



WALKER CITY NEWS

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2022



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"A PLACE TO LIVE, WORK & GROW"

A letter from the Mayor



The state of the City as we transition into 2022 is one that has many of us excited. There are several areas that we have prioritized that we believe provide an outlook that can best be described as optimistic and confident. The first area is the intentionality in preparing for our growth and community's evolving needs, both now and moving forward. This encompasses many areas such as infrastructure, public safety, city buildings, as well as resident and business services. In looking at last year and our infrastructure investments, one big project comes to mind and that is Kinney Avenue.

While painfully overdue with contractor delays, the outcome is one that I believe we can recognize as a huge improvement to the safety of all who drive, bike, or walk that stretch. Throughout Walker, you will find these older country-style roads that were adequate for our days as a township or smaller rural city. However, we are no longer either of these as we have evolved into a mid-size suburban city. Kinney between Three Mile Road and Waldorf was representative of those old rural country types of roads. What we see there now is a deliverable that represents what our City has become and what it needs to be. In 2021, we continued to make significant investments in our roads. In addition to the state-provided Act 51 monies, the City also spent more than \$1 million on the upkeep of our local roads. In looking to the coming years, we plan on following that same strategy.

As far as public safety goes, I know it remains our top focus. As policymakers and budget-setters, we need to make sure they have the resources they need to provide us with a community that is safe and secure. In looking at last year's budget, and even a draft of the 2022-23 budget, you will see we continuously monitor staffing levels in both departments and make adjustments as necessary. Last year our calls for service for both police and fire returned to pre-pandemic levels and remained consistent with past years. However, we know the growth and evolving needs in our City require us to be vigilant about what is the right approach to the current needs and times.

In March, the City Commission will be holding a work session to discuss strategies and plans around a new Library and Community Center. Earlier this year, the Commission received a presentation from an architect and engineering firm that was based on resident input and identified city needs. I would expect that we will have more definitive plans of what this will look like, how we will pay for it, and when we will do it in the upcoming months. Of the two facts that we know, the first is that we have outgrown what is an incredibly small library for a city our size. Second, based on that same resident input there very clearly is demand for a community center with meeting and gathering spaces. Everyone benefits from a sense of community and neighborhood identity. Neither are easy to do right now with our current facilities. So, our call to action is to refine the plan and then execute on it.

Lastly, we continue to invest in upgrades to our city-provided services. A large part of this is technology, including a major upgrade to our website. If you have not noticed any changes, that is good! What is hard to miss is the ability to do more with our city services on the new website. The pandemic has reinforced that we need to be more responsive to our residents' needs through online information and services. If there are aspects of the website in which we could improve upon, we would love to hear from you. Our goal is to make it as user-friendly as possible.

As always, whether you are a resident or business here, thank you for making the choice to call Walker home.

MAYOR GARY L. CAREY, JR.

CONTACT THE MAYOR:

E: gcarey@walker.city

P: 616-292-1715

Clerk's Office

CITY CLERK, SARAH BYDALEK

ELECTION NEWS

March 1, 2022 Special Primary Election for 74th State House District vacant seat

May 3, 2022 Special General Election for 74th State House District vacant seat

August 2, 2022 State Primary Election, including City of Walker Elections

November 8, 2022 State General Election, including City of Walker Elections. The August and November Elections will include the Michigan House, Senate, all Congressional seats, Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, and Walker City Elections of Mayor and a Commissioner from each Ward.

APPLY TO BE AN ELECTION INSPECTOR

The City Clerk's office is looking for outgoing, friendly individuals to work at precincts on Election Days! If you have Microsoft Windows knowledge and can

commit to working every election day from 6:30 am to 9:00 pm, we encourage you to join the front lines of democracy and exercise your civic duty by applying to be an Election Inspector today! Please email Sarah Bydalek, Walker City Clerk, at sbydalek@walker.city or elections@walker.city.



PASSPORTS

You can have your passport photo taken here as well as apply for your passport! No appointment is necessary during the following passport hours:

Monday - Thursday from 7:30 am - 4:00 pm
Friday from 7:30 am - 11:00 am.

