THE WALKER CHRONICLE



SERVING WALKER, BIG BUG AND POTATO PATCH AREAS



The holidays are here and so is your Walker Chronicle! Updates from your Fire Chief and WFPA board, an assortment of pics of both man and beast and helpful information scattered throughout.

In addition to the articles and updates, the winter edition of the Chronicle also provides a timely opportunity to thank our volunteer firefighters and paramedics and the community of volunteers that help support WFPA operations. It is this spirit of volunteerism that makes "our neck of the woods" so special.

Your WFPA needs your financial support too. If you have already made your 2015 donation please accept our sincere thanks, your support is critical to keep operations moving smoothly and maintain our firefighting and EMS equipment in top condition. If your 2015 donation is still pending, please visit our website or remit your check to the WFPA by year-end. Donation forms and instructions are noted on page 7 of the newsletter, and thank-you in advance for your support of our operations and volunteers.

So as we close out 2015 and look forward to the New Year, our best wishes to you and your families for the happiest of holidays!



FROM THE FIRE CHIEF ...



The Walker Fire Protection Association has had a busy and exciting year.

As is the case with all volunteer organizations, new recruits are essential to ongoing success and to that end Walker Fire will be participating in a regional SAFER Grant for recruitment and retention of personnel. The grant was applied for through the Western Yavapai Fire Chiefs Association with Mayer Fire as the host with five volunteer departments participating. The total grant award was \$947,360.00 to be allocated over four years.

We have added one new paramedic to the department bringing the total to three and a second new paramedic lives in the community and should be joining the department soon. Additionally, Assistant Chief Keegan has begun the paramedic program at Yavapai College.

The department has recently had increased interaction with the Walker Community Action Alliance (WCAA). They have generously supported the fire department's EMS efforts over the last couple of years, so hopefully you will consider buying one of the Firefighters of Walker Calendars they put together for 2016.

With winter coming please take the time to either check the batteries on your smoke detectors and if the smoke detectors in your home are more than ten years old please consider replacing them altogether. After ten years the sensors that make detectors work can wear out but yet the device can still test properly. Also please consider having your chimney swept. If you've burned more than a cord of wood, especially pine, since your last sweeping you are probably due.

Earlier this year we asked the community to step up to contribute to a new water tender and the response has been fantastic with approximately \$20,000 raised thus far which is enough for us to move forward with the expectation of having the new tender in place before the next wildfire season. The community's response has afforded us the opportunity of not having rush into buying potentially the wrong truck for our needs. While we are grateful we do expect the total cost to be approximately \$40,000 and so if you have not already donated to the truck we would humbly ask that you consider doing so.

Thank you,

Roger Nusbaum Fire Chief

> The Fire Station is unattended, so if you have an emergencyCall 911

A VERY IMPORTANT Note.....

Remember, our homes are in an area susceptible to fire. If this should happen, you, your family and friends that visit should have an evacuation plan. The Yavapai Sheriff's Jeep Posse will manage the evacuation. However, just in case you are separated from your family in this unhappy type of situation, it will make it much better if you have a plan to meet at a specific location. It is then everyone's job to get there and stay there. Having someone to call to leave messages on your family able to ratio you are separated.



there and stay there. Having someone to call to leave messages or your family able to retrieve voice messages is a good idea. Be sure to include pets. These plans can be as simple as meet at the Safeway in Prescott Valley (The Costco will be a zoo) or an advanced plan with bug-out bags, food supplies and detailed instructions. Anything is better than nothing.

Is your fire extinguisher up to date? What? You don't have a fire extinguisher? Uh-Oh, they are cheap enough and can save you! Smoke Detectors safe lives. Not if their batteries are dead or if the unit is over 10 years old (cheapies might need to be replaced at 5 years). When was the last time you checked them? Make sure you have CO2 detectors too! Less glamour, but can be just as important.

FROM THE PRESIDENT ...

