



WALKER City News

SPRING 2002

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2002 WALKER MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

The City of Walker is hosting a Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 27, 2002 at 12:00 noon. This year the parade will feature veterans, Walker City dignitaries, bands, floats, costume characters, WZZM's Bozo, clowns, antique cars, trucks, emergency vehicles, radio stations, boy scouts, girl scouts, and much, much more. There are approximately 80 entrants expected for this year's parade. The parade route will be along Lake Michigan Drive between Lincoln Lawns and St. Clair in Walker.

WALKER YOUTH COMMISSION

This is an open invitation to attend the "Walker Youth Speak" at the Walker City Hall building on Tuesday, May 14. It is at 7 p.m. and all community members are invited to come. Here you will be welcomed to participate in scheduled events which consist of a Q and A period, a double topic debate among the Walker Youth Commission, as well as snacks.

A tentative agenda of the event is as follows:

- 6:30 - 7:10 Formal welcome
- 7:10 - 7:45 Commissioners speak about past experiences with Q and A period.
- 5 minute break
- 7:50 - 8:30 Debate of the building of a Meijers in Standale (two sides for/against)
- 8:30 - 9:00 Debate of the addition to the Walker Ice & Fitness Center.
- 9:00 Conclusion of the evening

For all those who question what exactly it is that the Walker Youth Commission does, this would be a good chance to come and witness us first hand. There will be many opportunities for community members to add any additional input to the topics being discussed. The Youth Commission members look forward to seeing you there, welcoming you to participate in our first annual "WalkerYouth Speak" event.

FROM THE CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

As you know, the City of Walker has grown. Our population was 17,279 in the 1990 census and 21,842 for the 2000 census. Due to Legislation that was passed by the House and Senate, our State Senate District was changed from the 30th to the 28th. The State House of Representatives District has been changed from the 74th to the 86th District and Kent County has changed from the 10th to the 6th District. The only District to stay the same is the US House of Representatives which is still the 3rd District.

Our Department, in conjunction with the State Qualified File, will be updating information. You will be receiving a new Voter ID card in the mail with the District changes. Your precinct and place to vote for City, State and Federal elections will be the same.

If you are a registered voter and have not received a new ID card by May 1, 2002, please call.

Sandy Wisniewski, City Clerk – 791-6865
 Sue Richards, Deputy City Clerk – 791-6878
 Dawn Feringa – 791-6893



Mayoral Message:

Dear Citizens of Walker:

I have decided to use this “Mayor’s Message” to inform you of the economic conditions of the city. The City of Walker, like all other units of government and many companies and individuals, has experienced significant reductions in revenue from what it has been accustomed to in previous budget cycles. The downturn in the economy has impacted all of us.

As a consequence of that, the fund equity typically used for major infrastructure improvements beyond the delivery of services such as Police, Fire Protection, and Public Works has fallen below the normal comfort level recommended for all municipalities.

Since 1996, fund equity has provided our community with over seventeen million dollars in infrastructure enhancements such as road construction and maintenance, drainage projects, utility extensions, fire truck replacement, and vast improvements to our park networks for recreational opportunity to name just a few. All of these improvements were accomplished without a tax increase or special assessment to our residents.

This year’s budget is evolving through a collaborative process of the City Commission using a stewardship approach. It allows us to place high value on customer service, sound governance and teamwork. The City Commission has challenged each department to identify ways to reduce costs and yet maintain a high level of service. The City Commission has been very pleased with the willingness of our employees to work with the City Managers and the Commission to develop a budget that reflects the difficult economic conditions and the absolute need to be good stewards of your money.

Although we may have to defer spending on several major projects such as the reconstruction of Leonard Street, we still have on our horizon a number of projects that enjoy shared funding with outside resources and we certainly intend to pursue those. The City Commission is committed to achieving these goals without increasing the tax burden of our residents.

It is interesting to point out that relative to Grand Rapids, our tax burden remains low. For example, a family of three with a taxable income of \$50,000 would pay \$478.00 in Walker income tax. If that family lived in Grand Rapids, they would pay \$611.00. If the family had a home valued at \$100,000, they would pay \$67.13 in property tax to the City of Walker. That same house in Grand Rapids would have a property tax of \$403.62. I provide these examples to illustrate the difference in tax burden, not to justify any additional spending.

