



# the ADAVIEW

the ADAVIEW is published by Ada Township



## THINK SPRING...MOTHER'S DAY, BUDS IN BLOOM AND ART!

Get ready for Ada's Annual Rite of Spring, "Arts in Ada," hosted by the Ada Arts Council...to be held again on Bronson Street, near Ada's Historic Covered Bridge!

This year's art extravaganza is scheduled for Saturday, May 11th, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Shop from over fifty booths for that special, handcrafted Mother's Day gift! Arts in Ada will feature a variety of artists displaying their beautiful wares under a majestic oak

canopy on Bronson Street. Jewelry, watercolors, stained glass, wood, and much, much more!

Enjoy continuous dance and musical performances, including Ada Dance Academy. Great local eats! Free admission.

Support Art...Support Ada. And don't forget Mom...

Check out the Ada Arts Council's new and improved website at [www.adaarts.org](http://www.adaarts.org).

## ADA / CASCADE CLEAN-UP DAY

For Ada and Cascade residents, we are again hosting the Spring Clean-Up day.

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 4th, 2013 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**WHAT:** Non-hazardous yard and household waste and electronics (computers, TV's, etc.) will be accepted. No hazardous material will be accepted.

**WHERE:** The Kent County Road Commission Garage at the end of Fase Street.

Note: the gates will close promptly at 2:30 – no items can be accepted after that!

**In the Image** will be at the Covered Bridge (**Leonard Field**) for your gently used items. There will also be a document shredding company available at the same location to do "on-site" shredding (up to 100 lbs.) of your personal sensitive documents.

Identification is required to verify your residency within the townships of Ada or Cascade (if you live in GRAND RAPIDS TOWNSHIP but your mailing address is Ada, you DO NOT QUALIFY).

For questions, call Ada Township Hall (616) 676-9191 ext. 29 M-F, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Or Cascade Township (616) 949-1500

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

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

# Ada Historical Society & Museum

## Events for March, April and May 2013

### March 16, 2013

**Event:** The Forest Hills Community Expo is just around the corner. Shake off the winter blahs and come sample all the wonderful things our community has to offer. Stop by the Society's booth as you wander, nibble samples of area cuisine, and watch and listen to live entertainment. This annual event is hosted by the Ada Business Association and held at Ada Christian School with free admission, door prizes and a kids' area too.

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

### May 4th and 5th, 2013

**Event:** "Spring Into the Past" small museums tour will be on Saturday and Sunday, May 4th and 5th. There are 24 area museums on the tour this year. Stop by Ada's museum for a brochure and to get information on locations and times.

### Board Elections

Elections are coming up for officers and our board of directors. Nominations will be made in April with voting to take place in May. We always welcome new ideas and skills! Officers and board members serve two year terms. Feel free to call us with any questions regarding expectations and responsibilities. Please consider participating as we plan for the future of the museum, the Historical Society, and its involvement in the Ada community.



Remember this building? From 1853 until 1958, steam locomotives on the Grand Trunk and Western line chugged their way along Bronson St. and connected Ada with the world beyond. The Depot near Bronson and Headley Streets was demolished c. 1986.

## A BIG THANK YOU!

Our annual Holiday Wreath Sale fund raiser was fantastic success this year. We wish to extend our gratitude to all who stopped by the barn. Your generosity will help to fund our programs throughout the year. Thank you for your support and we hope you enjoyed the wreaths!

### Contact Information

7144 Headley St., Ada

Phone: 616.676.9346

[adahistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:adahistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

[www.adahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.adahistoricalsociety.org)

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE TOWNSHIP THIS SPRING

This is a brief synopsis of noteworthy activity in the township in the months of March, April and May. This list may be incomplete in that some activities have not yet been approved by the Board of Trustees. Please check the website for details and updates.

### Road Closings:

The West Michigan Stage Race on Friday, May 17, 2013; Pettis Avenue from Honey Creek to Knapp Street will be closed to thru traffic, from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Run 4 A Cause...Our Kids' 5K Race on Saturday, June 5, 2013; the following roads will be closed from 8:20 a.m. until 9:50 a.m.: Ada Drive will be closed between Ada Elementary and Thornapple. Thornapple will be closed between Fulton and Buttrick. Ada Drive will be open by 9:30 am; Thornapple will still be closed at Buttrick to Ada Drive due to the Family Fun Run at 9:30 a.m.

