



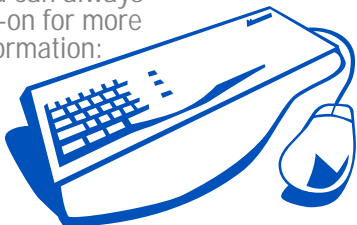
WALKER City News

SUMMER 2002

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You can always log-on for more information:



www.ci.walker.mi.us

FALL ARTS & CRAFT SHOW



The Walker Recreation Department will be having its 12th Annual Fall Arts & Craft Show on Saturday, October 12, 2002 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The show will be at Kenowa Hills Intermediate School, located at 4252 Three Mile Road, N.W. There will be a wide variety of finely crafted items. Food concessions will be available. For further information, please call the Walker Recreation Department at 791-6890.

Fire Department News — Make Your Home Safe From Fire —



The following information has been gathered by the Walker Fire Department to help you with your home safety.

Why Do Home Fires Happen?

Carelessness causes fires. People just don't pay attention to the little details of safety. Some people are negligent and reckless with things they know are dangerous.

Ignorance causes fires. Some people simply don't know how to use fire safely. They have not been taught about fire hazards and what they can do to prevent a fire. Most importantly, they don't know what to do in an emergency that involves a fire. Ignorance concerning fire safety is one problem the Walker Fire Department can overcome through public education.

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Police Department News — Warmer Weather Is Here... —



With the onset of summer, some Police Departments notice an increase in crime related to the warmer weather. During this time of year, we traditionally see an increase in crimes that are a result of an opportunity presented to someone because of an open door or window. In addition, there is a substantial increase in general nuisance complaints like loud music, barking dogs, and disorderly persons. Therefore, we ask citizens to help us by taking away the easy opportunities that criminals capitalize on (such as leaving the garage door open, bicycle on the front lawn, etc.), and we ask that residents be conscious of their behavior and how it may affect their neighbors.

...continued on page five



Mayoral Message:

Dear Citizens of Walker,

On behalf of the City Commission, I am requesting your assistance in shaping our future as a City. We are asking for your help as we engage in the planning process for the future.

Contained in this newsletter is a survey. We have partnered with Grand Valley State University in an effort to

determine your views on a number of issues. You have elected the Commission to make decisions on your behalf. However, as elected officials we want to do everything in our power to make certain that we are making decisions consistent with public opinion. While we encourage your phone calls, letters, and visits to our meetings, we know that many of you do not have the time to make individual contact. Thus, we want to provide this tool so that everyone can participate by completing this very short survey.

We need to know how you feel about a full time fire department, recreational opportunities including the second sheet of ice, a community pool, our festival, and other matters which the Commission must address in the near future. The survey results will give your elected officials a much better sense of direction, provided a sufficient number of you participate.

We request that you take a few minutes, complete the survey, and return it to Grand Valley in the enclosed postage paid envelope by August 28th. Alternatively, feel free to drop the survey off at City Hall. **As an incentive and as part of our safety program, Home Depot has agreed to donate 1000 smoke detectors to the first 1000 residents who return the survey to City Hall.** While this requires a visit to City Hall, we urge you to take advantage of this opportunity and pick up your coupon for a free smoke detector.

On another front, we have adopted a budget for the next fiscal year which is approximately 5 percent lower than the previous budget. We want to extend our appreciation to the City Departments for their cost cutting efforts. Due to the general economic conditions our income tax revenues have decreased. Thus, we were required to make spending adjustments necessary to balance our budget. While we are committed to being good stewards of your money and do not want spend any more than is necessary to provide essential city services, we hope that the economic rebound will allow us to resume some of the necessary major capital improvements projects.

On behalf of the City Commission, I extend our best wishes for a safe summer season. We encourage you to contact us if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Rob VerHeulen

Have a safe summer!

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; sverslui@ci.walker.mi.us

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

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 TCritter@ci.walker.mi.us

TREASURER'S OFFICE

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

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECT

In the spring of 2002, the Historical Commission initiated efforts to save the Edison Centennial farmhouse located at the corner of Walker and Three Mile, from being razed for a new industrial park. The farmhouse, which was built in 1894, has a heritage rich in character just as the Edison family, which originally came to Walker in 1838.



