

WALKER COMMUNITY ACTION ALLIANCE

2017 NEWSLETTER

GREETINGS WALKER COMMUNITY –

This year's newsletter is shorter than the last one since it only encompasses one year (2016) rather than the five years of the first one. We had more than a little catching up to do.

2016 was an excellent year for the Walker Community Action Alliance. We were able to produce a number of excellent events as well as support a number of worthy causes. This newsletter recaps the events and causes of 2016.

It looks as if 2017 is shaping up to be another excellent year. Be sure to check out further information on all our events, projects, and pictures at <http://www.walkercaa.org>

Jeff Morhous
President, Walker Community Action Alliance

ADOPT-A-ROAD

Bud Mellor and Verne Tocker are co-chairs for Adopt-a-Road. This is an annual event, and in 2016 two events occurred. Three miles along the sides of Walker Road were cleaned. In addition to Bud and Verne, the helpers were Loren Bykerk, Carol Tocker, Mickey Mellor, Sal Giorlando, Jack Smades, Marsha Smades, Mike Francis, Bob Mesa, and Chris Mesa. There are always three teams consisting of quads and three persons per quad for a total of nine people. The same team pattern was used for any other cleanup. Photos can be seen in the gallery on the website.

BIZARRE BAZAAR

A “Bizarre Bazaar?” Yes, that’s what it is. This event started out as a Holiday Bazaar but has morphed into a great little Holiday kick-off, featuring more than Holiday items.

Items were donated for a “silent” auction, and the

bidding started at a modest five or ten dollars. There were over sixty items donated in 2016! Items were everything from a pasta set, to an Erector set to a pig and platter set, etc. It turned out to be the hot item of the night.

Not only were items donated, but there was also a great potluck spread provided by the forty-seven folks who attended the fun evening. The function was at Chris and Bob Mesa’s lovely home, and they provided wonderful entrées for the gathering. Hospitality reigned supreme with platters of beef, side dishes, salads and of course wonderful homemade desserts.

Profits benefit the EMT fund. **Mark your calendar for November 11, 2017**, and plan on having a fun evening.

CALENDAR SALES

Once again, the residents of Walker showed their support of the annual Chip and Haul event by purchasing the community specific calendar. Calendars were purchased for not only residents, but also family members outside the community. Overall, the response to the 2017 calendar was superb. What a great example of the community working together for a worthwhile cause! Seventy-five copies were printed and sold.

The 2017 calendar featured long-time residents and landmarks within the Walker community. After email notices and personal requests for pictures were made, pictures and text for the 13-month calendar were compiled by the committee, and the final product was printed. The committee consisted of Nancy Monthofer, Tim McFarlan, and Mona Feige; though efforts of many individuals in Walker made the project possible. The efforts of everyone submitting pictures and history for the calendar are commended; too many people to mention. Myra Nathenson did an outstanding job of spearheading sales.

A new calendar for 2018 is in process. The theme will be pictures of people and events associated with the fire department. The intent is to focus on pictures circa 15-20 years ago; however, all submissions will be considered and used whenever possible. At this time, there is access to pictures surrounding the construction of the existing fire station and community events during the years of 1999-2000. The community involvement is encouraged and welcomed. **Please send all submissions by June 1 to the webmaster: walkercaa@gmail.com.** The committee members look forward to receiving and reviewing each picture representing the history of this special community. Profits benefit Chip & Haul.

CHILI FEST POTLUCK

About 100 participants attended the Fall Chili Fest and "Western Ho-Down" on October 15, 2016. Thanks to the committee of Victoria Morhous, Carla Keegan, Jane O'Clair, and Myra Nathenson a great time was had by all. Chili dishes and all the condiments were donated by WCAA members, and some guests brought deserts. Everything was coordinated to the "T". The popular pair – Me, Myself, and I - provided western music. There were door prizes too and a raffle. Jane O'Clair once again came up with clever ideas for the table decorations. A special gift and award was presented to Mark Keegan for having completed his paramedic program in the summer. Profits went to the Chip & Haul and the EMT Thank You fund. **Save the date of OCTOBER 14, 2017** for the next fabulous chili fest!

CHIP & HAUL

There is no cost to participate in the Chip & Haul program, but donations are appreciated. It has been a valuable resource for the Walker and Potato Patch communities. It offers a close-by location on certain predetermined days for individuals in the Walker-Potato Patch communities to bring slash for disposal. Slash is limbs, trees, and/or logs. The goal of the program is to reduce wildfire potential in our communities. Please mail your donations to: Walker Firewise, 5353 S. Walker Rd., Prescott, AZ 86303.

The current Chip & Haul program at the fire station **will end on May 19**, so you still have time to participate. Folks are asked to pile their slash either on top of other slash or at least as close as possible and to keep the drive open.

CHRISTMAS ANGEL PROGRAM

For the past seven years, we have sponsored this program. Verne and Carol Tocker are co-chairs for this program. Every year they go shopping for children's Christmas presents to donate to the Salvation Army program. In 2016 they purchased 48 items for a total of \$688.04. Twelve needy children were served.

COAT DRIVE

2016 was our seventh year for the coat drive and it was outstanding – the most coats collected ever. A total of all coats collected and donated was 215!

