



# Walker Community Action Alliance 2015 Newsletter



## A Note From The President

In the past year there have been five Board of Directors Meetings and five Membership meetings. In these meetings the Board of Directors, with the direction of the Membership, shape the events taking place during the coming year.

The Walker Community Action Alliance has had an eventful year. Contributions were received from the entire community that supported the following programs:

- Chip & Haul fund
- Christmas Angel fund
- Fire Fighter, EMT and Paramedic fund
- Koats for Kidz fund
- Winter Coat program that provides winter coats and funds Thanksgiving dinner for the needy
- Yavapai Food Neighbors Project; provides a steady stream of food to local food banks

The following events, and fund raising events, took place in 2015:

- Winter Coat Drive & Koats for Kidz which is active from April to October
- Yavapai Food Neighbors Project which is active throughout the year
- Historic Walker Quad Ride in May
- Presentation of a Flag to the WFPA in May
- Presentation of an oxygen bottle to the WFPA Paramedics and EMTs in May
- Sundae Saturday in July, August and September
- Fifth anniversary of WCAA's approval as an Arizona non-profit
- FireWise day in conjunction with the September Sundae Saturday
- Fire Fighter Thank You Brunch in July
- Fall Chili Fest in October
- Holiday Bazaar in November
- Celebrated the fifth anniversary of approval as a Firewise/USA® community

The highlights of these events will be discussed in detail in the articles that follow.

## **A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!**

If you would like to join the Walker Community Action Alliance you may do so by going to <http://www.walkercaa.org/RegistrationRequest.html> or by attending one of our membership meetings 1/9, 3/12, 5/16, 7/9 or 9/10 at 11:30AM at the Firehouse, and asking to join.

# Adopt-A-Road

Have you ever wondered what makes the unsightly, three-mile trash along the sides of Walker Road mysteriously disappear? Well – the dedicated WCAA Adopt-a-Road committee make it disappear by picking up the trash! They have been diligently performing this community service every year for the past four years. Betsy Bykerk was the chairman of the committee for the first three years and made all of the arrangements, with the County, for the 3 mile stretch of road through Walker that we maintain. She got the signs placed, had the required vests purchased and printed and obtained the orange bags. Betsy organized the pickup dates and handled all of the details. Verne Tocker was the 2015 chairman and Bud Mellor was the co-chairman They now handle all of the Details.



the right side. Miles two and three are handled the same way. When finished, the teams take their stash back to the Bykerk's, and the chairman, Vern, has the County pick it up for disposal.

Usually nothing really unusual is picked up - the usual fast food wrappers, beer bottles, soda cans, etc. but, unfortunately, many cigarette butts are picked up, especially by the mailboxes! Even though the community does not always have fire restrictions in place, residents should get into the habit of disposing their cigarette butts properly. And they would also help to keep Walker beautiful!

This year's well organized Adopt-a-Road cleanup events were held in March, June, and December by volunteers Carol and Verne Tocker, Mickey and Bud Mellor, Victoria and Jeff Morhous, Jack Smades, Glenn Heithold, Mike Francis and Loren Bykerk. Many thanks to them all for helping to make Walker more beautiful!



Volunteers meet at Bykerk's home, don their bright vests and gloves (for some), gather their trash bags, and head out to their destinations. They cover three miles total and spend about two hours collecting.

For each outing, three teams of three volunteers each participate. One person drives an ATV for mile one (to ensure the safety of their crew), one worker cleans the left side of the road, the other person

More adopt-a-road events will be held next year.