Interestingly enough, the Centennial farm is not the original farm that was built on this section. The picture below shows a much older house that was estimated to have been built between 1841 and 1850. The family lived in this house until the 1890's when the new, much larger farmhouse was built directly in back of it. There is even an actual deed to this land that exists

that was signed by President John Tyler himself!

In 1880 the house that is on the southern part of the land was built. Although this is the older of the two homes still standing, it has lost its architectural and historical significance



because of the numerous additions to it. Arthur Edison even went to far as to comment sometime after the turn of the century "I should have built a new house for what I spent on all



the additions!" With the office and industrial development of the property taking place in 2002, this house will be taken down. The picture shown is a painting that gives a good view of the farm and its property when it was still a

working farm. The road shown near the bottom of the picture by the boy is actually Walker Avenue.

A unique character of the property is a rock in the front part of the property that upon closer inspection has the name of "Spring Hill Farm" carved into the granite. At one point, one of the Edison's actually ran an early mail-order flower business out of the basement of the giant homestead under the name of "Spring Hill". The top of the rock actually has two good-sized indentations in it. Thirsty travelers passing by on the old Walker Stagecoach Road used one of the troughs to quench their thirst. While the people filled their tin cup up, the other area of water was eagerly drank by their horses. Furthermore, one of the chores for the Edison children well into the twentieth century was to carry water in pails from the stream running out back.

Inside the massive thirty-four hundred square foot house, is a tremendous amount of original woodwork most of it in solid oak. Rooms in the house include living and eating quarters for the hired help, a parlor and library area complete with a safe built into the wall with the name of George W. Edison on the outside of it, as well as a full basement and a third floor with sloped ceilings and the original wood floor.

One of the barns on the property was recently dismantled painstakingly by hand. The twenty-four hundred square foot barn actually predates the farmhouse, although the date of its original construction is unknown. The barn will be reconstructed at a two hundred acre site outside of Kalamazoo, and will once again house livestock as its primary function.

The Historical Commission and City officials are currently exploring the options available to them, with one having the house become the permanent home of the Walker Historical Museum. Although the land was a working farm for well over a hundred years and up until 2002 provided family and neighbors with various crops, the character of the site continues to grow as time passes on and the Historical Commission is proud to be involved in the efforts in the preservation of a beautiful Walker landmark.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION UPDATES

The Historical Commission is currently involved in the following efforts to preserve the proud history of our one hundred and sixty five year old community:

- The Edison House Preservation Project. Estimated completion is August - September of 2003.
- The "Remembrances" Book Project. Estimated completion has been pushed into the fall of 2003.
- The Historical Museum Records and Archive Project. Estimated completion is January 2003.

The Museum is in desperate need to fill its archives with old antiques, pictures, etc. If you are interested in donating items please call Gary Carey at 453-5851

We are also looking for an interested person to join the Historical Commission. The time commitment needed is approximately two to five hours a week, and involves night and weekend work. If you are interested in this rewarding experience, please stop into the City Clerks office for an application.

WALKER RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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, MICHIGAN 49544

The deadline for registration is October 11, 2002. For further information please call 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, MICHIGAN 49544

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

IN-LINE HOCKEY

YOUTH LEARN TO SKATE LESSONS

The Walker Recreation Department will be offering in-line hockey lessons for youth ages 6 years to 13 years of age. Classes will be offered on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays beginning August 26, 2002. If interested, please contact the recreation department at 791-6890.



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 September 9, 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 made payable to:

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

The deadline for registration is Friday, August 30, 2002.

For further information call 791-6890.

WALK-ER RUN

The Walker Recreation Department is sponsoring the 20th Annual WALK-ER RUN on Saturday, September 14, 2002, starting at 9:00 a.m. There will be a 10k road race and a 5k run/walk. The WALK-ER Run will begin and end at the Walker Ice and Fitness Center, 4151 Remembrance Rd., N.W.

The registration fee is \$16.00 paid on or before September 13 BEFORE NOON, or \$21.00 on September 14. There is a \$2.00 additional charge for both 5k and 10k races. Registrations will NOT be accepted between 12 noon September 13, and 7:30 a.m., September 14. There will be free refreshments and door prizes for all participants after the race. If you would like an application, please contact the Walker Recreation Department at 791-6890.

