

CITY OF WALKER

E-NEWSLETTER



GREETINGS FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

As I put my thoughts down for the September newsletter, I cannot help but think about what the rest of us are all thinking: When will these road projects be done? The good news is the biggest one impacting us right now is Kinney, and it should be done and fully open for all traffic by the time this newsletter is shared with the public. While this was a challenging summer to navigate through that area, I cannot help but think of a few relevant thoughts. One, the smaller number of north/south roads in our city becomes more noticeable when we have construction on one of them, especially the roads with higher traffic. This is an area in which we have begun to take a firmer stance with development in the city as we have come to realize the importance of those north/south arteries keeping pace with the needs of our city.



Second, it is critical to coordinate with other municipalities or agencies regarding the projects they are working on in that area. That might not have gone as smoothly as we wanted to start the summer, but we did get through it and will do better in the future. Third, thank you for your support in doing these needed projects and for having patience and civility with one another (and the workers) while the work continues. And quite frankly, thank you for paying for them. We know that money to fund the projects comes from the taxes that we all pay. When we see we have a problem that needs a solution, the trust and support from this community are quite often without words. On behalf of our city staff, the construction workers, and elected officials, thank you for your continued backing of these projects.

The other update I am proud to share is that the library continues to move forward at a strong pace. All the community open houses we had to gather feedback have been critical in forming what we need in the new building, both in structure and services. The ongoing refinement of the outside and inside of the building continues to narrow down to what will be a finished product. Look for more specifics for that final set of plans to come later this fall, closer to the holiday season. Because we will close the current library building, the city and Kent District Library have agreed to open a temporary library in Standale. More details will be provided in an upcoming newsletter and on social media. What I can share is that the temporary library will open sometime after the first of the year. This will allow our construction crews to work on the new building and renovate the old one without delay or interruption. Additionally, knowing who and what our community is and maintaining that sense of place throughout construction guided us to the temporary storefront in Standale.

Thank you for choosing to call Walker home.

Mayor Gary Carey, Jr.

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THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 EVENT SPONSORS!



PUBLIC WORKS & ENGINEERING UPDATES

SAFER TRAIL CROSSINGS

This summer, the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (GVMC) is piloting a new program by installing demonstration projects within local communities. Complete Streets enables safe access for all street users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders. Demonstration projects allow trying out transportation network changes before making a permanent commitment. On August 20, a pedestrian island was placed at the Fredrick Meijer Standale Trail Crossing at Leonard Street. It will be in place through mid-October. Your feedback on this temporary project will help inform more long-term solutions.



MAILBOX SHAKE TEST

As you prep your yard and home for fall, make sure to check your mailbox.

Now is the perfect time to perform the shake test to ensure that your mailbox can withstand snow removal.

Grab your mailbox and shake it. If the post for the mailbox moves easily, it will not hold up for winter maintenance in your area.

Follow DPW/Engineering on Facebook

INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT UPDATES

We appreciate your feedback. Our new team is working diligently to get your refunds to you as quickly as possible. We thank you for your patience as we process returns.

DUE DATES

Third quarter estimated payments for calendar year 2024 are due September 30, 2024. Forms are available on our [website](#).

WHERE'S MY REFUND?

Refunds for 2023 timely filed returns are still being processed and will be completed soon. We appreciate your patience. If you received a letter requesting more information, please respond as soon as possible. If we do not receive the required information, deductions and credits will be disallowed resulting in a lower refund or an assessment. You can provide missing information several ways:

- Mail to Walker Income Tax Department, PO Box 153, Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0153
- Email us at incometax@walker.city
- Fax at 616-791-6808
- Secure the upload site using the link [here](#).

FORGOTTEN RETURNS

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 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 the letters go out from this matching program.

MISSING INFORMATION

Did you receive a request for information related to your 2023 Walker income tax return? If we did not receive the information upon request from the taxpayer, deductions and credits will be disallowed resulting in a lower refund or assessment. If you were expecting a refund, but have received a proposed assessment or reduced refund, there is still time to provide the required information. You must send us proof of the credit/deduction within 30 days of the date you received the notice that we adjusted your return. If you're not sure what we need, please [email us](#) or call 616-791-6880.

If you are not sure if you need to file Walker Income Tax returns, the most common questions are answered on our [website](#). You can also call us at 616-791-6880.

CLERK'S DEPARTMENT UPDATES

State General Election

- Election Day: Tuesday, November 5, from 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM. More information to come.
- Early Voting: Available to Walker registered voters October 26th -November 3rd from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM located at the Walker Commission Chambers.
- Register to Vote: The last day to register to vote by mail or in-person anywhere but the Walker City Clerk's Office for this election is October 21, 2024. Eligible Walker residents with proof of residency can register to vote in-person at the Clerk's office by 8:00 PM on Election Day.

