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# ADAVIEW

the ADAVIEW is published by Ada Township



## COVID-19 AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICE UPDATE – *From The Supervisor*

As we anticipate to open the Township office from being closed to our Governor's Executive Orders, it becomes important to realize some of what may be new normal at the Township Office. The public is important to us who work in the office to provide the necessary services you expect from us. These include payment tax bill or utility bills, need for information, assessment information, planning department information, and much more.

New protocols will include:

- Recommended use of drop box
- Social distancing of 6 feet
- Use of face masks

We are looking forward to again see our residents at the office to serve you.

## THE ADAVIEW LIGHT VERSION

### *Updates from Ada Township Clerk*

While we like to bring you good, solid information, we all know that is impossible right now. So our aim here is to bring you the current highlights, recognizing that things are changing on a daily, sometimes hourly, basis.



### EMERGENCIES

As always, the safety of Ada residents is our #1 commitment. Our Fire/Rescue Department stands ready to help you in any emergency and/or routine situation: call 9-1-1; (616) 676-2376; or email: [dmurray@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:dmurray@adatownshipmi.com).

### MEETINGS

Most board/commission meetings are currently being conducted via zoom. The public is invited. Information for each meeting is located at the top of the agenda.

### BURNING

The state's burn ban has been lifted, so Ada is again allowing burning. Burning in the restricted area has been extended until May 31. Burn permits are required but may currently be obtained by leaving your name, address, and phone number via voicemail or email with the Clerk's office.

### DOING BUSINESS

The Township buildings are currently closed, but phones and emails are being monitored by staff. We will answer as soon as possible but please be patient with us. Phone (616) 676-9191.

Supervisor/Utility Dept. – Ext. 50 – [ghaga@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:ghaga@adatownshipmi.com)  
Clerk Office – Ext. 21 or 20 – [dthompson@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:dthompson@adatownshipmi.com)  
(deputy clerk)

Treasurer Office – Ext. 23 – [kmoran@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:kmoran@adatownshipmi.com)

Planning Dept. – Ext. 31 – [jferro@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:jferro@adatownshipmi.com)

Assessing Dept. – Ext. 26 – [sboerman@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:sboerman@adatownshipmi.com)

Accounting/HR Dept. – Ext. 28 – [crodriguez@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:crodriguez@adatownshipmi.com)

Parks Office – (616) 676-0520 – [mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com)

Fire Dept. – (616) 676-2376 – [dmurray@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:dmurray@adatownshipmi.com)

### AUGUST ELECTION

The August election is still planned for August 4, 2020, but there are many unknowns at this time. Most of the decisions are made at the state level and we will get information to you as soon as we receive it.

### DROP BOX

As the Township office is closed, you may drop documents, payments, etc. into the drop box in front of township hall. It is checked and emptied daily.

### WEBSITE

We will attempt to keep our website current. Please check there for the most current information or call/email your questions/comments.

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



## KENT COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE NEWS –

Greetings from our new East Precinct Community Officer, Deputy Omar Dieppa...

Hello from your new Community Policing Officer! As an introduction, I grew up in Walker, MI, completed my bachelors degree at Grand Valley State University and graduated from the GVSU Police Academy. I have been happily married for the past nine years to my wife, Erin and have three amazing children, Reese (5), Rory (3), and Mack (1).



I bring seven years Law Enforcement experience – two years with the Grand Valley State University Police Department and five with the Kent County Sheriff's Office. The past three years I have patrolled the East Precinct on the night shift. Although I thoroughly enjoyed working the road patrol, it was time for me to try something new. An opportunity arose for the East Precinct Community Officer and I was extremely fortunate to get selected.

Within the Sheriff's Office I instruct Standardized Field Sobriety Tests and completed the Drug Evaluation and Classification program to become a certified Drug Recognition Expert. I have been a Field Training Officer for the past three years and currently teach the Intro to Traffic course at the Grand Rapids Community College Police Academy as an adjunct professor. It's with this knowledge, experience and passion for education I will be able to better help the businesses and residents of the East Precinct.

The past few months in this position have been great and I appreciate the welcome I've received. I am looking forward to the warm weather and meeting everyone! Please feel free to contact me at [Omar.Dieppa@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:Omar.Dieppa@kentcountymi.gov) or (616) 632-6435.

