



# .the. ADAVIEW

the ADAVIEW is published by Ada Township

## SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE UPDATE



**Ross Leisman**  
Supervisor

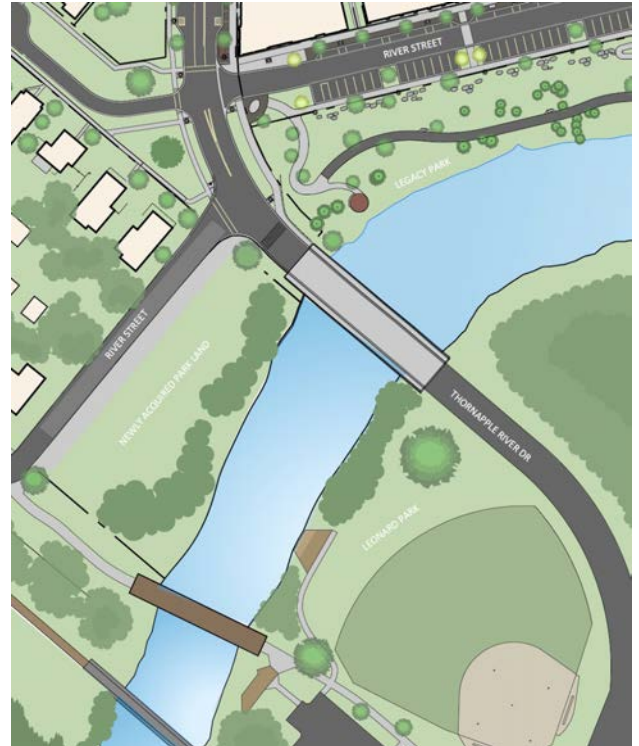
The energy pulsing through Ada Township right now is, as Detroit Tiger announcer Jim Price might have said, "something special". Summer concerts, new murals, new shops, and the farmers market fill the village air. The Township recently took possession of its state-of-the-art fire engine, and the fire department served breakfast to hundreds on the Fourth of July. In this newsletter, however, we would like to focus on updates to the Township parks, trails, open space and waterways.

Starting with the village area first, I reported to you last year that the Township had secured

an option to purchase 14 acres on the east side of the Thornapple River, containing all of the river frontage from Thornapple River Drive down to the Grand River. This year, thanks to a generous private donation, the Township is also currently in the process of acquiring the lots between River Street and the Thornapple River just north of the Ada Covered Bridge. With these acquisitions, along with other Township-owned riverfront properties, the Township will have for public use and preservation almost all the Thornapple River frontage from the Ada Covered Bridge to the Grand River. Plans for improving these areas with a combination of Township funds, other governmental grants, and private donations are also in the works.

This summer the Township will also build a new trail to connect the village area to the trail running north of M-21 by crossing under the Fulton Street Bridge. As detailed in this newsletter, the Township is also actively working on planning, building, maintaining, and signing this and other areas of our now vast trail network. Township staff are also actively working with Kent County on a pedestrian bridge over the Grand River to connect Roselle Park to Chief Hazy Cloud Park, and to improve pedestrian crossings at other bridges. The Township also just adopted a new Master Plan to protect Ada's natural environment, while at the same time allowing for limited, smart development only in those areas where it makes sense.

All of this does not happen in a vacuum. A big thank you goes out to the township staff, committees, commissions, and board working on these projects. Additional information is contained in this newsletter, on the website, and from the township staff as indicated in this newsletter.



### IN THIS ISSUE

Fire Department News.....	2
Kent County Sheriff Department.....	3
Ada Historical Society .....	4
Planning Department.....	5
From the Clerk's Office.....	5
Calendar Photo Contest .....	6
Conservation Service Award.....	6
Ada Farmers Market.....	7
Train Mural Projects .....	8
Downtown Ada Upcoming Events .....	8
Trails Update .....	9
Ada Parks & Recreation Department.....	10
Clean-Up & Leaf Pick-Up Days .....	11
Calendar .....	12

If you would prefer receiving the AdaView via email, please email the Clerk's office at: [jsmith@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:jsmith@adatownshipmi.com).



## ADA FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS –

### NEW FIRE TRUCK ARRIVES!



It was months of planning followed by 18 months of construction, and now the new fire truck has arrived! Made in Michigan, from the cab and chassis built in Charlotte, to the body, tank, and pump constructed in South Haven along with emergency lighting from Hudsonville. This truck came in under budget, and by ordering in 2022 we saved nearly \$200,000 from current build prices. We hope you like it as much as we do; expect to see it for the next 25 years. As well as a pumper truck, this will be the first apparatus responding to vehicle accidents. It is equipped with battery powered extrication tools, air bags, oil soak up reservoir and traffic control devices. The 1997 fire truck that is getting replaced has been sold to the Village of Sand Lake in the northern portion of Kent County. Thank you for supporting our department.

