



.the. ADAVIEW

the ADAVIEW is published by Ada Township

SANTA ARRIVES SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1 AT ADA FIRE DEPARTMENT



The rumors are true that the jolly old man will make his way through the streets of Ada again this year.

For over 25 years

the annual parade hosted by the Ada Firefighters and Ada Business Association has insured that Santa arrives in style to our town. The parade kicks off at 11:00 a.m. with lineup at 10:30 a.m. along the new River Street. The route leaves River Street, then right on to Thornapple River, left on to Ada Drive, right on to Thornapple River ending at the fire station. The fire fighters will be serving up hot chocolate and cookies, and, of course, Santa will be there to listen to everyone's wish list. The event is free so stop by and say hi!



ADA CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



Help write our next chapter! Ada is a wonderful place to live, work and play. The past several years have seen an incredible change in the village with the addition of new businesses, the rerouting of streets and the improvement of green space. Now,

a group of community leaders is planning to further enhance our community through two key additions:

- The construction of the Amy Van AnDEL Library and Community Center to be built along Headley Street.
- The opening of a community park along the Thornapple River.

Make a lasting contribution to Ada Village's Community Center, Library and riverfront park. We invite you to purchase a brick or paver to commemorate your charitable gift to this effort. Purchase as many bricks and pavers as you desire.

Your brick could be one of those you see in the picture at the left, placed right in the heart of the new riverfront park. As Ada continues to write our next chapter, help us build it!

Contact Brian Hilbrands at bhilbrands@adatownshipmi.com or visit our website to learn more and make your contribution now: OurNextChapterAda.org.

Note: A limited number of "Cadence" issues are available at the Township offices, in the lobby, on Mondays.

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

KENT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE – INTRODUCING OUR NEW COMMUNITY POLICING OFFICER

Greetings. My name is Eric Toonstra and I am the new KCSO East District Community Officer. I would like to take a minute to introduce myself. I have been in law enforcement for 12 years and have been a patrol officer in the east district for the last year and a half. During my career in law enforcement I have been a K-9 handler and a field training officer. I look forward to using my experience to work with and alongside the citizens of Ada, Cascade, and Grand Rapids Townships in an effort to maintain the high quality of life your Townships are known for.



As a communication link between your township and the KCSO, it is my job to create awareness of issues relating to current local crimes as well as determine the best response to those quality of life issues. I am available to meet with businesses, neighborhood associations, or any other group, small or large. We offer training for neighborhood watch programs, CRASE training (Citizen Response to Active Shooter), Realtor Safety, Identity Theft, 911 police officer presentations in schools, drug and alcohol classes, distracted driving, and more. If you have a need for any of this training, please reach out to me. Whether you are a resident or business owner in one of these Townships, I look forward to getting to know you better.

There are many things I would like to share related to your townships, but space is limited. I will leave you with some advice for the holiday season. Please lock your cars and homes during this busy time of year and never leave expensive or personal items in open view inside a vehicle. There have been several incidents of theft-related crimes recently and all have been the result of unsecured doors.

I look forward to my next letter when I can address this issue in more depth, but if you can't wait that long, please contact me so I can meet with you, your business, or your neighborhood association. I have included my phone number and email, so feel free to contact me with questions, concerns, requests, or just to say hello.

Deputy Eric Toonstra
East District Community Officer
Eric.toonstra@kentcountymi.gov
616-632-6435

WINTER DRIVING

With winter nearly upon us there will be many vehicle slide offs along the roadways. To manage multiple 911 calls on the same vehicle, first responders will be marking the vehicle with YELLOW CAUTION TAPE. We certainly won't wrap the car as in the photo. It will, however, have a visible yellow tape hanging from the vehicle as an indication the slide off has been reported.



FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS –

FIRE STATION CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The barracks portion addition to Fire Station One is complete! This addition was necessary to allow for 24 hour staffing. In early 2019 we will begin with this new staffing model. Currently we are staffed only on weekdays from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. With the additional staffing, our in-service and response times will greatly improve. Please stop by to check out the barracks and meet our new crew.



CHIMNEY FIRES

Before you light up that first fire of the season in the fireplace or wood burner, here are a few suggestions:

Have you had the chimney cleaned and inspected for this season?