2015 marks another year of continued productivity and activity based around our Fire Station. Between the work and continued training of our Volunteer Fire Fighters, to the business activities of the WFPA Board, and to all the social events, the WFPA Fire Station remains a landmark and a hub for our Community.

Here is a quick recap on all happenings this year. Walker had its first ever traffic light(s) with the Counties expansion of the one lane bridge to two lanes, the utilization and organization opportunities of the expanded storage and break room within the Fire Station have really brought ease and has greatly contributed to the success of our social events, our volunteer Fire Fighters continued their bi-monthly training, Spring was another successful Chipper Day program, the monthly Pancake Breakfasts and Bingo were a lot of fun for all, the Walker Day was another well attended, fun and successful annual event, and the Fire Fighter Appreciation Pig Roast was delicious and a great time for us Walkerites to honor our Firefighters. It was also another opportunity to hangout, visit, meet new friends, eat and dance.

It has been great seeing the influx of new families participating in the events. The kid to adult ratio has increased and it is fun realizing the 'Walker' memories of playing in the creek to picking wild black berries will be everlasting for them, just like it was for us.

Roger Nusbaum continues to do a great job as our Fire Chief. Our Volunteer Fire Fighters and EMT's continue to expand their knowledge and team work through their bi-monthly training/work sessions. Both our training and seasonal severity patrol programs continue to be very successful and beneficial to the community and its guests. The Teams response to dispatched calls to Walker FD has been timely and efficient. Their commitment and dedication to our community is commendable.

Our fleet is the envy of any small Fire Department. While we have some newer vehicles, some are getting a little long in the tooth. We are currently soliciting funds for a newer (not new, but newer) Water Tender. Estimates are in the \$40,000.00 range and we have some \$21,000.00 in hand already. (Thanks in large part to the Big Bug contingent)

I really want to thank all of the people that have generously volunteered their time and expertise to the WFPA. Your commitment to our community is what makes organizations like this one successful. It only takes one act to make a difference, from our Fire Fighters and EMT's to our neighbors who plan events for months or who just show up to lend a hand the day of the event. You all make a difference. Thank you!

The WFPA continues to enjoy the harmony and support that has been the foundation of our all Volunteer operation. As we witness one small Fire District after another in Arizona reporting budget and financial issues you have kept us solidly in the black. Your ongoing support will keep us moving along this path of success.

Our Newsletters generally result in an influx of donations. This one in fall is a reminder for the end of the calendar tax year for those who itemize deductions. The Spring is the WFPA fiscal year and we always get a bump from that Newsletter too.

Our monthly Board meetings continue to be calm, productive, very professional and short. The door is always open for those who would like to attend. They are the 2nd Saturday of each month.

Thanks you for your generosity and your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Bill Loughrige President WFPA



FROM THE TEASURER ...

Once again the WFPA Board of Directors wishes to express our appreciation to all of the WFPA supporters for their generous contribution. In addition to your contributions, your Board continues to work diligently to explore other funding sources such as grants and assistance programs. In addition to the regular donations we have experienced excellent financial support for a special restricted fund raiser towards purchasing a water tender. We also continue to sponsor community fundraisers such as Walker Day, pancake breakfasts and bingo to name a few. This year's Walker Day brought out many visitors and was a financial success with the added art and crafts display, the "rummage" sale and the food and drink concession. We are also experiencing great participation in the pancake breakfast and the bingo programs. Thanks to all for your support of these community activities.

For the fiscal year ended May 31, 2015 we had total income of \$127,692 versus total expenses of \$118,959 yielding a net income of \$8,733. Our balance sheet was very strong with total assets of \$261,841. Our current fiscal year is off to a good start due to the generous support from the community which we greatly appreciate. Detailed financial reports are available on the WFPA website as we are dedicated to full disclosure.

Thanks again for your continued support.

