



.the. ADAVIEW

the ADAVIEW is published by Ada Township

FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK ... A Year In Review



Ross Leisman
Supervisor

It was around a year ago, November 2020, that I was elected as your Township Supervisor. One interesting aspect of the Supervisor's office is the broad view it offers of the many activities taking place in the Township. A full report would take pages, but in the next few paragraphs I would like to pass on some of the highlights of the last year.

Any review of the last year begins with a deep acknowledgement of the physical loss and emotional toll of the pandemic.

At the same time, the resilience and adaptability of the Ada community has been encouraging. The Township government moved quickly to a virtual format, and in that format continued to operate all of its boards, commissions, and committees, along with providing Township services. In the first half of the last year the Township streamlined its committee structure, adopted a balanced budget, refinanced expensive bonds saving hundreds of thousands of dollars, completed and opened a library, and partnered with Kent County to dramatically increase the size of Chief Hazy Cloud Park on the Grand River.

As soon as the state began lifting gathering restrictions, the Township again moved quickly to plan and hold a 4th of July parade and festivities. The community responded with record attendance. In partnership with the Historical Society the Township held popular live Wednesday night music events at the pavilion in Legacy Park. Softball leagues, pickleball, park programs, and rental of Township facilities flourished. This year the Township also invested millions in water and sewer infrastructure improvements, and it began construction of and worked on further planning of the new and improved Township trail system. The Township DDA sponsored a family friendly "Beers at the Bridge" event with live music that was attended by thousands of residents. New stores, offices, and restaurants were approved by the Planning Commission, and construction of unique new buildings in the village area and new quality homes throughout the Township was strong.

The village area of Ada Township increased in popularity as a place for families and friends to walk, bike, eat, drink and gather together. At the same time the Township took a balanced approach and invested in parks, trails and open spaces outside of the village area. An environmental highlight

was groups of volunteers who held events to clean up the river and battle invasive species.

This year the Township hired a new DDA Director, Haley Stichman, and a new Planning Director, John Said. Together with Township Manager Julius Suchy, Fire Chief Dave Murray, Parks Director Mark Fitzpatrick, Assessor Stephanie Boerman and a quality staff, the Township government is operating effectively and efficiently. Many thanks to the resident members of the Planning Commission, ZBA, DDA, DDA Citizens Council, Trail Committee, PLRP, and other Township committees and related associations such as the Historical Society, Friends of the Library, and Ada Business Association for their work this year. And last but not least thank you to the elected members of the Township Board for their work this year. All of these groups are talented, hardworking, and dedicated to serving the public.

On behalf of the Township Board I am pleased to report to you that Ada Township is bursting with energy and excitement for the new year. We are thankful for each one of you, and wish you a prosperous and peaceful new year. Please feel free to contact any of us at the Township with questions or comments at the contact information located in this newsletter or on the website.

Ada's New Planning Director

Ada Township's new Planning Director, John D. Said, AICP, began his role with the Township on August 30. Mr. Said comes to Ada most recently from Holland Charter Township, where he led the Department of Community Development since 2017. In this role he coordinated a complete rewrite of the Township's Zoning Ordinance, and a new Comprehensive Master Plan. Prior to his time with Holland Township, Mr. Said worked in various communities in the Chicago area for many years, including Elmhurst, where he helped lead strategic planning efforts for downtown redevelopment, and Hoffman Estates, where he worked extensively on the Prairie Stone Business Park project. Mr. Said is a Detroit-area native and proud Michigan State University alum. His personal interests include dogs, ice hockey, travel, and outdoor recreational activities. Mr. Said succeeds longtime Planning Director Jim Ferro, who retired from Ada Township in August.



John D. Said
Planning Director

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



ADA FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS –



Dave Murray
Fire Chief

GENERATORS & CARBON MONOXIDE

In August, Ada Township got hit by another wind storm where many homes were without power for days. During that time, the Fire Department responded to several carbon monoxide (CO) alarms. On the majority of these, CO was detected, with the common denominator being the use of generators. If you use a generator,

keep it outside and away from your home and open windows. Always have a CO detector in your home. If you have questions, please call the Fire Department at (616) 676-2376.