Please call (616) 791-6865 prior to coming to confirm a processing agent is available and you have all the proper paperwork with you, including two checks for payment.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

FEDERAL OFFICIALS:

U.S. Senators: Gary C. Peters and Debbie Stabenow
2nd District Congressman: Representative Bill Huizenga

STATE OFFICIALS:

Governor: Gretchen Whitmer

Attorney General: Dana Nessel
E: miag@michigan.gov

28th District State Senator: Mark Huizenga

74th District State Representative: currently vacant

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

6th District: Stan Stek
E: stan.stek@kentcountymi.gov

SECRETARY OF STATE INFORMATION

Secretary of State: Jocelyn Benson
E: bensonj4@michigan.gov

Go online: michigan.gov/voterregistration

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



Passports are currently taking longer than usual to process. Please allow at least 16 weeks for your passport to be process and mailed to you. If you need your passport expedited, processing time is 6-8 weeks.

Walker Income Tax Department

2021 WALKER INCOME TAX RETURNS ARE DUE MAY 2, 2022

We will be happy to prepare your Walker return free of charge. Please call (616) 791-6880 for information.

WORK FROM HOME IN 2021

If you are a Walker resident who usually works in another city with an income tax (for example, Grand Rapids), you must reduce the credit for tax paid to the other city for days worked from home. You will also reduce the amount of tax you pay to the non-resident city by allocating your wages for days worked from home. If you need help calculating non-resident taxable wages or the credit for tax paid to another city, you can call us at (616) 791-6880.



E-FILE YOUR WALKER INCOME TAX RETURN

We will be accepting 2021 Walker resident and non-resident returns by e-file. If you use a paid tax preparer that e-files your federal and state return, they will be able to e-file your Walker return also. If you use TaxAct software/online tax program to prepare your own federal and state returns, you will be able to e-file your Walker return. Visit the TaxAct site at taxact.com for more information. Please note that other software/online tax programs used for self-prepared returns (TurboTax, H&R Block, TaxSlayer) do not participate with Michigan local e-filing as of 1/1/2022. We are working with these popular software programs to encourage them to participate with Michigan local e-filing. Check the instructions when you print your 2021 Walker return to see if you need to mail a paper copy to us. E-filed returns for tax year 2021 will be accepted beginning January 31, 2022. Processing of e-filed returns with refunds will not begin until mid-March. All W-2 forms due from employers by February 28 must be processed first.

ESTIMATED PAYMENTS

The first quarter estimated payment for 2022 Walker Income Tax is also due May 2, 2022. 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 2022 return, you must make quarterly estimated payments. The 2022 Quarterly Estimated payment vouchers with instructions can be found:

- On our website at www.walkermi.gov/taxforms.
- 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 2022 quarterly estimates with the fourth quarter voucher due January 31, 2023 may result in a bill for penalty and interest for failure to pay timely estimates.

WHO MUST FILE

Every resident or part-year resident of Walker (this includes renters) who had taxable income in 2021 of \$600 or more must file a return. More information on taxable income can be found here: www.walkermi.gov/incomtaxfaq.

All Walker addresses have Grand Rapids mailing addresses so please do not assume you are not a Walker resident based on your mailing address. To check whether your address is within Walker city limits, please visit www.walkermi.gov/streetdirectory.

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.

Income Tax Due Dates

WALKER CITY INCOME TAX

For Employers:

January 31, 2022 - 4th Quarter 2021 withholding due (Form 941)
February 28, 2022 - 2021 WW-3 forms due (Form WW-3)
February 28, 2022 - January withholding due (Form 501)
March 31, 2022 - February withholding due (Form 501)
May 2, 2022 - 1st Quarter 2022 withholding due (Form 941)
May 31, 2022 - April withholding due (Form 501)
June 30, 2022 - May withholding due (Form 501)
August 1, 2022 - 2nd Quarter 2022 withholding due (Form 941)
August 31, 2022 - July withholding due (Form 501)
September 30, 2022 - August withholding due (Form 501)
October 31, 2022 - 3rd Quarter 2022 withholding due (Form 941)
November 30, 2022 - October withholding due (Form 501)
January 2, 2023 - November withholding due (Form 501)
January 31, 2023 - 4th Quarter 2022 withholding due (Form 941)

For Individuals:

January 31, 2022 - 4th Quarter 2021 estimate due (Form 1040-ES)
May 2, 2022 - 2021 individual return W-1040R/NR due (Form W-1040R/NR)
May 2, 2022 - 1st Quarter 2022 estimate due (Form 1040-ES)
June 30, 2022 - 2nd Quarter 2022 estimate due (Form 1040-ES)
September 30, 2022 - 3rd Quarter 2022 estimate due (Form 1040-ES)
January 31, 2023 - 4th Quarter 2022 estimate due (Form 1040-ES)

For Corporations:

January 31, 2022 - 4th Quarter 2021 estimate due (Form 1120-ES)
May 2, 2022 - 2021 corporate return W-1120 due (Form W-1120)
May 2, 2022 - 1st Quarter 2022 estimate due (Form 1120-ES)
June 30, 2022 - 2nd Quarter 2022 estimate due (Form 1120-ES)
September 30, 2022 - 3rd Quarter 2022 estimate due (Form 1120-ES)
January 31, 2023 - 4th Quarter 2022 estimate due (Form 1120-ES)



Walker Fire Department

CAN WE SEE YOUR ADDRESS?