Grand Rapids Triathlon on Sunday, June 9. Starts and ends in Ada. Road closures: Buttrick Drive from Grand River Drive to where they intersect and Thornapple Drive from Buttrick to Ada Drive will be closed the evening of June 8

and during the day of June 9. For more information, visit: [www.grandrapidsstriathlon.com](http://www.grandrapidsstriathlon.com).

### Projects:

Ada Drive Water Tank Painting: The Township Board approved the bid from Kountoupes Painting of Lincoln Park, Michigan, to paint the tower. Painting will occur between April and May, weather permitting and prior to peak water usage.

M-21 Bridge Connection Trail Improvement Project: The Township Board approved authorization to proceed to obtain proposals for the section of non-motorized trail on Pettis Avenue, through a wooded section of property to Fulton and across the new M-21 bridge over the Grand River to Ada Drive. The project is planned to be completed this summer.

The Roselle Park Improvement Project Phase 1: The Township Board approved authorization to proceed to obtain proposals for the construction of Phase 1 of the Roselle Park Improvement Project which includes a new entrance and driveway across from Michigan Street, a gravel parking lot with lighting, and an improved playground area near the silos. Construction is anticipated to begin this spring and be completed by late summer.

## USED BOOK SALE

**Cascade Public Library, sponsored by the Cascade Friends of the Library.**  
Adult and children's books as well as collectibles available at low prices!

**When:** Saturday, March 9, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, March 10, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
Saturday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. a Special preview sale for Friends of the Library members only. Anyone can join the Friends at the door.

**Where:** Wisner Center, located to the rear of the library's main room.

**2870 Jacksmith Ave., SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
Phone: (616) 647-3850**

## LEAF & YARD WASTE COLLECTION DAYS –

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Trash bags can be purchased at the Township Office prior to the dates above for \$.75 each. Please have all bags out to your curb by 6 a.m.

\*(Restricted area only, south of Fulton to Township line)

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THE 5TH SEASON OF THE ADA FARMERS' MARKET

June 19 will be the opening day of the Ada Farmers' Market followed by markets every Tuesday afternoon through the end of September – noon until 6 p.m., as usual. The Market will have its vendor kickoff potluck dinner the evening of March 12 and expects many of your favorite vendors to return, along with some that will be new to the Market. The Market also will be continuing its "Kids in the Market" program during the summer weeks and the "Music in the Market" program for the entire season. Vendors offering unique food offerings are encouraged to apply for space in the Market, along with performers for the "Music in the Market" series. And, of course, volunteers to operate the Market are always welcome. Finally, the Market hopes to repeat the honor of being the 2012 recipient of the Silver Townie Award for Best Farmers Market from the readers of On-the-Town Magazine – don't forget to grab a copy of the magazine after it becomes available on April 1 or check in at [MLive.com](http://MLive.com) to vote for the Ada Farmers' Market as the 2013 "Best Farmers Market." Nothing would make us happier!! If interested in any of the above, check out the Market at [www.adafarmersmarket.com](http://www.adafarmersmarket.com), "like" the Market on Facebook or contact Bob Kullgren at (616) 897-4550.



## A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE.....

Real Property taxes were due in our office no later than February 28, 2013 5:00 p.m. We have made our settlement with the Kent County Treasurer's Office and the tax roll has now become theirs. If you have not paid your 2012 and prior real property taxes, please contact their office at (616) 632-7500. All 2012 and prior personal property taxes (business owners) that are past due are paid at our office. Please contact us for current amount owing.

The 2013 dog licenses were available in our office only through February 28, 2013. After this date, they are available at the Kent County Animal Shelter at 740 Fuller NE, Grand Rapids (616) 632-7300 or at the Kent County Treasurer's Office 300 Monroe, Grand Rapids (616) 632-7500. It is a State of Michigan Law that ALL dogs 4 months or older be licensed annually. Please contact either office at the above numbers for further information.

Need your property tax information to file your federal and state income tax and we are not open? You may find all the information needed on our website [www.adatownshipmi.com](http://www.adatownshipmi.com). Go to the "services" tab at the top of our website and click on property/tax/utility lookup.

Attention "snow-birds" if you have not done so yet, please pick-up or request a Temporary Mailing request form to change your mailing address back to your property address. It is up to all property owners to fill out a temporary mail request when **leaving for and returning from** your winter address. This is so we can cut down on trying to locate you when mailing your summer and winter taxes. And YES this must be done every time you leave and return. Any questions, you can call our office (616) 676-9191 ext 27 or 23. You may also speak to someone in the Assessing office at (616) 676-9191 ext 26. You can obtain a form from our website: [www.adatownshipmi.com](http://www.adatownshipmi.com). Just click on the "services" tab at the top of our website and click on property/tax/utility lookup.

