



the ADAVIEW

the ADAVIEW is published by Ada Township

M-21 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT UPDATE { From Supervisor George Haga

Traffic access across the river will be maintained at all times.

After several months of dialogue between the Michigan DOT, Ada Township, the Ada Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and the Ada business community, a plan and schedule are now in place to replace the M-21 bridge in a manner that maintains traffic access across the river at all times. The Michigan DOT has made a commitment that **THE M-21 BRIDGE WILL NOT BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC AT ANY TIME DURING THE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT.**

Temporary bridge span to be constructed.

In order to maintain traffic access across the river during the bridge replacement project, a temporary, 2-lane bridge (one lane in each direction) will be built across the river, immediately adjacent to and south of the existing bridge. Following completion of the new bridge, the temporary bridge will be removed.

Lane closures to begin in September, 2010 and last until November, 2011

Michigan DOT anticipates the following construction sequence and schedule for the project:

September, 2010: Lane closures will begin on the highway in the vicinity of the bridge, while preparations are made for construction of the temporary bridge.

April, 2011: The temporary, 2-lane bridge will be completed, and traffic will be diverted onto the temporary bridge. Posted traffic speeds will be reduced to 35 mph or less.

April, 2011: Removal of the existing bridge will begin. Following removal of the current bridge, construction of the replacement bridge will occur.

October, 2011: Construction of the permanent bridge will be nearly complete, and traffic will be shifted to the new bridge, with one lane in each direction. Work will begin on removal of the temporary bridge.

November, 2011: Following removal of the temporary bridge, the new bridge will be placed in full operation, with 2 traffic lanes in each direction open.

May, 2012: Final cleanup and restoration of the area will be completed, and the pedestrian/bicycle lane on the bridge will be open.

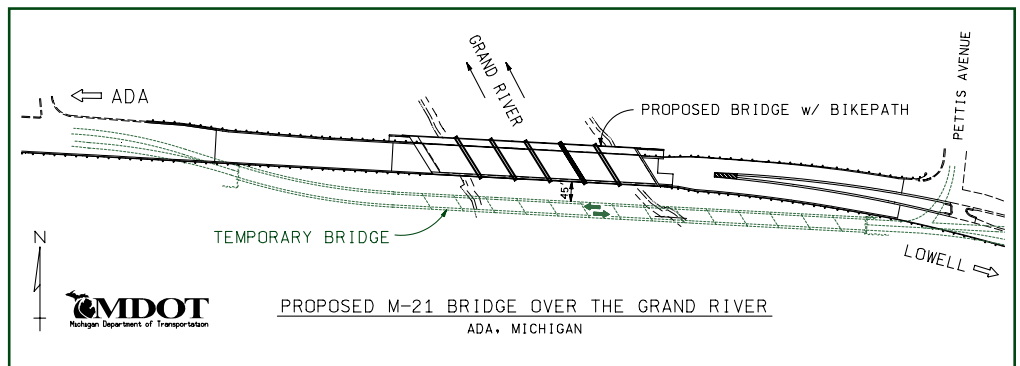
Impact of the project on traffic flow.

There will be some traffic congestion and delays during peak traffic times (morning and afternoon commuting hours) at the bridge. Outside of these brief periods, it is expected that there will be no delays or traffic congestion for those who use the bridge.

What you can do to minimize traffic congestion, delay and inconvenience crossing the river.

To avoid and reduce congestion, commuters are encouraged to consider the following actions to help lessen traffic congestion, delays and inconvenience during this project:

- Adjust travel times slightly so that trips across the bridge are either before or after peak traffic times. Consider leaving earlier for work, or delay the trip home after work by 15 or 20 minutes to avoid peak travel time on the bridge, and allow traffic to clear.
- If you find that traffic is delayed at the bridge on your morning or evening commute, consider stopping and patronizing local businesses while you wait for traffic to clear.
- If your employment situation allows, consider working from home for 1 or ½ day per week, to help reduce the peak traffic load on the bridge during the construction.