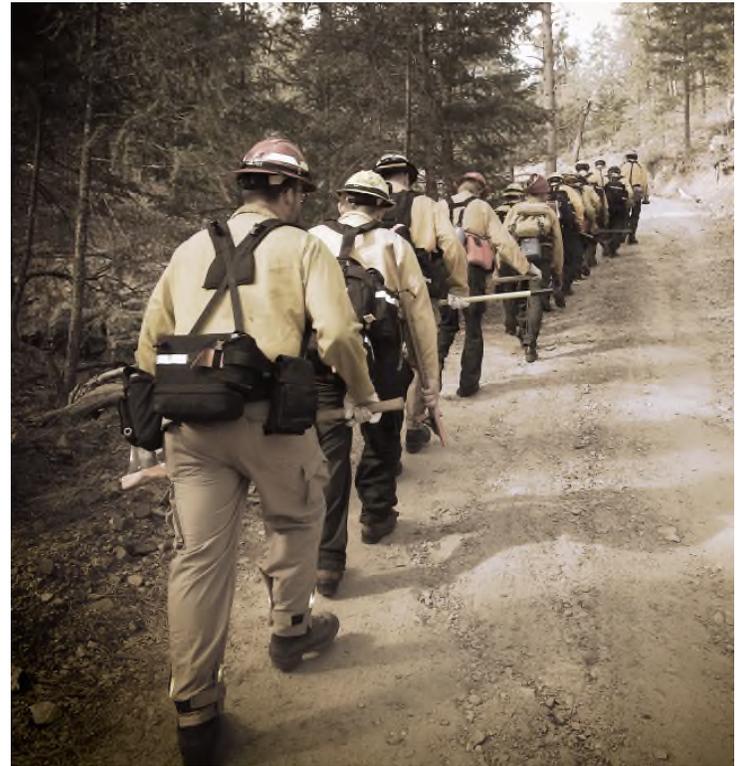
Pictures of the event are available at <http://www.walkercaa.org/20150316AdoptARoad.html>

# 2016 Calendar Sales



Kudos to Chairperson Mona Feige for collecting pictures and recipes, planning and creating the calendars on her computer, diligently obtaining purchasers, collecting money, delivering the calendars, or mailing them. Thanks also to the calendar committee of Carla Keegan and Nancy Monthofer.

The 2016 Walker Community calendar sales were phenomenal! Thanks to all for their generous support of the project. Over 80 calendars were sold and delivered. Sales and delivery were handled mostly at community events; but calendars were also physically delivered, or were mailed to purchasers. The profits will benefit Chip and Haul events scheduled for 2016.



The 2016 calendar profiles a number of our valuable community volunteers - fire and medical personnel with Walker Fire Protection Department. Each month profiles a different member of the department; including a picture, a short biography of the individual, and a favorite recipe of the volunteer. The calendar also includes dates for the community events that have been scheduled in 2016.

A possibility for the community calendar for 2017 is being investigated. Anyone having a picture taken in the community, circa 1960 or before, is asked to submit it for consideration. The intent is to profile community members/families with connections to the area for 50 years and more. You are encouraged to submit short stories and pictures. Please email or text Mona Feige

[rmfeige@gmail.com](mailto:rmfeige@gmail.com)



Thanks to Loren Bykerk for the following summary of this year's Chip & Haul program. Loren has been spearheading the projects for the since May of 2011. The Grinder event started In December of 2011. In 2014 no events were held due to a lack of funds. In 2015 the project started on March 13 and ended May 19, with the last roll-offs on May 23. From March 23 until April 3, the event had been suspended for 10 days for grinder repairs.

Walker residents can bring their forest vegetation to the Walker firehouse back lot when the events are held. NO trash, rocks, plastic bags, stumps, or building materials are allowed. The event is free to all Walker residents. All that is asked of residents is that they report their time, mileage and expenses involved with clearing their vegetation. Time Sheets are available at the dump site.



IMAGE COURTESY OF CONRAD WALTON

In addition to the Chip & Haul program, the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors occasionally conducts free slash drop-off programs during the spring and summer in certain County transfer stations outside of Walker. For information contact the Yavapai County Public Works Department at 928-771-3183.

## **SUMMARY**

Total cubic yards processed = 1230.

Cost for county grinder, excavator, transporting and operator = \$6,793.71.

This included 31.5 hours of grinding = \$5,103.75 and charges of \$1,890.00 for transporting the equipment.

Cost of hauling and disposing of chips amounted to \$5,340.00

Total cost of project = \$12,133.71.

Amount paid for by grant funds = \$10,920.34 (90%)

Amount paid for through community donations = \$1,213.37 (10%)

The Walker community was asked to report hours and expenses associated with their personal efforts. The community reported the following:

1,133 hours, valued at \$21,681.00  
993.50 miles, @ .55 per mile, \$546.44  
\$12,596.44 in expenses reported.  
\$34,395.18 total value of community participation.