Many of the incidents we respond to are from a lack of maintenance. A buildup of creosote can ignite and burn in the chimney which may damage your home or lining of the chimney. Burn only firewood! Construction scraps and painted or treated wood may release chemicals into your home. Always have working smoke detectors, fire extinguishers and carbon monoxide detectors.

FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

October was Fire Prevention Month and our team made a visit to all of the preschools and elementary schools in Ada. We had a total of six different schools and 69 classrooms at the fire station for a personal visit and tour of one of the fire trucks. We talked about **HOME ESCAPE PLANS**; do you have one? Where is your family's **MEETING PLACE** in the event of a fire?

Of course we had plenty of volunteers to demonstrate **STOP, DROP and ROLL**, a technique used when your clothes are on fire.



If you have any questions about fire safety in your home, please give us a call. Thank you to our many area businesses that sponsored the coloring books, helmets, stickers and pencils we were able to share with the students.

BRATS & BON FIRES

A few rain drops didn't bother the crowds that took part in the annual Brats & Bon Fires event at the Fire Station. This year was our 4th year for the event which was moved to October in hopes of warmer fall temperatures. Nearly 700 people enjoyed live music from Strumble Head while enjoying beers from our local breweries and brats from Kingma's & Fish Lads. Doughnuts and cider from Sprinkles was also a big hit. The night was a great success with the help of our many local sponsors and all our guests. Mark your calendars for next year for an incredible night of family fun at the fire house.

A NOTE FROM THE ASSESSOR

Assessing busy season is in full swing. Real property notices will be mailed to taxpayers by February 19, 2019.

There have been some changes to the Small Business Property Tax Exemption. Beginning in 2019, taxpayers **are no longer required to annually file** Form 5076 in order to claim the exemption. **All tax payers must file in 2019 to claim the exemption.** Once granted, taxpayers will continue to receive the exemption until they no longer qualify for the exemption. At that point, the taxpayer is required to file Rescission Form 5618 and a personal property statement no later than February 20th of the year that the property is no longer eligible. The affidavit must be filed with the local unit where the personal property is located no later than **February 20th** (postmark is accepted). This form **IS NOT** to be mailed to the Michigan Department of Treasury or Michigan State Tax Commission. Forms that are received or postmarked after the due date by the assessor will not be accepted. Instead, the taxpayer will be notified that they may late file for the exemption directly with the March Board of Review. Late filing with the March Board of Review may require an in-person appearance by the taxpayer or their representative. A nonresident taxpayer may file his/her appearance, protest, and papers in support of the protest by letter. His/her personal appearance is not required.

If you have any questions please contact the local unit.

Stephanie Boerman, Assessor
616-676-9191 ext 26
sboerman@adatownshipmi.com



TOWNSHIP OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS:

Monday, December 24, 2018 • Tuesday, December 25, 2018

AND

Monday, December 31, 2018 • Tuesday, January 1, 2019

CHRISTMAS TREE AND WREATH RECYCLING

Ada Township Park – Dec. 26 – Jan. 15, 2019

Ada Township residents may drop off Christmas Trees and Wreaths for recycling to the back parking lot of Ada Township Park from December 26, 2018 through January 15, 2019, between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

The trees will be recycled into wood chips while the wire from the wreaths will be recycled. Please remove any decorations, wires, strings, ribbons or other items from the trees that might interfere with a chipper.

Residential Christmas items only – no yard waste, trimmings or commercial businesses – Thanks.



ADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Events for December 2018 – February 2019

HOURS OF OPERATION

The Averill Historical Museum of Ada open hours in December are Friday and Saturday, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. The museum closes each January and February. Please call for further information.

Address: 7144 Headley St., PO Box 741, Ada
Phone: (616) 676-9346
E-mail: adahistoricalociety@gmail.com
Web: www.adahistoricalociety.org



Friday, November 30 – Tinsel, Treats and Trolleys

Ada's holiday open house begins at 5:30 p.m. with a bridge lighting ceremony. The museum will be open late to welcome you into the holiday spirit. Stop in to see our beautiful new museum addition, new exhibit *Painting a Picture: Jeanne Rockett and Historic Ada Photographs*, visit with an Elf and Mrs. Claus, nibble cookies and check out our Wreath Sale fundraiser in the barn. The gift shop will feature Ada-themed gifts and our recent book, *The Next 50 Years in a Snug Little Place: Ada MI 1930-1980*. Please consider a donation to the museum as a holiday gift for the ones on your list.