FIREFIGHTER OF THE ISSUE



Firefighter Scott Ross has been a member of the Fire Department for 23 years. For the last ten years Scott has overseen all the vehicle maintenance for the Department. "I enjoy working in the town I grew up

in, and enjoy working with the members of the Department, and other Departments in the area. The Fire Service has always been a passion of mine. I am proud to work and live in the community where I was raised. It's a wonderful thing to wake up every day and looking forward to going to a job I love. "

COMING THIS FALL:

Ada / Cascade Township Clean-Up Day

Saturday, October 16 8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Ada Township Leaf Pick-Up dates:

Tuesday, October 26 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 16 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

* Bags can be purchased at the Treasurer's office, for \$.75 each. The cost of the bags includes the pick-up service.

SOLICITATION IN THE TOWNSHIP

During the past several months there have been many reports of solicitors going door-to-door who have behaved in a pushy or suspicious manner, and/or could not or would not show proper identification. In accordance with Chapter 54, Peddlers and Solicitors, of the Ada Township Code of Ordinances, any one who solicits in Ada Township is required to obtain a license (permit) from the Township Clerk, for which a fee is paid. Involved in this process is a background check and photo ID. If the license is approved and issued, any person soliciting under that application will be required to show an authorizing document issued by the Township and identified as such. Licenses are valid for 30 days, and may be renewed by the Township Clerk for an extended period of time.

If an individual comes to your door for the purpose of selling you something, ask them to show you their authorizing document which is a "Door-To-Door Solicitation Permit" with "Ada Township" and their name on it. They must carry it with them at all times. If they can't, or won't produce it, call the East Precinct immediately at 632-6394 or the Kent County Sheriff after hours at 616-632-6100. Personal descriptions and license plate numbers help law enforcement apprehend violators.

ADA PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

You're Input Is Requested

Ada Township Parks & Recreation Department is in the process of updating the *Township's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan*. This document is used as a guide for park master plans, land acquisition goals, recreation programs and our strategic planning process. It is updated every 5 years.

A copy of the current "2007 Recreation Plan" is available on the Ada Township web site "Parks & Recreation" page:

www.adatownshipmi.com.

We would like your input, ideas and suggestions.

Please feel free to attend one of the following information and comment sessions:

Thursday, September 23RD, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

At the Learning Center in Ada Township Park

1180 Buttrick, Ada, MI

Saturday, October 2ND, at 11:00 a.m. and at 1:00 p.m.

At the Roselle Park during the River Festival

1010 Grand River Dr., Ada MI

Comments may also be sent by direct mail to: P.O. Box 370, 7330 Thornapple River Dr., Ada, MI 49301, or emailed to:

mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com.

Thanks for all your support of our Township Parks!

Clerk's Office

NOVEMBER 2ND: GENERAL ELECTION!

Do not forget to VOTE on Tuesday, November 2nd.

At this election you will be voting for:

- Michigan Governor
- Representative in Congress for the 3rd District (Vern Ehler's seat)
- State Senator for the 28TH District, Representative in the State Legislature for the 86TH District
- County Commissioner from the 4TH District
- Proposals, one of which will ask whether the State shall hold a Constitutional Convention.

October 4 will be the last day anyone can register to vote in the November General Election.

The Clerk's Office sent out Absentee Voter Applications to everyone on the permanent absentee voter list before the August 3RD Primary Election, and to all of those who requested them. The form was a double Absentee Voter Application that allowed for the recipient to check on the form whether he or she wanted the application for both elections. Those of you who checked on the form that you want an absentee ballot for the November Election will automatically receive a ballot prior to the election. For any of you who didn't check the November election or decide you want an absentee ballot, please call, email or send a letter to the Clerk's Office with that request.

If you are interested in working for the election, please call the Clerk's Office. We are always in need of new Election Inspectors! There will be certifying and Electronic Poll Book training sessions at the Township Hall prior to the election.