Steve MacIntosh

Treasurer WFPA



THANK YOU TO ALL!! As this Newsletter was going to print, the Board of Directors approved the purchase of a newer Water Tender and it's purchase has been completed. The truck is what we needed and came in at \$26,500.00 (less than anticipated)



LEAVE A LEGACY

If you have been helped by our Walker Fire Department, or maybe over the years you have been a volunteer and you believe in our future, you might want to leave a gift for Walker Fire in your will or trust. This gift could be in your memory or in the memory of a loved one for a specific use.

It makes perfect sense to leave gifts that will enhance our community and support the good work that benefits all of us.

For more information, email walker-bod@walkerfire.org

BIG BUG MESA ROAD AREA CONTINUES TO GROW

By Mark Herrin

I moved to the Big Bug Mesa Road area over twenty years ago. Back then, my family was the only full time residence in the area. The nearest full time neighbor was located all the way down Big Bug to the pavement of Walker Road. Boy, have things changed!!!

This relatively small pocket of newer residents continues to bond together through all of the ups and downs of our communities' growth. We haven't always agreed on everything life and community growth have brought our way, but we managed to find common grounds to facilitate an orderly existence while enjoying our "slice of heaven". As a cohesive unit of neighbors, all located within the boundaries of the Walker Community, we have worked together to further the welfare and safety of the area by joining forces, both physically and financially. Whenever the needs of our community become apparent, the Big Bug area neighbors put their minds and wallets into action.

In addition to the regular support this area has shown for our volunteers at the Walker Volunteer Fire Department, we have generated additional funding and manpower for the building of a satellite fire station in our area. We have raised extra funds for construction of the helicopter landing site located at the main fire station. Both of these happened in the last three years. This past year, we received a \$120,000 grant from the Forest Service, which provided the much needed gravel to cover Big Bug Mesa Road for over four miles. Of course, that came with a catch----we had to raise about \$35,000 to cover the cost of the equipment needed to actually install the gravel, as well as, several hundred hours of volunteer labor in order to get it done. That project finished with astounding results for sure. To date this year, we have generated more than \$16,000 in additional funding to go towards the new water tender truck for the fire department, helped to fund and build the addition on the main fire station, and have continued to grade and maintain Big Bug Mesa Road for all to enjoy. As you can see, even though the Big Bug area is a very small part of the Walker Community at large, they have come together many, many times to add comfort, safety, and admiration for our area.

One not so secret "secret" to our success has been the ability to work together and formulate paths of growth as a group. We have been able to enjoy weekend dinners and an annual barbecue as means of open communication for all of us. Our annual barbecue has been attended for twenty years now, and as a gathering of between 125 and 150 people who attend can attest, its been a huge success in helping to bring people and ideas together. We did miss this years gathering due to my own health issues, but do hope to bring it back in 2016.

For my part, I feel completely blessed to have had the opportunity to be a part of this dynamic group of diverse people, who have shown incredible talents while helping one another at all times. I thank all of my neighbors who have joined hands on so many occasions to better our community!!

Lastly, on a bit of a side note-----Has anybody else noticed the increase in wildlife sightings in our area? We have seen at least three different bears, several lions, bobcats, deer, fox, and turkey on many trail camera photos this year. I'm not sure its due to actual population growth of the animals listed, or quite possibly, the increased use of trail cameras at many neighbors properties. Either way, these photos continue to show that we are not alone, that we share this forest with many of God's other creatures, and that we are just a bit further out into the "wilds" than we sometimes feel.

Enjoy Walker always, as we are so lucky to be a part of her!!

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

When you are away tell someone to watch and be aware of any unusual activity. Deter between the times, motion detector lighting, etc.

If you see something suspicious call Sheriff's office at 928-771-3260 or dial 911.

WALKER COMMUNITY WEBSITE

The Website is your source for the latest news and announcement of events concerning our Walker Community. You can read about upcoming Board meetings, community gatherings and scheduled firefighter training. The site also contains the community directory, sections for Walker history, forest service issues and more. To be part of our Community Website Directory and to be included in our e-mail data base, go to <u>www.walkerfire.org</u> and click on the "Create an Account" link on the left side of the home page in order to go to the registration page. When you finish filling out the form click the Register button and you are done!

