



.the. ADAVIEW

the ADAVIEW is published by Ada Township

VOTE!

2016 ELECTION DATES:

March 8	Presidential Primary
August 2	Primary Election
November 8	General Election

The Presidential Primary election is scheduled for Tuesday, March 8. The polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. If you were registered to vote by February 8, you are permitted to vote in this election. Please note that the Clerk's Office will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 5, to receive absentee applications and ballots.



2016 is the "Big" election year. Not only is the Presidential Primary in March, but it's the big year for State and Federal offices... and local township offices. All township elected officials are up for election in 2016. For Supervisor, Clerk, and Treasurer the top vote-getter from each party in the Primary will advance to the November election. For Trustees, the top four vote-getters in each party advance.

The deadline for filing a petition to appear on the August 2 primary ballot is 4 p.m. on April 19. Note that this date is earlier than in previous years. Candidate packets for all township elected offices are available in the Clerk's Office.

Exercise your right... VOTE!

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TRAIL MAINTENANCE

If you notice an Ada Township employee or vehicle on or around the trails, please be respectful and give them plenty of room to work. They might be clearing snow or trimming tree branches. Maintaining the trails is a high priority in Ada Township as we strive to keep the trails clean and safe for your use. If you notice anything that needs attention regarding the trails, please notify Mark Fitzpatrick, mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com or (616) 676-0520.

25 YEARS AGO . . .

From The Spring 1991 AdaView . . .

"The employees, clerk, treasurer, supervisor and the fire department have settled into their new facilities. All of us are proud of these new facilities and are delighted to serve the public in our various capacities."

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: jsmith@adatownshipmi.com.

NEW FACES AROUND ADA TOWNSHIP

If you come in to Ada Township hall, you may see a new face or two.



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Hello, I am Elaine Buckley. I live in Lowell, in a quiet, rustic area and love it! My husband, Bob, and I moved here about two years ago from Coldwater, Michigan. We have two children, however, adults now. Our daughter, Lauren, is 27 and living in Royal Oak and is an RN at a large community hospital in Detroit. Our son, Brandon, is 24, and living in Lowell and working in the printing ink industry in Grand Rapids. I have been working at the Ada Township building since October and find myself really enjoying the great people I work with!! I look forward to the continued opportunities to learn more about the beautiful Township of Ada and also participating in the adventures that West Michigan offers.



PLANNER/ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Brent Bajdek is the Planner/Zoning Administrator. He comes to us with several years of municipal planning and zoning experience having served communities in both west and east Michigan, as well as northwestern Indiana. Brent is originally from the Grand Rapids area. His current position afforded him the opportunity to return to the area after spending the last eight (8) years on the east side of the State. He looks forward to serving the Ada community and is eager to be involved with the redevelopment of the Village.



CLERK

Jackie Smith is the new clerk, appointed in November to replace Susan Burton, who has retired. Jackie has lived in West Michigan her entire life and in Ada for the past 25 years. Jackie comes to us after retiring from Kent County, where she worked for the Circuit and Probate Courts for nearly 20 years. She also served Ada as trustee for seven years and on several committees. Jackie is married and has three adult children and seven grandchildren.



ATTENTION DOG OWNERS

Just a friendly reminder for all dog lovers in Ada Township – the Township’s Animal Control Ordinance prohibits dogs running at large, as well as frequent or habitual “barking, yelping, or howling.”

The rules state that your dog must be kept upon your own property, unless it is restrained by a leash not exceeding six (6) feet in length.

Additionally, permitting a dog to frequently or habitually bark is an ordinance violation, no matter what time of the day. Please be considerate of your neighbors by not permitting your dog to roam unrestrained, and by not permitting it to bark for extended periods of time. Common courtesy would also suggest that you should clean up after your dog, on public as well as private property.

Dog owners are also reminded that all dogs four (4) months of age or older are required to be licensed in accordance with the requirements of state law and of the county animal control ordinance. The license tag is required to be securely affixed to a collar/harness worn by the dog at all times.

Please contact Kent County Animal Control at (616) 632-7300 or visit them online (www.accesskent.com/Health/AnimalControl) for detailed licensing information. Licensing your dog is an important way to show you care for your pet and it is the law.

Your zoning and other code related questions can be answered by contacting Brent Bajdek, Planner/Zoning Administrator, at (616) 676-9191, Extension 24.