If you called 911 for an emergency, could the agency responding find your home or business quickly and easily? If addresses are not prominently posted on mailboxes, posts, or buildings, it can be extremely difficult for fire, police, or ambulance personnel to find the location of an emergency at a time when every moment counts. If it is difficult to read your address from the street in front of your home or business, emergency responders could be delayed in reaching you. The Walker Fire and Police Departments strongly encourage all Walker residents to post their address prominently on their mailbox, home, or business so it is easily seen and recognizable from the road.

WE CAN HELP!

Green reflective address signs, measuring six inches by 18 inches, can be purchased from the Walker Firefighters' Association for \$10. The signs can be easily attached to a mailbox post, and the three-inch-tall reflective numbers allow for high visibility in the dark. If you would like to purchase a reflective address sign, please call the Walker Fire Department office at (616) 791-6840 Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and on Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.



FIRE SAFETY DURING WINTER STORMS

Winter storms can happen almost anywhere. They can cause us problems. Know what to do before, during and after a storm. This will help keep you and your family safe from a winter fire.

- Test all smoke alarms. Do this at least once a month. This way you will know they are working. Install carbon monoxide alarms in your home. Test the alarms.
- Plan two ways out of the home in case of an emergency.
- Clear driveway and front walk of ice and snow. This will provide easy access to your home.
- Make sure your house number can be seen from the street. If you need help, firefighters will be able to find you.
- Be ready in case the power goes out. Have flashlights, battery-powered lighting, and fresh batteries on hand. Never use candles.
- Stay aware of winter weather. Listen to the television or radio for updates, or download a weather app. Watch for bulletins online.
- Check on neighbors, especially the elderly and those who may need assistance.
- Generators should be used outdoors. Keep them away from windows, doors, and vents. Do not run a generator inside your garage, even if the door is open.
- Stay away from downed wires. Report any downed wires to authorities.
- Be ready if the heat stops working. Use extra layers of clothes and blankets to stay warm. If you use an emergency heat source, keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away.
- Turn portable heaters off when you go to bed.

There are more home fires in winter than in any other season. Half of all home heating fires happen in December, January and February. As you stay cozy and warm this winter season, be fire smart! Nearly half of all space heater fires involve electric space heaters.



@CityofWalkerFireDepartment

Walker Police Department

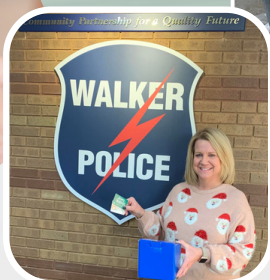
KIDS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Our area has not been immune to the lingering fallout from the Oxford school shooting. Our officers & detectives continue to follow up on school threats, some coming from elementary schools. We'd like this letter to serve as another reminder to parents to have a serious conversation with their school-age children. Let them know the potential consequences of making threats against a school or classmate. Ensure they have a safe space at home to vent frustration and speak about personal issues. Monitor their social media and have a general knowledge of the apps they use and what they are being used for. Most of the threat reports we receive stem from TikTok & Snapchat. Remember, there are phone services out there that allow students to call/text for emergencies but limits their social media footprint and hinders their access to everything the internet has to offer. Do your homework to keep your students safe. Maybe it's not a school threat, but social media is often a breeding ground for bullying and other harassing behaviors.



COMMUNITY CARE

We have used some of the "Community Care" gift card donations we received in December, to purchase groceries for a resident in need and supplying area bus stops with warming kits, blankets and coats during a recent cold snap. Captain Veen and Officer Harkema met with area church leaders to discuss expanding the Community Care Initiative and learn what services area churches provide that may be of help to road patrol as they respond to calls for service.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Our Community Outreach Officer has begun conducting several Civilian Response to Active Shooter events lessons for local businesses. Look for the announcement of an education opportunity on the topic to be available to the community soon. Our department wrapped up Mental Health Awareness training in January. Lessons included how to better respond to those in mental health crisis, how to work with area mental health services, and highlighted exactly what those services are. Network 180's Mobile Crisis Team attended the training to showcase their new mobile unit, available to respond to mental health related calls when requested. Since the start of the pandemic, we have seen a mental health component on many of our calls, so this was timely and valuable training.



