



Jenny and Jim Walker, owners of Walker's IGA, and their son, Jake Walker, assistant manager, stand next to their new produce section. Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald

Walker's IGA open for business

By Jennifer Archibald
Staff writer

Burlington residents can shop locally for groceries with the newly opened and fully stocked Walker's IGA.

Owners are Jim and Jenny Walker of Burlington.

"The town knows what it's like to not have a grocery store," Jenny said. The previous one officially closed last September.

The Walkers took over and have been working on getting it ready for the past six months.

They've painted the outside and inside, put a new porch roof on the exterior, installed new flooring in the front area of the store, and added a front office.

"We have a new dairy case, and a new produce area," Jenny added. "People will be surprised at the full line of produce and increased variety."

The Walkers said they also reconfigured the cash register system and took out four feet of shelving in each store row to make room for end caps.

Jenny is the day-to-day operator of the store because Jim has a full-time job at the Chrysler transmission plant, but he is still very much involved with the business.

Their son, Jake Walker, is assistant manager.

The store is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week, and right now, Jenny and employee Donna Brown are co-managing the store full-time.

"Eventually we will take different shifts," Jenny said.

The store has a kitchen and a cook, Valta Thieke. Jenny said the deli has grab-and-go things now, such as salads, wraps, sandwiches, and fruit, and is slowly getting into daily hot meals. She said the meals will be in full swing by fall.

The store's butcher is Dave Rhine, and the full-time produce person will be Stephanie Mandley.

In addition to those mentioned above, the Walkers have eight other employees.

They said one of the reasons they opened their business is that without a grocery store, it's hard for other local businesses to survive. Jenny said she knows this firsthand because she used to have a hair styling business.

She said when people had to go out of town to get their groceries, they did other shopping and other business there, too. Some of her clients told her they sometimes got their hair cut while they were

out of town.

"We know our business will have to build," Jenny said.

But she said customers have been pleased with how the store looks and how well the shelves are stocked.

"They say it's like a blast from the past," she said.

The Walkers said older people, as well as their caregivers appreciate being able to drive a short distance to get groceries and to have less walking inside than in the big super markets.

"The store has really put the life back in the town," Jenny said.

"We've kept our prices as low as we can for a middle of nowhere grocery store," she added.

"There's not another grocery store within a 12-mile radius," Jenny said. "And we're the only grocery store between Logansport and Indianapolis on State Road 29."

To help get the word out about their store, they've started a Facebook page and they're asking for customer's email addresses to send information.

"It was a total leap of faith to start this business," Jenny said.

"We just pray people will support it," Jim added.

Professional Briefs

Clarian Arnett's **DR. TIM-OTHY FISHER**, an Internal Medicine physician, has been named "Patient's Choice" doctor for the second year in a row by patient rankings on Vitals.com.

The ranking is based on near perfect customer rankings on Vitals.com. The online community totals more than 40,000 patients' feedback over the year in categories such as promptness, courtesy, bedside manner, and accuracy of diagnosis. Of the nation's 720,000 active physicians, less than six

percent of physicians were accorded this honor in the past year.

Dr. Fisher is a 1983 graduate of Delphi Community High School.

MILES HODGE has joined Teach For America, the national corps of college graduates who commit to teach for two years in urban and rural public schools in low-income communities.

Hodge, a 2006 graduate of Delphi Community High School and a 2010 graduate of Purdue University, will

teach in Indianapolis beginning this fall.

Teach For America received a record-breaking 46,000 applications this year. Admission was more selective than ever before, with an acceptance rate of 12 percent.

This fall, more than 8,200 first and second-year Teach For America corps members will be teaching in 39 urban and rural regions nationwide. They will reach students in more than 100 school districts in 31 states and the District of Columbia.

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GIVE BACK TO COMMUNITY BY SHOPPING LOCAL

According to the nationally acclaimed 3/50 project, spending \$100 at an independently owned local store returns \$68 back to our community through taxes, payroll and other expenditures. So shop local and support our locally owned businesses for your back-to-school needs.

There are new laws regarding vaccinations for your children and they may need sports physicals that can be done locally and at a reasonable fee at the Carroll County Medical Center in Flora, the Camden Health Center or the Family Health Clinic in Delphi.

Don't forget to have your child's eyes checked by Norman Eyecare and their teeth cleaned at Drs. Wagoner & Wagoner or Dr. Lucas. Our children are super computer savvy so why not get them a laptop computer to help with their homework. Stop by Everything Computer or Computers by Michael to see just how affordable they are.

Want something special for back-to-school, don't just go out and get any backpack. Get a personalized bag from Initials Inc. by Julie Rubsam. Back to school means senior pictures or annual school pictures. Keep it local and look great by having your portrait taken at K. Weatherwax Photography in Delphi.

Speaking of looking great, what about a new back-to-school look? Stop by Sassy's or Trends by Wendy for a great new look or even the Grapevine Boutique for a new outfit to go with it.

And last but not least the list of school supplies that everyone needs to get the year off to a great start. You can find everything you need at Payne's Pharmacy in Flora or Alco in Delphi. We also can't forget about our college bound students. Check out MarthaRose Gifts & Interiors, Tan Line & Balloons, The Flower Shoppe I & II and MB Discounts for great dorm room decor.

So when thinking about back-to-school, remember to shop local and keep those dollars in Carroll County.

Michelle Pearson, Julia Leahy, Tawnyia Patterson, Bret Hanaway, Stefanie Hawkins, Dave Wright & Rusty Ashby, Carroll County Chamber of Commerce Marketing Committee Members



ART WALK 2010

Local artist will be displaying their artwork in 4 different venues. Light refreshments will be served.

Thursday July 29th
6:00p.m - 8:00p.m.

Community is welcome
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stelizabethhc.com



The public is invited to attend the 4th Annual DINNER WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS

MONDAY, AUGUST 9TH at 6PM
at the **Canal Center in Delphi**

U.S. Representative
Joe Donnelly

State Senator
Brandt Hershman

State Representative
Rich McClain

will discuss topics that affect Carroll County.

Seating is limited - RSVP to the Carroll Chamber at 765-564-6757 or email julia@carrollcountycommerce.com Meal cost is \$8⁰⁰ per person. Indiana Packers is a proud member of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce and a sponsor of the 4th Annual Legislative Dinner.