### PART-TIME FIREFIGHTER POSITIONS OPEN



Our Fire Department operates with much of its staffing being part-time firefighters. All of these part-time firefighters have careers outside of the department and respond to emergency calls when they are available. If you are looking for the opportunity to get involved and serve your community, we have a position for you! All trainings and responses are paid for, and a retirement plan is included. Stop by and look around or give us a call to discuss this great opportunity. **NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!**

### FIRE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS FROM THE FIRST HALF OF 2023

Here is a summary of our calls for June and overall year to date.

Type	June	YTD
Medical	20	152
Vehicle accident	4	44
Structure fire Ada	0	3
Structure fire auto aid	6	37
Grass/illegal burn	3	7
Fire alarm	8	39
Service call/assist	3	5
Good intent/odor/gas	1	7
Hazardous condition/CO	1	5
Other calls/wires	2	17
Vehicle fire	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>317</b>

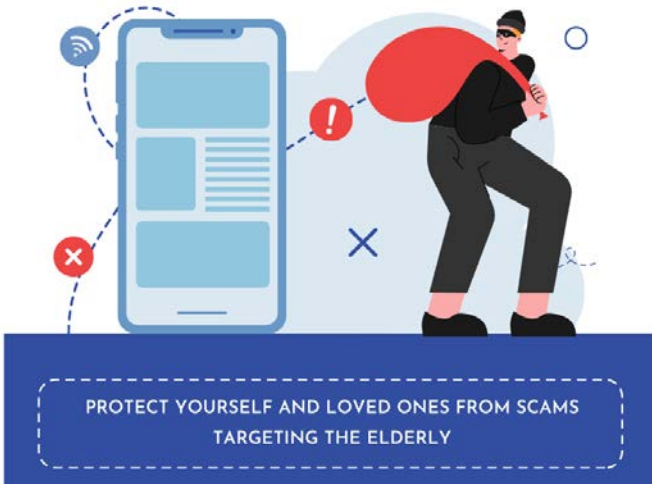
### GRAVEL BOTTOM & PINWOOD DERBY RACES BENEFIT ADA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Our local brewery, Gravel Bottom, teamed up with the HateDust Project to host a Pinewood Derby race. Teams from around the country brought their handcrafted race cars to be part of the race. The event, which is in its second year at Gravel Bottom, raised \$3,000 which was donated to the Ada Fire Department. The funds will be used to purchase equipment for the trucks and the rescue boat. Thank you Matt Michiels and the Gravel Bottom crew along with the HateDust Project for selecting the Ada Fire Department.





## KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT – BEWARE OF SCAMS



In today's digital era, elderly populations face significant risks from identity theft and fraud schemes specifically designed to exploit their vulnerabilities. Scammers employ various tactics to deceive and manipulate older adults, often resulting in devastating financial loss. One such method gaining popularity is the exploitation of gift cards, which can leave victims financially and emotionally devastated. In this article, we will identify several common fraud schemes – all of which we have seen in our area recently – and explain how to mitigate the threat of identity theft or financial exploitation.

Identity theft involves the unauthorized use of another person's information, such as Social Security numbers, credit card details, or bank account numbers, for fraudulent purposes. Scammers capitalize on the trust and naivety of the elderly, using a variety of methods to deceive and manipulate them.

Impersonation scams involve fraudsters posing as police, bank representatives or tech support agents. They manipulate victims into sharing their personal information or convince them to send money through gift cards, claiming that it's to avoid a warrant for their arrest, taxes, fines or technical support fees. Within our area, we have seen scammers assume the identity of real law enforcement personnel to solidify the legitimacy of the scheme. Always verify requests through independent contact with the agency from which the caller is supposedly calling.

The Grandparent fraud scheme is a manipulative tactic utilized to exploit the love and concern that grandparents have for their grandchildren. The scheme preys upon the emotions of older adults, tricking them into sending money for a grandchild in need. Often the scammer contacts the victim indicating the grandchild is in some type of distress, such as

having been in a car accident or arrested. They may request funds to cover medical bills, bail or other supposed expenses. Gift cards, wire transfer or prepaid debit cards are often the preferred mode of financial transaction and there is great emphasis on the need for secrecy.

Sweepstakes and lottery scams aim to target elderly individuals with the promise of winning a substantial prize. They operate under the guise of legitimate sweepstakes programs like Publisher's Clearing House and request payment for taxes or administrative fees via gift cards before releasing the winnings.

Gift cards have become a popular tool for scammers to use due to their untraceable nature and universality. Gift card fraud schemes are often successful because they exploit the victim's lack of awareness about the limited tracking ability of the cards themselves and their purchase. The scheme often involves asking the victim to purchase the cards and provide the scammers with the card details, such as the card number, PIN or security code. Once in possession, scammers can utilize the cards and leave victims with little to no recourse to recover their funds.

Preventative strategies involve education and awareness. Share the above information with loved ones, particularly elderly and vulnerable adults. Informing them about the warning signs and common fraud schemes can significantly reduce their vulnerability. Encourage open communication with older adults, encourage them to discuss any suspicious calls, emails or unusual requests for personal or financial information. Implore them to file a police report if a financial loss was incurred or if they shared their personal info. Be sure to independently verify requests for personal or financial information before providing it. Legitimate businesses and organizations will never ask for payment via gift cards or demand sensitive information over unsolicited calls or email. Choose strong, unique passwords for online accounts and avoid sharing personal information on social media platforms. Encourage elderly loved ones to be cautious when clicking on links or downloading attachments from unknown sources.