@WalkerPoliceDept

Department of Public Works

Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Call (616) 791-6854



SPRING CLEAN UP

DATES AND TIMES:

May 5, 6, and 7

Thursday - 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

Friday - 8:00 am to 7:00 pm

Saturday - 7:00 am to 12:00 pm

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

ITEMS ACCEPTED:

- Appliances (refrigerators coolant to be removed with certificate)
- Wood, brush, leaves, and grass clippings
- Metal
- Mattresses, old doors, small household appliances, old windows, and furniture

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:

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

PROOF OF RESIDENCY REQUIRED

FEE SCHEDULE

\$5.00 (per visit) - single car or minivan

\$5.00 - per tire

\$10.00 per tire with rim

\$10.00 (per visit) - single car with trailer

\$10.00 (per visit) - single pickup truck

\$20.00 (per visit) - single pick-up truck with trailer



FALL LEAF RECYCLING

LOCATION: Behind City Hall, 4243 Remembrance Rd NW

DATES AND TIMES: October 17 through November 14, 2022. It will be closed Friday, November 11, 2022, in observance of Veteran's Day.

PROOF OF RESIDENCY REQUIRED

PURCHASE LEAF BAGS:

Biodegradable bags can be purchased at the Department of Public Works (DPW) located at 4243 Remembrance RD NW (entrance across from the library) during office hours.

Price: \$.50 per bag or 5 pack for \$2.50

TYPE OF BAGS ACCEPTED:

- Biodegradable
- Plastic bags not accepted. Resident will have to empty the leaves out of the bags. We will also be accepting brush at this location.

TREE TRIMMING

Believe it or not, yard work isn't just confined to the warmer months. Our Department of Public Works crews perform yard work year round when the weather permits.

You may have already seen our crews around the City trimming overgrown trees and shrubs. This work is necessary so that vehicles, like snowplows and garbage trucks, can fit under tree branches.

Don't worry! Our crews will be cutting branches equally around the trees in order to keep them looking uniform. We appreciate your patience as crews work this in between their other duties.



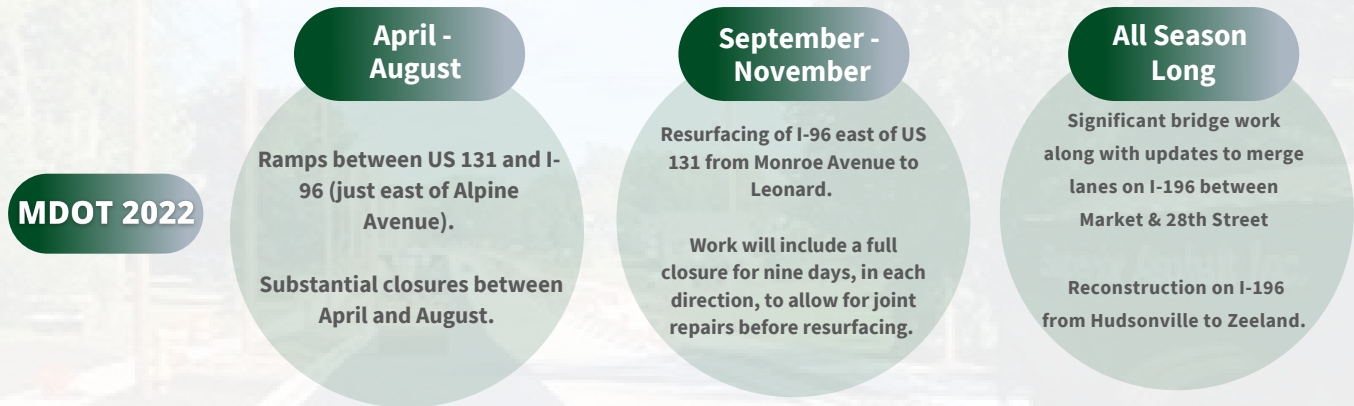
@CityofWalkerMI



www.walkermi.gov

Engineering Department

Residents and business owners will see a quiet year in terms of city sponsored road closures. We have a number of projects in the design phase, but our major and local road network will be free of large-scale obstructions in 2022. However, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has several regional projects that might impact Walker residents.