Clerk's Office: 676-9191 ext. 20

Email: dthompson@adatownshipmi.com

Mailing Address: Ada Township
P.O. 370,
7330 Thornapple River Dr.
Ada, MI 49301

FINDLAY CEMETERY

The gates to Findlay Cemetery will be opened every Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., from May through November.

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER...

Winter tax bills will be mailed the week of November 29, 2010. **The due date for the winter tax is February 14, 2011 by 5:00 p.m.** Remember **POSTMARKS ARE NOT ACCEPTED** as date received. All payments received in our drop box between December 30, 2010 and **8:00 a.m.** on January 4, 2011 will be posted as "PAID" December 31, 2010. After March 1, 2011 all unpaid real property taxes will be turned over to the Kent County Treasurers Office for collection.

If you have your taxes escrowed, a mortgage company is listed on your bill and they have also received a copy of your tax bill. If so, please keep this copy for your tax records. Some mortgage companies utilize a taxing service to gather all of your tax information. If there is a different name or code on your bill other than your mortgage company, it will indicate the taxing service name that your mortgage company utilizes. *(Example: If Provident Funding is your mortgage company, they may utilize First American Real Estate Tax Service. On your bill the mortgage code is FAMTX.)*

The usual payment options still apply; by mail, in person, by credit card (*see the reverse side of your tax bill for instructions*). Credit cards are **NOT** accepted at the Township. Additionally, you may sign up for ACH electronic payments. Please contact our office for more information about ACH.

Dog licenses for 2011 are available at our office starting December 1, 2010 through March 1, 2011. The State of Michigan requires all dogs age 4 months and older to be licensed. In order for a 2011 license to be issued, a current rabies certificate, and proof of neuter/spay must be presented. You can secure a copy of these documents through your veterinarian.

Norm Rhoades, Treasurer 616-676-9191 ext 23
nrhoades@adatownshipmi.com

Gina Olszewski, Deputy Treasurer 616-676-9191 ext 27
golszewski@adatownshipmi.com

NOTE: The back door of the Township Offices (facing Bronson Street) will be locked to all but Township staff. Please use the front door of the Township Offices which is on Thornapple River Dr. THANK YOU.

COMING THIS WINTER

Thursday, December 2ND, the Second Annual Bridge Lighting Ceremony, followed by TROLLEY, TREATS & TINSEL. Look for more details in the next AdaView, and on our website: adatownshipmi.com.

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, Ada, 49301
E-News: To receive news and updates from the Parks & Recreation Department via e-mail send a request to: mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com

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:

Ada Park & Locke Arboretum 1180 Buttrick Ave., 57 acres, Softball & soccer fields, tennis courts, basketball court, playground, fishing pond, trails, picnic tables, grills, pavilion, gazebos, Park offices, Learning Center and Locke Arboretum.

Leonard Field & 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. Enter via Ada Park or McGraw Park, 110 acres. Nature area, trails, bike path, woodlands, wetlands, Grand River shoreline.

Roselle Park 1010 Grand River Dr. NE, 247 acres
 Bike path, trails, picnic area, observation decks, natural areas, wetlands, prairie, woods, Grand River shoreline.

Facility Use

Park Hours: Park grounds are open to the public dawn to dusk, seven days a week.

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

Motorized Recreation vehicles are not allowed.

Ada Park Shelter & Gazebo Rentals and Reservations: Available April through October. For rates, availability, use policies or reservations, contact the Park office. The Ada Covered Bridge is not rented out for private use.

Athletic Fields:

Athletic fields (baseball, soccer) at Ada Park and Leonard Field are used in the spring, summer and fall for area leagues and instructional programs. Contact the park office for information, schedules or reservations.

Basketball, Volleyball & Tennis Courts at Ada Park are open to the public except during scheduled lessons and programs. Tennis Courts #5 and #6 are set up for Pickleball. Check with the office for schedule details or to reserve a time.

Special Events

Roselle Park River Festival



**Saturday, October 2,
 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 Free**

Come out and enjoy Ada Township's new Roselle Park! There will be activities for all ages plus food, music and river stewardship information.