Sincerely,  
Deputy Omar Dieppa

## FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE –

The Township Office anticipates a healthy reopening soon! Even with some normalcy, returning to normal office functions will certainly be different than what you are used to. That should be evident the next time you come to the Township office. As we implement safeguards within the Township office, I politely ask that you continue to utilize the drop box located in front of the Township office or pay electronically instead of entering the Township office to make a payment. I am also asking that any payment made in cash only be made as a last resort.

Despite what may appear to be efforts to the contrary, the last thing we want you to feel is that you are not welcome at the Township. You are! We are here to serve you in any capacity necessary. We are taking every precaution to safeguard your health and well-being.



## ADA FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS –

### THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND COVID-19

If you see our crews responding to any medicals in the area you will notice different gear is being used. First, we have outfitted our trucks with smaller response bags with only the minimal tools needed for an in-house medical. This will make decontamination of our equipment much easier. Our team will be outfitted with gloves and masks for all medicals. If the patient is suspected to be COVID positive we'll have only one member enter the home with a full jumpsuit along with the mask and gloves. This helps to reduce the possibility of an exposure to a single person, but with the proper equipment, risks are greatly reduced.

### BIRTHDAYS HAVE NEVER BEEN SO MUCH FUN FOR US!

To help celebrate birthdays during these times of social distancing our team has been making the rounds. A drive by with lights and sirens passing by the birthday boy's or girl's house has been a big hit. We even did a 50th wedding anniversary which included the Glenn Miller Orchestra playing "In the Mood" over our speaker system. We are happy to help celebrate during these times. Once restrictions are lifted, we will be ending the celebrations.

### THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY

Our team would like to give a big thank you to everyone who has expressed such gratitude for the job we are doing. We have enjoyed homemade apple pies, cookies, pizza gift cards and special thank you cards and signs. We love the job we get to do and your show of support makes it that much better!

### FIRE CHIEF BUTCH VISSER

In February we lost longtime Fire Chief Butch Visser who served on the Ada Fire Department from 1972–1988. Butch was still a strong supporter of the Department, visiting regularly and sharing his wealth of knowledge. You may also know Butch as our electrical inspector for many years. He was instrumental in forming the Inspection Services Department in Cascade Township which now serves many surrounding townships with building, mechanical and electrical permits and inspections. Our Department provided a full Fire Department Funeral along with the Kent County Honor Guard for his service in Vietnam.

As with many things that go awry, there is a silver lining. We would like to say thanks to the many residents who have left us wonderful notes of gratitude and wishes of staying safe. We have also enjoyed the decorated envelopes and overall thoughtfulness of everyone in Ada. It certainly lifts our spirits!

Stay safe,  
Kevin Moran, Treasurer  
Gina Olszewski, Deputy Treasurer



## ELECTIONS

**Ada will conduct elections on Tuesday, August 4, and Tuesday, November 3, 2020.**

We anticipate needing extra election workers this year. Please call the Township office at (616) 676-9191, Ext. 20 or 21, if you are interested.

## ABSENTEE VOTING

Proposal 18-3, passed by Michigan voters in November 2018, changed many things about voting in Michigan. One of the biggest changes allows anyone to vote by absentee ballot with no "reason" required.

Advantages to voting absentee are: 1) avoiding lines to vote on election day, 2) having your ballot at home to research your choices, 3) more time/less pressure to complete your ballot.

Because there are many misconceptions about the absentee process, I would like to clarify how it works, in three easy steps:

1. Fill out and submit "application for absentee ballot." (This request must be submitted in writing.)
2. Clerk will mail a ballot to you.
3. Vote your ballot, place in the envelope, seal, and return to clerk's office.

There is also an option to be placed on the "permanent absentee list." All this means is that you will be mailed an application for each election. If you choose not to vote absentee for any election, simply ignore the application and show up at the polls.

Remember, the choice is ALWAYS yours. Also, you may not obtain a ballot for someone else.

Please call the clerk's office if you have any questions: (616) 676-9191, Ext. 20.

## ADA FARMERS MARKET

The good news is all your favorite vendors are back and eager to share this season's harvest. We are opening on Tuesday, June 2nd, serving customers from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

**The following protocols are in place because of Covid-19.**

The market is following guidelines mandated by the state. There is also no Chef in the Market, Kids in the Market or Music in the Market programming this year. This year we are a 'Shop-and-go' operation.