CITYWIDE ROADS

Walker will also be performing some preventative maintenance on both major and local roads. These projects generally involve minimal delays and include crack sealing, micro sealing, chip sealing, patching and shallow depth overlays of new pavement. In 2022 the following list of streets will get significant attention:

Major Roads:

- Leonard Street asphalt overlay from Kinney Avenue to Remembrance Road.
- West River Drive surface treatment (microseal) from Turner Avenue to Bertha Street.

Local Roads:

- Asphalt overlays are expected on Nixon Avenue, 10th Street, Lamont Avenue, Lamont Court, Blythe Ellen Court, Rolling Green Drive, Cummings Court, Holton Court, Coventry Drive, Abington/Woodmont, Needham Court, and Ipswich Drive.
- Roads receiving surface treatments (microseals) will be Sunrise Lane, Sunrise Court, Maplerow Avenue, Sunset Hills Avenue, Sunset Hills Court, and 10th Street.

Private projects will be driving a lot of roadwork this year. New developments will result in several miles of new road and public utilities. New phases are anticipated for residential plats including Winchester Woods, Cambridge Grove, and Summerbrooke Estates. We will also see major land use changes on 2 golf courses with construction anticipated on both the English Hills and Lincoln Lawns courses. All these privately funded developments will involve new public road and utility connections. We will do our best to minimize the impact on neighbors but small delays come hand and hand with development.

Looking Ahead

The next few years also look very exciting. The City has received a number of grants that will allow us to take on some much needed upgrades within our public road network. Here is a brief list of enhancements scheduled for years 2023 -2026.

Bristol Railroad Bridge at Pannell Street: We are working on plans to upgrade this 114 year-old structure to allow two lanes of traffic along with a sidewalk. Construction is anticipated in 2023.

Alpine Avenue – Hillside Drive to Ann Street: 2023 will also see a resurfacing of this important section of Alpine Avenue. Handicap ramps will also be upgraded along this project corridor in 2023.

Kinney Avenue – Leonard Street to Lake Michigan Drive: We are planning to reconstruct this narrow section of roadway with a three lane curb and gutter roadway in 2024. The addition of a center turn lane should help with the many residential driveways and the ditches will be enclosed to allow for a sidewalk on both sides of the street.

Alpine Avenue – Three Mile Road to Hillside Drive: In 2026 will resurface this important section of Alpine Avenue. Handicap ramps will also be upgraded along this project corridor to come into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Bristol Sidewalk – Three Mile Road to Pannell Drive: Funding has been secured in 2026 to help build sidewalk along Bristol south of Three Mile Road to Pannell.

Center Drive Roundabout at Weatherford Drive: The Center Drive corridor has been the source of traffic related complaints since it's inception. This 2024 project will remove the traffic signal and allow for a single lane roundabout to help increase accessibility of neighboring businesses along with reducing vehicle delay. We also hope to improve access between the commercial properties north and south of Center Drive. (See image below).



Thank you for your continued patience as we expand and maintain our public road system, as well as inspect and support quality infrastructure development around the City. The City Walker continues to look at other local roads for improvement including sidewalk, traffic signal upgrades, and asphalt overlays. Please feel free to visit the construction page on our website (www.walkermi.gov) for an interactive map and updates on current and future projects.

Calendar of Events

F E B R U A R Y

FEBRUARY 1 - 28

Spring Soccer Online

Registration Open

walkericeandfitness.com

M A R C H

MARCH 14, 15, 16

March Board of Review

Assessor's Office

MARCH 28 - APRIL 25

Walker Adult Softball

Registration Open

walkericeandfitness.com

A P R I L

SAT. APRIL 9

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

City Central Park

SUN. APRIL 17

Easter Sunday

FRI. APRIL 29

Library Carpet Cleaning

KDL Walker Branch Closing

at 2:00 pm



MONTHLY CITY MEETINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

Planning Commission: 6:30 pm / 1st and 3rd Wednesday
Location: Commission Chambers

Zoning Board of Appeals: 6:30 pm / 2nd and 4th Wednesday
Location: Commission Chambers

Downtown Development Authority: 7:30 am / 3rd Tuesday
Location: Commissioner Chambers



