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# ADAVIEW

the ADAVIEW is published by Ada Township

## A "NO-TOUCH" GIFT IDEA FOR THE HOLIDAYS

It's not too late to have the engraved text of your choosing on one of these brick pavers being installed at the Amy Van Andel Library and Community Center. 4" x 8" or 8" x 8" paving stones with your preferred engraving can be purchased for \$250 or \$500 via PayPal at [www.ournextchapterada.org](http://www.ournextchapterada.org), or by calling the Township Office at (616) 676-9191, Ext. 22. Sending your check directly to the Township will make your donation go further by saving the Township from paying a convenience fee for receiving online payments. Please note that paver orders placed now may not be installed until Spring 2021, depending on weather conditions.



*Happy  
Holidays*

from  
**Ada Township Offices**

### TOWNSHIP OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS:

Thursday, December 24, 2020 • Friday, December 25, 2020

AND

Thursday, December 31, 2020 • Friday, January 1, 2021

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

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR: ROSS LEISMAN



Ross Leisman is the new township supervisor. Ross and his wife Sheri live on Honey Creek, where they raised four children. As empty nesters, they are now living with an old dog, a barn cat and a few goats to keep the pastures clean. Ross enjoys government and law. He has served many years on the Ada Township Planning Commission working on the redevelopment of the village and land preservation issues.

In his spare time, he enjoys taking care of his animals, reading, running and having coffee with friends. Please feel free to contact Ross at the township hall.

## CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

**Ada Township Park –  
December 26, 2020 – January 11, 2021**

Ada Township residents may drop off Christmas Trees for recycling to the back parking lot of Ada Township Park from December 26, 2020 through January 11, 2021, between 7:30am and 8:00pm.

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

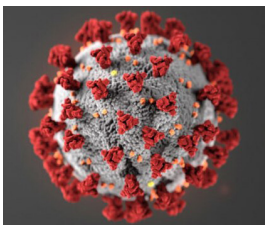
No wreaths will be accepted this year.

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



## COVID UPDATES

2020 has seen a constant change of circumstances related to COVID-19. At the time this newsletter goes to print, Ada Township hall is still open, but many employees are working remotely from home. Glass partitions have been installed in many areas within the



building, and extra cleaning/sanitizing measures are in place. We would encourage residents to do as much business as possible via telephone, email, or drop-box, rather than in person.



## ADA FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS –

### CHIMNEY FIRES

As cooler weather moves in, it will be time to light a fire in your fireplace for the first time this season. Did you have your chimney inspected and cleaned following last year's burning season? The majority of chimney fires we respond to are due to a lack of maintenance and creosote buildup. Take the time to get yours inspected before this burning season and enjoy a safe evening around the fireplace.

### MOVE OVER, SLOW DOWN

With slippery roads just around the corner, your firefighters are certain to be responding to vehicle accidents and slide offs. Please move over a lane and slow down! Our team is concentrating on helping victims while watching for oncoming traffic, so please give us the room to work safely.



Often, we respond to vehicles that have simply just slid off the road. These are called in by good intentioned cell phone callers who don't stop to see if anyone is injured. Once we investigate a slide off, we will tag the vehicle with yellow caution tape to indicate the vehicle was inspected and is awaiting a tow truck. If you see the yellow caution tape, you can be assured it has been called in and there's no need to call again.

### TOYS FOR TOTS

Once again this year, Ada Fire Station, located at Fulton and Bronson, will be a drop-off site for new, unwrapped gifts. If you have toys to donate, we will be accepting them seven days a week 8am-8pm.

### SMOKE DETECTORS



Did you remember to replace your smoke detector batteries when you turned your clocks back? The batteries should be changed twice per year each time you change your clock. Did you know smoke detectors have a life expectancy of 10 years? If you have questions about the age of your detectors or how many you should have in your home, give us a call. Equally important is a Carbon Monoxide (CO) detector. These devices can detect poisonous, odorless gases in your home. The gas may come from faulty furnaces, water heaters and other gas appliances. Get a detector and save a life.