Entering the market is different this year to accommodate a one-way traffic path. The entrance is at the west side of the church from Thornapple and Headley only. The entrance on Headley closest to Blimpie's back lot will not be available to market traffic.

We will have a hand sanitation station at the entrance, but it's always best to bring your own. Six-foot spacing will be marked for convenience as well as a path back outside the market space to return to your cars.

Social distancing of at least six feet, wearing masks and no food sampling are three of the temporary changes in place. In addition, we are asking shoppers to:

- Preorder, if possible, from vendors and avoid cash transactions.
- Limit time at the market and at each booth.
- Bring your own shopping bags/baskets.
- Choose products from the table display by pointing – no touching product.
- Be patient as the market and farmers adapt to new protocols.

Access to the church restrooms may not be available so please plan accordingly!

See you soon!

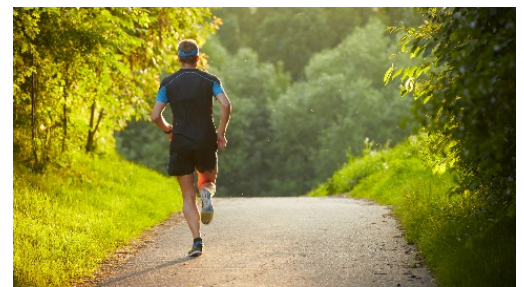
## AUGUST 4 BALLOT PROPOSAL – MILLAGE TO SUPPORT OUR WALKING & BIKING TRAILS

Ada's trail network is often cited as one of the reasons people love living in Ada, and given this recent time of social distancing, the trails are being enjoyed more than ever! These 15 miles of beautiful paved trails provide a space for exercise and an opportunity to get out in nature, and also serve to connect various parts of our community.

In the interest of preserving these wonderful trails and further connecting our vibrant community, the Township Board has approved a ballot proposal for a new millage that would replace the walking and biking non-motorized trail millage that expires this year. The proposal will be included on the August 4

election ballot. The new millage, at a level of 1.5 mills, would provide funding for the maintenance and repair of existing trails, trail signage, and the expansion and construction of new trail connections – to the village, library and community center, schools, parks, riverfront and more. Priorities for future trail expansions that were recommended by the Township Trails Committee and through public workshops are being evaluated for consideration.

Visit our website to see the trail map and learn more about our trails, and perhaps try out a new trail for yourself!



# ADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Events for June, July & August 2020

### HOURS OF OPERATION

Open hours at the Averill Museum and activities of the Ada Historical Society are suspended until further notice as we follow recommended guidelines. Feel free to email or call with any questions.



Address: 7144 Headley St., P.O. Box 741, Ada  
Phone: (616) 676-9346  
E-mail: [adahistoricalociety@gmail.com](mailto:adahistoricalociety@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.adahistoricalociety.org](http://www.adahistoricalociety.org)

### June 11, July 9, August 13 – Monthly Board Meeting

3:00 p.m. at the museum. Board meetings are open to all. Please contact us for more information.

**CANCELLED** Wednesday, June 10 – Music on the Lawn featuring Blue Water Ramblers

**CANCELLED** Wednesday, June 24 – Music on the Lawn featuring Semi Dave

### Wednesday, July 8 – Music on the Lawn featuring King Biscuit Trio

6:30-8:30 p.m. at Legacy Park.

### Wednesday, July 22 – Music on the Lawn featuring The Adams Family

6:30-8:30 p.m. at Legacy Park.

### Thursday, July 23 – The Origin and Expansion of Baseball in the 19th Century

7:00 p.m. at the museum. Presented by Michael Stevens, professor of English at Cornerstone University.

### CANCELLED EVENTS FOR JUNE-AUGUST (as of 5/22/2020)

**Beers at the Bridge** – events cancelled for June and July; August event TBD

**Grand Rapids Triathlon** – No road closures for June 13 and June 14

**4th of July** – All Township events are cancelled

**August in Ada Children's Fair**

### Wednesday, July 29 – Music on the Lawn featuring The Family/Nick Ayoub

6:30-8:30 p.m. at Legacy Park.

### Wednesday, August 5 – Music on the Lawn featuring Hannah Rose Graves

6:30-8:30 p.m. at Legacy Park.