M A Y

MAY 5-7

Walker Clean Up Days

More information:

www.walker.city

MON. MAY 30

Memorial Day Parade

Remembrance Road

MON. MAY 30

Memorial Day

City Offices Closed

Walker Ice & Fitness Closed

KDL Walker Branch Closed



J U N E

THURS. JUNE 9

Walker Standale Summer

Concert Series

Community Park @ 6:30 pm



J U L Y

MON. JULY 4

Independence Day

City Offices Closed

Walker Ice & Fitness Closed

KDL Walker Branch Closed

THURS. JULY 14

Walker Standale Summer

Concert Series

Community Park @ 6:30 pm

JULY 1-31

Walker Fall Youth Soccer

Registration Open

walkericeandfitness.com

TUES. JULY 19

July Board of Review

Assessor's Office at 9:30 am

AUGUST

TUES. AUGUST 2

National Night Out

Follow the Walker PD
Facebook page for event
updates

THURS. AUGUST 11

Walker Standale Summer Concert Series

Community Park @ 6:30 pm



SEPTEMBER

MON. SEPTEMBER 5

Labor Day

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

OCTOBER

SAT. OCTOBER 1

Pumpkin Bash

Walker City Hall Complex

MON. OCTOBER 3

Kent District Library All- Staff Training

All KDL Branches Closed

OCT. 17-NOV. 14

Walker Leaf Recycling Program

More information:
www.walkermi.gov

FRI. OCTOBER 28

Annual Scary Skate

Walker Ice & Fitness Center



OCTOBER; DATE TBA

Officer Trevor Slot Memorial Service

NOVEMBER

FRI. NOVEMBER 11

Observance of Veteran's Day

City Offices Closed

FRI. NOVEMBER 26

Thanksgiving Holiday

City Offices Closed

THUR. NOVEMBER 24

Thanksgiving Holiday

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

DECEMBER

THURS. DECEMBER 1

Walker WinterFest

Walker Ice and Fitness
Center

TUES. DECEMBER 13

December Board of Review

Assessor's Office @ 9:30 am

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve

City Offices Closed
KDL Walker Branch Closed

DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day

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

DECEMBER 31

New Year's Eve

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

JANUARY

JANUARY 1, 2023

New Year's Day

KDL Walker Branch Closed
Walker Ice and Fitness
Center Closed

JANUARY 2023; DATE TBA

Walker Mayor's Cup

Walker Ice & 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 Nicole DiDonato at ndidonato@walker.city for a sponsorship packet.

KDL Library: Walker Branch

SAVE MONEY WITH YOUR KDL LIBRARY CARD

It's the perfect time to visit your local Kent District Library branch. "Besides books, the library provides many popular and costly items that people may need once in a while, such as Wi-Fi hot spots and infrared cameras to check your home insulation efficiency," said Randy Goble, Director of Engagement for KDL. If you check out items from the library instead of purchasing them, you can save hundreds of dollars each year. In 2021, patrons who checked out physical items saved an average of \$727, while patrons who checked out digital materials saved on average \$563.

If someone checked out both digital and physical items, they, on average, saved \$1,290 last year. Enjoy free education and entertainment by attending KDL's programs for all ages. Learn a new skill by accessing KDL's free databases (such as LinkedIn Learning, Rosetta Stone, etc.). Save even more by checking out a unique or pricey item from KDL's Beyond Books collection, including a hotspot, Kill A Watt EZ meter, KDL Sony PlayStation VR Kit and board games. Businesses can utilize free access to legal forms, market research databases and so much more.

Check out a PerkPass for a free visit to local attractions including the Grand Rapids Children's Museum. Enjoy free Wi-Fi, public computers, work space and meeting rooms at all 20 KDL branches. Host a book club for free by checking out a Book Club in a Bag. KDL has something for everyone and the savings are endless. Anyone who lives in the KDL service area and would like to get a library card is encouraged to stop by their local branch or visit kdl.org/ecard.

KENT DISTRICT LIBRARY LENDS OUT OVER ONE MILLION EBOOKS AND AUDIOBOOKS IN 2021

This milestone illustrates the continued growth and importance of library digital lending of ebooks and audiobooks, especially after a prolonged period of building closures due to the global pandemic. KDL has been providing readers 24/7 access to ebooks and audiobooks for several years through OverDrive, and more recently through the award-winning Libby library reading app.

The highest-circulating title KDL readers borrowed in 2021 was *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. The top-circulating genre, romance, represents the most popular in a vast catalog that also includes mystery, biography & autobiography, children/young adult and more.

