



WFPA CHRONICLE



Winter is here and so is your Walker Chronicle. We hope you enjoy the articles, updates, and photos this edition contains.

We would like to thank all our volunteers and community that help support Walker Fire Protection Association and appreciate all the funds donate in 2022 that are critical to keeping the operations running as well as help with the upkeep of necessary equipment.

If you would like to donate, please visit our website at www.walkerfire.org or use the donation form on page 10 of the Chronicle.

Last but not least, we would like to welcome new property owners to our wonderful community and we look forward to meeting you at one of our events.



From The Fire Chief:

The elephant in the forest for 2022 was of course the close call we had with the Crooks Fire that started in mid-April. A point we've made in previous, seasonal letters is that we are having more and more Type 1 incidents, the largest type of fires, in our area. We now have them every couple of years, even more frequently than that sometimes with the Crooks Fire just being the latest.

The community did a great job understanding the magnitude of the threat and honoring the evacuation order. In a few months we will probably start to get visibility on what to expect for 2023's fire season. If we're lucky, maybe all the rain this year will lower the risk in our area but that might mean greater risk in areas away from Walker that have more grasses and lighter fuels, but we'll see and we'll share any information we receive.



This year we had two very serious ATV accidents. Common causes of ATV accidents are going too fast and being overly confident in driving skill. That's a difficult comment but the accidents involved had serious outcomes that we hope to never have again. Please keep that in mind as you drive on our roads.

The fundraising effort for our new Type 3 Engine is ongoing. We received a grant for \$250,000 and have raised over \$125,000 in designated donations for the new truck. As of now, the estimated completion date is late January which would mean we'd get the truck a couple of weeks later, but it is the nature of these things that there can be delays.

The new engine will be a huge upgrade to our response out of the main station house down on Walker Rd and an even bigger upgrade to our response out of the Potato Patch shed when Brush 85 replaces Brush 83 up there. You can email me at fire-chief@walkerfire.org for more details but if you have not already done so, please consider making a donation for Engine 83 today.

We wanted to reiterate the message from the last few fall newsletters regarding winter preparedness. Related to structure fires, please get your chimney swept, leave interior doors closed because that limits a fire's ability to move through your house, make sure smoke detectors work or if they are more than ten years old they should be replaced and make sure everyone knows where your fire extinguisher is. We recently had a structure fire and the homeowner helped themselves immensely by turning off their electricity. When we respond to a call for a structure fire, we do a quick assessment of the situation that has several steps including turning off the electricity and the propane. You could change the outcome for the better by turning off the electricity and propane BUT ONLY IF IT IS SAFE TO DO SO.

Also, we would request that you do all you can to get your road/driveway plowed after any snowstorms as well as make use of the cinders left by the county in various places in our area including behind the firehouse. The community Facebook pages are great resources to see who might be available for snow removal. The Fire Department cannot set the expectation of being able to drive through a foot or two of unplowed snow in trying to get to your house. We'd get out and walk if we had to but marching for a half mile in a foot of snow would take a while.

When the snow starts and begins to accumulate, the roads become surprisingly treacherous. Please drive slower than you think you need to and please consider chains for your tires. Also, be on the lookout for people coming up from town or even Phoenix to play in the snow. These sorts of visitors have been the cause of many winter accidents in our area.

One last suggestion is to have crampons or some other type of cleat to put on your shoes. When snow has been driven on here and gets compacted it is very easy to slip and fall. That sort of ground level fall can be very serious.

Thank you,
Roger Nusbaum
Fire Chief
Walker Fire Protection Association

From The President:

Well, summer 2022 was certainly the year of the "Gully Washer". Our rain gauge calculations were over 20 inches. It's been a while since this has happened. "In the Good Ol Days" it was every year, Ha. My brothers and I remember fondly, our grandmother having a list of areas where she needed us to move rocks to control the erosion. No small rocks either, that list lasted into our 20's.

I understand some of you newer arrivals discovered water ways you never dreamed could exist. Especially your own driveways and roads. It's just backwoods living at its best.

While this year the fire danger has been low because of the rain, next summer we'll be concerned about all the dry grass. We're never happy, always something to worry about.