DID YOU KNOW?

By going to [MI.gov/vote](https://mi.gov/vote) you can:

- Request an absentee ballot and vote from home
- Update your address
- Register to vote
- Verify you are registered to vote
- Find your polling location
- Track the status of your ballot
- See what will be on your ballot

Those who wish to vote absentee can request an absentee ballot for the upcoming elections.

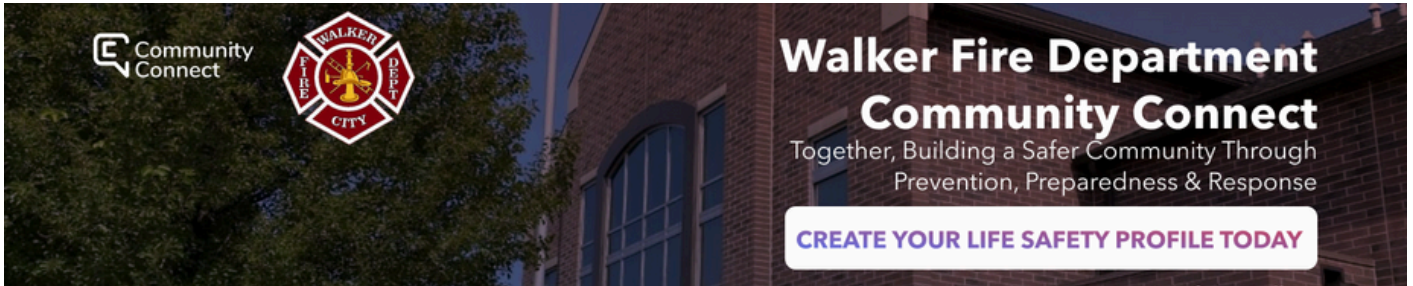
The Clerk's office anticipates mailing absentee ballots out the last week of September. Absentee ballots are always available **40 days before any election** in-person during regular business hours at the Clerk's Office or by filling out an application for an absentee ballot.

Apply for an Absentee Ballot Online – Your completed application will automatically be sent to the City Clerk's Office so we can mail out your absentee ballot.

Apply for an Absentee Ballot By Mail - You can download the application form and return it by mail or drop it in one of the City's designated elections drop boxes. You can also email the signed and completed application. Once your application is received, your absentee ballot will be mailed to you.

Email or call the clerk's office if you need an application mailed to you. The number is (616) 791-6865.

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATES



BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY TIPS

- Arrive early and stand away from the curb when waiting for the school bus.
- Board the bus only when it has stopped completely.
- Stay visible to the bus driver and never walk behind the bus.
- Cross streets at corners, obey signals, and use crosswalks.
- Wear seat belts in cars and use car seats or booster seats as needed.
- Teen drivers should wear seat belts, avoid distractions, and not use cell phones.
- Cyclists should wear helmets and ride on the right side of the road.
- Walkers should cross streets at intersections with crossing guards.
- Parents should accompany young or new students to school initially and encourage walking in groups.

[Follow the Walker Fire Department on Facebook](#)

POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

As we often do during summer months, we recently saw a spike in our Larceny from Vehicle calls. Nearly all the vehicles had been left unlocked. Leaving vehicles unlocked makes it all too easy for thieves to have a productive evening. When thieves find so many vehicles left unlocked, they will continue to come back, as they know an area is an easy and fruitful target. Please be diligent in removing firearms, keys, and valuables from your vehicle when they are left unattended. Once you do so, LOCK YOUR DOORS. Remind your friends and neighbors to do so as well.



If you see suspicious activity, call 911 immediately without worrying about the non-emergency number. Avoid engaging the subject to allow officers to arrive quickly and catch them in the act to prove criminal behavior effectively.

[Follow the Walker Police Department - Michigan on Facebook](#)

WALKER ICE & FITNESS CENTER UPDATES

September Member Special



\$0 JOINING FEE!
For new and returning members



LOOKING FOR A NEW GYM?

Unlock your full potential with Walker Ice & Fitness Center's state-of-the-art facility.

With over 50 cardio machines, extensive free weights, 60+ pieces of resistance equipment, personal training, senior programs, an indoor track, and open ice skating sessions, you'll be on your way to becoming the best version of yourself!

Memberships start at just \$39 per month! Join in the month of September for a \$0 joining fee!