Your firefighters are always available to answer any questions you might have about smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Just give us a call at (616) 676-2376.



## ADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Events for December 2020 – February 2021



[www.AdaHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.AdaHistoricalSociety.org)  
 (616) 676-9346  
 7144 Headley St., P.O. Box 741  
 Ada, MI 49301  
[AdaHistoricalSociety@gmail.com](mailto:AdaHistoricalSociety@gmail.com)

### MUSEUM HOURS

The Averill Historical Museum is open for limited hours this December – Fridays, 1-4pm – before we settle down for a winter's nap. Annually, 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 and with the Ada Historical Society. We look forward to sharing much more of Ada's story with you in 2021!

### NEW EXHIBIT ABOUT ADA'S EARLY YEARS

#### *Ada Is...Rooted In Trade*

Ada was part of an international fur trading network during the late-1700s and early-1800s. Experience the interaction of cultures centered around Ada's trading post that helped establish our community today.

### December 10, January 14, February 11 – Monthly Board Meetings

3:00pm via Zoom. Board meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month and are open to the public. We welcome your involvement. Please email or call AHS for information on how to connect.

### November 20 through December 12 – Wreath Sale Fundraiser

*Fridays & Saturdays, while supplies last! 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.*

## 2020 ELECTION UPDATES

The November 2020 presidential election is now behind us. Ada saw 9,798 of its 11,843 registered voters turn out to vote, for a nearly 83% voter turnout. Approximately 53% voted via absentee ballot, while approximately 30% voted at the polling places on election day.

In Ada Township, President Trump defeated former Vice President Biden by 51% to 48%, John James defeated Gary Peters 57% to 42%, and Peter Meijer defeated Hillary Scholten 57% to 43%.

Ada's full results can be seen at <https://electionreporting.com/county/db3f9865-656b-4704-9429-bd38e726ab42/township/Ada%20Township>.

Newly-elected officials for Ada Township are Supervisor Ross Leisman and Trustee Chris Winczewski. Returning are treasurer Kevin Moran, clerk Jackie Smith, and trustees Dan Hurwitz, Catherine Jacobs, and Bob Proos.



## SOMETHING TO OFFER? VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Ada Historical Society is a non-profit cultural organization with a mission to preserve, share, and celebrate the unique history of the Ada community. Volunteers are our heart and soul. If you care about Ada too, we'd love to work with you. AHS offers many ways to connect – for long-time residents or those new to the area – in working with the artifacts, creating and hosting programming and events, school visits, docenting, gardening, and so much more. No experience necessary. If you're looking for a new experience in the year ahead, please give us a call at (616) 676-9346 or email [AdaHistoricalSociety@gmail.com](mailto:AdaHistoricalSociety@gmail.com).

### CENTENNIAL PROPERTIES PROGRAM

To highlight the historic nature of Ada, the Ada Historical Society recognizes homes and commercial buildings 100 years of age and older with a "Centennial Home" or "Centennial Property" exterior historic plaque. AHS wishes to honor the importance of historic properties and the value they add to our community today.

Be on the lookout for plaques as several are already in place in the village and greater township. Contact AHS for further information or check out our website [www.AdaHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.AdaHistoricalSociety.org).



*Right now, Ada's beloved covered bridge is decorated for the holiday season. Back in the 1970s, a "sculpture" adorned the bridge year-round. A five-ton propeller from a generator at Ada's dam was lifted from the bottom of the river, painted, and put on display. It became known as "Ada's Dam Thing" or "Ada's Calder" (referring to Grand Rapids' La Grande Vitesse by Alexander Calder also installed in 1969).*

To address some of the issues brought up by the media . . .

Ada Township checked names/addresses and verified signatures on all of its absentee ballots.

Ada Township routinely removes people who have passed away from its voter rolls (and rejects the ballot if it has been returned for the current election).

