003	WALKER MEADOWS RET. VILLAGE; 1101 WILSON NW, WALKER
03	001	FIRE STATION #2; 4211 LAKE MICHIGAN DR NW, WALKER
03	002	CUMMINGS SCHOOL; 4261 SCHOOLCRAFT SW, WALKER
03	003	STANDALE BAPTIST CHURCH; 3714 LAKE MICHIGAN DR. NW



Fire Department News

— Holiday Safety Tips —



The holiday season is fast approaching and although this is a time of great joy and excitement, it is also a time of extra dangers from fire. To keep your holiday season joyful, we would like to take a few moments to offer some very important safety tips.

Christmas, Hanukkah, and New Year's are undoubtedly the highlights of the holiday season. Gatherings of people, food, drink, fancy clothing, candles, decorations and the fireplace are all part of these events. Holiday safety should be part of our planning when preparing for these festive days.

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Fire Department News

— Automatic Aid Agreement Established —

The Walker Fire Department and the Wright/Tallmadge Fire Department (WTFD) have developed an Automatic Aid Agreement and the City of Walker, Wright Township and Tallmadge Township have approved the agreement.

This agreement is an extension of the Mutual Aid agreement that exists between all the fire departments in the Walker area. In the event of a structure fire or possible structure fire in the area of our City south of O'Brien WTFD will immediately be notified and dispatched to respond with a tanker and a pumper. In the event of a structure fire or possible structure fire in the area of our City north of O'Brien and west of Kinney WTFD will immediately be notified and dispatched to respond with a pumper.

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Income Tax Department

— Estimated Payments Reminder —



The fourth quarter estimated payment for 2002 Walker Income Tax is due January 31, 2003.

If you owe more than \$100 with your 2002 return due April 30, 2003 and you do not pay in at least 70% of your current or prior year liability, you will be receiving a bill for penalty and interest.

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Mayoral Message:

Dear Citizens of Walker,

I would like to take this opportunity to keep you informed about several items concerning our City. Thank you to those who completed and returned the survey that was contained in the last newsletter. We have not yet received the results of the survey, but Grand Valley State University reports that the response to the survey was good. We will share the results of the survey in a future newsletter. The City Commission looks forward to reviewing the observations

of the residents concerning the issues identified in the survey.

As you may know, the City Commission authorized the hiring of three fulltime firefighters who work 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday. The 8 to 5 shift was the most difficult for the City to staff with paid on call firefighters.

The Personnel Committee recently met with the Fire Chief Schmidt to evaluate the integration of these firefighters after the initial three-month period. I am pleased to report that the initial review was very positive. The presence of the full time firefighters has reduced the response time from 8.5 minutes to less than 4 minutes in the district where the firefighters are located. In the other two districts the response time has also been reduced depending on the travel distance. The three full time firefighters have also been valuable in a number of other capacities including training, maintenance, and visits to construction sites, schools, and businesses.

We have also made progress on fire protection coverage for the southern portion of the City. The Commission approved an Automatic Aid Agreement with the Wright/Tallmadge Fire Department. The primary benefit of this agreement will be the immediate notification and dispatch of the Wright/Tallmadge Fire Department with a tanker to the area of the City south of O'Brien Road whenever there is a reported or possible structure fire. This will reduce the response time of the Wright/Tallmadge Fire Department by 3 to 4 minutes because under current procedure our Department must make a radio request when we respond to the call. This agreement provides enhanced fire protection to the area of our City that does not have a public water system.

I thank all who participated in the 9-11 ceremonies at City Hall and at the Deltaplex. The Deltaplex ceremony was organized by many groups of individuals such as the City of Walker Police and Fire Departments, Walker Police Volunteers, Walker Community Volunteer Services Committee, Standard Federal Bank and the Walker Police Chaplaincy. We are very grateful for their efforts. These events remind us of the sacrifices made by others, and our responsibilities as citizens of this Nation. As President Bush stated in his Patriot Day proclamation: "We will always remember our collective obligation to ensure that justice is done, that freedom prevails, and that the principles upon which our Nation was founded endure."