Protecting victims from significant financial loss following fraud or identity theft is an ongoing battle for Law Enforcement. You can help by understanding the tactics utilized and can empower your elderly relatives and friends with the knowledge to safeguard themselves against such exploitation. If you or a loved one has experienced identity theft or fallen victim to a fraud scheme, contact the Sheriff's Department Non-Emergency number at (616) 632-6100.

Deputy Kate Chase,  
Community Policing – East Precinct  
[katherine.chase@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:katherine.chase@kentcountymi.gov)  
(616) 430-7811

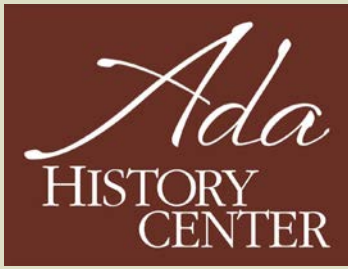


**Kate Chase**  
Community Policing  
East Precinct



## ADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Events for September, October & November 2023



(616) 676-9346

7144 Headley St., P.O. Box 741, Ada, MI 49301

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

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

For up-to-date hours, programming and more, check our website [AdaHistoryCenter.org](http://AdaHistoryCenter.org).

### Ada Has a Museum?

The Ada History Center, located across from the Ada Post Office, is a primarily volunteer-run, non-profit organization that preserves, shares, and celebrates the unique history of the Ada community. The center includes a museum, Ada Historical Society offices/events/programs, historic barn, memorials to Rix Robinson, and park-like gardens and grounds. The museum, completely renovated since 2021, shares Ada's stories with six permanent history exhibits and a temporary exhibit that renews each year. Make a plan to stop by and explore all things Ada!

### Temporary Exhibit –

#### **Grass Roots: Growing Parks in Ada**

*Grass Roots: Growing Parks in Ada* is in full swing! Come explore the development of over 1,000 acres of area parkland and discover the people who made it a walk in the park.

#### **Open Hours**

Open hours are 1-4:00pm on Fridays & Saturdays in September, Saturdays only in October & November, OR BY APPOINTMENT.

### Meeting Dates

The Ada Historical Society Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 3pm at the Ada History Center. Upcoming meetings are Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9 and are open to the public. Come see how we're making history!

### Centennial Properties Program

The Centennial Properties program continues to recognize homes and commercial buildings 100 years of age and older. We honor the importance of historic properties and the value they add to our community today. Check our website [www.AdaHistoryCenter.org](http://www.AdaHistoryCenter.org) for more information on the program and an application.

### Upcoming Events:

- **September 15-17 – Fur Trade Encampment.**  
Step back in time to the sights and sounds of the fur trade in Ada 200 years ago.
- **November 2 – Veteran's Day Event.**  
Stay tuned for details on a presentation in honor of veterans.
- **November 17 – Holiday Wreath Sale begins.**  
Support our biggest annual fundraiser with a fresh-cut evergreen wreath.



*Magdalene LaFramboise, represented in this painting, ran a fur trading post here 120 years ago, where the Thornapple and Grand Rivers meet. She grew up in an Ottawa village near Grand Haven. She became a savvy businessperson who spoke four languages and grew her trading company into a very successful venture. After retiring at age 41, she moved to Mackinac Island, a center for the fur trade. She used her wealth to operate a school for Indigenous children and support Ste. Anne's Catholic Church on the island. She gifted land next to her home for the church which still stands today. Her home is now the Harbour View Inn.*

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

### TOWNSHIP BOARD SETS COURSE FOR ADA'S FUTURE WITH MASTER PLAN APPROVAL



**John D. Said**  
Planning Director

At their meeting on July 10, 2023, the Ada Township Board approved the 2023 Ada Master Plan. While this step finalizes the Master Plan process, it also begins a new chapter for the community. With the Master Plan's policy recommendations, the Township can now update its Zoning Ordinance to provide new land development rules to benefit the entire community, and advise residents, developers, and other investors of the best strategies for land development. Among other recommendations, the Master Plan reinforces the community's desire for supporting open space, providing housing variety, and further enhancing the Downtown "village" area.

Most importantly, the Master Plan represents a collective vision of those that participated in the many community outreach opportunities that were available during the Plan process. This process, which included public meetings, workshops, newsletter articles, website access, a community survey, and other public input opportunities, resulted in over 500 people sharing their ideas for a future vision for the community. The Township and its consultant, Progressive AE, developed policy goals and recommendations, and the entire Master Plan, that reflected the community's input.