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, 1470 Three Mile Rd. NW. Social hour is from 10:30 am - 11:30 am 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.



In the early spring of this year, the Police Department started to respond to numerous complaints of vehicles that violated the City's ordinance regarding abandoned and/or inoperable motor vehicles. Abandoned vehicles are unsightly, and they lend to the deterioration of quality neighborhoods. We discovered that we indeed had a problem with numerous vehicles throughout the City which matched the criteria as abandoned or inoperable. These complaints were assigned to Police Officer Ken Martiny who immediately began the process of cleaning up areas that were in violation. As of the end of June 2002, Officer Martiny had identified and addressed 302 vehicles in the City that were deemed a nuisance (i.e., abandoned or inoperable).

In some cases vehicle owners indicated they didn't know what the City ordinance stated. Therefore, as a courtesy for all, the following is an excerpt from the Walker City Book of Ordinances. We ask that all citizens review this language to see if they might have a vehicle that violates the ordinance. If so, please correct the problem as soon as possible to avoid being contacted by this Department.

Sec. 82-91. Definitions

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning.

Inoperable motor vehicles means motor vehicles which do not bear valid registration plates as required by the state vehicle code, Act No. 300 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1949 (MCL 257.1 et seq. MSA 9.1801 et seq.), or which, by reason of dismantling, disrepair or other cause, are incapable of being propelled under their own power, or are unsafe for operation on the streets and highways of this state, because of inability to comply with the state vehicle code. Motor vehicles means any wheeled vehicles which are or are intended to be operable as self-propelled vehicles.

It is hereby declared to be unlawful for any person to store, place or permit to be stored or placed any inoperable motor vehicle or any part or parts of a motor vehicle on land located in the city, except as such storage or placement may be permitted under the provisions of the zoning chapter or the provisions of section 82-94, unless such inoperable motor vehicle or part or parts of a motor vehicle are kept in a wholly enclosed garage or other wholly enclosed structure. (Code 1976, § 11-32)

In June, Lieutenant Steven Dyke was promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief of the Walker Police Department. Steve is a life resident of this area, graduating from Kenowa Hills High School and then Ferris State University in 1988. In June of the same year Steve was hired by the Police

Department as a patrol officer. Since starting with the Walker Police Department, he has worked his way up through the ranks where he also held the positions of sergeant and lieutenant. Steve is a recent graduate of Executive Police Staff and Command Training and is actively pursuing a masters degree in Criminal Justice. As Deputy Chief, Steve will assist the Chief in the day-to-day operations of the Department. Congratulations to him!

Once again, the Walker Police Department participated in a Quad Cities Police Academy. The Quad Cities Academy is a collaborative effort between the metro area police departments and the high schools located within those cities. Junior and Senior High School students interested in law enforcement, from Walker, Wyoming, Kentwood, and Grandville attended this one week "police academy" in which they experienced a glimpse of life as a police recruit. Police Officers Butch Redzinski, Dan Martinek, and Dennis Kneibel instructed students on topics ranging from patrol operations to community policing while serving as mentors.

The Police Department and the Walker Volunteer Committee have been working together as a team for the benefit of our citizens. For example, recently a member of the department stopped a car being driven in an unsafe manner by senior citizen. The driver was attempting to take a more elderly person to the store to pick up a prescription. Sadly, the driver appeared to be having vision problems making their driving a danger to themselves and others. However, rather than just address the unsafe driving situation, the officer contacted the chairperson of the Volunteer Committee who made arrangements to take the senior citizen to pick up the prescription within the hour! Teamwork does work!!!

Finally, remember to buckle up and drive safely!

WALKER FITNESS CENTER

FREE TRIAL!