### Wednesday, August 12 – Music on the Lawn featuring Bucket O' Maybes

6:30-8:30 p.m. at Legacy Park.

### Friday, August 21 – Beers at the Bridge

6:00-9:00 p.m. at the Ada Covered Bridge and Leonard Field.

### Wednesday, August 26 – Music on the Lawn featuring Razzbone

6:30-8:30 p.m. at Legacy Park.

### Thursday, August 27 – Garden Event: "Bees & Pollination"

7:00 p.m. at the museum. Join us for an un-bee-lievable lecture presentation and walk through the museum gardens.

### Thursday, September 10 – Unique Museum Collections

7:00 p.m. at the museum. A special presentation by Chuck Schoenknect and Ward Paul.

### CENTENNIAL PROPERTIES PROGRAM

The Ada Historical Society is excited to announce a program which will recognize homes and properties that are over 100 years old. Ada Township has many properties that are a century old or more and we wish to honor them. We will be announcing program details soon. With the ongoing growth and additions to the village, AHS is firmly dedicated to preserving and celebrating these treasures of our community's heritage.



**Root root root for the home team.** Dad is suited up in his Ada baseball team uniform while Mom and the girls are ready to come cheer him on in this photo from the 1920s. Before Leonard Field began developing in the 1940s and Thornapple Valley Lions Field in the 1950s, fans caught a game at Ada's ballpark in the floodplain down past the present-day Ada Market. In the early 1900s, Charlie Spence ran the park and hired his own baseball players using money he charged spectators at every game and practice.

## ADA PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

### Contact Information:

**Phone:** (616) 676-0520 **Fax:** (616) 676-5870

**E-mail:** [mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com)

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

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

**Mailing address:** P.O. Box 370, 7330 Thornapple River Dr., Ada, Michigan 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

**Ada Township Park** 1180 Buttrick Ave. 57 acres. Park office, Learning Center, shelters, arboretum, softball and soccer fields, tennis and pickleball courts, basketball court, playground, pond, trails, picnic areas.

**Roselle Park** 1010 Grand River Dr. NE. 247 acres. Restrooms, meeting room, picnic area, playground, paved and non-paved trails, observation decks, natural areas, Grand River shoreline.

**Legacy Park** 7450 River Street in Ada Village. Thornapple River view, playground, trail, restrooms.

**Leonard Field Park & Ada Covered Bridge** 7490 Thornapple River Dr. 2 acres. Softball field, bike path, Thornapple River overlook deck, Ada Covered Bridge.

**Carl Creek Crossings Preserve** 6230 Grand River Drive. 8 acres. Non-paved trails, creek access.

**Grand River Natural Area** Grand River Drive, enter via Ada Moorings. 110 acres. Trails, bike path, Grand River shoreline.



**Walking and Bike Paths:** Located throughout the Township and in several Parks. Maps available.

## PARK RULES AND USE

**COVID-19:** Some facilities and amenities may be temporarily closed. Social Distancing is to be practiced.

**Park Hours:** Park grounds are open dawn to dusk.

**Dog Policy:** Township ordinances require dogs to be on a leash and cleaned up after in all parks and preserves.

**Motorized** recreation vehicles are not allowed.

**Alcohol** is not allowed in the parks or park facilities.

## FACILITY RESERVATIONS AND RENTALS

We are taking some reservations for late summer and fall but cannot guarantee they will be available yet. Contact the Park office for availability, scheduling and fees.

## IMPACTS OF COVID-19

The grounds and trails remain open for public health needs during the "Stay Home–Stay Safe" restrictions. We ask everyone to practice good social distancing and sanitation as long as necessary. Amenities like the restrooms, shelters, meeting rooms, playgrounds and courts were closed and may still be by the time you read this. We will phase re-opening the facilities and programs as the restrictions lift and public safety allows. Check the website or with the Park office for updates.



## UPDATES ON PARKS, PRESERVES & TRAILS

### LEGACY PARK – In Memory of Helen and Rich DeVos

The new park in Ada Village is in its final stages with just the landscaping around the new "Van Andel Family Pavillion" to be finished. Concerts and other programs will start after we have clearance from the coronavirus. Please be careful while construction continues and supervise children near the river.