I would like to congratulate Mayor Pro Tem Barb Holt who was recently elected Trustee of the Michigan Municipal League and Secretary of the Michigan Women in Municipal Government. Also, Sgt. Herb Hunt is retiring after 30 years of service. We are fortunate and very grateful to Sgt. Hunt for his many years of dedicated service.

Once again, we encourage you to contact us if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Have a wonderful fall season!

City Commission:

CITY HALL

453-6311

MAYOR

Rob VerHeulen — 784-1936; rverheul@ci.walker.mi.us

FIRST WARD COMMISSIONERS:

Al Parent — 784-2860; aparent@ci.walker.mi.us

Dan Kent — 784-5591; dkent@ci.walker.mi.us

SECOND WARD COMMISSIONERS:

Art Tanis — 453-0392; atanis@ci.walker.mi.us

Barbara Holt — 784-5327; bholt@ci.walker.mi.us

THIRD WARD COMMISSIONERS:

Cynthia Stek — 791-9381; cstek@ci.walker.mi.us

Steven Versluis — 791-9247

City Services:

CLERK'S OFFICE

Hours: M- F — 8:00 am - 5:00 p.m.

Sandra A. Wisniewski, CMC — 791-6893

ASSESSORS OFFICE

Phone: (616) 791-6862 — KGibbs@ci.walker.mi.us

BUILDING/ZONING DEPARTMENT

Phone: 791-6858

CITY MANAGER

James Hatch

Phone: 791-6860 — JHatch@ci.walker.mi.us

Cathy Vander Meulen

Phone: 791-6859 — CVanderm@ci.walker.mi.us

DISTRICT COURT - 59th

Hours: M- F — 8:00 am - 5:00 p.m.

Judge Peter P. Versluis — 453-5765

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

City Engineer: Scott C. Conners, P.E. — sconners@ci.walker.mi.us

Phone: 791-6792

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Phone: 791-6799 — CMielke@ci.walker.mi.us

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief: William Schmidt — BSchmidt@ci.walker.mi.us

Phone: 791-6840

INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT

Phone: 791-6880 — jblok@ci.walker.mi.us

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Phone: 791-6890 — MKneibel@ci.walker.mi.us

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Phone: 791-6787 — DSchmalz@ci.walker.mi.us

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Phone: 791-6812

PUBLIC WORKS

Phone: 791-6854

MKoning@ci.walker.mi.us or TCritten@ci.walker.mi.us

TREASURER'S OFFICE

Phone: 791-6861 — DDevries@ci.walker.mi.us

UPCOMING WINTER ATTRACTIONS AT THE WALKER LIBRARY

A variety of activities will be offered for all ages this winter at the Library. Take a look and mark your calendar!

JUVENILE PROGRAMMING

CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS PARTY:

Saturday, November 9 at 11:00 am

Join us for an hour of Fun-O-Rama and play Captain Underpants' favorite games. Refreshments will be prepared by the Naughty Cafeteria Ladies! Ages 6 and up. Please register.

FAMILY BOOK CLUB:

Saturday, November 9 at 11:00 am

Families are invited to read a book together and join us at the library for refreshments and lots of good book talk. The featured title will be Sarah, Plain and Tall by MacLachan. Please pick up your copy at the checkout desk.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY STORYTIME:

Saturday, December 21 at 11:00 pm

Moose and reindeer stories will be featured along with holiday treats. Please register.

CHRISTMAS BREAK PROGRAMS:

Check the Library Program Calendar for Curious George and more!

LAPTIME and STORYTIME:

Registrations will be taken in December for the sessions that will begin in January.

ADULT PROGRAMMING

BOOK DISCUSSION:

Second Tuesday of the month at 10:00 am in the library.

Join us for an informal but lively discussion of interesting titles!

LET IT SNOW — Kick off celebration:

Thursday, November 21 at 7:00 pm

Held at St. Cecilia Music Society.