FIREFIGHTERS WANTED

We are always looking to add paid on call members to our roster. The majority of our members are paid on call and still have a regular career outside of this commitment. We offer paid schooling, retirement and uniforms. The best part is giving back to the community. We respond to medical emergencies, car accidents and an occasional fire. If you live within the Township, stop by for a pop or coffee and let's talk and answer any questions you might have. If you're interested, fill out an application. I look forward to talking with you!

INCIDENT REPORT THIRD QUARTER

Type	July	August	September
Medical emergency	25	31	26
Vehicle accident	2	8	6
Structure fire Ada	0	0	2
Structure fire auto aid	1	3	5
Grass fire / Illegal burn	0	0	3
Fire alarm	9	17	9
Citizens assist	1	2	0
Good intent odor / gas	3	6	2
CO alarm	0	4	1
Wires down	6	15	0
Total	47	86	54



SANTA ARRIVES!

Your Ada Firefighters are again welcoming Santa to town on Saturday, December 4th at 11am. After he parades through the village, led by the Forest Hills Northern Marching Band and the Ada Christian Band, Santa will make a stop at the Fire Station for pictures, cookies and hot chocolate. So, make your list and come talk with Santa!



OPEN BURNING



Beginning November 1st – April 30th open burning is permitted in the restricted area. The restricted area is South of Fulton & West of the Grand River. Open burning is for brush and yard waste only; building materials and trash are not permitted. Fire must be attended, have a source of extinguishing the fire, and be out by dark. Remember to get a burn permit by calling

the Township offices, (616) 676-9191, Ext. 29. Recreational fires are allowed throughout the Township year-round without a permit.

WINTER DRIVING

Winter is on the way which means your firefighters will be responding to accidents and slide offs. When you see us on an accident please **SLOW DOWN AND MOVE OVER**, give our team the room to work safely. If you see a car off the road and marked with yellow caution tape, know that the vehicle has been reported and is awaiting a wrecker. Dispatchers are aware of the vehicle, so there's no need to report it again. Thanks for keeping us safe on the roadways!



Gypsy Moth Update and Egg Mass Survey

Ada Township has engaged the services of Aquatic Consulting Services to complete an Egg Mass Survey. Gypsy moth egg masses are the best indicator of population size and health for the coming season. The adult female gypsy moth lays the egg mass soon after emerging from the pupae in late July or August. She then dies without feeding and the eggs stay on the tree until hatching the next spring. When new, the egg masses are generally a rich tan or brown color with a smooth exterior. As they age over winter, they become bleached to a light tan and the exterior becomes eroded and weathered.



If we know the density of the egg masses, their average size, and the amount of parasitism on the eggs, Aquatic Consulting Services can predict with a high degree of accuracy

what the coming summer's population will likely be in that area. Once Aquatic Consulting Services has reviewed the data, they will recommend potential spray locations. The Township will work with identified property owners to discuss any potential spraying plan in 2022.

Please contact Ada Township Manager Julius Suchy, jsuchy@adatownshipmi.com with the address of known locations of Gypsy Moth egg mass and/or tree defoliation. Those locations will be passed along to Aquatic Consulting Services. A big thanks to residents who have already contacted the Township with their address for known locations of Gypsy Moths.

For recognizing the Gypsy Moths, the adult females generally have white wings with wavy black markings, while the adult males will be smaller with brown wings with dark markings. The caterpillars will be hairy, with a black and yellow head and 5 pairs of blue spots followed by 6 pairs of red spots

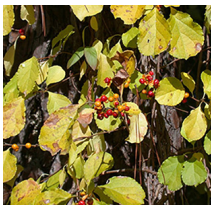
Gypsy Moth caterpillars will begin to emerge from egg masses around April and then feed on leaves. They often feed on Oak and Aspen, but have been found to be on hundreds of other plant species.

Once the Gypsy Moth caterpillars feed on the trees, they can defoliate trees leaving the trees vulnerable to diseases and other pests. This could lead to tree mortality.

For more information on Gypsy Moths visit: www.canr.msu.edu/ipm/Invasive_species/Gypsy-Moth/index

Please Keep Working to Reduce Oriental Bittersweet Vines

Winter is still a good time to help eradicate Oriental Bittersweet vines. **Oriental Bittersweet** (*Celastrus orbiculata*) is recognized by long vines that "wind" up trees and their showy red and yellow fruits. As the vines make their way up trees, they



restrict sap flow, cover the tree leaves and eventually kill the tree. Use loppers or pruners to cut the vines at the ground level and as high as you can reach.