The City Commission intends to adopt a lean budget for the next fiscal year. We expect the approved budget will be a decrease from the current year financial plan. As mentioned, we may defer spending on some projects until we experience a healthier fund balance. We ask for your support and patience as we adjust to the general economic conditions.

On behalf of the Walker City Commission, I wish to thank each of you for

City Commission:

CITY HALL

453-6311

MAYOR

Rob VerHeulen — 784-1936

FIRST WARD COMMISSIONERS:

Al Parent — 784-2860

Dan Kent — 784-5591

SECOND WARD COMMISSIONERS:

Art Tanis — 453-0392

Barbara Holt — 784-5327

THIRD WARD COMMISSIONERS:

Cynthia Stek — 453-9381

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

DISTRICT COURT - 59th

Hours: M- F — 8:00 am - Noon; 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m..

Judge Peter P. Versluis — 453-5765

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

City Engineer: Scott C. Connors, 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

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

Have a wonderful spring!

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

As the Historical Commission continues collecting old pictures and stories from days long past, the following excerpts were pulled from a March 1895 Evening Press, that is in the Museum Archives:

“Three naughty little boys about 14 years old who had released some buggies standing on the tracks near Lafayette street, causing them to smash each other to the extent of \$200, were brought into the Prosecuting Attorney’s office Saturday by Detectives and lectured until the “weeps” ran in streams from their eyes. They were eventually released upon their promise “to never do so again”.

A young lady “was happily reminded of her 19th Birthday on Saturday evening, by the arrival of about 30 of her young friends, who came to help her celebrate her event. Pedro and dancing were indulged in until about 10:30 a.m., when taffy was brought in and for about an hour the merry party indulged in an old fashioned taffy pull”.

A local boy, “young in years but old enough in experience to become a member of the Ananias, was picked up on the street yesterday by the police. His lurid tale of woe found no sympathetic ear this time, and he was promptly and severely put to bed. His Mill Creek friends will doubtless claim him today.”

As you enjoy these, we are very confident that the community will enjoy the “Remembrances” book that we are working on which should be completed closer to Fall 2002. If you or anyone you know would like to contribute stories or pictures, please call Gary Carey at 453-5851.

Historical Museum Hours Spring & Summer 2002

Saturday, May 4	12-4
Saturday, June 1	12-4
Saturday, July 6	12-4
Saturday, August 3	12-4

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The City of Walker will be celebrating its 40th birthday at this year’s Walker Festival. The Birthday Blast will be held on June 14-15 at the City Central Park and will have a carnival, games, food booths, petting zoo, crafters, fireworks, birthday cake and more. In order to make this a spectacular event, we need volunteers from the community.

Opportunities for volunteering include: food booths, petting zoo, security, traffic control, information, token booth, fundraising and sponsorships, entertainment coordination, and setting up and tearing down.

If you, your friends, or family are willing to spare a few hours during the event, please call executive committee member Karen Leonard at 785-0595 or 940-4424. This is a great opportunity to show your community pride!

TORNADO OF 1956

As we approach the Severe Weather season of spring, the residents of Walker are reminded of a few major impacts that Mother Nature has thrown our way in the last fifty years. The most recent disaster was the high winds of May 1998, while the twister of Palm Sunday 1965 is still fresh in a lot of resident’s minds. Even before that though, a devastating tornado on Tuesday, April 3, 1956, swept its way on a northwest course from Hudsonville through Rockford. The area that was most impacted was the quiet stretch of Standale, forever changed by the unexpected storm.



Photo: Walker Historical Commission

Officials who made a study of damage done by the twister, said they uncovered the following facts:

- The twister traveled at a speed of 46 miles an hour. That means that a person had one minute and twenty seconds to take cover if it was spotted a mile away.
- The tornado stayed on the ground for 25 miles from near Hudsonville to a point northeast of Rockford.