### LEONARD FIELD PARK

We have been going through a process to update the park Master Plan. Thanks to everyone who participated. The plan should be completed at the end of June with renovations starting in 2021.

### BIKE PATHS AND NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS –

Please report any issues or concerns to the Park office: (616) 676-0520.

## UPDATES ON PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Most of our summer recreation, education programs and events have been cancelled, delayed or put on hold until we can re-open facilities and accommodate groups. Check the website or contact the Park office for details or to be put on the mailing list.

**COMMUNITY EVENTS:** Cancellations include the "4th of July" events, June and July "Beers at the Bridge", June "Music on the Lawn" concerts, the GR Triathlon and the "August in Ada Children's Fair".

**ADULT SOFTBALL PROGRAMS:** Postponed until we get clearance for large group events in the parks. Interested teams and players should contact the Park office or [rmccormick@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:rmccormick@adatownshipmi.com) for details.

**SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMS:** All June programs are cancelled. Others are on hold until we are able to open our restroom and facilitate group activities again.



# TOWNSHIP

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

PRSR. STD.  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Grand Rapids, MI  
Permit No. 657

## CALENDAR (2020) SUMMER ISSUE

### JUNE

- 2 Farmers Market - 9A-2P
- 2 Zoning Board of Appeals - 4:30P
- 8 Downtown Development Authority - 8A
- 8 Ada Township Board Meeting - **NOON**
- 9 Leaf Pick-Up Day - Rescheduled (contact Township Treasurer: kmoran@adatownshipmi.com)
- 9 Farmers Market - 9A-2P
- 11 Parks, Recreation & Land Preservation Advisory Board - 8:30A
- 11 Ada Historical Society Board Meeting - 3P
- 16 Farmers Market - 9A-2P
- 18 Planning Commission - 7P
- 22 Ada Township Board Meeting - **NOON**
- 23 Farmers Market - 9A-2P
- 16 Planning Commission - 7P
- 21 Board of Review - 8A @Ada Township Hall
- 21 Farmers Market - 9A-2P
- 27 Ada Township Board Meeting - **NOON**
- 28 Farmers Market - 9A-2P

### AUGUST

- 1 Clerk's Office Open 8A-4P to accept absentee applications and ballots ONLY**
- 4 STATE PRIMARY ELECTION - Polls open 7A-8P**
- 4 Farmers Market - 9A-2P
- 10 Downtown Development Authority - 8A
- 11 Zoning Board of Appeals - 4:30P
- 11 Farmers Market - 9A-2P
- 13 Parks, Recreation & Land Preservation Advisory Board - 8:30A
- 13 Ada Historical Society Board Meeting - 3P
- 18 Farmers Market - 9A-2P
- 20 Planning Commission - 7P
- 21 TBD - Preliminary "Beers at the Bridge" - will advise
- 24 Ada Township Board Meeting - **NOON**
- 25 Farmers Market - 9A-2P

### JULY

- 7 Farmers Market - 9A-2P
- 7 Zoning Board of Appeals - 4:30P
- 9 Parks, Recreation & Land Preservation Advisory Board - 8:30A
- 9 Ada Historical Society Board Meeting - 3P
- 13 Downtown Development Authority - 8A
- 13 Ada Township Board Meeting - **NOON**
- 14 Farmers Market - 9A-2P

PLEASE WATCH OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES. [www.adatownshipmi.com](http://www.adatownshipmi.com)  
MANY OF THESE MAY BE "VIRTUAL" MEETINGS.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

*(remove & save)*

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

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

### ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD:

#### SUPERVISOR

George Haga, Ext. 50, [ghaga@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:ghaga@adatownshipmi.com)

#### CLERK

Jackie Smith, Ext. 21, [jsmith@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:jsmith@adatownshipmi.com)

#### TREASURER

Kevin Moran, Ext. 23, [kmoran@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:kmoran@adatownshipmi.com)

#### TRUSTEES

Dan Hurwitz, [djhurwitz@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:djhurwitz@adatownshipmi.com)

Catherine Jacobs, [cjacobs@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:cjacobs@adatownshipmi.com)

Colin McAleenan, [cmcaleenan@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:cmcaleenan@adatownshipmi.com)

Bob Proos, [rproos@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:rproos@adatownshipmi.com)

**Editor:** Jackie Smith, Ada Township Clerk

**Co-Editor:** Elaine Buckley

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