Saturday, Dec. 1 – Santa Parade

Line up at 10:30 a.m. and parade begins at 11:00 a.m. AHS will have hot chocolate and cookies in the barn.

December 13, January 10 & February 14 – Monthly Board Meeting

1:00 p.m. at the museum. Board meetings are open to the public. We welcome your involvement. Join us to find out how we're making history. Please call or email with any questions.

Mark your Calendar for March 1!

After our annual closure in January and February, the museum doors re-open. We look forward to welcoming you back with a full line-up of programming, events and a new permanent exhibit room, *Ada Is . . . Over the Rivers*, about Ada's rivers, bridges and the dam. Something historic is in the making!

THE RINKY DINK:

The building behind this fun foursome was built by W.R. McMurray as a roller skating rink. It was a big hit in the 1890s. The hall was also used for dancing and auctions. Sometimes you could pull up a wooden bench and catch a movie for a nickel.

The lot on which the building once stood is now part of the Ada Grill and Grand Rapids Bicycle Co.



FARMERS MARKET

It's tough for regulars of the Ada Farmers Market to look out the window and listen to the cold wind's chilly reminder of the long wait until June.

Right now, the thought of strolling past vendor stalls at the market in search of produce for the family table is a wistful one! At the local supermarket, there's no one on the other side of the fruit stand to ask about when produce was picked or what will be coming to market soon.

We get it. It's hard for us as well. It's sad but also exciting, to know another year is behind us. It's time to dream up a new, fresh plan for a new season at a new address.

That's right - we are moving to a new location, in the heart of the Ada retail district on River Street.

The original plan had been for the market to be relocated with the community/library building. However, the current site for the building has changed this plan and we were tasked with examining other sites for the market. After reviewing the comparisons with the Ada Downtown Development Authority, the decision was made to make River Street the new home of our Farmers Market.

While we're still working on the final details, please know that we're keeping the programming you love: Kids in the Market, Music in the Market and Chef in the Market will all be there. Your favorite vendors will also be there to bring you the fresh produce you love so you can continue to take it home!

There's a lot to be said for being able to grab a snack with friends, walk about the market to see what's new and enjoy the shared moments with each other under the summer sun. For some folks it's what makes Tuesdays exciting! We're hoping this place on River Street makes it more so.

We'd like Tuesdays at the Market to become an extended stay for visitors in downtown Ada, where planning for a late lunch or early dinner becomes a regular occurrence. Maybe even add a stroll along the river after dessert to find a play in progress at the pavilion or dancing under the stars with music from a local performer.

Anything is possible!

In the meantime, we will be planning the opening day for our new home. While the snow flies, so will ideas about how to build the best 'fresh' into a fantastic experience for our Ada Marketeers.

Keep an eye on our website (adafarmersmarket.com) along with our Facebook and Twitter sites. It's always where you'll find the latest on what is happening at your market any time of the year.

Last, but certainly not least, you are why this market exists. It's vital for us to know what we do is of value to you or if there is something more you'd like to see included on Tuesdays at the Ada Market. We invite you to share your thoughts, suggestions or feedback with us when it's convenient. Drop us a line here: adafarmersmarket@gmail.com.

Thanks to our Ada Marketeers for their loyal support of the best 'fresh' product in town every Tuesday this season! See you at the Ada Market next year!



ADA PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Contact Information:

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

E-mail: mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com

Web site: 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 & Locke Arboretum 1180 Buttrick Ave. 57 acres. Picnic Shelter, Gazebo, Parks office, Learning Center, Arboretum, softball and soccer fields, tennis courts, 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.

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

Grand River Natural Area

Grand River Drive SE. 110 acres. Enter via Ada Park. Trails, bike path, Grand River shoreline.

Carl Creek Crossings Preserve

6230 Grand River Drive. 8 acres. Trails, creek access.



FACILITY USE

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.