Special activities set for the day will include:

- *Exhibits by local conservation organizations.
- *Hands-on and discovery activities for kids
- *Kayak and canoe information
- *Live Music
- *Snacks available
- *Walking, hiking & biking
- *Free admission

Bats of the World



**Thursday, October 21
 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
 Ada Park Learning Center
 \$4/adult \$3/ child**

A special presentation by the Organization for Bat Conservation (www.obc.org) with live bats and an exciting

multimedia presentation about bats from around the world. Learn about the benefits of these fascinating creatures, their unique adaptations, sound waves, ecosystems, food webs, conservation and world geography. Live bats to be shown including a local brown bat and a large fruit bat known as the "Flying Fox" with a 4-foot wingspan!

Reservations are required since space is limited. Call ahead at 616-676-0520 or email us. Ada Parks & Recreation Department.

"Creatures of the Night" Hike

**Saturday, October 23 Ada Township Park \$3/person
 Start times from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

Sign up your family or group for a start time between 6:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., one departs every 15 minutes. Arrive at the Shelter at Ada Park to be guided through the trails where you will "encounter" a series of spooky (and some not so spooky) "creatures" who will tell you in a fun way about their lives in the wild. Snacks and a craft included after the hikes. Pre-registering with the Park office for a designated start time recommended. Ages 4 through adult suggested. Costumes optional. \$3/person.

Parks & Recreation Department (con't)

Youth Programs

Pre-registration requested by calling 676-0520 or email: mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com

Discovery Days



10:00 a.m. - 12 noon
Ages 3-5 \$4/youth
Ada Park Learning Center
 Especially for Pre-Schoolers
 along with a parent or
 guardian to have a fun,

educational adventure in Ada Park. Each session with an indoor hands-on activity, nature craft and a guided discovery experience outdoors. Each program to be offered on two consecutive days. Come dressed to be walking outside.

“Be a Nature Detective”

Wed., Sept. 15 and Thursday, September 16

Use your senses to learn about the natural world. Look for shapes and colors in trees and flowers. Listen with ears like a rabbit for sounds in the woods and field.

“Go Batty”

Wed., October 13 and Thursday, October 14

Find out why bats are so important, learn about their amazing adaptations, and make a bat finger puppet.

“Super Squirrels”

Tuesday, November 9 and Wed., November 10

Learn about 4 different types of Michigan squirrels and their chipmunk cousins. Take a walk to look for squirrel homes and make a chipmunk nest.

Connecting Families with Nature



“Passport to Adventure” Celebration Day
Saturday, September 25 John Ball Zoo

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Special behind the scenes tour & activities at the Zoo. 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Tour the Zoo, Exhibits. If you have not received a “Passport,” for area parks, nature centers and stewardship activities yet, please contact us in early September to get one. Completed (or partially completed) Passports need to be checked in to the Ada Park office by Friday, September 24 to redeem a free ticket to the Zoo on the 25th.

Schools Based Programs

Opportunities for preK-12 schools range from guided field trips in the parks (\$2), to service learning projects (free) to shelter facilities for rent (\$25/day). Contact the Park office for details, curriculum, fees and scheduling.

Boy and Girl Scout Programs:

Scout groups are welcome to the resources of Ada Parks & staff to help complete badge requirements, have field trip outings, conduct service projects, or rent a facility. Contact the Park office for details, fees and scheduling.

Adult Programs

Ada Fall Adult Softball Program



New fall Adult Leagues are underway with games and practices on the fields in Ada Park and Leonard Field. Men's Slow Pitch is on Tuesday evenings and Co-ed is on Wednesdays through September.

For information on getting teams involved with Ada Parks Softball programs, sponsoring teams or field use, contact the Park Office at 676-0520 or email rmccormick@adatownshipmi.com.

“Healthy Outings” in Ada Township Parks

Guided instructional activities to enjoy camaraderie and healthy enrichment in Ada Parks. Dates and times vary. Contact the Park office at 676-0520 to pre-register.