Please call the Walker Library at our **new phone number, 647-3970**, for additional information. The Library is open Monday through Saturday.

DON'T BE AFRAID TO CALL

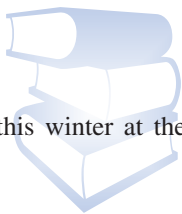
As the summer is winding down and the school days are setting in, we would like to provide some reminders for all.

First and foremost is our request for you to feel free to call us with any problems or questions you may have, regardless of how trivial you may believe them to be. Please remember, without your assistance and support our job is that much more difficult. We depend on you to be our extra set of "eyes and ears" on a daily basis. All of our efforts hinge on the willingness of our citizens to call us. When you place a call of an incident in progress our Emergency Communication Operator will inquire on some basic information (suspect descriptions, description of a property that the suspect is violating, suspect vehicle descriptions, etc.) while dispatching police units to the scene. Remember, your anonymity can be honored in most circumstances if you feel reluctant to call us.

Our night shift patrol had the following experience as relayed by Sergeant Greg Long: "Just recently our dispatch center received a call from a resident in one of our apartment complexes, who was witnessing numerous individuals breaking into parked vehicles. The citizen continued to update our dispatch with the suspects' movements and location within the complex. All this was accomplished while the caller remained in the safety of their residence. With the information provided, responding police units were able to apprehend three suspects, who had attempted to flee upon our arrival. Subsequent to these individuals' arrest, thousands of dollars in previously stolen property was recovered and returned to the rightful owners.

In addition, it was learned upon interrogating the suspects, that these same individuals had been committing similar thefts in neighboring jurisdictions, causing great concern for many police agencies and their citizens. It was through this cooperative effort that a successful conclusion was achieved, thereby ending the ongoing criminal activities of these suspects."

This is just an example of what can be accomplished with a joint effort approach to community policing in our city. So please feel free to contact us with any of your questions or concerns, day or night (we're open 24/7 for your convenience!). Have a safe and happy Fall season.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Winter is just around the corner. This would be a good time to check the condition of your mailbox and post. Make sure the post is sturdy and that it will hold up to the heavy snow load that comes off the snow plow blade. If the post or mailbox is not in good condition, the heavy snow load will take a mailbox down easily. Occasionally, our operators will hit a mailbox. If you feel that the plow hit your mailbox and damaged it, call the Department of Public Works at 791-6854.

The City of Walker Mailbox Replacement policy is: Any mailbox damaged by snow as a result of plowing or scraping the roadway, is the responsibility of the property owner. When the mailbox is damaged by direct contact with our equipment, the Department of Public Works will:

- a.) Repair, if possible, or;
- b.) Replace with a standard mailbox and post, or;
- c.) 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.

We would also like to remind the parents of school age children of a safety issue with the snow plow trucks. When the children are waiting for a bus by the road, please have them stay back and give the snowplow plenty of room. When the snow is coming off the plow, it may throw ice chunks and other debris that was in the road. This is the biggest concern of our operators. They watch very carefully for these children. Most of them have children too. We do not want to see any of the children get hurt.

Access more information @ www.ci.walker.mi.us

2002 LEAF RECYCLING PROGRAM

This year the Leaf Recycling Program will be located at Walker City Hall, 4243 Remembrance Rd. N.W. The same place as Walker Clean Up Days. The dates will be:

Monday thru Friday

October 28, 2002 thru November 22, 2002 — 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Wednesdays: 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

5 Saturdays, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.:

October 26, 2002, November 2, 2002, November 9, 2002, November 16, 2002 & November 23, 2002

Biodegradable bags will be made available to purchase at the Public Works office 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday. Also, we will sell the bags at the site on Wednesday nights and Saturdays. The cost will be 10 bags for \$2.50.

To speed up the leaf drop off, we encourage the use of the biodegradable bags. No plastic will be accepted. The resident will have to dump their leaves out of the plastic bags.

We will also be accepting brush at these locations and running them through a chipper. No minimum length required.