CROSS ICE

October 11-March 14
(Friday's at 5 PM and Sunday's at 12 PM)

Register: walker.city/register
Questions? Contact Mike Fountain



Learn to Skate Basic Skills

Learn To Skate provides a fun way for skaters 5-18 to learn to fundamentals of ice skating. Learn to Skate will ensure you learn the correct techniques of the basic skating elements. We also offer adult Learn to Skate!

Learn to Play Hockey

Learn To Play Hockey is a great way for children 3-18 to start and develop their hockey-playing skills. It's essential for Learn to Play Hockey that participants have basic skating skills.

Snow Plow

Snow Plow is for children 3-5 years old who've never skated before. It teaches kids the basics of skating in a fun and safe environment. On-ice instruction is for 30 minutes.

Register: walker.city/register



Follow Walker Ice & Fitness on Facebook

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATES



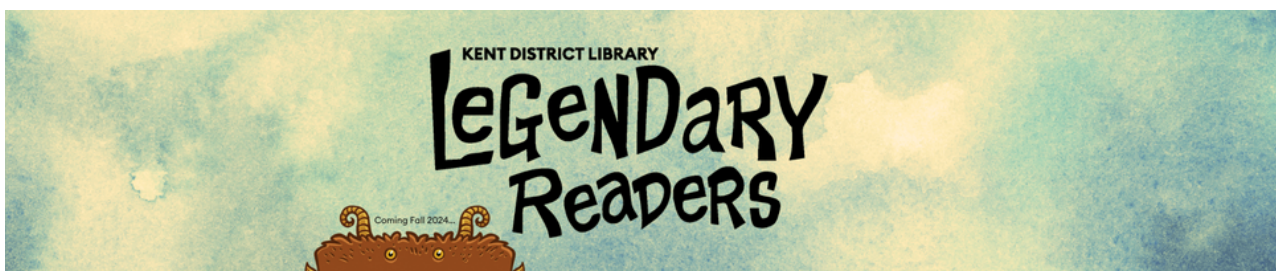
FALL SOCCER PHOTO CONTEST

- September 20-30 only - Upload your pictures to the Walker Parks and Recreation Facebook page (City of Walker Parks and Recreation), or [email them](#).
- Multiple Entries accepted
- Submit photos from Fall 2024 season only
- Prize - FREE SOCCER REGISTRATION for Spring 2025
- By entering the contest, entrants agree that photos submitted can be used by Walker Recreation for advertising purposes
- The prize must be collected by the winner & is non-transferable
- Prize must be used for Spring Soccer 2025 and cannot be carried to any other season
- Winner will be announced and contacted the week of October 6



Follow Walker Parks & Recreation on Facebook

KENT DISTRICT LIBRARY - WALKER BRANCH UPDATES



Legendary Readers is a reading program for children in grades K-5 where participants complete 100 days of reading, writing, or library visits outside the classroom. Completing 100 days earns a fun prize and a chance to win a \$100 gift card from Schuler Books. Get a reading log from the library to begin. Visit [KDL's Events page](#) for more information or check out our [Facebook page](#).

A Very Eric Carle Storytime

Monday September 9 | 10:00 AM

[Click here for more info.](#)

Walker Book Discussion

Tuesday September 10 | 11:00 AM

[Click here for more info.](#)

Hora de Intercambio/Spanish Conversation Hour

Wednesday September 25 | 6:30 PM

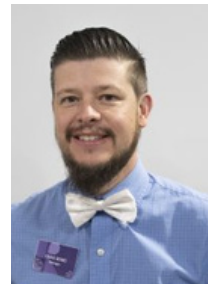
[Click here for more info.](#)



KDL Welcomes New Community Engagement Manager

Kent District Library welcomes Craig Bruno as the new Community Engagement Manager, supporting system-wide KDL outreach. Bruno brings 14 years of experience at KDL, with a master's degree in library science. He aims to serve the community at a countywide level in his new role, leaving his previous position as Regional Manager 2 for the Walker, Alpine Twp. and Tyrone Twp. Branches.

We'll miss Craig here at Walker, but we are excited for him to take on this new role within KDL! Good luck, Craig!



[Follow KDL - Walker Branch on Facebook](#)

SENIOR NEIGHBORS UPDATES

SEPT
04

BELTON HEARING CENTER

Hearing Screening, Ear wax removal
1:00-3:00 PM

SEPT
23

SCAMS PRESENTATION

First National Bank with Angie at 11 AM

SEPT
06

SELF DEFENSE

with Larry at 10 AM

SEPT
25

EVENTS:

ASL with Lois at 10 AM

Live Music with Lee at 11 AM

SEPT
09

STRESS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

National Kidney FD at 11 AM

SEPT
27

EVENTS:

Self Defense at 10 AM

Craft & Painting with Lora at 1 PM