



.the. ADAVIEW

the ADAVIEW is published by Ada Township



SANTA ARRIVES SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 11:00 a.m.

Once again, Santa will be coming to town! The jolly ol' man will be escorted by the Forest Hills Northern Marching Band along with Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, business floats and, of course, fire trucks! Make sure to line up along the route to catch some candy and see Santa arrive. After the parade, hot chocolate and cookies will be waiting at the fire station along with your chance to sit down with Santa and share your wish list. Good boys and girls will also get candy canes from Santa.



CONNECT ADA

Ada's bike trail network is often cited as one of the reasons people love living in Ada. The value of these trails to the community is crucial as we look at how to best connect the trails to our village, schools, parks, riverfront and beyond. Ada Township is in the midst of updating our non-motorized trail plan in anticipation of the 2021 expiration of the Township's Trail millage — AND a possible ballot proposal in 2020 to seek a millage renewal. We have sought public involvement in development of the plan through a citizen's committee and we appreciate all those who came to the November 12 public workshops at Roselle Park to gain information and share feedback. Assistance is also being provided by Nelson Nygaard Consulting Associates, a transportation consultant focusing on pedestrian and bicycle mobility and safety.

STAY INFORMED – Share your ideas! We created a dedicated township website link on our homepage, called **CONNECT ADA**, to keep you informed of all progress, get your feedback and to share the Final Plan that will guide the next millage and ballot proposal.

Please visit us at: adatownshipmi.com.



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



ADA FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS –

WINTER SAFETY TIPS

Cooler weather is quickly approaching which means homes will be closed up for the winter months and fireplaces and furnaces will be fired up. Before lighting that first fire, make sure to have your chimney inspected and cleaned. This will reduce the chances of a chimney fire.

With houses closed up tight and more gas-fired appliances operating, the chances of carbon monoxide (CO) problems exist. CO is an odorless gas that can be deadly. Make sure to have an operating CO detector in your home. For questions about CO or smoke detectors, give us a call at the fire station (616) 676-2376.

Slippery roads are bound to be part of the winter driving season again this year. Be prepared in the event you get stuck. Have warm clothes, gloves, blankets and a shovel in your car. If you see a vehicle that has slid off the road, before reporting it to the sheriff's department look for yellow caution tape attached to the vehicle. The tape is placed by police and fire departments to signal that the vehicle has been checked and no emergency exists.

MOVE OVER AND SLOW DOWN

As police, fire and paramedics operate at accident scenes this winter and all year long, we remind you and ask that you please slow down and move over. Our crews are busy providing patient care and cleaning up after accidents, and need your help in not making for a more dangerous scene. We often need to close an entire road due to the severity of the accident or where vehicles are located or if other hazards exist, such as downed power lines. Please understand we do this for your safety and ours. It may be an inconvenience, but it's best for all involved.

BRATS & BONFIRES SETS A RECORD

Thank you to all that came out to our 5th annual Brats & Bonfires event on October 17th. We set a record with 1,400 people enjoying brats, hotdogs, donuts, cider, Gravel Bottom beer and live music from The Vinyl Bandits. This could not have been such a great event without you and our many sponsors. Mark your calendar for Thursday, October 15, 2020, for another great family event in Ada.



KENT COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE NEWS –

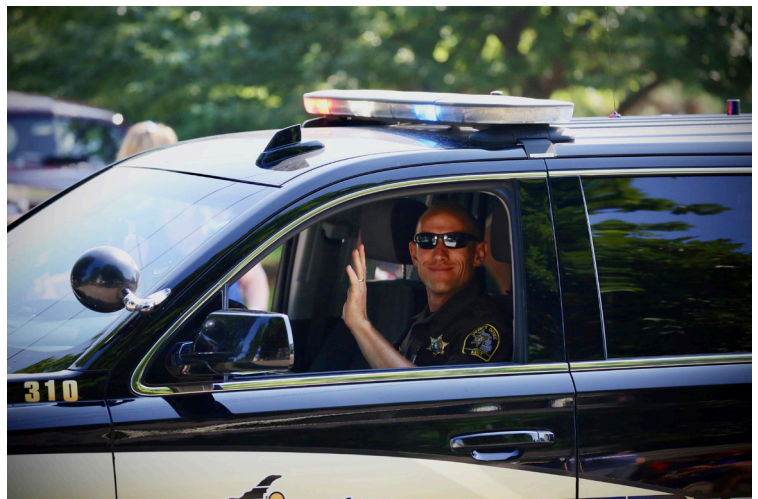
Greetings from your East Precinct Community Officer,