Proof of Walker residency will be required. Our offices are located at 4243 Remembrance Rd. N.W. directly across from the Library entrance. For questions, please call 791-6854.

WALKER RECREATION DEPARTMENT

SOCCER SIGN-UPS

For boys and girls 7-12 years of age. The cost is \$18.00 per player. The season will begin in April. Registration forms will be sent home with students at area schools. Contact the Recreation Department in January for registration dates and times.

GIRL'S SOFTBALL SIGN-UPS

For girls 7-12 years of age. The cost is \$25.00 per player. The season will begin in April. Registration forms will be sent home with students at area schools. Contact the Recreation Department in January for registration dates and times.

PUBLIC SKATING TIMES:

All times are subject to change.

Please call in advance to confirm times.

Open Skating times include:

Mondays 12:00 noon
Wednesdays 12:00 noon
Fridays 12:00 noon & 8:00 pm
Saturdays 2:00 pm
Sundays 2:00 pm

Drop-In Hockey times include:

Tuesdays 12 noon
Wednesdays 10:30 pm
Thursdays 12 noon

Senior Skating times include:

Tuesdays 9:00 am

Freestyle Skating times include:

Tuesdays 6:00 am
Thursdays 6:00 am

Upcoming Ice Programs:

Learn to Skate Nov. 2
Saturdays 9-9:50 am

Learn to Play Hockey Nov. 2
Saturdays 10-10:50 am

Party Packages:

We offer Birthday Party and Group Packages starting at \$5.49 per person.

Call the Walker Ice & Fitness Center at 735-6286 to schedule your party!

AEROBICS CLASSES

The Walker Recreation Department will be offering low-impact regular and step aerobics classes for men and women. Classes will begin the week of December 2, 2002.

Classes will be held at the Community Building/Fire Station #3, located at 1470 Three Mile Rd., N.W. and run for 10 (ten) weeks.

Regular aerobics will be offered on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Cost for once a week is \$20.00 and twice a week is \$32.00.

Step aerobics will be offered on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Cost for once a week is \$22.00 and twice a week is \$38.00. Steps will be provided.

Pre-registration is required for the classes. To register, send your name, address, business and home phone numbers, choice of class, along with your check or money order payable to:

WALKER RECREATION DEPARTMENT,
4243 REMEMBRANCE RD., N.W.
WALKER, MI 49544

The deadline for registration is Monday, November 25, 2002.

For further information call 791-6890.

LIGHTHOUSE PLACE SHOPPING TRIP

The Walker Recreation Department is offering a bus trip to Lighthouse Place Outlet Mall in Michigan City, Indiana. There are over 120 popular name brand stores. You can be sure you will find just what you are looking for at Lighthouse Place.

The trip will be on Saturday, October 26, 2002. The bus will leave from Walker City Hall at 8:00 a.m. The cost for the bus trip is \$28.00 per person. This will include donuts and juice to be served on the bus. Lunch and dinner will be on your own.

Seating is limited and reservations will be taken on a first come first served basis. To register for the trip, send your name, address, business and home phone numbers, along with your check or money order made payable to:

WALKER RECREATION DEPARTMENT,
4243 REMEMBRANCE RD., N.W.
WALKER, MI 49544

For further information please call 791-6890.

FREE

**14 DAY
TRIAL MEMBERSHIP!***
Do You Qualify?*

TRY before you buy!

The BEST fitness facility in the area and we want to prove it!

**NO hidden costs. Nothing to pay, just bring in THIS coupon
with your work-out clothes!**

*QUALIFICATIONS:

- No previous applications within 1 years time
- Limit of 2 trial memberships per household

- Grand Rapids area resident
- 21 years of age or older
- Show a valid Michigan I.D.

SENIOR CITIZENS

The Walker Recreation Department invites all senior citizens to come and join the Walker Senior Citizens. They meet every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at Walker Fire Station 3 on Three Mile Rd. NW. Social hour is from 10:30 am - 11:30 pm with a meeting immediately following from 11:30 am to 12:00 noon. There is a potluck lunch at 12:00 noon. There is entertainment such as speakers, cards, bingo and trips planned every month. Come join the fun.