Ada Township uses Flair pens for voting at the polls and provided these pens for people to use and take (because of COVID-19 issues). These are the pens recommended by the manufacturer of the tabulators. Their clear markings and quick drying work well for the tabulators. Slow-drying ink, especially gel pens, will leave residue and damage the tabulators, causing breakdown and requiring costly repairs.

Thanks go to staff, the election inspectors, and the public for a successful election. As always, if you have any questions or comments about the election and its process, feel free to call the Clerk's Office.

## 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, picnic plaza, paved trail, restrooms, Van Andel Family Pavilion.

**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 limited in use or closed. Recommended protocols are still in place.

**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 still taking reservations for facility use and rentals with new COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines in place. Contact the Park office for availability, restrictions, scheduling and fees.

## UPDATES ON PARKS, PRESERVES & TRAILS

### COVID-19 – Please Keep Safe

While most outdoor amenities and restrooms remain open, indoor facilities remain limited for use. We ask everyone to practice social distancing and good sanitation, and to wear masks as directed for as long as is necessary.

### Wi-Fi Added to the Parks

Thanks to a grant from Kent County, public Wi-Fi access is now available in Ada, Legacy, Roselle and Leonard Field parks. Access will appear on your device as "Name of Park Public Wi-Fi".

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

A short season of activities were held at the new "Van Andel Family Pavilion" due to COVID-19, but we are planning ahead for 2021. Groups or organizations interested in reserving the Pavilion should contact the Park office for details after January 30, 2021. If you are interested in sponsoring events or concerts, let us know.

### LEONARD FIELD PARK

Following the framework of the new park Master Plan, we will be implementing improvements to the park over the next few years. Upgrading the ball field lighting is targeted for spring of 2021, with other improvements targeted for 2022 and 2023. Details will be available through the Park office this winter, including opportunities for donations.

### ROSELLE PARK

- Rental of the room in the building is still limited due to COVID-19 protocols. Contact the Park office for updates.
- Recent improvements to the non-paved trails in the north section will allow better access through wet areas.
- XC skiing is welcome, but trails are not groomed. Walkers, please walk to the side of ski tracks.
- A new park shelter, accessible picnic area and playground improvements are planned for 2021. Contact the Park office on how your donations can help.

### ADA TOWNSHIP PARK

- The restroom at the Shelter is closed up for the winter; it will re-open April 1, 2021. A port-a-john is located by the Park office.
- Some tables will be available in the Shelter and Gazebos for general use.
- Ada residents may now contact the Park office for scheduling 2021 reservations.

### BIKE PATHS AND NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS

- Please be careful on slippery pavement and boardwalks.
- Thanks to everyone for your support of a new trail millage.
- We aim to keep the trails clear of debris and snow through the winter, but some days take longer to get it all done.
- Please report any issues or concerns to the Park office: (616) 676-0520.



## ADA PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

### DONATIONS, MEMORIAL GIFTS AND ANNUAL GIVING

#### THANK YOU TO RECENT DONORS:

- Bench and Mini Library at Ada Township Park in memory of Beth Grochowalski, from her daughters.
- Bench at Roselle Park in memory of Matthew Charrouf, from Leslie and his family.
- "Rainbow Bridge" Bench plaques at Ada Park, from Elsie and our dog walker friends.
- Tree at Ada Park in memory of Ryan Marsman, from the Ada Fire Fighters Association.
- Tree at Roselle Park wishing June Prein a Happy 80th Birthday, from her children and grandchildren.



#### OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUTURE DONORS:

As a government entity, donations to Ada Township are tax deductible. Checks should be made out to Ada Township noting "park donation" in the memo. Contact the Park office for details.