I am sad to report that this will be my final letter to you. At the beginning of the new year, I will be taking a new position in the detective bureau. It has been an honor both getting to know and working alongside all of you. I have thoroughly enjoyed my interaction with the citizens of the East Precinct over the last year and a half. It seems like just yesterday I was introducing myself to all of you. The good news, however, is that I am handing over the reins to a very capable and accomplished deputy. Deputy Omar Dieppa will be taking over for me in January. Deputy Dieppa is a hard-working and very well-respected member of our department. I have no doubt he will do an excellent job as the new East Precinct Community Officer. I have attached his contact information to this letter so you can call or email him and introduce yourself. Lastly, I have given a lot of advice over the last year and a half regarding crime and how to avoid becoming a victim of it. My final piece of advice is simple and applies to everyone: Keep your hands to yourself, leave other people's stuff alone, and be kind to one another. Have a great holiday season and be safe.



Sincerely,
Deputy Eric Toonstra

Deputy Omar Dieppa
omar.dieppa@kentcountymi.gov
(616) 632-6435



ADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Events for December 2019 – February 2020

Museum Hours

Plan to visit the museum this December before we settle down for a long winter's nap. The museum is closed to visitation in January and February for a thorough cleaning and to give our volunteers a break. Be assured much is going on behind the scenes as AHS continues to bring you a full slate of events and programming!

Two New Ada History Exhibits

- [Ada Is...Right On Track](#)

Ada was slow growing until the railroad first came to town. A new museum exhibit highlights the impact the railroad had on the development of Ada from the 1850s-1960. Don't get side-tracked – chug on down and check it out!

- [Ada Is...Kidding Around](#)

We kid you not, the museum has a new permanent exhibit and it's a class act. Go back to school – way back – from Ada's one-room schools through the Forest Hills consolidation and private schools. The rest of the exhibit is child's play, highlighting the historic toy collection. Come learn and play at Ada's museum.

Wreath Sale Fundraiser

Beginning November 22. Check AHS website or stop by the barn for sale hours. We offer beautiful fresh-cut evergreen wreaths to help you deck the halls this holiday season. Mark your calendar for the biggest annual fundraiser to support AHS activities. Look good and do good in one easy step!

Saturday, November 30 – Gift Shop Sale

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the museum. In conjunction with Small Business Saturday, our gift shop will feature specials on Ada-themed items to help you cross off your shopping list. Come support local artists and local products!

HOURS OF OPERATION

The Averill Historical Museum of Ada is open Fridays and Saturdays from 1:00-4:00 p.m. and also by appointment.



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

Friday, December 6 – Tinsel, Treats and Trolleys

Beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the covered bridge. Ada Village's annual holiday celebration begins with a bridge-lighting ceremony, followed by trolley rides with stops at area venues throughout the village from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Plan to stop by the museum for a picture with Mrs. Claus and her elf, special goodies, and to see the museum decorated for the season. Fresh-cut evergreen wreaths will be for sale in the barn.

Saturday, December 7 – Santa Parade

Beginning at 10:00 a.m. We will have cookies and hot chocolate in the barn before the Ada Santa Parade begins at 11:00 a.m.

December 12, January 9, February 13 – 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.

Coming in January – Lecture for MLK Day

Stay tuned! We're working on a January presentation in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Details will be available soon.

Today this building is the Nonna's Trattoria. Back in 1900, it was home to the Smith family. John Smith operated the cobbler shop next door. In front of the shop were the town scales. Farmers would pull their wagons up, full of grain, to weigh them. Daughter Nellie Smith became the long-time Sunday school teacher for the Congregational Church just around the corner. Nellie usually ended her classes with the singing of "God Bless America."



BOARD OF REVIEW MEMBERS WANTED!