So what kind of critters have you seen around Walker? Here's a few reports of sightings...

Jeri Masoner reported

On October 5th, I saw a raccoon on Walker road last night about milepost five as I was heading home around 7:30 pm. It's the second time I've seen a raccoon in Walker. The first time was at dusk about a month ago at the top of transcendent Road.

She also said, last year when I came up to check on the cabin in late March and I could have sworn I saw a red fox below the cabin by the garage door curled up. He or she must have thought it was a safe place to camp out since nobody was using the private drive.

Anni and Darrell Mauldin reported

We have seen coyotes right behind our house (near Old Walker Rd and Sunday School Rd) and raccoons fighting right under our bedroom window, the past 2 weeks (late September).

Kenny and Judy Terry reported

We have seen a bobcat twice in recent weeks on our property on Snowdrift Mine Road. The first time was Sunday September 6th in front of our place. The latest was Saturday October 3rd below our deck near Big Bug Mesa Rd.

Carter Reyer reported

Up on Walker Road near Boundary Springs was watching a flock of turkeys on October 24th when a Mountain Lion charged into the scene. He hasn't seen the turkeys since. He said it was amazing to see the strides and speed of the lion as it chased the turkeys.

<u>Amazon Smile gives to the Walker Fire Protection Association!!!</u>

And all you have to do is change your existing bookmark for Amazon or Amazon Prime to <u>smile.amazon.com</u> then select Walker Fire Protection Association (Prescott location), as your charitable donation recipient. This selection does not alter your purchase history or any other set up information you may have, that information is retained. By setting your *"favorites"* or bookmark to smile.amazon.com, Amazon aggregates your total purchases for credit to the WFPA.

As simple as that with no cost to you and no further steps with future purchases. Then every time you shop via your new link to Amazon Smile, Amazon Charities will donate one-half of one percent to the WFPA!

And just in time for the holidays!



amazo







About the WFPA and How You Fund Our Services

We are a Member funded/driven, not for profit, section 501(c)(3) volunteer organization formed over forty years ago by Walker Members like you. The WFPA provides the first line of defense between hazard and safety for the Walker community. The WFPA receives minimal to no funding from the government and has historically had to rely on 35% to 40% of the Walker Membership to donate 100% of it's annual operating budget.

Fire department volunteers and your Board are extremely frugal and have managed the department's finances prudently over several challenged years. The department has no debt and a reasonable cash reserve to insulate it from an unforeseen events. However, without increasing the financial participation of our Members, equipment upgrades or additions will be out of reach and added services out of the question. We need your help.

Participating Walker Members that have already made their 2015 donations reward our hard working volunteers with funds to provide insurance protection, safe equipment and continuous training in order to serve you better... a handsome return of your investment dollars.

Any one of the many calls last year could have become a much more serious incident to a Member's well being or property. Please review the following donation information and consider the significant community benefits provided by your volunteers at the WFPA... and contribute!

DONATION PAYMENT METHODS:

1) Make checks payable to the WFPA, complete the donation slip and return to:

Walker Fire Protection Association

P.O. Box 10174

Prescott, AZ 86304

Or... save a stamp, an envelope, a trip to the post office, and

2) Use our Paypal option-located as a link in our website homepage at <u>www.walkerfire.org</u>. Paypal is one of the most secure methods to make electronic, encrypted payments and can accept Visa, Master Card, Discover and American Express cards for donations. A receipt for tax records is generated within minutes to confirm the donation and saves the WFPA postage and handling costs so more of the donation dollars stays with your fire department.

When donating through Paypal you do not need to send in the donation slip if you have no personal information updates. If you need to update your personal information, you can do so in our website by selecting the "Contact Us" tab and filling out the requested information. There is also a comment section for additional information that you may want to provide.

Remember to keep a copy of your remittance as a dues payment or donation to the WFPA is tax deductible.