It is best to apply an herbicide to the cut section near the ground to prevent new growth. Please be cautious not to get any herbicide on you, nearby plants, or the ground. Woody sections of cut vines can be left to decompose, but any berries should be bagged and put in the trash.

For more details see: https://www.michigan.gov/invasives/0,5664,7-324-68002_71240_73852-379484--,00.html

Photo Credit: J. Allison, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Bugwood.org



CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Ada Township Park –
December 26, 2021 – January 11, 2022

"Christmas Tree Recycling" will take place at Ada Township Park from December 26, 2021 through January 11, 2022. Ada Township residents may drop off Christmas Trees for recycling to the back parking lot of Ada Township Park between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

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 trees only – no yard waste, trimmings, wreaths or commercial businesses drop off.





LIBRARY NEWS

The Amy Van Andel Library is preparing for a number of amazing Winter programs, including Babytime, Ada Z Book Club, an adult watercolor class, and a mushroom foraging tutorial. We will also be adding a new afternoon Family Storytime in January and February. Be sure to check out all the library's resources (including a virtual tour and information about reserving study rooms) at <https://kdl.org/locations/ADA/>.

If you're interested in joining the Friends of the Amy Van Andel Library, visit <https://www.adalibraryfriends.com/> or find us on Facebook.

And don't forget to tune in to our monthly Amy Van Andel Library-Ada Community Center Podcast, hosted by librarian Penni Zurgable, at <https://kentdistrictlibrary.podbean.com/>.

A big **THANK YOU** to all our 2021 Beers at the Bridge and Brats & Bonfires sponsors for helping us put on two great events this year! We could not have done it without you!



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Heaven at Home Pet Hospice
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KDL/Amy Van Andel Library
Keystone Home Group
Lake Michigan Credit Union
Laurel & Jack
Let Us Inc.

Lifeologie Counseling
Lown Homes
Lucas Howard Group
Norman Family Dentistry
Paul Ortiz - State Farm Agent
Pediatric Dental Specialists of West MI
Pennell CPA
River Valley Credit Union
RRR Lawn and Landscape
Sunrise Senior Living
Village Kids Consignment Boutique
Wilcox Properties

LIBRARY FRIENDS HOLIDAY BOOK SALE



- Friday, December 3
4:00 PM to 9:00 PM
- Saturday, December 4
9:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Great books make great holiday gifts! So be sure to make a stop at the Friends of the Amy Van Andel Library Used Book Sale at the Library during the Tinsel, Treats & Trolleys event on Friday evening, December 3. We will be open from 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM in the lobby area. If you miss us on Friday, the sale will also be held on Saturday, December 4, from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Our sale is also an opportunity to gift the Library Friends by becoming a member.

Friends of the Amy Van Andel Library @ www.adalibraryfriends.com

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Personal Property is defined by the State Tax Commission as all property that is not real property. So, these are items like furniture and fixtures, machinery and equipment, and computer equipment. Situs is the location of the Personal Property on Tax Day, which is December 31st of every year.

Annually it is the responsibility of the business owner to file a Personal Property Statement reporting the costs of the current assets. There are different types of forms depending on the type of business:

- ◆ Some businesses file the L-4175 which is the Full Personal Property Statement. This form must be completed and delivered to the Assessor's office by Tuesday, February 22, 2022.
- ◆ Some businesses may be eligible for the Small Business Property Tax Exemption Form 5076, if they have less than \$80,000 in assets. This form is also due on February 22, 2022 (if not previously exempted in prior years) however postmarks are acceptable.
- ◆ Manufacturing businesses may also qualify for the Eligible Manufacturing Personal Property Tax Exemption Form 5278. This form must be completed and delivered to the Assessor's office by Tuesday, February 22, 2022.

The Assessor's job is to complete a Personal Property Canvas at the end of every year to visit new businesses, note changes on existing businesses, deliver forms and answer any Personal Property related questions. All Personal Property parcels are required to have an assessment whether a form is completed and returned or not, so sometimes the Assessor is required to make an estimated assessment.

For more information or questions, please contact Township Assessor Stephanie Boerman at (616) 676-9191 or sboerman@adatownshipmi.com.

ADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Events for December 2021,
January & February 2022

ADA HISTORY CENTER

Ada
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Averill
HISTORICAL
MUSEUM

www.AdaHistoryCenter.org

(616) 676-9346

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

AdaHistoryCenter@gmail.com

OPEN HOURS

At the Ada History Center we *preserve, share, and celebrate* the unique history of the Ada community and have SO MANY new things to share with you. Come explore the past in Ada that made us what we are today.

If you've been thinking about making a visit, head our way before the new year! The Ada History Center is closed to visitation every January & February. As a small non-profit, we look forward to giving our volunteers a break, doing some deep cleaning, and working on behind-the-scenes projects. We'll be back open again in March with a brand-new temporary exhibit.

December 9, January 13, & February 10 – Monthly Board Meeting

3:00pm at the Ada History Center. Historical Society board meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month and are open to the public. We welcome your involvement. Join us to see how we're making history!

December 3 – Tinsel, Treats & Trolleys

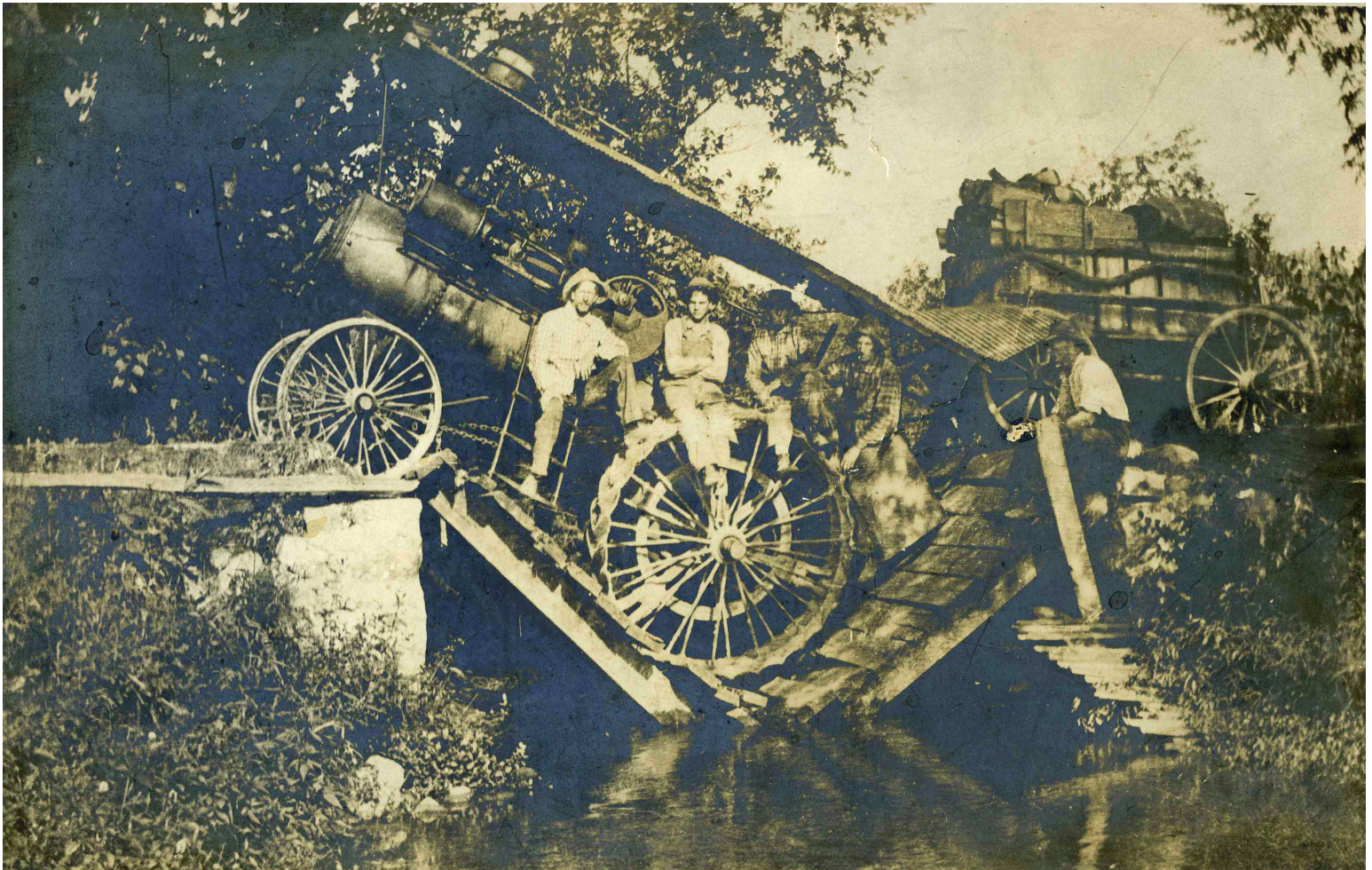
6-9:00pm all around the village. Begin with the covered bridge lighting at 5:30pm. Then jingle on down to visit Mrs. Claus at the museum and shop holiday wreaths in the barn.