## EAST PRECINCT NEWS

Spring is shortly around the corner and so are solicitors. Remember that the East Precinct has a solicitation ordinance. That said, a solicitor has to have a permit to knock on your door. They should have an ID card from the township and it must be visible.

This permit from the Township means that the person has had some type of screening done. The solicitor must meet standards before he/she can solicit door to door in your community. Those that do not get a permit may have been denied or would not have passed the screening process from the Township.

We encourage citizens to call the Sheriff's office if non permitted solicitors are in your neighborhood. Dispatch non emergency number is (616) 632-6100. Along with the warm weather people will be outside more walking and biking. Be cautious of them. Please watch speed and pay close attention especially in neighborhoods. I have a few bike safety tips to remind you before spring.

- WEAR A HELMET
- WEAR BRIGHT REFLECTIVE COLORS
- DON'T RIDE AFTER DARK
- RIDE WITH TRAFFIC IF IN THE ROAD
- OBEY TRAFFIC LAWS
- BE CAUTIOUS OF VEHICLES

Be Safe and Aware,

Community Deputy Ryan Roe  
[ryan.roe@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:ryan.roe@kentcountymi.gov)



## ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

### **Please inform the Assessor's office of your mailing address updates**

Please contact our office within thirty days after a change of address occurs to update your mailing information. This will help with the delivery of assessment change notices and tax bills. Our office number is (616) 676-9191 ext 26.

### **Assessment Change Notices**

Towards the end of February the assessment change notices will be mailed. Hearings by the Board of Review will be held the week of March 11th. Appointments are needed and will be scheduled after the notices are sent. You need to provide sales data or an appraisal to substantiate what you believe the value should be. Your documents are part of the board of review minutes and will not be returned. Sales data and comparative assessment information will be available for your review in the Assessor's Office after the notices have been mailed. When you receive your Assessment Notice at the end of February, look it over and call with any questions, or to schedule an appointment with the Board of Review.

### **Did you know?**

- Your taxable value can never exceed your assessed value.
- It is your responsibility as a taxpayer to review your property record card periodically to be sure you agree with all the information that is currently of record.
- **The assessor is not permitted by State Law to automatically set your new assessment at one half of your purchase price.**
- The assessing staff is available Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Feel free to come in or call 676-9191 ext 26 if you have any questions on your property. The assessing system is quite complex, and we are always willing to help our taxpayers understand how the system works.
- Assessing information is available on our website at [www.adatownshipmi.com](http://www.adatownshipmi.com)

### **2013 CPI IS RELEASED**

The numbers are in and the calculations have been made; it is now official. The State Tax Commission has announced that the official inflation factor to be used for calculating taxable values for the coming year is 2.4 percent.

### **FIELD REVIEW NOTICE**

The Assessor is required to appraise, for tax purposes, all real and personal property within the Township. Michigan Statute requires that all property be evaluated annually based on current market conditions. This evaluation requires an inspection of each property in the Township.

This includes measuring all buildings and other property improvements on the property, taking current digital photos of the property, verifying the buildings current physical condition, reviewing the amenities present, and interviewing the property owners to determine bedrooms, baths, and type of basement, etc.

The State of Michigan has recommended that 20% of properties in a governmental unit be visited each year to review assessment record accuracy and to ensure that properties are being appraised and assessed at 50% of the market value. In efforts to continually improve our excellent standards, the Assessor's office strives to enhance the annual review process and better meet or exceed the State of Michigan's expectations. The goal is that the Assessing office will review at least 20% a year of the Township, then every single property is visited at least once every 5 years.

If one of the inspectors from the Township arrives wearing a Township issued I.D. badge and carrying a clipboard and digital camera and knocks on your door requesting to review your property, please welcome them. Accurate assessments benefit everyone in the community.

# Ada Parks & Recreation Department

## Contact Information:

**Phone:** 616-676-0520 **Fax:** 616-676-5870  
**E-mail:** mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com  
**Web site:** www.adatownshipmi.com  
**Office** in Ada Park: 1180 Buttrick Ave, Ada, 49301  
**Mailing address:** P.O. Box 370, 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. Parks office, Learning Center and Locke Arboretum. Softball and soccer fields, tennis, pickle ball and basketball courts, playground, fishing pond, accessible trails, picnic areas, pavilion, gazebos.