The Plan is available at: [www.adamichigan.org/uploads/township/Planning-Zoning/Master-Plan/Ada-Township-Master-Plan-June-20-2023.optimized.pdf](http://www.adamichigan.org/uploads/township/Planning-Zoning/Master-Plan/Ada-Township-Master-Plan-June-20-2023.optimized.pdf). Any questions regarding the Master Plan may be submitted to the Township's Director of Planning John D. Said, AICP, at: [jsaid@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:jsaid@adatownshipmi.com).

for the past year and a half. Beginning August 21, Erin will be here in the Clerk's Office able and ready to serve you. Her email is [emcintosh@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:emcintosh@adatownshipmi.com) and her phone number is (616) 676-9191, Ext. 7320.

## FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE



**Deb Thompson**  
Deputy

### DEPUTY NEWS

After 20 years serving Ada Township, Deputy Deb Thompson has decided to retire. Deb has been deputy for three different clerks, and she has served well, handling cemetery burials as well as many roles in the election process. Erin McIntosh has been appointed as Deb's replacement. Erin has her Masters Degree in Public Administration and has been working in our Parks Department

for the past year and a half. Beginning August 21, Erin will be here in the Clerk's Office able and ready to serve you. Her email is [emcintosh@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:emcintosh@adatownshipmi.com) and her phone number is (616) 676-9191, Ext. 7320.

### ELECTION UPDATES

Municipal Clerks around the state as well as the State's Bureau of Elections have been working to implement various provisions of Proposal 2 of 2022. There are several provisions relating to absentee voting, early voting, and other issues. One of the biggest regarding absentee voting is that there is now an "absentee list" and an "absentee ballot list". If you are on the absentee list, you will, as before, be sent an absentee application which you will need to fill out and return in order to receive a ballot. If you are on the absentee ballot list, you will automatically be mailed an absentee ballot for each election. If you have questions regarding your status, you may call the Clerk's Office. This is in the process of being implemented, and we are waiting for additional guidance from the State.



**Jackie Smith**  
Clerk

Early voting – Nine days of early voting (8 hours per day) have been approved. These will not be required for the November election but are optional.

Drop boxes – It is now required for every jurisdiction to have ballot drop boxes. Ada currently has two – one inside township hall and one outside township hall. This is all that is required; however, Ada is looking at obtaining one additional dropbox. Installation location has not yet been determined.

### LATE-BREAKING ELECTION UPDATE!

We did not anticipate an election this November, but petitions have been filed by Forest Hills School District and by the Kent District Library for millage questions. Therefore, there will be an election on Tuesday, November 7. Due to these recent filings, we are just beginning to plan for this election. Absentee applications should go out about the end of August, and ballots after we receive them.



### CEMETERIES

Ada Township owns and operates two cemeteries: Ada Cemetery on Fulton Street just west of the village, and Findlay Cemetery on Two Mile Road. All spaces in Ada and many in Findlay have been sold. Please contact the Clerk's Office if you are an Ada resident and are interested in buying space(s). Township Buildings and Grounds staff maintain these cemeteries, cleaning and removing debris. Ordinances prohibit the planting of shrubs and bushes. Maintenance of the cemeteries becomes difficult when there are multiple obstacles to maneuver around, and damage to headstones and grave markers can occur. If you have placed items around a loved one's headstone, please take the time to remove them. At some point we will be contacting families, and we will remove items if you are unable to.



# YOUR PHOTO HERE!



Calling all photographers of Ada Township! We are looking for your favorite photo taken this past year within Ada Township. We would like to use your photo on next year's magnetic calendar.

With the popularity of last year's calendar (pictured), we thought it would be fun to expand our search to any Ada Township resident interested in gaining a little notoriety while sharing your own perspective of Ada.

If interested, please email your photo to the following address:  
[photocontest@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:photocontest@adatownshipmi.com)

The rules are simple:

1. The photographer must be an Ada Township resident.
2. The photo must be taken within Ada Township.
3. One (1) photo per household.
4. Submissions are due to the Township no later than October 31, 2023.
5. Email submissions only.
6. The submission must include:
  - a. The photo as an attachment,
  - b. The title of the photograph as the email title/subject line, and
  - c. The name and address of the photographer in the body of the email.

**By entering this contest, the participant agrees that Ada Township has the right to use any submission for the 2024 magnet calendar or any other Ada Township promotional material. All other rights reserved.**



## MARK FITZPATRICK AWARDED CONSERVATION SERVICE AWARD

The West Michigan Conservation Network's Conservation Service Award is awarded to individuals who have shown dedicated service and commitment to the Conservation Network and its cause since its inception. Their Mission is to conserve and enhance our natural communities through ecosystem restoration and public education.

Mark Fitzpatrick, the Director of the Ada Township Parks & Recreation Department, was awarded this prestigious award by the West Michigan Conservation Network at their 2023 WMCN Partner and Annual Meeting. This award recognizes Mark's leadership and contributions to Conservation in West Michigan in his current role as well as previous roles he has held.

For more information about the WMCN, please visit their website at [www.wmconservation.net](http://www.wmconservation.net).

# BEERS AT THE BRIDGE

A big THANK YOU to all our 2023 Beers at the Bridge sponsors for helping us once again put on three great events this year! We could not have done it without you!