The Ada Township Assessing Office is seeking individuals who are interested in becoming a Board of Review Member. Candidate(s) must be a U.S. resident, 18 years or older, and have resided in Ada Township for at least 30 days. The main function of the Board of Review is to assure correctness of the details posted to the assessment roll. This is accomplished by correcting clerical errors, mutual mistakes of fact and valuation differences through written or oral appeals. Candidate(s) will be required to attend one annual Board of Review Training Class and three Board of Review Meetings. This is a paid per diem position under a two-year term.



Interested to learn more about this opportunity, or want to apply for the position? Stop by the Ada Township Hall today, or call the Assessor's Office direct (616) 676-9191, Ext. 26, to learn more about it. We would love to have you join us and be a part of our team.



ELECTIONS

Ada will conduct at least three elections in 2020:

- Tuesday, March 10 – Presidential Primary
- Tuesday, August 4 – State Primary
- Tuesday, November 3 – State General

In addition, Tuesday, May 5, is reserved if there are local issues to be voted upon. (At this point we don't anticipate any.)

As a result of Proposal 3, which passed in November 2018, anyone can now vote absentee for any election and may also be placed on the permanent absentee voter list. Please call the township office if you are interested in voting absentee.

We are also always looking for election workers. Please contact the township office at (616) 676-9191 if you are interested.



FARMERS MARKET

Thoughts of drifting snow and icy winds to come are on the mind this time of year. It's hard to see ahead to when we'll be celebrating the first melt of spring, when the days are drawing close around us, shorter in sunshine. It takes faith in knowing everything has its time. Right now, it's time for these longer nights to cozy up to a hot cup of cocoa and enjoy down time.

This year the market's big story was the tremendous amount of rain during spring. Many farmers put in their crops late, or not at all, due to saturated fields. This was a season where farmers drew upon their faith in the seasonal cycle to shift their plans while waiting for the rain to subside. They also knew the cycle would bring a harvest of local produce to their community partners, who were just as eager to see the end of the rains! And so, another market season began. There were many familiar fruits and vegetables but there were some surprises as well. New peppers, apples and baked goods – just to name a few. We even had an artisan ice cream maker. A fresh cycle mixing old and new.

As for the upcoming June 2020 season, who knows what new products will be coming to the market? It's fun to imagine but we'll just have to wait until the time comes to announce the vendor selection. Between now and then, curl up with a new recipe book. Plan a few new meals to try out for next year. Leave room for a few surprises. While the cycle is predictable, the elements are always a little bit different. However, have faith that whatever the upcoming season holds, it will always be fresh, local and at the peak of nutritional value.

**The last edition of AdaView incorrectly identified one of our fine volunteer superheroes as 'Rick Buckley', instead of his REAL name, Rick Buckner. We regret the confusion.*



*Happy
Holidays*
from
Ada Township Offices

TOWNSHIP OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS:

Tuesday, December 24, 2019 • Wednesday, December 25, 2019
AND
Tuesday, December 31, 2019 • Wednesday, January 1, 2020

REAL ID

Time to renew your driver's license? You may want to bring your birth certificate and any documents related to name changes that occurred after your birth certificate (i.e. marriage license or court order), so your new license will be compliant with the federal REAL ID Act. Beginning October 1, 2020, you must have a compliant license for travel by air, even on domestic flights. Wondering if your license is REAL ID



compliant? Compliant cards are marked with a star inside a gold circle on the upper right. For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/sos.

CENSUS 2020

The federal government will be conducting the 2020 census in the coming months. An accurate count for this census is important for many reasons, including congressional representation and federal funding. The actual census is scheduled for April 1, but preparation is happening now.

Be sure to cooperate when a census worker comes to your house or when you receive forms in the mail.



CHRISTMAS TREE AND WREATH RECYCLING

**Ada Township Park –
December 26, 2019 – January 13, 2020**

Ada Township residents may drop off Christmas Trees and Wreaths for recycling to the back parking lot of Ada Township Park from December 26, 2019 through January 13, 2020, 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.



COMING SOON...

IT'S A LEPRECHAUN HUNT!

Parents, save the date for you and your kids to come hunt for hidden leprechauns around Ada Village. Grab some prizes and refreshments as you see how many leprechauns you can find!



When: Friday afternoon, March 13, 2020

Where: Begin at The Community Church
7239 Thornapple River Dr. SE, Ada, MI 49301

For more details, go to <http://adamichigan.org/events>.