SOLICITORS

For your protection, Ada Township has a solicitation ordinance. Anyone wishing to solicit in the township must obtain a permit from the Township Clerk’s office. Permits are good for 30 days but can be renewed. There is a \$50 fee for every permit. Background checks are mandatory.

Schools, churches, government, charities, nonprofit or religious organizations are exempted from the permit process but must pre-register with the Clerk’s Office. Violation of the ordinance is subject to a misdemeanor criminal charge with a fine and/or imprisonment. Solicitation dates and times are: April 1 to September 30 – 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; October 1 to March 31: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If someone shows up at your door and does not have an Ada Township Solicitation permit attached to their clothing in plain sight, is not respectful to you, or violates the ordinance in any way, please call the Kent County Sheriff’s Department at (616) 632-6220 or (616) 632-6100.

NO SOLICITING

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE...

Real Property taxes were due in our office no later than February 29, 2016 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 2015 and prior real property taxes, please contact their office at (616) 632-7500. All 2015 and prior personal property taxes (business owners) that are past due are paid at our office. Please contact us for current amount owing.

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.

Attention "snow-birds" if you have not done so yet, please contact the assessing office 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.

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

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

BOOK SALE

The Spring Used Book Sale Sponsored by Friends of the Cascade Library will be Saturday, March 5, and Sunday, March 6, 2016. There will be more than 8,000 books sorted by subject. Prices: Hardcover \$1; paperback \$.50; Or fill a bag for only \$10. Further price reductions on Sunday. There will also be a large selection of children's books, adult fiction and non-fiction books sorted into many categories. Music: LP's, CD's, sheet music, and books. Collectibles Corner will include more than 700 signed, first editions, and rare books priced from \$2 and up. Cash, checks and credit cards are accepted.

Cascade Friends Members-Only Preview Sale

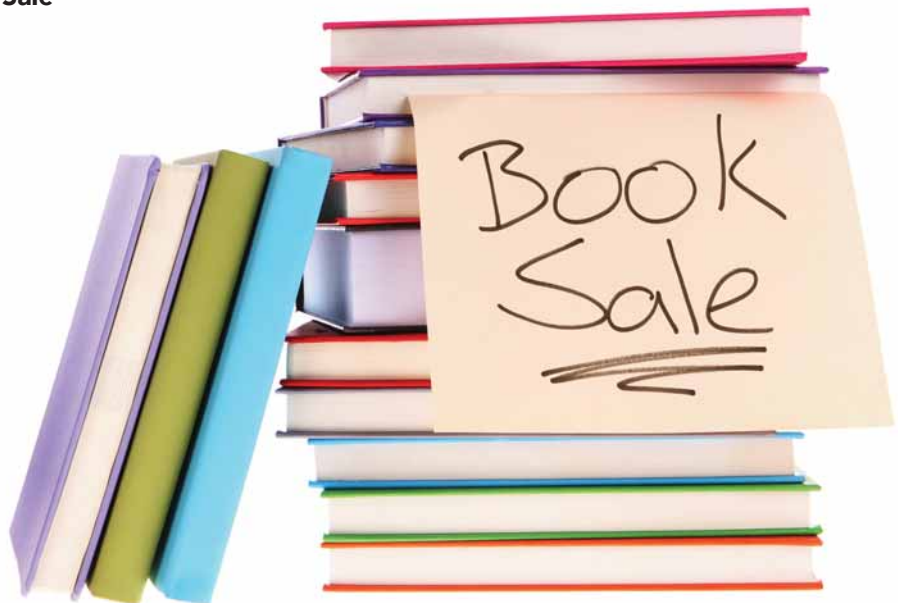
- Saturday, March 5 - 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
- Join the Friends at the door for only \$10, \$5 for seniors.

Public Sale Days

- Saturday, March 5 - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Sunday, March 6 - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Location:

Cascade Library
2870 Jacksmith Avenue
Grand Rapids, MI
(616) 784-2007
www.CascadeFriends.org



BATTERY RECYCLING

You may have read that Kent County has discontinued its used battery pickup. Ada Township has made alternative plans for battery pickup, so you may still bring your used batteries to the township hall and place them in the buckets inside the front door.