-----Tear Off and Return-



-Please note any informational changes below and insert form and donation in the enclosed envelope-

Walker Fire Protection Association

2015 Annual Donation Drive

Name:	Walker Property Address: Phone:email:	
Address:	Donation Amount:	
	Donation Amount: \$300.00 Other:	
	Check enclosed: Visa: Visa:	Master Card: 🛛
City/State/Zip:	Card #:	Exp:
	Signature:	

WALKER ANNUAL FIREFIGHTER PIG ROAST

The 4th annual Firefighter Appreciation Day and pig roast was another great success. Over 100 area residents turned out to honor our volunteer firefighters and enjoy a good ole fashioned pig roast with family and friends. This is a "no donation" event sponsored by the WFPA, supported by our community and to honor our volunteers for all they do for Walker.





Fun times and great music too!









The future Walkerites!

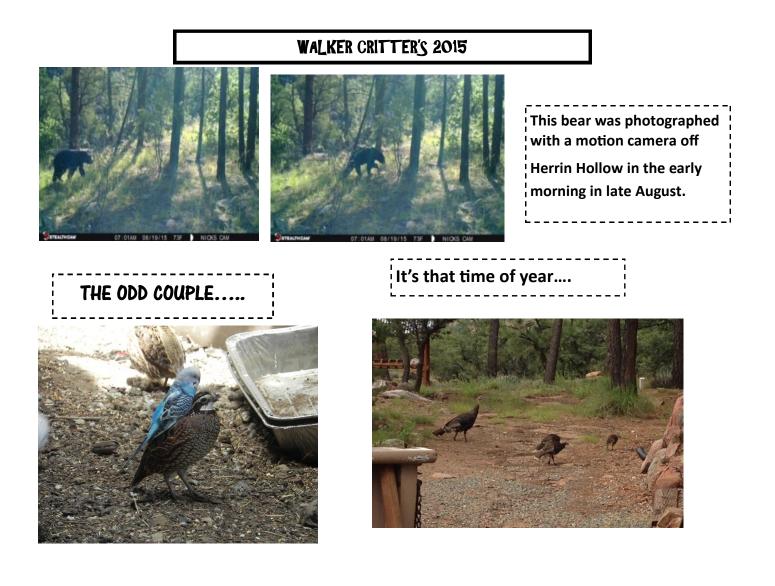


SPECIAL GUEST AT THE ANNUAL WALKER FIRE-FIGHTER PIG ROAST 2015

We had 2 foreign exchange students visiting James and Ellen Lee with their host parents Colton and Brooke Weaver. The girls were really excited to be here and they said they enjoyed the festivities. Maria Carrera from Spain (black & white shirt) is a Sophomore in high school and Nina Charlotte Wende from Germany (white shirt) is a Junior in high school.

We are so glad Maria and Nina that you could come up and see our beautiful community and be there to celebrate the firefighters! We hope to see you again!





Winter Words from Walker Wifi

As I have visited with many of you over the years in Walker; one topic I hear about that makes me cringe are the stories of extensive water damage due to burst water pipes from frozen water in Walker cabins. There have been cases where the whole cabin interior had to be demoed and replaced. ...And it's so avoidable!

Frozen water in pipes will burst them. Once the ice melts water from the leak can do a lot of damage, especially if it's in a wall or inside your cabin.

To avoid having a bad story to tell this year:

- Keep your heater running, but if the power goes out and you don't have an automatic generator, you may have an issue;
- Use water pipe heating tape, but again, if the power goes out and you don't have an automatic generator, you may have an issue;
- If you're not going to be at your cabin for a while, it's best to drain the water pipes and leave the lower drain open, (making sure any drain water runs out of the house,);
- No matter what, it's a good idea to turn off your well pump and even better, bleed off the water pressure when you leave your cabin for more than a couple of days (that way if you do have a leak, the water won't run).