For more information contact the Walker Recreation Department at 791-6890.

2003 SENIOR CITIZEN'S BOWLING TOURNAMENT

The Walker Recreation Department is having their 12th annual Senior citizen's bowling tournament for men and women 55 years of age and over. The tournament will be held at Lincoln Country Club, 3485 Lake Michigan Drive N.W. On Thursday, January 16 and Friday, January 17, 2003. The cost will be \$8.00 for 3 games of bowling. Pre-registration is required.

Entry blanks will be available at all area bowling centers.

Deadline for registration is Thursday, January 2, 2003. For further information call the Walker Recreation Department at 791-6890.

CORNWELL'S DINNER THEATRE BUS TRIP

The Walker Recreation Department is offering a bus trip to Cornwell's Dinner Theatre in Turkeyville, Michigan for the new musical revue, "Christmas Memories." Come join us as we relive favorite memories, sing carols, and enjoy the spirit of the holidays with this touching all new musical revue.

The trip will be on Friday, December 6, 2002. The bus will leave from Walker City Hall at 9:00 a.m. The total cost for the bus trip is \$ 50.00. This includes bus ride, theatre ticket, and buffet turkey dinner.


After visiting the buffet, complete with roast turkey, dressing, potatoes, gravy, fresh baked rolls, a second turkey entrée, and vegetables, you will have your choice of three desserts. You will then enjoy the wonderful Cornwell matinee that will help to make your Christmas season so special. Join us for a unique traditional celebration you'll be talking about for years to come.

Seating is limited and reservations will be taken on a first come first served basis. To register for the trip, send your name, address, business and home phone numbers, along with your check or money order made payable to:

WALKER RECREATION DEPARTMENT,
4243 REMEMBRANCE RD., N.W.
WALKER, MI 49544

The deadline for registration is Monday, November 25, 2002. For further information please call 791-6890.

DETROIT RED WINGS BUS TRIP



The Walker Recreation Department is offering a bus trip to a Detroit Red Wings hockey game. The Red Wings will play the Buffalo Sabres. The game will be on Thursday, February 13, 2003 in Detroit. The bus will leave from Walker City Hall, at 4243 Remembrance Road N.W., at 3:30 p.m., loading will begin at 3:15 p.m. The cost for the bus trip will be \$85.00 per person. This will include a box dinner and drink to be served on the bus. Dinner will be a sub sandwich from Subway, a bag of chips, a cookie, and a drink.

As an added incentive, a ticket for the March 22 "Super 6" Championship College Hockey Tournament game will be included in the price. Transportation is on your own for the game on March 22.

Seating is limited and reservations will be taken on a first come first served basis. To register for the trip, send your name, address, business and home phone numbers, along with your check or money order made payable to:

WALKER RECREATION DEPARTMENT,
4243 REMEMBRANCE RD., N.W.
WALKER, MI 49544

For further information please call the Recreation Department at 791-6890.

CAREGIVER TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Fire Station 3/Community Building; 1470 Three Mile Road; Walker, MI 49544

Refreshments Served, No charge to class participants.

October 24, 31 and November 7; 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

- Impact of stress on the caregiver
- Managing demands of caregiving
- Dealing with changes in relationships
- Why caregivers may feel angry or guilty and what to do about it
- Taking care of the caregiver
- Local and national resources
- Infection control
- Personal care
- Vital signs
- How to manage medications
- Safe wheelchair use
- Nutrition
- How to care for someone on bed rest
- Dementia/Alzheimer's Disease
- Fall prevention
- Fire safety

SPONSORED BY:

GERONTOLOGY NETWORK
516 Cherry Street, SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

To Register, or for more information, call:
Mary @ (616) 771 - 9732



THE WALKER POLICE DEPARTMENT SAFETY TIPS FOR HALLOWEEN TRICK-OR-TREATERS

As Halloween approaches, the Walker Police Department warns parents and caregivers that as with trick-or-treaters, Halloween's hazards to children also come in disguise.