GET YOUR 14 DAY TRIAL MEMBERSHIP!*

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:

- Grand Rapids area resident
- 21 years of age or older
- Show a valid Michigan I.D.
- No previous applications within 1 years time
- Limit of 2 trial memberships per household

WALKER FIRE DEPARTMENT SELF HOME INSPECTION FORM

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____

616-791-6840

<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	
___	___	IS THE ADDRESS POSTED AND VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD?
___	___	IS THERE RUBBISH OR TRASH ACCUMULATED?
___	___	ARE ELECTRICAL OUTLETS BEING OVERLOADED?
___	___	ARE EXTENSION CORDS BEING USED INCORRECTLY?
___	___	DOES THE FIREPLACE HAVE A SCREEN, GLASS DOORS, OR BOTH?
___	___	HAVE YOU CLEANED YOUR FIREPLACE OR CHIMNEY IN THE PAST YEAR?
___	___	IF PORTABLE HEATING DEVICES ARE USED, IS A SAFE CLEARANCE MAINTAINED?
___	___	SMOKE DETECTORS? NUMBER _____. HARDWIRED OR BATTERY?
___	___	LOCATION: BASEMENT ___, 1st FLOOR ___, 2nd FLOOR ___, GARAGE ___.
___	___	ARE THE EXHAUST FANS IN BATHROOMS CLEAN?
___	___	ARE COMBUSTIBLES TOO NEAR STOVE?
___	___	DOES THE RANGE HOOD HAVE GREASE ACCUMULATED IN IT?
___	___	DO YOU HAVE THE PROPER FIRE EXTINGUISHERS AND KNOW HOW TO USE IT?
___	___	— LOCATION OF EXTINGUISHER _____?
___	___	DO YOU KNOW HOW TO PUT OUT A GREASE FIRE?
___	___	ARE THE ELECTRIC CORDS ON THE APPLIANCES IN GOOD CONDITION?
___	___	ARE COMBUSTIBLES TO NEAR THE FURNACE OR WATER HEATER?
___	___	ARE FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS IMPROPERLY STORED?
___	___	IS THE ELECTRIC CIRCUIT PANEL ACCESSIBLE AND IN GOOD CONDITION?
___	___	ARE PAINTING MATERIALS STORED PROPERLY?
___	___	IS THERE LINT BUILDUP ON THE DRYER OR ON THE DRYER MOTOR?
___	___	ELECTRICAL CORDS FOR THE WASHER AND DRYER ARE IN GOOD CONDITION?
___	___	PROPER VENT PIPE AND IN GOOD CONDITION?
___	___	FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS STORED PROPERLY?
___	___	PROPANE FOR GRILL STORED PROPERLY?
___	___	IS GENERAL HOUSEKEEPING GOOD?
___	___	DO YOU HAVE AND PRACTICE A HOME ESCAPE PLAN?
___	___	DO YOU HAVE A DESIGNATED MEETING PLACE OUTSIDE?
___	___	DO YOU HAVE A "CO" DETECTOR?
___	___	IS THE BABYSITTER PROVIDED WITH EMERGENCY INFORMATION?

COMMENTS:

Please feel free, after completion, to send this form to the Fire Department to keep on file.
 Please send it to the office at: 4343 Remembrance Rd., Walker, MI 49544.



Apathy causes fire. Apathy is nothing but an attitude of indifference. “I know, but I don't care.” This is a very difficult problem to deal with. In order to change an attitude, people must be made aware that fire can maim or kill themselves or the ones they care about. People must understand their responsibility to others as well as to themselves. It is not enough to know about the danger of fire, one must also care.

Arson causes fire. Arson, or fires that are intentionally set, is an ever-growing problem nationwide. Walker currently does not experience a serious arson problem but that does not mean we are not susceptible. Residents should always be on the lookout for suspicious behavior in their neighborhoods and report those behaviors especially if they are coincidental to a fire event.

Facts without acts are failures. It must be remembered that we can only save that which is not already lost.

Heaters and Furnaces

When operated properly, heaters, furnaces, and fireplaces can provide comfort without danger. Each year many fires occur due to improper operation.

- Check your furnace each year. Oil motors and replace belts if worn.
- Clean chimney flue to prevent a back up of deadly fumes.
- Inspect oil or coal furnaces for proper operation.
- Keep portable heaters away from curtains and off of carpets or other flammable materials.
- Use a fireplace screen to contain burning embers.
- NEVER use gasoline in a kerosene heater.