- Engraved pavers for the new Amy Van Andel - Kent District Library and Legacy Park may still be purchased. Details at: [www.ournextchapterada.org](http://www.ournextchapterada.org).
- General end of the year gifts are always appreciated to help support park facilities, trails and programs.
- For Roselle Park, we are planning for a new park Shelter and accessible picnic area to be constructed in 2021. Pledges and donations are being accepted for the shelter, tables, trees, and a playground structure.
- For Leonard Field Park, pledges and donations are being accepted for improvements to the ball field lighting planned for next spring.
- The Summer Day Camp Scholarship fund helps offset the costs for eligible youth. Contributions appreciated.



### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Thanks to all our volunteers that helped out this year! Volunteer opportunities are available to assist with committees, gardens, grounds, trails, habitat stewardship, office clerical task, and youth programs. Individuals and groups are welcome. Contact the Park office for an application, interview or schedule of events.

## PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

We continue to face restrictions to most of our recreation and education programs due to COVID-19. Check the website, Ada Village page on Facebook, or contact the Park office for details on upcoming activities, to schedule a program, or to be put on the mailing list.

### WORKSHOP FOR DEALING WITH BITTERSWEET VINES

**Saturday, December 12 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**  
**Ada Township Park Shelter Donations appreciated**

This outdoor workshop is targeted for landowners and others dealing with invasive plant issues. The focus will be on Oriental Bittersweet vines. A discussion on identification and control techniques will be followed by a field observation and demonstration. Presented by staff from Ada Parks and Kent Conservation District. Pre-registration is required by contacting the Park office. For information on Oriental Bittersweet, use the link: <https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/invasive-species/OrientalBittersweetBCP.pdf>.



### INTRO TO WINTER SPORTS

**Saturday, January 23**  
**Two sessions: 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**  
**Roselle Park \$5.00/person**

This program will be an introduction to cross country skiing and snowshoeing. Bill and Paul's Sporthaus will be providing XC skis and snowshoes, coaching and information. Park staff to assist with instruction. Come prepared to be outside. Two time slots available. Each session will have a short presentation followed by time for questions, coaching and trying the equipment (sorry, no youth-sized skis). Feel free to bring your own XC skis or snowshoes. Pre-registration is required.



### 2021 ADULT SOFTBALL TEAM REGISTRATIONS



We begin accepting 2021 registrations for adult softball teams February 1, 2021. Forms and fees are due by March 16, 2021. These include leagues for men's slow pitch, men's

fast pitch, and coed slow pitch. The entry fee is \$735 per team, which includes softballs, umpire fees, awards, MASA fees and tournament. Contact [rmccormick@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:rmccormick@adatownshipmi.com) for information.

### SPRING - SUMMER 2021

We hope to host summer concerts, day camps and other activities in 2021. Contact the Park office for updates or to be put on our mailing list.



# 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 (2020-2021) WINTER ISSUE

### DECEMBER

- 1 Zoning Board of Appeals - 4:30pm
- 10 Ada Historical Society Board Meeting - 3pm
- 14 Downtown Development Authority - 8am
- 14 Ada Township Board Meeting - 7pm
- 17 Planning Commission - 7pm
- 24 Christmas Holiday - Township Office Closed**
- 25 Christmas Holiday - Township Office Closed**
- 31 New Year's Holiday - Township Office Closed**

### JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Holiday - Township Office Closed**
- 5 Zoning Board of Appeals - 4:30pm
- 11 Downtown Development Authority - 8am
- 11 Ada Township Board Meeting - 7pm
- 14 Ada Historical Society Board Meeting - 3pm

- 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Township Office Closed**
- 21 Planning Commission - 7pm
- 25 Ada Township Board Meeting - 7pm

### FEBRUARY

- 2 Zoning Board of Appeals - 4:30pm
- 8 Downtown Development Authority - 8am
- 8 Ada Township Board Meeting - 7pm
- 11 Ada Historical Society Board Meeting - 3pm
- 14 TAX PAYMENTS DUE @ ADA TOWNSHIP OFFICE BY 5PM**
- 15 President's Day - Township Office Closed**
- 18 Planning Commission - 7pm
- 22 Ada Township Board Meeting - 7pm

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

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