**CORPORATE SPONSORS**



**CUP SPONSOR**

**BRIDGE SPONSOR**

**VOLUNTEER SPONSOR**

**IN-KIND DONATION**



**GRUB SPONSORS**



**BANNER AND PROMO SPONSORS**

Ada Conservatory of Music  
 Ada Dental Co.  
 Ada Family Dentistry  
 Ada Village General Store  
 Ada Village Pharmacy  
 AIC Insurance  
 All Weather Seal  
 Amy Vernier, Realtor  
 Beyond of Ada  
 Dan Carter Advisors CPA PLC  
 Edward Jones

Erhardt Construction  
 Frattallone Wealth Management Group  
 Godwin Ada Village Hardware  
 Grand Rapids Gold  
 In Motion Studio  
 KDL/Amy Van Andel Library  
 Keystone Home Group Realty  
 Let Us Inc.  
 Lown Homes

Lucas Howard Group  
 Mosquito Hunters  
 Norman Family Dentistry  
 Northwestern Mutual  
 O'Grady Orthodontics  
 Ortez Insurance Agency - State Farm Agent  
 Pennell CPA  
 RRR Lawn & Landscape  
 Top Home Improvements  
 Village Kids Consignment Boutique

## Music on the Lawn Sponsorship Thank You

# MUSIC ON THE LAWN

Thank you to all the businesses who sponsored our 2023 Music on the Lawn Summer Concert Series. Sponsorships are a huge part of Music on the Lawn being successful. Because of these sponsors, we are able to bring music into downtown Ada every week!

**2023 Summer Sponsors:**

- Ada General Store
- Ada Township DDA
- Beyond by Bill & Paul's
- BP Ventures
- Buttonwood Capital Management
- Chop and Hue
- Dan Vos Construction
- Fence Consultants
- First Companies
- Honeycrisp Ventures
- Lake Michigan Credit Union
- Meyer Music
- Michigan Software Labs
- Pedego Grand Rapids
- Protravel International
- Ruerink Steel and Storage
- Sympl Benefits
- The Exercise Coach

## THE ADA FARMERS MARKET IS OPEN ON TUESDAYS FROM 9AM-2PM



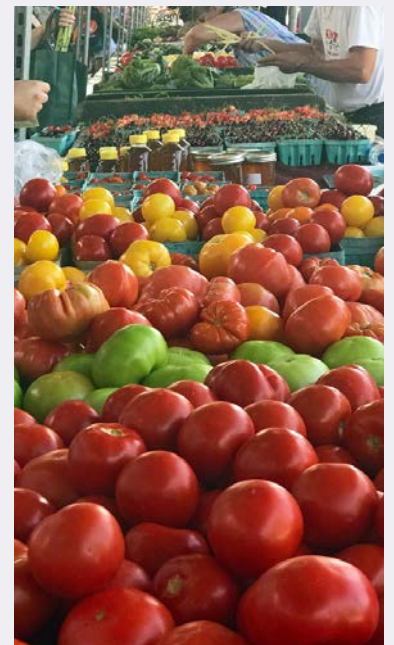
The Ada Farmers Market continues through October 31st! This summer, make your Tuesdays fresh with a visit to your local Market! It's where the best in healthy goodness comes together from farmers, bakers, and community kitchens, all in one convenient location!

When: Tuesdays, 9am–2pm,  
 Now thru October 31, 2023

Where: The Community Church  
 (7239 Thornapple River Dr. SE)

Website: [www.adafarmersmarket.com](http://www.adafarmersmarket.com)

Want to know more about how to get involved at the Market? How about volunteering? We have availability and would love to have your help. Contact our Farmers Market Manager, Stephanie Karris, at [farmersmarket@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:farmersmarket@adatownshipmi.com).





## DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY CELEBRATES TRAIN MURAL PROJECTS WITH RIBBON CUTTING

The Downtown Development Authority held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, July 13th to commemorate the completion of its first public art initiative! The ceremony also kicked off the Arts in Ada event that featured more than 30 vendors set up throughout downtown Ada. Local artists Christina Hutten and David Battjes did an amazing job on their murals on the train bridges that run over Ada Drive and Thornapple River Drive. These murals bring such vibrancy to our community.

A big thank you to the members of the Downtown Development Authority and Township Board for their support of this project. It is also important to thank Lions & Rabbits Center for the Arts (LRCFA) for their assistance with this wonderful public art initiative in Ada – it would not have been possible without their knowledge and hard work.



Thornapple River Dr. (Heading South to Cascade)



Ada Drive (Headed NE into Downtown)

## UPCOMING EVENTS HAPPENING IN DOWNTOWN ADA

There are many wonderful events to experience throughout the fall in Ada. Mark your calendars and join the fun!

### Tent Sale/Sidewalk Sale August 25-26 | 10am-6pm

It's time for the best sales of the year at some of your favorite Ada Village businesses. Shop sales on the sidewalks, under tents, or inside participating businesses.

