



WALKER City News

SUMMER 2003

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Community Auction	1
West Nile	1
Home Security	1
Mayoral Message	2
City Commission	2
City Services	2
Fire Safety	3
West Nile (con't.)	4
Recreation Department	5
Home Security (con't.)	6
FREE Fitness Trial	6
Dinner Theatre Bus Trip	7
Cons Targeting Older People	7
Protect Yourself	7
"Your" Newsletter	Back
Walker Youth Commission	Back
From the Library	Back
Meeting Dates & Times	Back

You can always log-on for more information:



www.ci.walker.mi.us



COMMUNITY AUCTION

CELEBRATE WALKER'S HERITAGE!



An auction benefiting the Edison Historical House will be held on September 6, 2003 at

4:00 PM - 8:00 PM at the **Delta Plex** (Turner and West River Drive)

A wide variety of items will be available including antique and new items, food, and prizes.

For donations or further information, contact: Gary Carey at 453-5851 -or- Cyndy Stek at 791-9381

WEST NILE VIRUS — Basic Questions and Answers...



What is West Nile virus?

West Nile virus was first found in the U.S. in 1999 in New York City. Since then, it has spread to most states including Michigan. West Nile virus is spread by the bite of a mosquito that has the virus. Mosquitoes get West Nile virus from biting a bird that has the virus in its blood. After 10 to 14 days, the mosquito can then give the virus to people, birds, or other animals by biting them. West Nile virus is not spread person-to-person like a cold. It has been spread from a pregnant mother to her baby through breast milk, blood transfusions and organ transplants.

What are the symptoms of West Nile virus?

Most people who get the West Nile virus will not have any symptoms – they won't even know they have it. Some people may get sick 3 to 14 days after a bite from a mosquito carrying the virus. A small number of people who get West Nile virus will get a mild illness with fever, head and body aches, and sometimes a skin rash and swollen glands. There are no known long-term effects from a mild illness.

West Nile virus can cause severe illness known as West Nile encephalitis or meningitis. Symptoms include headache, high fever, stiff neck, disorientation, muscle weakness, coma, and convulsions. A small number of these illnesses have been deadly. But, people do not often get severe West Nile illness. Less than 1% of the people who get West Nile virus will develop a severe illness.

If you think you or any of your family members have any symptoms of West Nile virus you should talk to your doctor. If you have any symptoms like fever, confusion, muscle weakness and severe headaches, you should see your doctor right away.

...continued on page four

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

HOME SECURITY CHECKLIST

Please take a minute to use this guide as a checklist of your home for safety measures. Check-off any areas where you could take action to improve your home's security. These are just some of the steps you can take to decrease the likelihood that your home is the potential target of crime.

...continued on page six





Mayoral Message:

Dear Citizens of Walker,

I wish to take this opportunity to comment on a couple of recent studies of the Grand Rapids urban area which have been released. One was prepared by Myron Orfield, a nationally known leader in urban and local government issues. The second was issued by the Grand Rapids Magazine in its April edition. I will share some of the pertinent information as it relates to our City.

Both studies reflect that our City continues to grow in population. While our population is not growing as fast as some of the townships in Kent County, our growth rate is steady and solid. Our population density is the lowest for any city in Kent County.

Both studies also stressed the important relationship between the health of a community and the public school system. We are fortunate in Walker to have three fine public school systems and are served by many excellent non-public systems. It is important for us to maintain high standards in our public and non-public educational systems if we are to continue to be a vibrant, healthy community.

The Grand Rapids Magazine article attempted to rank various communities as “the most desirable to live.” In ranking the 6 contiguous cities in Kent County (East Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids, Grandville, Kentwood, Walker, and Wyoming), our City was ranked second behind East Grand Rapids as the most desirable to live. The rankings took into account a number of factors including the quality of the school system, property tax rates, growth and income data, population density, environmental conditions, amount of park land, the crime rate, and the degree of participation in voting. While a ranking of this type is somewhat subjective, it is encouraging to see that we stack up well when compared to similarly situated communities in Kent County.

We hope to use the data from these studies to continue to enhance the family-friendly environment in which we live and work.

As you may have heard, City Manager Jim Hatch has decided to retire at the end of this year. We are very grateful to Jim for his 13 years as our City Manager. Jim worked with 4 different Mayors during his tenure as City Manager.