December 4 – Ada Santa Parade

11:00am in the village. After the parade, swing by the museum and barn for a peek inside and some historic holiday cheer.

Centennial Properties Program

The Centennial Properties program continues to recognize homes and commercial buildings 100 years of age and older. We honor the importance of historic properties and the value they add to our community today. Find photos of all these treasures on our Facebook page. Check out www.AdaHistoryCenter.org for more information on the program and an application.



Uh-oh. The Sisson brothers take an unexpected break driving their tractor on a Conservation St. bridge over Honey Creek c. 1920. With so much grain grown locally, neighbors traveled from farm to farm sharing the costly equipment and labor needed to get the job done.

ADA PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Contact Information:

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

Email: adaparks@adatownshipmi.com

Website: www.adatownshipmi.com

Facebook: Ada Village

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

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

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

ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS & PRESERVES

Ada Township Park 1180 Buttrick Ave. 57 acres. Park office, 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.

Kent County Parks in Ada Township:

Chief Hazy Cloud Park, 150 Pettis Ave.
Seidman Park, 8155 Conservation Rd.
www.kentcountyparks.org

PARK RULES AND USE

COVID-19: Please follow current protocols.

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.

WiFi is available in the parks near the buildings.

UPDATES ON PARKS, PRESERVES & TRAILS

New Facility & Program Reservations Process

We are starting a new software program for facility rentals and program reservations. This will allow you to reserve a facility or make a program reservation online, plus you will also be able to make payments with a credit card. Note that you will have to go to the site and "sign up" to become engaged in the service. To get started, go to the Parks page on the Township website: www.adamichigan.org/township/departments/parks-recreation. Please check with the Park office for additional information.

Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Plan Update

Thanks to everyone who participated in our public input sessions and online survey. A draft of the plan will be posted on the Township website for a public review period from November 29 to December 29, 2021: www.adamichigan.org/township/departments/parks-recreation. On January 10, 2022 there will be a Public Hearing for additional comments at the Ada Township Board meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the Ada Township Hall.

E-Newsletter and Parks Mailing List

To receive updates on events, programs and cancellations, be sure you are on our "parks mailing list". Send an email to adaparks@adatownshipmi.com to get signed up or call the Park office at (616) 676-0520.

Leonard Field Park Improvements

We should hear in December on the status of a MI DNR grant application to support improvements to the park riverfront access, decks, and accessibility. Pledges and donations are also being accepted to meet our match. Once the grant is confirmed, a construction schedule will be set. For details, contact the Park office.

Roselle Park Improvements

Plans for constructing a new accessible shelter, picnic area and improvement to the playground and parking lot are soon to be finalized. Expectations are for the project to start in 2022 and finish in 2023. Pledges and donations to support this project are now being accepted. Contact the Park office on how you can help.

Bike Paths and Non-motorized Trails

This fall, improvements were made on the trails along Ada Drive and through the Consumers Energy Easement south of Ada Drive. In addition, the first section of the trail along Fase Street has been installed. A series of additional trail projects are being set up as part of a multi-year plan.

Please be careful on the trails and boardwalks during the winter months. They can be slippery when wet or icy. Please report any issues or concerns to the Park office at (616) 676-0520 or adaparks@adatownshipmi.com.

ADA PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Please contact the Park office for details, to register or to be put on our mailing list: (616) 676-0520.