*\*The Ada Village Tent Sale is hosted by the Ada Village Businesses and #DiscoverAda\**

### Women's Night in Ada Village September 15 | 6pm-9pm

A fun-filled night where the businesses of Ada Village cater to their women customers with discounts, food, beverages, prizes, and giveaways.

*\*Women's Night is hosted by the Ada Village Businesses and #DiscoverAda\**

### Fall Festival featuring Brats & Bonfires October 6 | 4pm-7pm

This year, the annual Fall Festival will feature Brats and Bonfires! Come down and celebrate Fall with music, bonfires, brats, pumpkin painting, a flower truck, and so much more.

*\*Fall Festival is a partnership between the Downtown Development Authority, Ada Business Association and #DiscoverAda\**

### Pumpkin Prowl October 27 | 5pm-8pm

Trick-or-Treat your way through Ada Village.

*\*Pumpkin Prowl is a partnership between the Ada Business Association and #DiscoverAda\**

### Halloween at Fire Station One October 31 | 5:30pm-8pm



The tradition of Halloween at the Fire House has been a staple of Ada for well over 40 years. Each year we welcome ghosts and goblins along with all types of superheroes for a night of cider, donuts, and of course, candy. Don't forget to get your picture taken in one of the fire trucks!



### Want more event information?

Scan the QR code below or visit <http://adamichigan.org/events> to view detailed event information.





## FALL TRAILS UPDATE –

Township staff and the Trail Committee have been hard at work trying to make sure that the trail system in Ada meets the needs of its residents through several projects planned for this year. Below is a listing of the status of the trail projects that were approved for this year.

- **Fulton St. (Ada Drive to Grand River and under Fulton to access North side of Fulton St. trail)** – The project was awarded to Wyoming Excavators Inc. at the July 10th Township Board meeting for \$1,639,496 and will be completed by mid-November. This project will connect Fulton St. to the trail constructed behind the Village East of Ada development and Legacy Park.
- **Pettis Avenue Phase II (Chief Hazy Cloud Entrance to Vergennes St.)** – This section has been paused as the Township evaluates whether there are any funding options to move the trail to the south side of Pettis as opposed to the previously planned north side. A final decision on this trail segment will be made in early 2024.
- **Rix St. (Ada Drive to Adaridge Dr.)** – The project was designed to be in the railroad right-of-way but the railroad has not provided the approval needed. If the railroad is not open to the placement in their right-of-way, the Township will re-evaluate the location of the trail.
- **System-wide Trail Repairs** – The Township awarded a large package (\$354,199.74) of trail repairs to Thomet Construction to be completed this summer/fall. Once this work is complete, the Township will complete a review of any outstanding repair items and prepare for a 2024 repair package. Moving forward, the Township will have an annual repair package bid out to make sure the trail system is in the best shape possible. A map of the trail repairs can be found at the link listed below.
- **Wayfinding Signage** – The Township has been working with Corbin Design out of Traverse City on the trail wayfinding signage designs. A joint meeting will be held

with the Township Board and the Trail Committee to receive a final presentation and cost estimates for the project. Staff is hopeful that signs can begin to be installed this fall but the project will likely run into 2024.

- **Thornapple River Pedestrian Bridge** – Township staff submitted a grant to the MEDC Rap 2.0 Grant for \$500,000 in funding towards the total cost of a pedestrian bridge over the Thornapple River north of Thornapple River Drive. The Township will find out if the grant request is successful this fall. A rendering has been included below.



Please check out our website at [www.adatownshipmi.com](http://www.adatownshipmi.com) and click “Departments – Parks & Recreation – Trails,” for additional updates, pictures and videos highlighting the work done to date.

If you have any questions about the Trails projects under construction or consideration in future years please contact Julius Suchy, Township Manager at [jsuchy@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:jsuchy@adatownshipmi.com). Please report any maintenance issues on the trails to Dennis Brinks, Buildings, Facilities & Grounds Director at (616) 676-0520 or [dbrinks@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:dbrinks@adatownshipmi.com).



**Julius Suchy**  
Township Manager

## BUILDINGS, FACILITIES, & GROUNDS DIRECTOR HIRED



**Dennis Brinks**  
BFG Director

The Township has combined the Parks maintenance staff employees with Buildings & Grounds staff to better serve the community and provide more capacity as the Township has added additional buildings and properties in recent years. The newly created department of Buildings, Facilities & Grounds will be led by Dennis Brinks who joined our team in early July.

Dennis Brinks ([dbrinks@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:dbrinks@adatownshipmi.com)) has 25 years of experience in public works and buildings and grounds. Most recently Dennis served as the Public Works Director for

the Village of Sparta for six years; prior to that he served in both Lake Odessa (Public Works Director) and fifteen years in Rockford working his way up through the organization to finish as the licensed water operator and licensed supervisor for their Public Works team.

The Township is excited to have someone with Dennis' experience and skillset to ensure that Township Buildings, Facilities & Grounds are always at their best to serve Ada residents when they want to use them.

If you have a maintenance concern at one of the Township properties or on the trail system, please reach out to Dennis and let him know! He can be reached at (616) 676-0520, Ext. 1172.