HOURS

Monday: 9:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Tuesday: 9:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Wednesday: 9:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Thursday: 9:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Friday: 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday: 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday: Closed



The top five ebook titles borrowed through Kent District Library's digital collection in 2021:

1. The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett
2. The Midnight Library by Matt Haig
3. The Four Winds by Kirstin Hannah
4. The Book of Lost Friends by Lisa Wingate
5. People We Meet on Vacation by Emily Henry

The top five audiobook titles borrowed through Kent District Library's digital collection in 2021:

1. The Midnight Library by Matt Haig
2. Atomic Habits by James Clear
3. The Guest List by Lucy Foley
4. Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens
5. The Four Winds by Kirstin Hannah

KDL residents just need a valid library card to access digital books from KDL's OverDrive-powered digital collection. Download the Libby app or visit kdl.overdrive.com/ to get started borrowing ebooks and audiobooks anytime, anywhere.



"Where Active Families Play"

WWW.WALKERICEANDFITNESS.COM

Located in the center of the City of Walker, the WIFC is where Active Families Play! Visitors from all over West Michigan and beyond join us for workouts, fitness classes, games, skating, recreation programs and more! We provide a state-of-the-art fitness center with the latest in equipment and classes!

TRY US FREE FOR 7 DAYS!

Are you interested in a gym membership? You can try out our facility FREE for 7 days. Anyone 18 years and older, area resident and first-time visitor to our facility is welcome to do this! You will have access to all our amenities during this week. That means the indoor track, cardio equipment, extensive free weights, and more are yours to try FREE! Visit walkericeandfitness.com for more information or give us a call!

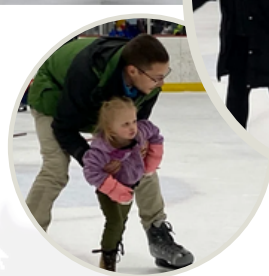


ICE ARENA

The Walker Ice and Fitness Center's Ice Arena provides opportunities for area residents of all ages to enjoy on-ice recreation. From Learn to Skate/Play hockey programs, Cross Ice, games, practices and tournaments, there are many opportunities to get your skates on, have fun and enjoy the great sports of hockey and Ice Skating! As soon as we are able, open skate, drop-in-hockey and stick and puck will be back on the schedule. Be sure to check our Facebook pages and our website for the latest updates.

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

- March 5 - April 16 - Learn to Skate & Play Hockey Session 4
- March 5 at Noon - Try Hockey for FREE
- Late March - Spring House Hockey Evals
- Late March - Spring Travel Hockey Tryouts
- May 2022 - HAWK Hockey Travel Tryouts
- June 8-July 27 - Learn To Skate and Play Hockey Session 5
- September 6 - HAWK Season Begins
- Mid September - Learn to Skate and Play Hockey Session 1
- October 2022 - Cross Ice Begins
- October 28 - Skary Skate 22
- December 1 - WinterFest Open Skate
- December 31 - Neon NYE Skate



CONTACT THE WALKER ICE & FITNESS CENTER

CALL: (616)735-6286

EMAIL: MKSHERMAN@WALKERICEANDFITNESS.COM

VISIT: 4151 REMEMBRANCE RD NW, WALKER, MI

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

 @WalkerIceFitness

 @WalkerIceandFitness

HAWK
HOCKEY

Parks and Recreation provides beautiful, clean, and safe community parks, facilities, and programs that are fun for all ages!

Our parks are at the center of so many experiences and memories and recreation programs like our youth soccer and adult softball allow community members of all ages to get together and have fun. Events such as Winter Fest, the Easter Egg Hunt and the Memorial Day Parade allow us to come together as a community to celebrate!

- February - Spring Soccer Registration
- March 1 - Memorial Day Parade Registration Opens
- April 9 at 11 am - Easter Egg Hunt
- April 23 - Spring Soccer Games Begin
- May 30 - Memorial Day Parade
- March 28 thru April 25 - Adult Softball Registration
- June 6 - Adult Softball Games Begin
- July - Parks and Recreation Month
- July - Fall Soccer Registration
- September 17 - Fall Soccer Games Begin
- October thru November 11 - Veterans Drive

ADULT SOFTBALL UMPIRES NEEDED

Umpires must have softball knowledge, must be able to properly enforce and know all rules of the game and be physically fit and able to umpire games. MASA certified preferred but not required. Background check required. Must be 18 or older.



SOCCER OFFICIALS NEEDED

Must be 13 years of age or older. Applicants must have soccer experience and interact well with children and adult coaches. Field and class training are required and provided by the Rec Department. Background check required.