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

Facility Reservations and Rentals: Contact the Park office for scheduling and fees.

Ada Park Shelter & Gazebo: Available April - October. 2019 reservations will begin December 1st.

Roselle Park Meeting Room: Available on a limited basis for education programs, non-profit groups, Ada community groups and local businesses.

Athletic Fields and Courts: Open to public except during scheduled programs, games and tournaments. Reservations available.

UPDATES ON PARKS, PRESERVES & TRAILS

PARK, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

Meetings are held at 4:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. The public is welcome. The location varies between the Ada Township Hall, Roselle Park and Ada Park. Check with the park office ahead of time for updated information or agendas.

PARKS UPDATE & PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Wednesday, January 16 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Roselle Park

Our recent Recreation Needs Assessment reviewed the Township park facilities, recreation programs and potential for future opportunities. This event will highlight our findings and ideas to update our recreation plan, plus provide details on the next phase for our Parks, Preserves, Trails, and Programs. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. with displays, presentation at 7:00 p.m., followed by time for comment and input. Held in the Community Resource room at Roselle Park, 1010 Grand River Dr.

ROSELLE PARK – NEXT PHASE

The next development phase at Roselle Park is being planned for 2020. That will include an open-air picnic gazebo, an accessible outdoor picnic area, improvements to the parking area by the silo and playground area. Public input will be taken at the January 16 meetings at Roselle Park. Funding opportunities are available to help with matching funds for a March 2019 grant.

ADA TOWNSHIP PARK

The Shelter and Gazebo at Ada Township Park are closed for the winter. They will re-open April 1, 2019. Reservations for the 2019 season of April through October will start December 1st for Ada Township residents.



ADA'S NEW RIVERSIDE PARK

The new "Riverside Park," located along the banks of the Thornapple River in the Village, is nearing completion. Some work will still be done in December and then the stage/amphitheater area will be completed in the spring. Please be careful in the area while construction continues and supervise children in the playground. The fundraising campaign is still underway. Contact bhilbrands@adatownshipmi.com for details.

BIKE PATHS AND NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS

The Township has 20 miles of paved paths. Bridges and other areas may be slippery when wet or icy. Note that snow plowing may take a day or two to complete.

Report any issues and concerns to 616-676-0520.

Happy Holidays
from Ada Parks & Recreation Department

ADA PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

SPECIAL EVENTS IN ADA VILLAGE

*TINSEL, TREATS AND TROLLEYS

Friday, November 30 5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Check www.adabusinessassociation.com for details.

*SANTA PARADE

Saturday, December 1 11:00 a.m.

Check www.adatownshipmi.com/events for details.

FAMILY FRIENDLY PROGRAMS

Pre-registration is recommended by contacting the park office prior to a program.

WINTER NIGHT SKY AND STAR WATCH

Wednesday, January 9 and Thursday, February 7 7:00 p.m.

Roselle Park \$3/adults \$2/youth

Two evenings set to observe the winter night sky out at Roselle Park. Indoor presentation and orientation to the winter sky followed by outside observation time. Star charts and other observation tools provided. Telescopes welcome. Dress to be both inside and outdoors.



WINTER FUN & SKILLS DAY

Saturday, January 26 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Roselle Park \$3/adults \$2/youth +\$10/feeder kit

A morning of fun with introductions to winter activities. Learn about winter birds, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

Bill & Paul's Sporthaus will be on site with samples of cross-country skis and snowshoes plus coaching and pointers. Feel free to bring your own out to try in the park. You can also learn to identify local winter birds and how to improve the habitat in your backyard to attract birds and even build a wooden bird feeder to take home. Pre-registration is required for feeder kits. Snacks and hot drinks provided.



ADULT PROGRAMS

ADULT SOFTBALL PROGRAMS

Leagues for men's slow pitch, fast pitch and coed slow pitch are offered for spring and summer. We begin accepting 2019 softball team registrations in February 2019. Team registration forms and fees are due by March 18, 2019. The entry fee is \$735 per team which includes softballs, umpire fees, team awards, MASA sanction fees and league tournament. Contact rmccormick@adatownshipmi.com for information.



YOUTH PROGRAMS

Pre-registration is recommended by contacting the park office prior to a program.