SPRING LEAF PICK-UP

Spring leaf pick-up will be held on **Tuesday, April 19** and **Tuesday, May 17** this year. You **must** use the special Ada Township leaf bags, which are available at the Treasurer's Office for 75 cents per bag.

ADA / CASCADE CLEAN-UP DAY

For Ada and Cascade residents:
Spring Clean-Up Day is
Saturday, May 7th.

WHEN: Saturday, May 7th, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Note: The gates will close promptly at 2:30 p.m. – no items can be accepted after that.

WHERE: The Kent County Road Commission Garage at the end of Fase Street and the parking lot at Leonard Field Park.

WHAT IS ACCEPTED: Non-hazardous yard and household waste, electronics recycling (computers, TV's, etc.), appliances, metal, used household items for recycling will be accepted.

NOT ACCEPTED: Shingles, tires, batteries, liquid waste such as paint, chemicals, oil, etc., ashes, propane tanks, medical waste, or any other hazardous material.



HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING and Donations: The Salvation Army will be in the parking lot at Leonard Field Park by the Covered Bridge to accept gently used items. Please drop off all household items there instead of Fase Street.

DOCUMENT SHREDDING will be in the parking lot at Leonard Field Park by the Covered Bridge. "Shred-It" will 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 x. 29 M-F, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Or Cascade Township (616) 949-1500.

Save the Date: Fall Clean-Up Day set for Saturday, October 1, 2016.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP OFF DAY

Saturday, July 16, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Cascade Fire Station
2990 Buttrick Ave SE

Ada and Cascade residents may drop off chemical waste for proper disposal. Items like weed killers, paint thinners, preservatives, cleaners, as well as lights and thermometers with mercury. No latex paint or pharmaceuticals.

PLAN AHEAD FOR SPRING AND SUMMER ROAD CLOSURES

Grand Rapids Triathlon to be held on **Sunday, June 12**. Road closures on Buttrick and Thornapple River Drives 6:00 p.m. Saturday June 11th through 6:00 p.m. Sunday, June 12th.

Construction on Ada Drive. This spring and summer work is planned for Ada Drive to connect the new Headley Street to Thornapple River Drive.

Watch for notices for road closed days and detours.

GRASS FIRE SEASON REMINDERS

Each spring the fire department responds to a number of grass fires as homeowners begin their spring clean-up. This year with such a light snowfall, conditions are expected to be dryer than usual, creating more of a danger. In addition to getting a burn permit here are a few requirements when burning in Ada Township.

- The fire must be attended by adults at all times.
- The fire must be completely out at dusk.
- The fire cannot be for waste disposal.
- The fire cannot be within 50 feet of a structure.
- The fire must not offend neighbors.
- A means of extinguishing the fire must be present.



Burn permits may be obtained at no cost by calling (616) 676-9191, ext. 0. Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Reminder: The restricted area located south of Fulton and west of the Grand River allows open burning November 1 – April 30 only.



FIRE STATION TWO UPGRADE

The fire station located at 7211 Knapp was built originally in the late 1960's. It was a simple block building with a flat roof and two bays to house a fire truck. As the community grew the need for additional equipment increased. In 1993 two additional bays along with a pitched roof were added as well as covering the cinder block exterior with vinyl siding. This winter the faded and cracked siding was replaced with new siding incorporating a new color and vertical and horizontal siding for a more appealing look.

Station Two houses a medical response unit, fire engine with 1000 gallons of water, a tanker fire engine with 3000 gallons, a brush fire truck, and a breathing air supply trailer used to fill the air packs worn by firefighters.

FIRE DEPARTMENT IMPROVES RATINGS = SAVINGS TO YOU

Over the past year the fire department had an extensive evaluation as to the services we provide to the community. The study performed by ISO is used to provide insurance ratings for companies that insure homes and business in our community. Various aspects of the department including staffing, equipment, response times and auto aid agreements were reviewed. One portion was to verify the department's ability to maintain a flow of 250 gallons of water per minute for two hours; this would be evidence of how we can perform in a non-fire hydrant area.

The department did extremely well and in doing so has brought our previous rating of an 8 to a current grade of 6. If you live in an area of the township which does not have fire hydrants (generally south of Fulton & east of the Grand River) this may affect you. It may be beneficial to contact your home insurance agent to advise them of the change and possibly save money on your policy.