The reporting of volunteer efforts is important to Firewise in several ways. First, it helps with the annual Firewise Communities/USA® renewal that every Firewise Community must file. Secondly, the hours help pay the wages of the PAWUIC Administrative Assistant through matching funds. Finally, it helps Walker Firewise qualify for additional grants by showing a level of willingness on the part of the community to take the necessary steps to protect lives and property from wildfire.

A special thanks to Dan Hauck, who volunteered his time to help direct operations, to Bud Mellor and to Dave Leeper who each donated their time and their equipment to “buck up” the slash pile whenever it became too spread out.

### **Outlook for a 2016 Chip and Haul**

The 2016 Chip and Haul program is being planned and will be announced well in advance.

Anybody that may wish to serve on the Walker Firewise Committee, please contact the Walker Firewise committee chairman Loren Bykerk at [walkerfirewise@gmail.com](mailto:walkerfirewise@gmail.com).



IMAGE COURTESY OF CONRAD WALTON

Conrad Walton's live drone movie of this grinder event can be seen at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbulAjCitgo>

Follow this link for some Chip & Haul photos:  
<http://www.walkercaa.org/2015ChipAndHaul.html>



# WINTER COAT DRIVE AND THANKSGIVING DINNER GIFT CARDS



Mid-October saw the end of the 2015 Walker Community Action Alliance “Winter Coat Drive”. This is the sixth year that this “event” has been going on in Walker. Where the Walkerites are finding the coats is a mystery. All coats collected are distributed between the Coalition for Compassion and Justice (CCJ) and Catholic Charities, both in Prescott.

When coats are collected at the pancake breakfasts or the “Sundae Saturdays” they are all washed and bagged. Coats used to be stored on hangers on temporary “coat racks” until the end of the collection time in October. This got very cumbersome with the racks bulging with coats! There was also a problem in obtaining hangers. It became a “hanger drive” too. Finally the procedure was changed, and once coats were cleaned they were folded, bagged and stored.



It's most impressive to take a look at the numbers. The first year only 85 coats were gathered. In 2011 something different was added – a pledge from members of the community toward Thanksgiving dinners for those in the Catholic Charities “Project Hope” program. There were 75 coats collected, and the WCAA was able to donate 21 Thanksgiving dinner gift cards worth \$50 each! There was a big jump in 2012 with 111 coats gathered and 31 gift cards given to Catholic Charities.



A couple of new twists were added to the program in 2013 and have continued ever since. The CCJ let it be known that children's coats were needed. A separate category was established to support this need. These coats were counted at one third the value of one adult coat (for the pledge dollars). By 2013 most folks might have been running out of coats, so the “Koats for Kidz” category was established. If someone didn't have a coat, they could contribute \$20 and brand new coat would be purchased. The management at Ross Dress for Less gave the WCAA a 10% discount, and 9 new coats were purchased. These coats are not incorporated into the total pledge amount. The pledge dollars amounted to 40 dinner cards being donated in 2013.

2014 was a banner year! There were 153 adult coats, 127 children's coats and 18 new children's coats; 37 dinner gift cards were purchased.

Once again in 2015 a new twist was added. The pledge dollars would now fund not only the Thanksgiving dinner program but also the Salvation Army “Christmas Angel” program. The coat drive concluded with 98 adult coats, 67 children's coats and 12 “Koats for Kidz” new coats. It had been determined that the pledge dollars would provide Thanksgiving dinners and gifts for the Salvation Army program.

# THE “GREEN BAG” PROJECT

You may have noticed that every other month there seems to be a large number of green bags showing up at the Walker fire station. These bags are usually dropped off by some great people during the regularly scheduled WCAA meetings. You may not be aware of how easy it is to become a “green bag” person!

Hunger statistics are staggering. In 2011 Arizona ranked number two in the country for poverty – second only to Mississippi. In Yavapai County, 1 out of 3 children don't know where their next meal will come from, compared to the national average of 1 out of 5. Over 30% of food bank recipients are the working poor who have one or more jobs and still can't make ends meet. It's estimated that over 11,000 members of our community are hungry.