Photo: Walker Historical Commission

They said the tornado “worked up and down, something like a grinder” and that when it was “up” it was three-tenths of a mile wide and when it was “down” it was a half-mile wide.

The tornado also picked up a 12,000-pound school bus owned by Leonard Heights Baptist church and bounced it three times on the roof of the basement church before depositing it 300 feet away against a telephone pole.

The surrounding communities in typical West Michigan fashion all pitched in to help each other. Not more than three days later, new concrete footings were being poured for some of the businesses destroyed in Standale. The National Guard also played a strong role having 914 soldiers in emergency service at the peak of activity on the day following the storm.

Most communities have some type of identification that they have earned over the years. Unfortunately, the Walker area seems to be well known for its storms than anything else.

WALKER DAY AT THE BERLIN RACEWAY

The Walker Recreation Department is currently selling tickets for Walker Day, at the Berlin Raceway, on Saturday, July 27. Tickets are \$11.50 each for seats that usually sell for \$12.00. The tickets are general admission, but they are in a reserved section. With the first 100 tickets purchased you will receive a special souvenir from the Berlin Raceway and the City of Walker. If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please call the Recreation Department at 791-6890.

This is the raceway's 52nd Anniversary Show, complete with fireworks!! Gates open at 11:00 a.m. with the races beginning at 7:00 p.m. REMEMBER: our seats are general admission in a reserved section.

Final deadline for purchasing tickets is July 11. So hurry and get in your order!! Remember--only people purchasing the first 100 tickets get a special souvenir!!

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 10:30 a.m. Social hour is from 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. with a meeting immediately following from 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. There is entertainment such a speakers, cards, bingo and trips planned every month. Come join the fun.

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

WALKER DAY WITH THE WEST MICHIGAN WHITECAPS

The Walker Recreation Department is currently selling tickets for Walker Day, at the Whitecaps, on Tuesday, July 16. The Whitecaps will be playing the Burlington Bees, their Major League team affiliation is the Kansas City Royals. Tickets are \$6.00 each for reserved seats that usually sell for \$6.50. With the first 200 tickets purchased you will receive a special souvenir from the Whitecaps and the City of Walker. If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please call the Recreation Department at 791-6890.

A Walker dignitary will be throwing out the first pitch of the game. Also, a special someone from the City of Walker will be singing the National Anthem. Members of the Walker Recreation Department's youth softball, youth soccer, and youth in-line hockey teams will be on the field with the Whitecaps during the singing of the National Anthem.

Final deadline for purchasing tickets is July 1. So hurry and get in your order!! Remember--only people purchasing the first 200 tickets get a special souvenir!!

FALL ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW

The Walker Recreation Department will be having its 12th Annual Fall Arts & Crafts show on Saturday, October 12, 2002 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The show will be held at Kenowa Hills Intermediate School, located at 4252 Three Mile Road, N.W.

If you are interesting in participating, please call the Walker Recreation Department at 791-6890 for an application. The entry deadline is September 12, 2002.

WALKER-ER RUN

The Walker Recreation Department is sponsoring the 21st Annual WALK-ER RUN on Saturday, September 14, 2002 starting at 8:30 a.m. There will be a 10k road race, a 5k run/walk, a 5k rollerblade race, and a 5k wheelchair race. The WALK-ER RUN will begin and end at the Walker Ice and Fitness Center, 4151 Remembrance Rd., N.W.

The registration fee is \$14.00, with a \$2.00 additional charge to participate in more than one race. 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.

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GOLF LESSONS

The Walker Recreation Department will be offering golf lessons for youth 7-15 years of age and adults 16 years of age and older.

Lessons will be offered on Tuesday evenings beginning June 4 or Friday evenings beginning June 7 at Community Park, located at Cummings and West Grand.

Youth lessons will be from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and adult lessons will be from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The cost for 4 (1 hour) lessons will be \$35.00.

To register send your name, address, business and home phone numbers, day preference, along with your check or money order payable to:

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

The deadline for registration is Tuesday, May 28th.

When registering for the lessons, please indicate whether you will be needing golf clubs.