ADVENTURE CHALLENGE – WINTER VERSION

Youth 9-12

Saturday, February 9 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Roselle Park \$5.00

A drop off program for youth ready for an adventure outside in the park. Meet up in the community resource room to set up teams and receive your "challenge." Teams will then follow clues that take them through the park and a series of fun challenges. Each challenge is based on outdoor skills, winter ecology and fun! Prizes and refreshments at the end. Wear your snow boots!

SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

Pre-K, Elementary and Middle Schools

Outdoor environmental education experiences are available year-round at Roselle Park, Ada Township Park. Programs are thematic, place-based, hands-on and aligned with curriculums. Programs generally run 1½ to 2 hours with a base fee of \$3/student. Contact the Park office for details.



BOY SCOUT AND GIRL SCOUT OPPORTUNITIES

Achievement and badge theme programs are available for Scout groups through field trips and service programs at the parks. Contact Park office for scheduling and details.

2019 SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMS & DAY CAMPS

For Ages 6-13 (teens may volunteer to help)

We will offer a range of summer youth programs in 2019 including 3-day-long Day Camps, half-day themed activities and possibly sports clinics. Our 2019 program information and registration packet should be available in February. Contact the Park office for details.

ADULT PROGRAMS

ADULT SOFTBALL PROGRAMS

Leagues for men's slow pitch, fast pitch and coed slow pitch are offered for spring and summer. We begin accepting 2019 softball team registrations in February 2019. Team registration forms and fees are due by March 18, 2019. The entry fee is \$735 per team which includes softballs, umpire fees, team awards, MASA sanction fees and league tournament. Contact rmccormick@adatownshipmi.com for information.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer opportunities are available to assist with grounds, gardens, trails, habitat stewardship, office work, special projects and youth education programs. Residents may also participate on committees and the Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Advisory Board. Contact the Park office for an application, interview or schedule of events.



KENT COUNTY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Saturday, December 29 7:30 a.m.

Wittenbach/Wege Center in Lowell Annual bird count sponsored by Grand Rapids Audubon. Contact tomleggett@hotmail.com for details.





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 (2018/2019) WINTER ISSUE

NOVEMBER

- 30 Annual Bridge Lighting Ceremony 5:30P
- 30 Annual Tinsel, Treats, & Trolley 6-9P

DECEMBER

- 1 Winter tax bills mailed (due 2/14/19)
- 1 AHS cookies & hot chocolate in the barn before the parade 10A
- 1 Annual Santa Parade 11A
- 1 Cookies, cocoa & pictures w/Santa at Fire Station (after parade) 11A-1P
- 1 Annual Chili & Beer Festival 11A-4P
- 4 Zoning Board of Appeals 4:30P
- 10 Downtown Development Authority 8A
- 10 Ada Township Board Meeting 7P
- 13 Ada Historical Society Board Meeting 1P
- 13 Parks, Recreation & Land Preservation Advisory Board 4P
- 20 Planning Commission 7P
- 24 Christmas Holiday - Township Office Closed
- 25 Christmas Holiday - Township Office Closed
- 26 Christmas Tree & Wreath Recycling at Ada Park (Dec 26-Jan 15, 2019)
- 31 New Year's Holiday - Township Office Closed

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Holiday - Township Office Closed
- 8 Zoning Board of Appeals 4:30P
- 10 Ada Historical Society Board Meeting 1P
- 10 Parks, Rec & Land Preservation Advisory Board 4P
- 14 Downtown Development Authority 8A
- 14 Ada Township Board Meeting 7P
- 17 Planning Commission 7P
- 21 Martin Luther King Jr Day - Township Office Closed
- 28 Ada Township Board Meeting 7P

FEBRUARY

- 5 Zoning Board of Appeals 4:30P
- 8 Ada Historical Society Board Meeting 1P
- 11 Downtown Development Authority 8A
- 11 Ada Township Board Meeting 7P
- 14 Parks, Rec & Land Preservation Advisory Board 4P
- 14 TAX PAYMENTS due at Township Office by 5P
- 18 Presidents' Day - Township Office Closed
- 21 Planning Commission 7P
- 25 Ada Township Board Meeting 7P

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

TELEPHONE: (616) 676-9191

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

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