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, Michigan 49301

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

ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS & PRESERVES

Ada Township Park & Locke Arboretum 1180 Buttrick Ave. 57 acres. Parks office, Learning Center and Arboretum. Athletic fields, tennis courts, 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.

Leonard Field Park & Ada Covered Bridge 7490 Thornapple River Dr. 2 acres. Softball field, bike path, Thornapple River overlook.

Grand River Natural Area Grand River Drive SE. 110 acres. Enter via Ada Park. Trails, bike path, Grand River shoreline.

Carl Creek Crossings Preserve 6230 Grand River Drive. 8 acres. Trails, creek access. No facilities.



FACILITY USE

Park Hours: Park grounds are open dawn to dusk.

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

Motorized recreation vehicles are not allowed.

Alcohol is not allowed in the parks or park facilities.

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

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

Ada Park Shelter & Gazebo: Available April - October.

Roselle Park meeting room: Available after May on a limited basis for education programs, non-profit groups, Ada community groups and local businesses.

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

Basketball & Tennis Courts: Open to public except during scheduled programs.

UPDATES ON ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS

ROSELLE PARK BUILDING TO OPEN IN MAY

Thanks to all of our donors and the citizens of Ada Township for helping fund this

project. We expect to open around the first of May. This new facility will have bathrooms available to the public dawn to dusk, and a large meeting room. The room will be available after May on a limited basis for education programs, non-profit groups, Ada community groups and local businesses. Reservations and fees will be coordinated through the Parks office.



In addition to the new building will be the completion of the new entrance across from Michigan Street and the new parking area. A new trailhead will lead from the lot to the various trails in the park.

PLANNING UNDERWAY FOR OPEN SPACES IN VILLAGE

The Envision-Ada planning teams have been taking public input for two areas in Ada Village: The "Community Space" between Headley and Fulton Drives, and the "River's Edge" along the Thornapple River. To see the concept plans visit the web site for Envision-Ada on www.adatownshipmi.com.

DOG LEASH ORDINANCE

Dog owners please note that Ada Township and Kent County require that dogs be on a leash at all times in parks and preserves. Leashed dogs create a safer park for all visitors, dogs and local wildlife. Please, help keep our Parks safe by abiding by these laws and leashing your dog. Violators are subject to fines.



REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS

Ada Parks & Recreation Department offers a variety of exciting activities for youth. Highlights are on the next page and in the inserted flier. Some scholarships are available for students in reduced school lunch programs. Contact the park office or web site for details and a registration packet.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer opportunities are available to assist with grounds, gardens, trails, habitat stewardship, data management, clerical and youth programs. Contact the Park office for an application, interview or schedule of events.

SPECIAL EVENTS

GRAND RAPIDS TRIATHLON

Sunday, June 12 • www.grandrapidstriathlon.com.



4TH OF JULY EVENTS

Monday, July 4 – Parade, afternoon activities, Fireworks at Dusk.

AUGUST IN ADA

Friday, August 5 • 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. • Ada Park

Sponsored by the Ada Business Association.

GRAND RIVER-RUN & ROSELLE PARK RIVER FESTIVAL

Roselle Park • Fun activities for all ages
www.grandriver-run.com



ADULT PROGRAMS

ADULT SOFTBALL PROGRAMS

Summer league applications and team entry fees are due March 18. For an application contact the Park Office at (616) 676-0520 or rmccormick@adatownshipmi.com. Team fee of \$710 covers 12 games, balls, umpires, registration and a double elimination league tournament. Fall softball program runs August – October.

OIL PAINTING WORKSHOPS (EN PLEIN AIR)

Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Starting June 1 and ongoing.

Roselle Park \$30 per session.

Register (616) 745-8297 or scottkenyon@aol.com.

NATURE PHOTO SHOTS

Thursdays: May 19, June 23

7:00 - 8:00 p.m. \$3/person Roselle Park

Bring in some of your digital nature photos to project on the screen to show, share and for critiques. Beginners to advanced.

FAMILY AND GENERAL PROGRAMS

MICHIGAN GEOLOGY ROCKS!

Thursday, March 3

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

\$5/person \$1/geode Ada Park

Learn about Michigan geology and “Crack” open a geode to take home. Pre-registration required.