FOREST HILLS COMMUNITY EXPO

Presented by the
Ada and Forest Hills Business Associations.

When: March 21, 2020 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Where: Ada Christian School

Free Admission!

Kid Zone Play Area • Live Entertainment

PLAN AHEAD FOR SUMMER 2020 ROAD CLOSURES

- The Thornapple River Drive and Buttrick Drive intersection area will be **closed** Saturday evening, June 13, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., through Sunday afternoon, June 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., for the Grand Rapids Triathlon.

Details at www.grandrapidstriathlon.com.

- July 4, 2020, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Sections of several roads in the Village will be **closed** for the 4th of July Parade, including Ada Drive, Headley, Thornapple River Dr. and River Street.



ADA PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Contact Information:

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

E-mail: mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com

Website: 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. Parks office, Learning Center, Arboretum, athletic fields, tennis courts, pickleball courts, playground, pond, trails, picnic areas, and bike paths.

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.

Legacy Park 7450 River Street. Thornapple River view, restroom, playground, picnic area, walking paths (amphitheater under construction).

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. No facilities.

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.

Motorized recreation vehicles are not allowed.

Alcohol is not allowed in the parks or park facilities.

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

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

Ada Park Shelter & Gazebo: Available April - October. 2020 reservations will begin December 1st.

Roselle Park Meeting Room: Available for education programs, non-profit groups, community and business groups and private events.

Athletic Fields: For public use, area leagues and instructional programs.

Basketball, Pickleball & Tennis Courts: Open to public except during scheduled programs. Reservations available.

UPDATES ON ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS

LEGACY PARK – In memory of Helen and Rich DeVos

The new riverside park is working through the final stages of the amphitheater and memorial sculpture. Both these items should be substantially completed in December, but the final landscaping around them will take until spring to grow in. We are working on programming and events for the park and amphitheater to begin in the summer of 2020.

Thanks again to all our financial supporters on this project!

ADA TOWNSHIP PARK

The shelter and gazebos are closed up for the winter. They will re-open April 1, 2020. Starting this December, Ada residents may contact the Park office for scheduling 2020 reservations.

ROSELLE PARK

Roselle Park sustained a lot of damage to trees and one of the silos during the September 11 storm. We were able to clear the trees off the trails and get a new cap for the silo.

We are currently taking reservations for rental of the Roselle Park meeting room. It is available for education programs, non-profit groups, community and business groups and private events. Ada Residents should plan well in advance for 2020 reservations. Contact the park office for availability.

We submitted an application to the DNR for a Trust Fund Grant to assist with funding for a new shelter and accessible picnic area in the park. We are waiting on notification before finalizing plans. The project is scheduled for 2021.

KENT COUNTY PARKS

The Kent County Parks Department was recently awarded a DNR Trust Fund Grant which was used to purchase a 125-acre parcel, expanding the Chief Hazy Cloud Park on Pettis. Another land addition to the park is underway which will make this one of the largest parks in the Township. See their website for updates: www.accesskent.com/departments/parks.

BIKE PATHS

Note that bike paths and the boardwalks on them are slippery when wet, snowy or icy. Please contact the Park office with any issues or concerns.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

Winter program highlights are on the next page. See website or contact the Park office for details.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer opportunities are available to assist with committees, grounds, gardens, trails, office work and youth education programs. Contact the Park office for an application, interview or schedule of events.



ADA PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

PROGRAM INFORMATION

For more information on our programs, please contact the Park Office at (616) 676-0520 or check our website at www.adatownshipmi.com. Updates are also posted on Facebook under "Ada Village".

SPECIAL EVENTS IN ADA VILLAGE:

*Tinsel, Treats and Trolleys

Friday, December 6 5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Check www.adabusinessassociation.com for details.

*Santa Parade

Saturday, December 7 11:00 a.m.

Check www.adatownshipmi.com/events for details.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Pre-registration is required by contacting the Park office prior to a program.

WINTER SKILLS DAY – YOUTH 9-12

Saturday, February 8 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Roselle Park \$5.00

A drop-off program for youth ready for an adventure in the park! This program will be an introduction to winter survival and snowshoeing. Bill and Paul's Sporthaus will be providing the snowshoes. Come prepared to be outside. Pre-registration is required and space is limited.