The City Commission voted to appoint Cathy VanderMeulen as City Manager when Jim retires. Cathy served as Deputy Assessor and Planning Director for 8 years and the past 4 years as Assistant City Manager. We are confident that the transition will go very well and that Cathy will continue the professionalism that we have enjoyed in the past.

You made very good use of the May 1 – 3 Clean-Up days at City Hall. This is an increasingly popular event. This year, Walker residents delivered 912,000 pounds of trash to City Hall. This is 216,000 pounds more than 2002 and represents the removal of over 40 pounds of trash for every man, woman, and child living in the City. We extend our appreciation to the DPW team for an outstanding job directing this program.

Finally, just a brief word about a new ordinance relating to storm water. After a great deal of effort by our professional staff, we have adopted a new stormwater management and control ordinance. The purpose of the ordinance is to require that all new development meets new standards which will reduce flood damage, storm water runoff, erosion, and other ecological damage. This ordinance will be a useful tool in limiting damage due to development.

On behalf of the City Commission, I wish each of you a pleasant and safe summer season. Please feel free to contact any member of the City Commission if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

City Commission:

CITY HALL

453-6311

MAYOR

Rob VerHeulen — 791-6860 Office; 453-2201 Home
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:

Barbara Holt — 784-5327; bholt@ci.walker.mi.us
Randy Smith — 453-4187; rsmith@ci.walker.mi.us

THIRD WARD COMMISSIONERS:

Cynthia Stek — 791-9381; cstek@ci.walker.mi.us
Steven Versluis — 791-9247

City Services:

CLERK'S OFFICE

Hours: M- F — 8:00 am - 5:00 p.m.

Sandra A. Wisniewski, CMC

Phone: 791-6865 — swisniew@ci.walker.mi.us

TREASURER'S OFFICE

Dan DeVries, Treasurer

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

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Kelly Gibbs, Dep. Assessor

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

BUILDING/ZONING DEPARTMENT

Jeff Nelson, Building Official

Phone: 791-6858 — jnelson@ci.walker.mi.us

CITY MANAGER

James Hatch

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

Cathy Vander Meulen

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

DISTRICT COURT - 59th

Hours: M- F — 8:00 am - 5:00 p.m..

Judge Peter P. Versluis — 453-5765

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

City Engineer: Scott C. Connors, P.E.

Phone: 791-6792 — sconners@ci.walker.mi.us

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Cindy Mielke, Finance Manager

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief: William Schmidt

Phone: 791-6840 — bschmidt@ci.walker.mi.us

INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT

Julie Blok, Income Tax Director

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

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Marcy Kneibel, Recreation Director

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

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Darrel Schmalzel, Planning Director

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Catherine Garcia-Lindstrom, Police Chief

Phone: 791-6812

PUBLIC WORKS

Mark Koning, DPW Director

Phone: 791-6854 — mkoning@ci.walker.mi.us;

or TCritten@ci.walker.mi.us

www.ci.walker.mi.us



U.S. Fire Administration Offers Ways to Stay Fire Safe This Summer

Every year Americans look forward to summer vacations, camping, family reunions, picnics, and the Fourth of July. Summertime, however, also brings fires and injuries due to fireworks and outdoor grills. Annually more than 8,000 Americans are injured by fireworks and grill fires. More than half of these injuries occur during the first week of July.

“Fireworks and barbecues can be very dangerous, even deadly, if not used properly,” said U.S. Fire Administrator R. David Paulison. “Before cooking out or lighting fireworks, review fire safety precautions with your family.”

The National Fire Data Center estimates that yearly, outside cooking grills cause more than 6,000 fires, over 5 fatalities, more than 170 injuries, and \$35 million in property loss. Gas grills alone cause over 2,700 fires, 80 injuries, and \$11 million dollars damage. Most of the gas grill fires and explosions were caused by gas leaks, blocked tubes, and overfilled propane tanks.

In addition to outdoor cooking, improper use of fireworks causes more than 6,000 fires and more than \$8 million in damage. “Summertime should be a time for fun and making happy memories. Knowing a few fire safety tips and following instructions will help everyone have a safe summer,” said Paulison.

Families also enjoy camping in the summer. It is important to follow the park's rules for the use and extinguishing of campfires.