The Yavapai Food Neighbors Project is a donor drive, not a food drive. Our contributors are committed to giving a small amount of food every two months. This provides food banks, pantries, and other emergency food programs with a steady year-round supply. There aren't those “mountains” of food at the holidays followed by the deep valleys the rest of the year. A nice steady supply of food going to the food banks keeps the inventory level up.

The green bag is a simple way to donate food to the Yavapai Food Neighbors Project. You keep the green bag in your garage; and every time you go grocery shopping you put an item or two in the bag. The goal is to fill the green bag with healthy foods similar to what you would eat.

The items can include canned tuna and chicken, beans, peanut butter, fruits (canned and dried), soups and stews, pasta and cereal. After 8 weeks the bag is full and you can bring it to the meeting. You then receive an empty green bag for the next collection. It's that simple.

The green bags are taken into Prescott to a central collection spot the second Saturday of the month (every other month) – usually the Wal-Mart parking lot on Gale Gardner. Here the bags are taken from the car by the Project team, weighed, and new green bags are given to the driver.

This project started in Walker in January 2015. So, what have we done this year? Currently there are 14 Walkerites who are Green Bag participants. A total of 49 bags of food have been collected with a total weight of over 630 pounds! Way to go, Walker!

You do not have to be a member of the WCAA to become a food donor. You still can drop the green bag off at any WCAA meeting – or arrange to have it picked up. If you're interested in becoming a “Green Bag” donor, contact Chairman Victoria Morhous; she'll set you up with your own bag to fill. [vamorhous@gmail.com](mailto:vamorhous@gmail.com) or 928-443-7406. Let's all try to alleviate the hunger in Yavapai County.

Many thanks to Victoria for all her hours collecting and distributing the bags and to Jeff Morhous for his help with transporting the bags and giving up his space in the garage!



# HISTORIC WALKER QUAD RIDE



On May 30 WCAA sponsored its second Walker history-themed quad ride presented by Loren Bykerk. The first historical ride was in October of 2010, and the ride was interrupted by a severe hailstorm. This time the weather was perfect. In total, we had 20 vehicles, not all were quads, but that was OK. Unlike the previous ride, this time the entire route was on well-traveled roads. There were 39 participants, and we learned about 19 different historically significant locations.



The WCAA Historical Committee created a map of the route and generated a ride booklet which included photographs and histories of the sites. The booklets were given to each participant. Among things we learned was: what the concrete structure was that is across from the mailboxes; where the Stuckey Store was; the location of the Poland-Walker Tunnel; who owned the Pink Car; the narrow gauge rail and the trestles associated with it; where the power sub-station was located; where the old Walker town site was; the history of Hummingbird Hill; what the filter plant was; where the Walker dance hall was; what a drill rock is; and where the chinning bar is. We also explored the probable location of the Walker (Comer) Hotel.



After the ride, the group gathered for a potluck hosted by Nancy and Wolfgang Monthofer at their home, where folks enjoyed great food and conversation in a beautiful setting.

Research is continuing, and biographies of individual Walker personalities will be the subjects of programs in upcoming WCAA membership meetings.

Many thanks to chairman Loren Bykerk and his committee – Victoria Morhous, Jeff Morhous, and Lori Levy for their contributions to this interesting and successful event. The funds raised were used to help offset the community financial obligation of the March – May 2015 Chip & Haul event.

Pictures from the event are available at [http://  
www.walkercaa.org/2015HistoricWalkerQu  
adRide.html](http://www.walkercaa.org/2015HistoricWalkerQuadRide.html)

Please contact Loren Bykerk for more information or to purchase the booklet.

[walkercaa@gmail.com](mailto:walkercaa@gmail.com)  
or 928-443-9747.



# SUNDAE SATURDAYS



If you have never been to a Sundae Saturday event, please be sure to check one out next summer. The event happens on the first Saturday of July, August and September, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at the Walker Fire Station. Everyone is welcome and it is FREE!



The dates this year were July 4, August 1, and September 5. Volunteers scoop out gallons of delicious vanilla ice cream and lots of yummy toppings. Last summer's toppings included hot fudge, chocolate syrup, whipped cream, nuts, strawberries, cookies, candy, sprinkles, crumbled cookies, and bananas. At September's event we served over 200 sundaes.



