

Walker Bay Days details almost finalized

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More details on Walker Bay Days (WBD) Aug. 11, 12 and 13 were released at the May 24 Walker Area Partners (WAP) meeting.

Copies of the almost-finalized flyer for the first Walker Bay Days — "the weekend celebration on the shores of Leech Lake" — were distributed by WBD co-chair Jeff Holly.

Saturday night's live band will be "Belladiva," described on its Web site, www.belladivamusic.com, as "fierce and fabulous meets glamour and glitz ..."

"Belladiva, the Twin Cities' hottest show band, features three beautiful and talented women (Lisa, Lisa Marie and Jenny) who have come together to dazzle audiences with their high-energy show.

"Covering a wide variety of music including pop, R & B, disco, rock and jazz, Belladiva integrates electrifying vocals and cutting edge choreography."

Friday night activities will feature a disc jockey and recorded music.

The Big Dig, a new Saturday kids' activity, will be underwritten by Dale and Harriet Jones.

Kids ages 9 and younger will be invited to dig in a huge pile of sand for prize capsules. Each capsule contains a number that corresponds to a prize.

Another new kids' activity will be free hair braiding, face painting and temporary tattoos, offered by local hair salons.

The Walker Bay Days Web site, created by Nancy Ramp, should be ready in a few days. An eye-catching Walker Bay Days banner will be unfurled soon on the old Gas 'N Splash station downtown.

Confirmed WBD food and snack vendors are Walker Lions, American Legion Club and Auxiliary, and the Family Safety Network, with several others under consideration.

The sponsor list has grown, with contributions from Walker Rotary, \$5,000; First National Bank of Walker, \$2,500; Leech Lake Chamber of Commerce, \$1,000; Fishing the Wild Side (Chip and Ineke Leer), \$2,000; American National Bank, \$500; Mike and Tammy Pederson, \$500; Segue Title, \$400; and City Sanitary, donated services.

Hope Lutheran Church's "Hope Youth" will handle kids' "art in the park" activities. Rotoract, Rotary's teen branch, will supervise other kids' games.

The exact times for all WBD activities will be announced in early June.

Holly also elaborated on how profits from Walker Bay Days will be disbursed.

First, money will be set aside for the 2007 Walker Bay Days. Next, a set amount will go to the Walker Area Partners, one of the event's sponsors. After that, proceeds will go toward city park improvement projects.

Willard Arends and Phil Tietz reported that the downtown beautification project is going well.

A total of \$5,130 has been collected to install brackets and hanging floral baskets on light standards throughout the downtown area. The brackets and baskets should be up by Memorial weekend.

Under WAP fund-raising projects, chairman John Fjelstul said one suggestion is to hold a community pancake breakfast before each of three Walker Crazy Daze — June 22, July 20 and Aug. 10. The breakfasts would start early, while merchants are setting up and shoppers are arriving, and conclude by 9:30 or 10 a.m. The idea is still being considered.

Reporting for Signage Committee chair Amy Jones, Fjelstul said Jones has obtained permits from the city and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) for new "Welcome to Walker" signs. The signs should be installed sometime in July at sites on the three highways coming into Walker.

Lyn Mineer of Mineer Signs, who will create the signs, said they will be 8-by-8 feet, made of sandblasted cedar and surrounded by boulders.

Trails Committee chair Steve Bilben and other community members will attend a June 7 meeting with Mn/DOT in Bemidji on bike trails, trail funding, etc. The committee hopes to have better in-town trail signage by summer. It also is working with Cass County on establishing a route to connect the Paul Bunyan Trail north of Hackensack with Highway 371 west of the Y Junction, via county-owned land.

Bilben also reported that the 2006 Ride with Jim (Congressman Jim Oberstar) June 4 will run on the Paul Bunyan Trail from Baxter to Pine River, with an optional second leg from Pine River to Hackensack.

In 2007, the Ride With Jim will be held on trails in the Walker area.

Other projects include tennis court resurfacing and a new beach volleyball court at city park.

The next WAP meeting will be June 21 at Hope Lutheran Church, with lunch at 11:30 a.m. and the meeting at noon.

For more information on this subject, check out these resources:

- [Belladiva](#)