“This holiday is a favorite for children who love to use their imagination and creativity,” said Chief Garcia-Lindstrom from the Walker Police Department. “By using the Walker Police Department's safety suggestions, consumers can help ensure that their little Halloween ghosts and goblins will have a bag of goodies to show for their fun and will not be haunted by unnecessary injuries.”

The Walker Police Department is releasing the following safety tips to ward off injuries and make this a safe Halloween.

1. Treats: Warn children not to eat any treats before an adult has inspected them carefully for evidence of tampering.
2. Costume Designs: Purchase or make your costumes from bright clearly visible materials.
3. Flame Resistant Costumes: When purchasing costumes, masks, beards, and wigs, look for the label “Flame Resistant.” Although this label does not mean these items won't catch fire, it does indicate the items will resist burning and should extinguish quickly.
4. Open flames from items such as candles and jack-o-lanterns can ignite materials from flammable costumes. So to minimize the risk of contact with candles and other fire sources, avoid costumes made with big, baggy sleeves or billowing skirts.
5. For greater visibility during darkness, decorate or trim costumes with reflective tape that will glow in the dark. Bags or sacks also should glow or have reflective material. Reflective tape is normally found in hardware stores or bike shops.
6. Masks and make-up: Children wearing masks should make sure it has a proper fit and the eyeholes are large enough to see through.
7. Halloween-related injuries may involve eye abrasions from sharp objects attached to masks or costumes.
8. Skin irritations or rashes from decorative face paints or creams.
9. Safety: Children should carry flashlights to see easier and to aid in being seen.
10. Don't trick or treat alone, besides it's more fun with a friend!
11. Mother's high heels are not safe for walking across the streets in case a car is coming.
12. Extra good stuff: Children should wear comfortable shoes.
13. Keep hats and scarves away from their eyes.
14. Swords, knives, and similar costume accessories should be made of soft, flexible material.

Have a safe and Happy Halloween!

DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS

As the fall hunting season approaches, please be advised that Section 50-63 of the City Code of Ordinances regulates the discharge of firearms in the City. The discharge of firearms is prohibited within the area bounded by Interstate 96 on the north, Lake Michigan Drive on the south, and the city limits on the east and west. Also, within the area bounded by O'Brien Road on the south, Lake Michigan Drive on the north, Wilson Avenue on the west, and Sunset Hills Avenue on the east. Only those residents in the above areas with valid permits from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources are allowed to discharge a slug load with a shotgun provided it occurs at least 500 feet from any building and 300 feet from any public roadway.

In areas outside of those listed above, the discharge of a shotgun (subject to certain provisions) is permitted if it occurs at least 500 feet from any building and 300 feet from any public roadway. If you have any questions about these regulations, please contact the City offices.

INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT

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Estimated Payments Reminder

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 2002 return, contact the Income Tax Department at 791-6880. We will send you 2002 Quarterly Estimated payment vouchers with instructions.

2002 Returns

Who must file: Every resident or part-year resident of Walker (this includes renters) who have taxable income in 2002 of \$750 or more must file a return. Married persons may file either a joint return or separate returns. There seems to be quite a bit of confusion, especially among renters, over whether or not they are Walker residents. All Walker addresses have Grand Rapids mailing addresses which adds to the confusion. Visit the following link on the Walker website to check whether your address is within the city limits of Walker. Walker street directory: <http://www.ci.walker.mi.us/Services/Assessor/StreetDirectory.html>

Employer Withholding

A company is required to withhold Walker income tax from an employee's pay if the company has a location in the City of Walker. A company must also withhold Walker tax if they are doing business in the City of Walker even though the company has no location in the city. Companies outside of the City of Walker are not required to withhold Walker tax but may voluntarily do so as a convenience to their employees. Call Nancy at 791-6869 to request a New Employer Package.



FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

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Below are a few suggestions to make your holiday season remembered for it's joyfulness and not for it's tragedy. A Few Suggestions:

- Be sure to test all of your smoke detectors.
- Have a working fire extinguisher in the home.
- Clean the oven and stove prior to the holiday. Often the extra load on these appliances causes a fire due to the higher use and grease build-up.
- Keep kitchen clutter away from the stove and oven.
- Be extra careful with matches and candles.
- Avoid loose fitting clothing. Clothing often catches on fire around candles, matches, fireplaces and stoves (both electric and gas).
- Keep decorations away from sources of heat such as open flames, electric heaters and exposed electric light bulbs.
- Don't overload electric outlets. Inspect electrical cords and light sets. If in doubt throw them away.

Christmas Trees

- Keep your Christmas tree in a sturdy base filled with water and check the water level daily!
- Make a fresh cut on the trunk of your tree before placing it in the base.
- Make sure that the tree is kept away from all heat sources such as fireplaces and heaters.
- Never use candles on or near the tree.
- Dispose of your tree before it becomes dangerously dry, and never burn the tree or tree parts in your fireplace.

Christmas Lights

- Purchase only "UL" approved lights.
- Check all indoor and outdoor lights for frayed cords, replace if necessary.
- Never use lights that have an empty socket.
- Lights should not touch combustible materials.
- Use only outdoor lights for "outdoors".
- NEVER leave lights on unattended. Turn off all Christmas lights when leaving the house or going to bed.
- Mini lights are the safest because they produce less heat.
- Avoid using extension cords, but if you do, follow the instructions carefully.
- Do not overload electrical circuits, such as wall outlets and extension cords, use a surge strip.
- NEVER run extension cords under rugs or carpeting. This can lead to the cord wearing out and causing a short.

The Walker Fire Department would like extend to you best wishes for a safe and happy Holiday Season.

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AUTOMATIC AID AGREEMENT ESTABLISHED

In return, if there is a structure fire or possible structure fire in the WTFD area south of Cleveland, east of 24th Avenue to their south border the Walker Fire Department will immediately be notified and dispatched to respond with a pumper.

This procedure will reduce the response time for both the Walker Fire Department and the WTFD by 3 to 4 minutes because under the current procedure we must make a request for assistance over the radio when we are responding to the call. This agreement between both fire departments will be utilized when a call for a structure fire or possible structure fire is received by either fire department.

FALL OPEN BURNING SEASON IS HERE!

The fall burning season will begin shortly. Please remember that you must have a burning permit to burn. If you intend on burning, you must obtain a permit from City Hall. If you have a permit from the spring season it is still valid for the fall season. Below are some rules and regulations that must be followed when burning.

- The burning season runs from October 15 thru November 15.
- Burning is only allowed on Mondays, Wednesdays & Saturdays.
- You must notify the City every time you plan to burn by calling 453-6311 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. You must call on Friday to receive permission to burn on Saturday.
- No commercial burning (contractors, businesses, clearing land, etc.) is allowed within the City limits at any time.
- Open burning must be supervised and kept under control by an adult who remains at the site of the fire at all times. An adult's presence at the site is required until the fire is completely extinguished and no longer smoldering.
- Fire extinguishing equipment must be readily available at the site of the fire. A supply of water must also be available in the immediate vicinity of the fire.
- The burning site must be at least 50 feet from any building or overhead wires.
- No open burning is permitted in any public street.
- Open burning is not permitted in ditches or drainage courses other than the burning of natural vegetation growing therein.
- No burning of garbage, rubbish or any other solid waste.
- No burning in trash barrels or other containers.
- No burning one hour before sunrise or one hour after sunset.
- No burning is allowed when the wind is in excess of 10 mph.
- Materials to be burned must be dry and readily combustible.
- Fires must be kept small and its emission must be clear and odor free. NO black smoke is permitted.
- Burning permits must be renewed every year.

It is important that you be considerate of your neighbors. If the smoke from your fire is creating a problem for your neighbors, especially a health problem, you may be asked to extinguish your fire even if you are in compliance with the ordinance. This judgment is left up to the responding officer, if they are investigating a complaint.