Besides the event providing delicious sundaes, it also provides a wonderful opportunity to say hello to your neighbors, to meet new families who have chosen Walker as their new home, and to meet many guests. There are several games put out for kids and adults to play with, like bean bag toss, hula hoops, jump ropes, and... who knows what may show up next summer?



Please mark the dates for next year on your 2016 Walker calendar and plan on showing up – rain or shine! Bring your family, visitors, friends, and neighbors for a fun, old-fashioned ice cream social.

Many thanks to Chairman Marsha Smades and all of her WCAA committee members who work so tirelessly on these events!

Pictures of the event are available at <http://www.walkercaa.org/2015SundaeSaturdays.html>

# WCAA'S GUEST SPEAKERS EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY

The WCAA was excited to host some wonderfully informative guest speakers at our May, July and September meetings.

Bill Loughrige, the WFPA President, kicked off our speaker series on May 9 at the general membership meeting. He was updating us on the proposal by Groom Creek Fire District to annex Walker.

At that same meeting Bob Painter introduced us to the Yavapai Food Neighbors Project.

Eric Moore, owner of Jay's Bird Barn in Prescott, spoke on July 11 at the general membership meeting. Eric educated us about the many varieties of feathered friends in Walker and about the fact that not all areas of Walker necessarily have the same breeds living there. He spoke about our unique habitat due to the elevation and foliage in the area. In addition, he discussed feeding and dealing with some of those pesky birds at our hummingbird feeders. An array of birding supplies on display rounded out the presentation. Eric presented a wealth of knowledge and information! Everyone who attended left a little, if not a lot, more knowledgeable about birding in Walker. Jay's Bird Barn is located at 1046 Willow Creek Road, 928-443-5900. The website is [www.jaysbirdbarn.com](http://www.jaysbirdbarn.com).

At the September 14 general membership meeting, Eric Wight, Mark Keegan and Roger Nusbaum, Walker Fire Protection Department (WFPA) firefighters and EMS team members, provided information about what to do if someone would have a medical emergency while in Walker, most importantly - call 911 immediately. A good idea is to keep a list of your medications (including herbal supplements and over the counter pills), allergies, current medical conditions, prior conditions, surgeries, etc. either inside your refrigerator or attached to the refrigerator by a magnet. File of Life

packets contain the necessary forms that a homeowner can fill out. The homeowner's information will be organized and readily available to the EMS team. These forms are an important source of information for emergency workers, and they should not only be on your refrigerator for each family member, but they should also be carried in each of your vehicles along with File of Life window stickers. All of these are available at our general membership meetings

Did you know that Walker Fire Department has a four-wheel drive rescue vehicle that may allow our Walker Medical Team to gain access to you when the ambulance company is unable to? The team explained that in the event that a person may need to be transported to a hospital in the area or flown to a trauma 1 hospital, additional coverage is available with a local ambulance company and the helicopter flight services. For more information, contact Mark Keegan at:

[walkercaa@gmail.com](mailto:walkercaa@gmail.com)

We owe our WFPA medical team many thanks and would like to express our gratitude for all they do.

Guests are always welcome at the membership meetings! The WCAA would like to continue the guest speaker series next summer. We welcome your thoughts and ideas. If you have any suggestions for guest speakers or topics of interest, please contact Chairman Carla Keegan at :

[walkercaa@gmail.com](mailto:walkercaa@gmail.com)

Pictures of the meetings are available at

[http://  
www.walkercaa.org/20150711MembershipMe  
eting.html](http://www.walkercaa.org/20150711MembershipMeeting.html)

# Firefighters Thank You Brunch

August 15<sup>th</sup> found the Walker fire station filled with around 25 hungry firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, and department personnel after their rigorous Saturday training. In order to curb that hunger and to show our gratitude to these volunteers for giving so much of their time, effort and being to the Walker Fire Protection Department, the WCAA provided a hearty brunch for all. Delectable egg casseroles, scrumptious quiches, a variety of breakfast potatoes, savory sausages, fruit, decadent sweet rolls, juices and coffee highlighted the menu. It was a true epicurean delight that seemed to satisfy the appetites of the hard- working men and women of Walker fire department. As the fire fighters chowed down and engaged in conversation, one could observe the camaraderie amongst the members of the department. It was also apparent that the brunch was much appreciated from the abundant thanks that our volunteers received.