Great time to segway into our new piece of equipment. Thanks to your generosity and a rare grant, we have purchased a new Type 3 fire truck. This truck adds several benefits to our firefighting abilities. We had hope it would be here in November but with delays in construction (like a hurricane



in Florida) at this writing we don't know when it will arrive. Soon though. We will keep you informed as we receive updates.

The WFPA is not a government entity. We are a non-profit corporation formed for the purpose of operating a fire department. We receive no tax monies and are not always eligible for government grants. As a result, we depend on donations from the Community to operate. We are the largest such operation in Arizona and possibly the United States. Your support and donations have made the purchase of the new truck possible. You have helped us nearly reach our \$150,000.00 goal in a very short time.

That brings up a different topic. New residents both weekenders like me and numerous full timers are pouring into Walker. Despite being within a short drive of all the amenities of Prescott, we are a primitive lifestyle. We are at the mercies of weather, power and phone outages, bad cell phone services and steep dirt roads, most of which are not maintained by any government entity. Neighbors join together to maintain the roads in mainly informal agreement with an occasional more formal association thrown in.

Many of our new residents don't understand this structure. The WFPA has no authority over anyone. Our function is to operate a Fire Department. While we are the center of many social functions these functions are fund raisers and not a platform for any political issue. The formal and informal associations that exist in the Community have nothing to do with the WFPA firefighting operations. We are aware of them but take no position about supporting or not supporting them. The biggest two side projects for the WFPA are associated with reduction of fire danger. They are the Trash Collection and the Annual Chip & Haul Program.

The Trash Collection (really garbage collection) has its roots in providing removal of garbage, so people are not tempted to burn it. We have no paid personnel, and someone (Folks within the Community) must clean up what is left on the ground when the containers are full. This can happen on large holiday weekends and when the weather is bad. We have over 300 subscribers and the volume can be used up quickly by non-garbage items. We have been trying for the last few years to add cans, but they just aren't available. (Supply side issues)

The WFPA has helped fund the Chip & Haul program for the past several years as grant money became more difficult to obtain. Managed by the Firewise program, it is a chance in the Spring for residents to leave tree trimmings in our parking area that are then ground up and hauled away. It's an important function to encourage properties to be made firesafe and to help reduce fuel for wildland fires in our area. It creates a set of issues because it affects access to the garbage dumpsters and is very hard on our parking lot, but it is something we will continue to support.

Your WFPA Board, Fire Chief and Volunteers continue to work hard and harmoniously for you. There is always room for new faces, so don't be shy, come and help.

Thank you for your continued support,

Thanks
Bill Loughrige
President

From The Secretary:

Greetings Community!

Since 2020 we have had a large influx of new residents and there are more full-time people than ever before living up here.

There are always lots of communications – emails, information posted on Facebook, etc. about activities in the community. If you aren't receiving these emails please sign up at WalkerFire.org. Many of our new residents may not yet know the "how's" and "why's" of these activities and fundraisers. I wanted to use my

newsletter article to talk about the events we have at the Walker Fire Station and why they are so important. A full list of WFPA events can be found on page 11 of this chronicle.



Pancake Breakfast – this is one of the BEST ways to meet your neighbors and enjoy a great breakfast. These events are held from April – October from 8-10 a.m. Residents volunteer their time to set-up tables, chairs, cook pancakes, bacon, sausage, etc. and fruit, pastries, juice coffee, etc. are served. There is not a fee for this delicious breakfast, but cash donations are happily accepted and all proceeds go directly to WFPA. Bring yourselves, bring the kids and the family and enjoy breakfast with your friends and neighbors!

BINGO – This is an evening event held at the fire station and you can find out the dates on the calendar of events in the chronicle. This one is a potluck event so everyone brings something to share so there is always plenty of food. You purchase the number of cards you want to play. The total raised is then split in half with half going to WFPA and the other half is used for the cash payouts for the winner(s) of each round of BINGO. At the completion of each round new cards are passed out - and there is no additional charge. So, if you spent \$10 on cards you play all evening for that price. Many times our winners give their winnings back to WFPA! Bill the current WFPA Board President is typically the BINGO caller and tells lots of bad and a few good jokes (hahah) along the way. Or sometimes I am the caller and am "harassed" because of my British accent - all in good fun of course!