For further information call 791-6890.

TENNIS LESSONS

The Walker Recreation Department will be offering tennis lessons for youth 7-15 years of age and adults 16 years of age and older. Lessons will be held at City Central Park.

Youth lessons will be from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and adult lessons will be from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The cost for 6 one hour lessons will be \$45.00.

For information on additional classes, please call the Walker Recreation Department at 791-6890.

To register, send your name, address, business and home phone numbers, along with your check or money order payable to:

WALKER RECREATION DEPARTMENT
4243 Remembrance Road, N.W.
Walker, Michigan 49544

The deadline for registration is May 13, 2002.

SAND VOLLEYBALL

Contact the Walker Recreation Department for information on leagues and tournaments.

RENTAL FEES

The following rental fees were adopted by the City Commission in January, 2002. For an application for rental, please contact the Recreation Department at 791-6890.

FACILITY	RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT
Shelters	\$ 25.00 (4 hours) \$ 10.00 each add'l. hour after 4 hours	\$ 50.00 (4 hours)
In-Line Skating Rink	\$ 20.00 per hour	\$ 40.00 per hour
Soccer Fields (nets not included)	\$ 10.00 per hour	\$ 15.00 per hour
Softball Fields (no bases, unlined)	\$ 15.00 (1 ½ hours)	\$ 30.00 (1 ½ hours)
Softball Fields (bases & lined)	\$ 35.00 (1 ½ hours)	\$ 50.00 (1 ½ hours)
Tennis Courts	\$ 10.00 per hour	\$ 15.00 per hour
Volleyball Courts	\$ 10.00 per hour	\$ 15.00 per hour
Concession	\$ 10.00 per hour	\$ 10.00 per hour

CO-ED SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

The Walker Recreation Department is hosting a 16 team Co-Ed Softball Tournament on Friday and Saturday, June 14 & 15, 2002. The tournament will be held at City Central Park and area fields. The cost per team is \$125.00.

Proceeds will be donated to the American Diabetes Association. If you are interested in participating, please call the Walker Recreation Department at 791.6890.

3-ON-3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

The Walker Recreation Department is hosting its 8th Annual 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament on Saturday, June 15, 2002. The tournament will be held at the Walker City Hall complex, 4243 Remembrance Rd., N.W. The cost per team is \$ 80.00.

If you are interested in participating, please call the Walker Recreation Department at 791-6890 for an application.

YOUTH IN-LINE HOCKEY LEAGUES

The Walker Recreation Department will be offering Youth In-Line Hockey Leagues for children ages 6 - 13 this summer. The 8 game schedule will begin Friday, June 28, 2002. Registrations will be May 16, 18 and 20, 2002. Games will be played Friday nights and all day Saturday.

Participants interested in joining should contact the Recreation Department at 791-6890 for additional information.

ADULT IN-LINE HOCKEY LEAGUE

The Walker Recreation Department will be offering In-Line Hockey Leagues for men this summer. The eight game leagues will begin the week of July 8, 2002. Registration will be June 3 and 4, 2002.

Teams interested in joining should contact the Walker Recreation Department at 791-6890 for an information packet. For information on Adult & High School In-Line leagues, please contact the Recreation Department.



You can always log-on for more information:

www.ci.walker.mi.us

F Y I

Standing Committees

Building Committee

Steve Versluis - Chair; Dan Kent; Al Parent

Finance Committee

Rob VerHeulen - Chair; Art Tanis; Al Parent

Ordinance Committee

Art Tanis - Chair; Cyndy Stek; Barbara Holt

Personnel Committee

Steve Versluis - Chair; Barbara Holt; Cyndy Stek

Mayor-Pro Tem

Barbara Holt

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

We continue to encourage all our residents to get involved in our community. We can only be a success with your continued support and involvement. You are the critical component to making our community a great place to live. Please do not hesitate to call if you think something may be amiss. All too frequently I hear people say, "I thought something was going on, but I did not want to bother you." PLEASE, when in doubt, BOTHER US! That's what we are here for. Besides, it is not really a bother at all. We would rather report that your concern turned out to be nothing serious than say, "If only you had called us."