Additional pictures are available at  
<http://www.walkercaa.org/2015FirefightersThankyouBrunch.html>

Special thanks go to our wonderful Walker chefs and volunteers that made this event possible: Chairperson Myra Nathenson, Committee Members Victoria Morhous and Carla Keegan. Volunteers and cooks were Joyce and Charlie Hyman, Victoria and Jeff Morhous, Marsha and Jack Smades, Carol and Verne Tocker, Betsy and Loren Bykerk, Myra Nathenson, Kristi McFarlan, Carla Keegan, Jane and Ed O'Clair, Susan and Trevor Naugle, Patti and Larry Shepherd, Belinda Hoernig, Anni Maulden, and Nancy Monthofer.



# WALKER FIREWISE

The purpose of Walker Firewise is to help avoid the loss of property, valuable assets and possible loss of life, by changing the path of a wildfire by clearing the “Home Ignition Zone” (HIZ) of potentially dangerous forest fire fuel.

Walker Community Action Alliance, Inc. (WCAA) was approved on December 21, 2010 as a Firewise/USA® Community. This recognition has enabled the Walker Community to be eligible to apply for funds to assist homeowners in the cost of mitigating their properties of forest fire fuel. To date, \$298,674.00 has been awarded the Walker Community in the form of fuel reduction grants.

To retain status as a Firewise/USA® Community, two requirements must be met. At least one “Firewise Day” must be held, and \$2.00 per capita must be spent for Firewise related purposes. In 2015, both of these requirements were met, and WCAA Walker Firewise has been accepted for recertification by Firewise/USA® for the year 2016.

In the 2015 WCAA Walker Firewise fiscal year, the following activity has taken place:

- 17 wildfire risk assessments
- 15 properties treated
- 27.73 acres treated
- \$38,575.00 reimbursed to homeowners
- \$12,133.71 Chip & Haul event
- \$1,213.37 community donations to cover “hard match” grant obligation
- 2097.55 community volunteer hours reported worth \$48,390.48\*
- 39 “Firewise Days”\*\*
- \$172.61 for postage, printing costs, supplies, etc
- 2,486.30 miles driven for Firewise activities

Walker Firewise is a member of Yavapai Firewise.org, the organization formerly known as Prescott Area Wildland/Urban Interface Commission (PAWUIC). Yavapai Firewise was instrumental in Walker receiving a grant in 2015 for \$77,615.00.

Without community involvement, the Firewise effort could not succeed. Walker Firewise would like to offer thanks to the following for helping make 2015 a successful year.

- Dan Hauck for all of his help during the 2015 Chip and Haul event
- Bud Mellor for helping to keep the Chip and Haul slash pile tidy and assisting in Wildfire Risk Assessments
- Dave Leeper for helping to keep the Chip and Haul slash pile tidy
- All of the people who brought slash from their properties to Chip and Haul and especially those who participated in documenting their hours and expenses
- The 15 families that seized the opportunity to make the community safer by clearing wildfire fuel from their properties and for having the patience in waiting for reimbursement of funds
- Walker Fire Department for making available the firehouse parking lot for Chip and Haul
- And finally, to WCAA for making Walker Firewise possible in the first place and for administering the financial responsibilities

\*Note: The value of these hours was used as matching funds for a grant being administered by Yavapai Firewise.org.

\*\*Note: In addition to two separate community events, each day a booth was maintained at the 2015 Chip and Haul, qualified as a "Firewise Day".

Visit:

[www.walkerfirewise.org](http://www.walkerfirewise.org)

[www.Yavapaifirewise.org](http://www.Yavapaifirewise.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/PrescottAreaWildfireExpo2013>

Contact Walker Firewise:

[walkerfirewise@gmail.com](mailto:walkerfirewise@gmail.com)

928-443-9748

602-370-8020 cell

928-445-0590 fax

Many, many thanks to Loren Bykerk who has been chairman of the Firewise committee since its inception in 2010!! Thanks also to committee members Bud Mellor, Chuck Bowers, Tim McFarlan, and Roger Nusbaum!