Fall Color Tour & Nature Walk \$3/person

Tuesday, October 5 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Ada Park

Fall Color Tour by Bike \$3/person

Tuesday, Oct. 12 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Roselle Park

“Mother Nature’s Gym” www.mothenaturewsgym.com

Instruction and coaching to encourage a healthy lifestyle.

Thursday mornings in Ada Park

September 5th through October 21st

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. \$3/person/session

Guided fresh air fitness working at your own pace. Includes a variety of stretches, warm-ups, meditative movements, yoga & walks. www.mothenaturesgym.com

Pickleball in Ada Park: Courts 5 & 6 reserved for this use on Wednesdays and Sundays, 4-8 p.m.

Volunteer Opportunities

Ada Parks & Recreation Department is recruiting volunteers to assist with grounds care, x-c trail, habitat stewards and clerical support. Contact the Park office at 676-0502 or mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com for an application.

Upcoming volunteer work days:

Wed., Sept. 8	9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon	Ada Park
Wed., Sept 22	9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon	Roselle Park
Wed., Oct. 6	9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon	Leonard Field
Wed., Oct. 20	9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon	Ada Park
Wed., Nov. 3	9:30 a.m. -12:00 noon	Roselle Park

Thornapple River & Grand River

Annual “Clean-Up Day”

Saturday, Sept. 18, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.,
Leonard Field



Care for our local waterways by helping pick up trash along the shores and in the rivers and nearby streams. Meet at Leonard Field Park by the Covered Bridge

for check-in. You can join either a “land team” (on the shores) or a “water team” (canoes, kayaks) to collect trash along the Thornapple and Grand Rivers that run through Ada Township. Supplies, gloves, snacks and lunch provided. Pre-registration required by contacting the Park office.

HARVEST SEASON ALSO INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL SEASON

In addition to completing those annual fall tasks of raking and bagging leaves, mulching the perennials, etc., the fall season is also an opportune time for control of certain invasive species that threaten our natural surroundings.

In particular, fall is a good time to undertake removal of the following invasive plants:

Autumn Olive

Japanese Barberry

Asian Bittersweet

Purple Loosestrife

Japanese Knotweed

Information on the problems posed by these plants and methods for limiting their spread can be found on the following web sites:

www.stewardshipnetwork.org

<http://www.misin.msu.edu>

Assessor’s Office

FIELD INSPECTIONS

The assessor’s office will be working on all open building permits for the year as well as those permits pulled for new construction since January 1ST.

The assessor’s office will also continue to be working on neighborhood reviews. We will be in a marked vehicle and will have identification. If you have concerns please call the Ada Township office at **616-676-9191**.

BROADBAND INTERNET UPDATE

Our efforts to receive Broadband Internet service in our under-served areas in Ada Township continue. Three townships, Ada, Lowell and Vergennes, have teamed together to write a marketing report for companies to use as part of their application to receive stimulus dollars from the Federal Government for the expansion of Broadband Internet in areas like ours. A company called Azulstar, a communications firm from Grand Haven, submitted their application for stimulus funds using our tri-township marketing report.

As of this writing, not all the stimulus funds have been awarded. There is still one billion dollars available with two more award dates coming up, the last of which is September 7TH. Christopher Borek, Azulstar’s Vice President of Corporate Development, said “I’m optimistic that our name may be called on one of these two future dates”.

If Azulstar receives stimulus dollars, Ada Township will be targeted as one of many locations locally for improved hi-speed internet. Check with our local papers, and the township website: www.adatownshipmi.com for updates on this very important project.

ELECTION INSPECTORS NEEDED

The Clerk’s Office is looking for qualified individuals to work for the General Election, to be held on Tuesday, November 2ND. Election Inspectors are paid for mandatory training and for Election Day, and must be registered voters residing in Kent County. Basic computer skills are preferred. College students are welcome to apply. If you are interested, please contact the Clerk’s Office at 616-676-9191 ext. 20, or email the Deputy Clerk at: dthompson@adatownshipmi.com.