The police department has been progressing well over the past several months. We have been increasing our training and level of awareness to be prepared to respond to any difficulties that may arise within our community. The tragic events of September 11 have prompted us to seriously evaluate our readiness for large-scale emergencies in a renewed light. We have been training in conjunction with area departments to anticipate the multi-jurisdictional cooperation necessary in the event of catastrophe. Looking back on the last large-scale disaster that struck the City in May 1998, the level of assistance from our neighbors was crucial to our success dealing with the aftermath. We are continuing to facilitate the multi-jurisdictional interaction and disaster planning response.

If you have noticed a large number of our officers frequenting the Walker Ice and Fitness facility, there is good reason. We have been developing a Special Response Team (SRT). The officers are required to meet and maintain stringent physical fitness standards as well as tactical skills. The purpose of the team is to enable the department to effectively respond to high-risk situations and provide a safe, effective resolution. High-risk fugitive arrests, barricaded suspects and search warrant execution are examples of SRT functions. In the past we have relied on area departments for assistance in these dangerous situations. Developing a team 'in-house' will be a



distinct advantage. Lt. Steve Dyke and Sgt. Jason Howe will be leading the team of officers who are selected for the SRT.


Traffic and traffic related problems continue to be on the forefront of the challenges presented to the department. We have been increasing the level of training and qualified officers for accident investigation (AI). AI training is essential for accident reconstruction to develop the necessary evidence to prosecute offenders. Officer Mankel has been very successful utilizing his AI training to build cases against several intoxicated drivers responsible for deaths and serious injuries. Officer Shoemaker has recently completed the AI training as well to assist with the continued effort to prosecute those responsible for creating these dangerous situations on our roadways.

Our officers have been busy working in conjunction with other area police departments funded by a federal grant from the Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP). The OHSP has designated this program as "Click it or Ticket" and "You Drink & Drive, You Lose". The grant requests a focus on intoxicated drivers and seat belt violations. The Walker Police Department has been diligently patrolling the roads in our City aggressively seeking out these violations. Officers are specifically assigned a roadway for six to eight hour blocks of time to work traffic details.

Unfortunately, intoxicated drivers have caused numerous fatal and serious injuries on our roadways this past year. This concentrated effort of pro-active patrol tactics has been very successful, and statistics are beginning to show a decline in the number of alcohol related accidents in our City. In addition, the Walker Police Department was one of several agencies identified to receive state level recognition for our efforts. As a result, we were recently notified that we are being awarded a continuation of the same grant for our success in making our roads safer for us all.

Stay safe and have a great summer!

City of Walker 2002 Tree Planting Program



Once again the City of Walker's annual tree planting program is in progress and taking applications. Last year's program yielded one hundred trees planted throughout the City of Walker. The cost to the participating resident was approximately \$130, which included a 6' to 8' tree with a 2" to 2.5" caliper, installation, staking, mulching, and a one-year guarantee. It is anticipated that the cost of the tree will be similar or slightly higher this year.

"This team approach to planting trees throughout the City has been a win/win situation for the past two years. Walker residents and staff have been quite happy with the results," commented Darrel Schmalzel, Planning Director.

The program allows residents to have trees planted in the parkway (area between the sidewalk and the street) at a discounted cost. The City of Walker will pay 50% of the cost of the tree, which includes the installation and a one-year guarantee. The 2002 program will allow residents to choose

from either a Red Sunset Maple or a Crimson King Maple tree. A substitution of similar type trees may be required depending on availability.

The Tree Planting program was developed in response to the windstorm that struck Walker in May of 1998. The program was so well received by the Walker residents that it was designated as an annual event.

"With the growing concern for environmental quality and the aesthetic value it brings, we hope that the tree planting program can help address this issue," noted Scott Conners, City Engineer.

Those interested in participating in the tree program can pick up an application at City Hall or call 453-6311. Online applications are also available at www.ci.walker.mi.us, click on City Services, Engineering, and then Tree Planting Program.



FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

THIS IS FIRE!