## ADA PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

### Contact Information:

**Phone:** (616) 676-0520

**Email:** [adaparks@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:adaparks@adatownshipmi.com)

**Website:** [www.adatownshipmi.com](http://www.adatownshipmi.com)

**Facebook:** Ada Village

**Newsletter:** available via email

**Office in Ada Park:** 1180 Buttrick Ave., Ada, MI 49301

**Mailing address:** P.O. Box 370, Ada, MI 49301

**Mission:** "To provide all community members with diverse recreational opportunities including access to premier natural, historical and cultural areas that enhance our quality of life and inspire the preservation of nature."

## ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS & PRESERVES

In Ada Township, there are a variety of parks and nature preserves open for public use. The core parks Ada Township manages are Ada Park at 1180 Buttrick Drive, Roselle Park at 1010 Grand River Drive, Legacy Park at 7450 River Street, and Leonard Field Park at 7490 Thornapple River Drive. For more details on the Ada Township parks and nature preserves, visit our website at [www.adatownshipmi.com](http://www.adatownshipmi.com).

Kent County manages two county-owned parks within Ada Township. They include Chief Hazy Cloud Park at 150 Pettis Ave. and Seidman Park at 8155 Conservation Rd. For more information on Kent County parks see: [www.kentcountyparks.org](http://www.kentcountyparks.org).



### Facility Use and Rentals

For facility rental reservations you may contact the Park office via phone or email, or stop in. You may also do so online at [www.rec.adamichigan.org](http://www.rec.adamichigan.org) or use the app named "Ada Township MI Reservations". Note that the Shelter at Ada Park will be closed November through March.

### Leonard Field Park Improvements

The construction phase of the Riverfront Improvement Project will wrap up this fall. That project includes work on the two riverside decks, access to the river, and vegetation along the riverbank. There will also be some maintenance work on the Covered Bridge.

This fall we hope to present concepts for how the newly acquired properties across the Thornapple River on River Street will be merged into the existing park.

### Recreation and Education Programs

Programs and community events are offered throughout the year. For details, to register, or to be added to the contact lists, please call the Park office at (616) 676-0520; email us at [adaparks@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:adaparks@adatownshipmi.com); or see the Township website at [www.adatownshipmi.com](http://www.adatownshipmi.com). Visit the Ada Village Facebook page for regular programming updates, announcements, and additional info.

## FALL PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHTS

### Grand River Watershed Jamboree

**Saturday, September 16 • 3:00-5:00pm • Legacy Park**

A community celebration and event with information booths and activities about our local rivers.



### Intro to Edible and Medicinal Wild Plant Identification

**Thursday, September 21 • 5:30-7:30pm • Roselle Park**

Indoor workshop followed by an outdoor field experience. Field guide training as well.

### Identification & Management of Invasive Plants

**Thursday, September 28 • 6:30-7:30pm • Roselle Park**

For landowners to learn how to identify and eradicate invasive plants on their property.

### Management of Invasive Plants

**Wednesday, October 4 • 9:00am-Noon • Ada Park**

For working staff at parks, landscape companies and related positions. A professional development workshop.



### "Animals of the Night" – Family Program

**Thursday, October 12 • 6:00-7:00pm • Roselle Park**

Presentation on nocturnal animals with some live examples. Hands-on activities too. Family friendly.

### Tips & Tricks for Identifying Plants and Animals

**Saturday, October 14 • 10:00am-Noon • Roselle Park**

Develop your naturalist skills and tools for identifying plants and animals in your yard and local parks. A family friendly workshop. Indoor and outdoor activities.

### Volunteer Opportunities

Individual and group volunteers are always appreciated. Upcoming needs include assisting with community events and stewardship workdays in the parks. Contact the Park office for details.

### Annual Volunteer River Clean-Up Day

**Saturday, September 16 • 8:00am-1:00pm**

Ada focus on the Thornapple and Grand Rivers, in partnership with the *Thornapple River Watershed Council*.





## ADA TOWNSHIP FALL CLEAN-UP DAY

Fall is a great time to clean up our properties of unwanted trash and sort out recyclable and re-usable items. Listed below are the details for the fall Ada Community Clean-Up Day and resources to assist you. Please contact the Ada Parks office for more information, (616) 676-0520.

### Fall Clean-Up Day

For Ada residents to drop off trash, scrap metal, old appliances, re-usable household items, electronic devices, and paper documents for shredding. (No yard waste.)

**When:** Saturday, October 21, 2023

**Where:** Parking lots of Ada Christian School & Ada Congregational Church

**Time:** 8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**For:** Ada Residents and Businesses only

#### Items accepted:

Republic Services: For general trash, scrap metal, appliances

Comprenew: For electronic devices

Salvation Army: For useable household items

Shred-it: For paper document shredding

(limited to 6 boxes and households only)

#### Items not accepted:

No yard waste (branches, leaves, etc.), tires, oil-based paints, toxic chemicals, or flammable materials (gas, propane).