SUMMER FIRE SAFETY TIPS

Fireworks Safety

- The best way to enjoy fireworks is to visit public fireworks displays put on by professionals who know how to safely handle fireworks.
- If you plan to use fireworks, make sure they are legal in your area.
- Never light fireworks indoors or near dry grass.
- Always have a bucket of water and/or a fire extinguisher nearby. Know how to operate the fire extinguisher properly.
- Do not wear loose clothing while using fireworks.
- Stand several feet away from lit fireworks. If a device does not go off, do not stand over it to investigate it. Put it out with water and dispose of it.
- Always read the directions and warning labels on fireworks. If a device is not marked with the contents, direction and a warning label, do not light it.
- Supervise children around fireworks at all times.

Campfire Safety

- Keep campfires small, and don't let them get out of hand.
- Keep plenty of water and a shovel around to douse the fire when you're done. Stir it and douse it again with water.
- Never leave campfires unattended.
- Build campfires where they will not spread, away from dry grass and leaves.

Barbecue Safety

- Before using a grill, check the connection between the propane tank and the fuel line. Make sure the venturi tubes - where the air and gas mix - are not blocked.
- Do not overfill the propane tank.
- Do not wear loose clothing while cooking at a barbecue.
- Be careful when using lighter fluid. Do not add fluid to an already lit fire because the flame can flashback up into the container and explode.
- Keep all matches and lighters away from children. Teach your children to report any loose matches or lighters to an adult immediately. Supervise children around outdoor grills.
- Dispose of hot coals properly - douse them with plenty of water, and stir them to ensure that the fire is out. Never place them in plastic, paper or wooden containers.
- Never grill/barbecue in enclosed areas - carbon monoxide could be produced.
- Make sure everyone knows to Stop, Drop and Roll in case a piece of clothing does catch fire. Call 911 or your local emergency number if a burn warrants serious medical attention.

USFA, part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, serves the American public and the nation's fire services through training, data collection and analysis, public fire education, and fire protection technology research.

For more information, including national fire statistics visit the USFA web site at www.usfa.fema.gov.

WEST NILE VIRUS — Basic Questions and Answers...

continued from page one

Can West Nile virus be treated?

There is no treatment that is shown to work for West Nile virus infection. Most people recover on their own. Some people with more severe West Nile illness may need to see a doctor and in some cases may need to stay in the hospital.

Who is at risk for West Nile virus?

All people living in areas where the virus has been active are at risk for West Nile virus. Since West Nile virus has been active in Michigan, all people in Michigan are at risk mainly during the summer months. The risk of the more severe form of the disease (West Nile encephalitis) is highest for people 50 years of age and older. Most people that get the West Nile virus have either no symptoms or mild symptoms.

How can I prevent West Nile virus?

Try to get fewer mosquito bites: Wear bug spray, lotion or gel with DEET (N, N-diethyl-3-methylbenzamide) when you go outdoors. Common bug sprays, lotions and gels with DEET include Off, DEET, Cutter, etc. The more DEET in a spray, lotion or gel, the longer it works. Sprays, lotions and gels with 10-35% DEET will do a good job for adults. For children, only use products with 10% or less DEET.

When using bug sprays, lotions or gels follow these instructions:

- Always follow the directions on the product label.
- Only use on exposed skin. Do not use under clothing.
- Do not use on cuts or sores.
- Do not use on the eyes and mouth and do not spray on the face. Spray onto hands first and then rub hands over your face.
- When using on children, put repellent on your hands first and then use your hands to put it on the child. Never use on children's hands because they often put their hands in their mouths.
- After coming inside, wash skin with soap and water or bathe.
- When you can, wear clothes that cover the skin like long sleeves, long pants and socks while outdoors. You can also spray your clothing with bug spray since mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing.
- Wear light-colored clothing since mosquitoes like dark colors.
- Put mosquito netting over infant carriers and strollers when infants are outdoors.
- Do not wear strong smelling perfumes or use strong smelling shampoos and hair sprays because mosquitoes like strong smells.
- You may want to stay indoors at dawn, dusk and during the early evening. These are the times when mosquitoes are most likely to bite you. Also, try to stay away from activities in areas where there are a lot of mosquitoes.

- Make sure that your window and door screens do not have any holes where mosquitoes can get in to the house. If you do not have screens, get them.
- Mosquitoes can follow people into buildings or come in on pets so make sure your pets are free of mosquitoes when letting them into the house.