One very handy gadget for your cabin is a WiFi Thermostat! It can do several really neat things to make your life better and happier:

- When you're headed up to Walker, you can use an "app" on your smart phone to turn up the heat so it's nice and toasty when you arrive.
- When you leave and forget to turn the heat down, you can use your phone app to turn it down.
- If the power or the internet goes out, you will get an email message letting you know (the thermostat company server sends the email out).
- You can set up a low temperature limit that will alert you by email if it is reached so you can act.

There is no monthly cost to use the WiFi thermostat.

It will make you feel so glad you're using Walker WiFi!

Here is an amazon link for the WiFi thermostat that I recommend for ease of installation (wiring and wifi set up), ease of use and features. There are others available as well. Go to Amazon and search for Honeywell Wi-Fi Smart Thermostat TH9320WF5003.

Have a great and safe day!

WALKER AREA REAL ESTATE UPDATE

Courtesy of Sharon Bencze, High Country Realty, LLC

2015 activity through October . . .

<u>CABINS/HOMES</u> SOLD - 24 PENDING - 6 ON THE MARKET - 27 VACANT LAND

SOLD - 9 PENDING - 3 ON THE MARKET - 50



CABINS/HOMES SOLD - 22

VACANT LAND SOLD - 11

For additional information or if you have questions, please call Sharon at 928-308-3338 or 928-759-9664.

Hello Walker,

We are down in the Valley, but still think of and love the Walker area so very much. We miss it so much.

We are proud of the volunteer fire fighters and the folks that support the department. We want to thank the caring fighters and the supporters.

Too bad Phil isn't around to work his back hoe, because he misses his work and being with the folks up there. Sounds like he could be used around some of those back roads. If only life changes.

Love and care about each other and keep that Walker community the best place ever. It is so very special and we are proud to have been a small part of the community. We wish you all the best.

Phil and Peg Zink

Annual Meeting Updates-

The Members approved a Bylaw change to clarify membership in the WFPA. In summary, all property owners are eligible to be members, our services are not related to Membership (we go to whoever calls for help if it is in our capabilities and you become a member by simply participating in WFPA activities (It's in the state law membership in associations like ours cannot be automatic, you have to agree to be a Member either directly or indirectly).

Your 2015-2016 Board:

Bill Loughrige-President John Ohanesian-Vice President (re-elected) Russ Courtney-Secretary Steve MacIntosh-Treasurer Rudy Erdman (re-elected) Dan Daugherty (newly elected) Terry Piske

BOARD MEETINGS ARE HELD MONTHLY

The 2nd Saturday of each month

9:00 AM at the Fire Station

Everyone is Welcome

WALKER TRASH COLLECTION SERVICES

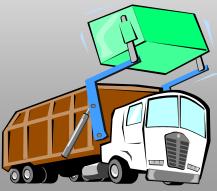
TIME TO RENEW YOUR TRASH SERVICE

Walker Trash collections Service runs from January to December. We leave the combination until Jan. 31st, but we would appreciate early renewals to avoid a last minute rush.

Dumpsters are located on the Fire Department property behind the Fire Station at 4980 E. Walker Rd. They are not only a service of convenience but in large part to avoid having people burn trash with the resulting fire danger that it produces.

We have had some volume issues at times this year, with construction waste and the occasional large box that has not been broken down. The dumpsters are for household trash and garbage only! **NO** hazardous material, construction debris or slash clean up should not be put in the containers. We base the number of containers and pickups on subscriptions for household trash, <u>construction material causes overfilling and extra cost</u>.

<u>The fees are as follows:</u> Full Year (January - December) = \$180.00 6 Months (you choose the 6 months) = \$120 for 6 months One time/special use = \$30.00 a month



There is a link on the web site at <u>http://walkertrashcollectionservice.com/</u> where you can find the agreement. Send your checks and signed agreement to the WTCS P.O. Box 10174 Prescott, Az 86304. The accountant keeps the records, Shad Bruce and Linda Emmett (928) 778-2566 handle the mail, locks and any issues with the dumpsters.

Water, Water Anywhere?