Ada Historical Society & Museum

EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, & NOVEMBER 2010

September 11, 2010: Membership Meeting.

10:30 a.m. at the museum. All are welcome.

October 2, 2010: RiverFest.

Roselle Park We will join the Ada Parks Dept.'s annual fall festival featuring games, music, a discovery building, and exhibits from area conservation organizations. Come join the fun!

October 9, 2010: Membership Meeting

10:30 a.m. at the museum. All are welcome.



October 28 & 29, 2010: Pumpkin Carving Contest

Submit your best creation to our annual competition and win! Categories for judging include Funniest, Scariest and Most Creative. The barn will be open to receive pumpkins on the 28TH from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Awards will be given the next night, the 29TH, at 7:00 p.m.

November 11, 2010: Veteran's Lecture

Commemorate the day by attending a lecture in honor of veterans. Look on our website, www.adahistoricalsociety.org, or call the museum, 676-9346, for more details on the lecture topic, coming soon!

November 13, 2010: Membership Meeting

10:30 a.m. at the museum. All are welcome.

November 26 - December 11, 2010: Holiday Wreath Sale

Deck the halls and support local history at the same time! Our annual wreath sale will be open during regular museum hours, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. and other special hours. For additional sale times or information, check our website or call the museum.



Contact Information

Address: 7144 Headley St., Ada

Phone: 616.676.9346

E-mail: adahistoricalsociety@gmail.com

On the Web: www.adahistoricalsociety.org

FARMER'S MARKET REMINDER:

The Ada Village Farmers Market is wrapping up their very successful summer season in September. **The last market day of the season will be Tuesday, September 28TH.** The market opens at noon and closes at 6:00 p.m., rain or shine.



CALENDAR {2010}

September

- 6 **Labor Day**
- 7 Zoning Board of Appeals - 4:30 p.m.
- 7 Downtown Development Authority - 8:30 a.m.
- 7 **Farmers Market - 12:00 to 6:00 p.m.**
- 9 Open Space Preservation Advisory Bd - 4:00 p.m.
- 13 Board Meeting - 7:30 p.m.
- 14 **Farmers Market - 12:00 to 6:00 p.m.**
- 16 Planning Commission - 7:30 p.m.
- 18 **Thornapple River & Grand River Annual Clean-Up Day**
- 21 **Farmers Market - 12:00 to 6:00 p.m.**
- 27 Board Meeting - 7:30 p.m.
- 28 **Farmers Market - 12:00 to 6:00 p.m.**

October

- 2 **Roselle Park River Festival - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**
- 4 Downtown Development Authority - 8:30 a.m.
- 4 **Last day to Register to Vote!**
- 7 Zoning Board of Appeals - 4:30 p.m.
- 11 Board Meeting - 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Planning Commission - 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Open Space Preservation Advisory Bd - 4:00 p.m.
- 16 **Ada Cascade CLEAN-UP DAY 8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**
- 18 Ethics Board - 6:15 p.m.
- 25 Board Meeting - 7:30 p.m.
- 26 **Leaf Pick-Up - 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**
- 28 & 29 **Pumpkin Carving Contest at Historical Society**

November

- 1 Downtown Development Authority - 8:30 a.m.
- 2 Zoning Board of Appeals - 4:30 p.m.
- 2 **GENERAL ELECTIONS - 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**
- 4 Open Space Preservation Advisory Bd - 4:00 p.m.
- 8 Board Meeting - 7:30 p.m.
- 11 **Veterans Day**
- 11 **Veteran's Lecture at Historical Society**
- 16 **Leaf Pick-Up Day - 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**
- 18 Planning Commission - 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Board Meeting - 7:30 p.m.
- 25 **Thanksgiving Day**
- 26 **Day After Thanksgiving, Office Closed**
- 26 - Dec.11 **Holiday Wreath Sale at Historical Society**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION *(remove & save)*

AdaView is published by Ada Township Board.
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616-676-9191
www.adatownshipmi.com

HOURS:

Monday-Friday
8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Closed Holidays

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