Try to lower the number of mosquito breeding areas around your home:

- Keep your lawn and shrubs cut.
- Change the water in your bird bath twice a week.
- Empty and clean children's wading pools a couple times a week.
- Empty and refill pet water bowls every day.
- Cover trash bins to keep them from filling with water.
- Get rid of things in your yard that can collect water (like jars, bottles, old tires, etc.).
- Clean leaves and sticks out of eaves troughs/rain gutters and check them often.
- Store boats and canoes upside down so they do not collect and hold rain water.
- Drain or fill any low areas in your yard where water stands for five or more days.

Who do I call regarding dead or dying birds?

Call the Kent County Health Department at (616) 336-3030 if you see any dead or dying birds. Do not touch the birds, or any dead animal with your bare hands. Use gloves or an inside-out plastic bag to pick the animal up to put in the trash. Do not bring any dead birds or other dead animals to the health department.

For more information call (616)336-3030 or log-on to: www.michigan.gov/westnilevirus

What is the City of Walker doing to reduce the potential of West Nile Virus?

In addition to providing educational and surveillance information, the City Commission recently approved a plan to treat all public storm sewer catch basins with methoprene. This treatment has the approval of the Department of Environmental Quality, and has been found to be highly effective in reducing the West Nile Virus in mosquito larvae.

The Department of Public Works will apply the treatment by dropping small briquettes into the catch basins. One application is effective for the duration of the mosquito-breeding season.

WALKER DAY WITH THE WEST MICHIGAN WHITECAPS

The Walker Recreation Department is currently selling tickets for "Walker Day" at the Whitecaps, on Tuesday, July 22, 2003. Tickets are \$7.00 each for reserved seats that usually sell for \$7.50. With the first 100 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.

Final deadline for purchasing tickets is July 7. 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 the Community Building/Fire Station #3, located at 1470 Three Mile Rd., N.W.

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.

SOCCER CAMP

The Walker Recreation Department will be offering a soccer camp this summer for youth 7 - 12 years of age. Learn the fundamentals of soccer and develop your soccer skills while having a great time!! The camp will be July 14 through July 18. The cost is \$30.00 per player.

Pre-registration is required. Deadline for registration is Monday, July 7. For more information, contact the Walker Recreation Department at 791-6890.

2003 CO-ED FALL YOUTH SOCCER PROGRAM

The Walker Recreation Department will be offering a Co-Ed Fall Soccer Program for boys and girls 7 through 12 years of age.

Cost is \$23.00 per player. Practices will begin the week of September 8 and games will begin on Saturday, September 20.

Registration forms will be available at the Recreation Department, located at 4243 Remembrance Rd., N.W. during the following registration dates and times:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Tuesday, July 15 | 3:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M. |
| Thursday, July 17 | 3:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M. |
| Thursday, July 24 | 3:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M. |

For further information, please call 791-6890.

2003 WALK-ER RUN

The Walker Recreation Department is sponsoring the **21st Annual Walk-Er Run** on Saturday, September 13, 2003 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 Kenowa Hills Intermediate School, 4252 Three Mile Rd., N.W.

The registration fee is \$18.00 paid before or on September 12 before noon or \$23.00 on September 13. There will be a \$2.00 additional charge to participate in both races.

Registrations will NOT be accepted between 12 noon September 12 and 7:30 a.m. September 13.

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.

FALL ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW

The Walker Recreation Department will be having its 13th Annual Fall Arts & Crafts show on Saturday, October 11, 2003 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.

If you are interesting in participating, please call the Walker Recreation Department at 791-6890 for an application. The entry deadline is September 11, 2003.

AEROBICS CLASSES

The Walker Recreation Department will be offering cardio combo classes and step aerobics classes for men and women. The next 10 week session of classes will begin the week of September 8, 2003.

Classes will be held at the Community Building/Fire Station #3, located at 1470 Three Mile Rd., N.W.

Cardio combo, which includes hi/lo, kickboxing, step, toning, and pilates will be offered on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Cost for a 10 week session once a week is \$27.00 and twice a week is \$43.00.

Step aerobics will be offered on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Cost for a 10 week session once a week is \$27.00 and twice a week is \$43.00.

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

WALKER RECREATION DEPARTMENT
4243 Remembrance Rd., N.W.
Walker, MI 49544.