Wait, my property doesn't have a hydrant! What will my Walker Fire Department do for water in the event of a fire?? Great question and one of the biggest shortfalls of rural fire departments. The WFPA has two water "tenders" which are always filled with 2,000 gallons of water each, in addition a few hundred gallons stored on first response fire trucks. Since we do not have piped water to hydrants, the tenders must transport water to the fire trucks and once emptied, must refill and repeat the process as quickly and safely as possible.

Where do the tenders get their water?

The fire station has 10,000 gallons of stored water and there are some local private contract water tender owners in our community that might be able to respond in the event of need. Otherwise, the WFPA tenders must make their way down Walker Road to refill in Prescott, a long and timely process using precious minutes. And in the event of fire, the water in the tenders and at the station will surely be used up very quickly.



Isn't there anywhere closer the WFPA might access water??

YES and you might be the answer depending on where a fire incident occurs. The WFPA knows there are water ponds, reservoirs, contract tenders and private water tanks scattered throughout our community. But two things must happen before our thirsty tenders can effectively use local water; 1) the WFPA must have authorization in advance and 2) they have to map this authorized water by address/GPS points to know where it is when they need it.

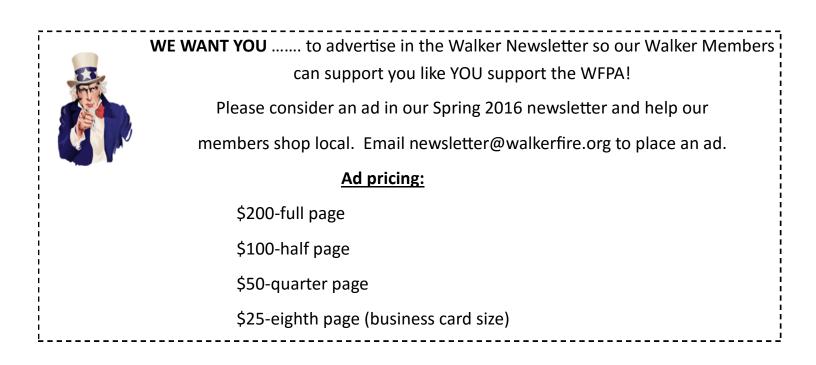
I want to help!

That's great. Send your "I Want to Help" email to: <u>walker-gis@walkerfire.org</u> and copy to <u>firechief@walkerfire.org</u> and include your name, address, GPS point if available and type of water resource/size. We are working on maps and hope to have authorization forms completed soon. Thank you in advance... from everyone in the Walker Community!!

Register for Yavapai County's Emergency Notification System (ENS)



Register your contact phone numbers and property locations in Yavapai County. Look for the "ENS Alert" tab at <u>www.ycsoaz.gov</u>, follow the prompts for your opt-in registration and preferred phone number, contact method (email, text, voice...), and enter your property address. The site will convert the address to GPS coordinates automatically and will confirm registration once saved. You should note that all Yavapai County published residential and business landline phone numbers are automatically included in the database, registering with the site will permit you to add additional contact methods (cell phones). For more information, see the site at <u>www.ycsoaz.gov</u>.



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MAYER, AZ 8633

Dwight Painter

928-632-5574 928-713-2585 (Cell)









INTERESTED IN BUYING OR SELLING A CABIN OR ACREAGE IN THE PINES? GIVE ME A CALL & LET'S TALK!

SHARON BENCZE, REALTOR®/GRI

928.308.3338 (cell); 928.759.9664 (home office)

Sharon@PrescottPinesRealEstate.com www.PrescottPinesRealEstate.com

The Walker Fire Protection Association ("WFPA") is a volunteer fire department and a non profit, 501(c) 3 organization

For an electronic version (in almost living color), visit our website at www.walkerfire.org

Check it out!

Some fun pictures and just a lot of great information for you.

and re-elected board members

WFPA Fall Newsletter Inside!

Results of our June Membership meeting and new

Prescott, AZ 86304 PO Box 10174 Walker Fire Protection Association