Extension Cord Safety

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates that approximately 2,200 injuries associated with extension cords are treated annually in hospital emergency departments. The CPSC also estimates about 5,500 residential fires originate from extension cords each year, killing 85 persons and injuring some 230 others. The most frequent causes of such fires are short circuits, overloading, damage, and misuse of extension cords. About half the injuries involve fractures, lacerations, contusions or sprains caused by tripping over extension cords. About one of every four injuries involves children less than five years of age; electrical burns to the mouth accounted for half the injuries to young children.

In order to protect your family:

Use extension cords only when electrical power is needed in a remote location for a short time period such as: drilling a hole, running the weed wacker, using a projector. It's important to use extension cords for only short temporary periods.

Use polarized cords for safety. One of the prongs is wider than the other, preventing the plug from being inserted incorrectly.

Make sure cords do not dangle from counters and tabletops where they can be pulled or tripped over.

If cords lack safety closures, cover any unused outlets with electrical tape or with plastic caps to prevent the chances of a child making contact with the live circuit.

Insert plugs fully so that no part of the prongs are exposed when the extension cord is in use.

Discard any old, cracked, worn, or damaged extension cords. Replace cords, which show signs of possible short-circuiting.

When disconnecting cords, pull the plug rather than the cord itself.

Teach children not to play with plugs and outlets.

Use only 3-wire extension cords for appliances with 3-prong plugs. Never remove the third round or u-shaped prong safety feature designed to reduce the risk of shock or electrocution.

Using an extension cord while it is coiled or looped can generate a lot of heat. Always stretch out the entire cord. Covering any part of an extension cord with newspapers, clothing, rugs, or any object while it is being used should always be avoided. Always place an extension cord where it will not be damaged by heavy furniture or foot traffic.

Extension cords are not designed to be attached to building surfaces in a permanent manner (staples or nails), this could damage the cord and present a shock or fire hazard.

When using outdoor tools and appliances, use only extension cords labeled for outdoor use.

Remember, “be smart about electricity” and use the tips above to protect your family.

Smoke Detectors

The majority of fatal home fires happen at night, while people are asleep. Contrary to popular belief, the smell of smoke may not wake a sleeping person. The poisonous gases and smoke from a fire can quickly numb the senses and put you into an even deeper sleep. Smoke detectors sound an alarm and alert you to a fire. By giving you time to escape, smoke detectors can cut your risk of dying in a home fire nearly in half. Smoke detectors save so many lives that most states have laws requiring them in private homes.

New home construction requires a detector on every level of the home, outside the sleeping area, and one in each bedroom. If you have an older home and you are considering adding more detectors, you should at a minimum have a detector on each level and outside the sleeping area.

When the detector sounds...

How your family responds in a fire depends on how well you've prepared.

- Plan your escape routes in advance and know at least two ways out of each room, especially bedrooms. Your plan should specify a safe meeting place outside your home so that you'll know whether everyone is out.

"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!



www.ci.walker.mi.us



Fire Department News

continued from page seven



- Practice your escape plan at least twice a year. At the same time, have everyone practice these two survival techniques:

Crawl Low Under Smoke. If you must escape through smoke, get down on your hands and knees and crawl under the smoke to the nearest safe exit. Smoke and poisonous gases rise, so cleaner air is near the floor.

Stop Drop and Roll. If your clothes catch on fire, do not run. Stop where you are, drop to the ground, cover your face with your hands and roll over to smother the flames.

- Once you're out, stay out.
- If fire strikes, leave the building immediately. Go to the designated meeting place, and then call the fire department from a neighbor's phone. Do not go back into your home for any reason.

Basement Bedrooms

Bedrooms in basements are required to have an egress window. The window should be no more than 44 inches from the floor to the sill and the opening should be 5.7 square feet. If you have a bedroom in your basement without an egress window you should have one installed or eliminate the use of the bedroom. The user of these types of bedrooms is at serious risk of injury or death from fire because of a lack of a second means of egress.

By following this advice you will reduce the risk of a fire in your home, or reduce the impact should one occur.

We have also included a checklist in this newsletter so that you can perform an inspection of your home, and eliminate any hazards that may exist.

If you have any questions, or you would like the Walker Fire Department to assist you with your inspection please feel free to call the Fire Department Office at 791-6840.

If you would like more information on fire safety you can go online to the National Fire Protection Association at NFPA.org or to the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society at MFIS.org.

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
Meet 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.