The deadline for registration is Tuesday, September 2, 2003.



Exterior Doors

- All doors are locked at night and every time we leave the house — even if it's just for a few minutes.
- Doors are solid hardwood or metal-clad.
- Doors feature wide-angle viewers at heights everyone can use.
- If there are glass panels in or near our doors, they are reinforced in some way so that they cannot be shattered.
- All entryways have a working, keyed entry lock and sturdy dead bolt lock installed into the frame of the door.
- Spare keys are kept with a trusted neighbor, not under a doormat or planter, on a ledge, or in the mailbox.

Garage and Sliding Door Security

- The door leading from the attached garage to the house is solid wood or metal-clad and protected with a quality keyed door lock and deadbolt.
- The overhead garage door has a lock so that we do not rely solely on the automatic door opener to provide security.
- Garage doors are all locked when leaving the house.
- The sliding glass door has a strong, working key lock.
- A dowel or a pin has been installed to prevent the door from being shoved aside or lifted off the track.
- The sliding door is locked every night and each time we leave the house.

Protecting Windows

- Every window in the house has a working key lock or is securely pinned.
- Windows are always locked, even when opened a few inches for ventilation.

Outdoor Security

- Shrubs and bushes are trimmed so there is no place for someone to hide.
- There are no dark areas around our house, garage, or yard at night that would hide prowlers.
- Every outside door has a motion-sensored, bright, working light to illuminate visitors.
- Motion-sensored floodlights are used appropriately to ensure effective illumination.
- Our house number is clearly displayed so police and other emergency vehicles can find the house quickly.

Security When Away From Home

- At least two light timers have been set to turn the lights on and off in a logical sequence when we are away for an extended time period.
- The motion detector or other alarm system (if we have one) has been activated when we leave home.
- Mail and newspaper deliveries have been stopped or arrangements for a neighbor/friend to pick them up have been made when we go away from home for a period of time.
- A neighbor has been asked to tend the yard and watch our home when we are away.

Outdoor Valuables and Personal Property

- Gate latches, garage doors, and shed doors are all locked with high- security, laminated padlocks.
- Gate latches, garage doors, and shed doors are locked after every use.
- Grills, lawn mowers, and other valuables are stored in a locked garage or shed, or if left out in the open, are hidden from view with a tarp and securely locked to a stationary point.
- Every bicycle is secured with a U-bar lock or quality padlock and chain.
- Bikes are always locked, even if we leave them for just a minute.
- Firearms are stored unloaded and locked in storage boxes and secured with trigger guard locks.
- Valuable items, such as televisions, stereos, and computers have been inscribed with an identifying number approved by local police.
- Our home inventory is up-to-date and includes pictures. A complete copy is kept somewhere out of the house.

WALKER ICE & FITNESS CENTER



TRY before you buy!

The BEST fitness facility in the area and we want to prove it!
NO hidden costs. Nothing to pay, just bring in THIS coupon
with your work-out clothes!

***QUALIFICATIONS:**

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

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

DINNER THEATRE BUS TRIP

CORNWELL'S DINNER THEATRE CHRISTMAS BUS TRIP

The Walker Recreation Department is offering a bus trip to Cornwell's Dinner Theatre in Turkeyville, Michigan. Come join us for the new Christmas story, "Once Upon a Christmas." Filled with traditional and new music, you will be treated to all the best of the holiday season.

The trip will be on Friday, December 5, 2003. The bus will leave from Walker City Hall at 9:00 a.m. The total cost for the bus trip is \$55.00. This includes the 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 delicious desserts. You will enjoy the wonderful Cornwell matinee that will help to make your Christmas season so special. Shopping at Cornwell's is a sure way to find that wonderful and unique treasure. Join us for a traditional celebration you will 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 ROAD N.W.
WALKER, MICHIGAN 49544

The deadline for registration is Monday, November 17, 2003. For further information please call 791-6890.

SOME TYPICAL CONS TARGETED AT OLDER PEOPLE

Many cons choose to victimize older people. Con artists devise complex offers that confuses their targets and eventually persuade them to take up these offers.