SCHOOL FIELD TRIP OPPORTUNITIES PRE-K, ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Outdoor environmental education experiences are available year-round at Roselle Park, Ada Township Park and Leonard Field 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 AND GIRL SCOUT OPPORTUNITIES

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

2020 SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMS

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

We will again offer a range of summer youth programs in 2020, including 3-day long Day Camps and half-day themed activities. Activities will be held at both Ada and Roselle Parks. Our 2020 program information and registration packet should be available in February. Contact the Park office for details.

FAMILY FRIENDLY PROGRAMS

Pre-registration is required by contacting the Park office prior to a program.

AMAZING OWLS

Thursday, February 27 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Roselle Park \$3/adult, \$2/youth or \$10/family

Blandford Nature Center will present live owls and artifacts to teach about local owls and their unique adaptations. Hands-on activities will be set up for exploration. Pre-registration is required and space is limited.

INTRODUCTION TO WINTER SPORTS

Saturday, January 11 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Roselle Park \$5/person

Come learn about winter cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Bill and Paul's Sporthaus will supply demo snowshoes and cross-country skis, answer questions and provide tips on techniques. Demo sizes will be limited based on what they have available. This event is for adults and youth 12+. Pre-registration is required and space is limited.

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 2020 softball team registrations in February 2020, with forms and fees due by March 18, 2020. The entry fee is \$735 per team which includes softballs, umpire fees, awards, MASA fees and tournament. Contact rmccormick@adatownshipmi.com for information.



NATURE ORNAMENT MAKING

Saturday, December 14 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Roselle Park \$10/person

Make nature ornaments using natural supplies. Your \$10 will cover materials for two nature ornaments and assistance in creating the ornaments. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. To register, contact the Park office at (616) 676-0520 or at mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com.

HIKING, YOGA & CACAO WORKSHOP

Saturday, February 15

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Roselle Park \$45 payable to Feral Yogi

Join Jenn Dodgson, Founder of Feral Yogi, for a three-hour winter wellness journey! Together we will embark on a one-hour winter hike followed by an indoor yoga and relaxation session and hot raw cacao ceremony.

Pre-registration is required at theferalyogi@gmail.com.





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 (2019-2020) WINTER ISSUE

DECEMBER

- 3 Zoning Board of Appeals - 4:30P
- 6 Annual Bridge Lighting Ceremony - 5:30P
- 6 Annual Tinsel, Treats & Trolleys - 6-9P
- 7 AHS cookies & hot chocolate in the barn before the parade - 10A
- 7 Annual Santa Parade - 11A
- 7 Cookies, cocoa & pictures w/Santa at Fire Station (after parade) - 11A-1P
- 7 Annual Chili & Beer Festival - 11A-4P
- 9 Downtown Development Authority - 8A
- 9 Ada Township Board Meeting - 7P
- 12 Ada Historical Society Board Meeting - 1P
- 12 Parks, Recreation & Land Preservation Advisory Board - 8:30A
- 19 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 13, 2020) - 7:30A-8P
- 31 New Year's Holiday - Township Office Closed
- 9 Parks, Recreation & Land Preservation Advisory Board - 8:30A
- 13 Downtown Development Authority - 8A
- 13 Ada Township Board Meeting - 7P
- 16 Planning Commission - 7P
- 20 Martin Luther King Jr Day - Township Office Closed
- 27 Ada Township Board Meeting - 7P

FEBRUARY

- 4 Zoning Board of Appeals - 4:30P
- 8 Ada Historical Society Board Meeting - 1P
- 10 Downtown Development Authority - 8A
- 10 Ada Township Board Meeting - 7P
- 13 Parks, Recreation & Land Preservation Advisory Board - 8:30A
- 14 TAX PAYMENTS due at Township Office by 5P
- 17 Presidents' Day - Township Office Closed
- 20 Planning Commission - 7P
- 24 Ada Township Board Meeting - 7P

SAVE THE DATE

- March 13, 2020 - Leprechaun Hunt
- March 21, 2020 - Forest Hills Community Expo

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Holiday - Township Office Closed
- 7 Zoning Board of Appeals - 4:30P
- 9 Ada Historical Society Board Meeting - 1P

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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