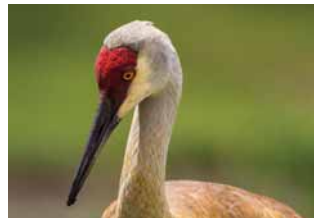
MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

Saturday, May 14

10:00 a.m.- 12:00 noon

\$3/person

A presentation about bird migration, regional flyways and our local favorites. Followed by a bird walk in the park.



YOUTH PROGRAMS



ADA VILLAGE KIDS' GARDEN

Ages 9-12 Tuesdays Next to Ada Community Church

Three 8-week sessions offered April–September. Sign up for 1 or more sessions. Attend selected dates to earn Jr. Master Gardener certificate. Learn to grow & manage a garden, sell at the Farmers Market and contribute to a food pantry. \$70/session.

PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOLS & SCOUT GROUPS

Park staff are available for school and Scout field trips, outreach programs and service projects. Contact Park office for details.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Pre-registration requested by calling (616) 676-0520 or email mfitzpatrick@adatownshipmi.com. Contact the Park office for a registration packet.

DISCOVERY DAYS

Ages 3-5

10:00 a.m. – 12 noon

\$5/youth/session

Pre-schoolers and guardian to have a fun adventure together in the parks with hands-on activities, nature crafts, and guided discovery experiences outdoors.

Cool Critters	March 9	Jump, Frog, Jump!	June 14
Beautiful Bugs	April 13	Butterflies	July 5
Eggs are Everywhere!	May 11	Backbone Bonanza	Aug. 2



YOUNG EXPLORERS

Ages 5-7

10:00 a.m. – 12 noon

\$5/youth/session

Parents may drop off or join their youth for a fun morning of outdoor activities, nature study and crafts.

Bonkers for Bikes	June 15
Fishing Fun	July 6
Wild Water	Aug. 3

JUNIOR NATURALISTS

Ages 8-11

Times vary

\$5/youth/session

Each program includes hands-on nature and science activities, snacks, and outdoor adventure based outings.

Bike-A-Thon	June 15
Fishing Frenzy	July 6
Adventure Race	Aug. 4



OUTDOOR ADVENTURER

Ages 10-13

Sites & fees vary

Outdoor adventure activities guided by Park staff including games, nature and science learning and snacks.

Saddle Up!	June 16
River Trip!	July 7
Full Moon Howl!	Aug. 18



Double C Studios	\$50
The Grand River	\$25
Roselle Park	\$10

SUMMER DAY CAMPS

Ages 6-11

Various Dates

9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Ada & Roselle Parks

Three-day sessions from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with exciting themes & fun activities. Fees range \$60-\$80.

Sports Spectacular	June 21-23
Arts in the Park	July 12-14
Bugs to Bears	July 19-21
Eyes on Survival	July 26-28
Pioneer Days	Aug. 9-11



Ages 10-13

“WOODS & DUNES” ECO-ADVENTURE CAMP

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. June 28-30 \$120

A three day adventure with each day in a new location: Ada Park, Roselle Park and an Ottawa County Park.



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 (2016) SPRING ISSUE

MARCH

- 1 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting - 4:30 p.m.
- 5 **Clerk's Office open - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to accept absentee applications and ballots**
- 8 **PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION - Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.**
- 10 Open Space Preservation Advisory Board - 4:00 p.m.
- 14 Downtown Development Authority - 8:00 a.m.
- 14 Ada Township Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- 17 Planning Commission - 7:00 p.m.
- 28 Ada Township Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

APRIL

- 5 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting - 4:30 p.m.
- 11 Ada Township Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- 18 Downtown Development Authority - 8:00 a.m.
- 19 Spring Leaf Pick-Up
- 21 Planning Commission - 7:00 p.m.
- 28 Ada Township Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

MAY

- 9 Ada Township Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Zoning Board of Appeals - 4:30 p.m.
- 12 Open Space Preservation Advisory Board - 4:00 p.m.
- 14 Arts in Ada
- 16 Downtown Development Authority - 8:00 a.m.
- 17 Spring Leaf Pick-Up
- 19 Planning Commission - 7:00 p.m.
- 23 Ada Township Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- 30 **CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

(remove & save)

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

7330 Thornapple River Drive SE
P.O. Box 370,
Ada, Michigan 49301
www.adatownshipmi.com

TELEPHONE: (616) 676-9191

HOURS: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., M-F, closed Federal holidays

ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD:

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DESIGN & PRINTING

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