Don't let this happen to you:

The phone rings and the caller tells you that you've won a new car. In order to claim the prize you need to mail a check to cover the taxes and delivery of the car. Weeks later, the phone rings again. You learn that the original prize company has gone out of business. But the caller tells you not to worry because his/her company has purchased the assets of the defunct company. All you need to do now is send another check to the new company to cover the costs of the legal transactions and for immediate delivery of the car. The check gets mailed, but the prize never arrives.

Another version would be:

A mail offer, newspaper, magazine, or television ad catches your eye. It promises a quick cure for cancer, arthritis, memory loss, back pain, or other ailments. "It's an absolute miracle!" One testimony reads. "I feel a million times better" You mail your check for a six-week supply of this miracle cure and wind up with a jar of Vitamin C, placebos, or even worse, pills or tonics that have not been medically tested and could worsen your condition or react negatively with the prescription medication you regularly take.

YOU CAN PROTECT YOURSELF

- By following a few helpful hints you can protect yourself from unwanted problems. **Remember:**
- Never give a caller your credit card, phone card, Social Security number, or bank account number over the phone. It's illegal for telemarketers to ask for these numbers to verify a prize or gift.
- Beware of 900 numbers. Remember, if you call a 900 number to claim a "prize," you end up paying for the call. Make sure you understand all charges before making the call.
- Take your time and shop around. Don't let an aggressive con artist pressure you into making a decision. Demand information in writing by mail. Get a second opinion. Ask your family, friends, and neighbors what they think about certain offers.
- Stay informed about current scams in your area. Contact your State Attorney General's office, district attorney's office, the Better Business Bureau, or the Walker Police Department for more information.
- Remember, you have the right, the ability, and the power to say no! If the caller on the other end of the phone makes you wary, be assertive and end the conversation. Cons know that the longer they keep you on the phone, the higher their chance of success. They often prey on the trusting, polite nature of many people or on their excitement over getting a supposed prize or bargain. By saying no and hanging up the phone, you can prevent a crime from taking place.

"YOUR" NEWSLETTER!

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

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

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

Thank you!

CITY OF WALKER
4243 Remembrance Road NW
Walker MI 49544

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
GRAND RAPIDS, MI
PERMIT #1



WALKER YOUTH COMMISSION

The Walker Youth Commission is organized to represent the concerns of youth within the City and attend its various boards and committees to learn and understand the government process.

The members of the Walker Youth Commission are:

Becky Bork Kenowa Hills H.S. Senior
Sheryl Bos Kenowa Hills H.S. Senior
Veronica Castro Kenowa Hills H.S. Junior
Nicholas Clay Kenowa Hills H.S. Junior
Alicia Czarnik Kenowa Hills H.S. Senior
Megan Holtrop Kenowa Hills H.S. Senior
Laura Lindstrom Kenowa Hills H.S. Senior
Marianna Szczepkowski . . . Kenowa Hills H.S. Junior
Holly Zoe Kenowa Hills H.S. Sophomore
Nathan Zokoe Calvin Christian H.S. Junior
Chad Giese Kenowa Hills H.S. Sophomore

The Walker Youth Commission has had a very successful year. They have attended monthly regularly scheduled youth meetings, as well as meeting with adult committees. They have interacted with City Commissioners and Staff. They are involved in the "Adopt A Road" Program. They visited the State Capitol and attended the Michigan Municipal League Statewide Event where they heard Governor Granholm speak to other City leaders from all over the State. The youth participated in The Walker Youth Speak on May 13th. They have learned how to conduct a meeting in addition to the practices and functions of City Government.

If you are interested in joining the Walker Youth Commission please contact Cindy Mielke at 791-6799 or your City Commissioner Barb Holt at 784-5327.

You must be in grades 9 -12 to be eligible.

FROM THE LIBRARY

Laugh it up at your Library and sign up for the Summer Reading Club! Reach your reading goal and receive great prizes! Families are encouraged to read together and win prizes through the "Parents as Reading Partners" club. For kids going into grade 5 and under. Sponsored by WOOD TV-8 and Meijer.

For information and all of the great new programs at the Library and their summer hours, please call (616) 647-3970.



Meeting Dates and Times

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

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

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

Recreation Committee
Meets one Wednesday of each month.
City Hall Conference Room

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

Community Relations/Volunteer Committee
Meets 3rd Thursday of every month to identify
individual & community needs. (veterans, seniors,
etc.) Also recognizes and awards 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 transport-
ation matters brought by residents.