Events and programs are also posted on our website and the Ada Village Facebook page: adaparks@adatownshipmi.com

Upcoming Community Events

Tinsel, Treats & Trolleys
Friday, December 3 – 6-9P
Ada Village

Coordinated by the Ada Business Association
www.adabusinessassociation.com

Santa Parade
Saturday, December 4
10:00A Line up starts on River Street
11:00A Parade starts

Contact the Fire Department for details, (616) 676-2376.



Youth Programs

School Field Trip Opportunities

Place-based, hands-on outdoor and environmental education experiences are available at Roselle Park and Ada Park. Themes include watersheds, rivers and wetlands; leaves and trees; wildlife and habitats; and others. Programs typically run 1½ to 2½ hours. All programs are aligned with curriculums and tailored to your needs. Contact the Park office for details.

Boy Scout and Girl Scout Opportunities

Achievement badge theme programs and service-learning opportunities are available for Scout groups by scheduling field trips to the parks. Contact Park office for details.

2022 Summer Day Camps

Planning for our summer youth day programs in the parks is underway but not finalized yet. Please contact the Park office to receive updates and registration materials.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Family Programs

Intro to Winter Sports
Saturday, January 15
Two sessions: 10-11:30A & 11:30A-1:00P
Roselle Park \$5.00/person

This will be an introduction to cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Bill and Paul's Sporthaus will provide XC skis and snowshoes, coaching and information. 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 size skis. Feel free to bring your own cross-country skis or snowshoes. Pre-registration is requested.



Build a Bluebird Nesting Box
Saturday, February 12 – 10A-12P
Roselle Park \$10/kit

Love is in the air! Show some love and appreciation for our wildlife by building a birdhouse to take home. Perfect for families or couples looking for a date idea. Presentation on local birds and Bluebirds, followed by a make your own birdhouse session. Materials and tools provided. Pre-registration is required by February 7 for a kit.

Adult Programs

Adult Softball Leagues –
Ada and Leonard Field Parks

Plans for 2022 are under way for Tuesday night men's slow pitch leagues and Wednesday night coed leagues. 2022 league registrations will start in February. Spring/summer season games start early May, fall season starts late August. Contact the Park office or website for information or team registration forms.



Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer opportunities include assisting with gardens, grounds, trails, habitat stewardship, office tasks, and programs. Individuals and groups are welcome. Contact the Park office for an application or schedule of events.

Stewardship workdays are occasionally scheduled in local parks and preserves to help maintain habitats and reduce invasive plants. Contact the Park office to sign up or for schedules.



Happy Holidays

from
Ada Township Offices

TOWNSHIP OFFICES
WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS:
 Fri., December 24, 2021 • Mon., December 27, 2021
 AND
 Fri., December 31, 2021 • Mon., January 3, 2022



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 (2021-2022) WINTER ISSUE

DECEMBER

- 7 Zoning Board of Appeals – 4:30pm
- 9 PRLP Advisory Board Meeting – 8:30am
- 9 Ada Historical Society Board Meeting – 3pm
- 13 Downtown Development Authority – 8am
- 13 Ada Township Board Meeting – 7pm
- 14 Ada Board of Review – 8am
- 16 Planning Commission – 7pm
- 13 Ada Historical Society Board Meeting – 3pm
- 17 **Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Township Office Closed**
- 20 Planning Commission – 7pm
- 24 Ada Township Board Meeting – 7pm

FEBRUARY

- 1 Zoning Board of Appeals – 4:30pm
- 10 PRLP Advisory Board Meeting – 8:30am
- 10 Ada Historical Society Board Meeting – 3pm
- 14 Downtown Development Authority – 8am
- 14 **TAX PAYMENTS DUE @ ADA TOWNSHIP OFFICE BY 5PM**
- 14 Ada Township Board Meeting – 7pm
- 17 Planning Commission – 7pm
- 21 **President's Day – Township Office Closed**
- 28 Ada Township Board Meeting – 7pm

JANUARY

- 3 **New Year's Holiday – Township Office Closed**
- 4 Zoning Board of Appeals – 4:30pm
- 10 Downtown Development Authority – 8am
- 10 Ada Township Board Meeting – 7pm
- 13 PRLP Advisory Board Meeting – 8:30am

PLEASE WATCH OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES.
www.adatownshipmi.com

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

(remove & save)

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

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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

ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD:

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