Each year, the Walker Fire Department answers numerous complaints regarding burning. The department's response to these complaints creates unnecessary expense to the City. The City wishes to continue with its burning permit program for the convenience of residents. However, if there is misuse or abuse of burning permits, the City will have to review its permit policy and may have to adopt a no-burning policy as many other area communities already have. By following the rules and regulations above and using some consideration for your neighbors, hopefully we can have a successful burning season.

"YOUR" NEWSLETTER!

We value your communication. You may contact us with your comments or suggestions for "Your" newsletter at any time.

CITY OF WALKER

Attn.: Newsletter
4243 Remembrance Road NW, Walker MI 49544
Phone: (616) 791-6860
E-Mail: newsletter@ci.walker.mi.us

Also let us know if you need to correct your mailing address or need to add a new resident to our current list of recipients.

Thank you!

CITY OF WALKER

4243 Remembrance Road NW
Walker MI 49544

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 www.ci.walker.mi.us 

Fire Department News



In response to President Bush's proclamation, City of Walker residents and staff commemorated September 11th, 2001, with a short memorial service. Leading the ceremony with their inspirational words were Mayor Rob VerHeulen and Pastor Curry Pikkart.

On behalf of the Walker Fire Department, Chief Bill Schmidt accepted an "American Spirit Flag" made by Walker resident Sharon VanWeelde. Sharon is a member of the American Sewing Guild, Grand Rapids Chapter. As part of a nationwide project, Joann Fabrics donated the materials and asked citizens to donate their flags to their local fire department. Walker's flag will be displayed in the Public Safety Building. **Many thanks Sharon!**

The City of Walker staff would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and kind words in response to the tragic events of September 11, 2001. We continue to work on your behalf to ensure a safe and secure community.

City of Walker Fire Department Receives New Fire Truck



The City of Walker Fire Department has just taken delivery of a new aerial fire truck. The truck consists of a Spartan chassis, an RK 75-foot ladder, and a Quality Manufacturing Inc. body. This new truck replaces a 1972, Ford with a 55-foot ladder. The firefighters have had advanced training on the new truck and it was placed in service September 9, 2002. The new truck is designed to carry 500 gallons of water, 1000 feet of 5" diameter supply hose, 2-200 foot 1 3/4 inch pre-connected attack fire hoses, a 100 foot, 1 3/4 inch hose in the front, and a 200 foot 2 1/2 inch pre-connected attack hose. This multi-functional truck will be stationed at Walker Fire Department Station #1 located at 4343 Remembrance Road. This truck was designed with large compartments to hold the large amount of equipment necessary for a multi-functional fire truck. We wish to thank the Walker City Commission, and the City Manger for purchasing this truck to protect the lives and property of the citizens and visitors of the City of Walker. We would also like to say a special thank you to the members of the Apparatus Committee that worked long and hard to put this fire truck specification together you did a great job. **Thank you!!!!**



Meeting Dates and Times

City Commission Meetings

8:00 pm: 2nd & 4th Monday of each month.
Walker City Hall/Commission Chambers

Board of Zoning Appeals

7:00 pm: 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month to hear appeals on the city's zoning regulations.
City Commission Chambers

Planning Commission

7:00 pm: 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month to make recommendations regarding land use planning and zoning concerns.
City Hall, City Commission Chambers

Recreation Committee

Meets one Wednesday of each month.
City Hall Conference Room

Historical Committee

Meets 1st Monday of every month to discuss museum displays and preservation of artifacts.
Walker Museum

Community Relations Committee

Meets 3rd Wednesday of every month to discuss City fairs, festivals and awards to be given for special achievements in the community.

International Relations Committee

7:00 pm: 2nd Wednesday of the month to discuss Sister City school exchange program with Colac, Australia.

Mineral Mining Review Board

Meetings as needed. Reviews applications for mineral extraction in the City.

Traffic Committee

Meetings as needed. Discussion on transportation matters brought by residents.