Thanks to Yavapai County for reducing our slash pile during the period that the Grinder was out of service.



# Chili Fest and Potluck



Have you ever wondered what an old-fashioned, fun, fall gathering with lots of chili dishes, awesome live music, beautiful decorations, and heart-warming good conversation would be like? Wonder no more, it happened here in Walker!

The first ever WCAA Chili Fest and potluck was held October 10 in the Walker fire station. About 100 adults and children attended, and a great time was had by all. Not only were there delicious chili offerings to indulge in (with all the fixins), a tasty assortment of side dishes and desserts was contributed by some of the generous guests.



Every table was decked out with autumn table coverings and beautiful, artistic hand-made autumn center pieces which a lucky person (who was sitting at the lucky chair) at each table got to keep. Outside were welcoming bales of hay and fall décor. Thanks to Jane O'Clair, the decoration Chairperson, for creating the fabulous theme and mood!



As if that wasn't enough, door prizes were drawn for lucky ticket winners.

Many WCAA members made the evening a great event (many hands make light work!). The main committee included Carla Keegan, Victoria Morhous, and Myra Nathenson. The set up team included Mickey and Bud Mellor, Patti and Larry Shepherd, Victoria and Jeff Morhous, Jane and Ed O'Clair, and Myra and Steve Nathenson. Chili cookers were Carla, Victoria, Myra, Jane, Marsha Smades, Anni Maulden, Susan Naugle, and Nancy Monthofer.

Not only was the event a huge success, it was fun for everyone. Many hours go into planning an event like this, but it was fun and rewarding for all the volunteers.

Proceeds of the fest benefited the Firefighter/EMT fund and Walker Chip & Haul.

Pictures of the event are available at <http://www.walkercaa.org/2015FallChiliFest.html>

# HOLIDAY BAZAAR



The second annual Holiday Bazaar and potluck was held at the lovely home of Verne and Carol Tocker on November 14. The concept of the event was for people to bring their new or gently used items for auction (or possibly something your old aunt gave you and you hated, or something your spouse gave you that you detested!). It is true – beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Proceeds of the bazaar went to the Fire-fighter Appreciation Fund.

By each item there was a numbered sheet with minimum starting bids – either \$5.00 or \$10.00. People could put their names down to start the minimum bid, and the next person who wanted that item could sign their name and increase the bid by at least \$2.00 or more.

As the time got closer to closing the bids, a mad scramble was made by some bidders to make sure their bids would succeed. The winning bidders were very glad they got their “goodies,” despite the chagrin of some spouses who could not believe what they would be taking home with them! Any remaining items that had not been sold were auctioned off by the talented Jean Lupa.

The potluck contributions were well-appreciated, and everyone enjoyed them.

Many thanks to the chairman of the event, Victoria Morhous, and her committee of Myra Nathenson, and Verne and Carol Tocker.

Since 2010 the Christmas Angel program has been an annual event for the WCAA. It started with the efforts of Bob and Darlene in 2010 and 2011. 2015 was the sixth year, thanks to Carol and Verne Tocker who took over in 2012.

Each year when the giving trees are put up in Gateway Mall, the Tockers get between seven to fifteen “giving cards” with a child’s name on them. The cards are placed on a Christmas tree sponsored by the Salvation Army, and the gifts are for children of needy families. Monies raised at certain WCAA events go towards the purchase of the gifts.

There are two categories of recipients. The first is for newborns up to twelve years of age, and that group gets clothes and/or toys. The second is for teenagers, who receive clothes (their clothes sizes are listed on the cards).

The Tockers get cards for both groups. After many hours of happy shopping, they return the presents to the drop off place. After that, Salvation Army volunteers pick the presents up, wrap them, and deliver them to the families.

Other places around town have similar trees, sponsored by other charities – there is even one for giving to pets!

Many thanks for Carol and Verne for participating every year. A special thanks goes to Carol, who still went shopping for the kids despite the fact that her foot was recuperating from an operation and her foot was in a cast!