Annual Meeting - though this is not a fundraiser event this is the meeting where new officers for the WFPA Board are elected. A quorum must be reached and this is an important time to be there, hear from the candidates, ask questions of them and elect those that want to volunteer their time for the benefit and support of Walker Fire Protection Association.

Walker Day - this is the largest fundraiser of the year!!! An email and other communications are sent out approx. 40 days before this event asking for donations. Residents donate household items which are used to create a HUGE garage sale type event. (Large items like couches, appliances, etc are not to be left as a donation please.) People from our area, Prescott, Prescott Valley and further come out and shop. All the money raised goes directly to WFPA. There are other fun activities also taking place

like the cake walk - residents bake/buy cakes that are dropped off on event day. Then “walkers” purchase tickets for their chance to win one of the cakes. Kids and adults alike are always filling the cake walk circle for their chance to win. The famous Walker Merchandise available for purchase here from our amazing and creative volunteers that work all year long to have Walker specific merchandise for purchase. We have live music from a band so you can kick back and enjoy the music. Lunch is serviced - hamburger, cheeseburger or hot dog, chips and a drink for a very low price! There is a 50/50 raffle and a Classic Car Show. SO MUCH TO DO!! Monies from all these activities goes to WFPA.

Fire Fighter Appreciation Day - this is held Labor Day weekend and is a community favorite. We all gather, bring lots of potluck items, roast a pig and celebrate and give thanks for our Fire Chief and all of our amazing Walker Fire volunteers. Regardless of the time of day or the weather conditions this group responds to **every call** that comes in for the Walker area. These may be fire calls, emergency medical calls and more. This group of volunteers have training every other Saturday ALL yearlong! They give so much time and effort to keep us all safe and protect. And without each of these individuals we don't have someone close by, willing to be of assistance - again as a volunteer! This year the Firefighter Appreciation Day event had the largest turn out that I can remember in years. The Crooks Fire gave us all concern and this event gave us the opportunity to thank those that assisted during that scary time. We also had many great donations come in at this event this year which are going towards the new Type 3 Engine we are in the process of having built.

Kids Day – this is of course the kids' favorite event. Families come with their kids down to the Fire Station and enjoy a day dedicated to the kids. Volunteers have lots of fun things like face painting, tomahawk throwing (supervised) and more taking place. Food is also available. It is a day to that is always so much fun - there were about 80 kids there this year. All donations go directly to WFPA.

None of this is possible without volunteers. They are the ones that create, organize, and make all of these events possible in our community. I encourage everyone reading this to please give your time and help at one or all of these events. Please contact me and I can assist in getting you an event to help out at.

If you ever have questions, I am here to serve for WFPA and can be reached at secretary@walkerfire.com or give me a call at 480-329-8443.

Kind regards,
Clyde McKay
Secretary



From The Treasurer:

Hello again fellow Walkerites, another summer season has ended. To me it felt a little shortened by the Crooks Fire and strong monsoons but still was a great summer. Lynx Creek is still running, the Ponderosas look healthy and the Oaks are turning yellow. Walker still is a magical place.

I want to thank our community for all the support this season. To those who supported our firefighters during the fire, donated to the new fire truck fund, attending the events and gave general donations I sincerely thank you. Our fiscal year ends in May of next year but the majority of our fundraising events are pretty much done for the year. So far, we are close to the projected budget we planned at the start of last year. In addition, we have received a generous amount towards the new type 3 truck which will be a huge improvement to our fleet.



As the Walker community grows the fire department has worked hard to respond. We have continued to train, maintain the equipment and prepare to respond if needed. Several of our firefighters have attended additional structure fire training, one of the trucks required a costly pump repair, the main station received new garage door openers (after almost 24 years) and Rescue had several major maintenance items required this year. Inflation has also found us up here in Walker for the everyday expenses but all in all we are still in great financial shape and are ready to serve.