#### Routing:

- For general trash, scrap metal, electronics, appliances or any combination of items, enter via the main driveway for Ada Christian School at 8206 Ada Dr.
- For only re-usable household items or paper shredding, enter the Ada Congregational Church lot off of Fox Hollow Ave.

## Fall 2023 Leaf Pick-Up Days

**Tuesday, October 24 & Tuesday, November 21**

- For Ada residents only.
- Purchase your own paper leaf bags (plastic bags not accepted).
- For leaves and compostable yard waste only (no branches or household waste).
- Leave leaf bags roadside at your property before 7:00 a.m. on the pick-up day.
- For more information or questions contact (616) 676-9191.



## Can't make the Clean-Up Days?

Here are some resources available for managing your trash, reusables and recyclables:

- General Waste and Yard Waste: [www.reimaginetrash.org](http://www.reimaginetrash.org)
- Re-Usable Household Items: Salvation Army [www.salvationarmy.org](http://www.salvationarmy.org) / (888) 868-9305
- Scrap Metal and Appliances: Padnos / [www.padnos.com](http://www.padnos.com)
- Electronics: Comprenew / [www.comprenew.org](http://www.comprenew.org)
- Paper Document Shredding: Shred-it [www.stericycle.com](http://www.stericycle.com) / (616) 984-7977
- Household Hazardous Waste: Kent County Public Works [recycle@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:recycle@kentcountymi.gov) / (616) 632-7941



## Thank you to all who came out for the annual 4th of July Celebration in Ada!

Every year when we write the recap of our 4th of July Celebration we are absolutely blown away by the festivities and attendance! As we look back on our annual 4th of July Celebration, we reflect on the spirit of the Ada community! It was an honor to have our grand marshal, long-time resident and Ada Historic Society President Mr. Bernie Veldkamp, leading the parade through downtown. We thank you for your many years of service and contributions to our community.

The 4th of July festivities from morning (pancake breakfast at Fire Station One) to night (fireworks show) would not be possible if it were not for those who volunteer to throw this big party! Thank you to all the volunteers who assisted in making this event a success.

Last but not definitely not least, thank you Ada Township for your support of the 4th of July Celebration. Your smiles, laughter, cheers, and enjoyment keep us planning each year.

If you are interested in volunteering for next year's 4th of July Parade it is never too early to reach out. For more information on how you can get involved please check the Ada Township website.



# TOWNSHIP

7330 Thornapple River Drive SE  
P.O. Box 370  
Ada, Michigan 49301

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## CALENDAR (2023) FALL ISSUE

### SEPTEMBER

- 4 Labor Day – Township Office Closed**
- 5 Farmers Market – 9A-2P
- 5 Zoning Board of Appeals – 4:30P
- 11 Downtown Development Authority – 8A
- 11 Ada Township Board Meeting – **7P**
- 12 Farmers Market – 9A-2P
- 14 PRLP Advisory Board – 8:30A
- 14 Ada Historical Society Board Meeting – 3P
- 19 Farmers Market – 9A-2P
- 21 Planning Commission – **5:30P**
- 25 Ada Township Board Meeting – **7P**
- 26 Farmers Market – 9A-2P

### OCTOBER

- 3 Farmers Market – 9A-2P
- 3 Zoning Board of Appeals – 4:30P
- 9 Downtown Development Authority – 8A
- 9 Ada Township Board Meeting – **7P**
- 10 Farmers Market – 9A-2P
- 12 PRLP Advisory Board – 8:30A
- 12 Ada Historical Society Board Meeting – 3P
- 17 Farmers Market – 9A-2P
- 19 Planning Commission – **5:30P**

- 21 Fall Clean-Up Day
- 23 Ada Township Board Meeting – **7P**
- 24 Leaf Pick-Up Day
- 24 Farmers Market – 9A-2P
- 31 Farmers Market – 9A-2P

### NOVEMBER

- 4 Township Office Open for Absentee Voting – 8A-4P**
- 7 Election Day**
- 7 Zoning Board of Appeals – 4:30P
- 9 PRLP Advisory Board – 8:30A
- 9 Ada Historical Society Board Meeting – 3P
- 10 Veterans Day – Township Office Closed**
- 13 Downtown Development Authority – 8A
- 13 Ada Township Board Meeting – **7P**
- 16 Planning Commission – **5:30P**
- 21 Leaf Pick-Up Day
- 23 Thanksgiving Day – Township Office Closed**
- 24 Thanksgiving Day – Township Office Closed**
- 27 Ada Township Board Meeting – **7P**

PLEASE WATCH OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES.  
[www.adatownshipmi.com](http://www.adatownshipmi.com)

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

*(remove & save)*

**AdaView** is published by **Ada Township**.

7330 Thornapple River Drive SE  
P.O. Box 370  
Ada, Michigan 49301  
[www.adatownshipmi.com](http://www.adatownshipmi.com)

**TELEPHONE:** (616) 676-9191

**HOURS:** 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., M-F, closed Federal holidays

### TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Julius Suchy, Ext. 7348, [jsuchy@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:jsuchy@adatownshipmi.com)

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### DESIGN & PRINTING

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