Pavilion Rentals

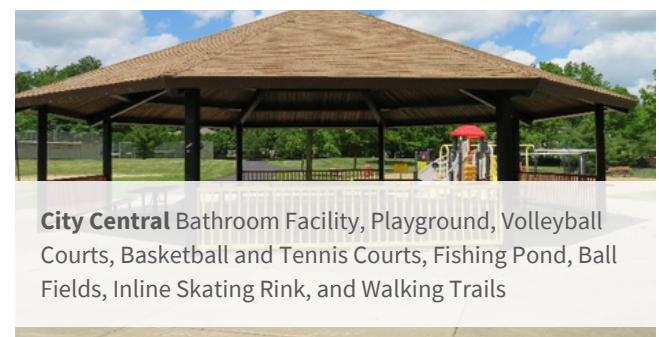
RENT A PARK PAVILION FOR YOUR NEXT GATHERING



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, and Playground



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

Reserve any of our park facilities ONLINE!

www.walkericeandfitness.com

Contact Walker Parks & Rec for more information and pricing at (616) 735-6286 or email Michelle May at mmay@walkericeandfitness.com.

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

THOM BURKE

P: (619) 379-6036 E: TBURKE@WALKER.CITY

SECOND WARD COMMISSIONERS:

ROXANNE DESCHAIINE

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

CAROL GLANVILLE

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

THIRD WARD COMMISSIONER:

ELAINA A. HUIZENGA-CHASE

P: 334-1900 E: ECHASE@WALKER.CITY

MELANIE GROOTERS

P: 690-1719 E: MGROOTERS@WALKER.CITY

CITY STAFF

ASSESSOR: KELLY SMITH

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

CITY MANAGER: DARREL SCHMALZEL

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

CITY CLERK: SARAH BYDALEK

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

ASST. CITY MANAGER / COMMUNITY

DEVELOPMENT: FRANK WASH

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

DISTRICT COURT 59TH: P: 453-5765

CITY ENGINEER: SCOTT CONNERS, P.E.

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

FIRE CHIEF : DAVE PELTON

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

POLICE CHIEF : KEITH MANKEL

P: 791-6800 E: KMANKEL@WALKER.CITY

INCOME TAX DIRECTOR: JULIE BLOK

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

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR : GARY POSTEMA

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

FINANCE DIRECTOR / TREASURER : DAN DEVRIES

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

HR DIRECTOR: SHANNON BALES

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

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER: NICOLE DIDONATO

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

WIFC FACILITY DIRECTOR:

MARY KAY SHERMAN P: 735-6286

E: MKSHERMAN@WALKERICEANDFITNESS.COM



CITY OF WALKER
4243 REMEMBRANCE RD NW
WALKER, MICHIGAN 49534

WALKER CITY NEWS ANNUAL EDITION 2022

WALKER CITY COMMISSION:



MAYOR GARY CAREY JR.



COMMISSIONER GILBERT



COMMISSIONER BURKE



COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE



COMMISSIONER GLANVILLE



COMMISSIONER GROOTERS



COMMISSIONER
HUIZENGA-CHASE

CONNECT WITH US:



NEW WEBSITE!



FREE Family Events

9
APRIL

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Hunt begins promptly at 11:00 am
Free outdoor Easter Egg Hunt in a new location this year! *Location: Walker City Central Park*

30
MAY

Memorial Day Parade

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

9
JUNE
14
JULY
11
AUGUST

Walker Standale Summer Concert Series

6:30 - 8:30 pm

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

1
OCTOBER

Walker Pumpkin Bash

Family event with free pumpkins, cider and donuts, farm animals, trick or treating, face painting and more!

Location: Walker City Hall Complex

1
DECEMBER

Walker Winter Fest

Free ice-skating, holiday crafts, reindeer, hot cocoa and cookies, live music and pictures 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 Nicole DiDonato at ndidonato@walker.city for a sponsorship packet.

Stay Informed!

SUBSCRIBE TO WALKER'S MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

The City of Walker sends out a monthly e-Newsletter with department reports, construction updates, community events and more. Sign up through the QR code or through our website at www.walkermi.gov.



Scan Me!

Community Mental Health Resources



Network 180

Open 24 hours

Phone: (616) 336-3909

Toll Free: (800) 749-7720

www.network180.org



Hope Network

Phone: (616) 301-8000

www.hopenetwork.org



Pine Rest

Phone: (800) 678-5500

www.pinerest.org



Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan

Phone: (616) 389-8601

www.benice.org