Every day Americans experience the horror of fire. But most people don't understand fire. Only when we know the true nature of fire can we prepare ourselves and our families. Each year more than 5,000 Americans die and more than 25,000 are injured in fires, many of which could be prevented.

The United States Fire Administration, a division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, believes that teaching people the basic facts about fire can reduce fire deaths. Below are some simple facts that explain the particular characteristics of fire.

FIRE IS FAST!

There is little time!

In less than 30 seconds a small fire can get completely out of control and turn into a major fire. It only takes minutes for thick black smoke to fill a house. In minutes, a house can be engulfed in flames. Most fires occur in the home when people are asleep. If you wake up to a fire, you won't have time to grab valuables because fire spreads too quickly and the smoke is too thick. There is only time to escape.

FIRE IS HOT!

Heat is more threatening than flames.

A fire's heat alone can kill. Room temperatures in a fire can be 100 degrees at the floor level and rise to 600 degrees at eye level. Inhaling this super hot air will scorch your lungs. This heat can melt clothes to your skin. In five minutes a room can get so hot that everything in it ignites at once: this is called flashover.

FIRE IS DARK!

Fire isn't bright, it's pitch black.

Fire starts bright, but quickly produces black smoke and complete darkness. If you wake up to a fire you may be blinded, disoriented and unable to find your way around the home you've lived in for years.

FIRE IS DEADLY!

Smoke and toxic gases kill more people than flame do.

Fire uses up the oxygen you need and produces smoke and poisonous gases that kill. Breathing even small amounts of smoke and toxic gases can make you drowsy, disoriented and short of breath. The fumes can lull you into a deep sleep before the flame reach your door. You may not wake up in time to escape.

FIRE SAFETY TIPS

In the event of a fire, remember time is the biggest enemy and every second counts!

Escape first, then call for help! Develop a home fire escape plan and designate a meeting place outside. Make sure everyone in the family know two ways to escape from every room. Practice feeling your way out with your eyes closed. Never stand up in a fire, always crawl low under the smoke and try to keep your mouth covered. Never return to a burning building for any reason; it may cost you your life.

Finally, having a working smoke alarm dramatically increases your chances of surviving a fire. And remember to practice a home escape plan frequently with your family.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE WALKER FIRE DEPT. AT 791-6840.



"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



SPRING EVENTS AT WALKER LIBRARY

PUT YOUR PET INTO PICTURES PHOTO CONTEST - **April 14-May 31**

Put your pet into pictures for the Kent District Library 2003 calendar. Take a picture of your pet with a book or other library materials, and it could be featured for an entire month next year. Pick up contest rules and registration forms at any branch of the Kent District Library beginning April 14. Winners will be announced in June, and calendars will go on sale in the fall. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the Alliance of Friends to fund library programs.

LIBRARY HEROES - **May 1**

Library Hero applications will be available in the library for young adults ages 11-15 who would like to volunteer in the library this summer. All heroes will be required to attend one orientation session either on Thursday, May 30 at 7:00 p.m. or Monday June 3 at 7:00 p.m.

Registration is required.

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION - **May 9, 10:00 a.m.**

Join us for refreshments as well as an informal discussion of *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AND DERBY RACE - **May 27**

Memorial Day! Join the Walker Library for lots of fun in Standale as the Walker Library participates in the annual Memorial Day Parade and Derby Race. The parade begins at noon with the race following immediately afterwards. Please be there to cheer us on!!

SUMMER READING CLUB REGISTRATION BEGINS - **June 10**

Don't miss the first day of Summer Reading Club Registration! Great programming and reading incentives for kids of all ages are coming up for the summer. Please pick up a program guide when you visit the library.

NEW SERVICES

This spring, in addition to creative events, the Kent District Library will also be rolling out additional on-line services at all 18 branches. "ASK KDL", an on-line reference service, and patron e-mail notification will become available in April during National Library Week.

As always, please call the Walker Library at our NEW PHONE NUMBER, 647-3970, with questions regarding any of our services. The Library is open 6 days a week and has evening hours Monday thru Thursday.

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.