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

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

**Grand River Natural Area** Grand River Drive SE Enter via Ada Park or McGraw Park, 110 acres. Nature areas, trails, bike path, 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.

**Ada Park Shelter & Gazebo Rentals and Reservations:** Available April through October. For rates, availability, use policies or reservations, contact the Park office.

**Athletic Fields:** Fields at Ada Park and Leonard Field are used for area leagues and instructional programs. Contact the Park office for information, schedules or reservation.

**Basketball & 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 Pickle Ball. Check with the office for schedules or to reserve a time.

## Update on Ada Township Parks

Ada Township Park improvements over the past two years include upgrading the playground, adding a new parking area along Grand River Drive and re-paving the accessible trail through the woods. We thank the community for their support in making this Park a wonderful place for all visitors to enjoy.



Roselle Park's Master Plan was updated this winter allowing us to move forward on the next development phase. During this spring and summer there will be some construction in the park near Grand River Drive. A new entrance and driveway into the Park will be developed across from Michigan Street. A parking lot will be established but left as gravel for the short term with lights and some landscape trees. In addition, a playground area will be established next to the silos. This phase of work is preliminary to building a Community Center on the site, possibly in 2014. Designing the building will take place this year.

## Thank You

The Family of George and Joan DaRooge donated funds for a new wetland boardwalk adjacent to the paved bike path in Roselle Park. Several native plants and trees were planted around it.



The Family of Ben Bos and the Korth Family Foundation donated two Sycamore trees and two benches for an area along the paved trail near the canoe landing.

Michael Mahacek put in distance markers along the paved pathway as a Boy Scout Eagle project.

We greatly appreciate these gifts to help support and enhance Roselle Park. If you are interested in making a memorial gift or other donation to Roselle Park, please contact the Park office for details.

# Ada Parks & Recreation Department (con't)

## Adult & Family Programs & Events

Pre-registration requested by calling (616) 676-0520 or email [mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com).

## Ada Adult Summer Softball Program

Summer league applications and entry fees for new or returning teams are due March 14, 2013. For an application or more information contact the Park Office at (616) 676-0520 or [rmccormick@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:rmccormick@adatownshipmi.com). Team fee of \$685 covers 12 games, balls, umpires and registration fee. League games are held Monday thru Thursday evenings and include Girls High School Fast Pitch, Men's Slow Pitch and Co-ed.

## Sketch and Drawing Art Class Ada Park

Wednesdays, April 10th- May 1st  
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Ada Township Park Learning Center

Sponsored by the *Ada Arts Council*.

Contact the Park office to register. \$90 fee.

Instructor: Jim Johnson



## Grand Rapids Triathlon

**Sunday, June 9** Starts and ends in Ada.  
Running, biking and swimming! Note, sections of Buttrick Dr. and Thornapple River Dr. closed on the evening of June 8 and the day of June 9. For information:  
[www.grandrapidstriathlon.com](http://www.grandrapidstriathlon.com)



**Saturday, June 16** Leonard Field  
8:30 a.m.

A 5K run and a 1.5 mile family fun run through Ada Village to fund services at **Helen DeVos Children's Hospital**. Run start and activities at Leonard Field by the Ada Covered Bridge. For details and to register see: [www.run4acauseada.com](http://www.run4acauseada.com)

## Healthy Living Lecture Series

**Wednesday, May 22** 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Forest Hills Fine Arts Center

Free, open to the public. Presented by Saint Mary's Health Care; health screenings, information booths, healthy snacks and door prizes. For more details: 616-493-8950  
[www.enjoylearning.com](http://www.enjoylearning.com)

## 4th of July Events Ada Village

Parade at 10:00 a.m., followed by Activities on the Green from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and then Fireworks at Dusk

## Roselle Park Festival and Grand River Run

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 28. You won't want to miss this exciting day at Roselle Park.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Ada Parks & Recreation Department has volunteer opportunities to assist with grounds, gardens, trails, habitat stewardship, clerical and youth programs. Contact the Park office for an application, interview or schedule of events.

## Youth Programs

### Discovery Days/Young Explorers/Jr. Naturalist

At Ada and Roselle Parks \$5/youth/session

Half-day youth programs throughout the summer out into the parks for fun & educational adventures. Each session with a theme, hands-on activity, craft and discovery experience. Pre-registration requested: call (616) 676-0520 or email [mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com).