On behalf of the WFPA I hope all enjoy a safe winter holiday season and we look forward to your continued support.

Thanks,
Lance Gilbert
Treasurer



WFPA Website:

The Website is a good 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 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 database, go to www.walkerfire.org and click on the "Create and Account" link on the left side of the home page.

You can also visit the Walker Fire Department Facebook page for pictures, posts and the latest news at: www.facebook.com/walkerfiredept/

Volunteer Showcase:



Moshier "Mo" MacPhee has been volunteering with Walker Fire for five years joining us as a wildland firefighter and recently getting trained for structure firefighting. Mo is one of the most popular firefighters in the group and it seems like all of his neighbors in Potato Patch know Mo as their neighborhood firefighter making him a familiar face when we have calls for service up there. Mo comes to just about every training session and every call for service. As a full-time resident, under the age of 40, Mo is a vital part of Walker Fire.

Walker Trash Collection Services:

The subscription runs January to December for the 12 months. Six-month subscriptions are generally April-September or May- October. The rates are \$200.00 for 12 months, \$150.00 for 6 months or \$50.00 for a month. We change the lock combination at the end of January.

We operate this service for your convenience and to avoid people burning their garbage, especially during the dry months.

One of the problems we had last year was that home owners were sharing the lock combination short term renters, cleaning companies and contractors. All short-term rental properties are to purchase a subscription for the full term of use. The responsibility for the disposal of the trash from short term rentals is the responsibility of the rental manager. We will also be contacting the rental management companies to make sure they are aware of this.



THIS SERVICE IS FOR HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE ONLY!

We have video surveillance surrounding the dumpster area to help monitor activities.

If the dumpsters are full, please don't leave yours on the ground.

Please take all other materials to the dump. The City of Prescott Transfer Station is located at 2800 Sundog Ranch Road.

The Walker Trash Collection Services website is located at <https://walkertrashcollectionservice.com>
We recently made improvements to the way you can subscribe. Instructions are on the website.

If you see anyone dumping illegally, or issues with the dumpsters, please let me know.

Clyde McKay
secretary@walkerfire.org / 480-329-8443

Board Meetings Are Held Monthly:

WFPA Board Meetings take place the 2nd Saturday of each month at 9:15 am at the Fire Station. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Can you Help The WFPA? We could use your help for a few hours a month, at a special event or with a fundraising effort.

The WFPA is a fully donation and volunteer sponsored organization. There are many ways to participate and meet your neighbors and help your community.

Please email president@walkerfire.org and one of our volunteers will reach out to you with a big thank you and make it easy for you to become involved.



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 50+ 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 departments finances prudently in both good and bad times and through several challenging recessions. The department has no debt and a reasonable Cash reserve to insulate it from any 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 2022 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 each year could have become a much more serious incident to a Members well being or property.

Please review the following donation information and consider the significant community benefits provided by your volunteers at the WFPA... and please contribute

Donation Payment Methods:

1. **Check**– Make Checks payable to the WFPA, complete the donation slip and return to: Walker Fire Protection Association P.O. Box 10174, Prescott, AZ 86303
2. **Paypal**- Use the PayPal link on our website at www/walkerfire.org. If you use PayPal, you do not need to send in the donation slip. Keep a copy of your receipt because your donation to the WFPA is tax deductible.
3. **Zelle** – You can use Zelle as an option - treasurer@walkerfire.org

You can update your personal info on our website by selecting the "Contact Us" form.

Walker Fire Protection Association – 2023 Annual Donation Drive

Name: _____ Donation Amount \$ 300.00 or Other: \$ _____

Mailing Address: _____

Walker Address: _____

Check enclosed _____ Visa: _____ Master Card: _____

Card #: _____ Exp: _____ CVV # _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____

Please include me in all WFPA email and news. No change in any of my contact information

Calendar of Events:

January 14th – Board meeting – 9:15am to 10:00am

February 11th - Board meeting – 9:15am to 10:00am

March 11th - Board meeting – 9:15am to 10:00am

April 08th - Board meeting – 9:15am to 10:00am

April 29nd – Pancake Breakfast – 8:00am to 10:00am

May 06th – National Preparedness Day and Walker Firewise Day

May 13th - Board meeting – 9:15am to 10:00am

May 20th – Pancake Breakfast – 8:00am to 10:00am

May 27th – Annual Meeting – 9:00am to 11:30am

June 10th - Board meeting – 9:15am to 10:00am

June 10th – BINGO - 4:00pm to 7:00pm

June 17th – Walker Day 11am to 2pm (Yard Sale 9am to 1pm)

June 24th – Pancake Breakfast – 8:00am to 10:00am

July 01st – Chip and Haul begins

July 08th - Board meeting – 9:15am to 10:00am

July 15th – Kids Day – 11:00am to 1:00pm

July 22nd - BINGO – 4:00pm to 7:00pm

July 29th - Pancake Breakfast – 8:00am to 10:00am

August 12th - Board meeting – 9:15am to 10:00am

August 19th - BINGO – 4:00pm to 7:00pm

August 20th – Chip and Haul ends.

August 26th - Pancake Breakfast – 8:00am to 10:00am

September 02nd – Fire Fighter Appreciation Day – 4:00pm to 6:00pm

September 09th - Board meeting – 9:15am to 10:00am

September 23rd - BINGO – 4:00pm to 7:00pm

September 30th - Pancake Breakfast – 8:00am to 10:00am

October 14th - Board meeting – 9:15am to 10:00am

November 11th – Board meeting – 9:15am to 10:00am

December 09th - Board meeting – 9:15am to 10:00am



Advertise With Us:

Advertise your business with us. Please contact secretary@walkerfire.org if you are interested.

Ad prices

\$ 220.00 – Full Page

\$ 110.00 – Half Page

\$ 60.00 – Quarter Page

\$ 30.00 – Eighth

NEW EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM



Yavapai County residents are encouraged to sign up for **alertYAVAPAI**, which is the Emergency Mass Notification System that enhances their ability to quickly communicate with the public and provide critical and time-sensitive information for emergencies such as wildfires, evacuations, floods and missing persons. By registering for **alertYAVAPAI**, you can receive alerts via cell phone by voice or text, email addresses, home phone, business phone, and more. SIGN UP! It's easy: login to this to sign up. <https://member.everbridge.net/337829242601768/new>

Ready Set Go



Ready, Set, Go! is a nationwide program adopted by the 15 Arizona Sheriffs that educates residents about proactive measures to take before an emergency and actions to follow when communities are threatened. For more information, please visit <https://ein.az.gov/ready-set-go>

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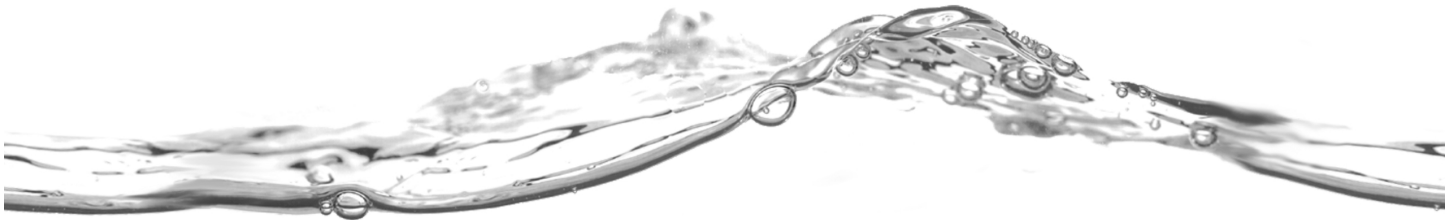
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Clyde McKay
REALTOR®



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If you are considering buying or selling your property, please give me a call.

THANK YOU to all those that I have had the pleasure to meet and work with this year.

Your trust and support is greatly appreciated.

Wishing you all a Happy and prosperous New Year.

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Walker Fire Protection Association
PO Box 10174
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WFPA Spring 2022 Newsletter

Annual membership meeting details, special dates and updates from your fire chief and board inside.

Enjoy and thank you for your support.

For an electronic copy please visit our website at www.walkerfire.org

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