No, we didn't break a total coat donation of over 1,000 (we'll do that this year). Our total for the seven years is 995 ... pretty nice for our small little community.

Due to the generous pledges made by members of the Walker Community we had over \$2,000 to fund our Salvation Army "Christmas Angel" program and the Catholic Charities Thanksgiving Dinner program. Thanks to each of you for supporting this endeavor with your generous pledges.

Yes, it will happen again in 2017 ... we can't quit now, and we will break the 1,000 number in 2017!

CPR CLASS

WCAA was fortunate to be able to sponsor a CPR class during August. A big THANKS goes out to Davin Vanatta and Larry Marcum, two Walker Fire Fighters/Paramedics who taught the class. They made it possible for eleven Walker Community members to become AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION CERTIFIED in CPR. The group met at the Highland Center for a day filled with

camaraderie while learning the information and techniques necessary for acquiring lifesaving skills. At the end of the class, the participants left with their certification card in hand, which is valid for two years. The WCAA hopes they will have the opportunity to sponsor another CPR class during 2018 for those to renew their certification, and for anyone who is still interested in learning CPR and was not able to participate in the 2016 class.

FIREFIGHTER/EMS THANK YOU BRUNCH

Once again, the WCAA was honored to provide brunch for the hard-working firefighters, EMS team, and personnel of the Walker Fire Department. It was one small way to show our appreciation and say thank you for their dedication and service to the Walker Community.

On July 16, you could detect the aroma of many delectable dishes seeping through the doors of the fire station.

Thanks to many of our WCAA members a beautiful brunch was prepared that was fit for a King or Queen. The fire fighters and EMS team came to the brunch with some very healthy appetites that morning since they had attended one of their many Saturday trainings earlier that day. The Brunch provided good eats and an opportunity for the members of Walker Fire Department to relax and enjoy each other's company.

This year's brunch will be on July 15.

FIREWISE

To date, Walker Firewise has brought \$341,605 into our community, saving homeowners in Walker over \$290,913 in costs with over 281 acres treated. We were awarded a new fuels mitigation grant on December 5, 2016 for \$33,750 in reimbursable funds. The purpose of this grant is to provide financial assistance to homeowners interested in reducing wildfire fuel from their property and to create "Defensible Space" around their home. Unfortunately, funds from this grant can no longer

be used to offset costs of our annual "Chip & Haul" program.

May 20, 2017 is the Walker Firewise Day. The speaker will be Ben DeBlois of the Prescott National Forest. He will be on hand to share information and answer questions about current and future Forest Service projects in and around Walker.

GPS POKER RUN

What a hoot! This ride was so much fun and the forty-six riders thought they had a good "GPS" workout. Luckily no one got lost this year, although the final potluck location was a bit of a mystery or challenge!

The riders had the Bradshaw Mountain loop to cover. Their GPS co-ordinates led them to sites where they had to find a playing card. They had five sites to go to and return to the potluck location with a poker hand. Oh, they had a break in that there were two wild cards for them to use. The better break? There were extra "blind" cards for them to bid on. The top winning hands had over \$200 in the first and second prize envelopes.

Oh, the best part of the ride? The potluck. It was hosted at the Nathenson home, and the food was outstanding. It was a perfect day weather wise (there have been some major rain problems in the past), and everyone loved the whole event. Profits went to the Chip & Haul program.

This year we will have a Historical Ride on June 24, followed by a potluck lunch.

SUNDAE SATURDAYS

WCAA's Sundae Saturdays have become an annual summer event for Walker. Summer 2016 was no different. Once again on the first Saturday in July, August and September at the Fire Station, Walker residents, family and friends were able to satisfy their sweet tooth with bowls of ice cream and a multitude of toppings including strawberries, bananas, whipped cream, and everyone's favorite, homemade hot fudge. Those who attended

enjoyed the old fashion ice cream social and the chance to spend time with others from the Walker Community.

It was also a joy to see all the kids come out and enjoy the games and a chance to check out the fire trucks. In addition to ice cream at the August event, everyone was also treated to a marvelous car show. The antique cars seemed to trigger some wonderful memories for people as they went around inspecting each one. The generous donations from the event went towards the Community Chip and Haul project.

The WCAA is planning to continue the Sundae Saturday tradition this summer. Come meet with old time neighbors and new neighbors to Walker. Summer 2017 dates are **July 1, August 5 and September 2**. Watch for email reminders, and come and enjoy the fun.

WALKER YAVAPAI FOOD NEIGHBORS PROJECT

The Yavapai food Neighbors project, or fondly called the "Green Bag" project, had a wonderful 2016. The generous Walker participants donated 1,228 pounds of food to local emergency food providers

The Food Neighbor project is pretty simple. A donor is given a green bag and asked to put one or two non-perishable, and non-glass, items into it each week. Every other month (March, May, July, September, November this year) the bag is collected and taken to the local collection site in Prescott. The Yavapai Food council then invites between two and four local emergency food providers to collect the food brought in and take it to their service facility. This could be local food banks, weekend backpack programs, community hot meal providers, etc.

Walker started out with thirteen generous donors and we now have sixteen. It would be wonderful to get that number up to 25! If you are interested in becoming a "Green Bag" person, contact Victoria Morhous at 928-443-7406.