**Discovery Days** Ages 3-5 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon

For pre-schoolers attending with a parent/guardian.

Signs of Spring 4/17 & 4/18 Plant a Seed 5/15 & 5/16

Water Fun 6/11 Wiggly Worms 7/23 Turtles 8/6

**Young Explorers** Ages 5-7 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon

Bikes 6/12 Fishing Fun 7/24 Rock Hounds 8/7

**Junior Naturalist** Ages 8-11 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon

Bikes 6/13 Fishing 7/25 Rocks & Fossils 8/8

## Summer Day Camp Adventures

Ages 6-11 Dates vary

Ada & Roselle Parks

9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

3-day camp sessions with

exciting themes and fun activities. Fees range from \$55 to \$75 per session. Pre-registration required.

Sports Spectacular	June 18 - 20	Ada Park
Arts in the Park	June 25-27	Ada Park
Wild Animal Safari	July 9 - 11	Ada & Roselle
Eyes on Survival	July 16 -18	Ada & Roselle
Incredible Insects	July 30 -Aug 1	Ada & Roselle
Pioneer Days	Aug 13 -Aug 14	Ada Museum



## Ada Village Kids' Garden

For youth 8-12 years old

Ada Community Church

Tuesdays, April through

September. Learn to grow food

and manage a garden, sell at the

Farmers market and contribute to a food pantry. Contact the Parks office for registration packet.



## Youth Tennis Lessons at Ada Township Park

Group sessions for 3-12 years old. Spring season April - June; summer June - August. Registration and instruction is by the YMCA of Grand Rapids. Contact the YMCA at (616) 855-9622 or email: [nherrema@grymca.org](mailto:nherrema@grymca.org)

## Bike Decorating Day

Wednesday, July 3

Ada Park

10 a.m. to 12 noon

Bring your bike to Ada Park to decorate it in time for the 4th of July Parade! Helpers and materials will be available. For 4 - 12 year olds with guardian. \$4/bike.

## Schools Based Programs

PreK-12 guided field trips and service learning projects in the parks. Contact the Park office for details.

## Boy and Girl Scout Programs

Park staff to help with badges, field trips, service projects & facility use. Contact Park office for details.

**CALENDAR (2013) SPRING ISSUE****MARCH**

- 4 Downtown Development Authority – 8:30 p.m.
- 5 Zoning Board of Appeals – 4:30 p.m.
- 11 Ada Township Board Mtg – 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Open Space Preservation Advisory Bd – 4:00 p.m.
- 16 Community Expo!**  
9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
Ada Christian School
- 17 West Michigan Stage Race**  
(road closure) 4:00 to 9:00 p.m.\*
- 21 Planning Commission – 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Ada Township Board Mtg – 7:30 p.m.

**APRIL**

- 2 Downtown Development Authority – 8:30 p.m.
- 8 Ada Township Board Mtg – 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Zoning Board of Appeals – 4:30 p.m.
- 12 Open Space Preservation Advisory Bd – 4:00 p.m.
- 15 Ethics Board – 6:30 p.m.
- 16 Yard Waste Collection Day – All Day\***
- 18 Planning Commission – 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Ada Township Board Mtg – 7:30 p.m.

**MAY**

- 4 Ada/Cascade Clean-Up Day – 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.\*
- 7 Zoning Board of Appeals – 4:30 p.m.
- 7 Downtown Development Authority – 8:30 p.m.
- 10 Open Space Preservation Advisory Bd – 4:00 p.m.
- 11 “Arts in Ada” – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.\***
- 13 Ada Township Board Mtg – 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Planning Commission – 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Yard Waste Collection Day – All Day\***
- 27 Memorial Day – Holiday, Office Closed**
- 28 Ada Township Board Mtg – 7:30 p.m.

\*See article

**Coming in June:**

- Ada Farmers’ Market, June 19\*
- “Run 4 A Cause” on Sat. June 5th
- Grand Rapids Triathlon, June 9th\*

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION** *(remove & save)*

AdaView is published by Ada Township Board.  
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**TELEPHONE:** 616-676-9191, [www.adatownshipmi.com](http://www.adatownshipmi.com)

**HOURS:** Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Closed Holidays

**Ada Township Board Supervisor**

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[ghaga@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:ghaga@adatownshipmi.com)

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[sburton@adatownshipmi.com](mailto:sburton@adatownshipmi.com)

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